

Vol 49 | No.4

FREE

# CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

MAY 2026



**LOVE YOUR  
LOCAL NEWS**

*Looking for*

**PRINTSPIRATIONAL  
BRANDING, DESIGN & PRINT?**

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

**[www.fidelityprint.co.uk](http://www.fidelityprint.co.uk)**  
quotes@fidelityprint.co.uk | 01234 907907



**MOTORS LTD**

**Tel: (01525) 404919**

**89 Oliver Street, Ampthill, Bedfordshire MK45 2SA**

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

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



**Stuart Benson Building Projects**

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

**Tel: 07946 579862 or 01525 839878**

**Email: [benson.stuart@gmail.com](mailto:benson.stuart@gmail.com)**



## A word from the Editor...

Welcome to the May  
issue of Spotlight

*Dear Reader,*

This month we have a new full-page advertiser to welcome to our magazine; Philip Broome from Broome signs in Shefford, see page 44. And also this month, the Greensand Community choir have changed their name to "Singthusiasm" (love it!) and they now have a half page advert on page 41.

Bloomin' Well CIC, the community interest company who run the Clophill Therapeutic Gardens have been selected by Tesco's for their community grants programme. So, if you shop at Tesco's Flitwick branch please support them and drop a blue token (or more!) in their pot at the end of your shop. It runs from now until the end July. If they get the enough votes, it will all go to help support this amazing village project winning a much appreciated grant. See page 13 for their poster.

And last but not least, the ever-popular Open Gardens weekend is taking place on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June. This year it will be bigger and better than last time. There has been a great response and 14 gardens will be open, large and small, new and well established. There will also be a Treasure Hunt for the children. Turn to pages 9 and 12 for more details.

See you all again in June!!

*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](http://www.clophillspotlight.co.uk)**

# Come into the Garden *With Kate Gardner*

#NoMowMay is a national campaign run by Plantlife, the British conservation charity that is working nationally and internationally to save threatened wild flowers, plants and fungi and they are encouraging us to resist mowing our lawns until the end of May in order to boost the flowers and nectar available to pollinating insects, such as bees, butterflies and moths.

Campaign research has revealed that mowing your lawn less frequently can provide enough food for ten times the amount of bees, butterflies, moths, beetles and other pollinators. A recent study found that rural honey bees have to fly further to find food than their urban counterparts, which suggests that wild flowers are much less abundant than those grown in the gardens of more built-up areas.

If you keep 2 to 3 different grass lengths throughout the summer, it can help maximise flower variety as well as the nectar they produce for our precious pollinators. If you can leave some areas unmown all year, you might encourage some of those taller wildflowers like Oxeye Daisy and Field Scabious to bloom. You could create longer patches in lawn corners or along boundaries. These tall grassy areas can also provide food, shelter, and nesting spots for wildlife like hedgehogs and toads.

For more of a mid-length meadow you need to mow just 2–3 times a year. Leave it to grow between May and August to encourage taller summer flowers like Meadow Cranesbill, Musk Mallow, and Knapweed. Then mow as normal outside of these months. Mow the rest of your lawn once a month to a height of 1–2 inches. This allows low-growing plants like daisies and Bird's-foot-trefoil to thrive.

As the weather is warming, the days are lengthening, and the risk of frost is lessening, there is suddenly lots of activity on the plant front. New dahlia tubers can be directly planted into their flowering positions. If you have tubers that have been overwintering in pots, the early shoots can be taken as cuttings, not only making more plants (for free) but often the flowers on these cuttings will have a more vibrant colour to them.

If you are looking to add some tender summer bedding plants into the mix then hold off planting these out until towards the end of the month when the risk of frost is over. If weather conditions are still too cold, delay for another week or two and give them a liquid feed to keep them happy until you can get them into the ground.

Sowing hardy annual flowers is a great and cost-effective way to extend the flowering season of your garden. Mark out the area that you want them to flower in and sow directly into the soil. If you sow then into straight lines that will allow you to differentiate the young seedlings from the weed seeds.

## Come into the Garden *continued*

Pinch out the tips of your perennial plants like fuchsias. Removing the growing tips will encourage your plants to become bushier and produce more flowers. At the end of the month, you can also cut some of the plants down by half with a 'Chelsea chop' which has the advantage of delaying flowering for a few weeks

As temperatures rise, keep checking pots and containers to make sure they receive sufficient water and don't dry out. Start feeding your container and hanging basket displays with liquid plant food.

Now is also a good time to Re-pot any pot-bound containers and freshen up larger pots by top dressing with fresh compost.

### ***Happy Gardening***

---

## **Reflections – Clophill in May 1981 - Voices from the past.**

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

The **cover photo** for May 1981 is of the house at 'Beadlow Corner' I understand from one of its former owners that it has a very interesting interior – perhaps even a 'secret room'!

Looking **inside** the **magazine covers**, under **Village Hall** news, "Work had got underway on the long awaited storage extension" There was a cash surplus with the final part of a parish council loan being repaid and "arrangements are in hand for improvements to lighting in the main hall."



The **Parish Council** meeting doubled as the Annual Parish Meeting and "Following a complaint by a resident, the Parish Council will approach the County Surveyor about extending the 30mph limit to cover Mill Lane and Back Street." The Chairman noted that the County Structure Plan as affected Clophill, "Was to define new housing as applications for infill only and to designate the area if mineral extraction." Bobby Voltaire was thanked for his "interesting contributions at all meetings" when he resigned due to ill-health. It was decided not to go forward with providing a small recreation area north of Townshott due to a poorly supported meeting with residents.

At the **Flower Club**, "The usual cheerful opening by Mrs Carolyn Cranswick projected everyone into a light hearted evening." (*Nothing changes there does it – hooray!*) Mrs Sturdy, during her floral demonstrations encouraged flower arrangers to observe carefully and aim for bold forms. This they attempted in a following practical session.

