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FREE

CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

APRIL 2026

A close-up photograph of a fluffy yellow duckling sitting in a field of green grass and white daisies with yellow centers. The duckling is the central focus, looking slightly to the left. The background is softly blurred, showing more daisies and green foliage.

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A word from the Editor...

Welcome to the April
issue of Spotlight

Dear Reader,

I would like to start with a massive *Thank You* to those of you who have donated to the magazine this month. It is much appreciated.

We could still do with more funds whilst we engage with new advertisers, so if you can help it will be so appreciated. Details are on page 11.

Also on page 11, Colin, our designer, has written a piece about the history of our name.

I didn't know that Spotlight used to be subscription-based (it was until about 18 years ago or thereabouts) so that was a surprise!! I also didn't know we have been through several name changes since we started in 1967 .

On the 5th April we are marking the first anniversary of the opening of Clophill Lakes Nature Reserve. There is an update from the Greensand Trust on page 16, including details of longer opening hours now that the clocks have gone forwards.

See you all again in May!!

Best wishes, Elaine



The magazine staff

EDITOR	Elaine Jones editorial@clophillspotlight.co.uk	07918 975823
ADVERTISING MANAGER	ads@clophillspotlight.co.uk	
DESIGN MANAGER	Colin Watt	
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER	Toni Elston Paul Leckie	07979 643047
TREASURER	Jon Bates	07725 068828

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*

As we move into the spring it has been wonderful walking around the village and seeing all of the wonderful daffodils popping up in our gardens and green spaces. Daffodils have been widely cultivated for centuries, resulting in the vast range now available, with various flower shapes, sizes and colours. Most are hardy, low maintenance and long lived, and they suit almost every style of garden, growing well in containers as well as in the ground.

As we move further into April it's important to remember that if we want to have a glorious golden spring around the village next year, we need to make sure that we take care looking after the bulbs now.

It is generally best to remove the faded blooms after flowering, so that instead of forming seeds, the plants put all their energy back into their bulb, for a good flowering display the following year. This is referred to as Deadheading and means cutting or pinching off the finished flower. However, with naturalistic drifts of bulbs, especially in grass, where you may want the daffodils to self-seed, you can leave the flowers in place to form seed pods.

Daffodils are long-lived plants, and clumps will expand slowly over time as new bulbs are produced. When clumps become too congested, flowering may be reduced or stop. In this case, simply dig up the clump, divide into smaller groups of bulbs and replant in several new locations, at a depth of three times the bulb's height.

Wait until the foliage turns yellow before you cut it down – usually about six weeks after flowering finishes. Daffodil leaves should be allowed to photosynthesise for as long as possible, so they can fully replenish the energy reserves in the bulb, for a good flowering display the next year. If you remove the leaves too early, you may reduce flowering next spring. Don't be tempted to tie the leaves into a knot either as this will stop the energy being returned to the bulb.

Spring is an ideal time for direct sowing many seeds either in drills (rows) or broadcast (scattered over the soil surface). Sowing in drills makes it easier to distinguish your seedlings from the surrounding weed seeds which will also be germinating too. To achieve a natural looking result when sowing in drills, mark out areas for different sowings, make drills within the area, and change the direction of the drills between areas. Broadcast sowing is suitable for small seeds, seed mixes, and where you have a large area to sow, such as an annual meadow. Mixing the seeds with sand makes it easy to see which areas you've already covered.

Water to settle the soil and seeds. Use a watering can with the rose upside down or a hose with a fine spray to avoid disturbing the soil. The seedlings usually appear within a couple of weeks and check them every few days to ensure they have sufficient water, are not being outcompeted by weeds, and are not being attacked by insects, slugs or snails.

