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FREE

CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

MARCH 2026



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A word from the Editor...

Welcome to the March issue of Spotlight

Dear Reader,

It was a bit of a squeeze to fit everything in this month which is a happy problem to solve. Anyway, we managed it but my apologies to those of you who sent in articles that I had to cut down on the content or shrink the size of a poster.

This month there are 2 requests for donations to support local projects. **The 1st is Spotlight** itself. Recently, several advertisers have had to step away, and while we are doing our very best to stay afloat, our funds are running dangerously low. We are actively seeking new businesses to advertise with us, but in the meantime, we need a little extra help – see page 4 for details. **The second is the Village Hub;** they have a new advert on page 28 requesting support either financially or for more volunteers. Speaking of volunteers, the **Clophill Therapeutic Gardens are looking for more volunteers** to help on a Sunday; including families in the morning session. So, if you want to get the kids out into the fresh air and off their phones and game consoles for free; see page 16 for more info.

See you all again in April!!

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*

The weather has been very wet and windy but as the winter aconites and snowdrops start to go over so the crocuses, daffodils and hellebores are next in line to shine.

March is a good planting month, as the soil is starting to warm up while plants are still largely dormant and don't mind being moved. Plants can be divided successfully at almost any time if they are kept well-watered afterwards. However, division is most successful when the plants are not in active growth.

Perennials are any plant living for at least three years. The term is also commonly used for herbaceous perennials which grow for many years. Perennials benefit from division every two to three years to maintain health and vigour. If you want to increase the number of plants you have by dividing them, the task can be done more regularly. Some of the plants that can be divided successfully are Agapanthus, Aster, Bergenia (elephant's ears), Convallaria (lily-of-the-valley) Crocosmia, Delphinium, Epimedium, Eryngium (sea holly), Geranium, Hemerocallis (daylily), Hostas and ornamental grasses.

If you grow red or yellow-stemmed dogwoods, cut these down now before they come into bud, to encourage fresh brightly coloured stems to grow for next winter. If you have space, you could think about planting a shrub or group of shrubs to attract birds through the year. Nectar-rich flowers will attract many flying insects, including butterflies.

If you are looking to increase the biodiversity in your garden, then consider planting a collection of small trees. Any of the following are great for providing habitats and food sources for lots of different species. Buddleia, cherry (*Prunus avium*), Cotoneaster, crab apple (*Malus*), goat willow (*Salix caprea*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), mountain ash (*Sorbus aucuparia*), and Pyracantha

Early spring is an ideal time to plant herbaceous perennials, including Geranium, Astrantia and Oriental poppies. Cut back ornamental grasses and other perennials left for winter interest before they start putting new shoots out.

Continue to deadhead winter-flowering pansies and other winter bedding. Pansies will carry on into the spring and even to early summer and would benefit from a liquid feed too.

Now is also the perfect time to start sowing your hardy annuals. With so many to choose from it can feel quite overwhelming to sow lots of different varieties all at once. This March why not try sowing 2 or 3 varieties on a weekly basis may stop you feeling overwhelmed when your tiny seedlings all suddenly need potting on at the same space. Very quickly 1 small seed tray of tiny babies suddenly becomes 50 9cm pots that take over all or your spaces. Here's what I'm sowing over the next few weeks. Ammi, Orlaya and Nigella in week 1, Calendula, cornflowers, and Cerinthe in week 2, Lavatera, Briza and Silene in week 3 and then Poppies, scabiosa and Strawflowers in week 4.

Come into the Garden *continued*

Remember that you don't need to sow the whole packet at once. I aim for between 10 to 15 seeds in a small row which means enough plants for the garden and some to give away to friends and family or replace any that may get eaten by slugs. Don't be tempted to start off your more tender half hardy seeds as these will need more heat and brighter light levels. I would hold off sowing these until closer to Easter at the end of April.

Happy Gardening

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

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

To be honest, I really don't know where this cover photo on the March 1981 issue of Spotlight was taken, do you? It's not mentioned in the Editorial which began with "this year has been designated the 'International Year of the Disabled Person'. So, we ask the question 'what can we do to help?' The answer can often be found in the pages of Spotlight.



