

Vol 46 | No.3

FREE

CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

APRIL 2023



**LOVE YOUR
LOCAL NEWS**



A word from the Editor...

Welcome to the April issue of Spotlight

Dear Reader,

I am often reminded what a fantastic village we live in: with so many residents who contribute a huge amount to village life and beyond. Many congratulations go to **Paul Allen**, for receiving the Chairmans award from the Parish council for his work saving the Clophill Footbridge (see page 19); to **Julie Benson**, for receiving the High Sheriff's award for Service to the Community (page 13) and to **Carolyn Cranswick** and **Ann Swain** from the Clophill and District Flower Club, for creating arrangements at the High Altar of Westminster Abbey for the Commonwealth Day Service in March (page 10). Wow.

Happy Easter everyone.

**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



Now is the best time of year to start pruning shrubs that flower in late summer and autumn. Pruning each year, in the spring, will give a much better display of flowers, it keeps the plant from getting too big and improves the overall plant health. Shrubs that bloom after mid-summer usually produce flowers at the end of this season's growth, so pruning in early to mid-spring allows time for the new growth to mature and flower in the same year. Butterfly bush (**Buddleia**), smoke bush (**Cotinus**), St Johns Wort (**Hypericum**) and **winter flowering heathers** are just some of the shrubs that respond really well to being pruned now.

Using clean, sharp secateurs, cut back the previous year's flowering stems to within one or two buds of the older woody framework and at the same time remove any thin, weak or dead growth. Make sure you cut at an angle, above the buds. This stimulates the development of strong new growth which will produce your flowers. Cut on an angle above a bud. When some shrubs are pruned hard, they regrow vigorously, producing more colourful stems that brighten up the garden in winter. Examples include dogwood (**Cornus**), willow (**Salix**) and ornamental bramble (**Rubus**). Others can also be hard-pruned for their decorative leaves, including: Indian bean tree (**Catalpa**), **Eucalyptus** and elder (**Sambucus**). These methods, when applied to trees, are often called coppicing and pollarding, but when applied to small shrubs the term 'stooling' is commonly used.



Buddleia after pruning

Young plants need to establish for a year or two before you start hard-pruning. In the second or third spring, cut back to 60-90cm (2-3ft) from the ground for pollards, or 5-7.5cm (2-3in) for coppiced specimens. Pinch or thin out sideshoots to encourage branching.



Dogwood before pruning

Willows and dogwoods respond well to annual pruning and put lots of new young growth on which will give you lots of winter stem colour.

Early-flowering shrubs are pruned after flowering (late winter to early summer, depending on the shrub). These usually flower on the previous year's growth so pruning immediately after flowering allows the maximum time for development of young growth to provide the following year's flowers before the end of summer. Examples of

these include: flowering currant (**Ribes**), Forsythia, mock orange (**Philadelphus**), & **Weigela**. If you prune these shrubs now you won't get any flowers – leave these until May or June.

Remove any frost damaged shoots from evergreen shrubs damaged by the cold weather and cut out any plain green shoots on hardy variegated evergreens, to prevent reversion taking over.

Lightly cut back lavenders, Helichrysum (curry plant), Santolina (cotton lavender), thyme and rosemary plants to prevent them getting too leggy and woody.



Dogwood after pruning

Feeding and mulching

Feed with a granular feed or pelleted chicken manure before mulching around your shrubs with a 5-8cm (2-3in) layer of organic matter. This will help retain moisture, reduce weed build-up, and improve our sandy soil. Pay particular attention to mulching around rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias, as flowering is poor if these get too dry during late summer.

Happy Gardening

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...

Frederick Tysome was born in Meppershall in 1889. By 1911 he was living in Old Warden and working as a Farm Labourer. His parents were William & Ann. Frederick was drafted to France in 1914. He fought in many engagements including Ypres, Festubert, Loos, Givenchy and the Somme. He was badly gassed and returned to England in 1917, being granted the Silver medal as he was discharged due to sickness. Frederick married Margaret Waddell in St Albans in 1918 and by 1919 they lived in Little Lane. From at least 1934 until his death in 1959 the family lived at 14 Bedford Road, Clophill. In 1939 his occupation is given as War (Disability) Pensioner. It is believed that the couple had 4 children.

