

Vol 48 | No.9

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CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

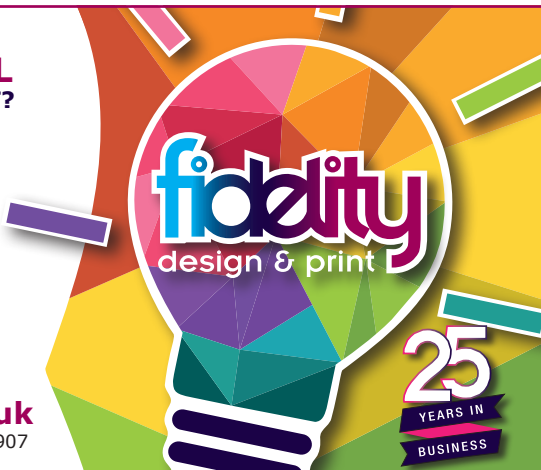
NOVEMBER 2025

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A word from the Editor...

Welcome to the November issue of Spotlight

Dear Reader,

There is a lot going on in and around Clophill as we start the run up to Christmas. St Mary's church is hosting a **Quiz night** and a "new for this year" **Christmas Tree festival weekend**. We have the annual **Christmas lights switch on** at the end of November plus a couple of events taking place in Maulden.

And this month being the month we hold Remembrance services; is the last in the series from Sue Pearson. A very sad story on page 15 about **Victor Street** who died 3 months after the end of the second world war in Europe.

Finally **save your stamps**, Angela Barker is collecting them again for the Redwings Horse Sanctuary in Norfolk, see page 8 for details.

See you all again in December!!

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

November is a good time to review the garden, cutting back and tidying borders and making a note of any changes that you might want to make. Leave seed heads on flowers and shrubs and delay cutting these back until late winter, as they provide a home for overwintering insects as well as providing winter interest. Tidy up leaves from around the garden as these can provide a home for pests and spread fungal diseases such as blackspot. They can be added to the compost heap, or placed in separate bins or black sacks to make **leaf mould**. Some leaves, such as **plane** and **sycamore**, are slow to break down, and can delay you using your compost if you mix them into the general heap. Leaf mould makes an excellent soil improver and can also be used as a seed-sowing medium.

Add a mulch and this not only protects the soil over the winter, but the action of worms pulling the mulch into the depths will help improve the vitality of our sandy soils. Take care that you don't mulch your peony plants too thickly as this could reduce the number of flowers you get next year.

Divide perennials that flower before June, such as **oriental poppies**, **peonies** and **lupins**, as well as spring-flowering **hellebores**, **pulmonarias** and **Solomon's seal**. Dig up, divide and replant them straight away. Now is also the best time to cut away the old leaves from your hellebores which will allow the flowers to be seen through the winter.

Perennials that flower after midsummer are best divided in the spring – that's a good general rule. Taking **root cuttings** is also a good way to make new plants for free and now is a good time to take root cuttings from perennials like **phlox**, **verbascum**, **oriental poppy** and **acanthus**.

Select young, vigorous roots, about the thickness of a pencil, and cut them off, close to the crown of the plant. Only remove a maximum of 1 third of the roots and then replace the parent plant, as soon as possible, back into the border. Discard the thin root end and remove any fibrous side roots. Cut each root into 5 -10cm (2-4in) lengths making a horizontal cut at the upper end and an angled cut at the lower end. Fill pots with a free draining compost - such as equal parts peat substitute and gritty sand or perlite. Insert the cuttings about 4cm (2in) apart so that the horizontal cut surface at the top of the root is just below the surface of the compost and then cover with a thin layer of grit. Water the compost lightly and place the pots in a sheltered space or coldframe outside. In the following spring, pot up into individual pots when the cuttings show signs of growth and are well-rooted.

Prune wall-trained pyracanthas, removing any shoots coming out from the wall, and shortening other new growth to about 8cm (3in). This encourages spur formation which will give you more flowers and bright berries next year. Now is also a good time to tie in climbing and rambling roses as near to horizontal as possible. This will restrict sap flow causing more side-shoots to grow along the length of stem. Therefore, more flowers will be produced for next year.

