

Vol 47 | No.4

FREE

# CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

MAY 2024

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## A word from the Editor...

Welcome to the May issue of Spotlight

*Dear Reader,*

I hope everyone had a great time at our annual Village Fete at St Mary's church on the 11<sup>th</sup>. As I write this it is 5<sup>th</sup> May and the weather forecast is looking promising, but who knows this Spring! We also have the Open Gardens coming up in June (see page 13) which promises to be a wonderful weekend with 12 gardens on show to visit and admire.

I have just been reminded that today is International Dawn Chorus Day. We live such busy lives and forget to pause for a moment, listen and appreciate the beauty of the world around us. I hope you can take a moment now and again to stop, to feel a moment of peace, joy and connection with nature, friends and family.

**Best wishes,**  
**Elaine**



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You can also read Spotlight online

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

# Come into the Garden

*With Kate Gardner*



**#NoMowMay** is a national campaign run by Plantlife, the British conservation charity that is working nationally and internationally to save threatened wild flowers, plants and fungi.

Once again, they are encouraging us to resist mowing our lawns until the end of May' in order to boost the flowers and nectar available to pollinating insects, such as bees, butterflies, and moths. As I'm writing this at the end of April, there are only 12 registrations across the whole of the MK postcode area. With open gardens at the end of June, wouldn't it be great if we could have a Clophill hotspot of no mow areas. You can find out how to register your patch of #nowmowmay grass at [www.plantlife.org.uk](http://www.plantlife.org.uk).

Campaign research has revealed that mowing your lawn less frequently can provide enough food for ten times the amount of bees, butterflies, moths, beetles and other pollinators. A recent study found that rural honey bees have to fly further to find food than their urban counterparts, which suggests that wild flowers are much less abundant than those grown in the gardens of more built-up areas.

As the weather is warming, the days are lengthening, and the risk of frost is lessening, there is suddenly lots of activity on the plant front. New dahlia tubers can be directly planted into their flowering positions. If you have tubers that have been overwintering in pots, the early shoots can be taken as cuttings, not only making more plants (for free) but often the flowers on these cuttings will have a more vibrant colour to them.

If you are looking to add some tender summer bedding plants into the mix then hold off planting these out until towards the end of the month when the risk of frost is over. If weather conditions are still too cold, delay for another week or two and give them a liquid feed to keep them happy until you can get them into the ground.

Insert plant supports for tall perennials to prevent stems snapping. Adding the supports in now while the plants are shorter makes the job easier, and try not to make the supports too obvious; gentle support rather than a straight jacket is the aim of the game.

Sowing hardy annual flowers is a great and cost-effective way to extend the flowering season of your garden. Mark out the area that you want them to flower in and sow directly into the soil. If you sow them into straight lines that will allow you to differentiate the young seedlings from the weed seeds.

Pinch out the tips of your perennial plants like fuchsias. Removing the growing tips will encourage your plants to become bushier and produce more flowers. At the end of the month, you can also cut some of the plants down by half with a 'Chelsea chop' which has the advantage of delaying flowering for a few weeks.

As temperatures rise, keep checking pots and containers to make sure they receive sufficient water and don't dry out. Start feeding your container and hanging basket displays with liquid plant food.

Now is also a good time to re-pot any pot-bound containers and freshen up larger pots by top dressing with fresh compost.

### ***Happy Gardening***

---

## **Parish Registers for May**

### **1824**

#### **Baptisms**

- 02 Catherine, d of John and Sarah (?),  
f a baker.
- 03 Susannah, d of William and Jane  
Lincoln.
- 13 William, s of William and (?) Barret  
(?).

#### **Burials**

- 05 William Maddams.  
Charles Gaylor.
- 16 Isaac, s of William and (?).

### **1874**

#### **Baptisms**

- 18 Arthur Charles, s of Alfred and Jane  
Mossman.
- 31 Frederick William, s of George and  
Eliza Lincoln.
- Arthur William, s of Samuel and  
Charlotte Gaylor.
- Fanny, d of William and Elizabeth  
Everitt.
- Sophy, d of Thomas and Elizabeth  
Grummitt.

#### **Marriages**

- 18 George Roberts, 47 a widower, to  
Elizabeth Odell, 37.

