

Vol 47 | No.5

FREE

# CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

JUNE 2024



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## A word from the Editor...

Welcome to the June issue of Spotlight

*Dear Reader,*

Well, this year's village fete was a resounding success. I had a wander round in the afternoon and the atmosphere was a real reflection of village life; buzzing with activity. There were a variety of stalls, the choir and the schools, great participation and lots of fund-raising for charities and good causes. In fact, Clophill is such a great village to live in, we even made the BBC local news last month!!



Don't forget we have the Open Gardens coming up this month (see page 14) which promises to be a wonderful weekend with 13 gardens on show to visit and admire. And if you are there, why not pop over to Cora's. She is having a garage sale in aid of the Alzheimer's society (see page 5 for details). Well done Cora.

*Best wishes,  
Elaine*



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

You can also read Spotlight online

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

# Come into the Garden

*With Kate Gardner*



As I'm writing this it's the start of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show and this year there really is something for everyone, from containers and small spaces to wonderful trees and some amazing structural designs. It's a real showcase of inspiration and design, but interestingly there is a big emphasis on sustainability and water conservation.

As we come out of one of the wettest starts to the year our gardens in Clophill are looking lush and green, but due to our free draining soil it can be quite a challenge to keep them looking good when the weather turns hot and sunny. So what ideas can we take from Chelsea that can help our own gardens look good all year round.

Creating healthy soil with lots of organic matter is a key step to saving water. An easy way to do this is to add a mulch to your soil. Mulches are loose coverings or sheets of material placed on the surface of soil and they can help soils to retain moisture, suppress weeds, deter pests and protect plant roots from getting too hot during the summer.

Plants need the most water in hot, dry, and windy weather, which is usually when our water company has the highest demand on water. Plants are most vulnerable to shortages of water when they are first planted when their roots have not yet established into the deeper, moister layers of soil. Newly planted shrubs, trees, herbaceous perennials, seedlings, annuals, and vegetables will all need watering to be managed carefully until their roots establish. Once plants have established, keeping your soil healthy by adding organic matter should help to minimise the need for watering.

A more interesting way of dealing with the extremes of rainfall would be to create a rain garden. Put simply, a rain garden is a shallow area of ground or dip which receives run-off from roofs and other hard surfaces. It is then planted up with plants that can withstand waterlogging for up to 48 hours at a time. More drought-tolerant plants are used towards the edges. When it rains the water fills the depression and then drains away over a few days. Adding a rill or channel of some kind will connect the roof downpipe to the dip or you can include other linking elements such as a water butt, rain chain or water planter into your design.

Our garden and house plants don't need perfectly clean water. As gardeners, we can help to avoid hosepipe bans in the future by using our water resources wisely. Rainwater is also better for your plants as it often has a lower pH. The minerals that are sometimes found in mains water, especially in our hard water area can raise the pH of your root zone, which can affect the nutrient availability. Rainwater is especially good for ericaceous plants such as azaleas, blueberries, and orchids.



If you are looking to add a spot of Chelsea to your own garden the following plants are featuring in many of the gardens and are very suited to our Clophill free draining soils. Key small tree and shrubs include Sambucus nigra (Elder), Cornus sanguinea (Dogwood), Crataegus monogyna (hawthorn) and Betula (silver birch) with quince and apples providing some edibles. Teucrium fruticans 'Azureum' (Tree Germander) could be a good box alternative if you have been experiencing issues with box blight.

Lots of common herbaceous plants feature in many of the gardens but some of the less commonly seen ones that could work well here include Baptisia 'Purple Smoke' (False indigo), Papaver rupifragum (Turkish red poppy) and Verbascum chaixii (nettle leaved mullein). Or how about adding the new Emma Bridgewater English shrub rose which is repeat flowering throughout the summer and suitable for our soil. It's a lovely pink rose with a good fragrance and was a key feature on the David Austin Roses Gold winning display in the Floral Marquee. Just remember that whatever plants you add into your garden, take time preparing the soil and remember to add plenty of compost to both the planting hole and as a mulch around the plant.