William and Caroline Upton lived in 44 High Street. They had both been widowed and proceeded to have 2 sons together – both served in WW1. William died in 1913.

Henry (Harry) Upton was born in Clophill in 1896. He worked on a farm (Simpson's Firs) belonging to a Mr. Williamson in 1911, here he met with a serious accident (at the age of 15), when he was driving a horse which was working the chaff-cutting machine and Harry's foot was caught in the cog-wheels. However, he enlisted with the Bedfords in 1915 by which time he was 5' 10" tall. He became a Lance Corporal. He was sent to France in 1916, where he spent the duration of his war.

Continued on page 4 >>

Clophill's Serving Survivors of WW1—Continued

He was hospitalised several times for Dysentery, Pleurisy and the effects of gas attacks. He spent approximately 140 days in hospital over a period of 12 months. Unfortunately, his relatives had been advised in 1916 that he had been killed by shellfire but soon after they were informed that this was not the case. His medical papers also state that he suffered from Laryngitis and Rheumatism. He was demobbed in 1919 with a pension for a 5% disability, which related to the after-effects of gas. When he was demobbed, the family were living in St Albans. Nothing further is known about Harry.

Charles Robert Kimberley Upton was born in 1900. He enlisted just after his 18th birthday with the Bedfordshire Regiment. He trained at Brockton Boot Camp at Cannock Chase. He was A1 fit despite having a scar on his left leg. He was 5' 5 ½ inches, with grey eyes and auburn hair. He had flu in June that year, spending 16 days in hospital. He was demobbed in 1919 after another two weeks in hospital. He was living in St Albans at the time of enlistment. He married Daisy Gibbard in 1929 and by 1939 was Head Gardener for the Gorhambury Estate, St Albans. He died in 1971.

Richard James Warwick was born in Surbiton, Surrey in 1888. In 1901 he lived in Water End with his father James, a Domestic Gardener born in Ridgemont, his mother Mary Jane (Brown), who was born in Middlesex, and 2 sisters. His father died in 1910 and in 1911 Richard was living in Back Street with his mother (now a Dressmaker) and his younger brother William John (born 1905).

His records show that he joined the Royal Navy in June 1916 and served on HMS President II (an accounting base) until March 1918; with the occupation as Chauffeur, the rank of Aircraftman Second Class, and then Aircraftman First Class. From February 1918 he became Air Mechanic Second Class. In April 1918 he was transferred to the newly formed Royal Air Force. He was transferred to Reserve in March of the following year. In 1924 he married Ida Jane Payne and they later lived in Langford. He died in Berkhamstead in 1966.

W Warwick – in 1918 Ampthill News reported that Mechanic W. Warwick, R.A.F., has been home on sick leave after a month in hospital. He was at work underground when he and his two comrades were buried beneath a fall of earth. He was the first to be dug out, and the other men were dead when they were disinterred. Warwick sustained some severe injuries and was unconscious for a considerable time. He has fortunately made a good recovery, but his escape from death was a narrow one. Nothing further is certain about this man, possibly it relates to Richard above.

William Thomas Watkins lived on the High Street and was a Company Sergeant Major in the Royal Engineers. He was awarded the "Star" in 1915. Nothing further is known regarding this man.



St Mary's School News

from Mrs. Bingley our Headteacher

We began the month by celebrating World Book Day. All the children looked fantastic dressed as their favourite book character and everyone enjoyed writing letters to me explaining why they can't come back to school after Easter (based on the book 'Dear Teacher' by Amy Husband)!



We welcomed the Making Me charity into school during the second week in March to work with our Key Stage 2 children (Years 3 and 4) on resilience. The children learnt what resilience is and how they can turn up their power of resilience when they experience challenges!

The sporty side of our school continued with some Year 3 and 4 children attending a Badminton Festival at Redborne Upper School. The children, as always, were great ambassadors for our school.

In the middle of the month, the whole school recognised British Science Week with all classes taking part in an activity linked to the theme of 'Connections'.

The School Council (run by the children) also put together another package of fundraising activities for Red Nose Day. To date, we have collected £153 for this important charity. At the time of writing, we are heading towards the end of another busy term. We are looking forward to a whole school R.E. Day all about Easter and, as always, our special Easter Service in Church led by Rowan Class to end our term.

