

CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

JULY 2025

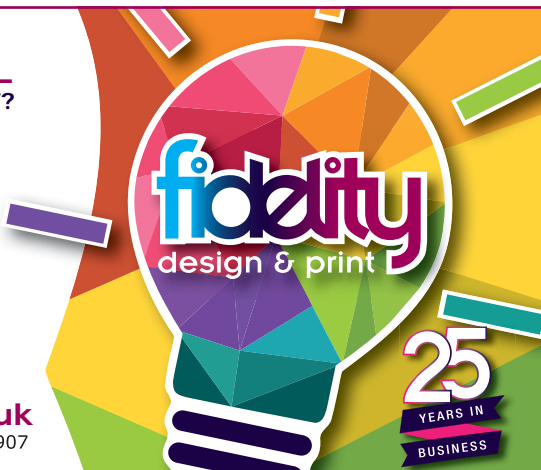


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A word from the Editor...

Welcome to the July issue of Spotlight

Dear Reader,

Last month I mentioned our new Clophill Therapeutic Community Garden. The grand opening is on Saturday 9th August. Everyone has been working really hard to get it ready so do pop along if you can, the poster with more info in is on page 16. And on the same day, our wonderful Cora is holding a Garage sale and tombola; proceeds in aid of Alzheimer's research UK, see page 12 for details. Why not go to both for a grand afternoon out!

Finally, the Clophill Parish Council are urgently seeking a new Parish Clerk; if you think you could be interested, please turn to page 7 for more details.

The Spotlight team takes a break now for the summer. Wishing you and yours a glorious summer wherever you are and whatever you do. See you all again in September!!

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

Come into the Garden

With Kate Gardner

With Spotlight taking a break over the summer, I thought I would leave you with some jobs to help keep our gardens look fantastic even though we have had a very dry start to the year.

Summer brings lots of spires of Delphiniums and Agapanthus, lavender, Clematis, Achillea, Nepeta, late flowering Peonies, Day Lily, Roses, Sweet peas and Honeysuckle and the garden is full of beautiful scents. To keep summer plants and bedding at its best and to prolong flowering, it is essential to dead head. The purpose of dead heading is to encourage more flowers. If the flower heads are left on, then the plant switches to seed production and is then very reluctant to flower again. Dead heading, which is cutting off the spent flower head, forces the plant back into the cycle to produce flowers again. Cut the spent flower off just above a leaf node which is where your new flowers will break from.

For some plants, it can be easier to take the shears to the top growth and very often a second growth and flush of flowers will follow, as with Alchemilla mollis and hardy geraniums. This looks drastic but is a great way of rejuvenating these plants.

Early flowering perennials can begin to look a bit tired by July and their foliage is becoming tatty and brown. If these plants are cut back now, many will produce fresh green growth to liven up the border and sometimes even a second flush of flowers. Good candidates for this treatment are Oriental poppies, Alchemilla, hardy geraniums, & Nepeta. Cut back close to the ground, feed and wait a couple of weeks. It can look a bit bare when you first do this and if you don't like the sight of too much earth, cut back just before you go on holiday. Your plants will really benefit from a liquid feed so add some tomato feed or liquid seaweed to the watering can and give plants a decent drench so that the water gets right on down to the roots.

Now is also a good time to prune early summer-flowering shrubs such as philadelphus, flowering current and weigela after they've blossomed, so they can put on new growth this year that will hold the flowers next summer. As well as cutting back for shape, look for any damaged or dead shoots and cut them out. If your shrubs are getting too big for the space you can remove up to a third of the old woody growth, allowing for new growth to sprout up from the base. The added advantage is that next years flowers will be closer to your eyes, rather than at the end of tall stems.

The early summer months are the perfect time to plant bulbs that will bring colour in autumn; for instance, Autumn crocus, amaryllis and nerine will flower in September and October. The nerines are particularly welcome as they have all the brightness of the early summer blooms with their blasts of pink and white and can make a real difference to the garden as winter draws in.

If you want to make some new plants for free, now is a great time to take soft-wood cuttings. Material is taken from the soft and flexible young shoot tips, which has the highest rooting potential of any stem cutting and often provides the best chance of rooting species that are difficult to propagate. Soft plant material loses moisture rapidly, so care needs to be taken to prevent wilting, placing cuttings in a plastic bag as you take them is a great way of reducing the moisture loss. Penstemon, Pelargonium, Fuschia, Hydrangea, Lavender and Argyranthemum are just some of the plants that work.