*Happy gardening and see you at Clophill Open Gardens*

## **Ampthill Health Walks**

Fortnightly walks in and around Ampthill

### **Short led walks, all welcome**

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.

**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

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

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

I am going to start with sorting (I hope) the ongoing 'discussion' over whether the 'Jacques' of Jacques Lane should be pronounced 'Jacks' or Frenchified latter! Apparently until the 1881 Census, it was 'Jack's Lane', then the spelling - and presumably the pronunciation changed (I wonder who Jack was?).

The picture, right, was on the front cover of the July 1979 **Spotlight**; just look at these muscular gentlemen representing The Rising Sun Tug of War team at the **Village Fete** (the pub was at the top of Jacques Lane, and they lost to The Fly). There is (or was) a metal contraption in the field at the top of the Causeway which was used by Tug of War teams to pull against. A weight was put on a hawser and the other end of which



was pulled by the team – which had the pleasure of watching the weight rise as they pulled. The 'Stone Jug' ladies team won against The Flying Horse. The Fancy Dress competition winners were: age 3-6yrs Matthew Spalding (Robot); 7-11yrs Elizabeth Brooker (English Summer); Pairs, Adrian Puddephat and Jane Moore (Cave Men); Groups Stuart and Lisa Armitage and Nathan Hunt (Rub-a dub-dub). "Mrs Blunt's Dog Show was very successful despite rather small support from the village, although 'Best Clophill Resident' was won by 'Holly' owned by Mrs Hoare; but 'Lucy' a 6 month old mongrel from Bedford won 'Waggiest Tail'.

Other June activities were enjoyed by the Darby and Joan Club which "celebrated their Silver Jubilee with a party at the Village Hall" where, after a "welcoming glass of sherry" and "excellent dinner", entertainment was provided by Bobby Voltaire, who after a "most entertaining interlude of magic, thrilled everyone by catching in his mouth a bullet fired from a revolver" (he also did this at the Fete). Thanks were given to the Girl Guides "who so ably waited at table and later tackled the washing up"!

The **WI** had voted in a new Committee in May, with Mrs Warner becoming President after Mrs Myers' resignation, Vice Presidents were Mrs S. Myers and Mrs V. Sutcliffe, minutes Sec. Mrs O Lisle, Social Sec – Mrs C. Broome, Treasurer (unchanged) Mrs F. Robinson with Mrs A. Armitage, Mrs C. Cranswick, Mrs. J., Fletcher & Mrs D. Litchfield the other members. In June, "47 member and friends went on an evening Coach Tour to Knebworth House". The **recipe of the month** was for 'Beefburger flan'!

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

Mrs Roberts, head teacher, wrote that a class from the **school**, as part of their project on “Life, Works and Times of William Shakespeare” visited Stratford-upon-Avon and included Rachel Naylor’s excellent report about ‘Hall’s Croft’ where Shakespeare’s daughter lived with her husband, Dr. John Hall.

The **Methodist Church** held a “very well supported tea and coffee evening” while for **St. Mary’s Church** “at the kind invitation of Mr & Mrs Northwood, a Garden Party was held in the delightful setting of the Mill House.”

In May, **Clophill & District Flower Club** enjoyed a demonstration entitled ‘The Homely Touch’ from Mrs Roberta Moss from Stevenage while in June, “Mrs Margaret Rance from Watford interpreted seven song titles with, amongst others, white chrysanthemums, carnations, ivy and hosta leaves.

The **new Parish Council** had Melvin Hughes as Chairman and John Greenwood as Vice Chair with other members being co-opted. It was lovely to read under ‘**Recreation Ground**’ – “An appeal for help with the work brought little response from adults, but there was plenty of enthusiasm from 24 younger members of the village”. We thank the following for their help: Anthony Alford, Raymond Alford, Stephen Alford, Mark Ashford, Malcolm Barker, Chris Collins, Lenny Collis, David Croot, Keith Eaton, Gavin Griffith, Raymond Hammer, Alison Hughes, Gareth Hughes, Jonathan Hughes, Peter Jakins, Andrew Myers, Bryan Peat, Kevin Penfold, Neil Speake, Colin Sutcliffe, Dave Taylor, Gregory Tomkins, Matthew Tomkins, Paul Turton.” What great lads.