School will return on Tuesday 18th April.

As always, you can find more information about the school by visiting our website: www.clophillstmarysschool.co.uk and we regularly post pictures of our events on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/clophillstmarysschool>

Jake the School Dog

Jake enjoys his daily healthy snack – just like the children! Here he is choosing his own snack from the offer in Acorn Class. As you can see, he loves healthy eating too!



Continued on page 6 >>

Acorn Nursery news

from Mrs. Hayes our Nursery Manager & Early Years Leader:

We've had so much fun exploring the story of 'Goldilocks and three bears' over the last couple of weeks. The children have enjoyed plenty of story related activities including making lots of mess with porridge oats and water - practicing our fine motor and developing our maths by scooping and pouring it into different size containers and measuring it and counting how many scoops of water we needed to make baby bears porridge. The children were so excited at our teddy bears picnic with their cuddly toys; we all had snack and acted out another story together, 'We're going on a bear hunt' with our teddies.

We love to dance and make noise in Acorn Nursery and we have enjoyed exploring sound with musical instruments, banging, shaking, tapping, singing along to nursery rhymes and finding the 'pulse' to the melody.

We have a fantastic garden at our Nursery accessible to all children at all times as we wholeheartedly practice 'free flow play' for our children. Our garden replicates all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage – for example it includes continuous opportunities for mark marking, reading, role play, maths - measuring water in our bespoke water wall, resources to create an obstacle course, a child created fairy castle area, music house, large wheeled toys and a large sand pit. All of which result in endless opportunities for our children to play freely and talk together. Being an integrated part of our wonderful school also means that we regularly use our school field for activities like playing football, throwing and catching with tennis balls, rolling hoops and tyres, reading together under our Oak tree, practicing running and chasing bubbles. We also have access to our expansive Reception garden with its own climbing frame. Together with going for nature walks around our whole school (including our spiritual garden) means that every day is an outdoor adventure and learning day.

We are holding a stay and play session for existing and interested parents and children on Monday 24th April 2023 in Acorn Nursery from 10am to 11.15am.

If you would like to come along, please email
nursery@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk.

Our Value for April is Joy

In school, we will be learning about how Joy is an inside happiness that makes it through to the outside – like the bubbles and fizz in a bottle of pop when you shake it up! We will consider, when joy bubbles up within in a person, it can come out as shouting, singing, clapping, playing instruments or even dancing! We will be listening to lots of stories of people who have experienced Joy.

At home, you might like to help your child remember the difference between 'happiness' and 'Joy' with happiness usually being short-lived, dependent on things outside of ourselves and Joy is a feeling of great delight, contentment that comes from within that can last forever! You may also like to discuss things as a family that bring you true Joy!

Clophill Lakes Update - April 2023

Tree works have continued around Clophill Lakes to improve the viewpoints and support wildlife. The Greensand Trust is now planning the establishment work required to enable public access to the site – we’re working hard to provide this as soon as is possible, although it’s too early to provide an opening date but we’ll keep everyone updated throughout.



We’ll be working with our contractors over the coming months to create the infrastructure and services required including creating paths, parking infrastructure, bridges, electricity and water. This work will be carried out with consideration for the bird nesting season and wildlife activity on site.

We’re seeking Youth Rangers to join our scheme starting in



the autumn: Young people aged 13-18 may be interested in joining our popular Youth Ranger Scheme coming this autumn based in the Clophill/ Maulden area of Central Bedfordshire. The scheme is a perfect opportunity for young people interested in conservation and the environment to learn new skills, gain valuable work experience and a recognised environmental award, while having fun and

making a difference to the environment and the local community.

What the scheme involves:

Starting in September and running over six months, young rangers will be required for two sessions per month including one weekend and one evening. They will plan, take part in and lead practical conservation projects which could be anything from planting trees and creating trails, to making bird and bat boxes. They will also work with other conservation volunteers on our sites (including Clophill Lakes) and gain a John Muir Award - an environmental award scheme focusing on discovering and conserving wild places. This scheme will be based at the Trust’s Working Woodlands Centre near Maulden/ Clophill and will involve practical tasks on several of our sites and nature reserves in the same area.