#### **Burials**

- 02 Sarah Herbert, 6.
- 17 Ann Mossman, 14.
- 19 Joseph Kedge, 50.
- 24 Lucy Ashby, 80.

### **1924**

#### **Baptisms**

- 04 Rita Mary, d of Frank and Annie  
Woodward, Market Gardener.
- Beryl Mildred, d of Arthur and  
Nellie Peat, Carpenter.
- 25 Stanley George, s of Herbert and  
Bertha Izzard of Hall End,  
Chauffeur.
- Kathleen Olive, d of William and  
Kate Massey, Engine Turner.

#### **Marriages**

- 24 Sidney William Daniels, 31,  
Engineer, to Alice Rose Hodges, 31,  
widow.

### **1974**

#### **Baptisms**

- 05 David Michael Everitt.

#### **Marriages**

There were marriages in 1974 but the microfiche was impossible to read.

## Reflections – Clophill in May 1979 - Voices from the past.

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

As I am sure you appreciate, trying to do justice to the village and its magazine of yesteryear can be frustrating as I have fourteen pages of views and information about village activities in 1979, thus there is much you don't get to learn, however the covers are always noted. The June 1979 **Spotlight cover** features *"An assortment of young competitors in a recent fancy dress competition"* and inside, the **Editorial** is interesting *"A new age has dawned. We are living through an historic time, for, for the first time ever, a western democracy has elected a woman Prime Minister"* and on a different note ... *"not many people will be regretting the passing of our long, hard winter."* (This is the June issue!)

Under this is a photo of the new **Spotlight team** *"minus Dorothy Smith who was on holiday..."* Actually, it's not a very clear photo, but you can make out Barry Inskip, Mike Gibbs, Jack Brooker and Mike Benson (Production) who are behind Rosemary Brooker and Pauline Cue. As a regular attendee at meetings, I (at least) find the **Parish Council** topics of great interest as so many of them are those of today! Take *"Footpath across Holly Bush" when the PC "is not going to press for an official diversion of this footpath because of expense."* And *"Tree planting on Pinehill – The County Council grant has been refused."* These areas have been under discussion recently.

Then, the **Village Hall Committee** held its AGM where Mr H. Lucraft stepped down from his Chairmanship after thirteen years and the problems concerning the upkeep and cash shortfall were discussed. They organised a Pram Race fundraiser which had six teams representing the Flying Horse, The Stone Jug, and The Rising Sun – it won! Their Fete arrangements were re-issued - Fancy Dress competitors to be at the Green by 1.15pm if they wanted to be on the float. This would arrive at the Village Hall by 2pm when the Fete Princess would open the fete. Noise from Discos held at the hall was noted and various remedies were put forward as was a suggestion that the Parish Council be approached for cash aid as *"large scale maintenance and repair programmes would severely hit hall funds."*

Page 5 gives an article from **Mrs Roberts, Headmistress** at St Mary's, who tells of the "tremendous initiative" shown by the children when raising funds for their Lent Project – that year being the Local Association for the Blind. One class shone shoes (no trainers then); homemade cakes and sweets were sold, 'Beat the Goalie was played; lunchtime concerts in the library were enjoyed - and a brilliant £76 was raised. (These were superb weeks; I remember them well! The enthusiasm and application of the children to the task – and the support of parents who supplied both the money for the children to spend – and often the goodies to be sold, was heart warming.)



## Reflections – Clophill in May 1979 (Continued ...)

The next page brings a report from the Conservation Group and, it is so interesting that it needs most of 'my slot' to let you read it, so I'll save it for another time.

Further articles include reports from the **Beverley Court Committee** who organised "*a very successful sausage & mash supper*" and a couple of slide shows; the **Support Group of the Cheshire Home** put out a plea for more volunteers; the **Darby & Joan Club** was to hold a Jubilee Party; **WI members** enjoyed a slide-enhanced talk on a 'Jubilee Expedition to the Himalayas' given by Mr Dave Williams and at the **Flower Club** grape hyacinths, ferns and arum leaves, along with tulips, narcissi and fungi were among the materials used in Mrs Pam Hannon's "In Springtime" demonstration.



