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FREE

CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

APRIL 2024



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A word from the Editor...

Welcome to the April issue of Spotlight

Dear Reader,

I hope you all had a great Easter and enjoyed the long weekend and the clocks going forward at last!!

We have a packed issue this month..... As well as our regular features and updates, we have many posters for upcoming events in the next few months; including a play on at Westoning village hall, a talk about Thomas Earl de Grey of Wrest Park, musical Friday afternoons in Amphill and our own Village Fete and Open Gardens weekend. Hopefully something for everyone.



***Best wishes,
Elaine***



The magazine staff

EDITOR	Elaine Jones editorial@clophillspotlight.co.uk	07918 975823
ADVERTISING MANAGER	Angela Barker ads@clophillspotlight.co.uk	01525 868685
DESIGN MANAGER	Colin Watt	
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER	Toni Elston Paul Leckie	07979 643047
TREASURER	Jon Bates	07725 068828

You can also read Spotlight online

www.clophillspotlight.co.uk

Come into the Garden

With Kate Gardner



It's officially spring and hopefully March, with its wet weather, will be replaced with some warmer and longer days. With the weather warming so the plants really start moving, grass grows strongly and the trees and shrubs spring back into vibrant green.

At this time of year, the lawn is actively growing and if you are looking to have a strong healthy lawn, now is the best time to give it some tlc. My lawn has more moss than grass so I'm going to be busy over the next few weeks with a rake removing it. If you are looking to reinvigorate your lawn than these are three key jobs that you should doing, scarifying (removing the thatch), spiking (improving drainage and air to the roots), and top-dressing (improving soil quality and adding a little feed).

Early April is really the last time that you can move, and plant evergreen trees and shrubs provided the soil is not waterlogged. They are best moved or planted once actively growing and when there is less risk of cold weather. Remember to replant at the same depth that they were growing at, give them a good drink and mulch the soil.

Mulching is generally used to save water, suppress weeds and improve the soil around plants but it also gives your garden a neat, tidy appearance and can reduce the amount of time spent on tasks such as watering and weeding. Mulches help soil retain moisture in summer, rain to penetrate the soil in winter, prevent weeds from growing and protect the roots of plants in winter. Pay particular attention to mulching around rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias, as flowering is impaired if they are allowed to dry out during late summer.

Feed trees, shrubs and hedges with a balanced fertiliser (such as Growmore or blood, fish and bone), sprinkling it over the root area before hoeing into the soil surface. This will particularly benefit young, weak, damaged or heavily pruned plants.

Speaking of pruning it's not too late to prune your winter-stemmed shrubs such as Salix and Cornus. Prune back hard all the previous year's growth to within 1-2cm (0.5-0.75in) of the framework. Other shrubs that are routinely stooled (cut back hard) in spring, to keep their larger or more brightly coloured juvenile foliage, such as the smoke bush (Cotinus) and elders (Sambucus), can be cut back this month. You can leave a couple of branches un-pruned if you want to retain some of the height from last year.

Early-flowering shrubs are pruned after flowering (in late winter to spring and early summer, depending on the shrub). These usually flower on the previous year's growth. 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. Yellow Forsythia and the amazing bright pink Japanese quince are good examples.

Hydrangeas have been gaining popularity and these flower from mid- to late summer on the previous year's growth. Mophead and lacecap hydrangeas will bloom satisfactorily with little attention, but annual pruning encourages new, vigorous growth and a better flowering display. If you have a climbing hydrangea this will also benefit from a prune once the flowers have finished.

Lightly cut back lavenders, Helichrysum (curry plant) and Santolina (cotton lavender) to prevent them getting too leggy and woody but watch out for late frosts which can damage the new young growth if you cut back too much of the established plant.

Happy Gardening

Parish Registers for April

1824

Baptisms

- 18 Hannah, d of John and Hannah Lincoln.
Sophia, d of (?) and Ann Grummitt.
Thomas, s of Richard and Ann Gove (?)

23 Charles, s of John and Charlotte Palmer. Victualler.

28 Charles, s of William and Rhoda (?) Gaylor.

Marriages

24 Joseph Graney (?) of Haynes to Rhoda Bottoms.

Burials

28 Mary Huggins, widow.

1874

Baptisms

- 26 Charlotte and Joel, children of Henry and Eliza Gobey.
John, s of William and Hannah Doggett.

