

Vol 48 | No.8

FREE

CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

OCTOBER 2025

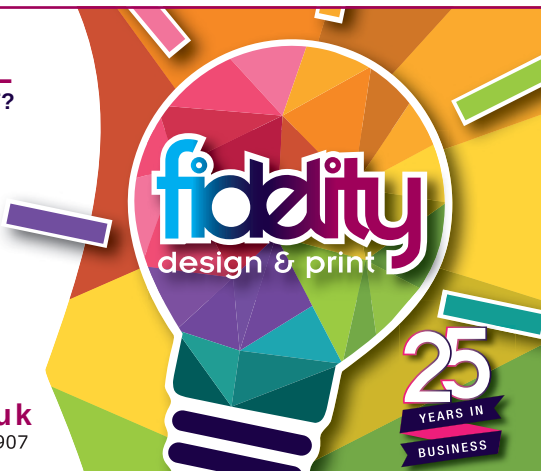
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A word from the Editor...

Welcome to the October issue of Spotlight

Dear Reader,

This month we have an update from the Parish Council about the appeal to fund the repairs to the damage caused at The Lakes. The fund raising is over half way towards the target. Do keep spreading the word about the appeal, and let's hope the Greensand Trust can reach the target needed by the end of the year!

The Winter Warmer lunches are restarting in a few weeks' time on Thursday 23rd Oct. at St. Mary's church; and this month is the penultimate article from Sue about the Clophill's servicemen who died serving our country in WWII.

And finally, well done to Bev and her team at the Clophill Therapeutic Gardens for winning 1st prize (joint) in the Maulden Scarecrow Festival and receiving a Highly Commended award from the CPRE Countryside Awards. See you all again in November!!

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

October's crisp autumnal days bring changing colours, shorter days and the occasional frost but there's plenty more to be getting on with out in the garden.

If you have a green house, mini greenhouse or cold frame now is the perfect time to sow seeds undercover to give you a whole range of early flowers for next year. Hollyhocks, sweetpeas, aquilegia and Icelandic poppies are good choices to try. For something that can take a little longer try sowing Hellebore seeds but be patient because germination can be a bit slow.

It's not just flowering plants that you can sow now either. 'Winter Gem' lettuce, Mizuna, Mibuna and winter salad leaves can be sown from September to January in an unheated greenhouse or cold frame. Pick the leaves as you need them to add to winter salads.

Herbs such as basil, dill, chives and parsley can be sown now and grown on your windowsill throughout the winter to give lots of lovely fresh herbs to add to your recipes.

If you have an area of the garden where you can direct sow hardy annuals such as cornflowers, Cerinthe and larkspur you will have early flowers to attract bees and butterflies next year. Now is also the perfect time to be planting out daffodil bulbs, tulip bulbs and allium bulbs for a glorious spring display. Dot them through borders or naturalise them in grass but watch out for the squirrels if you are planting into pots.

If you have been growing perennial or biennials such as foxgloves from seed, now is also the best time to plant them out into your borders, along with spring bedding such as wallflowers, bellis, primulas and winter pansies. The garden centres have a fantastic range of plants that can be planted now to give colour and structure right through the autumn and into spring. If you are looking at adding some plants into the garden then consider adding plants that will self-seed and give you plants for free. Aquilegias, eryngium (sea holly), Verbena bonariensis, Gladiolus communis subsp. 'Byzantinus', Lychnis coronaria, and Erigeron karvinskianus will all work in sunny spots. Where you have shade consider adding in Cyclamen hederifolium which will give a splash of pink and white during the autumn months.

Ponds are a lovely addition to any garden and can provide a rich habitat for a range of wildlife. However, without care ponds can soon become an eyesore with overgrown plants, weeds and water that is unhealthy for fish and other wildlife. Occasional cleaning and regular maintenance are required and as we move into autumn it's a good time to place nets over small ponds to prevent autumn leaves falling in.

