

Vol 46 | No.4

FREE

# CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

MAY 2023



**LOVE YOUR  
LOCAL NEWS**



## A word from the Editor...



Welcome to the May issue of Spotlight

*Dear Reader,*

Wishing you all a happy and glorious weekend of celebrations for the King's Coronation.

Best wishes,

Elaine



## The magazine staff

EDITOR	Elaine Jones	07918 975823
	<a href="mailto:editorial@clophillspotlight.co.uk">editorial@clophillspotlight.co.uk</a>	
ADVERTISING MANAGER	Nigel and Angela Barker	01525 868685
	<a href="mailto:ads@clophillspotlight.co.uk">ads@clophillspotlight.co.uk</a>	
DESIGN MANAGER	Colin Watt	
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER	Toni Elston	861813
	Phyllis Edwards, Paul Leckie	
TREASURER	Jon Bates	07725 068828
FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPHER	Laura Woollard	

***Deadline for articles is 20th of the month***

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***[www.clophillspotlight.co.uk](http://www.clophillspotlight.co.uk)***

# Come into the Garden

*With Kate Gardner*



Houseplants have become really popular over the last couple of years so this month I thought I would share some hits and tips on how you get the best from your indoor gardens. There are many reasons that your house plants may not be looking their best, and it can be a challenge to work out what's wrong.

Try and keep house plants away from temperature fluctuations caused by draughts or central heating but at the same time look to maximise the amount of light your house plants receive. Repot any houseplants that have become top heavy or pot bound into slightly larger containers and while you are doing this also check for pests such as aphids, scale insects, thrips or mealybugs.

If you haven't already done so now is a good time to start feeding houseplants once a week with a liquid fertiliser. As the weather warms up you may also need to start watering more frequently, but do check the soil beforehand to make sure that you aren't waterlogging the compost. Leaves are the plants powerhouse, converting sunlight into energy and some, like snake plants, are particularly prone to collecting dust on their leaves. Stand the plant under the shower hose or give the leaves a wipe to remove the dust.

Do you have small black flies living in your house plant compost or hovering around your house plants? These are fungus gnats (sciarid flies), and while they are mostly harmless – adult gnats cause little or no harm to plants, they can become a nuisance at home. Getting rid of these flies is easier than you might think. Applying a gravel mulch to the top of the compost and letting the compost dry out slightly between watering is often enough to stop them breeding in your houseplants compost.

Taking cuttings is a great way to increase your plants. Choose healthy shoots of new growth and cut lengths of roughly 10-20cm. Cut below a leaf joint with a sharp knife and remove the lower leaves to ensure a clean stem for submerging in water. Push the base of the cuttings into a jam jar or glass of water filled to the rim with water and then stand it in a warm, bright position. Keep the water topped up and within a few weeks you should see white roots emerging from the stems. Once a good root system has developed, pot the cuttings in compost to grow on. Remember to keep the compost moist and pinch out tips to encourage bushy plants. Lots of our most loved houseplants can be propagated this way including African violets, cane-stemmed begonias, coleus, cyperus, impatiens, ivy, rubber plants, verbena, Philodendron scandens and tradescantia.

According to a survey carried out by Gardeners World Magazine, the top 10 houseplants in the UK include Spider plants, Aspidistras, Monstera, Philodendrons, Rubber plants, Chrysalidocarpus, Pilea peperomioides, Sansevierias, Maidenhair fern and Streptocarpus.

On the gardening front, April has been a challenging month, but as we move into May its worth keeping an eye on the weather as it is easy to be caught out by frost. Don't automatically give up on a plant that has been frost damaged. Many plants can be surprisingly resilient and may well rejuvenate from dormant buds at or below soil level. This takes time so recovery may not be seen until early summer. If the plant is of high value or it is not essential to fill the gap, consider leaving the damaged plant in the ground until mid-summer. If no re-growth has appeared by then, replace the plant. Once no more frost is expected, prune out damaged growth, cutting to an undamaged sideshoot or bud and then feeding the plant to stimulate new growth.

### ***Happy Gardening***

## **Clophill Lakes Update**

We are pleased to report all tree works on site has now been completed in time for the bird-nesting season – this will improve the viewpoints around the lakes as well as creating a more diverse habitat for the wildlife. Our hardy volunteers



have been clearing up all the debris left behind and have begun installation of fencing to make the site more secure.

Now that Spring has finally arrived, we are seeing far more wildlife – recently we've spotted little egrets, badger tracks, mandarin ducks, red kites, tufted ducks, Canada geese, great crested

grebes, cormorants, stoats, coots and mallards to name but a few. Summer migrant birds are starting to arrive to the site – listen out and you might hear the distinctive sound of the cuckoo!

During the summer months we plan to offer a series of guided walks around the site for local people to see the changes we've made for the benefit of wildlife and people – look out for details on our Greensand Trust Facebook and Instagram pages /greensandtrust, follow us on Twitter @GreensandTrust or visit our website [www.greensandtrust.org](http://www.greensandtrust.org).