Sign up now! Although the scheme starts in the autumn, places are limited, so now’s the time to apply to join the scheme. To find out more or to sign up, please call us on 01234 743666 or email: Erika.pratt@greensandtrust.org

Clophill Preschool News

Hello everyone,

This article reaches you as we are in the middle of our Easter holidays and busy hosting Egg Hunt Stay & Play sessions. The end of our spring term was hugely fun. Carolyn from Clophill Flower Club came up to help make posies with the children for their mums, thank you Carolyn, we love having you to visit. Once key worker Kirsty had got the hang of the how to make the creations, she sat with the children throughout the week to help them. It was so wonderful to hear her enthusiastically sharing about how much she learned about each child during the process, how much they loved developing their cutting skills and took their time to make something beautiful; how it promoted



so much speech and language as the children listened to instructions and shared stories and feelings about their mums, or whoever they wanted to make them for. While our children have the opportunity to develop their own interests with us, we also find it invaluable to have adult lead teaching to enable us to introduce new and interesting topics and draw the children into something they may not have experienced before.

Not only did the children make posies but also cards and learnt to sing 'Bele Mama' a Cameroonian song, sung in the Okoro language, and which means 'call mother'. Some of our staff have been on a series of music courses: singing songs and having music in setting is crucial to developing speech and language and 'Bele Mama' was just one of the many rich resources they came back with.



We would like to thank the great Ginger Santa and his helper Fernando (you know who you are) for moving the shed we were kindly donated and helping set it up in preschool – the Book Shed is born! We have yet to find the right seating or bookshelves and to decorate it but for now we have put in the old bookcase and one of our benches and the children have swarmed to it. Over the coming weeks we hope to turn it into a cosy space for our children and staff to get together and look through

their favourite books. What is great, is that our children are keen to share books anywhere in preschool, on a log, in the pallet shed, after snack in the polytunnel, there is always a staff member ready to sit down and look through a book, even if they start off on their own they are never alone for long!

Our mindful pauses are working well in setting for both children and staff, the Buddhist bell has been one of their favourites. It lets out a long soulful ring and the children listen and then let us know when they can't hear it anymore; a great way to slow down and be in the moment. We work hard to enable our children to understand their emotions and part of that is being able to give a name to them and understand that its ok to have these feelings, it's how we deal with them that is important. We are now working with a local occupational therapist who specialises in mental health and with whom staff get the opportunity to discuss children anonymously to find ways to support wellbeing and behaviour.

Most of us could do with some form of mindfulness and support from time to time, we have done so well to come out the other side of Covid and a little bit of kindness goes a long way.



The countryside charity
Bedfordshire

We are delighted to report the CPRE (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England) “March for the Countryside” in the month of March event went

ahead as planned on 26th March despite the inclement weather conditions. A group of approximately 30 Clophill residents and their well-behaved dogs enjoyed a short peaceful walk to show their appreciation for the wonderful countryside in Bedfordshire and raise awareness of the many threats our precious greenspaces are facing.



We started our walk at the bottom of Old Church

Path and took a gentle stroll up to the majestic Old Church and into the graveyard where we enjoyed wonderful views of Clophill and the emerging GST nature reserve. The birds were singing, and new growth could be seen emerging on the trees and hedgerows. The track beyond the church was sadly too muddy to navigate, so we looped around the graveyard and back on to Old Church Path to end our walk where we began. We all enjoyed the benefits of being outdoors and many new human and canine friendships were formed. Thank you to all who took part.



Flowers for the Commonwealth Day Service

Two members of Clophill and District Flower Club were invited to arrange flowers in Westminster Abbey for the Commonwealth Day Service on 13th March. Carolyn Cranswick and I were to work alongside one another to create two matching designs at the High Altar. Carolyn and I have arranged together many times and it required co-operation to make the pedestals reflect one another.



We went on Saturday 11th March with our scissors and foliage. The Abbey was closed to the public as the preparations were taking place for the service. The chandeliers were being polished, the BBC were setting up their equipment and various groups were rehearsing and 6 NAFAS ladies were arranging the flowers. The excitement was growing! We had a large amount of flowers and foliage supplied in white, gold and purple to create a traditional pedestal 9-10' high with no step ladders, just lots of reaching and stepping back to inspect and compare. It was a challenge to keep the shape and place all the stems into the foam. We were very pleased with the results.