If you didn't get around to tidy up the pond last month, then clear out any debris, weeds and excess oxygenating plants now. Remember to leave the plants on the side of the pond for 24 hours before composting them, so that any wildlife has time to escape back to the pond. Remove pumps or fountains and removable lighting systems, clean them, and store over winter in a safe place.

October is really the last chance to trim deciduous hedges to keep them looking tidy over the winter. Your climbing roses may still have some occasional flowers but now is the time to prune these to ensure a good show for next year. Shrubs normally pruned hard in the spring such as Buddleja davidii, Cornus alba, and Lavatera, should be cut back by half now, to prevent wind rock and to neaten their appearance over the winter months.

Happy Gardening

Reflections - Clophill in October 1980 - Voices from the past.

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

The cover photo of Clophill House on October 1980's Spotlight looks nigh on the same as it does today except for the foliage climbing up the walls then. Inside the cover, the content of the magazine is nigh on the same as then as well – except for the difference in the number of village groups and fewer reports from those few which remain.

I'll list the contributors and articles as they appear: Editorial; Cover, Quote for the month, St. Mary's School; P.T.A.; Women's Institute; Obituary for Betty Harris (wonderful lady and one-time dinner lady at the school); Beverley Court; Clophill Guides; 1st Clophill Brownies; Parish Council; Clophill Birthdays; St. Mary's Parish Church; there is an article on 'Collect Waste - Collect Money and another from Clophill & District Flower Club. Then there was 'Pub Scene' – which kept us up to date with the Darts and Tug-of-War teams from The Compasses, The Green Man, The Flying Horse, The Rising Sun, the Stone Jug and the Commander in Chief. There were interesting articles on The Morris, Clophill Netball Club and St. Mary's School Football Club. A different article on Mnemonics, an interesting piece on the population of Clophill from 1801- 1971 from the National Census records and a note on events that happened in October over the centuries.

There was an easy recipe for blackberry and elderberry jam along with a recipe for Sloe wine as well as an article on the removal of grass stains and another on Home safety.



Reflections – Clophill in October 1980 - continued ...

There was a 'letters to the editor' slot and it ended with 'Clophill diary' and a couple of 'for sales' – an upright piano for £75 and 4 patterned hot Plate covers - £8 the set! So very different from today's clubs and magazine eh?

However, having informed you of what the titles are – we'll now see what some of them had to say, starting with the **school** where "a team of four children, Philip Wynn, Alan Panter, Lara Gibbs and Martin Dorrell with Michael Coupe as reserve" competed against other local schools in the Clifton Hundreds Festival quiz, and won themselves into the final where they were beaten by just a few points by Shefford Lower.

The WI enjoyed a couple of interesting meetings – a flower arranging demonstration and a light-hearted talk by Mr G Brown on his work as a Health Inspector where 'Limerick on Health' competition winners were Mrs A Armitage, Mrs Drake and Mrs Day. **Beverley Court residents** and members of the **Tuesday Club** enjoyed a 'delicious tea and a few hands of cards at the home of Mrs Betty Hampson' in July and a salad tea and Garden Party in August. "

The **Parish Council** has received a copy of the County Structure Plan which now has statutory authority. It can affect the assessment of planning applications.

The Village Hall committee has turned down the offer of a loan from the Parish Council to build more storage space because of the high interest rates.

The Parish Council is legally bound to charge bank rate and cannot offer less." The Bishop of Bedford conducted the **service of Baptism, Confirmation** and Holy Communion on the day of our Patronal Festival. Those confirmed from Clophill were, Susan Bunting, Ian Boustead, Peter Dorrell, Caroline Martin, Andrew Jones, Donna Beatty, Hazel Brooks, Sarah Gibbs, Katie Boustead, Charlotte Langdon and Jennifer Hepburn.

Members of the **Flower Club** enjoyed a visit to Frosts Garden Centre in August and its Annual Show in September – "a superb spectacle of floral imagery."