And finally, if your grass is looking more drab desert than green oasis it will recover when we get some rain!!

Happy Gardening

Reflections – Clophill in July 1980 - Voices from the past.

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

Well, there's no mistaking what's on the cover of July 1980's Spotlight is there? It's the Sprite 'Six' – Melanie Gibbs, Sarah Eaton, Karen Porter, Charlotte Langdon, Hazel Brooks and Donna Beatty – "with their display of Finnish items" which won them the Ampthill District Brownie Shield 1979. Very well done to them.



Congratulations should also be extended to the organisers of the **Village Fete** – then held up at the Village Hall –(and in May this year you will have enjoyed it in the church and its grounds). It was a much larger affair four decades ago when "Kempston Boys Brigade band set Fête Day in full swing when they led the carnival procession through the village to the playing field. The float carried a large number of competitors entering the **fancy dress competition**." The winners were 3-6 years - Adrian Puddephat – 'Batman', Karen Brown –'Indian' and Charlotte Chapman – 'St. Trinians'; 7-11 years – Donna Beatty – 'Fagged out', Maxine Collis – 'Keep Britain Tidy' and Lucy Chapman – 'Clophill Clanger' with the pairs Phillipa Barratt and Michael Portnall – '8 draws in a row'. The Flying Horse **Tug-O-War** team/s won all three competitions the Charles Rayer Inter-pub trophy, the Rising Sun being the runners-up; the 'Open' with five teams competing and the Ladies where The Stone Jug were runners up. The Dog Show attracted entries from far and wide while the **main raffle** had 21 winners amongst whom Burger – Post Office (Binoculars), Soper – The Causeway (whisky), P Cue – Mendham Way (soft toy) and Norah Best (such a lovely lady) won 2 – a 50p voucher and some Pale ale (she wasn't a drinker!).

Reflections – Clophill in July 1980 - continued ...

The Parish Councillors (always working for the best of the village) and “the Silsoe representatives agreed to transfer Clophill the area including County Garage and the west side of Old Silsoe Road; however they were outvoted by the majority of their parish council at a subsequent meeting, on the grounds that it would be ‘change for change’s sake’ – the ritual incantation of Silsoe councillors when wishing to fly in the face of reason and common sense!” (Wow!)

There are reports from the **Methodist Sunday School** which had celebrated its anniversary in which Claire O’Connor both introduced the service and read the lesson with recitations by Susan Errick, Lisa Armitage, Dawn Chapman, Emma, Rachel and Catherine Naylor, Lorraine Davis, Sarah Panter, Simon O’Connor, Gavin Burger, Matthew Wheeler, Douglas Gooch and Amanda Telford.

The **Playgroup** was ‘under new management’ after the retirement of Julie Wiles and Denny Dorrell, with Linda Collings being the Supervisor, while the **Guides** enjoyed a joint District Camp at Bromham and the **Sea Cadet Unit** raised £315 “at the garden party held at Mr and Mrs Sheppard’s, High Street where more raffle prizes were won amongst which Mrs Dawson and Clara Stimpson both won some chocolates, Rosemary Gudgin some handkerchiefs and Tony Ashton, Choc. Liqueurs. “

The **Brownies** said ‘Goodbye’ to Kate and Lucie Young, wishing them well in their new life in Australia” and also to Colette Whittle and Karen Porter who ‘went up to Guides’. “Mr Rod Newman and friends at ‘The Stone Jug’ kindly organised a sponsored walk in aid of a **colour TV for Beverley Court**” and the **school PTA** raise £200 “from the Mock Auction hoping to purchase a radio/cassette recorder for the school”.

