

Vol 49 | No.1

FREE

CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

FEBRUARY 2026



**LOVE YOUR
LOCAL NEWS**

Looking for
PRINTSPIRATIONAL
BRANDING, DESIGN & PRINT?

- Business stationery & forms
- Brochures, leaflets & flyers
- Posters, banners & exhibitions
- Labels & packaging
- Wedding stationery
- Photo & art printing
- Plan scan, copy & print

www.fidelityprint.co.uk
quotes@fidelityprint.co.uk | 01234 907907



MOTORS LTD

Tel: (01525) 404919

89 Oliver Street, Ampthill, Bedfordshire MK45 2SA

**CAR AND COMMERCIAL VEHICLES
ALSO CLASSIC & AMERICAN CARS**

**SERVICING – REPAIRS – BREAKDOWN
SPRAYING – M.O.T.**



Stuart Benson Building Projects

Design, Build and Maintenance including Interior Refurbishments,
Kitchen / Bathroom fitting, Tiling, Flooring, Skirting boards, Doors
Garage conversions. Exterior Decking, Patios, Driveways
Garden Offices/ Sheds

Tel: 07946 579862 or 01525 839878
Email: benson.stuart@gmail.com



A word from the Editor...

Welcome to the February issue of Spotlight

Dear Reader,

We're back!!...

Spotlight returns after our winter break and we are raring to go for another year. The new year brings a new series to the magazine "Clophill in the Great War" by Colin Watt (our magazine designer and expert on local history). Turn to page 11 for the first instalment, setting the scene about life in Clophill as the war is about to begin. As usual at the start of the year there are not many events taking place. But later in February the Lent Lunches start at St Mary's church (see poster on page 17) and once we are in March we have 2 Workshops being run by Bloominwell at the Clophill Therapeutic Gardens, both on 7th March. If you are interested in learning how to make a natural bird feeder or a planter; flip to page 5 for details.

See you all again in March!!

Best wishes, Elaine



The magazine staff

EDITOR

Elaine Jones

07918 975823

ADVERTISING MANAGER

editorial@clophillspotlight.co.uk

DESIGN MANAGER

ads@clophillspotlight.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Colin Watt

07979 643047

TREASURER

Toni Elston

07725 068828

Paul Leckie

Jon Bates

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*

It's estimated that UK gardens cover an area that is roughly 10 million acres; which is a lot of green space. Living in a rural area we are used to seeing lots of green spaces on the doorstep, but at this time of the year it's important to ensure that our pollinator insects have a ready source of food.

Its not just butterflies and bumblebees that are great pollinators, insects such as moths, hoverflies, hornets, wasps, and flies also play a vital role in ensuring plants are able to reproduce. At this time of the year, you may not see many butterflies, but in early spring on warmer days the bumblebee queens are waking and are hungry and looking for a new home.

February into March can often be a hunger gap as food sources are often scarce. However, there are some small actions that you can take in your gardens that will make a significant difference and provide you with some winter colour too.

While the ground is probably too hard or may be too wet to plant into, there are some amazing plants that are very happy in planters that will give you winter colour, but more importantly provide that food source to bridge the hunger gap before the hedgerows and spring flowers start to emerge.

Some of the best bee early flowering plants include snowdrops, crocus, winter aconite, hellebores, pulmonarias, heathers, mahonias and goat willows. If you haven't had time to plant any as bulbs don't worry as these are all available at the garden centres in small pots already growing and very easy to add into pots.

Snowdrops, crocus, winter aconites, and grape hyacinths (*Muscari*) are fabulous early nectar plants. They are all low growing plants so why not plant up some shallow containers and group them on a table in the sunshine so that you can enjoy the beautiful blooms as well as feeding the bees. Add in some pots of Violas, Pansies, Primroses, wallflowers, and dwarf daffodils such as Tete a Tete, for colour and added interest.

It can feel really overwhelming when you are trying to decide what to buy so here are some planting combinations that you could try.

If you have an area that gets both sun and shade then how about a Hellebore for the centrepiece, 3-5 crocus around the edge of the pot and some violas to fill in the gaps. For a sunnier space try an *Erica carnea* either in the middle or at the rear of the planter with a mix of *Iris reticulata* and trailing ivy filling the pot. Evergreen Herbs work well too such as upright Rosemary and some creeping thyme underplanted with crocus. North facing areas are perfect for planters of pulmonaria, snowdrops and primroses.

Use multi-purpose compost with added grit for drainage, raise pots on feet to stop waterlogging, remove dead flowers regularly to keep colour coming, protect pots in severe frost (move close to walls or wrap pots) and water sparingly—cold + wet compost causes root rot.

Its also important to makes sure that there are nesting habitats too so leave your hollow plant stems on the plants, keep a small patch of bare sandy ground clear, don't clear up all the leaves too early and provide a shallow dish of water with stones in so that the bees don't drown. Bees need water even in the winter.

Happy Gardening

Reflections – Clophill in January 1981 - Voices from the past.

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

Well, it is now 2026 – and so we are now looking at the activities of Clophill in 1981 - 45 years ago - as recorded in the Spotlight. The cover picture is of the newly built bungalow on the A6, then very visible. Let's see what the pages hold. They certainly tell of what Clophill is – a very generous and supportive village and it begins with the first, lovely article which thanks the “**the youngsters of Clophill (who) have contributed to those less fortunate than themselves.** Laura Graves, Catherine Neeson, Annette Collins, Karen Pitts, Mary Neeson, Elaine and Scott Windram, Justin Cray, Gary Dart and Philip Graves raised the splendid sum of £7 when they went carol singing around the village.” The money was donated to the ARC (Arthritis & Rheumatism Council) box which was standing in Mrs Stokes shop, then opposite the bottom of Great Lane and now a private house. (Well done those children and thank you Mrs Stokes who supported the charity.) Another charity –the NSPCC Fund Appeal - benefitted from a “special Gift and Toy Service” held at the **Methodist church** on 18th December with their very well attended, annual Family Carol Service three days later where again the Minister, Rev Reynolds officiated.

Just down the road at **St. Mary's Parish church**, “The Bazaar held on December 6th raised £270 for church funds a tremendous result.” They advertised three future February dates – two members being confirmed in St. Albans Abbey on 4th; ‘Education Sunday’ on 15th when the preacher was to be Miss Margaret Rogers Diocesan Children’s Advisor, while on 28th, “Our church choir will be taking part in the Deanery Choir Festival.” (Couldn’t do that now – no regular choir!)

The Annual General meeting will be held at St. Mary’s School followed by a Wine and Cheese Party.” (Now, there’s an idea!)

The Flower Club had a December meeting with a difference. It started with sherry but continued with a “very entertaining film slide show of the National Show in Blackpool 1979, entitled ‘Northern Lights’. The competition ‘Christmas Ideas’ with a floral bias, was won by Mrs M. Doble, the evening concluding with coffee and mince pies. At their AGM in January, Chairman Carolyn Cranswick noted the successes of the past year including the Silsoe Flower festival and the high standard of entries at their own flower show.



Reflections – Clophill in January 1981 - continued ..

Officers were elected – Mesdames C. Cranswick, J. Pitts, K. Smith and C. Whysall with Mrs B. Nation taking over from Mrs J. Wheeler as Secretary. “Full Committee mesdames Brown, Crick, Drake, Dudley, Gibson, Justice, Loakes, Saunders, Sturdy and Tucker.”

The **Guides and Brownies** were also busy over the past months with Alison Cardoski gaining her Queen’s Guide Award and Caroline Duggan, Charlotte Langdon and Emms Naylor ‘flying up’ from the Brownies, helping to raise money from carol singing. “the Kingfisher Patrol plus some others entertained the residents of Beverley Court with a Nativity mime, poems and carols.” The Guides also “gave most valuable help with serving and washing up” at the Darby and Joan Christmas Dinner at the Village Hall.