The **Pub Darts teams** – The Compasses – League Champions, Green Man – promoted to Div. 1, Flying Horse, promoted to Div 2, Rising Sun – relegated to Div 2 and Commander in Chief – relegated to Div 3 – but won 'the Wooden Spoon'!

The **Netball teams** were busy and also now had their own trophy, the first recipient being Susan Turner.

Clophill's population in 1801 was 706 from 142 households and in 1971 – 1545 from 500 households. Now some 50 years on – 2021 – there was a population of 1,900 from 750 households. I wonder what it is now, just four more years on?



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



Wildlife walks & talks

Saturday October 25th

Nene Wetlands visitor centre (NN10 6FH), at 10.00 am

Walk around the beaver enclosure at Nene Wetlands

with leader Lara Jones, SPA Engagement Officer

Take a walk around the beaver enclosure at the Nene Wetlands with Lara and find out what our furry friends have been up to since their arrival in February. In this daytime walk, we will spend some time looking at their habitat, learning about their management and hopefully spot some signs of their work. Beavers are nocturnal creatures, so we are unlikely to spot them on this walk, but we will spend some time at the Nene Wetlands Visitor centre where we can watch plenty of trail camera footage of their antics on the screens.

£4.00 per person

(free parking is available at Rushden Lakes for 5 hours maximum)

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

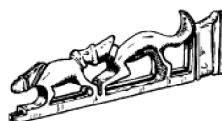
Please contact Ann by email: flitvale.info@gmail.com or

Phone (leave a message or text if you prefer) 07580 178-889 to reserve your place.

Ampthill and District Archaeological and Local History Society

Monday, November 3rd

Millbrook Proving Ground



adalhs.org.uk

From personal knowledge and Vauxhall material, Davis will give a presentation about the construction, use and development of Millbrook Proving Ground and the history of Vauxhall Bedford Vehicle Testing.

Speaker - Davis Blair

Flitwick Library Lecture Theatre, MK45 1QJ, 7.30 for a 7.45 pm start. Members are free, visitors are very welcome £5.00, payable at the door. Tea and coffee will follow.

The talk will also be broadcast live via Zoom to Society members.

Clophill Parish Council



There was a well-attended meeting at the Village Hall on September 16th, the final one for the year before we move to the Methodist Church for the winter months.

The Chairman, Steve Rodell welcomed the new Clerk, Cerri Begley to the meeting. He also placed on record **extensive thanks to the outgoing Village Hall Committee** for all their hard work over the past 22 years.

- We continue to pursue the **20mph village speed limit** despite apparent lack of CBC interest and action.
- **Goodwood Close** traffic is likely to be disrupted in the coming months as CBC attends flood repairs.
- **CBC home to school transport policy** has now been adopted. The PC will apply with Ward Cllr support for Clophill to be exempt and have special arrangements.
- The owners at Top Farm have committed to **remove several recycling skips** left by a former tenant who left them in situ.
- **Tree Growth** - Anyone with trees overhanging their property is entitled to trim the overhang (and offer wood to owner). Other works (e.g. pollarding to reduce height) - is the tree owners' responsibility. They may not realise there is a problem, so we encourage neighbourly liaison and community spirit in dealing with such matters. If agreement cannot be reached and trees have become a 'nuisance,' further actions can be taken.
- **Neighbourhood Plan** – updated and revised draft is in circulation with Councillors – public consultation to follow.
- **Recreation Ground** – contractor to be appointed for repairs to play equipment and gate to be implemented.
- **The Clophill nature reserve update:** £58k of the £100k target has been raised to repair the arson damage mainly thanks to a single benefactor.
- **Christmas Lights Switch-On** - This starts at 3pm on Sunday 30th November on the Green by the High Street. A road closure is to be sought. We look forward to seeing you there.
- **Equestrian Signs** - Central Bedfordshire Council have agreed to erect 4 new horse and rider signs around the village. Thank you to Cllr Hutton for pursuing this for us.
- **Remembrance Poppies** - We will be inviting residents to 'sponsor a poppy' to raise funds for The Royal British Legion. If you would like to sponsor a poppy please get in touch with us at clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk.