July was going to see a **week of events** which would “commemorate the **consecration of our Parish Church 131 years ago**, these to include an exhibition of old photographs of the village, a lecture by Mary Phillips, a “Social Gathering in the Village Hall” and seven ‘Open Gardens’ – 22, High Street (Mr and Mrs Hawkes), 1 Mendham Way (Mr and Mrs Long), The Mill House (Mrs Northwood), Clophill House (Sir Douglas Howard). The Old Rectory, (Mr and Mrs Henman), Holly Cottage (Mr and Mrs Steven), 134 High Street (Mrs. Izzard), and Cainhoe Manor

St Mary’s School News

from Mrs. Bingley our Headteacher:

June brought more sunshine and heat, as well as the Government directed assessments we need to complete with the children at the end of the year. Our end of year results for all children are looking like we will, once again, maintain standards above both Local and National results.



We will confirm this on our website once we are actually informed of Local and National standards.

June began with every class from Reception to Year 4 visiting the new Clophill Lakes with members from the Greensands Trust. The children absolutely loved these visits, taking part in bug hunts, bird watching, plant exploration to name but a few activities. We look forward to visiting this amazing facility as much as we can.

During June, we also welcomed our new Reception Parents/Carers to a special evening at St. Mary's for them to find more out about the school, to spend some time in our amazing Reception classroom and outside area and speak to staff.

Finally, the end of June saw our much anticipated residential trip to Caythorpe Court for Years 3 and 4. Always a popular trip, the children enjoyed activities both up high as well as ground and water based!

As we move into July and the end of term, our focus will very much be on preparing the children for transition into their new classes or schools. We wish all of our children well as they move onto their Middle Schools, and hope all of our children, staff, parents/carers and wider community have a very lovely Summer. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on September 3rd. 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:

When he's not in class or working with individual children, Jake will find the coolest place to chill out in the hot weather. Not only has he had a summer groom to remove his heavy coat, but he loves to sit in the dark under Mrs. Hayes' desk – it's his favourite cool space to sleep!



Acorn Nursery news

from Mrs. Hayes our Early Years Leader:

We've had so much fun fully exploring our Summer Term theme of 'Come Outside'. We've learnt about animal lifecycles, looked at what farms do, investigated different types of transport (including comparing old methods of travel against present ones) and enjoyed plenty of time outside in our garden with water play, washing cars, exploring textures and creating our own obstacle courses. We are very much looking forward to our end of year visit by Teaching Talons where we will get to see all sorts of unusual animals and their amazing dog who also performs tricks!

We've also been busy preparing our oldest children for starting school in September and we wish them all the very best. We look forward to seeing all our remaining children back in September and to welcoming all of our new children and families, have a fab summer everyone!

Acorn Nursery news continued ...

We have limited space available in our Nursery for September. If you are interested in finding out more, please email nursery@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk

Our Values for July are Faith and Growth

In school, we will learn about others whose faith has helped them to make decisions or change their actions. We will consider why faith is important and how it can help us now and in the future. In particular, for those moving onto new challenges, we will encourage children to have faith in the Values they have learnt at St. Mary's to help them as they move onto their next school and beyond.

At home, you could discuss who or what you have faith in as a family – the complete trust and confidence you have in someone or something. Maybe you have a religious faith as a family and could spend time discussing how this helps you in your daily lives and what you do to show your religious faith too. Books such as, "Everyone a Child Should Know" by Clare Heath-Whyte, also have good examples of people who have changed their actions or taken on challenges because of their religious faith and are lovely stories to share with children.

Clophill Parish Council

The Clophill Parish Council convened at Clophill Village Hall on Tuesday, 24th June 2025.



Key issues discussed included the resignation of the Parish Clerk, prompting an immediate recruitment effort; and ongoing concerns about **village parking**. The Chair addressed a prior Facebook incident, confirming an apology had been issued and accepted.

A major topic was Central Bedfordshire Council's **home-to-school transport** scheme. Cllrs Matlock and Nester declared interests due to personal impact, and the council agreed to submit a formal response.

Concerns about **drainage works at St Mary's Lower School** were raised, citing disruption and poor communication by relevant authorities. The council resolved to write to the Highways Agency.

On **Planning matters**, several applications were reviewed. The council supported proposals at High Street and Warren Lane, objected to plans on Shefford Road, and had no comment on others. The CBC had already refused the Mouse Farm application.

Finance matters included approval of the annual audit (passed with no issues) and monthly payments. A grant application from Bloomin' Well was deferred pending further details.