The **Brownies** had also been busy, having “worked with enthusiasm to make different items” for the Pack’s Christmas ‘good turn’ “sale. “The most popular sideshow proved to be the Haunted House run by the Gnome Six. £66, 94½d was raised and was divided between the R.S.P.C.A., N.S.P.C.C., Red Cross and Cassettes for the Blind.

There was also much **sporting activity** in the village with the Kiln Youth Club team of I. Sutcliffe (Capt), D. Taylor, D. Parker, D. Croot, A. Kemp, A. Teague, C. Sutcliffe winning “their way through to round 2 of the Luton Town Five-a-side football competition, in the 16 years and over, as runners up in Group 5.” The darts players from the Commander in Chief prepared for competition in January while The Compasses were doing well, T. Collis and M. Groom to take part in a doubles competition. “The ‘B’ team welcome back Mick Kirby after an eighteen month lay-off with ‘darters cramp’.” “Peter Pitts was the winner of the ‘Green man’ Darts Knock-out competition with Richard Jennings as runner-up.” At the Rising Sun, the darts team were doing well and “the dominoes team are also enjoying a most successful season, holding top position on equal points with the league leaders.”

To end with, **we go back to the theme of fundraising** and a couple of ‘Letters to the Editor’. The first from Caroline Bishop of Dearmans Close “I would like to put in a word of thanks to all who kindly donated to Cancer Research “who raised £23.00 from Carol singing round the village.” The second is from “Dawn, Pete and the boys (and the biggest, spottiest dog you ever did see), Rising Sun. May we take this opportunity to thank all the local people who helped make our fund-raising night for ‘Leukaemia Research’ on 20th December, such a success we are able to announce that the fund raising in the pub ... currently stands at £1,091.00.”

Nothing has changed over the past 45 years. What a super village eh!

BLOOMIN' WELL CIC



Saturday, 7th March

Birdfeeder Workshop

10 - 11:30am

£5 per person

Make a Natural Planter

1 - 3pm

£25 per person

First field on the left, up the track
opposite Hawthorne Close, Clophill

To book email
bloominwellcic@gmail.com
or call 07468121504

Clophill Parish Council

There was a well-attended meeting at the Methodist Church on 13th January 2026.



- **Goodwood Close.** Works have now re-started, and full road closure is likely weekdays 8am to 4pm.
- **CBC home to school transport policy.** Central Bedfordshire Council are asking any residents who are having difficulties with the new transport arrangements to please contact their Ward Councillor at Central Bedfordshire Council.
- **Hayfield Play Area.** We know residents are concerned that this is still not open for use; the Greensand Trust are now involved and looking into the situation.
- **Defibrillators.** The Parish Council will be working alongside the Co-op and The Clophill United Charity to raise the funds needed for this.
- **Recreation Ground.** The Parish Council would like to warn any users of the recreation ground of the risk of tripping due to the uneven ground that has been created by rabbits. We are looking into various solutions to this problem and will keep you updated.

Planning Applications:

CB/25/03434/VOC - Land Including and to the rear of 68 and 66a, High Street

Proposal: Variation of condition number 21 of planning permission CB/20/01067/FULL (Resubmission of planning permission CB/19/01862/FULL (Proposed demolition of 66a High Street followed by the erection of 5 dwellings including the creation of a new priority junction and access road, as well as associated landscaping and ancillary works)). **Reason for variation:** to allow for alterations on plot five for the design of the dwelling and detached garage.

CB/25/03459/FULL - 83 High Street

Proposal: Erection of a single-storey rear extension, with rooflights. Retention of single storey extensions to rear and side, front porch, detached garage and external alterations including reroofing of existing dwelling.

CB/25/03516/FULL - Shepherds Cottage, Kiln Lane

Proposal: Demolition of outbuilding. Erection of an art and yoga studio, greenhouse and walled garden.

The next meeting will be held at 7:45pm on Tuesday, 24th February in the Methodist Church.

St Mary's School News

from Mrs. Bingley our Headteacher:

We had a lot of frosty starts in January, but our fantastic Mr. Derek ensured our site was always safe to open without any slips and slides!



We welcomed Mrs Urbanska and Miss Begum to our school at the start of the Spring Term. Both are trainee teachers completing a placement with us until February half term.

Year 3 continued their 12 week course of swimming lessons at the fantastic Happy Tiddlers in Barton and Year 1 continued their wonderful Forest School sessions in Irene's wood.

At the time of writing, we are waiting for the Ofsted call. We are now in the window for the inspection and are very much ready to present our amazing school to the inspectors. I will update you in the next Spotlight if this happens and how it went!

Although January is traditionally a quieter month in schools, February brings events such as our annual Candlemas Service in Church (3rd February), NSPCC Number Day (a charity day) on 6th February, Children's Mental Health Week starting the 9th February and Safer Internet Day on 10th February. Before the half term is out, we also welcome our Governors in for the day on 4th February and parents/carers in to see their children's work before we take a week's break from 13th February. Things will certainly begin to get busy again!

Don't forget, 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>

Acorn Nursery News

from Mrs. Hayes our Early Years Leader:

It was lovely to welcome lots of new children and their families to our Nursery in the new year and our children displayed our values of friendship, love and respect helping them settle into our Nursery routine. There's been lots of new friendships blossoming!

The natural world has provided lots of opportunity for wondrous experiences - we've enjoyed ice painting and as the children were very interested in Snowmen - we drew, painted, put buttons on, made playdough ones and cut out spiral Snowmen!

We're enjoying learning all about real life Superheroes this term - People in our community who help us! So far we have converted our playhouse outside into a Post Office and our inside one into a Vets! Both are proving to be very popular to role play in and at the same time we explored the related stories of The Jolly Postman and Mog at the Vets.

We have spaces available starting April 2026 (and beyond) in our amazing bespoke Nursery, if you would like to find out more, please look on our website at: [https://www.clophillstmarysschool.co.uk](http://www.clophillstmarysschool.co.uk)

or email nursery@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk.

St Mary's School News Cont ...

Our Values for February are: Quality and Excellence (Creation)

In school, we will consider how, in order to achieve something of quality, you must do something to the best of your ability, using the best materials or best thoughts you have. We will be teaching the children that quality/excellent thoughts lead to quality/excellent words and quality/excellent words lead to quality/excellent actions. We will also spend our time thinking about our appreciation of quality and excellence and making sure that we take care of the world created for us.

At home, you could consider things you have created together as a family – maybe a tasty dinner or yummy cake! You could consider the importance of adding the correct, quality/excellent ingredients into your meals to make them delicious and healthy! If you're having any work done on your home, you could also discuss the importance of the work and materials used being of quality! A good message to reinforce with your children is also the importance of them completing any homework with quality/excellence – doing it to the best of their ability.

Preschool had a lovely end to the term with our Nativity - the best show of 2025! There was plenty of laughter, happy tears and lots of proud smiles as the children performed their show. They worked incredibly hard in the weeks leading up to the performance, learning the words, choreography and which way to walk. They showed amazing confidence on the day and we were so proud of how brave they all were.



Thank you to everyone who attended our Magical Woodland Walk before Christmas. Everyone wrapped up warm and explored the woodland together, looking for everything they needed for Christmas day, following the twinkly lights and enjoying the excitement of being out in nature. The children collected all of their goodies and then even found the big man in red in the round-house who gave them a little pre-Christmas gift. After the walk, the families enjoyed a busy café and stalls selling hot dogs, hot chocolate and popcorn, as well as festive items to make and buy. Thanks to the generosity of families and the wider community, we raised just over £400. This money will be used to support and develop music provision at Preschool, giving children even more opportunities to enjoy singing, rhythm and movement.

Clophill Preschool continued ...

Throughout January, the children have been busy learning through play both indoors and outdoors. With the cold and wet weather, a bit of time spent in the hall has given children valuable opportunities to practise getting dressed independently, develop fine motor skills, explore mark making and take part in cookery activities. These experiences support early maths skills through counting, measuring and problem solving, while also building confidence and communication.