We still need your donations to our appeal to help us progress this new nature reserve – please donate any amount you wish at [www.greensandtrust.org/appeal/clophill-lakes](http://www.greensandtrust.org/appeal/clophill-lakes)



# 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...*

**3 brothers Isaac, Arthur and George Webb probably provided 8 sons for the war effort. It is thought their cousins provided 5 more.** Sadly, one of the sons did not survive the war. **Isaac and Eliza Webb had 6 sons that served in WW1. The family lived at 11 Jacques Lane.** The menfolk were mostly farm Labourers, although Lewis was a carpenter and Albert a milkman. All the sons were born in Clophill.

**Albert Webb** was born in 1879. He married Florence in 1900 and by 1911 they were living in Ealing. Albert enlisted in 1916 (aged nearly 37yrs) and served in France with the Army Service Corps (Motor Transport) as a Lorry Driver. He was 5' 5.25" tall and was described as sober, reliable & intelligent. Whilst on leave in 1916 he sported a much admired goat skin! Unfortunately, he faced a disciplinary action whilst serving near Cologne in 1919 as he was "improperly dressed" – he was not wearing a belt! He was demobbed later that year.

By 1939 Albert and Florence lived in Suffolk, where he worked as a Fish Merchant. He died in Bury St Edmunds in 1956.

**Sidney Webb** was born in 1886. He was 5' 6" tall and had blue eyes with brown hair. He had joined the Kings Royal Rifle Co. in 1903, aged 18. He spent time with his unit in Bermuda where he suffered with rheumatic fever. His officers described him as being good, sober and hardworking. He was also a keen sportsman. Later he became a Sergeant and was sent to France in 1914 and his exploits were regularly reported in Ampthill News. In 1915 he had written to say that "as a sniper several Germans had realised the accuracy of his rifle." And later that year he informed his parents that he and 5 others from his company were cut off from their comrades by the enemy; but after 2 days of hot pursuit and severe privation they had succeeded in re-joining their regiment. In May he tells his mother that he had had a bullet pass through the collar of his coat, but it fortunately only grazed his neck, but he was "hearty and well." Later in May he lets his family know he has been slightly wounded in the face and back by shrapnel. He came home briefly in October 1915 and brought his blood-stained bayonet with him! In 1916 he was temporarily hospitalised but soon returned to "sniping." His term of service expired in 1916 and it is not known if he re-enlisted. In 1939 he was still working as a Market Gardener's Labourer, still living at 11 Jacques Lane with his father. He died locally in 1955.

**Ernest Webb** was born in 1889. He was a sapper in the Royal Engineers. After the war he returned to Jacques Lane until 1922. It is thought he married Mabel Gardner and moved to Rugby where he worked on the railways and that he died in that area in 1971.

**William Thomas Webb** was born in 1893. He was employed by the Burgoynes in Maulden. William enlisted in 1915 and was a Private in the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment. He served in France - near Etaples where he suffered a shrapnel wound to his hand in 1917 and later that year a gunshot wound to his arm and head. William seems to have had time keeping issues as he was disciplined for overstaying his leave by 1 day in 1917 and in 1918 he was absent from parade for 1.5 hours! He was demobilised in 1919. After the war he returned to Jacques Lane until 1930. It is believed that by 1939 William lived at 7 The Green, with his wife Kate. He was working as an assistant to a Waterworks Engineer.

**Lewis James Webb** was born in 1896. He worked for Lord Lucas (owner of Wrest Park) and was a keen sportsman. Lewis enlisted with the Bedfordshire Regiment in 1911, where his age was given as 17. He became a Private in the Loyal N. Lancs. His character was described as "steady and reliable." He returned from the war to live at Jacques Lane until 1922. Nothing further is known about Lewis.

Percy Cyril Webb was born in 1898. Percy was a Fitter in the Royal Field Artillery. When he returned from the war he lived with his father and brothers in Jacques Lane until 1925. He married Ivy Woodland and worked at Vauxhall Motors. Percy died in 1983.

**Isaac's brother Arthur lost his son Walter Webb in February 1917.** Walter was born in Clophill in 1881 and by 1901 was living in Haynes with his parents and siblings. He worked as a horse keeper. He married Jane Maynard in 1906 and in 1911 they lived in Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead with their daughter Ethel. The couple had a son in 1909 but he did not survive the year. Walter worked as a paper mill hand. Walter became a Lance Corporal with the 4<sup>th</sup> Bedfordshire. He was killed in action in 1917. His pension records show he had another daughter who was just 2 yrs old at the time of his death. His widow's address was given as Bedford.



**Their brother George saw his son also named George survive the war.**



George jnr. was born to Ann in Clophill in 1878. His father died in 1884. In 1891 he lived with his mother and stepfather in Cricklewood. He enlisted as a driver for 12 years in the Royal Artillery in 1899 and in 1901 he was living in Barracks in Leeds. His occupation at the time of enlistment was given as a labourer. His height 5' 5" and his eyes brown. His character was described as good. George married Emily Fellowes in 1905. Sadly, the couple lost a daughter in infancy and a son aged just 8 yrs, they had 2 other children who survived to adulthood. By

1911 the family had moved to Yorkshire where George worked as a coalminer. It is not clear what role George played in WW1 but it is likely he served in view of his previous service. 1939 they still lived in Yorkshire and George worked as a driver on a farm. George died in Wimbledon in 1950.