The council resolved to forward the results of a recent **Rural Housing Needs Survey** to CBC as part of the Neighbourhood Plan evidence base. Updates were also shared regarding insurance claims, the playground project, and the nature reserve's open day on 4th July.

**The next meeting will be held at 7:45pm on Tuesday, 29th July
in the Village Hall.**

Local Part Time Job with Flexible Hours

Parish Clerk (and Responsible Financial Officer)



Clophill Parish Council seeks a highly motivated and enthusiastic person to be Clerk to the Council and Responsible Finance Officer. The successful candidate will have access to training so no previous Clerk experience is required.

The Clerk is the key point of contact with all contractors, suppliers, residents of the village and has a vital role in Council meetings. The role is predominantly administrative, so a good grasp of IT (Word, Excel & Web based applications) is essential as is a basic understanding of bookkeeping.

The Clerk also ensures that the Council conducts its business properly and to provides independent, objective and professional advice and support based on legislation set out in the Local Government Act.

This is a paid for approx. 12 hours per week but this may vary depending on meetings and workload.

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.

Salary is based around a national pay scale based itself on experience and qualification. (Further details on request).

Duties include:

- Acting as advisor to the Council, preparation of meeting agendas and meeting minutes
- Compilation and distribution of correspondence using relevant systems
- Attending meetings
- Responsibility for filing, preparation of budget estimates
- Production of annual accounts of the Parish Council
- Completion of statutory returns as required
- Manage the website using Wordpress or similar CM system.

Experience and Skills Required

- Applicant to hold or consider working towards a Certificate in Local Administration (CiLCA)
- Working knowledge of local government is preferred but can be gained
- Experience of attending Parish Council meetings would be beneficial

Continued on next page >>>

Local Part Time Job with Flexible Hours continued ...

- Use of Office applications including Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Publisher
- Possess a high degree of literacy and numeracy coupled with excellent organisational skills
- CMS and HTML knowledge.

This is a home-based role with meetings at various locations and you will require internet access and your own transport to meetings. It is preferable that you are based in or near Clophill.

Please send a CV with a short covering note and your full contact details in confidence to: **Steve Rodell, Clophill Parish Council.** steve.rodell@clophill-pc.gov.uk.

Clophill Preschool News

Hello everyone,

With the summer finally arriving the children grew a fantastic crop of onions for their annual summer allotment shop. They also planted carrots, cucamelons and more cucumbers - as the slugs had enjoyed our last ones - and are growing kale and wheatgrass to feed the guinea pigs.

Our nature pond and garden look glorious; ox-eye daisies, lupins and foxgloves are all in flower and attracting a vast array of bees and insects. Hopefully the biennial evening primroses come back, we planted them as part of our efforts to increase our biodiversity, and we expect to have newts in the pond again this year.

To teach the children about bee anatomy and pollination for **World Bee Day**, Carol had some of them as bees and some as flowers. The 'bees' buzzed from 'flower' to 'flower' picking up and dropping off pollen (in the form of yellow card circles), pollinating the 'flowers' as they went. Carol said it was a bit chaotic but brilliant fun and learning!



Our Adventurers took a trip to **Old Clophill Church** where we met Rob and Charlotte who were getting married there the next day. We had an art class in the grounds using pastels to sketch the old church, the children then presented one to the happy couple as a wedding gift, they were overjoyed.

Clophill Preschool News continued...



We caught the bus one Friday from The Green to **Clophill Therapeutic Community Gardens** and met Carol and Kate. Thanks to both for sharing their knowledge and letting us sample different teas and for cooking us elderflower fritters. In return, we all helped clear the stones from their mud patch ready for rotavating.

We also went on a history trip to **Amptill Park**, learning about Henry VIII and his 6 wives. The children also surveyed other visitors, developing their communication and data recording and analysis skills as they asked people why they came to the park, what they liked doing and who they had come with.

Back at preschool we made Father's Day gifts and, on our invitation, dads and grandads came in to play, build structures and help in the allotment. We finished June with **Sports Day** where we had a great turn out as usual. Thank you to the parents who supplied cakes and helped on the day.

This year our 27 leavers are going to 17 different schools, all of which we have invited in to meet the children and keyworkers. Interestingly, our largest cohort are moving onto The Fledglings.