Outdoor learning our priority at Preschool; the children have enjoyed splashing in puddles, searching for worms, spotting minibeasts and taking managed risks as they explore what their bodies can do. Yoga sessions have supported balance, strength and calm focus, helping children to tune in to their bodies.

Storytelling also continues to be a big focus across Preschool; staff share lots of familiar stories, introduce new vocabulary and encourage children to join in with repeated phrases. Bucket time activities support attention, listening and language skills in a fun, shared way.

This half term, all children are taking part in the Big Schools Birdwatch, learning about local birds and receiving certificates to celebrate their involvement. Some children are also working towards the Ruby Robin Award, learning how to care for songbirds.

Preschool is so proud to be part of Clophill, the children picked up vegetables in the hub; chopped them up and made some delicious leek and potato soup. The adventurers then went on a walk around the village to deliver it to our friends.

Remember that we also run a weekly parent and toddler group on Friday mornings during term time, offering a friendly space to meet, chat and play for all babies and under 5s.



Greensand Community Methodist Church

Clophill Hub

Coffee and Croissants

Saturday 14th February

10am to 12 noon



Clophill and District Flower Club

www.clophillflowerclub.com



Invite you to join them for

"Into the Wardrobe"



A floral demonstration
by
Lorraine Gagen



Thursday 5 March 2026

Clophill Village Hall

Doors open at 6.45 for prompt start at 7.30pm



Visitors are welcome at any meeting –
£8 including refreshments

We start a new feature in this issue.

**Colin Watt's book, Clophill in the Great War, will be abridged
and serialised in 13 episodes.**

Clophill in the Great War by Colin Watt.

Abridged Excerpts from the book. Part 1 of 13.

The Village before the Great War

The pre-war Ordnance Survey map shows the buildings in the village mostly along the High Street, with some up Mill Lane and along Back Street, and with some outliers down Jacques Lane. Between and behind the houses was land used for agricultural purposes.

The Rector at St Mary's church (built 1848) was the Rev. C. L. Matthews. There was a primitive Methodist chapel in, what is now, Old Silsoe Road, and a Wesleyan Chapel on Bedford Road.

There were six public houses in the village - The Flying Horse, The Green Man, The New Inn, The Compasses, The Rising Sun and The Stone Jug.

The school (built in 1872) was a National school divided into an infant's department and a mixed department of older girls and boys. The Headmaster, Mr. Humphrey Cunningham, would have been proud of his school, as the Diocesan Inspector had given it an excellent report.

It is worth noting that out of a total population of 916 people, 40% were under the age of 21 years.

Clophill was a rural village with the main industry being cultivating the land and raising livestock. A total of 202 people (mainly men) were employed in farming. There were five farms in the parish, employing 127 agricultural labourers, the rest having more skilled jobs. Market gardening was a developing industry.

Many people, mainly women and children, were employed with straw plaiting. This was a cottage industry that supplied straw plait to the hat industry in Luton. By the beginning of the war this had mostly died out, due to cheap imports from abroad. There were still 28 people employed in hat-making, mostly machinists.

There were at least two smithies in the village and the water-powered mill was still going, probably milling grain for animal feed.

Although some of the younger people were leaving the village to seek work in the towns and cities, Clophill was still a rural village. A trip to Bedford was probably the highlight of the year for most people.

With the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand all that was to change.

See full details of the book at bit.ly/30uLMM



Wildlife walks & talks

February

Friday, February 13th – Maulden Village Hall. 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start

QUIZ NIGHT

Fund-raising for the Wildlife Trust

Come along to our popular quiz and pit your wits against our fiendish quizmaster! There are prizes for the winning team as well as spot prizes, and a raffle. Please note this is a cash-only event for entry fee, drinks purchases and raffle. There will be a bar selling wine, beer and soft drinks. Due to licensing restrictions, no drink can be brought into the venue.

Ticket price includes a *light* fish and chip supper or a vegetarian alternative.

You will have a lovely evening no matter what the result and will be raising funds for the Wildlife Trust whilst doing so!

Numbers of teams are limited due to space, so contact Ann as soon as possible to reserve a table.

Please email details of your team, maximum of six per team, including team name and meal choices to Ann at flitvale.info@gmail.com.

Charge: £15 per person

Booking for the Quiz booking is essential.

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.

Learning at The Fledglings this January is taking off... quite literally! The children are diving into an exciting space-themed topic that weaves together creativity, science, maths, language and imagination. For our youngest children, we will be practising sounds through sensory writing, art activities and outdoor sound hunts, making learning active and hands-on. Maths will be explored in lots of practical ways, including looking at doubles, odd and even numbers, sharing, and using ten-frames, often with natural and everyday materials.



Space exploration will be brought to life through creative and practical tasks such as building rockets, designing astronaut helmets, clay modelling, role play and cooking star biscuits. The children will learn about our amazing Earth, the Sun and planets, day and night, space travel and life on the International Space Station. These ideas will be supported through activities like making planet fact books, mobiles and taking part in a collaborative online STEM programme.

The children will also explore famous astronauts and space history, study *The Starry Night* by Vincent van Gogh and develop early

writing skills through alien stories, astronaut diaries and designing their own planets. They'll create mini photo astronauts, design their own space uniforms and decide which five important items they would take into space, explaining their choices using clear sentences.

For our oldest children, they will be learning about astronaut nutrition, experimenting with Mayan numbers and the Russian alphabet, taking part in different STEM challenges including the much-loved "Eggnauts" challenge – designing a safe vessel to help an egg astronaut return to Earth safely.

Following last year's huge success, all children will once again take part in the Primary Engineering Competition, working on individual projects that build creativity, problem-solving and perseverance. We're also very excited about the pop-up planetarium coming to visit us- a truly out-of-this-world experience to look forward to!





Monday 2nd March 2026

Luton Works

In this talk, Pamela examines the development of Luton in the 19th to mid-20th centuries and the transformation of the town from a rural market town into an industrial centre attracting workers from around the world.

Speaker – Pamela Birch (County Archivist)

Monday 30th March 2026

The Roman Villa and its Surrounding Archaeology at Warkton, Kettering

In 2021, after a chance finding, several years of excavations were undertaken in the fields surrounding Kettering. The work showed a multi-period archaeological site, which included a previously undiscovered Roman Villa. This talk will discuss the current ongoing excavations, contextualising the site into the wider landscape, and will present some of the archaeological artefacts that have been uncovered.

Speaker – Dr. David Errickson (Head of Cranfield Forensic Institute)

The talk will be preceded by the society AGM.

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.

www.adalhs.org.uk

ST. MARY'S CHURCH NEWS

We had a very busy and successful December at St. Mary's starting with our first ever Christmas Tree Festival. This was not primarily a fundraising event, but was intended as a time for the village to get together in our lovely church. Despite the dreadful weather many people did make their way down and were very appreciative of the varied interpretations of "Christmas tree" from traditional, to a floral decoration on a wooden frame, to a bundle of decorated twigs by the Preschool. These 2 were voted 2nd and 3rd by the punters, but the overall favourite was Cora Sheppard's fulsome tribute to the Royal family. As always there was a wonderful atmosphere throughout the weekend and the donations were very welcome.



No sooner was that over than the church was full again for The Greensand Community Choir's Christmas concert. It is good to have the building used for community events.

The annual Christmas lunch was next on the menu, when more than 60 people enjoyed the wonderful meal prepared and served by our fundraising committee. Approx £1,000 was raised for church funds, thanks to everyone who donated in any way.

The Christmas services were well attended. The Carol Service raised £400 in donations which has been divided between 2 local charities; Noah Enterprises and Keech Cottage. On Christmas morning the Rector's sermon was enlivened by the distribution of sweets and chocolate bars as he read an unconventional version of the Nativity.

And so we entered the New Year hoping to continue to grow our congregation to fulfil our mission to the parish of spreading the Good News of Jesus to our friends and neighbours.

You may be expecting the usual Coffee and Cake morning for Janina, our girl in Paraguay, but that has come to an end because she has completed her education. The PCC are considering our future charitable causes, and will inform the village in due course.