Burials

- (?) Fred Lincoln, 2 and a half.
- 04 Ann Parrish, 4.
- 08 Susan Bones, 4.
- 30 Elizabeth Huckle, 14.

1924

Baptisms

06 Charles Edward, s of Ernest and Gertrude Wilmore.

Burials

11 George Lincoln, 78.

1973

Baptisms

22 Christopher Collis.
Martin Howard Dorrell.

Burials

06 Florence Lilian Lloyd, 58.

1974

No registers recorded in April.

Marriages

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

St. Mary's Church Registers for March 2024

Omitted last month

Feb 20 Memorial Service and Burial of Ashes Betty Hampson MBE, 94.

Burial of Ashes

17 Rex David Speake, 84.

Reflections – Clophill in April 1979 - Voices from the past.

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

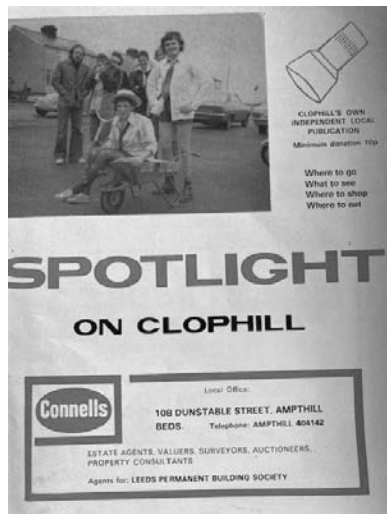
In my last piece, I showed you the final cover of 'Outlook' – January 1979 - and in this one, I show you the first 'Spotlight' one May 1979 - the forerunner of the edition you are reading today. The first thing I notice is the vast improvement in the type – so much clearer – new typewriter! The Spotlight Team were News Editors – Mike Gibbs and Dorothy Smith, Sport & Social Editor – Pauline Cue; Features – Rosemary & Jack Brooker and distribution enquires to go to Barry Inskip.

The cover photo is of "Last year's (i.e. 1978) pram/barrow race. Two competitors, the eventual winners, pause for a photograph just prior to the race." It was to advertise the next race (in aid of the Village Hall), to be run

on "Monday, May 7th; entry fee 50p per pair. Starting at 'The Stone Jug' ... the race will proceed via every Clophill pub and finish at 'The Rising Sun'. Fancy dress is optional, but half a pint must be consumed by each competitor at every pub en-route." We used to have 6 pubs in the village - The Fly, The Green Man, The Compasses (almost opposite the school), The New Inn, The Rising Sun Inn and The Commander in Chief – across the A6 was also felt to be a 'Clophill' pub although not used in this event - neither was The New Inn as it was unlicensed by then.

We also had several shops down the High Street – there was 'Stokes' a general store on the High Street opposite the bottom of Great Lane , and a haberdashery at no. 46. Down at 'The Green' end of the village there were several shops which changed hands and goods! There certainly was a cyclist repair shop which might have also stocked small car parts – as in small parts for cars.

As you appreciate, even though this was the May edition of 'Spotlight', all the information in it was either of things past – or advertising for the future. The Parish Council reported on their 1978 activities noting that elections for parish and district councils were to be held during May 1979; tenants working on small allotments have been moved to Townshott, where allotments have been subdivided into 5 pole units; "Though (the burial ground) is still not the responsibility of the Parish Council much work has been done in keeping the grass and hedges tidy. Parishioners who tend graves regularly have expressed appreciation of the marked improvement and hope that the County Council will follow this example in attending to its area of the old church."



Reflections – Clophill in April 1979 (Continued ...)

The District Council is to submit Hall End, Maulden to the Boundary Review Commission, hoping that Hall End will be transferred to Clophill. (That didn't happen did it!). There was a 'Ploughman's Supper' at the Methodist Church on 14th March where forty people enjoyed a musical evening as well. The programme included a piano solo and flute solo by Claire O'Connor who joined her grandma Ethel Mason in a piano duet; Emma and Rachel Naylor did some recitations and Tracey Wiles did a Bible reading; the recorder group played and the youngsters sang while Marjorie Brown played the piano.

Other articles included Pam Parker's First Aid piece about how to cope with bleeding; a recipe for Malt loaf, information on caring for strawberry plants and an advert for "The 'Spotlight Supper Dance with Malibu (including local lads Roger Diggins and Terry Carr)' from 7.45 – 1.00am" Those were the days!