There are **more articles** covering the village Soccer and Netball teams, Racing and Tug of War. Bread Pudding was the recipe; gardening covered "Increasing Carnations and Pinks;" First aid – part two of 'bleeding;' Cinemas – 'Battle Star Galactica' & 'Death on the Nile' to name but two forthcoming viewings. New single releases included 'Sunday Girl' by Blondie and David Bowie's 'Boys keep Swinging', while Dr. Feelgood's new album release includes 'Great Ball of Fire'. Happy memories?

### Ampthill Health Walks

Ampthill 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.

**24th May:** 10am - Silsoe Village Hall, Silsoe MK45 4DY.

**7th June:** 10am - Harlington Village Hall, Harlington LU5 6LS.

**21st June:** 10am - The Flying Horse, Clophill MK45 4AD.

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](mailto:mikef@bedsrcc.org.uk) or 01234 832619



# St Mary's School News

*from Mrs. Bingley our Headteacher:*

For most of April we were all off enjoying our Easter Holidays ☺. From the 16th we were, however, back with a bang!

Many of our Year 3 children completed their Bikeability Stage 1 award in school and our Year 2 children began their block of 12- week swimming lessons at the fantastic Happy Tiddlers.

Within school, we celebrated St. George's Day with a special assembly and welcomed the return of Howard from Flitwick Cricket Club, to lead a six-week block of sessions for our Year 3 and 4 children on a Monday morning. He also gave our Year 1 and 2 children a little taster session to promote the brilliant All Stars Cricket sessions that are run at Flitwick during the summer months.

This term, we continue to run our amazing Stay and Play sessions for Babies and Toddlers on a Friday morning too.

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

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



## Acorn Nursery news

*from Mrs. Hayes our Early Years Leader:*

We've had a busy start to this term exploring the process of how food gets on our plates! We looked at the story 'Farm to Foodhall' and investigated the many different ways types of food grow (plants, on trees, underground) – this led to lots of mud play! The children were excited to taste lots of different fruits and vegetables and made a yummy fruit salad for snack time.

We compared the Farm environment with our immediate environment that we can see on the way to school, identifying buildings and the landscape – bringing Geographical terms into our children's vocabulary ☺. This led to making maps of our route to school, a farm and at a children's request a Zoo!!! Stories are a vital part of our Early Years Curriculum and we have also been focusing on Jack and the Beanstalk and the Little Red Hen – both firm favourites with our ever inquisitive children!

As our unrivalled local Nursery and Preschool continues to grow, we welcome more new staff to our already experienced and highly qualified Nursery team.





## **Our Values for May are Thankfulness (Appreciation and Simplicity):**

**In school**, we will learn the importance of appreciating ourselves, those around us and the environment. We will consider the importance of appreciating the simple things in life that we tend to take for granted. The children will also be reminded that, 'Thank you' isn't difficult to say but it means a lot to whoever is receiving it. We will learn that appreciation can be shown in a variety of ways, including giving friendship, care and support to others.

**At home**, you could discuss as a family all the different ways that you can show your appreciation and put them into practice. You may also like to encourage your child to make a thank you card for someone they appreciate as we know that everyone appreciates something handmade that comes from the heart.

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### **ST. MARY'S CHURCH NEWS**

On the Wednesdays through Lent, we held our annual lunches. We believe that these have been going for about 50 years and were started by Rev. Ralph Cousins and his wife, Dorothy in the mid-1970s. Together with the donations at the Agape Supper on Maundy Thursday £800 was split between our 2 charities, Water Aid and St. John's Hospice Moggenganger. Thanks are due to those who prepared and served the food, and all who came and donated so generously.



The Agape Supper commemorates The Last Supper and is a meal incorporating a service of Holy Communion. We were joined by our friends from Maulden, with about 30 enjoying the fellowship, and celebrating the Eucharist. On Good Friday several of our congregation went to Maulden for a solemn service of readings and hymns to remember the final hour of the Crucifixion. Easter Sunday was celebrated by a joyful service of Holy Communion with plenty of Alleluias! As always, the church was beautifully decorated, incorporating the lilies donated in memory of family members who have died.

Also, on Easter Sunday morning 15 hardy souls gathered at the Old Church at 7.30 to greet the Resurrection, followed by breakfast of bacon butties in the Eco-lodges.