We believe that Clophill is a caring community". (Isn't that just what I said last month - and proof positive after a very recent 'gatecrash' into 'The Fly' car park, when wonderful Clophillians stopped what they were doing to help with moving the errant car. Thank you so much.)

Back now to March 1981 Spotlight - and, **The Parish Council** "Recreation Sub-Committee prepared a plan with swings, a slide and other less formal pieces of apparatus. "(for the plot in the NE corner of Townshott which "was originally designated as a children's playground, but has been lying unused for years.") The residents were asked for their opinions and "At a subsequent meeting, practically all those present were against the idea."

Other topics discussed included: "The diversion of the footpath across Readshill Quarry was approved provided the County gets assurances, in writing, that the public can use the existing track until quarrying restarts, and that, when it does, the line of the new path will be made less steep by rounding the north-eastern corner."

Another discussion concerned Mr Groom, of The Retreat, Kiln Lane who requested permission to "move his cattle through Brazier's Field north-west of the Village Hall which is let to the Archery Club." This was because he recently purchased the field north-east of the Village Hall which is separated from his other fields by a strip of land and wants to move his cattle from one section of his land to another." The intervening landowner (his brother) denied him access to the strip. "The Parish Council have refused his application and suggested that he use the road instead."

Reflections continued

There was an evening's entertainment themed on 'Old Tyme Music Hall' when the competition for Old Tyme Costume was won by Katy Bousted, with Claire Cranswick second."

The school football team continued "to reap success under the careful supervision of Mr. Peter Wiles and Mr. Peter Gibbs." They lost 1, drew 1 and "won all other matches". "On January 31st, the girls played their first ever **netball match** against Silsoe Lower School. Far from being 'easy prey' the St. Mary's girls ended with a tremendously well-deserved win,"

As it was the International Year of the Disabled Person, the February meeting of the **Flower Club** welcomed a representative of the John Grooms Invalid Society, who explained the aims of the founder and how they have evolved.

The WI was busy raising funds for their Ruby Anniversary with a Coffee Evening at their President, Mrs Warner's home and a Ploughman's lunch organised by Mrs. M. Everitt and Mrs. A. Armitage.

The pubs were doing well in the darts and dominoes with Em Berrington's ladies darts team members at 'The Fly' hoping to win the trophy.

The lucky winner of the **March Birthdays** was Graham Everitt (10). There were themes of 'The Sea' and 'Fire' at school and in '**Junior Corner**' you could read poems by Gregory Wiles, Alan Panter, Lara Gibbs and Dawn Freeman. Sadly, there is no room to print them here - perhaps another time.

Your Local Magazine Needs You!

Spotlight Magazine has proudly been delivered free of charge to every home in Clophill for as long as it has been in print. We are a fully volunteer-run publication, and our running costs are covered entirely by the generous support of local advertisers.

Recently, several advertisers have had to step away, and while we are doing our very best to stay afloat, our funds are running dangerously low. We are actively seeking new businesses to advertise with us, but in the meantime, we need a little extra help from our community to keep the magazine going.

If you are able to make a donation — no matter how small — it would make a real difference and be hugely appreciated.

Please contact me at editorial@clophillspotlight.co.uk, and I will reply with our bank details.

Thank you for supporting your local magazine.

Best wishes,
Elaine



St Mary's School News

from Mrs. Bingley our Headteacher:

Well, we've certainly had a wet and windy February at St. Mary's! Hopefully the weather improves by the time you read this.

February saw us celebrate Candlemas in Church as a whole school. We even had our school candles blessed by Rev'd Steve! The Governing Body were in for another full day of meetings with myself, to support the strategic development of the school. We also recognised NSPCC Number Day with activities based on the book '365 Penguins' by Jean-Luc Fromental and the children wearing their own clothes, with numbers on them where possible! Being one of our recognised charity days in school, we raised £116 for the NSPCC.

Before half term, we also recognised Children's Mental Health Week with daily activities in every class based on this year's theme, 'This is My Place'. We also recognised Safer Internet Day on the 10th February, completing tasks linked to the theme, 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'.

We ended the half term with a Shine Bright/Wear Bright day to mark the end of Children's Mental Health Week, asking children to do exactly what it says – wear their brightest clothes to celebrate how unique and wonderful we all are! On the last day of term, we also welcomed parents/carers into school for our last 'Come and See My Work' sessions of the academic year. It's so lovely to watch the children sharing their work with their visitors!

