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A word from the Editor...

Welcome to the December issue of Spotlight

Dear Reader,

Here we are in December again already and as I write this, we are just coming out of the coldest start to December that I can remember. Brrr!!

As always at this time I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the production of Spotlight over the past year. *Thank you* to Colin our designer, Jon our treasurer, Angela our Ad manager, Laura our photographer; and last but not least our Distribution managers Toni and Paul and all the posties who pop your copy of Spotlight through the letterbox. Without you all we couldn't produce the magazine.

My **thanks also** go to all our lovely contributors who make time to write the articles; and Simon and Louise at Fidelity Design and Print.

Lastly, thanks to Angela we now have an almost full set of Advertisers. If you can, do support our advertisers as without them as well we wouldn't have the magazine. We thank them all.

From all the team at Spotlight, we wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and a Happy and Healthy 2024.

See you all again in February!!

Best wishes, Elaine



The magazine staff

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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 also the perfect time to take hardwood cuttings. A pencilsized piece of wood, cut straight below a bud at the bottom and above a bud at the top (on a slant to let the water run off), can



be set into free-draining compost to half its length. Hardwood cuttings can be taken from many plants including willows, roses & Cornus alba and make a cheap and reliable method of generating new plants. Willows are so easy that they can be plunged into the ground as whole branches, but the best results are always when the sap is still in the wood, so this side of the New Year is your goal.

Winter protection is needed for non-hardy plants, if they are to survive into next year. To ensure winter survival in beds and borders then make sure that everything gets a good mulch. A simple way is to use fallen leaves that you collect from paths and grass and apply them straight onto the beds. The added benefit is this also provides a great over winter habitat for insects. For pots its best to raise the container so it is off the ground by inserting feet or raising on bricks. If the pots are staying outside, it is important to wrap the container with something insulating, (bubble wrap, Hessian, or old jumpers work well). If it's going to be very cold, cover the plant with some horticultural fleece or hessian. It is equally important to remove the fleece when the cold spell finishes to ensure the plant gets plenty of air circulation. Plants covered all winter, or covered up for too long often get damp, rot off and die, so all your hard work to protect the roots will have been in vain.

In most winters there is a chance of a severe frost at some time and a good tip is to disconnect the water-butt and any hosepipes and drain them to avoid the risk of splitting as the residual water freezes and expands. You often only find out this has happened when all your precious water leaks away.

Now is the time to prune some woody plants as they will bleed if pruning is left into the new year. Acers, birch and vines fall into this category. Vines can be pruned hard, back to two buds of last year's growth, to encourage fruiting spurs, and, in the case of the ornamental Vitis coignetiae, larger foliage. Acer and birch need shaping carefully, as so much of their elegance is in the delicate growth of the limbs. The key is to shape gently and regularly so that you never have to cut into old wood, feathering growth back to a limb further within the canopy.

Apples and pears, currants and autumn-fruiting raspberries can be pruned any time from leaf drop until March, but never prune stone fruit in the winter, as the retreating sap can draw in the airborne fungus - silver-leaf.

November to March is the ideal time to plant bare-root plants. These are plants that have been grown in open ground, then dug up for despatch and planting during the dormant season. They are called 'bare root' plants as they are supplied with no soil around their roots. They are usually bought online, or by mail order.

These are generally cheaper that plants grown in containers and there is often a much wider choice too. Planting them in the dormant season means that they should establish well — while the top growth may be brown and twiggy, the roots are busy establishing beneath but if you are looking to plant a tree or a new rose then winter is the ideal time to plant one.

It is essential that the roots of a bare-root plant don't dry out. Be sure to soak the roots in winter as soon as you receive your plants. If you can't plant immediately - if the soil is frozen, for example - heel them in until the weather improves. Sprinkling mycorrhizal fungi around the roots when planting will increase nutrient and water uptake and help bare-root plants establish well.

Clophill Parish Council



Our last meeting before Christmas was relatively short and jolly. Followed by Mince pies and mulled wine for all the attendees.

A big Congratulations to the village for raising £665 for the Poppy Appeal, and filling the village with Lamp post Poppies for Remembrance.