Come into the Garden *continued*

Overcrowding can really stunt growth and make seedlings more susceptible to disease, so thin them out if necessary. This is best done when they are still small to limit any disturbance to the remaining seedlings. Use your thumb and forefinger to gently tug approximately every second or third seedling out of the soil, to leave the remaining at the recommended spacing. Hardy seedlings should cope with light frosts but keep horticultural fleece or cloches handy and cover them if a hard frost is forecast.

Happy Gardening

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

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

Well, this lovely springtime photo, taken in 1981 in Readshill, adorns the April issue of Spotlight – and, looking inside, the first article is an apology for having to increase the price to 12p per copy, closely followed by the recent changes to the Editorial team being News Editor Dorothy Smith; Feature Editor Barry Inskip and Distribution enquiries Catherine Phillips. There is a list of Advertising rates which range from £13.75 (¼ page) to £70 (full page) and a plea for distributors.



Page 2 brings a lovely report of the Lent Project undertaken by **the school**, that year supporting (*a very relevant charity*) Cancer Research with a “target of £120” to purchase a component to research equipment. “The staff and children set about it with great verve and enthusiasm. As usual the fundraising events have taken place during breaks and lunch hours. A cake sale started the events, a bring and buy sale, lucky dip, book sale and a film show have all added to the excitement of the programme. The ‘Haunted House’, conveniently situated in the old coal house, provided much horror and terror for everyone and the girls from class 5” (*it was infant/junior then*) ”never ceased to be amazed by the number of children prepared to spend five pence to be terrorised.

Additional horror could be experienced in an exhibition presented by class 4, when we were treated to the delights of decaying teeth in a giant walk-inside mouth. Individual concerts have provided much pleasure during lunchtime breaks; it is almost certain that we will achieve our goal and possibly more” (*Brilliant result!*) On 28th March “two trees were planted in the school grounds by the Bishop of Bedford by way of a thanksgiving, for the completion of the building programme. Each class in turn explained how they, were able to enjoy all the different aspects of life outside. The younger children thinking especially of the farm animals” and nature “the older children thinking especially of the advantages of being able to move and run freely and demonstrated several aspects of their circuit training in preparation for football and netball.

Reflections continued

The Bishop was obviously delighted. And we all look forward to seeing the oak and chestnut grow and flourish in such an idyllic spot.”

“Twenty-one **Brownies** attended the Annual Thinking Day service at the Methodist Church in Amphill; Chloe Benson, Hazel Brooks and Sarah Henman were in the colour party. Julia Drake and Clare Waller read an item about road safety.”

The Darby & Joan Club hired a coach and took themselves to Wembley to see the ice show ‘Holiday on Ice’. “When the Olympic champion Robin Cousins came on, he was greeted with thunderous applause.”

After “A cheerful introduction by Mrs Cranswick”, The **Clophill & District Flower Club** enjoyed a spring themed demonstration, concluding with the demonstrator being thanked by Mrs Whysall, “for helping to give (her) and the audience confidence in arranging daffodils, which have a habit of being particularly temperamental.” It was noted that the “Sunday School has unfortunately had to close. Mrs Martin and Mrs Smith were thanked for their work.”

Birthday Greetings went to Steven Hoare (4), Sarah Gibbs (11), Kevin Hoare (11), Gareth Lewis (10), Simon O’Connor & Stephen Carpenter,” with the lucky winner of the £1 prize going to Gareth Lewis.

There is a lovely paragraph on **Clophill 10 years ago** (*now 55 years of course*).”
10th Jan Sir Douglas Howard opened Clophill Village Hall; 11th Jan Revd. Ralph Cousins became Rector – induction by Bishop of St. Albans, Robert Runcie; 1st March – tenders for the new school due out; Mrs Kent – headmistress – retired after 20 years; 31st March - Peter Ferguson, one of the village playwrights had a play broadcast on the radio and a film show in the new village hall was organised by the Church Fundraising Committee. (*Some things have evolved – now another ‘New Village Hall’ and– still a fundraising committee, but with different members !*)

Coffee and Croissants

Clophill Methodist Church

Saturday 11th April

Saturday 9th May

Saturday 13th June

10am to 12 noon

ALL WELCOME



St Mary's School News **from Mrs. Bingley our Headteacher:**

During March, we finally received our much-anticipated visit from Ofsted. We are pleased with the results of the inspection and look forward to sharing our results and report card with you when they are finalised (hopefully for just after Easter).