## Reflections continued

At **St. Mary's School**, a cheque for £278 - raised over their "finest Lent Project" (*about which you read last month*) -was presented to a representative of Cancer Research.

There was an Open Evening when a speaker "gave a talk on Language Development and giving guidance on means of developing a child's imagination and self-expression in language", after which there was a tour of the school so that those present could "see the excellent work being carried out at this most important primary school age." A fundraising 'mock Auction' was being advertised to boost "the funds of the P.T.A. which in turn is to the benefit of all your children at school." (*Nothing changes here does it? It was on the news only the other day that the majority of schools, through no mismanagement on their part, will be in huge financial deficit even though they have excellent academic ratings.*)

Several children gained **piano exam grades** -Juliet Gordon grade V, Hazel Brooks grade II, Lucy Knowles & Caron Gardner grade I – all with merit, with William Knowles gaining 90 out of 99 for grade V theory! Well done all. The next candidates included Jane Turton, Chloe Benson and Christopher Bailey, let's hope that they did as well. A butcher's shop opened in the High Street (*and very good it was too*); the speed of vehicles through the village was mentioned (*nothing changes*)! While Angela Milne wrote that the **Playgroup** raised £160 from collecting silver foil, the **Guides** stopped their fund-raising paper collections due to "a fall in demand for waste paper".

**The Stone Jug** had a great domino season with John Bone winning the district singles title and John Smith and John Turner set to play in Barton and district finals – as were Terry Collis and Mick Groom from the Compasses. The Rising Sun with Wendy Izzard and Eileen Palmer in charge of the Ladies darts teams were in division 2 of the local league and its Tug-o-War team, trained by Dave Biggs and captained by Keith Eaton, like that of the Flying Horse trained by John Gibbons, were preparing for the coming season.

There were nine **May birthdays** – Alex and Nya Saunders, Stuart Benson, Sarah Robinson, Glenn Craig, Nicola Newman, Christopher Bonner, Alec Mattinson and Christopher Collins - who won the £1 gift voucher. The church PCC presented Dorothy Osborne with a card and cheque as she was stepping down from being Treasurer for 25 years - (*no easy feat – and perhaps this is a relevant, happy item on which to finish as on April 12<sup>th</sup> this year, Anne Shegog was thanked in a similar way when she stepped down from being Churchwarden – and a superb one too!*)

# St Mary's School News

*from Mrs. Bingley our Headteacher:*

Most of April was taken up with our much needed Easter holiday! After the stress and demands of our Ofsted inspection in March, this was a much needed opportunity to relax and reset.

Our Summer Term began with Howard from Flitwick Cricket Club making his annual visit to school to give Years 1-4 a cricket taster session and promote the ever popular Dynamos and All Stars Summer clubs that run from Flitwick Cricket Club each year.

Our Key Stage 1 children were also lucky enough to be invited to take part in a Music Workshop, where the children explored rhythm, pulse, pitch and harmony through different activities before creating and performing their own song together!

April also saw us finally being able to rearrange the much anticipated Inflatable Planetarium visit to school. This was funded by our amazing Friends of St. Mary's and gave each class the opportunity to explore space.

The month ended with our Year 3's taking part in Bikeability Level 1 sessions to teach children how to care for and manage their bikes safely, through lessons and practice on our school playground.

Don't forget, you can find more information about the school by visiting our website: [www.clophillstmarysschool.co.uk](http://www.clophillstmarysschool.co.uk) and we regularly post pictures of our events on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/clophillstmarysschool](http://www.facebook.com/clophillstmarysschool)

## Acorn Nursery news

*from Mrs. Hayes our Early Years Leader:*

For the last term of this year we are investigating, learning and exploring all about our Earth and studying in detail the 7 Continents of the World.

We've started big with a 'trip around the world' – looking at the globe as a whole, thinking about where we would go, what we would take with us and how we would travel.

We then bought things back closer to home – looking at where we live and learning about Europe.

We've also enjoyed learning about Ladybirds and their fascinating lifecycle and listened to, read and acted out the story of 'What the Ladybird heard'.

We've also celebrated Earth Day and St George's Day through fun and exciting learning activities.

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](http://www.clophillstmarysschool.co.uk)

or [email nursery@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk](mailto:nursery@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk).



## St Mary's School News continued

### **Our Values for May are Thankfulness (Appreciation and Simplicity):**

**In school**, we will learn the importance of appreciating ourselves, those around us and the environment. We will consider the importance of appreciating the simple things in life that we tend to take for granted. The children will also be reminded that, 'Thank you' isn't difficult to say but it means a lot to whoever is receiving it.

We will learn that appreciation can be shown in a variety of ways, including giving friendship, care and support to others.

**At home**, you could discuss as a family all the different ways that you can show your appreciation and put them into practice. You may also like to encourage your child to make a thank you card for someone they appreciate as we know that everyone appreciates something handmade that comes from the heart.

## **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"**.



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](mailto:bloominwellcic@gmail.com)

Call Bev: 07468 121504



Funded by  
UK Government



BL  
CIC

COMMUNITY  
FUND



co  
op

# Clophill Preschool

It's been a wonderfully busy spring at Preschool full of seasonal joy and change. We were delighted to welcome

Silas from the Methodist Church, who came in to share the Easter story with us. The children were fully engaged and as always, we ended the session with our favourite tractor song!

A real highlight has been our visit to Willbury Farm on our new minibus; an adventure in itself! The children had an incredible time bottle-feeding lambs and gently holding chicks, ducklings, and baby guinea pigs. Meeting "Squishy" the pig was a firm favourite. We are so excited to have the minibus and can't wait for many more adventures like this in the future.