# St Mary's School News

*from Mrs. Bingley our Headteacher*

As I write we are all newly refreshed from our Easter break. I hope you all had a lovely Easter too.

We ended our term with lots of Easter themed activities. Key Stage 2 were visited by ImpactRE who led sessions on the Easter story for Years 3 and 4. Then the whole school enjoyed an Easter-themed day and we ended the term with Year 3's performance of 'The Three Trees' in Church.

We have an incredibly busy term ahead. Just in the month of May we have Bikeability for Year 3 (where they learn how to look after and safely manage their bikes) and Hazel class (Year 2) begin their 12-week block of swimming lessons at Happy Tiddlers.

Howard, from Flitwick Cricket club, will visit to teach a six-week block of cricket lessons to Year 3 and 4 and some of our Key Stage 1 children (Years 1 and 2) will attend a Cricket festival at Woodland Middle School.

We also have lots of bank holidays to enjoy in May! The reason for the second bank holiday will be celebrated on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May, when we hold a Coronation Celebration Day in school. The children will be making crowns and completing other activities before enjoying an afternoon tea and mock coronation, picnic style on the front field in the afternoon. We hope for good weather!

Before I write again, we also have our fantastic outdoor adventure fundraising day, which we haven't been able to hold since Covid! Year 3 will also be visiting Shuttleworth as part of their prize for winning the Scarecrow festival earlier this academic year.

I will, of course, share with you how all these events went in the next Spotlight.

As always, you can find more information about the school by visiting our website: [www.clophillstmarysschool.co.uk](http://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 enjoyed another term with the children. He spends time in every class each week and also says 'hello' to the parents and children at the gate in the morning when he can! Jake also has his cheeky moments. He likes to bark 'hello' at visitors and other dogs now and is always convinced, if there's food available, it's for him! Here he is having a cheeky look for leftover takeaway at home.



# Acorn Nursery news

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

We were very lucky (and excited) at the end of term, when one of our parents brought in a gorgeous 5-day old lamb in to visit everyone in Early Years, the children named him Fluffer!

We want our children to be creative in the way that they choose and so we provide a range of materials (and some pre-made ideas for cards to look at for ideas if they wish) and then the children can consider, plan and have the freedom to make their own creations. In this way, the children made their own Easter cards which they were all very proud of! We've also had lots of messy fun making yummy chocolate nests, developing our fine motor skills by mixing and scooping the ingredients into cake cases.

Continuing the messy theme, we enjoyed messy play activities in the last week of term, inside and outside, mixing shaving foam and paint, sorting coloured spaghetti, finding buried Easter toys in straw and matching numbers on eggs with numicon.

Our traditional story was Cinderella and we all made a beautiful Castle for Cinderella (and her prince) together where the children decided to paint it orange and cover it in glitter!

We have limited space available in our Nursery. If you are interested in finding out more, please email [nursery@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk](mailto:nursery@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk)

## **Our Value for May is *Wisdom (Understanding)* and Critical Thinking**

**In school:** children will continue to be encouraged to ask questions when they do not understand, especially in their lessons. The importance of speaking and listening will be emphasised as a crucial part of the learning process. We will promote the understanding that we should all be working towards peace in our world starting with ourselves as individuals. We will use stories and examples of occasions when people have not listened to instructions carefully, have therefore misunderstood and the resulting unfortunate consequences.

**At home,** you should encourage your children to ask questions if they do not understand and make sure that they listen to your explanations. Try to back up requests with reasons so as to promote understanding. You could also share the story 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers. It demonstrates how long it takes for the boy to understand his friend the penguin and how important this understanding was in the end. You could also watch 'Giraffes Can't Dance' by Giles Andrae on You Tube and see how Gerald the Giraffe eventually learns to dance by listening to and understanding instructions.



# Clophill Preschool News

Hello everyone,

We have been busy in our allotment. Lynne has been in to host a coffee morning in the community allotment, helping parents to weed and sow the beds with vegetables we hope to harvest for our summer shop. It's a great way to get our parents together, meeting each other and doing a mindful activity in the open air.

The children have also been gardening, over spring they planted sunflower seeds, put peas in the ground and tended the strawberry patch. They have now been digging up some strawberry plants and potting into compostable pots to take home. They have also been weeding our beds to get them ready for more planting as the weather warms, hopefully our purple basil and dill can be planted out soon.

We have bought some new books this term, using money raised from our Easter Stay and Play Egg Hunts, covering a range of topics including flora and fauna, in keeping with our curriculum based in



nature, as well as other books to support our children's wellbeing from stories about being peg fed to rhyming books that celebrate our different bodies.



We have new pallet tables in our polytunnel for the children to use when they eat which have gone down a storm, thank you Gary for once again creating something brilliant from very little. Your ingenuity and kind heart have helped turn our setting into the wonderful space it is, the book shed now looks fantastic with its fitted bench and pallet bookshelves, thank you!

Kirsty held some puppet shows for the children and made up stories with them which the children then

adopted and retold them as their own.