Just a quick line to say thank you for the stamps for redwings. They will be so appreciative.

I will continue to collect all year so do drop them in to 59 High Street, Clophill.

Angela Barker



Clohill History, by Colin Watt

Cainhoe Castle - What did it look like?

To get to Cainhoe Castle follow the footpath that starts opposite Town Shott and goes down the side of the house that used to be the New Inn, across the river Flit and continue around the lakes. You will come to a field where you will see the remains of Cainhoe Castle. You will have to use your imagination as all that remains of the castle are the earthworks. There is Permissive Access which means you can walk anywhere in the field.

You can also get access from Clophill Lakes Nature Reserve. (There is a car park charge.)

As you walk towards the earthworks you will see a large mound in the centre. This is the **motte** which was the main defensive area.

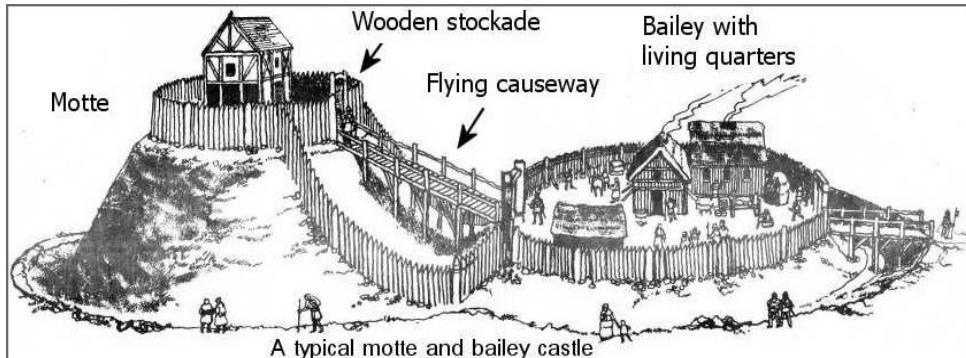
Surrounding the motte are living areas, protected by banks and ditches, called **baileys**.

The bank in front of you has, at some time, been quarried, presumably for sand. Imagine it as a continuous bank enclosing the first bailey.

As you walk around you should be able to see that there are three living areas enclosed by baileys. The first seems to have been the original. Later, two more baileys were added to provide more room. The ditch between them might have been an entrance road.

The motte and the banks around the baileys would have been surmounted by wooden palisades for increased protection.

The sketch shows the arrangement of a typical early motte and bailey castle.



Cainhoe Castle continued ...

The motte was the main refuge and means of defence. It was built by producing an artificial hill or making use of the natural topography, if it was suitable as it was at Cainhoe. On it was built a tower (or keep) to give more height and to further intimidate the native English.

The bailey was a yard, surrounded by an embankment and ditch and provided a first line of protection. It contained barracks, stables, livestock and other buildings for storing food, weapons and equipment. If attacked the occupants could retreat to the motte.

William the Conqueror built many motte and bailey castles as they were quick to make and wouldn't have required any special materials. Later, they would have been upgraded with stone walls but there is no indication that that happened at Cainhoe.

St Mary's Church Clophill.

Invite you to our

Lent Lunches

in St Mary's Church

to be held each Wednesday

from 12 noon to 2pm



Starting

Wednesday 25th February

Donations – Charity TBA

For more information contact: 01462 815433

Parish Registers for January and February

1826

Baptisms

Jan 01 Sarah, d of William and Elizabeth Wittamore.
08 (?), d of Joseph and Sarah (?).
15 Elizabeth, d of Joseph and (?) Odell.
Feb 02 Benjamin, s of William and Susannah Tingay.

Marriages

Jan 15 Thomas Richardson to Ann Smart (?).
Feb 16 George Crouch to Sarah Horn.

Burials

Jan 14 Mary Wottel (?) w of William.
22 Mary Knight, widow.
Feb 01 Ann, w of Edward Barker or Baker.

1876

Baptisms

Jan 30 Harry, s of George and Elizabeth Roberts.
Isaac, s of Henry and Eliza Gobby.

Feb 03 Frederick, s of George and Lucy Parkinson.

Louisa, d of (?) and Charlotte Osborne, f a miller.
Horace Thomas, s of Caleb and Sarah Roberts.

Marriages

Feb 12 Joseph Stevens, 23 to Sophia Kedge, 25.

Burials

Feb 08 Frederick Lincoln, infant.

1926

Marriages

Jan 23 Arthur Ernest Smith, 29 to Florence Phyllis Webb, 24.

Burials

Feb 03 Stanley George Izzard, 1.

1976

Burials

Feb 03 Winifred Dorothy Groom, 76.
19 Raymond Frank Grummitt, 67.

St. Mary's Church Registers for Dec 25

Burial of Ashes

Dec 22 Julie Frances Wiles, 80. Formerly of Clophill.

Parish registers in the UK began in **1538**, when Henry VIII ordered Church of England parishes to record **baptisms, marriages, and burials**. Initially inconsistent, they were standardised in **1598**, with copies sent annually to bishops. Record-keeping suffered during the **English Civil War**. Greater detail was introduced in the **18th century**, especially after **Hardwicke's Marriage Act (1754)** and **Rose's Act (1812)**. In **1837**, civil registration of births, marriages, and deaths began, reducing their legal role. Parish registers remain essential sources for genealogy and local history.

What's on in and around Clophill

MARCH

Saturday 7th

Birdfeeder Workshop:

Clophill Therapeutic Gardens - 10am-11:30am. *See poster.*

Make a Natural Planter Workshop:

Clophill Therapeutic Gardens - 1pm – 3pm. *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 Gardens, 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

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	
<hr/>		
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	
<hr/>		
HOSPITALS		
Bedford (North & South)	01234 355122	Admissions 01234 261150 Appointments 01234 359012
<hr/>		
Luton & Dunstable		
<hr/>		
DOCTOR'S CLINICS		
Ampthill	(Houghton Close) 01525 300898	(Oliver Street) 01525 631395 (Greensands) 01525 631390
Shefford	Enquiries 01462 818620	Appointments 01462 810034
Barton	01582 528700	Flitwick 01525 715300
<hr/>		
POLICE		
County Police HQ		Non Emergency 101
Ampthill Station		01234 841212
<hr/>		
CHURCHES		
St Mary's Parish Church		
(Rector) Steve Marsh		TBA
(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
<hr/>		
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, Ampthill	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	Luke	07903 167493
Greensand Community Choir	Tony Meredith	07975 520085
Indoor Carpet Bowls	Victoria Higgins	860754
Messy Church		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 Erick	860695
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Marylin Browning	07821 643936

Take out an annual ad in Clophill *SPOTLIGHT*

Black & White per year

This is one-third £88 Height 61 x Width 126 mm
Please email our Advertising Manager

ads@clophillspotlight.co.uk

Other sizes:-

A sixth of a page (H31mm x W126mm) £58
Quarter page (H92mm x W61mm) £75
Half page (H92mm x W126mm) £123

Chapman & Kirby Heating

Gas, Plumbing & Heating Installations



Gas Safe Registered

Boiler Servicing & Maintenance

Call us now on: 07831 132308

Email: info@chapmanandkirbyheating.co.uk

11 Lyall Close, Flitwick, Beds., MK45 1JB



ACCOUNTING SERVICES

Providing a Much Better service for Mid Beds since 2000

If you are *Self-employed* or a *Small Business* and require assistance with
Accounts, HMRC tax returns, VAT

we offer a total confidential service at competitive rates
Contact T: 01525 861087 M: 07714189994 E: mbaccounts@btinternet.com

Telephone

**01525
860526**

The Stone Jug

A Free House

BACK STREET, CLOPHILL

A Proper Pub for Proper People

A family run village 'boozier' serving up great value, quality lunches that will fill you up without emptying your wallet! A pub is for 12 months of the year, 365 days and we're here for you on each and every one of them!