Planning Applications:

CB/25/02640/FULL - Land adjacent to 7 Back Street

Proposal: Erection of a self-build, split level dwelling and associated works.

OBJECT

CB/25/02453/FULL - 11-13 Little Lane

Proposal: Erection of single storey side porch and utility room extension, single storey side/rear extension and construction of annexe outbuilding to far of rear garden.

NO COMMENT

The next meeting will be held at 7:45pm on Tuesday, 21st October in the Methodist Church.

St Mary's School News

from Mrs. Bingley our Headteacher:

It's been another busy start to the new Academic Year at St. Mary's – welcoming a large number of families to our Chestnut Reception and Acorn Nursery classes as well as others into classes across the rest of the school!



Our new cohort of Forest-schoolers have begun their year in Irene's wood and our Year 4 class have started their final 12-week block of swimming lessons at Happy Tiddlers in Barton!

September has seen us doing our annual rota of charity work – raising money for Jeans for Genes Day with a non-uniform day on 19th September. We also held our annual Harvest Service in Church on 23rd September – collecting dried and tinned goods for Clophill Food Bank and the Need project.

We're already thinking about next year and have started tours of the school for anyone looking for a school place for September 2026! Check out our flyer on our website here for more information: www.clophillstmarysschool.co.uk.

We have, once again, lots planned for this year, which I look forward to sharing with you over the coming months. In the meantime, you can find more information about the school by visiting our website: www.clophillstmarysschool.co.uk and we regularly post pictures of our events on our Facebook page:

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

Jake the School Dog:

We're now into cuddly blanket season – which Jake is loving (as you can see from the picture!). Jake is enjoying being back at school and spending time with the children – both within classrooms and on a 1-1 basis.



St Mary's School News. Cont ...

from Mrs. Hayes our Early Years Leader:

email nursery@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk

It's been lovely welcoming back existing as well as new children and families to our Nursery. Our older children have been living their values of friendship and love by helping the younger and new children settle in which is delightful to see in practice. We enhance our provision by looking at a story each week and a popular one so far has been 'The Smartest Giant in Town' - supporting our children learning about being kind to others.

We are also pleased to welcome Miss Piper back from Maternity leave to our Nursery team.

We have spaces available in our Nursery starting January 2026, if you (or anyone you know) are interested in finding out more, please email nursery@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk.

Our Value for October is Trust (and Loyalty):

In school, we will consider how Trust is a belief in the honesty, reliability and strength of another, relying on someone or something without question or evidence. We will also be thinking about what it means to trust someone and how it feels to be trusted. We will learn the importance of being reliable, loyal and honest people in order for someone to trust us.

At home, you could consider who you trust as a family and also who trusts you.

You might like to recall times when you've needed to trust someone else or when someone has put their trust in you. How did it feel to trust someone or for someone to put their trust in you?

Greensand Community Methodist Church Clophill Hub

Coffee and Croissants

Saturday 8th November

10am to 12 noon

Also to be held on

Saturday 13th December
(Christmas event)

ALL WELCOME





Clophill and District Flower Club

www.clophillflowerclub.com



invite you to join us for

'Car Boot Collection'



*A floral demonstration
by*

Lynne Sharpe

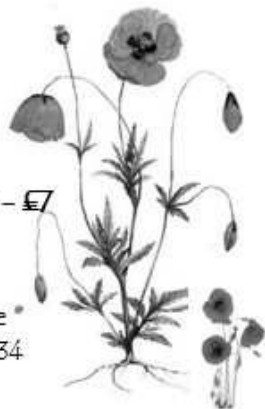
Thursday 6 November 2025

6.45 for 7.30pm start
Clophill Village Hall

Visitors always welcome at all our meetings – £7



For further details see our website *
or contact Gillian on 07960 662334





St Mary's Church, Clophill



Winter Warmer Soup lunches



Every Thursday 12 noon – 2pm

Starting 23rd October

If you are feeling cold.