Since then, we have enjoyed another delicious lunch prepared by our wonderful fundraising group, who are now busy planning the Fete on May 11th, Open Gardens on June 22nd/ 23rd and a Garden party in July, which will be our farewell to our Rector.

**DON'T FORGET!** We are celebrating the 175th anniversary of our church on Sept 7th/8th with an exhibition and floral display, and a special service with the Bishop on the Sunday.

# Claphill Preschool News

Hello everyone, welcome to the summer term! We had a great time at our Easter Stay & Play Egg Hunts over the holidays, we were busy every day and met so many new families and all the children really enjoyed meeting the Easter bunny (aka Julie).

We have started this term by welcoming our new starters and preparing our oldest children for our end of year events when they leave us for their next exciting step. Our leavers get to do three projects in the summer that compound the 'lifelong skills to leave with' that they have learnt with us and continue to develop their self-confidence, self-reliance and self-esteem.

Their first project is their plant and veg shop: in preparation they have been planting bulbs, and sowing tomatoes and pumpkins. The children will harvest these, and more, and sell them to parents managing the shop themselves, from sign making to dealing with money, its possibly the only shop where an adult is prepared to pay £5 for a courgette!



There has been a lot of storytelling by the children, staff have either been scribing their creations or children have been drawing pictures to illustrate their own words. This type of storytelling is so valuable, promoting language development and empowering children to become effective and creative communicators.

We have been playing in the mud kitchen and painting, making mathematical shapes with sticks, practising our writing, playing hopscotch and making our own puzzles from broken pottery. We have also been cooking, making 'no sugar' raspberry turnovers and squeezing lemons to make our own lemonade, all good preparation for the tea party (project number two) that the children will organise later this term.

Our new Parent and Toddler Group has started off brilliantly, we had a great turn out with everyone enjoying the craft activity that the Fledglings children ran and all joining in with Katie for her dancing at the end of the session. We are delighted it has turned out to be such a success, do join us every Friday in term time 10-11:30, everyone welcome.

Our setting continues to grow at an unprecedented rate with around 100 children on our waiting list or booked to join us. As the business grows, we adapt and change to meet the needs of our families and to make our processes and procedures more efficient. We now have an exciting opportunity as we advertise for more staff to join our outstanding and innovative outdoor setting. If you're interested in working for us whether you are qualified in Early Years or hoping to train, please get in touch.



# Clophill and District Flower Club

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



invite you to join them for

## 'Blooms and Tunes'



A floral demonstration  
by  
**Joanna Davis**



**Thursday 6 June 2024**

Doors open at 6.45  
for prompt start @ 7.30pm

Clophill Village Hall

**Visitors always welcome at all our meetings - £7**

For further information see our website: [www.clophillflowerclub.com](http://www.clophillflowerclub.com)



Despite the cold weather, we have been ploughing on with some of the jobs that spring brings and finding joy in the warm bursts of sunshine between the rainy showers. We have been sharpening up our tool skills; sawing and drilling our own wooden shields for St George's day, using secateurs to cut down nettles for our nettle soup and hammering nails into planks of wood to create raised beds for our new allotment plots.



We are so pleased to be starting to work on our newest plots on The Slade and hope that by the end of the summer we will have created a beautiful community flower garden for all to enjoy. We plan to plant native wildflowers as well as larger blooms in raised beds. The flowers in the raised beds will be used for our children to practice flower arranging and creating bouquets to sell as part of the entrepreneurship aspect of our curriculum.

We have spent more time with our kind friends at Beverly Court and plan to host a fun summer party for them as well as any other older adults in the village who fancy a day trip to 'the seaside!' The children will be organising a traditional seaside day trip (within the village) with Punch and Judy shows, penny licks, deck chairs and maybe a pool to dip a toe into should the weather be fond! We will put a poster up outside the shop when all the details have been finalised.

Clophill parent and toddler group at the Village Hall has become a real success and our Fledglings love thinking of the craft activities they can do with the toddlers on Friday mornings. We feel very fortunate to have such a joined-up approach with Clophill Preschool and are so pleased that many more families can benefit from their expertise and external contacts via the toddler group each week.



# Clophill Community Hubdate



On 23<sup>rd</sup> April I gave the Annual Parish Council Meeting an update on how we are progressing at the Clophill Community Hub, so I thought it would be good to share the content of that presentation with the wider community.