- 5 real ales, including 3 guest pumps that change frequently (see our Facebook page for details)
- selection of wines and Prosecco by the glass – or even better, by the bottle
- home-cooked lunches Tues-Sat, 12pm-2.30pm



REMEMBER OUR MOTTO

**"A VISIT TO THE JUG IS BETTER THAN GOING TO A PUB"
CHEERS JOYCE, VIKKI & MARK**

www.stonejug.co.uk

www.facebook.com/thestonejugclophill

FLOOFYS



BEDFORD ROAD, CLOPHILL, MK45 4AE

10% OFF
YOUR FIRST
GROOM

Get in touch with
Amber to book an
appointment

07592966619

floofysdoggrooming

Floofys Dog Grooming



Take out an annual
advert in
Clophill SPOTLIGHT

Black & White per year

This is one-quarter

Height 92 x Width 61 mm

£75

Please email our
Advertising Manager
ads@clophillspotlight.co.uk

Other sizes:-

A sixth of a page (H31mm x W126mm) £58

Quarter page (H92mm x W61mm) £75

A third of a page (H61mm x W126mm) £88

A full page is £230



**VETERINARY
CENTRE**

A Family Vet for Family Pets

We are a family-owned veterinary practice in the centre of Ampthill. We believe in providing fantastic stress-free care tailored to individual pets and owners.

We have now launched our Pet Health Plan, to help make preventative health care for your pet as easy as possible.

For more information:

Visit our website at
www.ampthillvets.co.uk

or

Phone us on 01525 582002

or

Pop in for a chat and to meet the
team



We offer a FREE review of your existing Will.

Having a Will in place provides peace of mind
So many people have died without a Will thus increasing the stress and expense (and often the tax) that their families face.

SEVEN GOOD REASONS TO REVIEW YOUR WILL

- ◊ Have you married or entered Registered Civil Partnership since the date date of your last Will? If so, your Will is annulled.
- ◊ If you have no valid Will, the State's distribution of your assets may not be as you would have wished and could result in higher tax.
- ◊ 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.
- ◊ Are you in a second marriage? Special provision should be made for blended families.

- ◆ We quote our fixed fees up front and believe in plain English
- ◆ We meet with you in informal surroundings and spend a lot of time making sure we get everything right and you are happy
- ◆ We advise on the most tax effective solutions
- ◆ Our clients tell us that their experience has been a pleasant one and they are extremely glad that they have the necessary documents in place.

Please phone Susan Shaw now:

Shaws Wills and Trusts 01525 862053



Institute of
Professional
Willwriters

* MEMBER *



DAVID JAMES

COOK



WWW.DAVIDJAMESKITCHENS.CO.UK



MANUFACTURE DESIGN INSTALLATION



SAVINGS ON ALL KITCHENS

& Up To 25% Off Top Brand Appliances

01525 722230 PULLOXHILL BEDS MK45 5EU



SCENTSY

INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT



Join the wonderful world of Scentsy for all your home fragrance, wax warmers, cleaning products and so much more!!

- Plug in wax warmers - no flame, smoke or soot!
- All warmers come with a Lifetime guarantee!
- Premium quality paraffin wax scent bars!



@Tracy's Scentsy Treasures



www.tracysscenttreasures.scentsy.co.uk



APN

ELECTRICAL

- ✓ Rewires - Extensions, New Builds & Renovations
- ✓ Consumer Unit Upgrades
- ✓ LED Lighting Upgrades & Installations
- ✓ Outside lights & Security Lighting
- ✓ Power Supplies to Outbuildings, Sheds & Garages
- ✓ Smoke, Heat & Co2 Detectors
- ✓ Fault-Finding & Repairs
- ✓ Boiler Controls
- ✓ EICRs (Electrical Inspection Condition Reports)
- ✓ EV Charging Points



- ✓ Free no obligation quotes
- ✓ Friendly and reliable service
- ✓ Fully insured

CONTACT US
FOR A FREE QUOTE...

 ALEX NEW

 07531765164

 Apn.electrical@outlook.com





TRIBE
STRENGTH
GYM

6 WEEK CHALLENGE



- TRAIN WITH US 3 TIMES A WEEK ON OUR GROUP TRAINING PROGRAM
- PERSONAL NUTRITION COACHING AND ACCOUNTABILITY
- BUILD STRENGTH, FITNESS AND GET IN GREAT SHAPE

WHERE IS THE GYM?

OUR GYM IS BASED AT UNIT 3, LONDON LANE, HAYNES WEST END, BEDFORD, MK45 3RA

WHEN ARE THE SESSIONS?

WE HAVE SESSIONS AVAILABLE EVERY WEEKDAY MORNING (6-11AM) AND EVENING (5-9PM) PLUS SATURDAY MORNINGS (7-11AM). YOU CAN COME TO WHICHEVER SESSIONS SUIT YOU BEST.

DO I NEED TO BE FIT?

NO – WE'LL MAKE SURE YOU'RE WORKING AT A PACE THAT MATCHES YOUR EXPERIENCE AND FITNESS LEVEL.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER?

IT'S YOUR CHOICE – YOU CAN BECOME A FULL MEMBER OR IF YOU DECIDE WE'RE NOT FOR YOU, WE CAN PART WAYS WITH NO HARD FEELINGS.

INFO@TRIBESTRENGTHGYM.COM

TRIBESTRENGTHGYM

WWW.TRIBESTRENGTHGYM.COM

CALL US ON 07500006408



THE **AVENUE** KITCHEN



NEW COFFEE SHOP NOW OPEN IN WREST PARK
WITH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE SEATING AVAILABLE



DOGS WELCOME 
POP IN FOR BREAKFAST, LIGHT LUNCHES, OR TEA
AND HOMEMADE CAKE

PLEASE CHECK OUR SOCIAL MEDIA FOR CURRENT
OPENING TIMES

 THE AVENUE KITCHEN
01525 864400

BUILDING 59, WREST PARK, SILSOE, MK45 4HS



We are a registered charity, run by volunteers. We are based in rural Bedfordshire and have been rehoming and rehabilitating cats for over 20 years.
We always have lots of beautiful cats waiting for loving homes.

If you're looking to adopt, please check out our social media pages & get in touch with us! 



[facebook.com/StrayCatRescue](https://www.facebook.com/StrayCatRescue)



[straycatrescue](https://www.straycatrescue.com)



www.straycatrescue.org.uk



Bespoke carpentry and joinery solutions serving homes in Clophill and the surrounding area. Fully qualified with over 40 years' experience. We specialise in creating quality bespoke storage solutions, door hanging, fitting wooden flooring and refurbishing staircases, alongside a wide range of general carpentry and joinery services.

info@purejoinerysolutions.co.uk

07786 463217



Tammys' Talons

Nail Technician
Gel. Manicure and Pedicure

IZABELLE HAMMON
CALGEL 

Tammy Kirby

Clophill, Bedfordshire, MK45 4AW

Tel : 07968379309

tammystalons@gmail.com

Laptop & Computer

Printer, Apple Mac, setup, Repair, Data Recovery, Internet, Wireless Network, Virus Infection, Hacked, Email setup, Home office computer problems. **NO FIX- NO FEE. Qualified & Experienced. 'We Come 2 You'**
01525306316- 07925338435 Pclaprepairs@gmail.com

A new professional dog grooming salon in Clophill

Please contact Freya on
07503 923165



LOCAL INDEPENDENT MORTGAGE ADVICE



- Access to the whole market
- Remortgage
- Industry experts
- First time buyers
- Personal service
- Moving home
- Vast experience
- Buy To Let



THE MORTGAGE EXPERT

www.tmexpert.co.uk

Contact your local independent mortgage expert: 01525 30 67 60

Endeavour House, Wrest Park, Silsoe MK45 4HS

YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE
We charge a fee of £495 for the straight forward mortgage application and up to £1,495 for the more complex ones.
Prior to application we will let you know when this becomes payable.
Please note we do not charge any fees upfront or for any initial advice.



WREST PARK TUTORS

Face-to-Face Tuition
Maths, English, Science
Reception to A Level

- Expert tuition from qualified teachers
- Tailored to your child's level
- Fully equipped learning centre in the grounds of Wrest Park
- Term-time and/or school holidays

**Our students develop confidence,
resilience and independence.**

They love learning with us.