A lot of work has been carried out this month to improve the village environment including; the Tree works on the Green, and the Townshott Allotments Water Supply Project pipework was completed. The Readshill County Wildlife Site is looking great after volunteer day to clear invasive scrub. The Pound has been cleared out, and the Old Toddler Park has been cleared. Not to mention the huge amount of work by the Clophill Elves in the run up to the Christmas Lights Switch on.

Planning Applications

CB/23/03582/VOC Mouse Farm, Shefford Road

Proposal: Variation of condition no 2 of planning permission CB/21/04756/FULL (Erection of 4 detached dwellings and associated works). Change the condition to reflect the revised proposal drawings. **OBJECT**

CB/23/03248/FULL Green Gables, Paradise Farm, The Causeway

Proposal: Change of use of land to equestrian. Erection of a timber stable block, 2 x tack and storage blocks and associated hardstanding.

CPC resolved to object to this and any applications on this land until the conclusion of the planning appeal. This site is subject to an enforcement notice including this piece of land.

CB/TCA/23/00561 April Cottage, 9 The Green

Proposal: Works to trees within a Conservation Area: Remove rear Acasia Tree

T1, tree is in heavy decline with little leaf coverage within the canopy. Ivy has overtaken crown of tree.

NO COMMENT

The next meeting will be held on 16th January 2024 19:45 at Clophill Methodist Church

Reflections – Clophill in Dec 1978 - Voices from the past.

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

By Julie Benson.

Well, the 'Outlook' of Christmas 1978 was a somewhat **brief edition.** It has this "photograph of St. Mary's Church Christmas crib taken last year" on the cover, eight sides of adverts and two sides of 'copy' – of which some of it is here below.

EDITORIAL: Dear Readers,



This issue is circulated to all readers free of charge (it used to be subscription), a small (but very brief) Christmas present from the 'Outlook' team? Happy Christmas to you all.

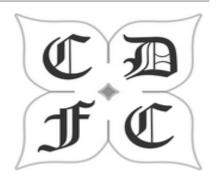
The last extended issue of this magazine will be included in reader's subscriptions for 1978 and is to be published sometime during January. We are delighted, however, to announce that 'Outlook' will be replaced by 'Spotlight, a new local magazine, next April or May, published by a new production team under the guidance of yours truly (Barry Inskip). The magazine will be of familiar format to 'Outlook' and will include many of the present features. We hope you will continue to give it your usual encouraging support. Discussion of new magazine policy is at present in progress and further details will appear in the January issue. The new editorial team for 'Spotlight' will be: News: Mike Gibbs and Dorothy Smith: Sports and Social: Pauline Cue: Features: Rosemary and Jack Brooker; Advertising Manager: Jack Brooker; Production Manager: Mike Benson; Copy Readers: Adrinenne Gordon, Tim Sheppard; Reporter: John Greenwood; Distribution Manager: Barry Inskip. Treasurer: We urgently require someone to fill this position. Press Secretaries and other readers are reminded that copy for the last edition of 'Outlook' must be received by Sunday 31st December, when all recent news copy will be included. We apologise to Clophill W.I. and our readers, for a number of errors made in the November 'Clophill Diary' feature. This was due to the hurried manner in which I have had to produce recent magazines due to personal commitments. We also apologise in advance to those who have submitted copy which has been held over to the next issue for a similar reason. The Editor.

P.S. We still require teams for gathering and stapling the new magazine, would anyone interested please contact me as soon as possible. (We have to remember that these issues were typed onto 'skins' and then 'Bandered' by hand to copy onto paper and stapled into booklets. No printing company involved then!).

That was on one page, the next had 'Clophill Diary' in which the Methodist Church Sunday School Scholars present 'The Christmas Story' followed by the presentation of Christmas gifts by Alison Stevens on 16th; Clophill W.I. meets 'The Pulloxhill Singers' competition 'Prettiest Parcel' on 19th; St. Mary's Church — Carol Singing round the Village in aid of 'Shelter' on 22nd with Service of lessons and carols on Christmas Eve, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day service advertised as was the Methodist Carol Service at 4pm on 24th. A Junior disco was going to be held at the Village Hall on 19th January and there was a plea for Jumble by The Friends of the Cheshire Home for the next sale in March. And that dear readers was the last 'Outlook' of 1978.