Its not too late to add some winter interest planters to your garden and there are lots of evergreen plants and grasses that will give fantastic winter colour that you can use alongside the pansies and violas.

Happy Gardening

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

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

The November 1980 edition of Spotlight was a rather thin volume, but still full of interesting articles – what to share though, that’s the question?



Well, the cover shows the then view from the church tower, looking towards the school playing field (keep this in mind as another article pertains to a close area and in which I have a personal interest). The October **Parish Council** meeting covered the footpath behind the Green Man “As two letters and two phone calls to the brewery have not persuaded them to fill in the potholes, The Parish Council will complain to the County Council.” The

two planning applications were for changing rooms to the rear of Hilltop Farm and an extension at 34, Cainhoe Road, while “The District Council’s solicitor is enthusiastically trying to serve a writ on Mr. B. Doherty’s company, which illegally dumps and burns rubbish at Beadlow.” Then perhaps a little tongue in cheek – “Silsoe have generously offered to cede a few square metres of land between the Flying Horse car park and the new bypass. They want, of course, to retain the west side of Old Silsoe Road, County Garage (now the ‘Jet’) and Simpsonhill Plantation.” (What do you think?)

There was a plea for more adult help with Kiln Lane Youth Club which was going to add a Monday evening to the regular one on Wednesday. Congratulations must go to the Swallow Patrol (Juliet Gordon, Sally Armstrong, Jennifer Hepburn and Collette Whittles) of the **1st Clophill Guides** who held a Coffee Evening, raising £16.50 for Stoke Mandeville Hospital. It sounds like the **Darby and Joan Club** enjoyed a visit to the Cotswold Wildlife Park at Burford, Oxfordshire, stopping on the way back at Biscot Mill Hotel, Luton “for our usual drink and fish and chips.”

There seems to been a very successful Flower Show run by the **Clophill and District Flower Club**. “Mrs S. Goodman, the judge, said ‘This is the fourth show I have been asked to judge this year and it is easily the best’. The Theme was ‘Back to School’ with classroom subjects providing the categories.

Reflections – Clophill in November 1980 - continued ...

The **School Harvest Festival** sounds like it was an absolute delight when the harvest produce brought in by the children was arranged in a “most magnificent display surrounding the font, quite breathtaking.” The **WI** enjoyed an “most interesting, informative, and at times, humorous” talk on ‘Antiques’ by Mr Butt. **St Mary’s Church** funds were increased by £180 through both “a plant and shrub sale at the home of Mrs Barbara Izzard” and a “Harvest Supper and Auction of Produce”. There are rather good **recipes** for ‘Lemon Mincemeat’ and ‘Honey Butter’ (might have a go at those) while the **local pubs** gave a good round up of their darts teams and achievements.

Now, this is where I suggested you remember that ‘Cover View’, because the next article relates to an area just past the right of the playing field. I think that it’s a fascinating piece - and after I have typed it out, it will make an excellent ‘one off’. However, I will just start it off here with a precis of the first couple of paragraphs: “Bert Gray hails from Liverpool. At the outbreak of the first world war, he joined up at the ripe old age of fifteen. He was posted to Haynes Park which had been requisitioned and recalls that conditions were uncomfortable. Relief was, however, close at hand as a number of kindly Clophill families had offered shelter. Bert was duly ‘billeted out’ with the Dunham family in a farm cottage at 76 High St, who were market gardeners. Alas, the cottage no longer survives, having been demolished to build three bungalows which lay back from the road.” (Guess why I find this so fascinating?)

Clophill Community Hubdate

Clophill Community Hub would just like to say a *big thank you* to St Mary’s Lower School and St Mary’s Church and indeed those individuals who donated items to their respective collections as part of their Harvest celebrations for their valuable contributions to the Hub.