**QUALIFIED TEACHERS NEEDED TO
JOIN OUR TEAM OF TUTORS**

Contact Katie at
wrestparktutors@gmail.com
f @ [@wrestparktutors](https://www.facebook.com/wrestparktutors)

E.T. Accountancy Services

Experienced Chartered Accountant and Chartered Tax adviser based in Clophill providing a full range of accountancy and taxation services to businesses and private individuals.

To arrange a free initial consultation please telephone me on 01525 590465 or email emma@et-accountancy.co.uk

**Chartered Accountant and
Chartered Tax Adviser**



Emma Thoulass FCA CTA
www.et-accountancy.co.uk
01525 590465

Painter and Decorator

Call Chris : 07950714579



do you want your home brightening up?
all interior & exterior work
no job too small!
free no obligation quote
25 years experience & fully insured

facebook: @christopherthepainter
email: chris.minihane@btinternet.com

JK Garden and Landscape Services Ltd



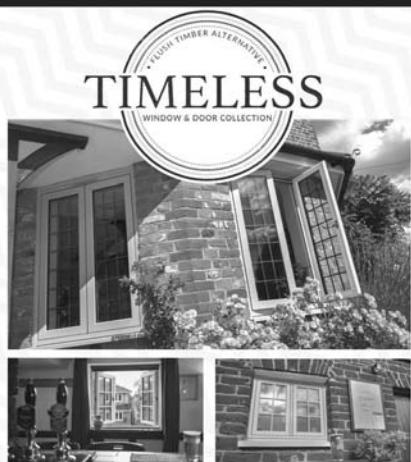
We offer...

full landscaping service
patios
fencing
decking
new lawns
driveways
all garden maintenance

Contact us on **0791 2028254**
or at **jkgardening@hotmail.co.uk**

You can also find us on Facebook

Kings Windows



Available in a range of traditional colours
Choose classic joints to look like wood
Stunning handle options

TIMELESS FLUSH TIMBER ALTERNATIVE WINDOWS

as seen in The Old Compasses & The Stone Jug

available exclusively from
Kings Windows



 **01582 882 800**
www.kingswindows.co.uk

Lively,
stimulating
sessions

Great songs,
Pop, musicals,
folk, classical,
world music
and more

Greensand Community Choir



Mondays 7.30pm - 9pm,
St. Mary's Church, High Street,
Colphill MK45 4BJ

No auditions,
no need to read
music

Come along and sing with your
local community choir, for adults of all
singing abilities



e: greensandcommunitychoir@gmail.com
t: 07975 520085

Find us on

THE BLUE CAT



Tel: 01525 861416

www.thebluecat.net

Find us on Facebook @thebluecatcattery
or email us at enquiries@thebluecat.net

The Bluecat is a luxury cattery
set in the quiet area of Jacques Lane
in Cophill. With just 14 cat chalets,
we have time to fuss, pamper
and play with your cat to its heart's
content whilst in our care.
Please call for further information.



Telephone:
07789 693959

Email:
**jamieb535@
googlemail.com**

- All aspects of plumbing
- Oil heating and maintenance
- Drainage
- Free quotations on all bathroom refits and renovations
- 24-hour callout

I specialise in bathroom design

Misty Double Glazing?

KEEP YOUR WINDOW FRAMES...
... WE JUST REPLACE THE GLASS!

- UPVC • Aluminium • Or Wood

Because we replace just the glass the repair is a Fraction of the cost of a complete replacement window.

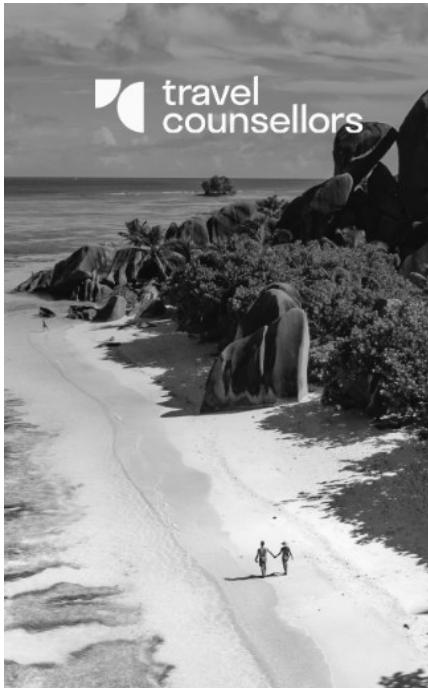


mistydoubleglazing.co.uk
QUALITY GLAZING SERVICES

01525 876808

WE ALSO REPLACE BROKEN...

**• Glass • Handles • Hinges & Locks
AND REPAIR...Patio Doors & Conservatories!**



Your dream Holiday is my priority

Based in Silsoe, I am your local travel advisor. Allow me to arrange your next holiday with care and lose the pain of planning. I'll take care of every last detail so you can explore with confidence and make memories to last a lifetime.

Neil Forrester

TRAVEL COUNSELLOR

07479 479934

neil.forrester@travelcounsellors.com
travelcounsellors.co.uk/neil.forrester

★ Trustpilot ★★★★★



Eastcotts Park,
Wallis Way,
Bedford, MK42 0PE
01234 266 366

Visit

www.peacockscafe.co.uk
for more details on our opening
hours and to view our full menu.

W&H PEACOCK
AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

The Café at W&H Peacock is **OPEN**

View the salerooms for our upcoming auctions and
then relax with a coffee and a slice of cake.

Our unique cafe in Bedford Auction Centre with free wi-fi
comfortably seats over 100 customers. We serve cooked
breakfasts, paninis and sandwiches, light lunches and
snacks plus a range of hot and cold drinks.



LOCAL ALLOY WHEEL REFURBISHMENT



**Tel:
01525
860069**

Alloy Wheel Repairs

Diamond Cut Alloy Wheels Repaired On Site

Powder Coat Primers & Lacquers

Fast Turnaround Alloy Wheel Welding

Tyres At Competitive Prices

NEW for 2015 - 4 Wheel Alignment Service

www.mintalloys.co.uk

Welcome to Clophill St Mary's C of E Lower School and Nursery

We are a small, friendly, village Lower School, graded "Good" by Ofsted (2021), with close links to the local community.

We welcome children from 2 years to 9 years, supporting and nurturing each individual child AND teaching them about life-long Values.

Wrap around care available for all ages (breakfast and after-school care).

Acorn Nursery

Preschool provision in a beautiful bespoke building and outdoor space! Providing 30 hours free childcare entitlement with wrap-around care too!

**Clophill St. Mary's
CofE Lower School**



Acorn Nursery available
from 2 years—4 years!



EVERYONE is welcome at St. Mary's and you do not have to be a practicing Christian to attend our school.

We are first and foremost a Village School and Nursery:-)

To arrange a visit, please call: 01525 860206 or email: generaladmin@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk

For more information visit: www.clophillstmarysschool.co.uk

Auction Sales & Valuations

Valuation, collection and auction service
of individual items through to complete
property and commercial clearances.

Call for a free no obligation quote or
email info@peacockauction.co.uk

SALE ENTRIES NOW INVITED

Antique & Modern Furniture • Clocks • Books • Ceramics & Glassware • Pictures & Prints • Bicycles
Jewellery & Watches • Collectables • Garage Tools & Equipment • Household Electrical Items • Office
Furniture & Equipment • Retail Products & Stock • Vehicles • Horticultural & Commercial Equipment
Building Materials • Garden Furniture & Effects

www.peacockauction.co.uk



W&H PEACOCK
AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

01234 266366



Eastcotts Park,
Wallis Way,
Bedford,
MK42 0PE

**T. Butlin Building
& Plastering**

Local Builder and Plasterer
for
40 years

m: 07778 680393
e: timbutlin@hotmail.co.uk

Est. 1986



FIREWOODSHIRE.co.uk
KILN DRIED LOGS TO CLOPHILL



£15 DISCOUNT
on first order

USE CODE: **CLOPHILL1**

01234 484486

AL & G ABBOTT

Funeral Directors

~ Established 1832 ~



With you when it matters most

An independent family business providing care and professional services to Kempston, Bedford and surrounding villages.