We celebrated World Book Day in the first week of March. The children all dressed up as a favourite book character and took part in another 'big book swap' where children swapped pre-loved books with each other. The staff also dressed up as crayons and performed, 'The Day the Crayons Made Friends' to the school. We also recognised British Science Week with some fun activities linked to this year's theme, 'Curiosity: What's your Question?' and we even thought about how people with a Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths job rely on asking questions in order to do their work.

Some Year 4 children represented the school beautifully at a Football Festival at Redborne Upper School in mid-March and we also welcomed in our Governing Body for their half termly set of meetings and visits to St. Mary's.

The School Council organised some great activities to fundraise for Red Nose Day towards the end of the month and we finished the term, as is customary, with Rowan Class performing, 'The Three Trees' in Church to celebrate Easter. 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: www.facebook.com/clophillstmarysschool

Acorn Nursery news

from Mrs. Hayes our Early Years Leader:

Our children have been busy deciding what they would like to do when they grow up! Through our 'Special People in the Community' Theme, we've learnt all about so many amazing people who help us through fun and engaging activities and role play. This has inspired the children to want to be Dentists, Doctors, Fire fighters, Police Officers and Vets! We've also explored all about Dinosaurs as well as being kind through reading and having lots of learning opportunities relating to one of our favourite books – Zog & the Flying Doctors!

We've celebrated the start of Spring with looking at the lifecycles of a both a Duck and a Sunflower and we planted our own sunflowers to take home.

We are already busy preparing our older children to start school in September by starting short adult led phonics sessions with them and transition sessions in our Reception Class will start when we return after our Easter break.

We have spaces available starting September 2026 (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.



St Mary's School News continued

Our Values for April are Unity and Community:

In school, we will be firstly thinking about the meaning of Unity – working in harmony as a group. We will explore how, to achieve Unity, we must accept and appreciate each other's skills and involvement before we can work together. We will also consider how a group of people living in the same place or doing the same thing is also classed as a community. We will learn the importance of living the value of Unity to ensure the Community works well together.

At home, you could discuss what communities you belong too e.g. the village of Clophill, Cubs, Brownies, football etc. You could also talk about the types of things everyone needs to do to ensure these communities run or work well. As a family unit, you could also explore the types of things that everyone needs to do to ensure the family can work in Unity – the little things that everyone can do to ensure the family can live in harmony ☺.

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**".

St Mary's Church, Clophill



Invite you to a

Spring Lunch

22nd April 2026

12 noon – 2pm in the Church



£10 - 2 course meal with drinks



Everyone very welcome

Please reserve a place

– phone Carolyn 01462 815433 or Gillian 01525 860539

Clophill Preschool

Clophill Preschool has been buzzing with activity this month with all of us enjoying everything spring has to offer.

In the lead up to Mother's Day, the children carefully created beautiful flower gifts and personalised coasters. Thank you to Carolyn for coming in and helping us every year, the children and staff all really appreciate it. They also learned and confidently performed a selection of Mother's Day songs, which they were incredibly proud to share. The celebrations continued with a lovely tea party, where the children baked their own shortbread for their mums and carers to enjoy. Our Adventure Friday children took on a special role, designing and arranging the table centrepieces on the day, showing fantastic teamwork and attention to detail.



Creative expression has been a big focus, particularly through large-scale, gross motor painting. The children explored self-portraits as well as practising copying shapes modelled by adults, developing both their confidence and control. Colour exploration has also been a highlight, with lots of fun mixing paints and experimenting by adding food colouring to water in the tough tray.