### Alzheimer’s Research U.K

I am writing to you all to introduce myself in the hope that you will be kind enough to sponsor me.

Each year I fundraise to support a charity in need.

This year I am organising an event for Alzheimer’s Research U.K. to raise money to go towards help for a cure.

**I am holding a Garage Sale at 122A High Street, Clophill, on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 12 noon – 5pm each day.**

Please come and help this worthy charity.

**Thank you so much,**

***Mrs. Cora Sheppard***



**Alzheimer's  
Society**

# St Mary's School News

*from Mrs. Bingley our Headteacher:*

May has finally brought warmer weather as well as continued activity at school. Our transition process for Nursery children going into our main school has continued this month but the transition process for Year 4 children moving onto Middle School has now also begun!



Some of our Year 4s, heading off to Robert Bloomfield in September, attended a Transfer festival there at the beginning of May. We were also visited by the head of Year 5 and some past pupils to talk about life at Robert Bloomfield, so the children feel very prepared about their exciting move. Although Robert Bloomfield is our main feeder Middle School, we have also begun conversations with other schools our children are moving onto as well, this month.

Nearly the whole school (just leaving behind some of our younger Acorn's due to space) visited church to celebrate Pentecost this month too. Everyone sat very proudly wearing their crown of flames and listening to a lovely Reading by some Oak Class children and Prayers by some Rowan Class children.

May also saw the beginning of our end of year trips with Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2) heading off to Shepreth Wildlife Park at the end of May to learn about lots of different animals!

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:*

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Clophill Church Fete, thank you for visiting our legendary 'Hook a Duck' stall, we always love being part of our village community and sharing some fun with you all!



We've been busy exploring the story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', colouring and printing caterpillars, using our interactive Smart Board to draw them, going on a Caterpillar hunt where we found a snail, made our own playdough – developing our maths skills with measuring and counting and then making our own caterpillars – rolling and pinching and developing our little finger muscles!

Our Acorn Adventurers have been enjoying their weekly time on a Friday morning in our amazing Early Years garden where they also make a nature inspired craft – we made bumble bees out of fir cones, wool, ribbon, and pom poms – all fantastic creative fun as well as a learning opportunity about the natural world!

## Jake, our School Dog:

Jake has continued to spend time with the children in their classrooms as well as on the playground.

Unfortunately, he's also been a little bit poorly this month and, as you can see, has had to wear a suit for a few days to help him get better. As I write this, I can report he's getting back to normal as he's started pawing the drawer for treats again.



## Our Values for June are Honesty and Openness:

**In school**, we will discuss the importance of telling the truth, even when we know we've done something wrong and are worried we could get in trouble. We will reinforce the fact that we always respect honesty and thank people for being honest. We will explore a range of stories to emphasise the importance of honesty and openness, discussing the phrase 'living a lie' and explore the effect of a 'tissue of lies' that can lead to greater and greater complications and situations which can be very difficult to sort out. Finally, we will also talk about the importance of saying 'sorry' and meaning it when we are in the wrong.

**At home**, you may like to examine this 'thought for the month' and discuss its meaning:

*"If you tell the truth you don't have to remember anything." Mark Twain*

Everyone in the home could be encouraged to make a special effort to be honest with each other this month; as well as in the future. With honesty being acknowledged in a positive way.

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## ST. MARY'S CHURCH NEWS

The annual Fete and Village event returned to its usual weekend, having been postponed last year because of the Coronation. Once again, the churchyard was filled with the stalls of village organisations, helping both the church's funds and raising their own, but more importantly coming together and meeting old friends and acquaintances.