We are not sure what sparked it but the children have been very interested in volcanoes with lots of them using sand or soil to create their own. This has led us to learning all about volcanoes and their associated vocabulary with words like 'erupting' and 'lava', we have also explored the kinds of countries they are found in using photos on the tablet.

Over the Easter holidays we put in one of the largest resources yet...a piano. It sits outside on the stage and the children have been learning the rules of how to use it safely and with care. Our SEND children have particularly enjoyed listening carefully to staff playing up and down the scales.

A fledgling robin came and joined us in the polytunnel this week; the children learned all about it and sang it to sleep while they had their lunch. Our new signs have been going up offering interesting information about flora, fauna and clouds.

We promote Healthy Movers at preschool, a UK initiative from the Youth Sport Trust, the programme is designed to support two to five-year-old's physical literacy, development and wellbeing, helping them gain a better start in life. Mastery of physical skills empowers children, supporting their path to effective writing and encouraging them to understand the importance of exercise and a balanced diet that will help our children to live long healthy lives. Combined with the strong connection to nature and the outdoors we are setting our children up for life.

**St Mary's Church. Clophill**  
**Traditional Church Fete and Village Event**  
**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June 12 noon – 4pm**

We are holding another Fete and Village Event on 17<sup>th</sup> June in the grounds of St Mary's Church. This is a little later than usual due to the Coronation Celebrations. This is always a very successful and popular community event that attracts a large number of people from Clophill and the surrounding area. Our aim is to organise a Fete for the enjoyment of all ages and to involve as many organisations and individuals as possible. We want to provide the opportunity for all to promote their organisation and to raise money for their own cause.

This year we are limiting the stalls to those from the local community. If you would like to have a stall, please contact Gillian Hill as soon as possible and by 1<sup>st</sup> June – 10% of your takings to be donated to the Church funds. We would like to know the type of stall you would like to run, a side show or game or just an information stand. We ask you to provide your own table as we have a limited number. We are happy for you to bring a gazebo.

We want to develop the Fete further this year, whilst still retaining a traditional Village Fete theme. This year we are planning to extend the attractions to entertain the children and inform the grownups. There will be entertainment, activities, and games to give the children a great afternoon.

We hope you will be supporting this popular event and we look forward to hearing from you.

Gillian Hill  
10 The Causeway, Clophill  
01525 860539

Carolyn Cranswick  
4 The Hollies, Shefford  
01462 816544

# Greensand Country Festival

The Greensand Country Festival kicks off on May Day and continues until 11<sup>th</sup> June 2023, offering exciting events and activities for everyone to enjoy, and incorporating this year's special celebrations for the King's Coronation.

We've got everything from fun runs, 50km ultra trails, to May Fayres, King's Coronation children's events to walks in the woods, and a bird song short course. There's even afternoon tea and community vineyard sessions on offer. Look out for the Greensand Country team at various events throughout the Festival, and be sure to come and say hello.

The Festival's varied events programme aims to showcase the unique, beautiful and much-loved local landscape, from Leighton Buzzard to Gamlingay. It encourages people to discover more of Greensand Country and its beautiful parks, woodlands, heritage sites, wildlife and attractions.



The extra bank holiday weekend for the King's Coronation gives us even more cause for celebration this year, with a wide array of concerts, parties and shows.

As well as the Coronation, the annual programme of events celebrates National Walking Month and supports Mental Health Awareness Week. In recognition, Bedfordshire based solicitors Taylor Walton, are taking on the Greensand Ridge Walk over the weekend of Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May to raise awareness and funds for mental health charity, Mind.



If you would like to find out more, or to take part in the Taylor Walton Solicitors **Greensand Walk**, please email **[peter.kouwenberg@taylorwalton.co.uk](mailto:peter.kouwenberg@taylorwalton.co.uk)**.

Partnership Coordinator for the Greensand Country Landscape Partnership, which organises the annual festival, Daniel Bowles says:

"This year's festival is going to be very exciting, with lots of new events and special activities in celebration of the King's Coronation, as well as many of our annual favourites. The landscape plays such an important role in the lives of everyone who is proud to call Greensand Country their 'home' and we're looking forward to showcasing the best of it again this May and June.

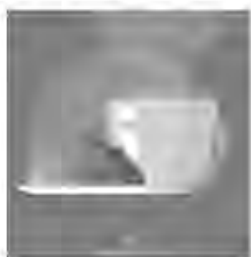
"Thank you to all of the partners, organisations and individuals who are putting on events and activities this year and we can't wait for the Greensand Country Festival 2023 to get underway."



## **Coronation Coffee and Croissants**

**Saturday 13th May**

**10am to 12 noon**



**Continue the celebrations with us  
at**



**Clophill Methodist Church**

*St Mary's Church, Clophill*

# *Church Fete*

*& Village Event*

*Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June*

*12 – 4pm in the Church grounds*

*FUN for ALL*

*Lots of stalls      Sideshows*

*Barbeque*

*Attractions and entertainment*

*St Mary's School Maypole Team*

*For further information – call Gill 01525 861058 or Carolyn 01462 815433*

# ST. MARY'S CHURCH NEWS

The Lent Lunches and Agape Supper on Maundy Thursday raised £1,300 to be shared between our 2 charities, Christian Aid and Marie Curie Cancer Care. That is before Gift Aid is added. Thanks are due to the hard work of our Fund-Raising Group with the help of Clophill Methodist Church and our friends in St. Mary's Maulden, who each hosted a session.