- 24 Hour Personal Service
- Private Chapels of Rest
- Home Arrangements
- Pre-Paid Funeral Plans
- Green Burials
- Funeral Wishes
- Bereavement Support Groups
(free to anyone)



01234 843222



abbott-funerals.co.uk



support@abbott-funerals.co.uk



150 Bedford Road, Kempston, Bedfordshire, MK42 8BH

Home
is where the heart is
Let's keep it there™



Care in your home, just as you like it.

You may be in a situation where you need an extra pair of hands, or you may have complex needs that require dedicated care.

Our well-trusted care service ranges from a 30-minute daily visit through to full Live-in care.

Call our friendly team today.

Bluebird Care Central Bedfordshire

01525 713389

bluebirdcare.co.uk/central-bedfordshire
centralbedfordshire@bluebirdcare.co.uk



Residential Conveyancing

Experienced Local Consultant Conveyancer (Clophill)

Michele Hosey

michelehosey@photiades.com

01525 300577

Competitive legal costs, personable, efficient,
strong communication, faster turnaround times

**Contact me for a free no obligation estimate
or to discuss your specific requirements**

Recommended by Local Estate Agents

photiades solicitors
FRIENDLY EFFICIENCY



How to use your pension pot wisely
Do you have a plan?

Maybe you have several pension pots?

What about old employer's pension schemes?

We can help you make the right choice – either when you retire or to build your pot. You now have more choices than ever.

We make sure we take the time to understand your needs, goals and preferences before we make any recommendations.

For professional, friendly, financial advice contact us on:

01525 861803 | john@stellarfp.co.uk
Enterprise House, B52 Wrest Park, Silsoe MK45 4HS

Head Office | 34 Penallta Road
Ystrad Mynach, CF82 7AN





NEVILLE FUNERALS

We take care of the details, so you can say goodbye the way you want to.

NEVILLE. Because there is a difference.

AMPTHILL

The Old Church, Flitwick Road MK45 2NT

t: 01525 406132

e: ampthill@nevilleservice.com

SHEFFORD

24 Clifton Road SG17 5AE

t: 01462 813258

e: shefford@nevilleservice.com

www.nevilleservice.com



HAPPY PLACE, RESTORED

If you love your lawn, you'll love GreenThumb. Our year-round treatments will give your grass the TLC it deserves, so you get a lawn you can feel good about.



GreenThumb
LAWN TREATMENT SERVICE



Discover more at greenthumb.co.uk

Scan
here

Bedford & Huntingdon

01234 709345 or 01480 597432 bedford@greenthumb.co.uk

Baths, Toilets &
Showers
Sinks and Taps
Guttering
Leaks and Burst Pipes
Drainage
Handyman jobs also



beta plumbing

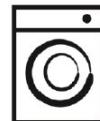
Silsoe based
No call out fee – free estimates
Fully insured and guaranteed
No job too small
07720 723653 01525 864859
info@betaplumbing.co.uk
www.betaplumbing.co.uk

TIM DOWNING

**Washing Machines Dishwashers Dryers Electric Ovens
Repairs Servicing Sales**



Tel: Tim on Clophill 860148
Mobile: 07969 545 276



A local family business offering a quality service at a competitive price

A member of the White Goods Trade Association
Fully Insured Est. 1981

Root 'n Branch

Your Local Friendly & Reliable Gardener

All aspects of Garden Maintenance undertaken
• PRUNING • MOWING • WEEDING • PLANTING • HEDGING

Southfields, Shefford
email: whooley@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 07771 537385

Public Liability
Insured



THE CONIFERS
CANINE HOTEL

**LUXURY
ACCOMMODATION
HOLISTIC FOOD SHOP**

01525 860339



www.the-conifers.co.uk



*Bathroom
Vogue*

EST.
1989

- Suppliers of traditional and modern equipment
- Working whirlpool & spa baths, power & steam shower systems on display
- Over 40 settings on display
- Complete installation service if required
- Personal friendly service from a family run business
- Wall and floor tiles
- Accessories
- Mirrors
- Bathroom furniture
- Heated towel rails
- Saunas
- Bathroom cabinets

SHEFFORD 01462 627002

www.bathroomvogue.com

Unit 4A, Shefford Industrial Park, St Francis Way, Shefford SG17 5DZ

BURGLAR ALARMS

New Alarms Fitted or Upgrade Existing Alarms

BURGLAR ALARMS

We fit New Alarms - Wired or Wireless Systems

We can service and maintain your existing alarm

CCTV

We fit high quality systems to maximise your security.

Access your CCTV via the internet or mobile.

DOOR ENTRY

We fit a range of quality video and audio intercoms to suit your needs.

We are a family run business with over 35 years experience in home security and crime prevention.



MAXIMUM
SECURITY SYSTEMS LTD

www.maximumsecuritysystems.co.uk

Contact:

01582 864138 / 07746 111520

For a free quote and consultation



NEWBURY FARM PLANTS

Plant Inspiration

NEWBURY FARM, AMPHILL ROAD, SILSOE MK45 4HB

OPENING HOURS - WED - SAT 9 - 5 & SUN 10 - 4

TEL: 01525 860048

WIDE SELECTION OF BEAUTIFUL GARDEN PLANTS



RHS Gold Medal Winner 2023

NEW Pilates classes based in Houghton Conquest village. Small group classes to ensure correct posture and alignment in a friendly **private studio**.

All abilities and ages welcome with equipment provided. Classes are 45 mins in length, including a warm-up, main session and closing stretch.

Pilates is a low impact form of exercise which is kind on the joints. Focusing on strengthening the **deepest core muscles** which support and wrap around the spine. There are many benefits to Pilates including the easing of lower back pain and reducing stress and anxiety.

- **Group Mat Classes** – Mon, Wed, Thurs & Friday 9.30am/10.30am, 6.30pm/7.30pm
- **121 Mat Pilates Sessions** available at request
- **121 Reformer sessions** – Body Control qualified, please enquire for available times
- **DM on Facebook, Instagram or email** – info@thepilatesbox.co.uk



AMPTHILL & FLITWICK PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC

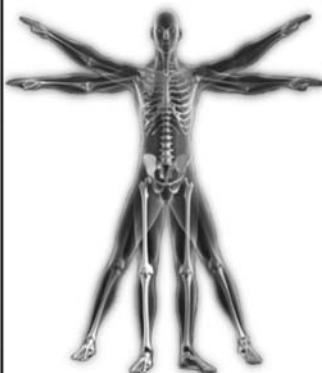
Tel: 01525 720882

www.chartered-physiotherapy.co.uk

Info@anphysio.co.uk

1 Kings Road Flitwick MK45 1ED

Helping you get back on track



We offer the very best hands-on physiotherapy treatment

Neck/ Back/ Shoulder/Knee pain

Headaches/Migraines/Sciatica

Arthritis and all joint pain

Whiplash/RSI/Osteoporosis/Sports injuries

Vertigo and dizziness/Posture training and ergonomics

Long Covid

WE ARE PROVIDERS FOR MOST INSURANCE COMPANIES

We also offer complementary treatments:

Acupuncture/Chinese medicine

Clinical Psychology/Deep Tissue Massage

Hire Clophill Village Hall



**Wedding Receptions
Birthdays & Special Occasions
Dances and Discos
Club & Community Meetings & Activities**

Phone: 07821 643 936

Mail: Clophill.villagehall@gmail.com Web: www.clophillvillagehall.co.uk

ROGER STOREY

YOUR LOCAL PAINTER AND DECORATOR

Friendly and Reliable Service
Many Years Experience

Please phone: **01525 861253** or **07800 777615**

ANDREW BAKER WINDOWS

9 SHEFFORD ROAD
CLOPHILL BEDS
MK45 4BT

SPECIALISING IN UPVC WINDOWS,
DOORS, CONSERVATORIES,
FASCIA, SOFFITS, GUTTERS AND
CLADDING. ALSO AVAILABLE FOR CARPENTRY
WORK. NO JOB TOO SMALL OR LARGE.