Church funds were boosted by approaching £2,000, a very welcome addition. Thanks are due to the organisers, the stall holders and all who participated in any way, also to the Good Lord who put on a very sunny day, which everyone enjoyed!

We are now hoping for a repeat of the good weather for the Open Gardens on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> and the Garden party on July 13<sup>th</sup>, we hope to see you there.

The time is rushing on and it won't be long before we say "goodbye" to our Rector, Lynda. Many people ask if we have got a replacement lined up, but the rules of the Church of England state that we can't even start the process until she has left the benefice. We will keep the village informed as and when we have any news.



*St Mary's Church. Clophill*

*Please come to*

# *A Garden Party*

*and Picnic Tea*

## *Sat. 13<sup>th</sup> July*

*from 2.30pm*

*Rock Choir at 4pm*

*Picnic boxes may be ordered*

*Pimms and drinks served*

*Admission by Ticket £10*

*available from Gillian 01525 860539, Gill 01525 861058, Carolyn 01462 815433*

### *Everyone welcome.*

# Claphill Preschool News

## Hello everyone,

We are all enjoying the beautiful weather, the children have been using their field guides to explore all the bugs and butterflies that have been appearing. Our nature garden is looking beautiful and attracting lots of wildlife: we have newts and butterflies, frogs and bees. The children continue to work our allotments weeding and tending plants ready to harvest for our summer allotment shop. Unfortunately, the children came in the other day to find our acorns that we planted a few months ago along with more of our tiny seedlings have been ransacked and eaten! After some sleuthing, we discovered the culprits were some very sneaky squirrels, we now have to put all our plants under tight wraps to keep them safe.



Luckily our stall at the village church fete raised nearly £200 which we are putting towards a greenhouse – that should keep our seedings safe!

Lots of our children joined Katie for our dance show, we had a huge crowd gathered round in the sunshine, it was just wonderful.

Our new Parent and Toddler Group is getting busier and busier. We are lucky to have a lovely team of preschool parents helping, they do a great job of getting it organised every week and booking in visitors. Our first SEND session was a great success: we open from 9-10 once a month to allow SEND parents to bring their children for a quiet hour. We understand that some parents and children need time to acclimatise to a busy environment like a toddler group and so we offer a quiet hour before the main event to play and network with our SEND staff on hand. Of course, all children and families are welcome to our usual 10-11:30 sessions but some just need a little more consideration and care to help them feel safe and included.

We held our first Men@Work session to get dads/grandads in, giving them an opportunity for time in the outdoors, helping out preschool and getting to chat with others, they did a great job with dad's Ben and Chris taking apart our old piano as it finally bit the dust, and Grandad Phil and dad Dean helping fill the new raised beds in the allotment.



# Clophill Preschool News cont.

There has been much activity and many Friday adventures already this term. The Friday bunch trekked across country to the Fledglings camp at the Clophill Centre where they were hosting an animal encounters session that they kindly invited us to. There has also been cookery, painting, science experiments, reading, digging, yoga, dancing, planting, weeding, drawing, model making, sewing, counting, climbing, measuring, creating, exploring; and don't forget the laughing! We are getting ready for Dad's week, Sports Day, transition meetings, the tea party, allotment shop and the graduation picnic and party. Phew, what busy bees we are!

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## Parish Registers for June

### 1824

#### **Baptisms**

- 06 Thomas, s of James and Hannah Maddams.  
Martha, d of Edward and Elizabeth Farmer.  
Rachel, d of Edward and Elizabeth (Blot!).  
2 others too faded.

No marriages or burials recorded.

### 1874

#### **Baptisms**

- 28 Frank, s of John and Sarah Sinfield, f a groom.  
James, s of William and Mary Clark.  
Mary Ann, d of Samuel and Caroline Richardson.  
29 Florence Mary, d of George and Rosanna Wheeler, f a groom.

No marriages or burials recorded.

### 1924

#### **Baptisms**

- 22 ?Henry, s of Walter and Annie Izzard, f a market gardener.  
Irene (?), d of Kate Grummitt.