We have also received a **fantastic donation** via Rev Steve Marsh our new Rector, of food items collected as part of the Harvest Festival celebrations in Maulden School and St Mary’s Church in Maulden.

These items have already been put to good use as part of our offering at the Hub to help those in need in our village.

Thanks to all for their kind donations and be assured these items will boost our supply through the Hub and support those in our respective villages struggling with food poverty.

Dr Steve Langhorn





EVENING WITH MICK HARFORD



Book signing and fundraiser for prostate cancer



7pm Friday 14th November 2025

Doors open from 6.30pm

At Maulden Bowls Club

Bar facilities • Raffle • Collection

£15*

All proceeds to Prostate Cancer UK

Tickets must be purchased in advance from
OBMauldenWalkingFootball@outlook.com

* Book to be purchased separately



Want to join Maulden Walking
Football Club? We welcome
everyone age 50+.

Email:
OBMauldenWalkingFootball@outlook.com

Prostate Cancer UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1005541) and in Scotland (SC037132). Registered company 02602807.

Clophill Parish Council



There was a well-attended meeting at the Methodist Church on Tuesday 21st October.

A meeting between the Parish Council and CBC was held to discuss the ongoing traffic safety concerns in the village. We continue to pursue the 20mph village speed limit (CBC apologised for the delays). Prioritised areas highlighted being the High Street and surrounding roads and The Green/Bus Stop/Lock up area.

Immediate Actions and Resident Guidance:

- Residents are encouraged to continue reporting issues via FixMyStreet.
- Following up on the FixMyStreet site to any reports are essential to highlight repeated inaction.
- CBC is rolling out new software to improve integration and response. Short-Term Traffic Calming:
 - Residents on the High Street could park more cars on the road (not pavements) to act as informal speed calming.
 - On bin days, residents are permitted to leave bins on the road, not the footpath, to ensure pedestrian safety.
 - Pedestrian Pinch Points: Officers acknowledged the limitations posed by narrow highways and footpaths.
 - They could see the poor state of many pavements and recognised the risks, especially for children and those with mobility issues.
 - CBC officers noted how special Clophill is and expressed a commitment to respecting the village's character and conservation area standards as part of any interventions.

CBC home to school transport policy has now been adopted. The PC are applying with Ward Cllr support for Clophill to be exempt and have special arrangements. They are asking any residents who are having difficulties with the new transport arrangements to please contact their Ward Councillor at Central Bedfordshire Council.

Christmas Lights Switch-On - This starts at 3pm on Sunday 30th November 2025 on the Green by the High Street. A road closure will be in place from 12.00 p.m. until 9.00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there.

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

Hayfield Play Area - We know residents are concerned that this is still not open for use, we are continuing to chase the developer to get this rectified.

Defibrillators - The Co-op would like to take over the ownership of the defibrillator at their site in Clophill but before they can do that it will need updating. The Parish Council will be working alongside the Co-op to raise the funds needed for this.

Planning Applications:

CB/25/03024 - 32 Bedford Road

Change of use from former residential children's home back to dwelling house.

The next meeting will be held at 7:45pm on Tuesday, 25th November in the Methodist Church.

St Mary's School News

from Mrs. Bingley our Headteacher:

In October we reviewed our School Vision with our children and parents:

Our Vision was created with children, staff and parents a few years ago. Our Vision is based on the Parable of the Sower which features in three of the Gospels in the Bible. We interpret and explain our Vision as follows:





We all grow together, rooted in Values



The Good Soil

At St. Mary's, we are the good soil. Just as in the parable, where the seed planted in rich ground flourishes and bears fruit, our school provides the right conditions for everyone to thrive. We create an environment where children, families, and staff can grow strong roots, so that each person's gifts and potential can flourish.

Nurturing Growth

Like a gardener tending the soil, we nurture the personal development and wellbeing of every individual. Through our ethos of Values, we feed minds and hearts, encouraging resilience, compassion, respect, and curiosity. In this way, each child grows not only in knowledge but also in character, ready to bear fruit in the wider world.