While it's been a hugely successful year for us at preschool it has also been a year of change. With Imogen's imminent relocation with her family abroad this summer, we decided to make the progressive move of merging Clophill Preschool with the incredibly successful **Fledglings Outdoor Education** setting based at the Clophill Centre. Having known owners Sophie and Alex for many years and collaborated very effectively for some time, we are all enthused by this development.

Sophie and Alex will be taking over the helm from Imogen and Chris thus providing the opportunity for a seamless transition for our children's education from our Parent and Toddler group, through preschool and on into The Fledglings, from reception to year 4. While Imogen and Chris are stepping aside, they are not leaving completely and will continue to offer support and guidance and we are all excited about what the future holds for the new business.



Clophill's Servicemen of World War II

Remembering the lives of the 6 WWII men listed on our Village Memorial. *By Sue Pearson*

Sydney Levi Matthews was one of the youngest of our men to die. He died only a week after A Harris a hard blow for the village. He was Pte. 5954588 of the 4th Battalion, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment). He was Killed in Action on Thursday 24th April 1941, aged just 21 (he was born 22/1/1920.) He is commemorated on Pembroke Military Cemetery, Malta. Sydney was the son of Ernest, a market Gardener and Florence née Everitt.

From at least 1915 to 1939 the family lived in Back Street and Sydney had worked as a Grocery Shop Assistant.

From June 1940 to November 1942, the fight for the control of the strategically important island of Malta pitted the air and naval forces of Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany against the Allied Forces. This period was known as the siege of Malta.



On the 10th of November 1940, HMS Barham berthed in the grand harbour. Sydney and his Battalion then set foot on the besieged island. The 'Buffs', manned Bofors guns and assisted with work on convoys.

Just previously, the battalion was part of the British Expeditionary Force before being ordered to evacuate from Le Havre and Brest in France. Eventually convoys successfully got through in late 1942 and provided enough supplies to last until 1943 - breaking the siege. With Malta and the Mediterranean secured, the Allies were able to use them as bases to launch landings in North Africa, then Sicily and finally mainland Italy.

As the term comes to a close, we've taken time to reflect on another joyful, enriching, and adventure-filled chapter at The Fledglings. From local learning to historical treasure hunts, the children have had a term bursting with curiosity, creativity, and community.



We kicked off the final stretch of term with our annual Sports Day, and what a turnout it was! The energy and encouragement from families made the event truly special. The children ran, jumped, balanced, and beamed with pride as they showed off their physical skills—and most importantly, their teamwork and determination.

Fledglings continued ...

Our trip to Wrest Park was a standout moment. The children took on the role of mini-architects, exploring the gardens and buildings while spotting clues from different historical periods. From classical statues to Victorian glasshouses, their observations sparked wonderful conversations—and even better designs. Back at The Fledglings, the children sketched and built their own imaginative additions to the estate. It was experiential learning at its finest.

Inspired by Kit Williams' famous *Masquerade*; the book that launched a national treasure hunt in the late 1970s. The children dived into weeks of riddles, puzzles, and historical connections. With a bit of adult support (and a riddle-solving guidebook!), they followed the literary trail that led them to none other than Amptill—and a historical link to Catherine of Aragon.



We retraced her story with a special walk, beginning at Houghton House, winding through Amptill, and stopping for stories and snacks at The Lucky Hare Bookshop. We ended our journey just outside St Catherine's Cross, where the real *Masquerade* treasure was once discovered. There, the children dug up their very own golden hares—an unforgettable end to an extraordinary learning adventure. The experience not only sparked awe and excitement, but also gave the children a deep and lasting understanding of their local history and landscape.

As we wrap up the year, we remain immensely proud of the community we've built—children, families, and staff united in a shared vision of playful, purposeful education. We are especially excited to announce our upcoming merge with Clophill Preschool.

We have been good friends with Imogen and Chris for many years and The Fledglings was born out of the need for children to be able to carry on the outstanding experiences offered to them at preschool and to be able to continue to learn in a child led, experiential and magical way. We feel very fortunate to be able to carry on the baton and support so many families through the education system.

Finally, we'd like to give a heartfelt thank you to Elaine at Spotlight for her tireless work all year in keeping the village connected. Wishing all our families a restful, sunny summer break. We'll be back in September to share the next chapter of our adventures!