Role play continues to be a favourite area, with imaginative scenarios ranging from hairdressers and doctors' surgeries to cafés and zoos. It has been wonderful to see the older children supporting and encouraging the younger ones, modelling language and play skills.

Outdoors, teamwork has been key. The children all mucked in to help fill up the sandpit, taking pride in caring for their environment. We have also begun planting the first seeds of the year, sparking conversations about growth and change. A visit to the pond to check for

frog spawn led to plenty of excitement... although no frog spawn just yet!

There have been plenty of special events too. For St Patrick's Day, the children completed clover-themed activities and had great fun learning some Irish dancing. Our Adventure Friday children embraced a particularly windy Friday by designing, making and testing their own kites. We also enjoyed a trip to Wilbury Farm, where the children had the opportunity to bottle-feed the cade lambs, followed by an Easter egg hunt in the rec.

St Mary's Church, Clophill

Church Fete

& Village Event

Saturday 9th May

12 – 4pm in the Church grounds

FUN for ALL

Entertainment by local organisations

Stalls and sideshows

Refreshments and Barbeque

For further information – call Gillian 07960662334 or Carolyn 07923876634

It has been a wonderfully busy and creative start to the term here at The Fledglings, with the children embracing every opportunity to explore, create and celebrate together.



One of our highlights was our very special Mother's Day Tea Party. The children worked incredibly hard to



prepare a delicious spread for their mums, including a selection of sandwiches, freshly baked scones and fairy cakes. They took such pride in their efforts, carefully preparing and presenting everything for the occasion. Alongside the food, the children also learnt a range of songs and poems, which they performed beautifully on the day. It was a truly heartwarming event and a lovely way to celebrate together.

We were also so proud of the children who took part in the Bedfordshire Speech and Drama Festival. They showed such confidence and courage while reciting their poetry and represented The Fledglings brilliantly. Each and every one of them did amazingly well, and it was a joy to see their hard work pay off.

Our learning this term has taken us back in time as part of our dinosaur topic. The children have been exploring fossils, even creating their own using salt dough. They were fascinated to learn about Mary Anning and her important discoveries, which sparked lots of curiosity and discussion.

Linking to our historical learning, the children also explored life in Georgian Britain. They made their own quills and had a go at writing just as people would have done in the past, which they found both challenging and exciting!

We have once again entered the Primary Engineering competition, and we cannot wait to see how the children's amazing ideas are judged. This year, we introduced the project with a fascinating investigation into can openers; discovering that it took around 50 years from the invention of cans to the development of the can openers we use today. This really captured the children's imagination and inspired some fantastic thinking and problem-solving.



Outdoors, we have been busy planting and preparing for the months ahead. The children have planted raspberry canes and cherry tomatoes, and we are all looking forward to enjoying the fruits of their hard work as part of our snacks later in the year.

Fledglings continued

There has been plenty of hands-on science too! The children made their own dinosaur eggs using bicarbonate of soda, hiding dinosaurs inside and then used vinegar to create a fizzy reaction to “hatch” them.

Creativity has continued to shine through in all areas. The children made beautiful candles as gifts for their mums and used hot glue guns to create nature coasters, incorporating all the signs of spring they could find.

To support wellbeing, we have also been enjoying regular yoga and mindfulness sessions with Rachel. These sessions have been a wonderful way for the children to relax, focus and connect with their bodies.

Your local magazine needs you!!

Spotlight Magazine has been delivered to every home in Clophill since it changed its name from Outlook in May 1979. 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 (Editor)



Some history.

Clophill's village magazine began as **Action** in March 1967, later renamed **Outlook**, with Barry Inskip as editor.

In May 1979, **Spotlight on Clophill** was launched, evolving from Outlook and run by a volunteer editorial team. The title was shortened to **Spotlight** in June 1980, and became **Clophill Spotlight Magazine** in June 1981.