Acorn Nursery News

from Mrs. Hayes our Early Years Leader:

We've had so much fun continuing to learn about the special people in our community who help us over the past few weeks. We've learnt all about Police Officers and how they keep us safe, the invaluable service that Train and Bus drivers provide and also practiced being Firefighters! We created our own police car from huge pieces of cardboard and enjoyed 'driving' it and during our Healthy Movers session we became a long train, listening to instructions and using different movements to stay on the 'tracks' and carefully navigate a tunnel that we crawled under!

We've learnt about these important roles through a variety of adult led activities along with enhancements to our already wonderful continuous provision inside our Nursery and garden - as well as through stories that the children are familiar with such as Thomas the Tank Engine, Paw Patrol and Fireman Sam.

We've also learnt about Chinese New Year and extended this to include exploring about China – looking at their customs, clothes, food.



St Mary's School News continued

We have spaces available starting in April (and beyond) in our amazing bespoke Nursery, if you would like to find out more, please look on our website at www.clophillstmarysschool.co.uk or email nursery@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk.

Our Values for March are Love and Caring:

In school, we will listen to and discuss stories where people have shown love and care towards each other. We will also discuss how we can personally show love and care towards others and why it's important to do this. We will also link these Values into this half term's events of World Book Day, British Science Week and, of course, Easter.

At home, you could discuss who you love. Why do you love them? Who loves you? How can you tell they love you? You could also discuss how we care for others, as well as things like our pets. How do we show care towards things? What can you do this week to show someone or something that you care? E.g. water a plant, play with the dog, help Mum or Dad with some chores.



Clophill Open Gardens Weekend

27th / 28th June

12 noon – 5pm each day

We are planning to hold an Open Gardens Weekend in Clophill and would like to have a wide variety of gardens for people to enjoy. We were so grateful for those who kindly opened their lovely gardens in the past and we know that visitors would love to see how they have developed and some new ones. We would love to have large and small gardens, newly created and well established.

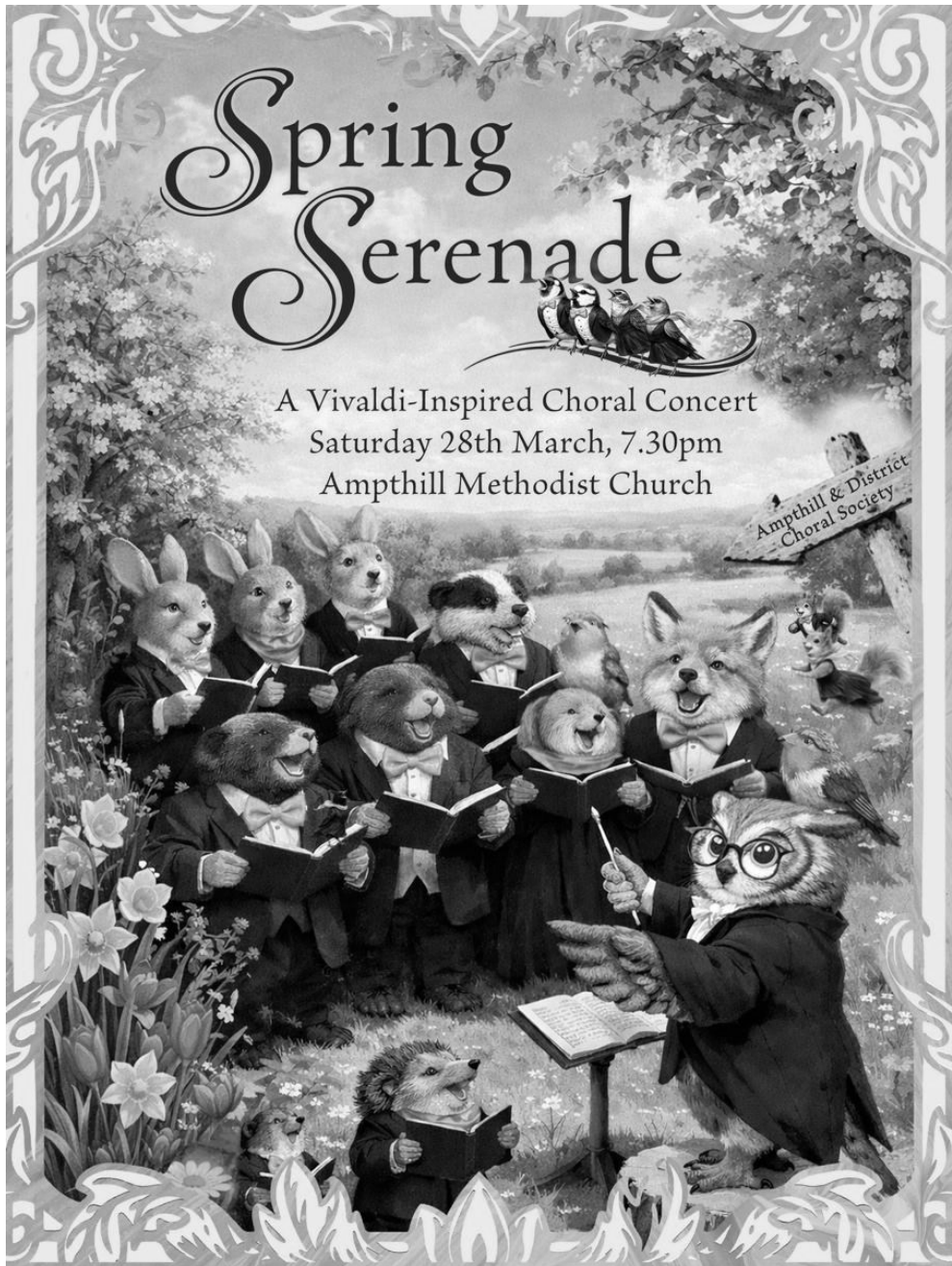
If you are willing to open **YOUR** garden or would like more details, please contact Jackie on 07831 861 641.