Clophill and District Flower Club

It was the first Thursday in November and Clophill village hall was filled with Flower Club members gathered for something different. Whilst we usually have a flower arranging demonstration, on this occasion it was a talk about the Swiss Garden at Shuttleworth.



Because of its close proximity many of the audience had visited the gardens and learning about the history and development of the grounds proved very interesting. Corrine Price had worked for ten years as head gardener at the Swiss Garden and was a fount of knowledge. She showed us excellent photographs to enhance her talk which really helped us to identify various aspects of the buildings, planting etc.

In 1814 the first house was inherited by Robert Henley Ongley (aged 11) it had been in his family for many years. He remodelled the village, and St Leonard's church as well as developing the Swiss Garden in 1824. Because the land had been used previously for clay extraction there were undulations which appeared like the foothills of the Alps and with the addition of buildings likened to Swiss style and careful planting the Swiss Garden was born.

In the 1870s the Shuttleworth family bought the house and land, they demolished the house and built a new one and changed parts of the garden. The 1970s was a sad time for the garden and it was neglected, being restored in the early years of the 21st century by a management trust. Lottery funding was used and the garden reopened in July 2014. Today it is open to the public with appropriate planting, lovely views and a variety of events.

Many of us in the audience decided to put visits to the garden in the spring and summer in our diary.

St Mary's School News

from Mrs. Bingley our Headteacher:

At the beginning of November, we enjoyed FOSM's annual Fireworks Night which raised a fantastic £7503 for the school. We recognised Remembrance Day on Friday 10th November. The children were amazing, as usual, during the 2 minutes silence, proudly wearing the poppies they'd made in school.

Mid-November we also recognised Anti-Bullying Week, this year with the message, "Make a Noise." We discussed how we can make a noise – ensuring we always tell a trusted adult if someone is being unkind to us or someone else.

The School Council arranged a series of fun events to help us raise money for Children in Need on 17th November. We raised a fantastic £236 for this important charity.

As December approaches, we are looking forward to the works starting on Chestnut's outside area. Our Reception outside space is going to be transformed using natural materials to a wonderland of climbing spaces, digging areas, creative spaces and water play. Years 1-4 are also looking forward to presenting their Christmas play, "No One Wraps Like an Elf" whilst Nursery and Reception are also looking forward to their Christmas concert with their parents/carers. We will, of course, finish the term with our traditional Christmas Nativity led by Chestnut and Oak in Church.

Don't forget, you can keep up to date about school events by visiting our website: www.clophillstmarysschool.co.uk or joining our Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/clophillstmarysschool

Jake the School Dog:

Jake joined us for Remembrance at the Church and then posed for some pictures next to our bell tower in school, with our poppy garland. He is enjoying joining classes first thing in the morning now to welcome the children into school!



Acorn Nursery news

from Mrs. Hayes our Early Years Leader:

We have had lots of fun celebrating World Nursery Rhyme Week.

The children enjoyed building Humpty Dumpty's wall inside with Lego (for those children who love our underfloor heating!) and outside with large foam bricks for children who love playing in our amazing Nursery garden.

They practiced their building skills as well as learning to negotiate and cooperate with their friends on how tall the wall should be (also developing early maths skills). Everyone loved singing 'Zoom, Zoom, Zoom' and making rockets by cutting out shapes and combining them to make rockets with various joining materials - practicing fine motor skills and maths. The younger children were fascinated to make Aliens by combining Playdough with other craft materials whilst singing, 'Five little men in a Flying Saucer'.

Jake (our Wellbeing School Dog) is a regular visitor to Acorn Nursery and he (and the children) were very excited to run together through the leaves from our legendary Oak tree on the front field.

And finally, we joined the whole school celebrations for Children In Need day by collaging a giant Pudsey face which the children are very proud to see up on our Nursery wall. They were also very interested in learning about the importance of fundraising for people less fortunate than ourselves.

As always at this time of year, we'll be exploring the real Christmas message together in December.

If you would like to find out more about our amazing Nursery, please contact Mrs. Daniels or Mrs. West, by emailing: nursery@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk

Our Value for December is Commitment:

In school, we will consider how we make personal promises and how we can keep them. We will also be thinking about the commitment shown by people in the Bible, especially through Advent and the Christmas story.