Back at preschool, our Easter egg hunt was a big success. The children worked together to solve clues, developing their problem-solving and teamwork skills as they searched for the hidden treasure. There was a real sense of excitement and achievement when it was finally found. The fun continued with a staff Easter egg hunt, where the children took great delight in cheering us on, calling out "hotter" and "colder" to guide us to the treats!

We've been making the most of the changing season with lots of planting. The children have been busy growing cucumbers, tomatoes, chilli peppers, garlic, and sunflowers. They've loved getting involved and are already looking forward to watching everything grow.

Our learning has continued in creative and practical ways. In the tuff tray, we explored early maths using pinecones and chalk to create shapes, while junk modelling has encouraged the children to design and build using recycled materials, sparking both creativity and conversations about sustainability.

To mark Earth Day, we made seed bombs and went litter picking, helping the children understand the importance of looking after our environment. We also explored what recycling means and what materials can be reused.

We are also making great use of our new bespoke two-year-old garden which we renovated over the Easter holidays. It is a space we are incredibly proud of and our newest children have loved soaking up the spring sunshine in the huge sand-pit! The new garden is proving to be a fantastic addition to our provision and has also started to be enjoyed during our Clophill Parent and Toddler Group sessions, held every Friday from 9:30–11:30am. If you have young children and like a cuppa and a chat, come join us each week!



# **Clophill**

# **Open Gardens**

# **Weekend**

**27<sup>th</sup> and 28th June**

**14 village gardens open**

**12 - 6pm each day**

**Adults £5**

**accompanied children free**

**Programmes from The Green, Church or gardens**

**Refreshments at the Church**

**Children's Treasure Hunt    Lunches and Teas**

**Plants at the Church**

**Proceeds to St Mary's Church, Clophill**

Over the last few weeks, we have been completely immersed in an exciting dinosaur-themed adventure, sparking curiosity, creativity and a real love of learning!

The children began by bringing dinosaurs to life through imaginative play, creating their own Jurassic



World baby dinosaurs and carefully hatching them from eggs. This hands-on start set the tone for a topic full of exploration. They developed their writing skills by using adjectives and expanded noun phrases to describe different dinosaurs, producing detailed and engaging work, including their own non-fiction information books and creative letter writing in the voice of the famous fossil hunter, Mary Anning.

Learning about fossils was a real highlight. The children explored how fossils are formed, examined real examples, and even created their own. This led to fascinating discussions about Mary Anning's life and her important discoveries, alongside thoughtful conversations about life in Georgian Britain and how

opportunities differed for men and women.

The children showed great enthusiasm when sorting dinosaurs into carnivores, herbivores and omnivores using Venn diagrams, as well as exploring theories about dinosaur extinction. Alongside this, they have been developing their understanding of measurement through practical activities using rulers, cubes and even their own hands and feet.

Beyond the classroom, the children have enjoyed a range of memorable experiences. Highlights included a wonderful visit to the farm to feed lambs, another visit to Beverley Court to create Easter crafts with residents and plenty of seasonal celebrations. The children made chocolate Easter nests, before taking part in a very exciting dinosaur egg hunt- complete with a surprise visit from a T-Rex!



The children have been creating their own stall for the Church Fete and we can't wait for you to all join us in playing 'Tea bag or treat?!'

*St Mary's Church, Clophill*

# *Church Fete*

## *& Village Event*

### *Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> 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*

**Open Gardens  
27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June**



## *Plant Stall*



We are having a  
plant stall at the Church during the weekend  
and would be very grateful for any donations of plants,  
cuttings and seedlings.

Please leave them in the Church porch

*Thank you*

## **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](mailto:editorial@clophillspotlight.co.uk) and I will reply with our bank details. **Thank you for supporting your local magazine.**

Best wishes,

***Elaine (Editor)***



**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**



Supporter Number: 920331

02/04/2026

Dear Residents of Clophill,

**Thank you very much for your support**

I am writing to express our appreciation and thanks for your amazing support in donating your postage stamps to Redwings Horse Sanctuary. Supporter Angela Barker collects and sends them to us regularly on your behalf and we are so grateful.

Our postage stamp recycling scheme aids us in generating extra funding towards the care of over 1000 horsey residents who have been rescued from neglect, abandonment, abuse or poor circumstances.

With so many in our direct care, we have a lot of mouths to feed. Your stamp collections will make a real difference, helping us to provide them with the food, veterinary care and all the other things that horses need to stay happy and healthy.

It will also help us reach even more horses, ponies and donkeys who sadly still need our help in the UK.

The UK is in the midst of an equine welfare crisis with an estimated 6,000 horses at risk of being abandoned. Thanks to your support, we are doing everything we can to ease the crisis. From transporting horses to a place of safety, giving them health checks, providing them with emergency veterinary treatment, and of course offering them a home at the Sanctuary whenever we can.

Thank you for being a friend of Redwings and for helping us help horses in need.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lucy".

Lucy Du Feu

Supporter Engagement Team Leader

# Bedfordshire Local History Association

## 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

### 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](http://www.bedfordshire-lha.org.uk)

## Clophill Parish Council

The Parish Council meeting was held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April.



- Cllr Steve Rodell has elected to stand down as Chair, although he will continue to support the Parish Council as a councillor. The Parish Councillors all wanted to thank Steve for all his hard work for the Parish Council over the years and look forward to continuing working with him. Cllr Sarah Matlock was voted in as the new Chair with Cllr Craig Nester being voted in as the new Vice Chair.
- **Recreation Ground** – The fundraising for the new rabbit proof fencing has gone brilliantly and work should be starting on the recreation ground within the next few weeks, date to be confirmed in the coming weeks but notices will be put up. The Parish Council would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all who donated to help make this possible.