Banking Hub in Ampthill Location is Confirmed

The UK's major high street banking providers are working together to bring shared cash and everyday banking services to your community.

Where will the Banking Hub be located?

In the former NatWest premises at 8-10 Church Street.

What will it offer?

Opening hours will be from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, closed at weekends.

The Hub, when it opens, will offer a counter service operated by the Post Office, where customers of all major banks can carry out regular cash transactions.

There will also be a **Community Banker** service where customers can talk to their own bank about more complicated issues on the day their bank is in the Hub. **Community Bankers** will work on rotation, with a different bank available on each day of the week.

Monday: NatWest

Tuesday: Barclays

Wednesday: Santander

Thursday: Lloyds

Friday: HSBC

Finding the right location for a Banking Hub that is convenient, accessible and works for everyone often takes time so Cash Access UK is delighted to have been able to find a convenient premises in the heart of the community. This development is a significant step forward in bringing a Banking Hub to Ampthill.

St Mary's School News

from Mrs. Bingley our Headteacher:

At the beginning of March, we celebrated World Book Day. This is always a popular day with the children, and they really enjoyed dressing up as their favourite book character (or wearing their own clothes), taking part in the Big Book Swap (where everyone brought in a pre-loved book and swapped it for a 'new' book) and the Paper Plate book character challenge! We had some amazing entries, as you can see from the winning designs below!



We also celebrated British Science week, which was launched with a special assembly led by Jane Lambourne from the Greensands Trust who kicked off this year's theme of 'Time' for us. The tagline for this year was, 'To inspire every child to create their best digital future' and we certainly started this off too! All the children got to use some brand-new micro:bits we've had delivered to school. A micro:bit is a programmable device that allows students to try out coding and digital making! The children

loved programming their micro:bits to display their names and different images. During March, we also continued to be sporty with some of our Year 4 girls taking part in a Football festival at Robert Bloomfield. We also continued to raise money for charity – this time raising £207 for Red Nose Day by wearing our own clothes and bringing in a joke to share with our classmates! We finished the term with some of our Eco-Committee visiting the roundabout with Central Bedfordshire to plant some new flowers and with Rowan Class leading our beautiful end of term performance of 'The Three Trees' in Church to prepare us for Easter.

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 continues to love spending time in classrooms (and the children love having him there!). He enjoys listening to readers as well as just spending time with the children. Here's a picture of him enjoying some time with a child in one of our younger classes.



Acorn Nursery news

from Mrs. Hayes our Early Years Leader:

We've been delighted to welcome our NEW Nursery Room Lead Mrs Butterworth who joins us with tons of Early Years education experience, we are very happy and lucky to have her enhance our already amazing team. Our children have been proud to take on responsibility to help Mrs Butterworth learn our routine and expectations, really displaying their values of kindness, helpfulness, friendship and respect.



As always at this time of year, we've been investigating Spring, the Easter Story and new life focusing on the lifecycles of frogs and chickens. We've been busy exploring the school grounds looking at our gorgeous trees in the Spring sunshine and recreating the blossom we've observed with finger painting.

The children enjoyed standing up and sharing their jokes for Red Nose Day, confidently reciting them to their friends and teachers and patiently listening when it was their friends turn.

Our Values for April are Unity and Community:

In school, we will be firstly thinking about the meaning of Unity – working in harmony as a group. We will explore how, to achieve Unity, we must accept and appreciate each other's skills and involvement before we can work together. We will also consider how a group of people living in the same place or doing the same thing is also classed as a Community. We will learn the importance of living the value of Unity to ensure the Community works well together.

At home, you could discuss what communities you belong to e.g. the village of Clophill, Cubs, Brownies, football etc. You could also talk about the types of things everyone needs to do to ensure these communities run or work well. As a family unit, you could also explore the types of things that everyone needs to do to ensure the family can work in Unity – the little things that everyone can do to ensure the family can live in harmony 😊.



St Mary's Church, Clophill

Church Fete

& Village Event

Saturday 11th May

12 – 4pm in the Church grounds

FUN for ALL

Lots of stalls Sideshows

Barbeque

Entertainment by local groups



For further information –

call Gillian 01525 860539 or Carolyn 01462 815433



Clophill and District Flower Club

www.clophillflowerclub.com



invite you to join them for an Open Meeting entitled:

'Remember When . . . ?'