At home, you may wish to discuss the commitments you hold as a family and what these mean to you. You may also wish to think about how it might feel to break a commitment and how it feels to keep one too!

ACORN PARENTS/CARERS OR PARENTS/CARERS OF PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN:

Do you want your child to go to a small, friendly, village school that supports and nurtures each individual child AND teaches them about life-long Values?

Parents/Carers can now make a Starting School 2024 application via:

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions. The deadline for applications is

15.01.24.

Come to our NEW! playgroup for Babies and toddlers up to 3 years old!





- at Acorn Nursery in Clophill St Mary's School
- every Friday from 9.30am to 11.00am
- £5 per child, each additional child £2.50, babies up to 9 months are free

FIRST WEEK on Friday 12th January 2024 is FREE for ALL!!!

Clephill Prescheel News

Hello everyone,

It's beginning to look a bit like Christmas! Firstly, a massive thank you to Tracy and the Parish Council for yet another wonderful event of the Christmas Light Switch On. Our parents did us proud once again by baking loads of delicious gingerbread to sell, this year we made sure we made more than the 100 of last year



so that we didn't sell out too quickly! We also sold some beautiful holly Christmas decorations made by our children. It is such a lovely event to get into the Christmas spirit with the band playing and the village coming together.

In fact, we have been very festive at preschool too, Carolyn and the flower club came as usual and did the wreath making workshop with our parents, thank you ladies. We have the pop-up Nativity coming up at the Methodist church with Silas, followed by the Fledglings Christmas Craft Fayre the next day and they have also invited us to watch their nativity.

At the very end of term, we will be holding our now legendary Magical Woodland Walk, this year Santa will be in his woodland grotto waiting to see the children with everyone invited back to preschool for mulled wine, hot squash and mince pies. Thank you 'Santa', wonderful as ever, you know who you are... ho, ho, ho!

The run up to Christmas saw our Adventure Friday children pay their respects at the war memorial at St Mary's Church and placing their wreath. Thank you to Paul who kindly donated us two bags of beautiful mini pumpkins that the children decorated for Halloween, cut up, explored and with what was left painted to look like poppies and laid carefully to create their wreath. Sarah talked about her grandad who was a soldier in the second World War, Private Lee, and they lit a candle in the church for all the fallen soldiers. Our children and The Fledglings were captivated by the story of this war hero, retelling it, acting it out and learning so much.

Our children have also been learning about Diwali, grating beetroot to use instead of henna to draw their own hand mehndi. They have practiced line drawing using rulers and made drawings of the mushrooms that they have found out and about. There has been a lot of experimental cookery with apple turnovers and shortbread with raisins. We have enjoyed even more singing than usual with nursery rhyme week and made props to support the new rhymes we learnt.

With Christmas in our sights, we are all looking forward to the festive break, we would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas and a wonderful 2024!

We are really enjoying the frosty weather and the start of the winter. We have been using the log burner to warm the yurt ahead of our weekly yoga and mindfulness sessions; the cosy fire has really added a lovely glow to our Wednesday mornings.



We attended the Remembrance service at St Mary's Church and the children were able to lay their

handmade wreath and pay their respects. We were also lucky enough to meet with Clophill Preschool before the service to hear Sarah's story about her Grandad, the war hero Private Lee. We feel very grateful to be able to attend these community events and are looking forward to running a stall at the Christmas Light event.

We have continued our visits to Beverley court and last week had a lovely show and tell session with our older adult friends there. The children brought in a



favourite toy to talk about and the older adults brought in toys from their childhoods to share and discuss too. The children had a fantastic puppet show from hand-knitted 'Freddy Teddy' and a lesson in how to win at marbles! Some of the older adults were equally as excited to see the children's Lego sets and electric cars, toys that were not as available when they were children.

We are looking forward to our first 'have-a-go craft afternoon' on Sunday $10^{\rm th}$ December from 12-2pm at Clophill Village Hall. This is a chance for our children to run their first community event and they are so excited about it! From

planning crafts and activities to offer and baking cakes in advance to helping people on the day, serving refreshments and dealing with payment and change, the children really are responsible for the whole event. If you have an afternoon free, please do come and join us for a couple of festive hours. Children's tickets cost £5, babies under 1 and adults are free. Please do bring cash on the day so that the children can handle all payments independently.