- **Neighbourhood Plan** – The Parish Council will be represented at the Village Fete this year by Cllr Matlock and Cllr Nester. Please do come along and say hello and let them know your views on how YOU would like our village to look in the future. All your comments will be included in the proposal for the new Neighbourhood Plan. Your input is vital in the way our future village will look.

## Planning Applications:

**CB/26/00879/FULL** The Boat House, 12 Little Lane

**Proposal:** Garage conversion into a two-bed dwelling.

## Date of Next Meeting:

The next Parish Council meeting will be held along with the **Annual Parish Meeting** on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026 19:45 at Clophill Village Hall. If you are a local club or society please do come along! Just let the clerk know by emailing her at [clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk)

## Parish Registers for May

### 1826

#### **Baptisms**

14 Jane (?), d of William and Jane  
Lincoln.

Catherine, d of James and Diana  
Sinfield (?)

21 Eli, s of John and Anne Wittamore.

28 Peter, s of Robert and Ann  
Cunnington, f a butcher.

#### **Burials**

04 (?), s of John and Charlotte Palmer.

24 Elizabeth, w of William Lomax (?)

25 (?) Odel (sic).

29 Sarah, d of Thomas Lindford.

### 1876

#### **Baptisms**

28 Benjamin William, s of Joseph and  
Jane Carter.

(?) Harriet, d of William and Sarah  
Low, father a farmer.

#### **Marriages**

18 John Gudgin, 22 groom, to Elizabeth  
Alice Ball, 18.

#### **Burials**

15 William Chapman, 58, Apoplexy.

### 1926

#### **Baptisms**

23 John Roland (Jack), s of Roland and  
Evelyn Herbert.

John (? Joan) Appleby, d of Percival  
and Rosa Bottoms.

#### **Burials**

01 Sarah Annie Burrows, 66.

### 1976

No registers recorded.

## St. Mary's Church Registers for April 2026

**Burial of Ashes** 16th Anne Speake, 86.

# Coffee and Croissants

## Clophill Methodist Church



Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June

10am to 12 noon

**ALL WELCOME**



## ST. MARY'S CHURCH NEWS

Over £1,000 was raised by donations at the Lent Lunches and the Agape Supper for this year's charity, CRISIS. Huge thanks are due to those who prepared and served the lunches and, of course, all who came and gave so generously. This is inclusive of Gift Aid.



All the services over the Easter weekend were well attended starting with the Agape on Maundy Thursday evening, through to the joyous celebration of Holy Communion on Easter Day. A new event was held on Good Friday morning instigated by our Rector, Revd Steve Marsh. The observation of Stations of the Cross will be familiar to our Roman Catholic friends, but not so much in the Church of England. He had obtained a set of posters produced by the nuns of Turvey Abbey depicting the Way of the Cross, (Via Dolorosa), which were fixed round the church. The congregation walked from one to the next and heard meditations on each. It was a beautiful service. In the afternoon some from our church joined with Maulden to mark "The Last Hour". Holy Saturday is a day of quiet reflection before the celebration of the Resurrection.

As is the custom, about 2 dozen people gathered at the Old Church at 7.30 am to greet the Resurrection in a short service of hymns, prayers and readings, led this year by Margaret Byass, a Worship Leader in the Methodist Church. This was followed by the traditional breakfast in the Eco-Lodges of bacon butties and a much needed hot drink. As always, our thanks go to the Gardner family for this.

We are now back in fund-raising and social mode, with a Spring Lunch on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Church Fete and Village Event on May 9<sup>th</sup> and Open Gardens on the last weekend in June. We are indebted to our fund-raising for these events which bring the village together and keep the church open for all residents of Clophill.

If you wish to join with us, there is a service every Sunday, where you will find a warm welcome.

## Clophill in the Great War by Colin Watt.

*Abridged Excerpts from the book. Part 4 of 13.*

### 1915 – War Comes Closer to Home

By 1915, trench warfare had become well established on the Western Front. What many men had believed would be a short adventure was turning into a brutal war of attrition, with little ground gained and enormous loss of life. In Clophill alone, fifty-six local men were now serving in the armed forces.

One of the first fatalities to affect the village deeply was Harry Horace Quenby, whose death was reported on 23 January 1915. Harry was the son of James Liles Quenby, landlord of *The Compasses* in the High Street and a master baker. Harry had attended the National School and later worked in his father's bakery. A veteran of the Boer War, he enlisted soon after war was declared and served with the 2nd Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment). He fought during the retreat from Mons, was wounded, and later died of his injuries in Lincoln Hospital. He was awarded the 1914 Star and is remembered both at Lincoln Cemetery and on the Clophill War Memorial. News of his death was a shock to the village—the first local loss of the war.

Meanwhile, the presence of the military became more visible at home. The Royal Engineers established a training base at Haynes Park, with around 150 men billeted in Clophill at any one time. Villagers supported them by opening the Parish Room as a canteen and recreation space. Football matches, concerts, and makeshift "Foo-Foo Bands" brought moments of shared enjoyment before each new group of Engineers moved on to the Front.

The Rector, Rev. Cecil Lloyd Matthews, played an active role. He led special services for the soldiers, officiated at funerals and weddings, and even performed songs at village concerts. In July, he accepted the post of Chaplain to the Forces, leaving Clophill to serve at a military camp in Lincolnshire.

The wider war continued to darken the year. German submarines began attacking merchant ships, and the disastrous Gallipoli campaign unfolded. The sinking of the *Lusitania* in May caused outrage worldwide. At home, influenza and other illnesses spread through the village.

Yet life went on. The Royal Engineers earned praise for their good conduct, and events such as the Statty Fair, held each September, provided welcome relief from anxiety and sorrow. Even in wartime, Clophill sought moments of normality amid growing uncertainty.