#### **Marriages**

- (?) Frank Gerald Shap, 28 of Maulden to  
Henrietta Raphael Allen, 25.

Next one too faint.

### 1974

#### **Baptisms**

- 02 Andrew Paul Robinson.  
07 Michael John Gibbs.  
Terrence John Kirk.  
12 Louise Diane Hughes.  
Alison Fay Poad.  
No (legible) marriages or burials

### St. Mary's Registers, May 2024

#### **Funeral followed by Burial.**

- 09 Michael (Mike) John Bainbridge Turner, 86.

#### **Burial of Ashes**

- 19 William Raymond (Ray) James, 90.



## **St Mary's Church, Clophill**

### **Traditional Church Fete and Village Event**

### **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

We would like to thank everyone for the support at the Church Fete and Village Event. We were so lucky with the weather as visitors enjoyed the sunshine all afternoon. They all seemed happy to spend time meeting friends, visiting the stalls and sideshows.

The Churchyard was very busy with lots of gazebos, stalls and games. Inside the Church there were more stalls and our famous refreshments with delicious cakes, scones, and drinks.

We were delighted with the whole event as we had an excellent range of stalls and sideshows from the local organisations. Some stalls were raising money for charities – MND Association, Sue Ryder. The Coconut shy and Croquet were very popular as usual.

The entertainment was provided by the Greensand Community Choir, the cheerleaders from Halo Cheerleaders and again this year there was a dance display by children from Clophill Pre-school. The audience loved watching the young children performing.

Our aim was to create a traditional Fete for the village and to give organisations the opportunity to raise money for themselves and also raise much needed funds for the Church. This year we raised £1,895 for the Church and the local organisations between them raised £2,500. We were delighted with the number of visitors and the friendly community atmosphere.

Thank you all those who contributed with donations of cakes, toys and help.

We would like to hear from you with any ideas and feedback on how we can improve this annual occasion.

**Carolyn Cranswick and The Fundraising Team from St. Mary's Church**

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### **A Letter of Thanks:**

The funeral took place on Thursday 9th May of Mike Turner, who had lived in the village since 1969. It was a beautiful sunny afternoon and St Mary's Church was full of friends, neighbours, and family. We were genuinely moved by everyone's warmth and kind words.

The family would like to thank The Reverend Canon Lynda Klimas and the Church community for helping us celebrate the life of our beloved Mike/Dad/Grandad in as happy and gentle a way possible.

*Kind Regards,*

*Susan Turner and family*



## ***Clophill and District Flower Club***

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

invite you to join them for



# **'Colour and Me'**



A floral demonstration  
by

**Stephanie Laing**

**Thursday 4 July 2024**

Doors open at 6.45  
for prompt start @ 7.30pm

Clophill Village Hall

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

Further information can be found on our website





Spring has finally sprung and isn't it glorious? Being outside all year round really does make you appreciate the change of season and warmer weather that little bit more!

We are having a fantastic time raising our two chicks, Popcorn and Sweetcorn, and watching them grow up so rapidly before our eyes. Our chicks are rescued from a school project as sadly many of the chicks hatched in these hatching experiences are disposed of upon their return to the hatching company's. The chicks are very lively and bring us all so much joy.



As part of our learning, we visited Little Forest childcare and enjoyed taking their two sheep, Florence and Bingo, for a walk around the woods. We took a close look at the rectangular shape of their pupils and determined that they must be a prey animal based on their wide field of vision. We also looked at their poo to confirm that they were herbivores!

To finish off our animal study we had a brilliant afternoon with Clophill Preschool. Their top cohort walked to us for the afternoon and we enjoyed a habitats workshop together. A ranger came in with a variety of animals including tortoises, scorpions, tree frogs and snakes for us to

observe up close, handle and learn more about their habitats. The children had a fantastic time and learnt so much in a fun and memorable way, overcoming nerves and building a real sense of achievement. It also gave some of the preschool children who are moving up to us in September a brilliant additional transition experience, meeting the staff and spending time on the site too.