If you are feeling you want some company.

If you would enjoy a bowl of homemade soup and some bread in warm surroundings, you would be very welcome to come to St Mary's Church where there will be a warm welcome and hospitality.

A small donation would be appreciated but not essential.

Everyone will be welcome



St Mary's Church, Clophill

Christmas Tree Festival

6th and 7th December 2025



We are holding a Community Christmas Tree Festival in St Mary's Church on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th December.

We invite all Clophill organisations and individuals to exhibit a decorated tree. It can be either natural or artificial, traditional or alternative, with a theme or title or just a colourful decorated tree. Handmade decorations always create interest. The trees can be floor standing or placed on a windowsill or table. The lights need to be battery operated for safety and due to lack of power points in the building. We would love to fill the church with colour, lights and interest. This will begin our Christmas celebrations. During the weekend there will be seasonal refreshments and music.

**For more details and to register your interest, please contact Carolyn Cranswick
07923876634 or carolyncranswick@hotmail.co.uk**

Clophill's Agricultural Therapeutic Gardens



We had a fantastic time taking part in the **Malden Scarecrow Festival**, where Bloomin' Well entered with *Jim and Patch the Dog*. To our delight, we came **joint first place!** It was wonderful to see so many creative entries and to share a bit of Bloomin' Well fun with the local community.

We're also incredibly proud to have received a **Highly Commended Award** from the **CPRE Countryside Awards**. Along with this honour, we were presented with a **plaque and certificate**, which now take pride of place at our site – a lasting reminder of the passion and hard work that goes into everything we do at Bloomin' Well.

Bloomin' Well is always open to new volunteers!

You can join us on:

- **Wednesdays: 10am – 3pm** – open for volunteering and referrals for adults who are neurodiverse, have learning disabilities, or are living with head injuries (fees apply).
- **Sundays: 10am – 12pm** (families welcome) and **1pm – 3pm** (adults only).
- If you'd like to get involved or have any questions, contact Bev on **07468 121504** or email bloominwellcic@gmail.com.

We're also excited to announce the launch of our **new website**:

www.bloominwellcic.co.uk 

Here you can find more information about what we do and even make referrals directly online.



Clophill's Servicemen of World War II

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

Thomas William Harris

Pte. 5831787. 2nd Battalion Cambridgeshire Regiment. Commemorated on Singapore Memorial.

Thomas was the son of Ernest and Mary Harris; he was born in April 1915. In 1921 he lived with his parents, grandfather and 3 siblings in a 4-room house on what was known as Church Lane, (possibly Church Path?), Clophill. His father was a self-employed market gardener working in Church Path. Thomas was the husband of Annie Cole of Maulden. He and Annie had married 1934. They had 4 children. In 1939 they lived in Clophill Road Maulden and he was a general labourer - brickworks. Annie subsequently married Edward Kirby.

He died on Saturday 14 February 1942, aged 26, in Malaya; he was initially listed as missing but later presumed killed in action.

He was one of 743 Allies to die that day in Malaya. The battalion was sent to Singapore in early 1942 and reinforced the 15th Indian Brigade at Batu Pahat.



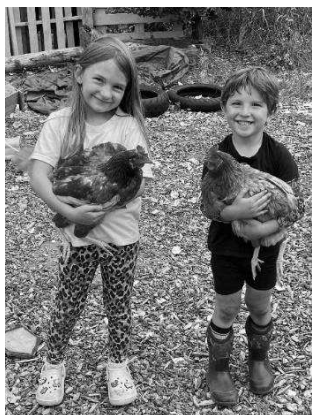
The brigade held the town for ten days against attack by the Japanese Army; some 500 troops from the battalion fought their way back to Singapore and were attacked on all sides at Braddell Road in Singapore before being also ordered to surrender.