A floral demonstration
by
Lee Berrill

Thursday 2 May 2024

Doors open at 6.45
for prompt start @ 7.30pm

Clophill Village Hall

Tickets are available from Committee members, via the website or call 07960 662334

£12 visitors : £6 members

Ticket includes a glass of wine or soft drink before the demonstration begins.

Visitors always welcome at all our meetings

Clophill Preschool News

Hello everyone,

What a fabulous term we have had, it's been full of learning in the rain, building hedgehog houses, making chocolate playdough, starting work on the allotment and many other fun and interesting activities come rain or shine... but mostly rain!



We signed up to the Keep Britain Tidy 'Big Bag Challenge' and pledged to collect as much litter as we could so our children have been out and about across the Village Hall grounds and beyond picking up the rubbish.

There's been an awful lot of sensory play from flour to foam and the team have been working with lots of cause and effect resources and sensory light experiences. The children have been sliding down the hill on their sledges in the rain, measuring their water bottles with rulers and painting daffodils. Julie brought in her old Singer sewing machine, a great way for the children to learn about cause and

effect as they helped sew their own leaver's bags. There has also been printing and drawing and climbing and laughing... a lot of laughing.

It has been a busy month for visitors: Tash the ecologist has visited us a couple of times, the first was to see how our pond is getting on and she reported that she had found both frogs and newts in the water, a fantastic achievement! She also bought in Taylor the bat, she is a certified bat rescuer and brought Taylor in a clear container so the children could get up close and see the bat for themselves.



Carolyn came up and made some beautiful daffodil posies with the children to give to their mums for Mothering Sunday, we were also joined by Rosemary who made a picture with the children to go in the church for the Mothering Sunday service. Many thanks to both.

Lauren from Halo All Stars also came in and did some cheerleading practice with the children. Lauren pitched it just right and had a huge bunch of children rapt with wonder and following her movement instructions, great for developing listening and coordination skills, thank you Laura!

We have also been fortunate to have some new staff join us, Laura is now helping out with the snack and Katherine has joined as a key worker, we are delighted to have them start with us, they are both a great asset to the team. We are looking forward to a hopefully drier summer term!

Volunteers Needed to Spread the Joy of Reading in Bedfordshire Schools

Children's literacy charity **Schoolreaders** is looking for volunteers who can help spread the joy of reading to children in primary schools across Bedfordshire.

Every year, 1 in 4 children leave primary school unable to read to the expected standard. Schoolreaders recruits volunteers to listen to children read one-to-one in primary schools, focusing on schools where children require the most support. Volunteers are asked to listen to children read once a week in term time and to commit to a minimum of a year. 95% of children supported by a Schoolreaders volunteer improve their reading age.



Schoolreaders volunteers also have a positive impact on pupils' reading confidence with 95% of pupils showing improvement and 87% showing increased reading enjoyment. Additionally, children benefit enormously from the volunteers as positive role models in the classroom.

Jane Whitbread, founder of Schoolreaders, comments "Children who leave primary school unable to read well can't access their secondary schooling fully which will compromise their life opportunities. Reading is the gateway to learning. Our Schoolreaders volunteers provide a crucial supplement to classroom teaching and are welcomed by schools and the children. If more children gain pleasure from reading from an early age and their reading fluency and confidence improves too, communities and society will reap the benefits."



Sheena, retired, and a Schoolreaders volunteer, explains her experience, "*For me, establishing a rapport with each child and recognising their uniqueness by making the*

sessions relevant and fun is what counts and the earlier we can do this the better."

To find out more about Schoolreaders visit www.schoolreaders.org. By applying now new volunteers will be matched as quickly as possible to a partner school once they have completed a mandatory DBS check and virtual safeguarding training.

CLOPHILL LAKES UPDATE



Work continues on the establishment of the Clophill Lakes Nature Reserve, with a range of habitat and access infrastructure works being completed. We ask for your support in ensuring the site remains closed to the public whilst we ready it for public access later this year.



The extremely wet weather on site has delayed progress given the need to protect the site from damage, path surfacing also needs a period of time and dry weather without use to allow the surface to bind for use.

Our team are also working on clearing channels, securing fencing which alongside signage and safety works will form part of the works required to enable access to the site.

Our ecology team are continuing monitoring and surveying, some of the recorded species have been plants such as field madder, carline thistle, maiden pink, meadow clary, common cudweed, sheep sorrel, common stork's-bill, lady's bedstraw, mouse-ear hawkweed, field pansy and hare's-foot clover.