We received invitations to attend the service and were told we would be sitting in the South transept behind HM The King and members of the Royal family. We were just round the corner but I was able to look across and see them arrive and then the back of the ladies hats! We were pleased to have a large screen in front of us so that we could watch all the service at close hand. It was a multi cultural, multi faith service with an accent on youth and the theme was 'Forging a Sustainable and Peaceful Common Future'.

There was a very friendly atmosphere within the Abbey and a sense of occasion and excitement. 2,000 people from all parts of the Commonwealth, schools and organisations, government and dignitaries. We both felt very proud when we saw our designs featured on the televisions screens, particularly when all the religious leaders stood in front of them. It was a privilege and honour to be part of such a special day. We had much to reflect on as we headed home and all our family and friends had watched the service on the television but we were lucky as WE WERE THERE!!



Ann Swain. Vice-Chairman of Clophill and District Flower club

Coffee and Croissants

Clophill Methodist Church

10am to 12 noon



Saturday 8th April
Saturday 13th May

All Welcome

FLITTON FLITS FAMILY FUN RUNS

As usual the first Bank Holiday Monday in May

Monday 1st May 2023

**Time to get yourself fit for a great run around
Flitton & Flitwick Moors over a flat cross-country
route.**

**The event raises funds for
the beautiful Flitton
Moor local nature reserve.**

Entry forms are available at
local pubs



And on our website:

www.FDHG.co.uk/events

For more information, offers of help, or enquiries, please contact David Sedgley on 01525 714961 or Andrea McCormick on 01525 717661 or by email: flittonflit@gmail.com

History of 'Spotlight'

The **Bedfordshire Archives and Record Service** hold some early copies of this Spotlight magazine, 1979-1986, donated by A. Gordon of Clophill.

The '**Spotlight**' Magazine, first issued under the title **Spotlight on Clophill** in May 1979, grew out of an older magazine called **Action** (later re-named '**Outlook**') launched in March 1967. **Spotlight on Clophill** was subsequently renamed **Spotlight** (June 1980) and **Clophill Spotlight Magazine** (June 1981). It's circulation in 1984 was c.550.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH NEWS



Lent has been progressing very quietly. At the time of writing 3 Lent Lunches have been held, with between 25 and 30 people enjoying homemade soup with bread, followed by cake and a cup of tea or coffee; all for a donation to our 2 charities, Christian Aid and Marie Curie Cancer Care. There is also a rolling raffle which will be drawn at the final lunch.

Then the third week in March was full of news. Firstly, Carolyn Cranswick and Ann Swain from Clophill and District Flower Club had the honour of making the floral arrangements for beside the altar at The Commonwealth Service in Westminster Abbey. They also attended the service in the presence of the King and other members of the Royal Family. Next, we heard that Julie Benson had received the High Sheriff's award for Service to the Community, which we celebrated at the Mothering Sunday service with a glass of something fizzy and cake.

But on the Friday we had the sad news that Ann Jeffrey, our long time organist had died at the great age of 91. Sadly, she never fully recovered from a fall she had in 2021 which prevented her from doing the 2 things she loved most, playing the organ and growing vegetables in her lovely garden. She will be hugely missed by all of us in St. Mary's and her sister Pat.

Parish Registers for April

1823

No baptisms or marriages recorded.

Burials

- 10 William Willshire, s of Thomas and Sarah.
- 19 John Brewer, s of William and Mary.
- 22 John Whittamore.

1873

No baptisms or marriages recorded.

Burial

- 03 Martha Crouch, 81.

1923

Baptism

- 08 Harry Shotbolt, f a book repairer.

Marriages

- March 31 (Omitted in error)
Andrew Hills, 27 to Gladys Matthews, 21.

No marriages or burials in April.

1973

Baptisms

- 22 Christopher Collis.
Martin Howard Dorrell.

Burial

- 06 Florence Lilian Lloyd, 58.

St. Mary's Church Registers March 2023

Name omitted last month for 20th February:

Memorial Service and Burial of Ashes Betty Hampson MBE, 94.

Burial of Ashes

- 17 Rex David Speake, 84.