The fall of Singapore, also known as the Battle of Singapore, took place in the South-East Asian theatre of the Pacific War. The Japanese Empire captured the British stronghold of Singapore, with fighting lasting from the 8th to 15th February 1942. Singapore was the foremost British military base and economic port in South-East Asia and had been of great importance to British interwar defence strategy.

The capture of Singapore resulted in the largest British surrender in its history.

Thomas was one of the oldest Clophill men to die. He died 3 months after Ernest Albert George Lincoln.

We've had such a busy and exciting start to the new academic year at The Fledglings! Over the holidays we gave our main outdoor base a big refresh, creating new spaces for the children to learn, play and grow. We added extra warm indoor spaces in preparation for the colder weather ahead and it has been wonderful to see the children making the spaces their own.



September has brought lots of new faces – including our four rather lovely hens! We're so pleased with how well everyone has settled in. Many of our new starters have joined us from Clophill Preschool, which has been fantastic for friendships and continuity. The hens have been a big hit too – the children have taken charge of collecting and selling their eggs every Friday, and they are already starting to build up a little fortune!

Our youngest children have been off on their very first big adventure, walking all the way to the Methodist Church with Silas to deliver our Harvest Festival donations. They did so well, walking the whole 1.5km round trip, carrying their backpacks

and donations. We all absolutely loved joining in with the Preschool Adventurers, especially when it came to the singing.

The children have really been making the most of our new outdoor spaces too. From hunting for autumn treasures and getting creative with mark-making, to cooking up tasty treats, they've been throwing themselves into everything with such enthusiasm.

We are also celebrating something very special this term – the amazing diversity within our community. We now have children from 23 different countries, and what a wonderfully rich and vibrant setting that makes us!

We're really excited about the future now we have merged with Clophill Preschool. It's such a positive step, and it means we can offer even more unique outdoor learning experiences in our bespoke programme for children aged 2–11.

And of course, we've got plenty of fun coming up this term – from our Halloween trail to the much-loved Magical Woodland Walk (this year with a festive Christmas market twist!) and our community nativity. We can't wait to share these magical events with you all.



Clophill Lakes Nature Reserve

Brilliant Bats

Bats are brilliant! Come along to Clophill Lakes to learn about these creatures of the night. There's really no need to be afraid bats, come and find out why. Follow our self-led trail to discover some amazing bat facts and complete our quiz.



Thursday 30 October from 11am to 3pm

- Meet at our information stall at the Visitor Centre and pick up some bat activity sheets in the café
- Free to take part, no booking required - donations most welcome (parking charges apply)

The Working Woodlands Centre in Maulden Wood

Owl Detectives

Become an owl detective and see what you can find out from dissecting an owl pellet. Our education team will be on hand to help you identify the bones you find and provide information about these nocturnal hunters and the creatures that they eat.

Event **suitable for children over 8 years old only** due to fine tools and small bones.

Tuesday 28 October from 10.30 to 12 noon

This will take place inside the Working Woodlands Centre at the entrance to Maulden Wood.

- Please book a ticket £3 for each child taking part via the QR code



Sandy Smith Nature Reserve, Beadlow

Hedgelaying Weekend Workshop

Join Bedfordshire hedge laying expert Paul Blissett for this 2-day course learning the traditional art of hedge laying, acquiring the techniques used to lay a section of hedgerow at our Sandy Smith Nature Reserve near Clophill. This training session is aimed at anyone with an interest in their local environment and conservation.

Saturday and Sunday 8th-9th November with a back-up date of 15th-16th if the weather is exceptionally poor.

Course cost: £200 for the 2-days of tuition, book via the QR code



Clophill Preschool

This autumn marks an exciting new chapter for our preschool, as ownership has officially changed hands! Alex and I (Sophie) are thrilled to be taking over the setting that has been such an important part of our lives for the past eight years. With two of our children already having journeyed through Clophill Preschool, one still attending, and our

newest little one waiting to begin, we feel deeply invested in continuing the wonderful work that has been created here.