Likewise, if you are free on Thursday 14th December at 10am, please do come down to the Methodist church to watch our nativity performance. It will last about 40 minutes and we will be offering refreshments afterwards, free of charge. The children have been working very hard to learn their lines and songs and they would love to share it with everyone.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. We will be back sharing our news in the February edition!

Sophie, Jane and all of our Fledglings.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH NEWS

It's been a very busy time at St. Mary's since the last Spotlight. The All Souls' Service on October 29th was well attended and the quiet reflective atmosphere much appreciated by all present. In total contrast the Service of Pets' Blessing on November 5th was lively and noisy! The



Rector blessed 6 dogs and a Guinea pig. Next came Remembrance weekend. As Armistice Day fell on a Saturday the children from the school, Pre-school and Fledglings gathered at the War Memorial on the Friday to lay their wreaths and observe the 2 minutes silence. As always there was a good turn out on the Sunday and we were delighted to see so many children there. Sadly, the weather wasn't too good and we stood in the drizzle to honour the fallen of 2 world wars. Finally, on Friday 17th we held our 23rd Annual Quiz Night, which was a very enjoyable occasion.

The Winter Warmer soup lunches are continuing on Thursdays from 12 noon. The church is available for use by other organisations. The Greensand Community Choir meets on Monday evenings. TLC is run on Thursday afternoons by Clophill Community Care, mainly for older people who enjoy table-top games or making jigsaw puzzles. But anyone is welcome to come for the company and refreshments. As a one off we recently hosted the very successful Coffee and Cake morning for Macmillan Cancer Care.

SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve:

11.00 am Sung Parish Communion.

6.00 pm Lessons and Carols by Candlelight to include the dressing of the Crib.

Midnight Mass at Maulden starting at 11.30 pm.

Christmas Day: Parish Communion at 9.30 am.

Clophill Brownies receive a message from the King and Queen:

Following the excitement of the coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla, we decided at one of our Brownies meetings, to make some cards and letters to show them how excited we all were about the event. We sent



a parcel off to Buckingham palace with our work in it. At the beginning of November, we were excited to receive a letter back from the Palace, containing a picture of the King and the Queen, thanking the Brownies for 'your most kind and thoughtful message following our coronation'.

CLOPHILL LAKES UPDATE

Establishment works continue at Clophill Lakes Nature Reserve, with the current focus being on



groundwork for utilities and finishing off surfaces. There is still much work to be completed before we can make the site available for public access in 2024; including installing additional bridges, finishing paths, laying services and infrastructure as well as creating bird hides, fencing and conservation work.

No public access: While the new nature reserve continues to be developed, it's essential that members of the public **do not enter** what is essentially a building site for their safety and to protect the ecology of the site – this applies to everywhere other than the existing Public Right of Way.



Haven for wildlife: The Clophill Lakes site is an important haven for wildlife. It includes the Cainhoe Lakes County Wildlife Site (CWS) recognised for its habitat mosaic of semiimproved neutral acid and grassland, woodland. hedgerows. scrub. marshv grassland, swamp, ditches, ponds and lakes. As winter approaches, we look forward to the return of wintering birds to the site - both waders and wildfowl.

Charity appeal: The establishment works are going well, and our fundraising appeal is still ongoing — we're very thankful to everyone who has contributed so far. We're half way to our target so if you're able to contribute to this worthy local cause, then we'd be very grateful. Please visit our website and give whatever you can — thank you:

https://www.greensandtrust.org/appeal/clophill-lakes

Katherine Concerts running in Ampthill.



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

Katherine Concert's events in January 2024 are:

Friday 12th Jan: Pablo Tejedor-Gutiérrez & Daniel Murphy (baroque cello & guitar)

Friday 19th Jan: Neil Crossland (piano)

Friday 26th Jan: Vanessa Hristova & Lily Petrova (viola & piano)

The 45-minute recitals at Ampthill Methodist Church begin at 2pm (doors open at 1:30pm), and are followed by refreshments in the upstairs School Room. Tickets available from https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Katherine-Concerts

Clophill Heritage Trust Update



With the festive season upon us it was lovely to run some wreath workshops this month — as always, all greenery for the wreaths is locally grown and every wreath was unique and reflected its creator's personality.