We are looking forward to more immersive experiences in this second part of our summer term with our Victorian seaside day, sports day and our end of year talent show!





# Clophill Open Gardens Weekend

22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June

13 village gardens open

12 - 6pm each day

Adults £5

accompanied children free

Programmes from The Green, Church or gardens

Free parking at the School

Refreshments at the Church

Children's Treasure Hunt   Lunches and Teas

Plants at the Church

Proceeds to St Mary's Church, Clophill

7.30PM, SATURDAY 22ND JUNE 2024

# MUSICALS MAULDEN

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# Clophill Parish Council



A quiet meeting at the village hall this month, with a short agenda.

The 20mph Zone Petition for the village will be presented to the Traffic Management Committee on the 11th June and Cllr Wright, Cllr Tivers and Cllr Braugh will represent the Council.

The internal Audit was approved, along with the Annual Governance and Financial return for the external auditors.

The council also approved a Grant Aid request from the village hall towards an improved website and online booking system. As well as approving further tree works for Irene's Wood to take place in the Autumn/Winter.

The Clerk has now formally resigned and adverts have been distributed.

## 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

### Decisions Prior to Meeting

**CB/TCA/24/00183** 3 The Compasses, High Street

**Proposal:** Works to a tree within a Conservation Area: Rear Garden - T1 Goat Willow - re pollard.

**NO COMMENT**

**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 fence up to 2.5m. Rear raised terraces & retaining walls. Part retrospective.

**NO COMMENT**

## Planning Applications - continued

### Decisions At Meeting:

**Appeal** – FYI Appellant's name: Mr & Mrs Daniels

Appeal reference: APP/P0240/W/24/3339730

**CB/23/03829/FULL** 12A Back Street

Planning Application was received on 29 November 2023, for erection of a detached chalet bungalow with new detached garage for existing dwelling was submitted on behalf of Mr & Mrs Daniels.

**For Information**

**CB/24/01225/FULL** Beadlow Motors, Top Farm, Beadlow

**Proposal:** Change of Use of land from paddock to vehicle storage (Sui Generis) for a period of 2 years (retrospective).

**OBJECT**

**The next meeting will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024 7:45pm at Clophill Village Hall**

## Tibbs Dementia Foundation

### Is Dementia an Issue for You?

Bedfordshire's Tibbs Dementia Foundation is here to support you. We have been helping local people with dementia and their family carers for over 10 years, to continue to live as well as possible. We would love to meet you and welcome you to our community.



Registered Charity no.  
1166596

Our wide range of regular activities for people at 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.

Our programme for family carers includes information sessions and support groups and also a bereavement group. There is also a special 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 - [tibbsdementia.co.uk](https://tibbsdementia.co.uk)

### 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 our helpers if they prefer.



**Greensands Community**

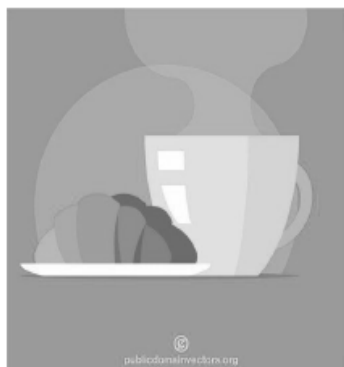
**Methodist Church**

**Clophill Hub**

**Coffee and Croissants**

**Saturday 8th June**

**10am to 12 noon**



**Also to be held on**  
**Saturday 13th July**  
**Saturday 10th August**

**ALL WELCOME**

# CLOPHILL LAKES UPDATE

**Severe wet weather has hindered progress:**



Establishment work at Clophill Lakes Nature Reserve continues. Unfortunately, the exceptionally wet weather during the winter and spring has caused significant delays, with ground conditions too saturated to enable the necessary machinery to complete works. Drier summer weather should allow the newly installed or restored paths, bridges, and access infrastructure works to be completed. But given the nature of the site, it is taking time for the ground conditions to improve to a point where damage can be avoided.