Easter was celebrated with the Agape Supper, a meal incorporating a service of Holy Communion, a solemn service of readings and hymns at Maulden on Good Friday and a joyous celebration of Parish Communion on Easter Day.

Sadly, on April 24<sup>th</sup> we said goodbye to a good servant of our church. Ann Jeffrey, born and bred in the village, died at the age of 91 on March 17<sup>th</sup>. She had been our organist for about 40 years, and also served as Churchwarden. Many family and friends came together to celebrate a life well lived, and members of the choir from over the years sang one of her favourite hymns in her memory. There was good fellowship afterwards as the congregation enjoyed a cup of tea and refreshments in the church. She is already very much missed by all her friends and especially her sister and brother.

On May 7<sup>th</sup> there will be a kingly themed Family Service at 11 o'clock and on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> a Garden Party/ picnic in the garden of Clophill House by kind permission of Abi and Giles Warner. Because of this event the annual Fete in the Churchyard has been put back to June 17<sup>th</sup>. Save the date, as it's always a good place to meet up with old friends and have a good time.

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## Parish Registers for May

### 1823

#### **Baptisms**

- 07 James, s of William and Alice (?)  
13 Elizabeth, d of Mary Ray (?)  
John, s of William and Elizabeth  
Whittamore.  
17 William, s of William and Ann  
Tingay.

#### **Marriages**

- 14 John Gadge (?) to Elizabeth  
Hollaman (?)  
18 Thomas Sinfield to Ann Izzard.  
20 William Gaylor to Rhoda Burrows.

#### **Burials**

- 11 James Pratt.  
23 Joseph Hide.  
29 Alice Pratt.

### 1872

#### **Marriages**

- 31 William Izzard 22, to Emma  
Bottoms, 26.

### 1873

#### **Baptisms**

- 25 Elizabeth Grace Sheppard, f a  
shoemaker.  
David Parrish.

#### **Marriages**

- 31 John Dawson 25, to Emma  
Mossman, 37.  
Thomas Richardson, to Lizzie Ann  
Hills.

### 1923

#### **Baptisms**

- 06 Neville Diggins, f a motor  
engineer.  
Herbert William Cole, f a  
journeyman.

No marriages or burials recorded.

1973 No registers recorded in May.

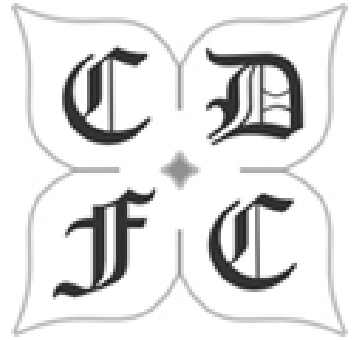
### St. Mary's Registers April 2023

#### **Funeral**

- 24 Ann Mary Jeffrey, 91.

# Clophill and District Flower Club

[www.clophillflowerclub.com](http://www.clophillflowerclub.com)



Our April demonstrator was Doug Howard. His title **'Nature's Angles'**. Doug is a valued member of our club and an Area Demonstrator. Our Members were looking forward to a colourful evening of flowers and chat. They were not disappointed.

Aspidistra and Fatsia leaves caught by the frost, turning them brown, were used against a beautiful drift wood sphere on a wooden base. Tall Pussy Willow, Arum Lily leaves and graceful Ferns, together with blue Iris, green Hellebores and yellow Daffodils, lovely spring design arranged in a pin holder and no foam.

A tall black metal twisted stand held a high arrangement of yellow Salix Caprea (Pussy Willow), golden Roses, yellow and orange Gerbera. Bergenia leaves, Spotted Laurel and ferns against a trellis of tall Bamboo canes. A lower placement repeating the roses, Gerbera and pussy willow together with Dianthus (green tricks). Green Midelino canes to the side of the arrangement took the eye in that direction while the roses were placed to take the eye upward toward the top arrangement.

Natural, rustic birch sticks secured into a wooden base. Pussy Willow and Virginia Creeper was woven though the sticks to resemble a bird nest. Into this were placed glass tubes to hold the flowers and water. A design with blue, red and mauve Freesias, yellow Daffodils and soft ferns. Simple but beautiful and no foam.

A three-tier arrangement included Twisted Palms, Fatsia Leaves, golden Yew and Fern. Mauve Alliums, salmon pink Elegance Astroemera and crimson Wax Flowers. Tall slim foliage took the eye from the bottom arrangement up through the second, then to the third tier.

A panel of black wrought iron, with white Midelino canes, rope webbing and cork screw hazel twigs woven through and around the panel in bands. A beautiful stem of green Phalaenopsis Orchids wired across the panel with a single flower from the stem and three green and white Puff Ball flowers on the opposite side. Flowers were set in water tubes, again no foam.