Thank you to Chris and Imogen for all they have done over the past 12 years. Their dedication, creativity, and passion have created a truly special environment for children and families alike. We are eternally grateful for the trust they have shown in passing the preschool on to us, and we are committed to ensuring that the spark, joy, and love of learning continues to shine through in their absence.

Our new starters have been settling in beautifully, learning new routines and getting to know one another.

This half-term the children have enjoyed exploring literacy in fun, hands-on ways. One of the highlights was a letter hunt in the flour tray, where children searched for letters, and if they found the sound that matched the first letter of their name, they were able to take it home. This sparked so much excitement and pride in recognising and owning “their” special letter.



Storytelling has been a big focus too. During story-making sessions, staff described imaginative tales, and the children had to guess what the story was. This encouraged listening, creativity, and plenty of giggles as children connected ideas and built their own versions of favourite stories.

We’ve also made the most of the changing autumn weather. On a particularly windy day, the children made their own kites, experimented with how to fly them, and worked out the best direction to run depending on the wind. It was a wonderful opportunity to combine science, problem-solving, and play. We also used the windy day to practise our number recognition through hopscotch. Jumping, hopping, and counting at the same time made for an energetic and memorable way to bring numbers to life whilst working on our gross motor skills too.

The Adventurers group had their first Friday in the woods, where they enjoyed making conker soap and exploring the natural world around them. The following week, they set off on a special walk to deliver our Harvest Festival donations to the Methodist Church. It was lovely to meet up with the Fledglings children – many of whom were our preschool leavers from last year.

A big thank you goes to Silas for always welcoming us so warmly. The children loved listening to the fable of the ant and the grasshopper and proudly sang their harvest songs. The Adventurers rounded off the day with a walk over the A507 bridge to spot the lorries, before enjoying a story and a well-earned ice lolly on the way home.

And finally, a quick reminder that our ever-popular Parent and Toddler Group is back every Friday from 9:30am- 11:30am. £3 per child – please do come along!

Dear reader,

Myself, Simon, Sarah, Ellen and the family would like to express our **heartfelt thanks** to my neighbours and our friends for the many cards we have received, the words of comfort and kind support and sympathy shown to us during our recent sad time of the loss of John a deeply loved husband, father and grandad.

Many thanks for the donations received on behalf of **Action for pulmonary fibrosis** a charity now extremely close to our hearts.

We hope you can remember John with as much love as we do.

Ann Robinson



CLOPHILL UNITED CHARITIES

Christmas donation to Widow(er)s and Pensioners –November 2025

This year the distribution will take place on November: **Saturday 29th November**, 11-12 am in the Oakley Room, **St Mary's Church** and 9.30-11.30 am at **Beverley Court**.

The distribution is taking place early this year due to other commitments of the Trustees and the availability of the Church.

No person or group is entitled to receive this benefit as of right. Please be aware that forthcoming Christmas donations should only be claimed by those widow(er)s and pensioners who are really in need of extra help at an expensive time of year and not by those who don't need it. This will enable us to provide help to others throughout the year. Posters will be displayed in the village during November as a reminder of these times. Please remember too that all through the year, Clophill United Charities are pleased to be able to help Clophill villagers of all ages in times of hardship. If you, or anyone you know who lives in the village, is experiencing financial hardship please contact me (on 01525 860900) in total confidence.

On behalf of the Trustees: Val Martin (Clerk)

Christmas Lights

Switch On



Sunday 30th November
3 - 6pm

Licensed Bar | Festive stalls | Santa
Brass Band | Choir | Light switch on 5.30pm

If anyone local would like a stall please contact:
clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk



Parish Registers for October

1825

Baptisms

- 09 Sarah, d of Robert and Susannah Mack (?) f a hawker.
17 James, s of John and Anne Millard.
30 Amelia, d of Thomas and Hannah Richardson.

Marriages

- 22 Thomas Lincoln to Elizabeth Ing (?).