We are lining up some thrilling events for 2024 including a full programme of herbal remedies workshops and some crafty creations in resin for you to try!



Keep an eye on our website or Facebook pages for event dates and news.

Also, on our website you can book tower tours of old St. Mary's church – learn a little about the history of the building and enjoy the panoramic view from the top of the tower.

From all of us at Clophill Heritage Trust we hope you have a peaceful festive season and a happy new year.

CLOPHILL COMMUNITY CARE

Many of you are aware that there is a 'Helping Hands' scheme in the village, it's Clophill Community Care, sometimes referred to as CCC or C3. The majority of our calls – on 07791 773705 - are concerned with medical trips – people who need to get to doctor or hospital appointments and our wonderful team of volunteer drivers fulfil these. There is a charge - at 40p per mile and all are 'return' journeys, unless it's a long hospital appointment which could involve a 'taker' and 'collector'. So, to local surgeries it's £4; to Bedford South Wing £7 & North wing £8; to the L & D is £9 and Papworth or Addenbrookes £20. Parking is free at Bedford Hospital as we have a concessionary pass, but the client pays at other hospitals. We do offer other help like befriending, light household help - as in erecting flatpack items - and TLC, that's Thursday Leisure Club - which is held in the church on a Thursday afternoon from 2pm. There, besides being warm and friendly, activities like jigsaws, dominoes, Rummikub are enjoyed along with a cup of tea, a couple of biscuits and a good chat. Our service, which is greatly appreciated by village residents - especially those who have limited mobility, relies on the efforts of our panel of volunteers. Volunteer numbers have decreased in recent years, and we are keen to recruit additional people. If you can give some of your time helping local residents, please contact us on 07791 773705.

We would like to take this opportunity of wishing you a happy and peaceful Christmastide.

Maulden Walking Football Club

AGE 50+ (or near that age!) and want to see if you like Walking Football?

Sunday, 6.00 pm - 7.00 pm or Tuesday, 8.00 pm - 9.00 pm



HOW OUR SESSIONS WORK

Our membership covers both sessions but choose between Tuesday or Sunday. Not all members can make it every week. For a session we will divide attendees into 4 random teams who play the entire hour. For the first 30 minutes we play 2 matches on 2 pitches. For the last 30 minutes the winners play each other and likewise the losers. The real winners are the four teams each session as we hopefully provide a good experience for all! Everyone who attends plays a full hour of football.

We are on the look-out for new members, preferably aged 50+ and in particular goalkeepers. Don't worry if you have not kicked a ball for decades! Our sessions are of mixed ability so if you just want to play football and enjoy it then that is fine by Maulden Walking Football Club.

Join our Facebook Group.

Email: OBMauldenWalkingfootball@outlook.com

Contact: Martin Wright on 07496 287 628

Parish Registers for December

1823

Baptism

19 Edward, s of James and Alice Crouch. f a farmer.

No marriages or burials recorded.

1873

Baptisms

17 Sarah Denton.

28 Mary Ann (?)

Mary Bottoms.

Arthur William Daniels (?)

Marriage (1871)

21 Arthur Roberts, 22 to Mary Wilden, 21.

Burials (1872)

05 John Banes Dawson, 22, farmer. Emma Mossman. 37.

Burial (1873)

30 James Cunnington, 10 (?)

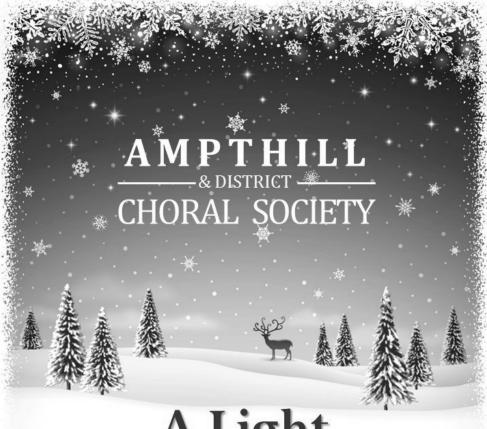
1923

No registers recorded in December.