Welcoming All

Just as good soil welcomes every seed, St. Mary's opens its doors to all: children, parents, staff, and visitors. We celebrate diversity and create a sense of belonging, so that every person knows they are valued, rooted, and supported. Together, we form a living, growing community of learning and care.

Branching Out

As strong plants extend beyond their roots, we branch out into the wider community. By learning with and from our neighbours, we share growth beyond our walls. We seek to enrich not just the lives within our school, but also those around us — sowing seeds of hope, kindness, and shared purpose.

We hope this explains our Vision to our wider community and what we strive to do at St. Mary's.

We'd like to share with everyone that Bishop Richard, the Bishop of Bedford, will be joining the school at the war memorial on November 11th from 10:45-11:05. We hope to see lots of our village community there to mark this special occasion.

St Mary's School News. Cont ...

Acorn Nursery News

from Mrs. Hayes our Early Years Leader:

email nursery@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk

We love stories in Acorn Nursery and nurturing a love of reading in children is what we're all about! We do this by looking at focus books each term, reading them repetitively to support children's cognitive development and provide psychological and social benefits. So far this year, we've read (and had a range of activities available linked to) The Little Red Hen (for Harvest), Elmer (helping us learn that everyone is different), Owl Babies (perfect for Autumn), Funny Bones (investigating our body structure) and We're going on a bear hunt (learning all about bears!).

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 Values for November are Peace and Reflection:

In school, we will consider both external and internal Peace. External Peace is a state of harmony where there is a lack of conflict. This can be in relationships with others and also in the world around us. External Peace is also where there is cultural understanding and unity. Internal Peace is found within – contentment with who we are and what we have.

At home, you may like to consider the following:

- What stops us being at peace – both externally and internally?
- Do you have a special place you can sit quietly and think?
- Why do we need to be quiet and peaceful sometimes?
- How do you feel when you are quiet and peaceful?

It's that time of year again, when I ask if you can to save any **unused or used postage stamps** from the UK or anywhere in the world. You have been so kind in the past that I continue to promote **Redwings Horse Sanctuary** in Norfolk. **Collecting stamps is so easy**. If you drop them off in the box at 59 High Street, Clophill I will forward them on to Redwings.

If you want an acknowledgment from them please put your name and address on your packet and I will ensure they reply to you. They will not use your details for marketing.

Thank you in advance for supporting a great charity.

Angela Barker





Clophill and District Flower Club

www.clophillflowerclub.com



a festive floral demonstration by
National innovative designer
Debbie Davis

Thursday 4 December
Clophill Village Hall
6.45 for prompt start at 7.30 pm

**** Christmas Sales Table ****



*Tickets available from Committee
Members call Gillian on 07960
662334
or see our website
Members £6 : Visitors £12*

*Ticket includes a glass of mulled
wine or soft drink with a homemade
mince pie*

To support fine motor development, we've been practising copying lines and patterns, helping little hands prepare for early writing. Our creative table has been full of autumn-inspired art, using corks and cotton buds to paint with different textures and techniques.

Clophill Preschool

The children have loved exploring our nature garden and pond, observing the changing seasons, spotting wildlife, and learning the names of different trees. We've even started some beginner tree identification, noticing how leaves are changing shape and colour in autumn.

Maths has made its way outside too! Our acorn toss game challenged children to collect exactly 10 acorns to begin with, then explore who had more, less or the same in their pots. We tested what happened when we changed the throwing distance to see if it made things easier or harder!

We've been embracing nature in our craft too, creating beautiful nature-frame pictures with feathers, leaves, and wildflowers. The children also enjoyed leaf rubbings and the energetic art of Hapa Zome (leaf bashing) to make headbands inspired by autumn colours for our adventurers.

Group time has seen plenty of active games and singing. From ring games and body-part songs to a lively round of the Hokey Cokey, we've been learning about left and right while building listening and attention skills. Story time has gone beyond books as well; after reading *The Three Little Pigs*, the children built their own houses from planks, tarpaulins, and tyres, and acted out the story in real life!