We have been in operation for around 16 months and looking back over the last 6 months or so we have witnessed a growth of around 100% in the amount of goods that we distribute to our users.

There are a few reasons for this:

- We have substantially improved our supply chain which in simple terms means we have more to offer which in turn stimulates demand.
- We have extended our opening hours to include Saturday opening which has proved to be a busy day. This is helped by the weekend donations of fresh food we receive from Aldi in Flitwick each weekend which we put on display as soon as we receive them.
- We are developing a relationship with the Food Banks in Flitwick and Bedford and they have begun to share any surplus they have with us, some of you may have noticed the quite large supply of bread and baked goods we receive from them at certain times of the week.
- And we must not forget the invaluable public donations we receive either through our collection points in St Mary's Church, the Co-op and of course the items people leave in our donation cabin on a regular basis.



One thing that does help us budget our offering is the cash donations we receive via Direct Debit each month. We are so grateful to receive this money as it enables us to "go shopping" to fill the gaps we have in our various product donations. So, I would ask anyone who feels they could donate few pounds on a regular

basis to contact me on [clophillhub@gmail.com](mailto:clophillhub@gmail.com) and I will help you get set up on a regular bank transfer.

And finally, all of this would simply not happen without the help of our small team of volunteers who collect contributions, stock the Hub and open and close the Hub six days a week. Without them giving up their time the Hub simply could not continue.

**Steve Langhorn**

# Clophill Parish Council



The first meeting of the year at the village hall with the lighter nights. A shorter agenda than usual, as this was followed by the Annual Parish Meeting.

The 20mph Zone Petition for the village has passed the number required to go to the Traffic Management Committee to be considered. This will take place in June and Cllr Rodell and Cllr Braugh will represent the Council.

Speeding on the North arm of the A6 roundabout is a concern still, and a snagging meeting is being requested with CBC Highways on the agreed works, including the 40mph buffer zone on Deadman's Hill approach to the village.

An update on the Clophill Lakes Nature reserve was shared. Due to the volume of rain this winter works have been delayed, and some paths have needed remedial works due to drainage issues. GST are now aiming for a summer opening.

The Annual Parish meeting also took place this evening, starting with some procedural matters, followed by updates from many of the village groups, giving updates on their year, and plans for this year going forward. These included the Preschool, Fledglings, St Mary's Lower School, St Marys Church, CUC, Clophill Community Care and the football club.

Details and reports can be found on the CPC website [www.clophill-pc.gov.uk](http://www.clophill-pc.gov.uk)

## **The Chairman's Fund awards.**

Do you know anyone in the village who should be recognised for their contribution to village life? Could be a volunteer/ good neighbour/ person who embodies the spirit of our community. If so, please email [clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk) with nominations.

## **Are You Our Next Parish Clerk??**

Clophill Parish Council seeks a highly motivated and enthusiastic person to be Clerk to the Council and Responsible Finance Officer. The successful candidate will be paid for approx. 12 hours per week but this may vary depending on meetings and workload.

The role of Clerk is to ensure that the Council conducts its business properly and to provide independent, objective and professional advice and support. They are the key point of contact with all contractors, suppliers, residents of the village and have a vital role in Council meetings.

The successful candidate will need to possess great communication skills and the ability to prioritise their own work with minimal input day to day from the Parish Council. It is expected that the Clerk will maintain accurate records for the Parish Council, attend meetings as determined by the Council to give appropriate guidance to councillors where required.

Please contact Heather Myott for further details at [clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk)



## Planning Applications

**CB/TRE/24/00141** 1 Hawthorne Close

**Proposal:** Works to trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order - MB/94/0003/  
G1: T1 Oak and T2 Ash - reduce overall crowns by 3m. **NO COMMENT**

### ***Decision At Meeting***

**CB/24/00946/VOC** The Boat House, 12 Little Lane

**Proposal:** Variation of condition number 2 of planning appeal ref.

APP/P0240/D/23/3331732 and planning permission ref CB/23/01922/FULL

(To demolish existing outbuilding and replace with new outbuilding for use as garage and storage of maintenance equipment.) Variation sought to amend the approved drawings. **NO COMMENT**

**The next meeting will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024 7:45pm at Clophill Village Hall**



## *Clophill Open Gardens Weekend*

**22<sup>nd</sup> – 23rd June 12 noon – 5pm each day**

This year Open Gardens will be bigger and better than last time. We have had a great response and there will be 12 gardens open, large and small, new and well established.