Proceeds in aid of St Mary's Church, Clophill.

Spring Serenade

A Vivaldi-Inspired Choral Concert
Saturday 28th March, 7.30pm
Amphill Methodist Church

Amphill & District
Choral Society



WWW.AMPHILLCHORAL.COM | SCAN QR CODE FOR TICKETS

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It's been a wonderfully busy few weeks at preschool, filled with hands-on learning, growing independence and lots of community spirit. Our Green Group children were incredibly proud to complete four challenges to achieve their Ruby Robin Awards, learning all about songbirds and how to care for them. As part of this, we joined in with the Big School Birdwatch, building our own bird watching hide so we could observe quietly and respectfully. The children were fascinated by using the Merlin Bird ID app to identify bird sounds, combining technology with nature in such an engaging way.



Fridays have been full of purpose as the children made homemade soup and delivered it to friends around the village, helping them understand kindness and the importance of looking after others. Back at the setting, they showed fantastic focus and responsibility while using real tools including bow saws, drills and hammers to create wood cookie bird feeders. Their resilience and sensible approach to safety have been brilliant to see.

Out in the garden, we added a storytelling challenge by hiding numbered pages of a story for the children to find. Once discovered, they had to work together to put the pages in the correct order before we could read it, developing sequencing skills, number recognition and teamwork along the way. Inside, we have been concentrating on looking after ourselves, practising careful handwashing, learning to put on our own coats and confidently finding and organising our belongings. These small steps are making a big difference to independence and self-belief.

Our two-year-olds have been developing simple ball skills through catching, rolling and kicking games, building coordination and confidence. Across the setting, children have taken real pride in sweeping, tidying and even refilling the gravel pit, showing a strong sense of responsibility for their environment. Creativity has been flowing too, with large-scale painting on the big board including Valentine's hearts, careful observational paintings of daffodils and children practising writing the letters in their names.



First aid role play has been particularly popular, with the children using out-of-date real medical resources to act out caring scenarios. They even completed accident forms for staff, carefully copying their names from the board, blending imaginative play with meaningful literacy opportunities. It has been a joyful few weeks of practical learning, teamwork and growing confidence and we are so proud of the kindness, capability and enthusiasm the children show each day.