Birds recorded include Skylark and meadow pipit, mute swan, teal, oystercatcher, common sandpiper, water rail, snipe, woodcock, egyptian goose, kingfisher, mandarin, coot, canada and greylag goose, grasshopper warbler, cuckoo, stonechats, grey heron, buzzards and red kites.



Our fundraising appeal is still ongoing, this will allow us to support visitor facilities on site, all donations are gratefully welcome. If you would like to contribute to our appeal then please go to: www.greensandtrust.org/Appeal/clophill-lakes.

We will have a stall at the Clophill Village Fete on the 11th May, where our staff will be on hand to answer questions and give further updates. We look forward to seeing you there.

Springtime is truly magical on our site and we are fortunate enough to have spent many an afternoon identifying the various flowers blooming across the woodland and open fields; watching the frogspawn grow its legs and transform in front of our eyes, counting the newts in the pond and searching for four-leaved clovers. Further afield, we have been out and about around the village litter picking as part of the 'Big spring clean up.' The children love looking after the local area and are keen to continue leisurely litter picks throughout the year.



We celebrated world oral health day by conducting a series of experiments to learn more about our teeth. Our favourite was making our own toothpaste and testing it out using dental disclosure tablets to see how much plaque was left on our teeth. Our homemade toothpaste was actually very good at getting rid of the plaque on our teeth which meant that they were gleaming white whilst our tongues remained bright purple from the dental tablets for a few hours!

We have been busy planting up trays of seeds for our allotment and herbs for our 'herby reading house' we plan to build in the next few weeks. We have also been thinking about which flowers to grow in our new beds ready to make summertime bouquets.

In keeping with the time of year, we have been discussing Ramadan and Eid; the children have written good deeds on leaves and painted beautiful mehndi patterns on each other's hands. We have also been learning the Easter story and baking delicious mini hot cross buns. We feel so grateful that our little setting has such diversity and we really do enjoy sharing our customs and celebrating together. One British custom we have all enjoyed is chocolate Easter eggs! We



made our own chocolate from raw cocoa butter and cocoa powder and tasted how bitter it was compared to the milk chocolate most of us know. We then looked at the coca beans and discussed how Mayan people made chocolate compared to how it is made on mass today. We are really looking forward to the village fete next month where the children will be hosting their own stall.

Clophill Parish Council



A lively meeting for our last of the season at Clophill Methodist Church, from next month meetings revert to the Village Hall for the Spring/Summer seasons.

The Ward Councillors gave an update on the budget position, the Budget has been passed and balanced with a 5% increase in council tax. This was to protect core services. Green waste is now a paid for service, but they have kept the Bus subsidy. The Ward councillor grant scheme is also retained this year, for those good causes looking for funding.

The CPC Grant aide fund had 2 applications for the April round. We are pleased to announce that St. Marys Church has been successful in being awarded a £1500 grant towards the Church stone renovation project. The next round of grant aide will be heard at the October meeting.

Cllr Patrick successfully applied for a Hedgerow Grant from CBC and we are now in the process of planting 200m of hedgerow at Hay Close and Church Path.

The Clophill 20 mph Zone Petition has received 569 signatures and qualified to go to the Traffic Management Committee on 06/06/24. This is great news on the way to making our village a safer place.

The A6 Roundabout works are coming to completion, it has been noted that there is a lack of signage which was promised for the northern arm of the A6 and the Clophill Green one way. Particularly around the 30mph speed limit, and the 40mph buffer zone. CPC and ward councillors are arranging a snagging meeting to progress these before completion.

Residents of Warren Lane have expressed concerns over the number of accidents and the increased use and speeds on the lane. CPC resolved to write to the portfolio owner at CBC to address the issues and to get on the Agenda for the Traffic Management Committee with support from Ward Councillors.

Planning Applications

Decisions Prior to Meeting

CB/24/00491/VOC Mouse Farm, Shefford Road

Proposal: Variation of condition numbers 2 and 7 of planning permission **CB/22/04876/FULL**. To provide additional space within a raised roof area for a gym use (approved under CB/21/01303/LDCP) and to provide a storage space for domestic storage due to lack of storage within the host dwelling. **NO COMMENT**

Planning Applications (continued...)