Children have also loved contributing to their learning journeys, cutting out and sticking in their own photos from home and talking about them with pride.

Our Adventurers group braved a very wet and windy trip to Clophill Lakes, where they drew pastel pictures by the water and used spotter sheets and field guides to explore bugs, plants, and even different types of animal poo—an experience they're still talking about!

In yoga, we've been practising mindful breathing; in through the nose and out through the mouth, while reflecting on our feelings and emotions.

We also celebrated a spooky first this term; our Halloween Disco for families! Parents, children, and siblings joined us for an evening of dancing, party games, and spooky fun with our resident witch, Julie. It was a wonderful way to come together as a community and have fun.



Clophill Preschool continued ...

Save the date! We warmly invite you to our Magical Woodland Walk on 13th December at the Clophill Centre. Join us for a magical walk through private woods, where you and your children can find all the special things they'll need for Christmas Eve. There will be festive music, food stalls, and Christmas crafts to enjoy.

Tickets are available to purchase via email at clophillpreschool@gmail.com



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



Wildlife walks & talks

Monday, December 8th – On-line Zoom meeting. 7.30 pm

Flit Vale Wildlife Trust Group AGM

The AGM will take place by Zoom, commencing 7.30pm. If you would like to attend, please contact Ann and you will receive the link nearer the time.

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.

Greensand Community Methodist Church Clophill Hub

Coffee and Croissants

Saturday 13th December
(Christmas Event)

10am to 12 noon

ALL WELCOME





St Mary's Church, Clophill
Christmas Tree Festival



Saturday 6th December 10am - 4pm, Sunday 7th 12noon - 4pm

*A community event with individuals and local
organisations exhibiting decorated trees*

Christmas music during the weekend

Free Entry, Donations welcome

Seasonal refreshments served

For more details, please contact Carolyn Cranswick 07923876634 or
carolyncranswick@hotmail.co.uk



Badger Hill

Christmas Tree Farm

**Pick Your Own
Christmas Tree**



Badger Hill Contact Mike:
Clophill Road 07787 072190

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



CLOPHILL FRIENDS OF THE SUE RYDER **ST JOHN'S HOSPICE AT** **MOGGERHANGER**



Many, many thanks to everyone who helped or supported us at our Jumble Sale on the 10th October at the Village Hall. Thank you also to those kind supporters who gave us jumble to sell! We are delighted to have raised a total of £513.19 on the day; this amount includes pre-event sales. Fund raising efforts continued after the event and we have another £50 + to donate following the sale of books online and a few other sales, taking the Grand Total to over £563.19.

Sue Ryder Christmas Treecycling Bedfordshire

The Sue Ryder logo, featuring the name 'Sue Ryder' in a white, cursive script font inside a dark grey, rounded rectangular shape.

Because no one
should face death
or grief alone

National healthcare charity Sue Ryder is inviting residents to participate in their Christmas Treecycling scheme to help raise much-needed money for families in need of palliative and bereavement care.

With an optional donation to Sue Ryder, a team of friendly, reliable volunteers will collect your real Christmas tree directly from your front door, garden, or driveway and recycle them.

As part of Christmas Treecycling, residents in and around Clophill can have their trees collected between 8th and 16th January 2026.

Your real Christmas tree will be recycled into compost or wood chippings which will be used in local parks and woodlands or to generate green energy. To learn more about this eco-friendly fundraising initiative in and around Bedfordshire, and to reserve a collection by midnight on 4th January 2026, visit:

www.sueryder.org/treebedfordshire

Registrations to reserve your tree collection open on 1st November.

Contact the fundraising team at Sue Ryder St John's Hospice with any queries on 01767 642412 or email: stjohns.events@sueryder.org

St Mary's Church. Clophill



24th Annual

Quiz Night

Friday 14th November

7.15pm for 7.30pm at St Mary's Church

£5 – Please bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles.

Tea and coffee available.

Bring a team or be part of another team – this can be arranged.

Children are welcome.