Clophill and District Flower Club

www.clophillflowerclub.com



invite you to join them their Spring Open meeting:

'How to be a Diva'



A floral demonstration by

**Mark
Entwhistle**

Tuesday 24 March 2026

Clophill Village Hall

Doors open at 6.45 for prompt start at 7.30pm



Tickets: from Nicky on 07763 774141,
via the Contact section of our website
or from committee members

Visitors £13, Members £7



The Fledglings have been fully immersed in all things space, with creativity and curiosity shining through every part of our learning. The excitement was taken to another level with a visit from a travelling planetarium, which was a truly magical experience for the children. Sitting beneath the glowing dome, they explored the night sky, constellations and planets in a way that felt real and immersive. It sparked so many thoughtful questions and deepened their fascination with space.



Back in the setting, the children made beautiful space mobiles, carefully painting each planet and learning to order them from closest to the sun. They explored colour and texture by marbling paper with ink and water in trays, creating wonderful swirling effects to turn into their own planets. There was great excitement when the children were challenged to design a capsule for our “astro’egg’nauts” to travel safely back to Earth.

Groups were chosen at random and given limited resources, encouraging teamwork, problem solving and communication. With just 30 minutes to plan, build and test their designs, every group independently chose to include a parachute to slow the fall. The testing stage was full of anticipation and the children loved evaluating and improving their ideas.

Their storytelling continued as they created a stop motion video using the air-dry clay aliens they had made, showing real patience and collaboration as they adjusted each small movement. Creativity flowed into our art sessions too, where the children designed their own moveable rockets. They used glow-in-the-dark paint for the moon and counted down 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 in chalk, bringing their launch scenes to life.

Linking space to the wider world, the children learned about the famous artist Vincent van Gogh. They explored his life and created their own fact files, discussing the different painting styles he used and how artists express movement and emotion in their work. Inspired by our space theme, the children then built rockets from junk modelling materials and took them to the field to test whose would travel the furthest when thrown. They carefully measured the distance by counting how many steps from launch point to landing spot, fitting in lots of purposeful counting and comparison.

Fledglings continued

We also explored our senses through tasting activities, identifying whether foods were sweet, sour, bitter or salty. The children were fascinated to learn that in space, astronauts' ability to taste is significantly reduced, sparking great discussion about how our bodies work in different environments. During our focus week on planet Earth, we explored how day and night occur. One child held the globe and slowly rotated it while another shone a torch to represent the sun. As the light hit one side, we discussed how it was daytime there, and when the light moved away it became night. This hands-on demonstration helped the children clearly see and understand how the Earth's movement creates day and night.

Alongside our space adventures, we enjoyed a very special visit to our friends at Beverley Court, where we spent time chatting and completing crafts together with our older adult friends. It has been a rich and inspiring few weeks at The Fledglings, full of creativity, teamwork, scientific thinking and meaningful connections beyond our setting.

MILE ROAD ALLOTMENTS

Annual Plant Sale

is on the **9th and 10th of May**



Registered charity number:
1155301

Saturday 10am-4pm & Sunday 10am-12noon

All plants are grown on the site by our members. A broad selection of **Vegetable** plants and **Flowers** are available.

We also have an open-air Barbeque and Cream Teas in the café.

Mile Road Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Association, 149 Mile Road, Bedford, MK42 9UP.



We give a donation from any profits from the sale to our nominated charity, which this year is **"The British Heart Foundation"**.

Coffee and Croissants

Clophill Methodist Church

Saturday 11th April

Saturday 9th May

Saturday 13th June

10am to 12 noon

ALL WELCOME



St Mary the Virgin. Clophill

*Please come to our
Lent Lunches*

11th March 12 noon – 2pm

18th March 12 noon – 2pm

25th March 11.30 am – 1.30 pm

at St Mary's Church, Clophill

Donations will be given to



Everyone very welcome

Raffle

For information phone Carolyn 01462 815433 or Gill Jones 01525 861058

Please call if you require transport

Clophill Parish Council

The meeting was held in the Methodist Church on Tuesday 24th February.