Lastly, an arrangement with gold Gerbera, white Carnations, purple Lisianthus, red Naomi Roses. Glossy green leaves, curled and twisted into shapes and gold foliage. A second small, similar arrangement above. With the deep purple, red and white flowers the design was fit for a king which was represented with a royal crown to celebrate the forthcoming coronation of Charles III.



*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 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:juliebenson@talktalk.net)





## Reflections – Clophill in May 1978—Voices from the past

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

This month, I am looking through the June edition of 'Outlook' 1978, and, on its cover is this rather lovely photograph of a **dog cart**, perhaps part of the Summer



Fete procession mentioned later, but what other activities took place in May that year? Let's start with a **wheelbarrow race**, which started "at the 'Rising Sun', just before lunchtime on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May. The event, which was to raise funds for the Summer Fete, took a route along the High Street to 'The Compasses' (now a family home), 'The Green Man' (in a bit of a sad state at present), around The Green, up Cainhoe Road and along Back Street to 'The Stone Jug' (best pub in the

country). Each competitor had to drink half a pint of beer at each pub en-route. This was kindly donated by the publicans, to whom the committee is sincerely grateful." **Fete preparations** were well underway and the itinerary tells us that "The procession will leave the Village Green at 2.00pm then travel via Cainhoe Road, Readshill and Back Street, to arrive at the Village Hall at approx. 2.30p.m. The Fancy Dress will then be judged by Mrs Hedley Lobb, and following this, the fete will be officially opened by the Carnival Princess, Amanda Walker." Other May activities are also recorded like one organised by St. Mary's P.T.A: "A meeting was held in the **School Hall** on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> May, when a talk was given by members of the school staff about how local children were taught to read and write. The P.T.A. would like to thank Mrs. Roberts and her staff for the hard work they had put into the evening." At the **Parish Council** meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> May, "Mr Melvin Hughes was elected Chairman and Mrs W. Dawson Vice-Chairman for the 1978/79 session." Now, this was not just a change of Chairman, it was quite a momentous occasion as, on page 11 you will read; "There can be few of the older inhabitants of Clophill Village, who do not know that **Mr. George Chisholm**, of Speeds Dairy Farm, is the Chairman of Clophill Parish Council, and has been for more than 20 years. There can be few organisations and committees in the village, with which he has not at some time been involved, giving of his advice and experience, and also in the practical way as a farmer, helping with transport and equipment.

Like many others, who have voluntarily served the community, George came on the scene because he felt something was going wrong. In those early days it was through his interest in sport, that the recreation field became his first major concern. After this came the long search for a site for a Village Hall. The saga of promises, aspirations and final positioning of the Hall in Kiln Lane has been his concern from the very outset.

About this time, the parish expanded enormously with the building of Warren View Estate, followed by Town Shott and a new Village School. Coincident with all these activities came the width restriction on traffic in the High Street. Newcomers to the village can only appreciate the anxiety of parents taking small children to school, with transporters and Sainsbury vans continually moving through the High Street. Finally came the building of the Shefford-Maulden by-pass. All these events have occurred during the long period that George Chisholm has been Chairman of the Parish Council. Now he has decided to retire from this office.” As you can appreciate warm thanks were expressed to George – he did see a lot of change didn’t he – and we have a lot to thank him for too!

## Clophill Community Hub*date*

Use of the Clophill Community Hub is now being consistently being used at a healthy rate which means we continue to need your help with donations, a situation which will obviously be ongoing.



We have had a few requests from people who would like to donate money on a regular monthly basis, this can be arranged. If you would like to do this, just contact me by email on [steve.langhorn@gmail.com](mailto:steve.langhorn@gmail.com).

We continue to need the most popular items, such as:

- canned goods
- pasta and rice
- washing up liquid
- all types of toiletries
- crisps and biscuits
- breakfast cereals, and toilet rolls!



It is easy to donate items at St Marys Church, St Marys School, Coop, at the Hub itself or at my house at 32 Back Street.

Ps: **Thank you to the Co-op** who have recently donated surplus stock of tomatoes and peppers to the Hub.

I do hope as the growing season develops; we might be able to offer a wider range of vegetables courtesy of our village allotment holders.

Thank you for your support.

***Remember, please donate generously and take thoughtfully***

## Katherine Concerts running in Amphill.

*Katherine  
Concerts*

Continuing the outstanding classical music series set in the beautiful acoustic of Amphill's Methodist Church.

Katherine Concert's events in May are:

**Friday 12th May - Neil Crossland (piano)**


**Friday 19th May - Hygge Trio (clarinet, cello, piano)**

**Friday 26th May - David Sztankov (French Horn)**

The 45-minute recitals at Amphill Methodist Church begin at 2pm (doors open at 1:30pm), and are followed by refreshments in the upstairs School Room. Tickets available from Absolutely ShabbyLass (cash only) or ticket [source.co.uk/Katherine-Concerts](http://source.co.uk/Katherine-Concerts).

**PUB THE CROSS KEYS QUIZ**

Join us on Friday 19th May 2023 in Pulloxhill for a night to remember!  
This time we are raising funds and awareness for Tibbs Dementia Foundation.



They are a Bedford-based charity who help and support people across the county to *Live better with Dementia*. This year is also their 10th Anniversary so what better way to celebrate!