<u> 1973</u>

Burials

07 William Charles Cole, 79. 15 Evelyn Lily Herbert, 82.



A Light in the Stable

by Alan Bullard

Join us for an afternoon of Christmas music and sing along to your favourite carols

3pm, Sunday 10th December Maulden Village Hall

Tickets: Adults £10, children £5, includes light refreshments
From: www.ticketsource.co.uk/ampthill-district-choral-society
or available on the door

www.ampthillchoral.wordpress.com

Recycle your real Christmas tree and help Sue Ryder to be there when it matters:



National healthcare charity Sue Ryder is encouraging residents to sign up to their Christmas Treecycle scheme and help raise vital funds for families needing their palliative and bereavement care.



For a suggested donation, the charity will collect real Christmas trees direct from people's front door, front garden or driveway and recycle them.

Clophill residents can have their trees collected between Thursday 11 January and Sunday 14 January 2024.

Real Christmas trees are 100% recyclable and can be turned into compost or wood chippings that can

be spread over parks, gardens and landscaping, so those who choose to Treecycle will not only be supporting Sue Ryder but will also be helping reduce landfill.

To find out more about the environmentally friendly fundraising collection drive in and around Bedfordshire, and to book a collection by midnight on 6 January visit www.sueryder.org/bedfordshiretrees

Contact the fundraising team at Sue Ryder St John's Hospice with any queries on 01767 642412 or email: stjohnsfundraising@sueryder.org

Sue Ryder Celebrate a Life Bedfordshire:

Sue Ryder is inviting you to come together with family, friends, and the local community to celebrate and remember your someone special at its Sue Ryder Celebrate a Life Bedfordshire event this December.



The winter remembrance event, held at the Bedford

School, Bedford, at 7.30pm on Monday 18 December, will see people come together alongside others in their community who are also living with loss to collectively celebrate the lives of people who have died. It will feature readings, songs and live music performances. Guests will also be invited to write a dedication in memory of someone special, which will be displayed at the event, and to share memories of those who have meant so much to you.

Sue Ryder Celebrate a Life is open to anyone who wishes to remember a loved one, regardless of when they died and if they were a patient of Sue Ryder.

Limited spaces are available. For more information and to register to attend visit www.sueryder.org/bedfordshire or contact the Sue Ryder St John's Hospice Fundraising Team via email stjohns.events@sueryder.org or call 01767 642424.



Wildlife



walks & talks

January to March 2024

Monday, 15th January 2024, 19.30, Maulden Church Hall (MK45 2AU)

A slow worm population ten years on

Join Dr Gwen Hitchcock for an illustrated talk on a local slow worm population and their progress since their journey from the Luton-Dunstable busway site. Find out what happened to the slow worms that were moved to build the Luton -Dunstable guided busway. After they were relocated to various other nature reserves in the area, Gwen and her colleagues have been monitoring the translocated slow worms for ten years. Are they thriving in their new homes?

£4 entrance charge to this event.

Friday, 2nd February 2024, 19:00 for a 19.30 start, Maulden Village Hall, (MK45 2DN)

Quiz Night

Our annual Quiz Night, fund-raising for the Wildlife Trust BCN. Teams of four to six. A date for your diary!

Monday, 11th March, 19.30, Maulden Church Hall (MK45 2AU)

Hummingbirds.

A talk by Wilf Powell.

£4 entrance charge to this event.

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

For additional information or to reserve your place please email <u>flitvale.info@gmail.com.</u>

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

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



Saturday 9th

Coffee & Croissants, GC Methodist Church, 10am – 12noon. See poster

Thursday 14th

Nativity play, by the Fledglings, GC Methodist Church, 10am.

Saturday 16th

Christmas Evening, in the Churchyard, St Mary's Church, from 4:30pm. 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 school holidays - 2024

* Clophill Preschool, Stay and Play 10am – 12noon, Village Hall. 2nd to 5th April Easter Hunt, first 5 Fridays of the summer holidays, all £3 per child.