- **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 the rabbits. It was agreed at the meeting that an initial cull of the rabbits would be done and then rabbit proof fencing will be installed. Cllr Nester has managed to secure the materials needed for this at a reduced cost and Tomas Bros. have agreed to help with the trenching that will be needed. We would ask anyone who may have some free time and would be willing to help with the installation to contact the clerk by email at clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk. This will very much need to be a village effort to get our recreation ground back to a useable area again for everyone to enjoy. Please keep a look out on our noticeboards and social media for details of any fundraising we will be doing over the next couple of months to try to help with the cost.
- **Inconsiderate Parking.** We have been made aware of incidents of inconsiderate parking in the village, especially around the school at pick up and drop off times. Please note that there is a dedicated **parking line number** you can call to report any incidents of illegal parking. The number is **0300 300 8005**. They are available from 08.30 to 17.30 Monday – Thursday and 08.30 – 16.30 Friday and at the weekend. The more calls they get the more it will highlight this issue for us.
- **Goodwood Close.** Sheet piling works have caused issues for residents; the work was paused but has now restarted with additional safeguards in place. The road is likely to be closed for many weeks ahead.
- **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.
- **Neighbourhood Plan.** Councillors are working on getting this finalised for the next meeting in March with a hope to publishing later on this year.
- **Defibrillators.** The Parish Council will be working alongside the Co-op and The Clophill United Charity to raise the funds needed for this.

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

Clophill Parish Council continued

Planning Applications:

CB/25/01424/FULL Mouse Farm, Shefford Road

Erection of a detached self-build dwelling with garage and associated works.

Appeal reference: APP/P0240/W/25/3372822

CB/TCA/26/00039 14 The Slade,

Proposal: Works to trees within a Conservation Area: Fell Apple Tree (Tree 1) and Pear Tree (Tree 2). Both trees are old and in poor health.

CB/25/03919/ADV Roundabout at the Junction of A6/ A507 Clophill

Proposal: 4 non-illuminated advertising signs on each junction of the roundabout.

Tree Preservation Order 2/2026, Central Bedfordshire Council Tree Preservation Order 2/2026 land to the side of Beverley Court, Clophill.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH NEWS

This year we are already well into the season of Lent, The Winter Warmer Lunches were very well attended on Thursdays from October to February, with a lovely Fellowship among the regular attendees. They have now been superseded by the annual Lent Lunches on the 5 Wednesdays in Lent. This year donations will go to CRISIS, the charity for homeless people. Please just come along and join us from 12 noon. All are welcome.



On Saturday February 21st about 25 people from the Benefice met in our church to hear a presentation on ways to encourage younger people back into church, or to take the church out to them. Some ideas are brewing, so watch out for new initiatives.

Easter is earlier this year and there are still some things to be decided about the services, as the Rector wants to introduce a couple of new things into our regular offering. However, the **Agape Meal on Maundy Thursday**, April 2nd, will be held from 7.00 pm. This is a service of Holy Communion in the context of a meal recalling the Last Supper. If you wish to come along please tell someone from the church; to help with catering. Some things for **Good Friday** have still to be decided, but the **Last Hour** will still be held in **Maulden**, starting at 2.00 pm. Parish Communion for **Easter Sunday** will be at the usual time of 11.00 am

Also on Easter Sunday morning Clophill Christians Together will hold their beautiful service at the Old Church from 7.30 am. Please come and join us. Dogs welcome!

Replacement boardwalk at Clophill Lakes coming soon!

The Greensand Trust is delighted to announce that, through a combination of donations and an insurance payment, we are now ready to commission a replacement boardwalk at Clophill Lakes Nature Reserve!



After the devastating arson attack at Clophill Lakes last August, we've been fundraising for a replacement whilst also being in discussions with our insurers and their loss adjusters.

The Clophill Boardwalk Appeal has so far raised an amazing £95,961 including Gift Aid, making it so very close to its target of £100K (based on the cost of the original

boardwalk). This, combined with an insurance payment of £66,874, gives a total of just under £163K, which allow us to now commission and install a more resilient boardwalk and associated surfacing around the site which has been costed at £164K. To find out more please visit our website :- www.greensandtrust.org/news/replacement-boardwalk-at-clophill-lakes-coming-soon

Amphill & District Archaeological & Local History Society

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.



BLOOMIN' WELL CIC



Clophill Therapeutic Gardens Volunteers Wanted!

Sundays 10am - 12pm Children & Adults
(children must be accompanied by an adult)

1pm - 3pm Adults Only

No experience of gardening needed!