It was initially financed by a yearly subscription. Later it was delivered free to all households and relied on the income from the advertisements that it carried.

Clophill Parish Council



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

- **Neighbourhood Plan** – Jane Hubbard from Central Bedfordshire Council attended the meeting and gave a presentation. Councillors are now looking at getting the draft document together for later on this year with the hope of getting it finalised by next spring. Please look out for our stall at the **Village Fete** where you will be able to ask any questions and have your say on how our village might look in the future!
- **Defibrillators** – The Parish Council will be working alongside the Co-op and The Clophill United Charity to raise the funds needed for this. Please donate if you can when you are next in the Co-op.
- **Recreation Ground** – The fundraising for the new rabbit proof fencing is going brilliantly and we are now almost a third of the way there.
If you would like to donate, please go to our fundraising page;
www.gofundme.com/f/rabbit-fencing-for-our-recreational-ground
- **Inconsiderate Parking** - 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.

Planning Applications:

CB/26/00625/FULL Land adj. to the north of 1 Peartree Close

Proposal: Proposed dwelling, access and associated site works.

CB/26/00472/FULL Land to the rear of The Green Man, The Green

Proposal: Erection of 1 No. detached dwelling with associated parking, landscaping and access from High Street.

CB/25/01484/FULL Dulce Domum and Highbury, Shefford Road

Proposal: Demolition of existing 2 semi-detached dwellings and outbuildings. Erection of two detached dwellings with detached garages and associated works.

CB/26/00417/FULL 122 High Street

Proposal: Construct a detached self-build dwelling, cart shed, garage and associated works.

Clophill Parish Council continued

Planning Applications

CB/18/01969/OUT Land between Brogborough, Lidlington and Marston Moretaine Proposal: Outline Application (EIA): development for up to 5,000 new homes specialist residential accommodation, up to 30ha of employment land, retail, community, open spaces, leisure and sport uses, hotel uses, four lower schools, two middle schools, one upper school, woodland planting, waterbodies and waterway links, ecological areas, accesses, cycle and pedestrian routes, supporting infrastructure, ground remodelling, landscaping and demolition works.

The next meeting will be held at 7:45pm on Tuesday, 28th April in the Village Hall.

Clophill Parish Council is the local government body for the village of Clophill. It represents residents and gives feedback on planning applications and local issues. It maintains village amenities such as the playground, village green, and public spaces. It supports community activities and can provide grants to local groups and clubs. It manages the parish precept and oversees services to keep the village running smoothly.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH NEWS

As you are reading this, you will probably have eaten your Hot Cross Buns and even your Easter Eggs, but as I write, the church is about to enter Passiontide, the most solemn 2 weeks of the year, culminating on Good Friday. In this period the church contemplates the Passion of Christ. This isn't the modern meaning of the word, but derives from the Latin for *suffering*.



Of course, we know the outcome and look forward to the joyful celebrations on Easter Sunday, when the church will be full of flowers again and resound to "Alleluias"

There was a lovely service on Mothering Sunday, when all the women in the church, whether they were mothers or not, were given a posy of daffodils. We are grateful to the Co-op for donating them.

The Lent Lunches this year have been well supported and we hope to be able to send a good donation to our chosen charity, CRISIS.

It will then be full steam ahead to the **Church Fete and Village Event on Saturday May 9th**, when we hope to see you there.



Clophill and District Flower Club

www.clophillflowerclub.com



invite you to join them for

'Floral Medley'



*a floral demonstration
by*

Sharon
Badger

Thursday 7 May 2026



Clophill Village Hall
Doors open 6.45 for 7.30pm

Visitors always very welcome - £8 - including tea/coffee

For further information see our website



Luton's Heritage: Made and Shaped

Join us for a journey through the heart of Luton's heritage. From the grand estate of Luton Hoo to bustling George Street, the town's story is one of rapid change and enduring community. This conference explores the diverse forces that contributed to modern Luton: the arrival of the railways, the industrial might of Vauxhall, and the powerful influence of church patronage on our social history. Discover the stories that have shaped the Luton we know today.