Clophill and District Flower Club

www.clophillflowerclub.com



The first Thursday in March was somewhat wintery even though it was officially the beginning of Spring. However, inside Clophill Village Hall it was warm and cosy as a full room welcomed Mark Entwistle who had travelled from Cheshire to entertain us with his demonstration entitled 'The Designer's Mind'. His aim was to let us into the secrets of exciting work with plant material and he certainly enlightened us with his innovative designs.

Mark started with a black circular stand and a piece of driftwood. Into a block of black florists foam affixed to the frame he placed bold leaves e.g. Palm; and Molucella to give clear vertical lines. Cream Anthuriums and white orchids completed the arrangement.

For the next design Mark had dismantled a modern wire Christmas tree and used the parts to create wavy structures to support the plant material. In shades of pink and mauve he had antirrhinums, mini gerbera, calla lilies and painted Grevillea. This showed how to adapt and reuse.

Reducing the quantity of floral foam used is important to our planet so an arrangement using glass jars for the plant material proved a good alternative. The jars were placed in a wooden trough and natural looking material, such as, birch twigs, clematis, astilbe and ammi were used. The result was a delight.

In all Mark produced six innovative arrangements and let us into a number of his secrets. So, at the end of a most enjoyable and informative evening the colourful stage made us feel that Spring was indeed here.

Do join us on the first Thursday of the month for a 7:30 start; you will be very welcome.

A big thank you to Clophill supporters

Members of the residents group 'CAUSE' would like to thank everyone who has **objected** to the latest Hayfield Homes application (CB/23/00467/FULL) for an additional 33 dwellings. To date almost 400 letters of objection have been received which is sending a very clear message to Hayfield that their additional development proposals are **not** welcome.

The **consultation date** for the application has been **extended to 14th April** allowing residents extra time to complete letters of objection. Letters can be dropped at a designated drop off point and we are also happy collect letters until 12th April. This will allow us time to deliver to Central Beds planning before the consultation period ends. Alternatively, objections can be made on the planning portal.

Thank you for your support



You are invited to the
Coronation Celebration
and Afternoon Tea
in the garden of Clophill House

– by kind invitation of Abbie and Giles Warner

Monday 8th May 2 – 6pm

Come and meet your friends and share in the village celebration

of the **Coronation of King Charles**

Bring your own chairs/ Picnic rugs and decorations. You can bring your own picnic

or order a:- Celebration homemade Afternoon Tea box £10 a box

Including a variety of finger sandwiches, Cheese straw, scones jam/ cream, homemade cake and strawberries

To be collected at the gate on the day.

Proceeds in aid of St Mary's Church, Clophill

Pimms and Prosecco Soft drinks and cakes Entertainment Raffle

We hope that everyone will wear something red, white or blue to join in the fun.

Further details in the next Issue of Spotlight, Church website and posters

Enquiries to juliebenson@talktalk.net



St Mary's Church, Maulden
"Songs for everyone"



Pulloxhill Singers

Saturday
29th April
7.00pm
£10

includes a glass of wine and canapes

Tickets: call 403139, 840102, 07899852669.
Available after church services and other social events

Proceeds to St Mary's, Maulden, Church Fund

Reflections – Clophill in April 1978—Voices from the past

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

I don't seem to have got the 1978 April 'Outlook' - haven't a clue where it might be, but here's what May's one tells us about what happened in April, so it is sort of pertinent! The cover photo was of a Maypole Procession of the 1950's, so 70



years ago – (not sure if it's in Clophill – is it on The Green?) The magazine starts with congratulations to “Barton Rovers F.C. for reaching the final of the F.A. Vase at Wembley” (definitely a great achievement!). The weather on the Easter Monday Pilgrimage to St. Albans “was not the kind to raise holiday spirits” but seven younger members of the church choir were undaunted (well done them, that's great!).

The **Friends of the Cheshire Home** raised £150 from a jumble sale, the money going to pave a pathway round the Home, making it easier for wheelchair users, (such a shame that the Home is about to close). **Fete day plans** were well underway, the procession is to follow a new route – The Green, Cainhoe Road, Readshill, Back Street, Mill Lane and Kiln Lane and led by the Bedford Boys' Brigade - and there's a reminder about the 'Sponsored Matchbox Competition' as well as a plea for help to set up. Joanne Constance, Susan Page, and Timothy Sawyer passed their Grade 1 **piano exam** –Joanne Hudson and Philip Sawyer with distinction; Joanne Hudson passed her grade 2 - and Juliet Gordon with merit, (I wonder if they still play?).