To book a place contact

Julie Benson: 72 High Street Clophill, enquiries to

juliebenson@talktalk.net

Clophill's Servicemen of World War II

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

Victor Street

The grief for the family of Victor must have been immense. The news of his death came 3 and a half years after the last man lost to the village, they must have hoped he would return safely to Clophill.

Such a sad twist of fate to have survived the war and yet be killed after VE day. He was the last of our men to have died and it is I think fitting to commemorate him in the month that the country holds its Remembrance services and ceremonies.

Victor was a private with the South Wales Borderers. He died as a result of an accident on 19 August 1945, (3 months after VE Day) aged 23. Victor was born in the Biggleswade area in 1922. Son of Edwin (a pig stockman) and Laura Street, nee Merrifield. Husband of Nellie Margaret Pitts - they married 1941. His address was given as 7 Mount Pleasant in May 1945. Nellie subsequently married Ernest Leonard Croot in 1962.

Victor is commemorated in Hamburg Cemetery, Germany.

Gunner K A Summers is also commemorated on Hamburg Cemetery and also died as a result of an accident on the same date. The last major action for the battalion was in April 1945 when, with the rest of the division, they fought in the 2nd Battle of Arnhem.



The battalion ended its war in Germany, and remained there, as part of the occupation forces, until 1948. During the campaign in North-western Europe the battalion had suffered catastrophic casualties.

Victors' inscription reads – **“GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS, THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS.”**

Clophill in the Great War. A book by Colin Watt.

How did the villagers of Clophill cope during the Great War with their husbands and sons away at the Front? bit.ly/30uLMM



It's been a wonderfully busy and creative few weeks at The Fledglings and we are about to begin our light and celebrations topic for the festive season.



Our youngest children, the Rabbits, have been exploring traditional tales and familiar stories. They've loved retelling classics such as Little Red Riding Hood and Goldilocks and the Three Bears, as well as enjoying newer favourites like A Squash and a Squeeze and Handa's Surprise. The children have been making story masks, creating numbers from natural materials, and acting out their favourite parts with great enthusiasm.