20 Years experience.
Free local quotes.

FENSA

Fensa Registered

FIVE YEAR GUARANTEE

Contact Andrew: 01525862804 / 07825017855
Email: abakerwindows@gmail.com



WOBURN COUNTRY FOODS

THE GOURMET BUTCHER

HAYNES WEST END - WOBURN SANDS

THE FARM SHOP, HAYNES WEST END

WEST END FARM, HAYNES WEST END, MK45 3RA
BUTCHERS HOTLINE - 07845141969

FROSTS FOODHALL WOBURN SANDS

NEWPORT ROAD, WOBURN SANDS, MK17 8UE
BUTCHERS HOTLINE - 07754215335

ORDER ONLINE
WOBURNCOUNTRYFOODS.COM

Advertisers index

Auctioneers & valuers		Funeral Services		Plumbing & Drainage Services																																																																																																																							
W&H Peacock	34	AL&G Abbot, Funeral Directors	35	Jamie, the happy plumber 31																																																																																																																							
Bathroom Services		Neville Funeral Service	37	Beta Plumbing 38																																																																																																																							
Bathroom Vogue	39			Chapman & Kirby Heating 22																																																																																																																							
Builders & Carpenters		Garden																																																																																																																									
PURE joinery solutions	28	Coles Growers	IBC	Print Services																																																																																																																							
T. Butlin Building & Plastering	34	Green Thumb Lawn Treatment	38	Stuart Benson Building Projects	IFC	JK Garden and Landscape Services	30	Fidelity Design & print IFC			Newbury Farm Plants	40	Public Houses	Car Services/Repairs		Root 'n Branch	39	The Stone Jug 22	A&F Motors Ltd	IFC	Health & Beauty		Repair Services	Mint Alloys	33	Bluebird Care	35	Tim Downing Repair Services 38	TC Coomber Car Services	BC	Amphill & Flitwick Physiotherapy	41		Choirs		Pilates Box	41	Schools	Greensand Community Choir	31	Tracy's Scentsy Treasures	25	Clophill PreSchool BC	Computer Services		Tammy's Talons	28	Clophill St Mary's C of E 33	PCLap Repairs	28	Tribe Strength Gym	26	Acorn Lower School and Nursery 33	Electrical Services		Home Improvements		Security Services	APN Electrical	25	Christopher The Painter	30	Maximum Security Systems 40	Financial Services		David James Kitchens	25	Travel Services	ET Accounting Services	29	Roger Storey - Painter & Decorator	42	Travel Counsellor 32	Stella Financial Planning	36	Legal		Tuition	MB Accounting Services	22	Photiades Solicitors	36	Wrest Park Tutors 29	The Mortgage Expert	29	Shaw's Wills	24	Village Hall	Food & Refreshments		Pet & Animal Services		Clophill Village Hall 42	Café at W&H Peacock	32	The Conifers Canine Hotel	39	Windows/Replacement	Woburn Country Foods	43	The Bluecat Luxury Cattery	31	Andrew Baker Windows 42	The Avenue Kitchen	27	Amphill Veterinary Centre	23	AW Windows IBC	Fuel		Floofys Dog Grooming	23	Kings Windows 30	Anglia Firewood	34	Freyas Dog Grooming	28	Misty Double Glazing 31			Stray Cat Rescue	28	
Stuart Benson Building Projects	IFC	JK Garden and Landscape Services	30	Fidelity Design & print IFC																																																																																																																							
		Newbury Farm Plants	40	Public Houses																																																																																																																							
Car Services/Repairs		Root 'n Branch	39	The Stone Jug 22																																																																																																																							
A&F Motors Ltd	IFC	Health & Beauty		Repair Services																																																																																																																							
Mint Alloys	33	Bluebird Care	35	Tim Downing Repair Services 38																																																																																																																							
TC Coomber Car Services	BC	Amphill & Flitwick Physiotherapy	41																																																																																																																								
Choirs		Pilates Box	41	Schools																																																																																																																							
Greensand Community Choir	31	Tracy's Scentsy Treasures	25	Clophill PreSchool BC																																																																																																																							
Computer Services		Tammy's Talons	28	Clophill St Mary's C of E 33																																																																																																																							
PCLap Repairs	28	Tribe Strength Gym	26	Acorn Lower School and Nursery 33																																																																																																																							
Electrical Services		Home Improvements		Security Services																																																																																																																							
APN Electrical	25	Christopher The Painter	30	Maximum Security Systems 40																																																																																																																							
Financial Services		David James Kitchens	25	Travel Services																																																																																																																							
ET Accounting Services	29	Roger Storey - Painter & Decorator	42	Travel Counsellor 32																																																																																																																							
Stella Financial Planning	36	Legal		Tuition																																																																																																																							
MB Accounting Services	22	Photiades Solicitors	36	Wrest Park Tutors 29																																																																																																																							
The Mortgage Expert	29	Shaw's Wills	24	Village Hall																																																																																																																							
Food & Refreshments		Pet & Animal Services		Clophill Village Hall 42																																																																																																																							
Café at W&H Peacock	32	The Conifers Canine Hotel	39	Windows/Replacement																																																																																																																							
Woburn Country Foods	43	The Bluecat Luxury Cattery	31	Andrew Baker Windows 42																																																																																																																							
The Avenue Kitchen	27	Amphill Veterinary Centre	23	AW Windows IBC																																																																																																																							
Fuel		Floofys Dog Grooming	23	Kings Windows 30																																																																																																																							
Anglia Firewood	34	Freyas Dog Grooming	28	Misty Double Glazing 31																																																																																																																							
		Stray Cat Rescue	28																																																																																																																								

IFC = Inside Front Cover **IBC** = Inside Back Cover **BC** = Back Cover

Love reading Spotlight?

Don't forget to mention us when you use a business that advertises in this magazine!

ColesGrowers



BRITISH CUT FLOWERS
SEASONAL, SUSTAINABLE, UNIQUE

Fresh bouquets £15 £25 or £40

Posy in a jar £12 - these make beautiful gifts

Bud vases 2 for £14 for a small celebration

Special occasions please get in touch.

Collect from Gravenhurst Fri/Sat am or pm.

Order deadline 3pm the day before.

Please contact us via:

Text/WhatsApp 07736 106326 or

Email: lynda@colesgrowers.co.uk for how to order



NO PRESSURE SALES – YOU DEAL WITH THE OWNER FROM START TO FINISH



- ✓ A-rated windows as standard
- ✓ Composite doors
- ✓ High security
- ✓ Bifold doors
- ✓ Conservatories
- ✓ Fascias, soffits and guttering
- ✓ Insurance-backed guarantee
- ✓ Fensa certificate

Contact: ANDY WOOD



01582 536944 or 07796 272539
sales@awwindows.co.uk



See reviews from satisfied customers at awwindows.co.uk

Clophill Preschool

We are a unique outdoor setting based in the rural grounds of Clophill Village Hall welcoming children from the age of 2 and offering a bespoke SEND provision.

Our passionate and experienced staff nurture every child and broaden their perspective, enrich their knowledge and spark the magic of wonder through a curriculum based in nature.



Call or email to find out more

07765 887868 or 07936 006381
clophillpreschool@gmail.com
www.clophillpreschool.co.uk



Find us on Facebook



TC Toomber

**MOT'S CLASS 4/5L/7
CAR SERVICING & REPAIR
TYRES & EXHAUSTS
AIR CONDITIONING
DIAGNOSTIC CODE READING**

**AMPTHILL
01525 406330**

**Collection & Delivery
SERVICE AVAILABLE
Please ask**

UNIT F, AMPHILL INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, STATION ROAD, AMPHILL, MK45 2QY