The **Village Hall Management Committee** held its AGM where expenditure included a new mower, stage lighting and a new heating system; the incoming officers included Hon Treasurer Mac Ilett and secretary Gill Jones, replacing John Burger and Betty Hampson, both remaining on the committee though. The **Parish Council** saw a planning application for a larger beer cellar at the Stone Jug, while a boundary revision was suggested – to include “Hall and Water Ends and Simpsonhill Plantation Past Warren Farm to Beadlow and include Speeds Dairy.” The Council is to write to the County concerning the “300 acres that could be dug up in the next 15 years to extract the valuable Fullers Earth” and it seems that the County was offered a lease on Pine Hill as part of their tree nursery; and the Rector, **Rev Cousins** was retiring in June so an invitation to donate to his presentation was included.



Wildlife Trust for
**Beds, Cambs
& Northants**

Wildlife walks & talks

April : May

saturday, April 22nd, Pegsdon Hills (TL131307), 10:00am

Walk to Knocking Hoe Nature Reserve with Dr Graham Bellamy*

A walk round this lovely reserve looking for the Pasque Flowers and other chalk grassland plants which can be found here. We will also be looking out for birds, especially early migrants and anything else of interest.

Park at the rear of 'The View' pub or in the lay-by near The Lodge. Please do not park in the pub car park, or drive across it. *£4.00 per adult

Saturday, May 13th, Nation Trust car park (LU6 2GY) at 10:00am

Butterfly Walk at Whipsnade Downs with Dr Wilf Powell*

Come and join butterfly enthusiast Wilf as we search for some of the lovely species to be found on the Downs. Parking is £3.50 for the day (ticket machines take card or cash payments) although it is free for National Trust members and blue badge holders. *£4.00 per adult

Open to all, but please reserve, as space is limited.

For additional information or to reserve your place please email

flitvale.info@gmail.com.

(If you don't have email, please ring Ann on 07580 178889 between 6-8 pm.)

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

Registered charity number: 1000412 www.wildlifebcn.org

Flit Vale Local Group: www.flitvale.org.uk

Clophill Parish Council



The elections are on the 4th May and anyone wishing to stand to be a Parish Councillor must have submitted their forms to CBC by the 4th of April. If the posts are uncontested, we must hope that existing Councillors are happy to stand again.



The February Chairmans award was given to Paul Allen for his work on saving the Clophill Footbridge. Including the crucial engineering report.

MAGPAS Air Ambulance will receive a £260 donation from the PC. This could be used for example to anaesthetise 2 critical patients, while transferring to hospital.

During the open session it was asked if the council would consider Lamppost poppies this year for Remembrance. This is something the council is now looking into.

The Coronation plans are speeding ahead there are to be 3 days of events in the village: An animal encounter on the Saturday for children, a street party outside the Stone Jug on Sunday with music, Morris Dancers and a hog roast. On Monday there will be a picnic event at Clophill House in conjunction with St Marys Church. Look out for the posters for more details.

Highways Update:

There are now biweekly CBC meetings where the PC can provide feedback from villagers. So please do let us know of any issues or concerns, via email (clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk) or the website contact form. The site contractor is Octavius, Nicola Foster is the communication officer for them with the local community and will be engaging direct. The Green one way and High St resurfacing works are to be completed before they move to the next arm of roundabout.

There is a CBC dedicated roundabout website to keep up to date and register for email bulletins.

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/55/transport_roads_and_parking/1064/road_improvements_clophill/2

The PC has requested a 20mph speed limit through the village along with associated other changes and awaits next steps from Highways. Other items requested include Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) on the High St near the school and horse warning signs at all entrances. These are all separate to the roundabout project.