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

Am 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 Greensand Community Methodist Church, Clophill... Weekly Worship at the Churc1h, Sundays at 10:30am.



from 4.30pm

Carols with the Clophill Christmas Choir at 5.30pm

(A collection will be made for Crisis at Christmas)

Festive refreshments Christmas tombola
Activities for children



The Churchyard and the Church will be decorated

Useful numbers

Gas (Emergency)				0800 111999
Electricity (Emergency)				0800 7838838
Emergency Fire/Police/Amb				999
Water/Sewage (Anglian Wat	er)			0845 7145145
Telephone		•	omer Services) 150	•
Highways Department (Cent	0300 3008049			
Benefits Agency (Bedford of	01234 361500			
Registrar's Office (Births/dea	iths/marriages)			0300 3008089
Rail (Enquiries)				0845 7484950
Buses 01234 262151	(Link A	4 Ride) 01525 84	.0511 (Flittabus) 01582 406561
Luton Airport				01582 405100
Swimming	(Flitwi	ick) 01525 71774	14 (Robinson Pod	ol) 01234 212479
LOCAL GOVERNMENT				
Central Beds Offices (Chicksa	ands)			0300 300 8000
Mid-Bed; MP			Alistair Strathern	TBA
Central Bedfordshire Counci	llors		Susan Clinch	0300 300 8516
			Gary Summerfield	
			Mark Smith	0300 300 8541
Clophill Parish Council	(Clerk) Heathe	r Myott clerk@c	lophill-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		,		
DOCTOR'S CLINICS Ampthill	(Houghton Close	e) 01525 300898		01525 631395
Ampthill		•	(Greensands)	01525 631390
Ampthill Shefford	Enquiries 01462	818620	(Greensands) Appointments	01525 631390 01462 810034
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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 and Preschool					
	Tracy Hayes	860206			
Clophill Toddler Group	Laura West	01525 860206			
Clophill United Charities	Val Martin	860900			
Conservation Group	Brian Adams	862297			
Flower Club	Gillian Hill	860539			
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			



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Having a Will in place provides peace of mind So many people have died without a Will thus increasing the stress and expense (and often the tax) that their families face.

It is wise to have a Will in place.

- In recent years, the law relating to tax allowances has changed. Check that your Will qualifies for the most recent allowances.
- If you have no Will or your Will is invalid, the State distributes your assets. This distribution may not be what you would have wished and could result in higher tax.
- If you are in a second marriage or partnership, you may wish to provide for your current spouse/partner as well as previous children.
- If you are in a continuing relationship but are not married or a registered civil partner, you have no automatic inheritance rights. You need protective Wills.
- LASTING POWERS OF ATTORNEY ARE VITAL. We should all have them. None of us are immune from accident or serious illness. If you do not have these documents in place, your assets are frozen. (including joint bank accounts). Even your spouse cannot act for you without first applying to Court for a Deputyship Order.
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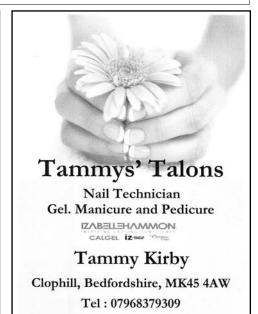
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facebook: achristopherthepainter email: chris.minihaneabtinternet.com

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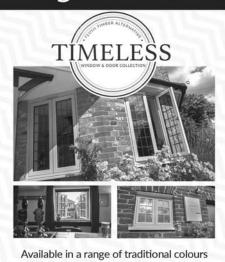


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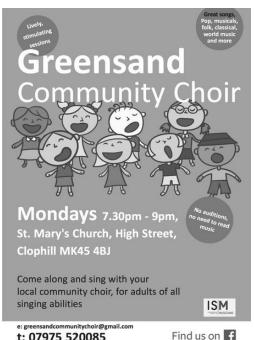
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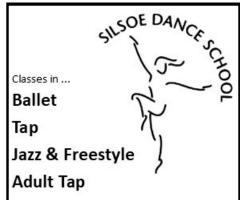
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entitlement with wrap-around care too!)

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To arrange a visit, please call: 01525 860206 or email: generaladmin@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk

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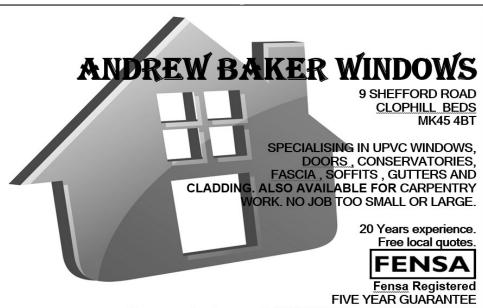
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