Sophie and The Fledglings Team



GARAGE

SALE *& tombola*
at **CORA'S**
122A HIGH STREET, CLOPHILL
On Saturday 9th August 11-5 pm

IN AID OF
ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH UK
Please come and support this worthy charity
THANK YOU *Cora Sheppard*

Introducing Bloomin' Well CIC

Clophill's Therapeutic Community Garden

Bloomin' Well CIC is a not-for-profit organisation based in Clophill, offering a *therapeutic community garden* where people can enjoy the benefits of nature, connect with others, and improve wellbeing through gardening — no experience needed!



We run friendly, inclusive sessions in our beautiful outdoor space:

- **Saturdays 1–3pm** – *Free and open to everyone. A welcoming space for all ages.*
- **Sundays 1–3pm (starting June)** – *Free session for adults only, focused on mental wellbeing and relaxation.*
- **Wednesdays 10am–3pm (starting June)** – *For adults with learning differences and autism. Referral required and fees apply – please email bloominwellcic@gmail.com to request a referral form.*

Please note: Children under 16 must be *accompanied by an adult*.

Grand Opening – Friday 9th August, 12–2pm.

We are excited to invite you to our official **Grand Opening**, where the **Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire** will be joining us to cut the ribbon at **1pm**.

Come along for:

- A free BBQ
- Plant and cake stalls
- Fun garden activities for the whole family

Dogs are welcome as long as they are kept on a lead.

You'll find us in the **first field on the left** up the track beside **9 Shefford Road, Clophill, MK45 4BT**.

Come and meet the team, enjoy the gardens, and celebrate with us — we'd love to see you there!

Bev Hall 07468121504 www.bloominwellcic.com

ST. MARY'S CHURCH NEWS



At last, we have a Rector! The Rev. Steve Marsh was instituted as Rector of the Benefice of Clophill and Maulden at a special service in St. Mary's Maulden on Tuesday June 24th. The church was packed with parishioners from both villages as well as some from his previous parish in Elstow and lots of local clergy. Among the congregation was the Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, representing the King, who is the head of the Church of England. The preacher was a priest from Baliol College, Oxford, which is the patron of our church.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH NEWS continued ...

It was a very formal service following long established liturgy, led by Bishop Richard of Bedford. Formality over, wine and nibbles were enjoyed with the chance for people mix and enjoy the fellowship of our 2 congregations.

Steve's first service in Clophill was on Sunday June 29th. We will also meet him informally at our garden party in the churchyard on July 5th.

On June 22nd the congregation thanked Preb Eric and Mrs Anne Shegog for their sterling efforts during the interregnum. Eric came out of retirement to take on the priestly duties, particularly the sacraments, while Anne shouldered the burdens of church warden, for the last 6 months on her own. We are hugely indebted to them both, and showed our appreciation with gifts and with prosecco and, of course, cake after the service. They have provided a strong foundation for Steve to build his ministry on.

A successful Summer Lunch was held on June 18th which raised more than £400 for church funds. Thanks, as always to our fund-raising team.

We were delighted to welcome Kizzy Stanley to communicant membership after

ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH UK **FOR A CURE**

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enquiries@alzheimersresearch
alzheimersresearchuk.org

19/05/2025

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Dear **Residents of Clophill,**

Thank you so much for your support of Cora Sheppard's fundraising efforts.

Since Cora began to fundraise in aid of Alzheimer's Research UK she has raised an astounding £2,861.76. Which will help us to fund 79.5 hours of vital dementia research.

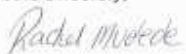
Research has already helped millions of people recover from cancer and heart disease, and through research, we can make the same progress for people with dementia too.

You can find out more about the research that is only possible because of people like you supporting our amazing fundraisers like Cora at www.alzheimersresearchuk.org.

We hope you will continue to stand with us as we strive for a cure.

Thank you again.

Yours sincerely,



Rachel Mudede and the Fundraising Team at Alzheimer's Research UK

Parish Registers for July and August

1825

Baptisms

- Jul 03 Thomas, s of Thomas and Lucy Lawrence.
 24 Thomas, s of Henry and Mary Hall.
 28 James, s of Robert and Elizabeth Low.
 Betsy, d of William and Rhoda Gaylor.
 Aug 10 Henry, s of John and Charlotte Palmer, f a victualler.
 14 John, s of Samuel and Mary Stimson.
 Mary Ann, d of Richard and Sarah Nichils.

