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CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

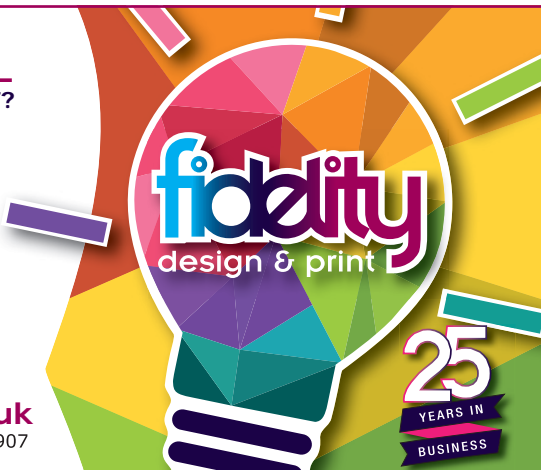
FEBRUARY 2026

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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



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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*

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 Cardosi 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 Cas-settes 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> 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.

Clophill
Preschool



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



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.

The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs & Northants
Registered charity number: 1000412
www.wildlifebcn.org
Flit Vale Local Group
www.wildlifebcn.org/flit-vale-local-group

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.

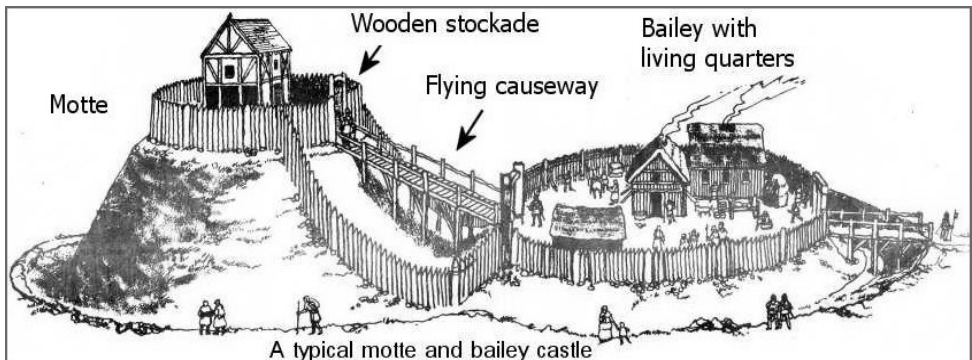
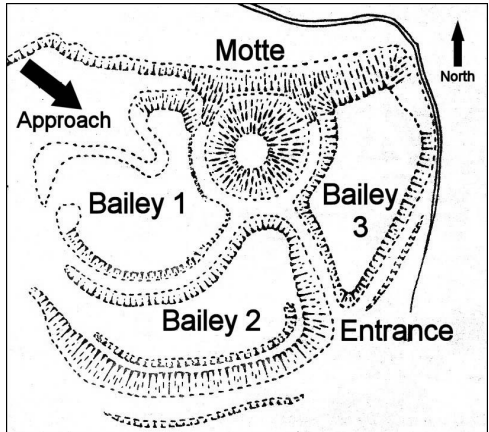
Surrounding the motte are living areas, protected by banks and ditches, called **baileys**.