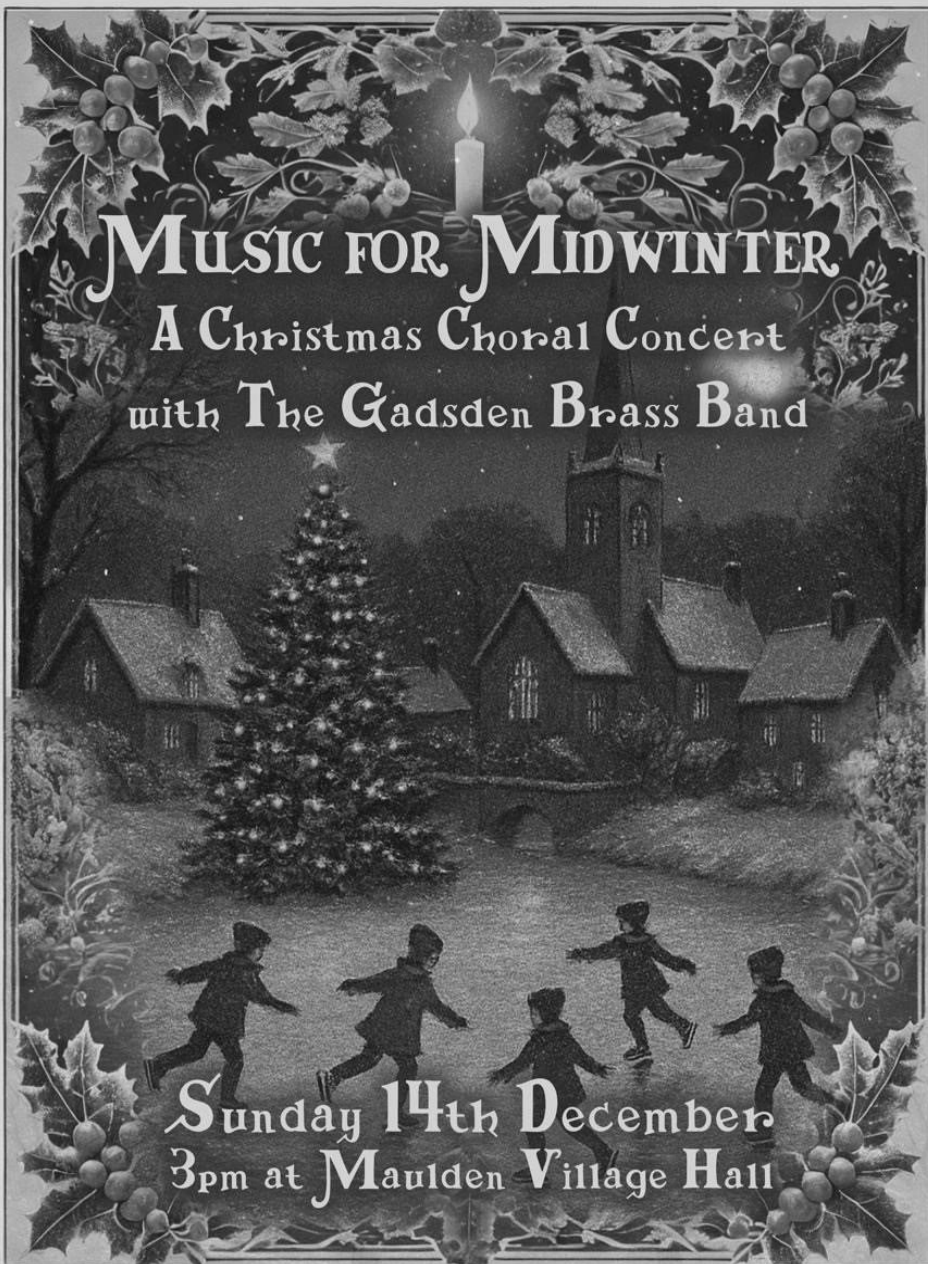
Inspired by Handa's Surprise, they cut up tropical fruits and made their own colourful fruit kebabs. A delicious way to explore new tastes and textures and everyone's first papaya!

Alongside story work, the Rabbits have been enjoying their weekly yoga and mindfulness sessions with Rachel. These sessions focus on calming strategies, breathing techniques, and emotional literacy; helping the children learn how to express and manage their feelings. With the festive season just around the corner, the Rabbits have begun learning songs for their Nativity performance, which is already filling our site with excitement and Christmas cheer.

Our Squirrels, the middle group, have been travelling the world through their topic on different habitats. They've explored the icy Arctic, painting beautiful polar bear pictures using watercolours and salt, and even built igloos out of sugar cubes! The children have also learned about deserts, rainforests, and the fascinating animals that live there. Bringing their learning closer to home, they explored the habitats around the Clophill Centre, observing the creatures and plants that thrive there. To finish off their project with a fun twist, they created their own "bug habitats." (Tasty green jelly bases topped with crushed Oreos and wriggly jelly worms!).

Our oldest children, the Foxes, have been focusing on British habitats and exploring our local environment. They recently visited Clophill Lakes, where they carried out a river study; measuring water depth, testing soil pH, and timing the flow of the stream. Back at the Clophill Centre, they recreated their own miniature rivers on the bank, experimenting with meanders and observing how different shapes affected the water's speed.

Across all groups, the children continue to take great pride in looking after our chickens, collecting and selling their eggs each week. The Foxes have also started rehearsing their alternative modern Nativity, and they'd love to invite everyone to the Community Nativity on Thursday 11th December- 10:30am at the Greensands Community Methodist church.



MUSIC FOR MIDWINTER

A Christmas Choral Concert
with The Gadsden Brass Band

Sunday 14th December
3pm at Maulden Village Hall



WWW.AMPHILLCHORAL.COM | SCAN QR CODE FOR TICKETS

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Parish Registers for November

1825

Baptisms

02 Charles, s of John and Sarah Denton.

06 Sophia, d of William and Anne Bowler.

13 Charles, s of Thomas and Sarah Everitt.

Burials

06 Charles Denton.

Is this the baby baptised on Nov 2nd? There was no indication of age.