£15 per person | Teams of up to 4  
7.00 for 7.30 pm | Supper is Included

To book your teams place, please call Philip on  
07904953096 or 07944361247

For more information about the Tibbs Dementia Foundation please visit:  
[tibbsdementia.co.uk](http://tibbsdementia.co.uk).



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

# Wildlife walks & talks

## May : June

**Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 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

**Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, St Andrew's Chapter House, Ampthill (MK45 2EL) at 7.00pm**

### **A talk and walk round Ampthill Graveyard Nature Reserve\***

A long-postponed talk and visit to this little gem of a site with Nigel Pollard, starting with a talk in the Chapter House and followed by a guided walk round the site. \*£4.00 per adult

**Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Flitwick Moor & Folly Wood (TL045354), 10.30am-3pm**

### **Bioblitz at Flitwick Moor**

A joint event with the Bedfordshire Natural History Society. Come and join us at this lovely reserve and see what can be found on the Moor! Families welcome (all children must be accompanied by a parent/carer). All equipment will be provided and help given with identification of finds.

No charge, but donations welcome

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

For additional information or to reserve your place please email

[flitvale.info@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.wildlifebcn.org)

Flit Vale Local Group: [www.flitvale.org.uk](http://www.flitvale.org.uk)

# Clophill Parish Council



The meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> April, with the lighter nights, was the first this year to be held at the village hall, with a shorter agenda than usual.

Items discussed included the County Wild life site at Readshill, which is a sanctuary for some rare and endangered wild flowers in Bedfordshire. The council resolved to move forward with digital information boards, with QR codes, and to have a funded volunteer day later in the year to give the site some much needed help in clearing invasive species. We are also moving forward with applying for funding to get water to the Townshott allotment site. Fingers crossed the Lottery funding will be successful.

The Parish Election for Clophill has been uncontested, so there will be no ballot. We do have a vacancy for 1 councillor which will be advertised from the 9<sup>th</sup> May, please contact the clerk for details if you are interested in becoming a councillor.

As the Coronation weekend approaches, the village has three events to look forward to, the Animal Encounter for the Children on Saturday, the Street Party in Back Street on Sunday in partnership with the Stone Jug, and the Picnic at Clophill House on the Monday. Coronation mugs have already been distributed by CPC to the Preschool and Lower School Children. Older children can grab theirs at one of the above events.

## Planning Applications

### Decisions Required Prior to Meeting:

**CB/23/00934/FULL** Coleman's Yard, Great Lane

**Proposal:** Proposed construction of a new timber clad commercial storage building (Use Class B8) to replace existing wooden frame. **NO COMMENT**

### For Consideration at the meeting:

**CB/23/01011/FULL** 1 Hawthorne Close

**Proposal:** Single storey rear extension and re-positioning of garage **SUPPORT**

**CB/23/01179/FULL** 11 The Causeway

**Proposal:** Remove existing rear lean-to roof and replace with flat roof with parapet wall surround. **NO COMMENT**

**The next meeting will be the Annual Parish meeting, held on the 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7:45pm in the Village Hall**

# £4000 Raised

## *Thank you*

Just to let you know that the **TURKEY & SYRIA EARTHQUAKE CONCERT** on April 1<sup>st</sup> raised £4000. £2000 to British Red Cross (Red Crescent) and £2000 to DEC.



What a wonderful night we had, launched by a truly outstanding Belly Dancing performance. BIG THANK YOUs go to -

**Paul and The Cross Keys team, Pulloxhill**, for helping to make it happen, the generous donation of the facilities and their excellence on the night. It all went as smooth as Turkish Delight!!

**The CK Jazz Band, Flitwick Singers and Gokhan & his Latest Flame** who all provided their services for free.

*N.B. Jazz nights are held every Sunday evening at The Cross Keys: Pulloxhill. Book a concert or sing: [www.theflitwicksingers.co.uk](http://www.theflitwicksingers.co.uk) @ Flitwick CofE Church on 8<sup>th</sup> July.*

**Local Businesses** who provided the fantastic raffle prizes:

Cainhoe Wood & Chalgrave golf clubs, Aspects Hair Design (Silsoe), Discolicious (Gravenhurst), Flitwick Jewellers, Darren @ The Cross Keys, Warden Abbey Vineyard, Champneys Health Spa, Poplars Nursery, and the restaurants: St Helena (Elstow,) Amici (Bedford), Gokce (Shefford), The Airman (Stondon), The Best Kebab (Flitwick) & Yakamoz Messe Bar (Ampthill).

**Last, but certainly not least, to all of you who bought tickets. making the night so successful.**

Sadly, whilst not high in the news bulletins, the suffering continues. So do please keep the peoples of Turkey & Syria in your thoughts and prayers.

*Thank you all,*

*Tony & Rosemarie Duke*

# What's on in and around Clophill



## MAY

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>**

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



## JUNE

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Church Fete & Village event**, St Mary's Church, 12noon-4pm. *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**



Saturday 10am-3pm & Sunday 10am-1pm

**Fruit, Flower, and Vegetable** plants are available.

Everyone welcome!



Mile Road Allotment & Leisure Gardeners  
Association, 149 Mile Road, Bedford, MK42 9UP.