Burials

- Jul 03 Ann Chapman.
 07 Ann Butcher, w of John.
 Aug (?) Ann Wittamore, (sic) d of George.

1875

Baptisms (a number of these were illegible)

- Jul 25 Ellen, d of Thomas and Sarah Lincoln.
 Aug 29 Arthur Charles, s of George

and Mary Ann Bottoms.
 George, s of George and Elizabeth Sharp.
 Fanny Sarah Sophia Sharp.
 Emma Jane, d of Mary Hare.
 Ella, d of Sophia Stimson.
 Arthur Thomas, s of Mary Ann Payne.
 Frederick, s of James and Sophia (?).

Burials

- Aug 15 Ann (?)son, 79.

1925

Baptisms

- Jul 19 Herbert Jack, s of Harold and Edith Gibson.

Marriages

- Jun 27 Ernest Oliver Cowell, 25 to Florence Ellen Grummitt, 24.
 (omitted last month in error)

Burials

- Jul 05 Hilda Elizabeth Maxwell, 18.
 11 George Maddams, 84.
 Aug 19 Ellen Durston, 61.

1975

Baptisms

- Aug 24 Graeme Day.

Marriages

St. Mary's Church Registers - June 2025

Confirmation

- Jun 15 Kizzy Stanley

The Lych Gate

The lych gate, which once stood at the entrance to the graveyard, was moved to the new church in the High Street where it can be seen.

Lich is Old English for 'corpse'. It was a requirement in the 1549 Prayer Book that the priest, 'metyng the corpse at the church stile', should here commence the Order for the Burial of the Dead. So the Lych Gate was the place where the bearers could have a welcome rest after carrying the corpse across Town Shott and up Church Path.

BLOOMIN' WELL CIC



GRAND OPENING

9TH AUGUST

12-2PM

RIBBON CUTTING AT 1PM



GARDEN
ACTIVITIES



PLANT
SALE



CAKE SALE
& REFRESHMENTS



AND
MORE!

FIRST FIELD ON THE LEFT UP THE TRACK
BY 9 SHEFFORD ROAD, CLOPHILL



BIGGLESWADE
TOWN COUNCIL



Gardening with
Disabilities Trust
ADAPTING GARDENS, CHANGING LIVES, DEFYING DISABILITY



Free BBQ
Days welcome on leads



The Flower Club

COMMUNITY
FUND



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



Wildlife walks & talks

July and August

**Saturday July 5th; Strawberry Hill Farm, near Knotting Green, Bedford
(MK44 1AA) 10.00 am**

Visit to Strawberry Hill Farm lead by Wildlife Trust BCN

staff Two months on from our previous visit, we are hoping to hear a different soundscape of birds at this remarkable 150-hectare site, The largest area of scrub and young woodland in the region. A unique habitat and a place which can really inspire people's wonder of nature. We are hoping to see and hear Nightingales and a host of other bird species as well as invertebrates and a selection of flora.

Charge: £4.00 per person

Saturday, Aug 2nd, Jack Crawley Barn, Flitton Moor, (TL057360) 11.0 am

Dragonfly and Damselfly Walk lead by John Curd

A walk round this lovely reserve with John, a local odonata expert and enthusiast. We will be searching for the various dragonflies and damselflies that are regularly found here. We will also keep an eye open for any other flora and fauna.

Charge: £4.00 per person

Booking for outdoor Flit Vale events is essential, as places are limited.

Please contact Ann by email: flitvale.info@gmail.com or

Phone (leave a message or text if you prefer) 075801 78889 to reserve your place.

The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs & Northants

Registered charity number: 1000412

www.wildlifebcn.org

Flit Vale Local Group

www.wildlifebcn.org/flit-vale-local-group

What's on in and around Clophill



JULY

Saturday 5th

Garden Party and picnic tea, St. Mary's Church, 2pm – 4:30pm.



AUGUST

Saturday 9th

Garage Sale and Tombola (in aid of Alzheimer's Research UK.), at Cora's, 11am – 5pm. *See poster.*

Grand Opening, Clophill Community Gardens, 12 noon – 2pm. *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.