---

See full details of the book at [bit.ly/30uLMM](http://bit.ly/30uLMM)



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



## Wildlife walks & talks

### May : June

**Saturday, May 16th, Nation Trust car park (LU6 2GY) at 10.30am**

#### **Butterfly Walk at Whipsnade Downs with Dr Wilf Powell**

Come and join butterfly enthusiast Wilf as we search for some of the lovely species to be found on the Downs. Parking is £3.50 for the day (ticket machines take card or cash payments) although it is free for National Trust members and blue badge holders.

£5.00 per person

**Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, Pegsdon Hills Nature Reserve, (TL121303), at 7.00pm**

#### **An evening walk lead by Dr Graham Bellamy**

A walk around this lovely nature reserve to look for the many chalk grassland plants some of which are rare in the county. We will be keeping a look out for birds and invertebrates too. Meet behind The View pub. Parking is on the road behind the pub or the lay-by near The Lodge. Please do not park in The View car park or drive over it.

Charge: £5.00

**Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, Manor Park, Flitwick, (MK45 1NZ) at 7.00pm**

#### **Guided tree-walk round Flitwick's Manor Park**

David Alderman will lead a walk round Manor Park concentrating on the trees species to be found here. David is an authority on trees. This will be a fascinating and, for anyone unfamiliar with the park's 'arboreal' history, surprising visit. Meet at the entrance to the site (on Dunstable Road). Parking is on nearby local roads. Please do not park in the Flitwick Manor Hotel grounds.

£5.00 per person

Booking for outdoor Flit Vale events is essential as places are limited.

Please contact Ann by email: [flitvale.info@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.wildlifebcn.org)  
Flit Vale Local Group  
[www.wildlifebcn.org/flit-vale-local-group](http://www.wildlifebcn.org/flit-vale-local-group)

## Bedfordshire's Greensand Ridge Walk turns 40



The Greensand Trust is holding a spring and summer programme of walks to discover Bedfordshire's Greensand Ridge Walk to mark the 40th anniversary of the county's premier walking route.

Taking place from May to September, with distances from 3 to 9 miles per walk, this is a great way to discover the walk, if you haven't walked it before, or a different way to enjoy it if you're familiar with the route.

The Greensand Ridge is one of the few places in Central England where thin, sandy soils support lowland heathland and acid grassland - distinctive landscapes which support specific wildlife and vegetation and need to be protected to thrive. The well-wooded, mature and attractive landscape contains many places to visit and offers superb leisure opportunities with the popular Greensand Ridge Walk and Cycle Route running the entire distance.

### Scheduled walks are as follows:

- Woburn and Eversholt circular (6.25 miles) Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May
- Clophill's Ancient Roots (3 miles) Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May
- Eversholt to Ampthill (7.75 miles) Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June
- Ampthill to Clophill (6.75 miles) Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June
- Old Warden Circular (8 miles) Saturday 18th July
- Weneslawe Circular (8 miles) Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August
- Gamlingay and Parklands Circular (7 miles) Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August
- Haynes Circular (5.75 miles) Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September

All walks cost £10 per adult. Linear walks include transport to the start point so that vehicles can be left at the end point. Under 18s are welcome if accompanied by an adult and able to walk the distance.

**To find out more information and to book on any of these walks please visit [www.greensandtrust.org/events](http://www.greensandtrust.org/events)**

All proceeds fund the walks and go towards the environmental conservation work of The Greensand Trust.



# What's on in and around Clophill

## MAY

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

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> – Coffee and Croissants** GC Methodist church, 10am – 12noon.

## JUNE

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> – Coffee and Croissants** GC Methodist church, 10am – 12noon. *See poster.*

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> – Open Gardens weekend**, refreshments at St. Mary's church, 12 – 6pm each day. *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...

\* Singthusiasm 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.**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: United Service 10.30am held at different hubs

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 10.30am Local Preacher

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 9.30am Communion Rev. Wood

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 11:00am Rev. Wood

## Useful numbers

<b>Gas (Emergency)</b>			0800 111999
<b>Electricity (Emergency)</b>			0800 7838838
<b>Emergency Fire/Police/Ambulance</b>			999
<b>Water/Sewage (Anglian Water)</b>			0845 7145145
<b>Telephone</b>		(Customer Services) 150	(Faults) 151
<b>Highways Department (Central Bedfordshire Council)</b>			0300 3008049
<b>Benefits Agency (Bedford office)</b>			01234 361500
<b>Registrar's Office (Births/deaths/marriages)</b>			0300 3008089
<b>Rail (Enquiries)</b>			0845 7484950
<b>Buses</b>	01234 262151	(Link A Ride) 01525 840511	(Flittabus) 01582 406561
<b>Luton Airport</b>			01582 405100
<b>Swimming</b>		(Flitwick) 01525 717744	(Robinson Pool) 01234 212479
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b>			
<b>Central Beds Offices (Chicksands)</b>			0300 300 8000
<b>Mid-Bed; MP</b>		Blake Stephenson	020 7219 7477
<b>Central Bedfordshire Councillors</b>		Susan Clinch	0300 300 8516
		Gary Summerfield	0300 300 8561
		Mark Smith	0300 300 8541
<b>Clophill Parish Council</b>	PC Clerk. Lynne Killeen	clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk	07888 685886
<b>HOSPITALS</b>			
<b>Bedford (North &amp; South)</b>	01234 355122	Admissions	01234 261150
		Appointments	01234 359012
<b>Luton &amp; Dunstable</b>			0845 1270127
<b>DOCTOR'S CLINICS</b>			
<b>Amphill</b>	(Houghton Close) 01525 300898	(Oliver Street)	01525 631395
		(Greensands)	01525 631390
<b>Shefford</b>	Enquiries 01462 818620	Appointments	01462 810034
<b>Barton</b>	01582 528700	<b>Flitwick</b>	01525 715300
<b>POLICE</b>		Non Emergency	101
<b>County Police HQ</b>			01234 841212
<b>Amphill Station</b>			101
<b>CHURCHES</b>			
<b>St Mary's Parish Church</b>			TBA
(Rector) Steve Marsh			
(Church Warden) Mrs Anne Shegog	anneshegog@gmail.com		01525 864868
<b>St Francis RC Church, Shefford</b>			01452 813436
<b>Clophill Methodist Church</b>	Revd Silas Wood, email: swood11@me.com,		01525 571392
	Mr John Errick		01525 860695
<b>Baptist Churches</b>		(Maulden) Ian Crawford	01525 634325
		(Shefford) Hazel Arnold	01462 812564
<b>SCHOOLS</b>			
<b>St Mary's C of E Lower School, Nursery &amp; Preschool (Headteacher Mrs K Bingley)</b>			01525 860206
<b>Harlington Upper School, Harlington</b>			01525 755100
<b>Preschool</b>	clophillpreschool@gmail.com (Chris) 07936 006381 or (Imogen)		07765 887868
<b>Redborne Upper School, Amphill</b>			01525 404462
<b>Robert Bloomfield Middle School, Shefford</b>			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
Singthusiasm 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