Find us:

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

Email: bloominwellcic@gmail.com

Call Bev: 07468 121504



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Clophill in the Great War by Colin Watt.

Abridged Excerpts from the book. Part 2 of 13.

1914 – The War Begins

On 28 June 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, and his wife Sophie were assassinated in Sarajevo by a Serbian nationalist. What seemed a distant Balkan crisis soon triggered a chain reaction across Europe. The continent was divided into two alliances: the Triple Entente of Britain, France and Russia, and the Triple Alliance of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy. Austria-Hungary blamed Serbia and declared war. Russia supported Serbia; Germany backed Austria-Hungary and declared war on Russia; France stood by Russia; and Britain joined in support of France.

On 4 August 1914, Germany invaded neutral Belgium and Britain declared war. The United States remained neutral. The impact was quickly felt at home. On 7 August, Lord Kitchener called for men aged 19–30 to enlist. Tens of thousands volunteered daily, and by mid-September over 500,000 had joined, including many from Clophill.

The Defence of the Realm Act, passed on 8 August, granted sweeping powers. Newspapers and letters were censored, pub hours restricted, and activities such as flying kites or buying binoculars were banned in the interests of security.

The British Expeditionary Force sailed for France on 15 August and met German forces at Mons on 23 August. Though heavily outnumbered, the British fought stubbornly before retreating. In early September, the First Battle of the Marne halted the German advance near Paris, and trench warfare began.

In Clophill, life continued, but the war was never far away. The *Amphill News* recorded church collections for the Prince of Wales Fund, supporting soldiers' families, and reported on local men serving abroad. The Postmaster's grandson was with the Hampshire Regiment in France; Ernest Eddy had joined the Bedfordshire Territorials; and Herbert Gibson, serving with Kitchener's Army, was promoted to lance-corporal.

Alongside these reports were accounts of harvest celebrations and Jack Durston, from the Rising Sun public house, playing his first match for Queen's Park Rangers. Yet beneath the routine of village life lay growing anxiety. Young men had gone to war, families awaited news, and the distant conflict was becoming a reality for Clophill. By October and November, fierce fighting around Ypres marked the grim reality of what would become a long and costly conflict.

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

St Mary's Church. Clophill

Traditional Church Fete and Village Event

Saturday 9th May 12 noon – 4pm

We are inviting local people, organisations and businesses to have a stall at the Fete. If you are interested, please contact Gillian Hill as soon as possible and by 25th April. We would like to know the type of stall you would like to run, a side show or game or just an information stand for your organisation. We ask you to provide your own table as we have a limited number. We are happy for you to bring a gazebo.

We start setting up from 8am.

Gillian Hill
07960 662334

gillianhill10@outlook.com

Carolyn Cranswick
07923876634

carolyncranswick@hotmail.co.uk



Maulden Walking Football Club is currently looking to welcome new members to our weekly Sunday session, 6:00–7:00 pm or Tuesday session, 8.00 p.m to 9.00 p.m. on the 3G pitches at Flitwick Leisure Centre. Members can choose one of either session.

Membership is open to players aged 50+, with several recent joiners in their 60s. All abilities are very welcome; some of our members are completely new to football, while others have many years of playing experience behind them. Our sessions run every week throughout the year, with no seasonal breaks. For those who wish to take part (entirely optional), we also organise monthly Mini Tournaments on Saturdays between 1:00–3:00 pm, running from February through to October. In addition, we host three Members' Tournaments each year in February, June and October, held on a Friday evening from 8:00–10:00 pm. There are also occasional additional matches, and every June we treat our members to a FREE coach trip to a seaside location for matches followed by a social get-together. This year's destination is Ramsgate.

We're more than just a football club — we also enjoy a strong social side, with events such as bowls nights, curry nights, pub nights, and more.

If you're interested, or know someone who might be (especially if they don't use social media), please get in touch via OBMauldenWalkingFootball@outlook.com or message 07496 287 628. **Martin Wright.**

Parish Registers for March

1826

Baptisms

- 03 Susannah? d of William and Susannah Tingay.
- 26 Ann, d of Joseph and Sarah possibly Stimson.

Marriages

- 23 William Humber? to Sarah Izzard.
(the first mention of the name Izzard).