CB/TCA/24/00095 11 The Green

Proposal: Works to trees within a Conservation Area: Acer Tree T1, singular trunk is growing towards neighbouring property with a heavy lean. Removal of entire stem. **NO COMMENT**

CB/23/01877/FULL Little Field, Kiln Lane

Appeal reference: APP/P0240/W/23/3330293

Description of development: Construction of a self-build detached dwelling and associated works. The decision against this appeal has been received as 'Planning Appeal Dismissed'.

Decisions at Meeting

CB/24/00626/FULL 33 Bedford Road

Proposal: Partial demolition of existing bungalow and external alterations to facilitate the erection of an additional detached dwelling-house. Erection of 2.1m fence. Rear raised terraces & retaining walls. Part retrospective. **SUPPORT**
(as long as access to A6 is managed carefully).

CB/TCA/24/00072 108A High Street

Proposal: Works to various trees within a Conservation Area: Including a Yew tree, Leylandii and Oak Tree. The Walnut tree opposite St Marys church; damage to drains from root ingress into the shared drain for 108a and 110 High St under the drive of 108a High St. To trim the roots of the walnut tree to prevent further damage to the shared drain and prevent drain blockage. **SUPPORT**

CB/TCA/24/00126 110 High Street

Proposal: Works to trees within a Conservation Area: Similar works to 108A High St, above. **SUPPORT**

CB/TCA/24/00123 The Old Watermill, High Street

Proposal: Works to trees within a Conservation Area: Norway Maple marked with green circle on plan to be re-pollard. **SUPPORT**

CB/24/00646/FULL 5 Hawthorne Close

Proposal: Conversion and extension of garage for use ancillary to main dwelling. **SUPPORT**

The next meeting will be held on 23rd April 2024 19:45 at Clophill Village Hall



Westoning Players

at Westoning Village Hall

MURDER IN LITTLE GRIMLEY

By David Tristram



A Murder Mystery

A Whodunnit

A COMEDY

Thu. 25th April, 7:30pm [*includes light meal*]

Fri. 26th April, 7:30pm [*includes light meal*]

Sat. 27th April, 2:30pm [*includes afternoon tea*]

Tickets £15

[includes food]

+ Bar + raffle



website

Box Office: 01525 719695

Reserve by Email: thewestoningplayers@gmail.com

Website for info : www.westoning-players.co.uk

Please tell Box Office *when BOOKING* of meal choice: **REGULAR** or **VEGETARIAN**

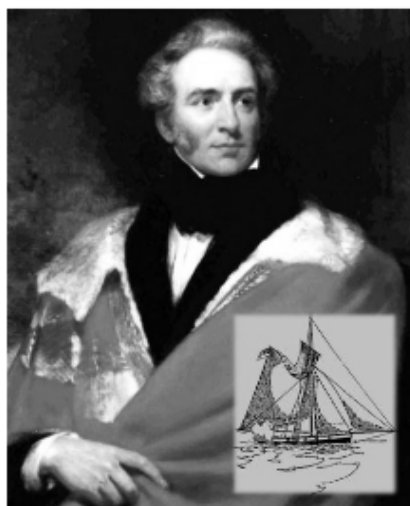
Please make cheques payable to **Westoning Players** & send to:

WP Box Office: c/o 10, Sampshill Road Westoning MK45 5LF

**Amphill & District
Archaeological
& Local History Society**

Monday 8th April 2024

Earl de Grey of Wrest, Sailor



In landlocked Bedfordshire, it is hard to conceive that the owner of Wrest Park played such an important part in the history of British sailing. Yet Thomas, Earl de Grey, had a house at Cowes, a succession of seagoing yachts, and chaired the first meeting of the Royal Yacht Squadron. The talk covers much unpublished research into his fascinating and unexpected story. Speaker: Richard Luscombe.

Flitwick Library Lecture Theatre, MK45 1QJ. 7.30pm for 7.45 pm start.

Members free, visitors very welcome, £5.00 payable on the door. The talk will also be broadcast live via Zoom to Society members.

The Society's AGM will precede the meeting.

www.adalhs.org.uk



Tibbs Dementia Foundation

Is Dementia an Issue for You? Tibbs Dementia Foundation is here to support you. We have been helping people with dementia and their family carers across Bedfordshire for over 10 years and would love to meet you. Our wide range of regular activities for people with all stages of dementia include Music for Memory, a walking group, Cognitive Stimulation Therapy, walking football, indoor and outdoor bowls, exercise classes and an allotment.