## Take out an annual ad in Clophill

### **SPOTLIGHT**

*Black & White per year*

This is one-third £95 Height 61 x Width 126 mm

Please email our Advertising Manager

ads@clophillspotlight.co.uk

Other sizes:-

A sixth of a page (H31mm x W126mm) £65

Quarter page (H92mm x W61mm) £85

Half page (H92mm x W126mm) £140

A full page is £250

## Hire Clophill Village Hall



Your local venue for events, classes and community life:

- Main Hall & Meeting Room
- Ideal for parties, functions & celebrations
- Perfect for classes, groups & workshops
- Fully licensed bar available
- Modern facilities & accessible spaces

Find out more: [www.clophillvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.clophillvillagehall.co.uk)

Bookings: now made via the website or Email: - [bookings@clophillvillagehall.com](mailto:bookings@clophillvillagehall.com)  
Phone:- 07821 643 936

## 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](mailto:chair@clophillvillagehall.com) (Andy Gardner)

Donations: [finance@clophillvillagehall.com](mailto:finance@clophillvillagehall.com) (GP Mantini)

# Chapman & Kirby Heating

Gas, Plumbing & Heating Installations



Gas Safe Registered

Boiler Servicing & Maintenance

Call us now on: 07831 132308

Email: [info@chapmanandkirbyheating.co.uk](mailto:info@chapmanandkirbyheating.co.uk)

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



## ACCOUNTING SERVICES

Providing a Much Better service for Mid Beds since 2000

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

we offer a total confidential service at competitive rates

Contact T: 01525 861087 M: 07714189994 E: [mbaccounts@btinternet.com](mailto:mbaccounts@btinternet.com)

Telephone  
**01525  
860526**

## The Stone Jug

**A Free House**  
BACK STREET, CLOPHILL

**A Proper Pub for Proper People**

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

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



**REMEMBER OUR MOTTO**

**"A VISIT TO THE JUG IS BETTER THAN GOING TO A PUB"**

**CHEERS JOYCE, VIKKI & MARK**

[www.stonejug.co.uk](http://www.stonejug.co.uk)

[www.facebook.com/thestonejugclophill](http://www.facebook.com/thestonejugclophill)

FLOOFYS



DOG GROOMING

BEDFORD ROAD, CLOPHILL, MK45 4AE

10% OFF  
YOUR FIRST  
GROOM

Get in touch with  
Amber to book an  
appointment

☎ 07592966619

📷 floofysdoggrooming

📘 Floofys Dog Grooming



## Take out an annual advert in Clophill *SPOTLIGHT*

*Black & White per year*

**This is one-quarter**

Height 92 x Width 61 mm

£85

Please email our  
Advertising Manager  
[ads@clophillspotlight.co.uk](mailto:ads@clophillspotlight.co.uk)

Other sizes:-

A sixth of a page (H31mm x W126mm) £65

A third of a page (H61mm x W126mm) £95

A half page (H92 mm x W126mm) £140

**A full page is £250**

AMPTHILL



VETERINARY  
CENTRE

## A Family Vet for Family Pets

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

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

For more information:

Visit our website at  
[www.ampt Hillvets.co.uk](http://www.ampt Hillvets.co.uk)

or

Phone us on 01525 582002

or

Pop in for a chat and to meet the  
team



We offer a FREE review of your existing Will.

### **Having a Will in place provides peace of mind**

So many people have died without a Will thus increasing the stress and expense (and often the tax) that their families face.

## **SEVEN GOOD REASONS TO REVIEW YOUR WILL**

- ◇ Have you married or entered Registered Civil Partnership since the date date of your last Will? If so, your Will is annulled.
- ◇ If you have no valid Will, the State's distribution of your assets may not be as you would have wished and could result in higher tax.
- ◇ Was your Will home made? If so, you could be storing up difficulties for the family and higher tax could be payable.
- ◇ Executors are personally liable. Are they still willing and able?
- ◇ Do you have children under 18? If so, you need to nominate guardians or they become the responsibility of the Local Authority
- ◇ Will your family be able to claim all tax allowances? Many Wills written before 2017 do not allow the full Nil Rate Band to be claimed.
- ◇ Are you in a second marriage? Special provision should be made for blended families.

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

**Please phone Susan Shaw now:  
Shaws Wills and Trusts 01525 862053**



DAVID JAMES



WWW.DAVIDJAMESKITCHENS.CO.UK



MANUFACTURE DESIGN INSTALLATION

We are a local manufacturer of beautiful kitchens. We sell direct to save you money. The factory showroom has an extensive display of different styles.