Registered charity number: 1155301

## Village groups

Beverley Court		860920
Brownies	<a href="http://enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk">enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk</a>	
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
	<a href="mailto:victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk">victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk</a>	
Friends of St Mary's (FOSM)	Mary Milne and Jenny Garnham	
	<a href="mailto:fosmclophill@gmail.com">fosmclophill@gmail.com</a>	
	<a href="http://www.scouts.org.uk/get-involved">www.scouts.org.uk/get-involved</a>	
Scouts and Cubs	Anita Errick	860695
Tea and Chat	Marylin Browning	07821 643936
Village Hall Booking Secretary		



# Useful numbers

<b>Gas (Emergency)</b>			0800 111999
<b>Electricity (Emergency)</b>			0800 7838838
<b>Emergency Fire/Police/Ambulance</b>			999
<b>Water/Sewage (Anglian Water)</b>			0845 7145145
<b>Telephone</b>		(Customer Services) 150	(Faults) 151
<b>Highways Department (Central Bedfordshire Council)</b>			0300 3008049
<b>Benefits Agency (Bedford office)</b>			01234 361500
<b>Registrar's Office (Births/deaths/marriages)</b>			0300 3008089
<b>Rail (Enquiries)</b>			0845 7484950
<b>Buses</b>	01234 262151	(Link A Ride) 01525 840511	(Flittabus) 01582 406561
<b>Luton Airport</b>			01582 405100
<b>Swimming</b>		(Flitwick) 01525 717744	(Robinson Pool) 01234 212479
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b>			
<b>Central Beds Offices (Chicksands)</b>			0300 300 8000
<b>Mid-Bed; MP</b>		Nadine Dorries	0207 219 5928
<b>Central Bedfordshire Councillors</b>		Michael Blair	01525 404513
		Paul Duckett	07988 184061
		Mark Smith	0300 300 8541
<b>Clophill Parish Council</b>	(Clerk) Heather Myott	clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk	07888 685 886
<b>HOSPITALS</b>			
<b>Bedford (North &amp; South)</b>	01234 355122	Admissions	01234 261150
		Appointments	01234 359012
<b>Luton &amp; Dunstable</b>			0845 1270127
<b>DOCTOR'S CLINICS</b>			
<b>Amphill</b>	(Houghton Close) 01525 300898	(Oliver Street)	01525 631395
		(Greensands)	01525 631390
<b>Shefford</b>	Enquiries 01462 818620	Appointments	01462 810034
<b>Barton</b>	01582 528700	Flitwick	01525 715300
<b>POLICE</b>		Non Emergency	101
<b>County Police HQ</b>			01234 841212
<b>Amphill Station</b>			101
<b>CHURCHES</b>			
<b>St Mary's Parish Church</b>			
	Revd Cannon Lynda Klimas	rev.l.klimas@btinternet.com	01525 403139
	(Church Warden) Mrs Anne Shegog	anneshegog@gmail.com	01525 864868
<b>St Francis RC Church, Shefford</b>			01452 813436
<b>Clophill Methodist Church</b>	Revd Silas Wood, email: swood11@me.com,		01525 571392
	Mr John Errick		01525 860695
<b>Baptist Churches</b>		(Maulden) Ian Crawford	01525 634325
		(Shefford) Hazel Arnold	01462 812564
<b>SCHOOLS</b>			
<b>St Mary's C of E Lower School &amp; Nursery (Headteacher Mrs K Bingley)</b>			01525 860206
<b>Harlington Upper School, Harlington</b>			01525 755100
<b>Preschool</b>	clophillpreschool@gmail.com (Chris) 07936 006381 or (Imogen)		07765 887868
<b>Redborne Upper School, Amphill</b>			01525 404462
<b>Robert Bloomfield Middle School, Shefford</b>			01462 628800

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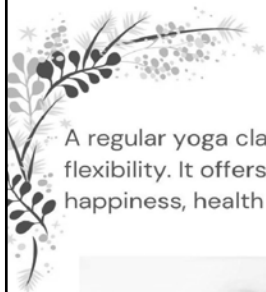
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7AM			ENGINE			ENGINE	
9:30AM	MOVE	POWER	ENGINE	POWER	HYBRID	POWER	BUILD 9AM
10:30AM						ENGINE	
5PM		POWER	ENGINE				
6PM	MOVE	POWER	ENGINE	POWER	HYBRID		
7PM	LIFT	POWER	LIFT	POWER			
8PM	MOVE	POWER	ENGINE	POWER			

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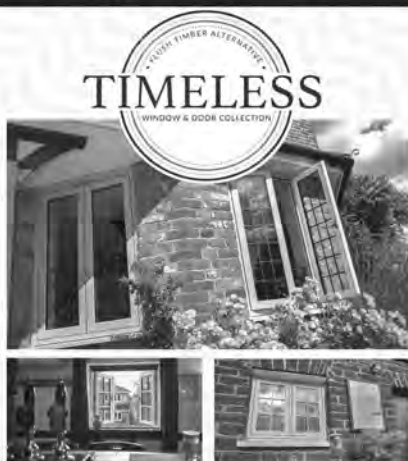
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