There will also be a Treasure Hunt for the children.

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

£5 per adult – accompanied children free. There will be parking available.

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

Proceeds will be for St Mary's Church.



## 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.

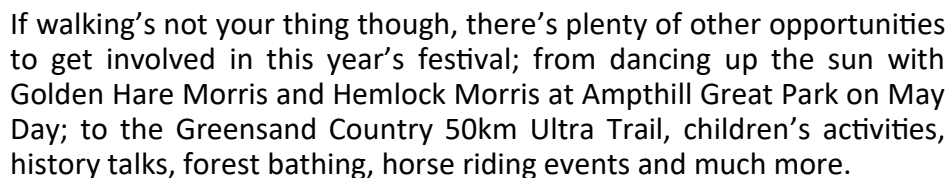


### How Should I Take the First Step?

- Sign up for our weekly email newsletter, which is packed with activities and information. Just email [contact@tibbsdementia.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:contact@tibbsdementia.co.uk) for more information and to arrange an informal chat.



The walks, which have been broken down into three manageable sections (no more than 14 miles each), will take place on Saturdays in May and June and are open to all ages and abilities, who are willing and able to walk the



The Greensand Country Festival's varied events programme will showcase the local landscape, from Leighton Buzzard to Gamlingay, encouraging people to discover more of the area, with its beautiful parks, woodlands, heritage sites, wildlife and attractions.

**Book tickets to Walk the Ridge at:**

<https://www.greensandtrust.org/Event/walk-the-ridge-lead-greensand-ridge-walks>

**Find out more about events taking place throughout the Greensand Country Festival 2024 at:**

[https://www.greensandcountry.com/experience?  
interestedin=greensand-country-festival](https://www.greensandcountry.com/experience?interestedin=greensand-country-festival)



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



## Wildlife walks & talks

### May and June

**Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup>, Strawberry Hill Farm, Knotting Green, Bedford, MK44 1AA at 10.00am**

**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

**Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup>, Flitwick Moor and Folly Wood (TL045354), 10.30am-3.00pm**

**Invertebrate Day 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 (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

**Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup>, the new Hexton site acquired recently by Natural England, at 10.00am**

**Flower walk\* with Holly Bilcock, senior reserves manager for the North**

**Chilterns:** Natural England's new reserve, acquired from the Hexton Estate, bridges (almost) the reserves of Pegsdon Hills and Barton Hills. Join us to see this exciting new local development as work progresses to open the area to visitors. Park and meet in the lay-by by the Lodge. \*£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](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 Beds, Cambs & Northants  
Registered charity number: 1000412  
[www.wildlifebcn.org](http://www.wildlifebcn.org)  
Flit Vale Local Group  
[www.wildlifebcn.org/flit-vale-local-group](http://www.wildlifebcn.org/flit-vale-local-group)

# What's on in and around Clophill



**MAY**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>**

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



**JUNE**

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Saturday/ Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**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 open 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.

2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> 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...**

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

**Fridays... during term time**

\* Clophill Parent & 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 Greensand Community Methodist Church, Clophill...** Weekly Worship at the Church, Sundays at 10:30am.

# 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>		Alistair Strathern	TBA
<b>Central Bedfordshire Councillors</b>		Susan Clinch	0300 300 8516
		Gary Summerfield	0300 300 8561
		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, Nursery &amp; Preschool (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



## Village groups

Beverley Court		860920
Brownies	<a href="mailto:enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk">enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk</a>	
Clophill Community Care	Duty Contact	07791 773705
Clophill Heritage Trust	Ali Bradbury	07894 710001
Clophill Parent and Toddler Group		
	Imogen	07765 887868
Clophill Preschool	Imogen	07765 887868
	Chris	07936 006381
Clophill St Mary's C of E Lower School, Nursery and Preschool		
	Tracy Hayes	860206
Clophill United Charities	Val Martin	07845 731134
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
	<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>	
Scouts and Cubs	<a href="http://www.scouts.org.uk/get-involved">www.scouts.org.uk/get-involved</a>	
Tea and Chat	Anita Errick	860695
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Marylin Browning	07821 643936