SAVINGS ON ALL KITCHENS

& Up To 25% Off Top Brand Appliances

01525 722230 PULLOXHILL BEDS MK45 5EU

SCENTSY



INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT



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

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



@Tracy's Scentsy Treasures



tracyscentsytreasures.scentsy.co.uk



APN  
ELECTRICAL

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




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

CONTACT US  
FOR A FREE QUOTE...

 ALEX NEW

 07531765164

 Apn.electrical@outlook.com

# Take out an annual ad in Clophill **SPOTLIGHT**

*Black & White per year*

**This is one-sixth** £65 Height 31 x Width 126 mm



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

[info@purejoinerysolutions.co.uk](mailto:info@purejoinerysolutions.co.uk)

07786 463217



## **Tammys' Talons**

Nail Technician  
Gel. Manicure and Pedicure

IZABELLEHAMMON  
NAIL TECHNICIAN & PEDICURE SPECIALIST  
CALGEL IZ <sup>manicure</sup> <sup>pedicure</sup>

**Tammy Kirby**

Clophill, Bedfordshire, MK45 4AW

Tel : 07968379309

[tammystalons@gmail.com](mailto:tammystalons@gmail.com)

## **Laptop & Computer**

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

A new professional  
dog grooming salon in Clophill

Please contact Freya on  
**07503 923165**

**Freya's**   
DOG GROOMING

# LOCAL INDEPENDENT MORTGAGE ADVICE



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



**THE  
MORTGAGE  
EXPERT**

[www.tmexpert.co.uk](http://www.tmexpert.co.uk)

Contact your local independent mortgage expert: **01525 30 67 60**

Endeavour House, Wrest Park, Silsoe MK45 4HS

**YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE**

We charge a fee of £495 for the straight forward mortgage application and up to £1,495 for the more complex ones.

Prior to application we will let you know when this becomes payable.

Please note we do not charge any fees upfront or for any initial advice.



## WREST PARK TUTORS

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

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

Our students develop confidence,  
resilience and independence.  
They love learning with us.

QUALIFIED TEACHERS NEEDED TO  
JOIN OUR TEAM OF TUTORS

Contact Katie at  
[wrestparktutors@gmail.com](mailto:wrestparktutors@gmail.com)

  @wrestparktutors

## E.T. Accountancy Services

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

To arrange a free initial consultation  
please telephone me on 01525 590465  
or email [emma@et-accountancy.co.uk](mailto:emma@et-accountancy.co.uk)

Chartered Accountant and  
Chartered Tax Adviser

Emma Thoullass FCA CTA  
[www.et-accountancy.co.uk](http://www.et-accountancy.co.uk)

01525 590465

Take out an annual  
advert in  
Clophill *SPOTLIGHT*

*Black & White per year*

**This is one-quarter**

Height 92 x Width 61 mm

£85

Please email our  
Advertising Manager  
[ads@clophillspotlight.co.uk](mailto:ads@clophillspotlight.co.uk)

Other sizes:-

A sixth of a page (H31mm x W126mm) £65

A third of a page (H61mm x W126mm) £95

A half page (H92 mm x W126mm) £140

**A full page is £250**

# JK Garden and Landscape Services Ltd



*We offer...*

*full landscaping service*

*patios*

*fencing*

*decking*

*new lawns*

*driveways*

*all garden maintenance*

Contact us on **0791 2028254**  
or at **[jkgardening@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jkgardening@hotmail.co.uk)**

You can also find us on Facebook

# Kings Windows



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

## TIMELESS FLUSH TIMBER ALTERNATIVE WINDOWS

as seen in *The Old Compasses & The Stone Jug*

*available exclusively from  
Kings Windows*

**10**

**• GUARANTEED •  
YEARS**



**01582 882 800**

**[www.kingswindows.co.uk](http://www.kingswindows.co.uk)**

# Take out an annual advert in Clophill *SPOTLIGHT*

*Black & White per year*

**This is one-quarter**

Height 92 x Width 61 mm  
£85

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

Other sizes:-

A sixth of a page (H31mm x W126mm) £65

A third of a page (H61mm x W126mm) £95

A half page (H92 mm x W126mm) £140

**A full page is £250**



Telephone:  
**07789 693959**

Email:  
**jamieb535@  
gmail.com**

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

*I specialise in  
bathroom design*

THE BLUECAT



LUXURY CATTERY

**Tel: 01525 861416**

[www.thebluecat.net](http://www.thebluecat.net)

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

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

## Misty Double Glazing?

Over 30  
Years  
experience.  
FREE  
Quotes

Over 30  
Years  
experience.  
FREE  
Quotes

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

• UPVC • Aluminium • Or Wood

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



**mistydoubleglazing.co.uk**  
**QUALITY GLAZING SERVICES**

**01525 876808**

**WE ALSO REPLACE BROKEN...**

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



## Your dream Holiday is my priority

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

*Neil Forrester*

TRAVEL COUNSELLOR

07479 479934

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

The logo for 'the café' is enclosed in a white square. It features the text 'the' in a lowercase, sans-serif font above 'café' in a larger, lowercase, sans-serif font. A stylized sunburst icon is positioned to the right of 'the'. The background of the square is dark with a repeating pattern of sunburst icons.

the  
café

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

Visit

[www.peacockscfe.co.uk](http://www.peacockscfe.co.uk)  
for more details on our opening  
hours and to view our full menu.