Four speakers with illustrated talks:

- Luton Made: Vauxhall is a heritage project funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, celebrating the history of Vauxhall, the car manufacturer, here in Luton.
- The History of George Street, Luton's Town Centre
- The Leigh Family at Luton Hoo and Their Involvement in the Railways to Luton
- The power of church patronage to shape the social history of a town, 1763-1896

With an optional guided tour of St Mary's, a Grade 1 Listed Building

BLHA Bedfordshire
Local History
Association

AGM and Conference 2026

Saturday, 6th June 2026 at St Mary's Parish Church, LU1 3JF

For full booking details, visit: www.bedfordshire-lha.org.uk

I would like to **thank you all personally** for your help in giving me items for my Sale. It was so pleasing that so many people came to support me.

Alzheimer's is one of many devastating illnesses for people and makes life so very hard for families and friends. What the future is certain of, is the power of research into finding a cure.

It gives me great hope to know there are generous people who help me to raise money to support the research. I thank you most sincerely for your donations and my helpers. I have raised an incredible £1,658.30p towards a cure by Alzheimer's Research UK.

With heart-felt gratitude,
Cora Sheppard.

ALZHEIMER'S FOR A
RESEARCH UK CURE

Clophill Lakes Nature Reserve marks its first year open to the public!

Local environmental charity The Greensand Trust invites everyone to visit Clophill Lakes this April as it celebrates its first year as an accessible Nature Reserve.



The Trust wishes to express its sincere thanks to local people for the support, care and consideration shown by visitors to the site over the past year, since it opened on 5th April 2025. Their respect for the site has helped wildlife continue to flourish within the reserve, while enabling visitors to access and enjoy this beautiful location.

The reserve's first year was not without its challenges as, just six months after opening in August, an arson attack destroyed a 70m boardwalk and damaged the surrounding habitat. The impact on the Trust's staff, volunteers and visitors was profound and the loss of the boardwalk reduced accessibility and affected the long-term sustainability of the site.



However, the response from the local community has been extraordinary. Chief Executive Gill Welham commented: "Thanks to the generosity and encouragement of so many, we're pleased to announce that a new boardwalk is now under construction and will once again be accessible from April.

"In addition, contributions from our supporters have enabled us not only to rebuild the boardwalk, but also to create a fully surfaced path linking to it, completing an accessible circular route around Castle Lake. The newly laid path needs time to settle, so while most sections will open in April, a 175-metre grass path around Castle Meadow will remain in place temporarily to allow the final section to firm up. The rest of the route—including the boardwalk—will be open from April."

Summer Opening times commence from the end of March with the arrival of British Summer Time meaning the reserve will be open 9am – 6pm with the Riverside Café operating from 9.30am to 4pm, enabling visitors to enjoy the reserve for longer.

The Greensand Trust would like to thank everyone for helping us conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and heritage of Clophill Lakes through sensitive, sustainable access. Your continued support is essential: all funds raised through parking, catering and donations go directly toward maintaining the reserve and ensuring its long-term sustainability.

Vote for
BLOOMIN' WELL CIC



Helping improve mental health and
wellbeing in the community

Voting in-store at

Flitwick Tesco from

Tuesday 28th April 2026

until the end of July 2026



MK45 1LX

Clophill in the Great War by Colin Watt.

Abridged Excerpts from the book. Part 3 of 13.

1914 – Waiting for News

In the early years of the twentieth century, James Bone moved his family from Northill to Clophill, where he rented Glen Farm from Lord Lucas of Wrest Park. He worked the farm with his eldest son, John, a veteran of the Boer War who now served as an army reservist.