Wednesdays...

* Tea and Chat, Greensand Community Methodist Church, 10:30am – 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 9:30am – 11:30am, Village Hall.

Saturdays (all) and Sundays (adults only) ...

* Community Garden, off Shefford Road, (up track by No 9), 1pm – 3pm.



CHURCH SERVICES

Regular services at St Mary's Church, Clophill...

1st Sunday 11am, Parish Praise

Other Sundays 11 am, Parish Communion

Services at GC Methodist Church, Clophill. See noticeboard outside church for dates and times.

1st Sunday United Service 10.30am held at different hubs

2nd Sunday 10.30am Local Preacher

3rd Sunday 9.30am Communion Rev. Wood

4th Sunday 11:00am Rev. Wood

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	PC Clerk. Lynne Killeen clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk		07888 685886
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		Non Emergency	101
County Police HQ			01234 841212
Amphill Station			101
CHURCHES			
St Mary's Parish Church			TBA
(Rector) Steve Marsh			
(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,		01525 571392
	Mr John Errick		01525 860695
Baptist Churches		(Maulden) Ian Crawford	01525 634325
		(Shefford) Hazel Arnold	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 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
Community Garden	Bev Hall (Bloomin Well)	07468 121508
	www.bloominwellcic.com	
Conservation Group	Brian Adams	862297
Flower Club	Gillian Hill	860539
Funzone After School Club		07903 167493
Greensand Community Choir	Luke	07975 520085
Indoor Carpet Bowls	Tony Meredith	860754
Messy Church	Victoria Higgins	07920 568861
	victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk	
Friends of St Mary's (FOSM)	Johnathan Matlock and Anna Neuff	
	fosmclophill@gmail.com	
Scouts and Cubs	www.scouts.org.uk/get-involved	
Tea and Chat	Anita Errick	860695
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Marylin Browning	07821 643936



Lockup and Pound

On the edge of The Green is the Lockup and Pound. "The Cage, standing in the grounds of the Flying Horse, was rebuilt in 1857 at the cost of £4 by order of Captain Moore, a magistrate, who lived at Maulden Cottage" (Mary Phillips - The Clophill Story)

Criminals would be held in the lockup until charged and fined or transferred to the prison in Bedford. Stray animals were put in the pound where their owners had to pay a fine to get them back. There is a record in the 1814 Quarter Sessions Rolls of a "breach of the peace in the said parish of Clophill; for that the said James Odell did, with force and violence, break open the pound there, where his ass was impounded for trespass. Sentence: 10 Days in the gaol and fined one shilling".

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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
- ◇ 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.
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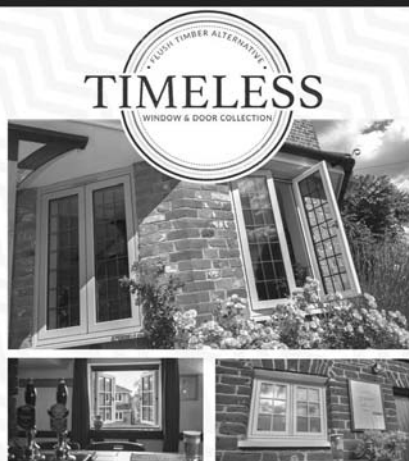
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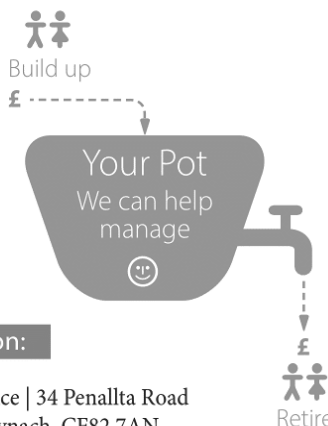
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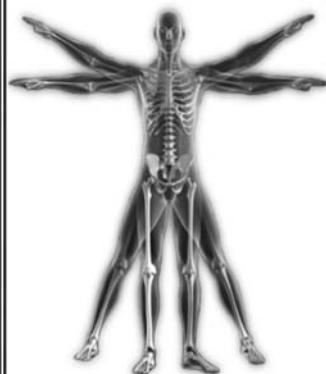
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