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

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Electricity (Emergency)			0800 7838838
Emergency Fire/Police/Ambulance			999
Water/Sewage (Anglian Water)			0845 7145145
Telephone		(Customer Services) 150	(Faults) 151
Highways Department (Central Bedfordshire Council)			0300 3008049
Benefits Agency (Bedford office)			01234 361500
Registrar's Office (Births/deaths/marriages)			0300 3008089
Rail (Enquiries)			0845 7484950
Buses	01234 262151	(Link A Ride) 01525 840511	(Flittabus) 01582 406561
Luton Airport			01582 405100
Swimming		(Flitwick) 01525 717744	(Robinson Pool) 01234 212479
LOCAL GOVERNMENT			
Central Beds Offices (Chicksands)			0300 300 8000
Mid-Bed; MP		Blake Stephenson	020 7219 7477
Central Bedfordshire Councillors		Susan Clinch	0300 300 8516
		Gary Summerfield	0300 300 8561
		Mark Smith	0300 300 8541
Clophill Parish Council	PC Clerk. Lynne Killeen clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk		07888 685886
HOSPITALS			
Bedford (North & South)	01234 355122	Admissions	01234 261150
		Appointments	01234 359012
Luton & Dunstable			0845 1270127
DOCTOR'S CLINICS			
Amphill	(Houghton Close) 01525 300898	(Oliver Street)	01525 631395
		(Greensands)	01525 631390
Shefford	Enquiries 01462 818620	Appointments	01462 810034
Barton	01582 528700	Flitwick	01525 715300
POLICE		Non Emergency	101
County Police HQ			01234 841212
Amphill Station			101
CHURCHES			
St Mary's Parish Church			TBA
(Rector) Steve Marsh			
(Church Warden) Mrs Anne Shegog	anneshegog@gmail.com		01525 864868
St Francis RC Church, Shefford			01452 813436
Clophill Methodist Church	Revd Silas Wood, email: swood11@me.com,		01525 571392
	Mr John Errick		01525 860695
Baptist Churches	(Maulden) Ian Crawford		01525 634325
	(Shefford) Hazel Arnold		01462 812564
SCHOOLS			
St Mary's C of E Lower School, Nursery & Preschool (Headteacher Mrs K Bingley)			01525 860206
Harlington Upper School, Harlington			01525 755100
Preschool	clophillpreschool@gmail.com (Chris) 07936 006381 or (Imogen)		07765 887868
Redborne Upper School, Amphill			01525 404462
Robert Bloomfield Middle School, Shefford			01462 628800

Village groups

Beverley Court		860920
Brownies	enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk	
Clophill Community Care	Duty Contact	07791 773705
Clophill Heritage Trust	Ali Bradbury	07894 710001
Clophill Parent and Toddler Group		
	Imogen	07765 887868
Clophill Preschool	Alex Hale and Sophie Hale	07939 823721
Clophill St Mary's C of E Lower School, Nursery and Preschool	Tracy Hayes	860206
Clophill United Charities	Val Martin	07845 731134
Community Garden	Bev Hall (Bloomin Well)	07468 121508
	www.bloominwellcic.com	
Conservation Group	Brian Adams	862297
Fledglings	Alex Hale and Sophie Hale	07908 162354
Flower Club	Gillian Hill	860539
Funzone After School Club		07903 167493
Greensand Community Choir	Luke	07975 520085
Indoor Carpet Bowls	Tony Meredith	860754
Messy Church	Victoria Higgins	07920 568861
	victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk	
Friends of St Mary's (FOSM)	Johnathan Matlock and Anna Neuff	
	fosmclophill@gmail.com	
Scouts and Cubs	www.scouts.org.uk/get-involved	
Tea and Chat	Anita Errick	860695
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Marylin Browning	07821 643936

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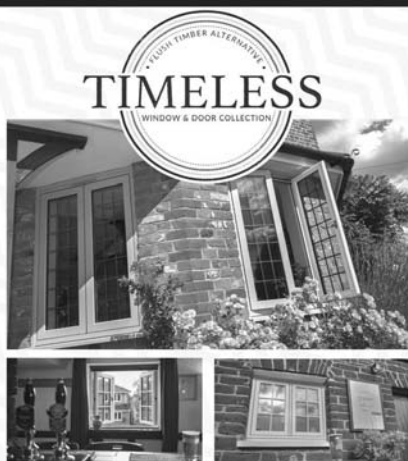


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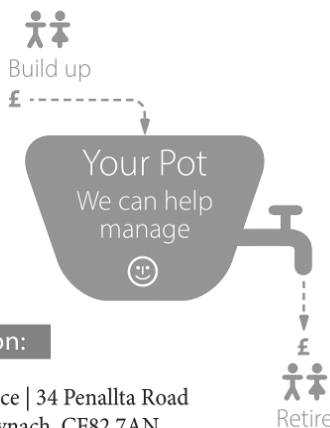
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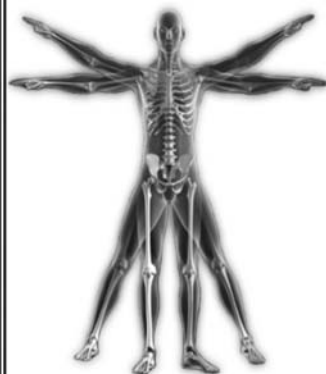
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