Registered Charity no.
1166596

Our programme for carers includes information sessions and support groups for those currently in a caring role, and a bereavement group. There is also a dedicated group for carers whose loved one is in a care home.

For dates and times call us on 01234 210993 or take a look at our Service Timetable on our website - <https://tibbsdementia.co.uk/>

What is the Tibbs Approach? Our Bedford-based charity offers a wide range of activities which provide cognitive and physical stimulation in a safe and supportive space. Our groups are for people at all stages of dementia, diagnosed or not, and those who support them.

Our charity takes its name from Margaret-Anne Tibbs, a specialist in the field of dementia. She is one of our founders who still guides us on a day-to-day basis. Five years after our founding in 2013 we were honoured to receive the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. We challenge the stereotypes of dementia and focus on the person, working with their skills and experience, and encouraging them to contribute at whatever level they are comfortable. Our aim is to help people with dementia live their best life possible, through our person-centred approach.

How Should I Take the First Step?

- Sign up for our weekly email newsletter, which is packed with activities and information. Just email contact@tibbsdementia.co.uk
- Join us for an informal afternoon for people with dementia and their carers, every Tuesday from 2-4pm at Kempston East Methodist Church, 227 Bedford Road MK42 8DA. We start with a few table games, moving on to a variety of stimulating activities, and ending with a few songs around the piano – with plenty of tea and cake of course! Carers are welcome to take part, or chat to each other, or speak to our helpers if they prefer.
- Join us for a gentle walk around Mowsbury Park on Friday afternoons. We meet by the side of the car park on Wentworth Drive and set off at 2pm, ending up back at the café for a hot drink and a natter.
- Or call us 01234 210993 or email contact@tibbsdementia.co.uk for more information and to arrange an informal chat.



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

MILE ROAD ALLOTMENTS

Plant Sale Weekend

is on the **11th and 12th of May**



Saturday 10am-4pm & Sunday 10am-1pm

Fruit, Flowers, and Vegetable plants are available.

Everyone welcome!



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

Registered charity number: 1155301

Amphill Health Walks

Fortnightly walks in and around Amphill
Short led walks, all welcome

Amphill Health Walks are for anyone who wants to get more active. They are about **3 miles long** and last about an hour and a quarter. Everyone walks at their own brisk pace, with a backmarker to make sure no one is left behind. There may be some hills and in bad weather there might also be some mud but we do our best to minimise this! **The walks are all free.**

Please note that dogs are not allowed on the walks and ensure you wear suitable footwear.

12th April: 10.30am. Aspley Guise Cricket Club, Aspley Guise MK17 8DX.

26th April: 10:00am. Nuyard Garden Centre Flitwick MK45 5AA (2 stiles)

10th May: 10:00am. West Car Park, Amphill Park. MK45 2HX

After the walks we usually find a cafe or similar for refreshments.

We are a very friendly group so why not come along to one of our walks and see if it's for you?

For more information contact Mike Fayers on mikef@bedsrcc.org.uk
or 01234 832619



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 April and early May are:

Friday 12th April – Hope Cramsie (classical guitar)

Friday 19th April – Basil Alter & Jiayi Huang (violin & piano)

Friday 26th April – Eva Maria Doroszkowska (piano)

Friday 3rd May – Suzanna Perry & Margaret Johnson (soprano and 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 Open Gardens Weekend

22nd & 23rd June

12 noon to 5pm each day

We are planning to hold an Open Gardens Weekend in Clophill and would like to have a **wide variety of gardens** for people to enjoy. We were so grateful last time when you kindly opened your lovely garden and we are sure that visitors would love to see how it has developed.

If you are willing to open **YOUR** garden or would like more details; please contact **Jenny** on 07917648987 or **Jackie** on 07831 861 641

Proceeds in aid of St Mary's Church, Clophill



Wildlife Trust for
**Beds, Cambs
& Northants**
Flit Vale Local Group



Wildlife walks & talks

April and May

Wednesday, April 24th, Priory Country Park, Bedford at 7.15 pm

Bat Walk with Colin Carpenter*

We will meet by the car park on the first left after turning into Priory Park from Barkers Lane, (by the bottle banks) at 7.15 pm. The road is opposite the drive to Priory Marina. This car park stays open. Please be aware the gates to the main car park at Priory Country Park will be closed before our walk ends.