1875

Baptisms

28 Ellen Anne, d of Henry and Ellen Figg.
Head teacher of the school.

Burials

05 Ann Crowley, 4.

1925

Burials

04 Christian Ann Mitchell, 46.

19 Ernest Frank Young, 5.

28 John Whittamore, 82.

30 Elizabeth Preston Goodall, 93.

1975

No registers recorded.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH NEWS

Following the successful Coffee and Cake Morning for Macmillan Cancer Care, the fund-raising team sprang into action again for the Harvest Lunch on October 8th when more than 50 people sat down to enjoy a seasonal meal of baked potatoes and pudding. Altogether, including the raffle £595 was raised for church funds, a truly amazing result.

The following Sunday we held our Harvest Festival service, which attracted a good congregation, who enjoyed the traditional hymns, brought their gifts of food to donate to the Clophill Hub and contributed to a collection for the bishop's "Harvest for the Hungry Appeal", which amounted to £200.

Now we have started our Winter Warmer soup lunches on Thursdays through to the start of Lent. There is no charge for the home-made soup with bread, cake or biscuits and a cup of tea or coffee. However, there is the chance to donate to cover expenses with any excess going to the Hub. It got off to a very good start with 17 people attending.

By the time you read this we will have held our annual All Souls' Service on November 2nd which is much appreciated by those who wish to remember lost loved ones in a quiet service and the lighting of candles.

The service for **Remembrance Sunday will start at 10:15** followed by the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial from 10:50.

Future events include the ever-popular Quiz Evening on Friday November 14th and a new event for us, a Christmas Tree Festival in December. We hope you will come and enjoy them with us. **Then it will be Christmas!**



What's on in and around Clophill

NOVEMBER

Friday 14th

Quiz Night, St. Mary's Church, 7:15pm for 7:30pm start. *See poster.*

Sunday 30th

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

DECEMBER

Thursday 4th

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

Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th

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

Saturday 13th

Coffee and Croissants, GSC 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.

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 – 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) ...

* Clophill 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 11am, 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

CLOPHILL UNITED CHARITIES

Christmas donation to Widower(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**.

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. If you, or anyone you know who lives in the village, is experiencing financial hardship please contact me (on 01525 860 900) in total confidence.

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- ◇ Was your Will home made? If so, you could be storing up difficulties for the family and higher tax could be payable.
- ◇ Executors are personally liable. Are they still willing and able?
- ◇ Do you have children under 18? If so, you need to nominate guardians or they become the responsibility of the Local Authority
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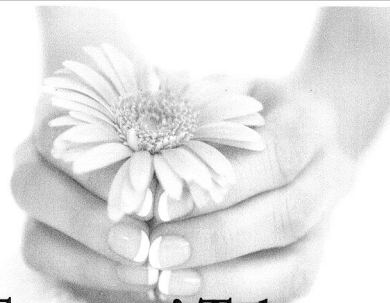
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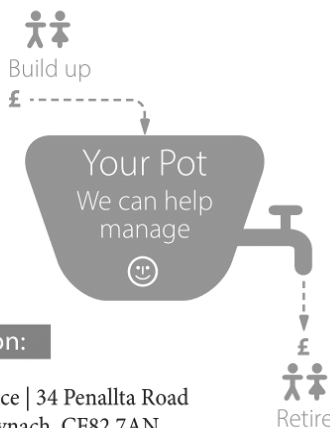
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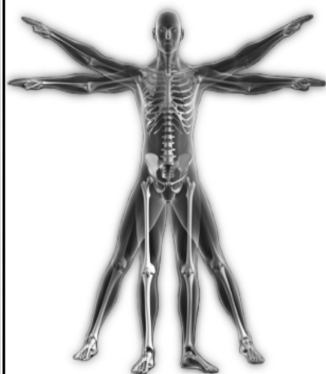
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