Burials

- 27 James Millard.

1875

Baptisms

- 24 George William, s of Mary Ann Everitt (?).
31 Bertha Eleanor, d of David and Lucy Sheppard.
Kate, d of William and Anne Webb.

Marriages

- 13 John Everitt, 20 to Susannah Simfield, 24.

Burials

- 20 William Horn, 32.
22 Ann Neal, 64.

1925

Baptisms

- 04 Joy, d of Frank and Ivy Webb.
11 Elizabeth Thompson, d of William and Kath Stewart of Bedford.
No marriages or burials recorded.

1975

Burials

- 07 Velda Joan Myall, 47.

St. Mary's Church Registers - September 2025

Funeral

- 23 Susan Katrina (Sue) O'Neill, 73.
Followed by burial at the Old Church.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH NEWS

On Saturday September 20th the annual Cake and Coffee Morning for MacMillan Cancer Support was held in St. Mary's. Soon after 10 o'clock the church was buzzing with conversation and the clink of coffee cups as the tables filled with old friends and new. As always there was a wonderful selection of home-made cakes to choose from. The Rector, Rev Steve Marsh joined us even though he'd just attended the Men's Breakfast in Maulden and was going back to their Scarecrow Festival. A busy Saturday!

Approaching £400 was donated. Thanks to everyone who provided the cakes, served the refreshments, and to those who enjoyed them and the wonderful fellowship of the church and the village.



What's on in and around Clophill

NOVEMBER

Thursday 6th

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

Saturday 8th

Coffee and Croissants, GSC Methodist Church, 10am – 12noon. *See poster.*

Sunday 30th

Xmas lights switch on, The Green, 3pm – 6pm. *See poster.*

DECEMBER

Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th

Xmas tree festival, St. Mary's Church. *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...

* Winter warmers (starting 23rd Oct) - St Mary's Church, 12noon - 2pm followed by....

* 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.

Wednesdays 10am – 3pm (for volunteers) Sundays 10am – 12noon (all) and Sundays

1pm – 3pm (adults only) ...

* Agricultural Therapeutic Garden, off Shefford Road (up track by no 9)

CHURCH SERVICES

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

1st Sunday 11am, Family 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

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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		Blake Stephenson	020 7219 7477
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	Alex Hale and Sophie Hale	07939 823721
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
Fledglings	Alex Hale and Sophie Hale	07908 162354
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

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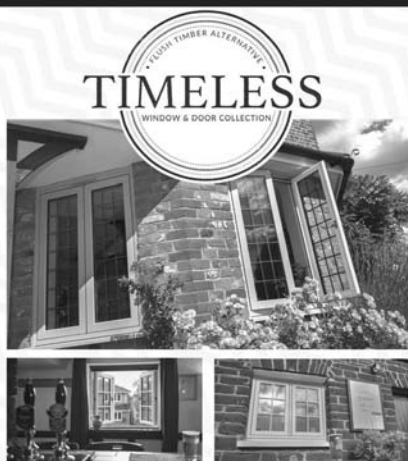


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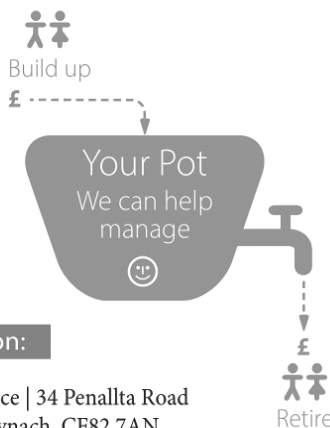
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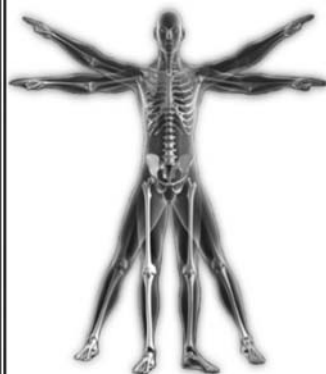
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