Bats are emerging from their winter hibernation, and Priory Country Park is an excellent area for bats, and we hope to see and identify several species. If you have a bat detector, please bring it along but Colin will bring some bat detectors with him for use by participants. A torch is essential and insect repellent is a good idea even this early in the year! *£4 per adult

Saturday May 18th, Strawberry Hill Farm, Knotting Green, Bedford, MK44 1AA at 10.00 am

Visit to Strawberry Hill Farm, led by Wildlife Trust BCN staff*

Strawberry Hill Farm has been left to rewild for 25 years. This 150-hectare site, the largest area of scrub and young woodland in the region, has presented a remarkable opportunity for the Wildlife Trust Beds, Cambs & Northants to protect this unique habitat and create a place where people can be inspired by nature.

We shall be hoping to see and hear Nightingales and a host of other bird species as well as invertebrates and a selection of flora. *£4 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 6-8pm.)

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire
Registered charity number: 1000412, www.wildlifecbn.org
Flit Vale Local Group, www.flitvale.org.uk

What's on in and around Clophill

APRIL

Thursday 25th – Saturday 27th

Westoning Players. “A comedy” Westoning Village Hall. *See poster for details.*

MAY

Thursday 2nd

Flower Club meeting, Village Hall, 6:45 for 7:30pm start. *See poster.*

Saturday 11th

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

JUNE

Saturday/ Sunday 22nd – 23rd

Open Gardens Weekend, Clophill gardens, 12noon – 5pm each day. *See poster.*

Plus....

Weekdays during term time

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

Also trialling opening on Saturdays 10:30am to 2:30pm.

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.

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 Church, Sundays at 10:30am.

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	Alistair Strathern	TBA
Central Bedfordshire Councillors	Susan Clinch	0300 300 8516
	Gary Summerfield	0300 300 8561
	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, Mr John Errick	01525 571392 01525 860695
Baptist Churches	(Maulden) Ian Crawford (Shefford) Hazel Arnold	01525 634325 01462 812564
SCHOOLS		
St Mary's C of E Lower School, Nursery & Preschool (Headteacher Mrs K Bingley)		01525 860206
Harlington Upper School, Harlington		01525 755100
Preschool	clophillpreschool@gmail.com (Chris) 07936 006381 or (Imogen)	07765 887868
Redborne Upper School, Amphill		01525 404462
Robert Bloomfield Middle School, Shefford		01462 628800

Village groups

Beverley Court		860920
Brownies	enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk	
Clophill Community Care	Duty Contact	07791 773705
Clophill Heritage Trust	Ali Bradbury	07894 710001
Clophill Preschool	Imogen	07765 887868
	Chris	07936 006381
Clophill St Mary's C of E Lower School, Nursery and Preschool	Tracy Hayes	860206
	Val Martin	860900
Clophill United Charities	Brian Adams	862297
Conservation Group	Gillian Hill	860539
Flower Club		
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	
	www.scouts.org.uk/get-involved	
Scouts and Cubs	Anita Errick	860695
Tea and Chat		
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Marylin Browning	07821 643936



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- ◇ If you have no valid Will, the State's distribution of your assets may not be as you would have wished and could result in higher tax.
- ◇ Was your Will home made? If so, you could be storing up difficulties for the family and higher tax could be payable.
- ◇ Executors are personally liable. Are they still willing and able?
- ◇ Do you have children under 18? If so, you need to nominate guardians or they become the responsibility of the Local Authority
- ◇ Will your family be able to claim all tax allowances? Many Wills written before 2017 do not allow the full Nil Rate Band to be claimed.
- ◇ Are you in a second marriage? Special provision should be made for blended families.

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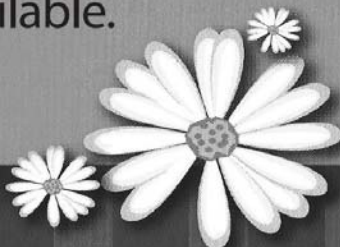
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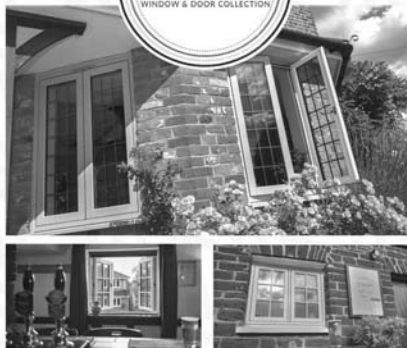


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