On a positive note, the additional time and a little more sunshine should help any newly laid access surfacing to harden and bind properly despite the wet conditions it has endured to date. We are also having to navigate some issues relating to areas of restored



ground in relation to the foundations for the facilities. With limited resources, we have had to undertake further work to identify alternative, more cost-viable solutions for the visitor facility, which we are now progressing.

Whilst protecting the Reserve, a great deal of work is being undertaken, despite the conditions, to ensure we can safely open to the public as soon as we can, as we are committed to opening once the site is able to both facilitate visitors and protect its wildlife. Please bear with us – we're looking forward to welcoming you to enjoy this wonderful site and we thank you for your patience and support.



## **Clophill Lakes Appeal:**

Our appeal is ongoing and we are thankful for all the donations so far. If you would like to make a donation please visit our website:

[www.greensandtrust.org/appeal/clophill-lakes](http://www.greensandtrust.org/appeal/clophill-lakes)



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



## Wildlife walks & talks

### June and July

**Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup>**

**The new Hexton site acquired recently by Natural England, 10.00am  
Flower walk\* with Holly Bilcock, senior reserves manager  
for the North Chilterns**

Last year Natural England finalised the purchase of 586 acres of the old Hexton Manor Estate. This piece of land directly borders Pegsdon Hills on one side, Ravensburgh bank SSSI on the other, Barton Hills Farm reversion plots which follows onto Barton Hills NNR. The vision is to create a continuous diverse habitat spanning across the local landscape working on the land at Hexton to revert it back to good quality, species diverse habitat in keeping with the local characteristics. Holly will lead us round part of the site and explain what is happening currently and what the plans are for the future. **Only a few places remaining.** \*£4 per adult

**Saturday July 27<sup>th</sup>**

**National Trust car park (LU6 2GY), 10.00am  
Butterfly Walk\* at Whipsnade Downs with Dr Wilf Powell**

Come and join butterfly enthusiast Wilf as we search for some of the lovely species to be found on the Downs. Parking is £3.50 for the day (ticket machines take card or cash payments) although it is free for National Trust members and blue badge holders. \*£4 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

## JUNE

### Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>

**Coffee & Croissants**, Greensand Community Methodist Church, 10am – 12noon. *See poster.*

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

**Open Gardens Weekend**, Clophill gardens, 12noon – 6pm each day. *See poster.*

**Cora's Garage sale** in aid of Alzheimer's Soc. 12noon – 5pm each day.

## JULY

### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>

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

### Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>

**Garden Party**, St. Mary's Church, from 2:30pm. *See poster.*

**Coffee & Croissants**, Greensand Community Methodist Church, 10am – 12noon. *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 ...

\* Little Saplings, Stay and Play 9:30am – 11:00am, Acorn Nursery at St. Mary's School.

### 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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- ◇ 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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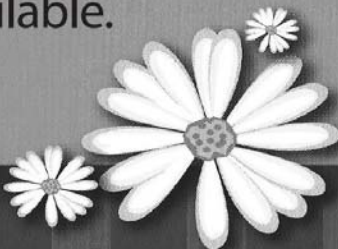
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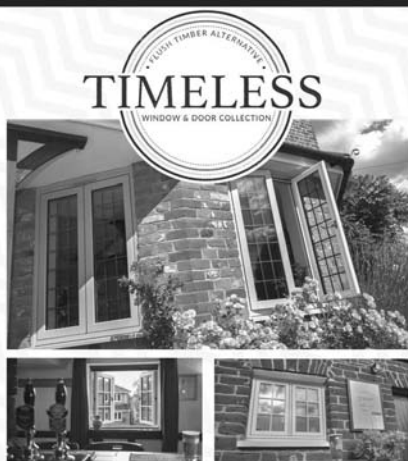


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The logo for 'the café', featuring the text 'the' in a small sans-serif font above 'café' in a larger sans-serif font. A stylized white fan-shaped icon is positioned between the two words. The entire logo is enclosed in a white rectangular border.

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