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- ◇ 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
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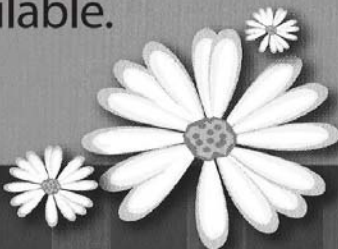
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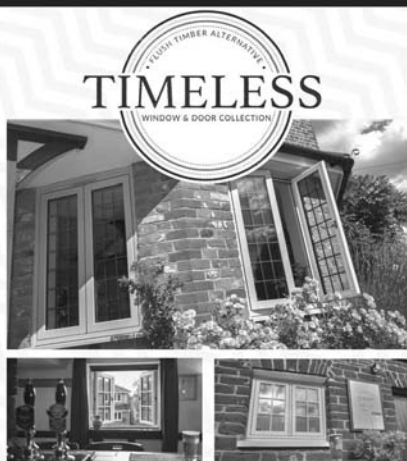


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The logo for 'the café', featuring the text 'the' in a small sans-serif font above 'café' in a larger sans-serif font, with a stylized sunburst icon above the 'é'. The entire logo is enclosed in a white rectangular border.

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# Advertisers index

<b>Auctioneers &amp; valuers</b>		<b>Funeral Services</b>		<b>Print Services</b>	
W&H Peacock	35	AL&G Abbot, Funeral Directors	33	Fidelity Design & print	IFC
<b>Bathroom Services</b>		Neville Funeral Service	36	<b>Public Houses</b>	
Bathroom Vogue	38	<b>Garden</b>		The Stone Jug	20
<b>Builders &amp; Carpenters</b>		Green Thumb Lawn Treatment	37	<b>Repair Services</b>	
Godfrey Building Services	33	JK Garden and Landscape Services	28	Tim Downing Repair Services	37
PURE joinery solutions	26	Newbury Farm Plants	39	<b>Schools</b>	
Stuart Benson Building Projects	IFC	Root 'n Branch	38	Clophill Parent & Toddler Group	40
<b>Car Services/Repairs</b>		<b>Health &amp; Beauty</b>		Clophill PreSchool	BC
A&F Motors Ltd	IFC	Amphill & Flitwick Physiotherapy	19	Clophill St Mary's C of E	31
Mint Alloys	31	Tammy's Talons	26	Acorn Lower School and Nursery	31
TC Coomber Car Services	BC	Tribe Strength Gym	24	Little Saplings Stay and Play Group	21
<b>Chimney Sweep</b>		<b>Home Improvements</b>		<b>Sport</b>	
Poppins Chimney Sweep	IBC	Christopher The Painter	28	Cainhoe Wood Golf Club	43
<b>Choirs</b>		David James Kitchens	23	<b>Security Services</b>	
Greensand Community Choir	29	Roger Storey - Painter & Decorator	41	Maximum Security Systems	39
<b>Cleaning Services</b>		<b>Legal</b>		<b>Travel Services</b>	
Daisy Cooper	26	Photiades Solicitors	34	Select Travel Holidays	32
<b>Computer Services</b>		Shaw's Wills	22	Travel Counsellor	30
The Computer Man	35	<b>Pet &amp; Animal Services</b>		<b>Tuition</b>	
<b>Electrical Services</b>		The Conifers Canine Hotel	38	Avenue17Training	32
APN Electrical	23	The Bluecat Luxury Cattery	29	Wrest Park Tutors	27
<b>Financial Services</b>		Amphill Veterinary Centre	21	<b>Village Hall</b>	
ET Accounting Services	27	Stray Cat Rescue	26	Clophill Village Hall	41
LUNA Financial Planning	34	<b>Plumbing &amp; Drainage Services</b>		<b>Windows/Replacement</b>	
MB Accounting Services	20	Jamie, the happy plumber	29	Andrew Baker Windows	41
The Mortgage Expert	27	Beta Plumbing	37	AW Windows	IBC
<b>Food &amp; Refreshments</b>		Chapman & Kirby Heating	20	Kings Windows	28
Café at W&H Peacock	30			Misty Double Glazing	29
Woburn Country Foods	42				
The Avenue Kitchen	25				

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