Planning Applications:

CB/23/00467/FULL Land the rear of Waterworks House, The Old Waterworks, The Pump House, 12 and 15 Shefford Road and 11 to 21 Jacques Lane

Proposal: Demolition of existing structures and erection of 33 dwellings, a new access, public open space and associated works. **OBJECT**

CB/TCA/23/00118 114 High Street

Proposal: Works to trees within a Conservation Area. **SUPPORT**

CB/TCA/23/00083 6 High Street

Proposal: Works to trees within a conservation area. **SUPPORT**

CB/23/00804/OUT 14 Great Lane

Proposal: Outline Application: Creation of 2 new 2-bedroom bungalow dwelling houses and associated parking and access. **OBJECT**

CB/22/02081/FULL Paradise Farm, The Causeway

Proposal: Stationing of 2 additional mobile homes (to the existing 2 tourers and 1 caravan) for residential purposes, a larger dayroom and area of hardstand ancillary to that use. **OBJECT**

CB/23/00656/FULL Land to the South East of A507 Cainhoe Road

Proposal: Erection of replacement building for storage, office and welfare facilities. **SUPPORT**

**The next Parish Council meeting will be held on
25th April, Clophill Village Hall, @ 7:45pm**

Clophill Community Hub*date*

Use of the Clophill Community Hub continues at a healthy rate which means we continue to need your help with donations. We would like to build a bit of surplus stock on canned goods so **anything that comes in a tin that is edible** would be great!

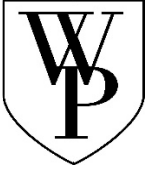
We would also appreciate some of the most popular items, such as **washing up liquid, all types of toiletries, crisps, biscuits and breakfast cereals**. We are also noticing **long life milk** is really in demand.

It is easy to donate at **St Marys Church, St Marys School, Co-op, at the Hub itself or at my house at 32 Back Street**. Thank you for your support.

The Clothes Bank is now in situ next to the Hub so feel free to drop your unwanted clothing in there to help support the Clophill Pre School and obviously the ultimate recipients of the clothing items you donate.

Remember, please donate generously and take thoughtfully





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What's on in and around Clophill

APRIL

Saturday 8th

Coffee and Croissants, Methodist Church, 10am-12noon. *See poster.*

MAY

Monday 8th

Coronation Celebration, Garden of Clophill House, 2pm-6pm. *See poster.*

Saturday 13th

Coffee and Croissants, Methodist Church, 10am-12noon. *See poster.*

Plus....

Weekdays during term time

* Clophill Community Hub is open, Village Hall, 9am to 3pm.

Mondays...

* Greensand Community Choir, St. Mary's Church, 7:30-9pm.

Tuesdays... in term time

* Clophill Preschool, Stay and Play 9:30-10:30am and Thursdays 1-2pm, Village Hall.

Wednesdays...

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

* Beverley Court Bingo Night, in the Residents lounge, 7pm. All welcome.....

Thursdays...

* Lunchtime Winter Warmer, St Mary's Church, 12noon – 2pm, followed by....

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

Fridays

* Clophill Toddler Group, 10am-11.30am, Village Hall

CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

Other Sundays 11am, Parish Communion

Regular services at Clophill Methodist Church...

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

MILE ROAD ALLOTMENTS

Plant Sale Weekend

Our monster plant sale weekend is on
the **13th and 14th of May**



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Association, 149 Mile Road, Bedford, MK42 9UP.

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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
Greensand Community Choir	Luke	07975 520085
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	Marylin Browning	07821 643936

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	0207 219 5928
Central Bedfordshire Councillors	Michael Blair	01525 404513
	Paul Duckett	07988 184061
	Mark Smith	0300 300 8541
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		
County Police HQ		Non Emergency 101
Amphill Station		01234 841212 101
CHURCHES		
St Mary's Parish Church		
Revd Cannon Lynda Klimas	rev.l.klimas@btinternet.com	01525 403139
(Church Warden) Mrs Anne Shegog	anneshegog@gmail.com	01525 864868
St Francis RC Church, Shefford		
01452 813436		
Clophill Methodist Church		
Revd 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
Redborne Upper School, Amphill		
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Robert Bloomfield Middle School, Shefford		
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9:30AM	MOVE	POWER	ENGINE	POWER	HYBRID	POWER	BUILD 9AM
10:30AM						ENGINE	
5PM		POWER	ENGINE				
6PM	MOVE	POWER	ENGINE	POWER	HYBRID		
7PM	LIFT	POWER	LIFT	POWER			
8PM	MOVE	POWER	ENGINE	POWER			

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