Burials

- 01 William, s of John and Ann Butcher.
- 27 Sarah Wilshire, w of Thomas.

1876

Baptisms

- 08 Fanny, d of Joseph and Fanny Chapman, f a shoemaker.

Burials

- 15 Fanny Chapman, 1 mnth.
- 18 Martha Stevens, 33, d of James.

1926

Baptisms

- 07 Kenneth Frank, s of William and Jessica Barber.
Joyce Emily, d of Herbert and Bertha Izzard.
Robert Alburn, s of Frank and Winifred Young.

Burials

- 08 Horace Frank Rainbow, 24.

1976

Baptisms

- 27 Elizabeth Mary Gordon.
- 28 Helen Louise Constance.
Jilly Husband.

Burials

- 31 Richard Castle. Age not recorded.

St. Mary's Church Registers for February 2026

Burial of Ashes

- 11 Wendy Margaret Izzard, 82.
-

Our **parish registers** are hidden treasures, quietly recording the lives of villagers for centuries. Since 1538, they have noted baptisms, marriages, and burials — long before official certificates existed — capturing the heartbeat of our community.

Browsing the pages, familiar surnames appear again and again. A child baptized in the 1700s may later feature in a marriage entry, and eventually in a burial, tracing the life of a family across generations. Some entries offer small glimpses of history: a harsh winter, a sudden illness, or the burial of a “traveller” passing through. Early records were often in Latin, and baptisms, weddings, and funerals sometimes shared a single page, carefully written by candlelight.

These registers are more than old books. Each name tells a story and links us to the past. Our church, still at the heart of village life, continues to witness baptisms, weddings, and farewells, adding new chapters to this centuries-long story.

What's on in and around Clophill

MARCH

Wednesdays 11th and 18th - Lent Lunches St Mary's church, 12noon - 2pm. *See poster.*

Wednesday 25th - Lent Lunch St Mary's church, 11:30am – 1:30pm. *See poster.*

Tuesday 24th Flower Club meeting, Village Hall 7:30pm. *See poster.*

APRIL

Saturday 11th – Coffee and Croissants GC Methodist church, 10am – 12noon. *See poster.*

MAY

Saturday 9th – Church fete and village event St. Marys church 12noon – 4pm. *See poster.*

Plus....

Weekdays during term time

* Clophill Community Hub is open, Village Hall, 8:30am to 3pm.

Also open on Weekends 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Mondays...

* Greensand Community Choir, St. Mary's Church, 7:30 - 9pm.

Wednesdays...

* Tea and Chat, Greensand Community Methodist Church, 10:30am – 12noon.

* Beverley Court Bingo Night, in the Residents lounge, 7pm. All welcome....

Thursdays...

* Thursday Leisure Club – TLC – St Mary's Church, 2pm.

Fridays...

* Little Saplings, Stay and Play 9:30am – 11:00am, Acorn Nursery at St. Mary's School.

Fridays... during term time

* Clophill Parent & Toddler Group 9:30am – 11:30am, Village Hall.

Wednesdays 10am – 1pm (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
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		
County Police HQ		Non Emergency 101
Amphill Station		01234 841212 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, Mr John Errick	01525 571392 01525 860695
Baptist Churches	(Maulden) Ian Crawford (Shefford) Hazel Arnold	01525 634325 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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- ◇ Executors are personally liable. Are they still willing and able?
- ◇ Do you have children under 18? If so, you need to nominate guardians or they become the responsibility of the Local Authority
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Reducing food waste • Supporting our community

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You'll find us in the Village Hall car park. We're open weekdays from 08:30 to 15:00 and weekends from 10:00 to 16:00.

We would warmly welcome:

- Volunteers to help collect food, check stock, or open and close the Hub
- Financial donations, whether one-off or by standing order, to help sustain our work

Every contribution—time, energy, or funds—strengthens the Hub and the wider Clophill community.

To get involved today please contact:

To Volunteer: chair@clophillvillagehall.com (Andy Gardner)

Donations: finance@clophillvillagehall.com (GP Mantini)

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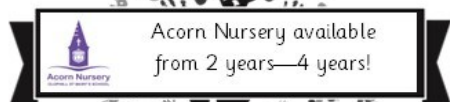
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