When war was declared in August 1914, John was called up and sent to France with the 1st Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment, part of the British Expeditionary Force. James's second son, George, who was married and living in Turvey, also enlisted and was soon serving alongside his brother with the Bedfordshires.

As the German army swept through Belgium towards Paris, James Bone and his two daughters waited anxiously for news. Months passed with little information. Not until February 1915 did James learn that John had been wounded in December 1914. Further enquiries brought no details. In March, hope briefly flared when the War Office announced that a "J. Bone" was seriously wounded, only for the family to discover it was not their John.

George remained in touch, sending reassurance even after being wounded several times himself. His letters were a comfort, but John's silence weighed heavily. James, a deeply religious man and an active member of the Primitive Methodist Chapel in Silsoe Road, travelled wherever he heard returning soldiers might be found, asking if they had known his son. No one could help.

In January 1917, over two years after the event, the truth finally reached Clophill. John Bone had been killed on 9 December 1914 during the First Battle of Ypres, dying alongside sixteen others while attacking a German trench and silencing a machine-gun post.

Meanwhile, the village continued to respond to the war in practical ways. In November 1914, church offertories raised £13 for the Belgian Relief Fund.

Young men felt increasing pressure to enlist; several Boy Scouts joined the Bedfordshire Territorials, encouraged publicly by the local press. Nationally, organisations such as the Order of the White Feather sought to shame men into joining up—sometimes cruelly misjudging those already serving.

The Rector of Clophill, Rev. Cecil Lloyd Matthews, also played his part. He became involved in war work, delivering "magic lantern" lectures on the war in Belgium. Later he was appointed Chaplain to the Forces and went to France.

Even the children helped. As schools closed for Christmas, the girls sent hand-knitted socks, scarves, and wristlets to soldiers—small acts of kindness in a village learning to live with loss and uncertainty.

By Christmas 1914, it was clear the war would not be over quickly.

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

Parish Registers for April

1826

Baptisms

07 John, s of William and Sarah Pratt (?).

Burials

30 Elizabeth Wilmor, (sic) wife of George.

1876

Baptisms

30 William, s of Thomas and Elizabeth Richardson.

Samuel, s of Ann Odell, single woman.

William, s of Mary Gobby, single woman.

Minnie (?), d of William and Mary Kedge.

Burials

22 Alfred James Whittamore, 11.

1926

Marriages

06 Bertie Tuffnell, 42 to Alice Lilian Sutton, 45, widow.

Burials

01 Mary Harwood, 74.

02 Kathleen Brown, 2 days.

06 M. Brown, 35.

1976

Burials

04 Ivor Richards (no age given).

St. Mary's Church Registers for March 2026

Baptism - 08 Finley Ruben Charm Smith-McAloon.



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**.

What's on in and around Clophill

APRIL

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

Wednesday 22nd – Spring Lunch St. Mary's church 12noon – 2pm. *See poster.*

MAY

Thursday 7th – Flower club Village Hall 6:45pm for 7:30pm start. *See poster.*

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

Saturday 9th – Coffee and Croissants GC Methodist church, 10am – 12noon. *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,		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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- ◇ 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.
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Clophill Village Hub

Reducing food waste • Supporting our community

Run as part of the Village Hall charity, the Hub is powered entirely by volunteers. Its mission is twofold: to redistribute surplus food from local businesses and supermarkets, and to provide essential items to anyone in our community who needs a little extra support. Whether you're seeking help, keen to reduce food waste, or looking for a meaningful way to give back, the Hub is here for you.

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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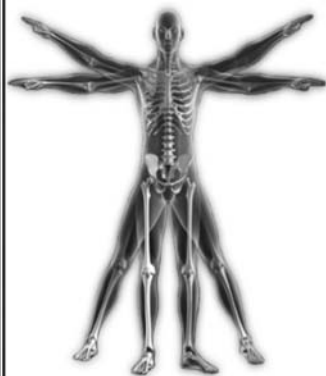
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Advertisers index

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

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