**W&H PEACOCK**  
AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

# The Cafe at W&H Peacock is **OPEN**

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

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



# LOCAL ALLOY WHEEL REFURBISHMENT



**Tel:**  
**01525**  
**860069**

**Alloy Wheel Repairs**

**Diamond Cut Alloy Wheels Repaired On Site**

**Powder Coat Primers & Lacquers**

**Fast Turnaround Alloy Wheel Welding**

**Tyres At Competitive Prices**

**NEW for 2015 - 4 Wheel Alignment Service**

**www.mintalloys.co.uk**

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

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

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

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

### Acorn Nursery

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



**SPACES  
CURRENTLY AVAILABLE**



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

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

To arrange a visit, please call: 01525 860206 or email: [generaladmin@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk](mailto:generaladmin@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk)

For more information visit: [www.clophillstmarysschool.co.uk](http://www.clophillstmarysschool.co.uk)

# Auction Sales & Valuations

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

Call for a free no obligation quote or  
email [info@peacockauction.co.uk](mailto:info@peacockauction.co.uk)

## SALE ENTRIES NOW INVITED

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

[www.peacockauction.co.uk](http://www.peacockauction.co.uk)



**W&H PEACOCK**  
AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

**01234 266366**



Eastcotts Park,  
Wallis Way,  
Bedford,  
MK42 0PE



**T. Butlin Building  
& Plastering**

Local Builder and Plasterer  
for  
40 years

m: 07778 680393  
e: [timbutlin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:timbutlin@hotmail.co.uk)

Est. 1986

 **FIREWOODSHIRE.co.uk**

**KILN DRIED LOGS TO CLOPHILL**



**£15 DISCOUNT**  
on first order

USE CODE: **CLOPHILL1**

**01234 484486**

# A L & G ABBOTT

## Funeral Directors

~ Established 1832 ~



With you when it matters most

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



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

☎ 01234 843222 🌐 [abbott-funerals.co.uk](http://abbott-funerals.co.uk) ✉ [support@abbott-funerals.co.uk](mailto:support@abbott-funerals.co.uk)

📍 150 Bedford Road, Kempston, Bedfordshire, MK42 8BH

# Home

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



## Care in your home, just as you like it.

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

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

**Call our friendly team today.**

Bluebird Care Central Bedfordshire

**01525 713389**

[bluebirdcare.co.uk/central-bedfordshire](http://bluebirdcare.co.uk/central-bedfordshire)  
[centralbedfordshire@bluebirdcare.co.uk](mailto:centralbedfordshire@bluebirdcare.co.uk)



“I'm happy to stay in my home”

# Residential Conveyancing

Experienced Local Consultant Conveyancer (Clophill)

**Michele Hosey**

**[michelehosey@photiades.com](mailto:michelehosey@photiades.com)**

**01525 300577**

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

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

Recommended by Local Estate Agents

**photiades solicitors**  
FRIENDLY EFFICIENCY



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

Maybe you have several pension pots?

What about old employer's pension schemes?

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

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



For professional, friendly, financial advice contact us on:

01525 861803 | [john@stellarfp.co.uk](mailto:john@stellarfp.co.uk)  
Enterprise House, B52 Wrest Park, Silsoe MK45 4HS

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

Retire

# ANDREW BAKER WINDOWS

9 SHEFFORD ROAD  
CLOPHILL BEDS  
MK45 4BT



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

20 Years experience.  
Free local quotes.

**FENSA**

Fensa Registered  
FIVE YEAR GUARANTEE

Contact Andrew: 01525862804 / 07825017855  
Email: [abakerwindows@gmail.com](mailto:abakerwindows@gmail.com)

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



beta plumbing

Silsoe based  
No call out fee – free estimates  
Fully insured and guaranteed  
No job too small  
**07720 723653 01525 864859**  
[info@betaplumbing.co.uk](mailto:info@betaplumbing.co.uk)  
[www.betaplumbing.co.uk](http://www.betaplumbing.co.uk)

# TIM DOWNING

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



Tel: Tim on Clophill 860148  
Mobile: 07969 545 276



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

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

Take out an annual ad in Clophill  
**SPOTLIGHT**

*Black & White per year*

**This is one-sixth** £65 Height 31 x Width 126 mm



THE CONIFERS  
— CANINE HOTEL —

**LUXURY  
ACCOMMODATION  
HOLISTIC FOOD SHOP**



01525 860339

[www.the-conifers.co.uk](http://www.the-conifers.co.uk)



*Bathroom  
Vogue*

EST.  
1989

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

**SHEFFORD 01462 627002**

[www.bathroomvogue.com](http://www.bathroomvogue.com)

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

# BURGLAR ALARMS

*New Alarms Fitted or Upgrade Existing Alarms*

## BURGLAR ALARMS

We fit New Alarms - Wired or Wireless Systems  
\*We can service and maintain your existing alarm\*

## CCTV

We fit high quality systems to maximise your security.  
Access your CCTV via the internet or mobile.

## DOOR ENTRY

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

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



Contact:

**01582 864138 / 07746 111520**

*For a free quote and consultation*

[www.maximumsecuritysystems.co.uk](http://www.maximumsecuritysystems.co.uk)



# NEWBURY FARM PLANTS

Plant Inspiration

NEWBURY FARM, AMPHILL ROAD, SILSOE MK45 4HB

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

TEL: 01525 860048

**WIDE SELECTION OF BEAUTIFUL GARDEN PLANTS**



**RHS Gold Medal Winner 2023**

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

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

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

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

# Singthusiasm

**4**  
CHOIRS  
TOGETHER  
IN ONE  
CONCERT!

**WE DON'T JUST SING POP  
WE DON'T JUST SING CLASSICAL  
WE DON'T JUST SING MUSICALS - WE SING EVERYTHING!**

- 8 weeks of exciting music
- Songs by Queen, The Beatles, from "Les Misérables", Gospel music, folksongs and more.....
- Rehearsals through June and July culminating in a **Choir Festival on Saturday 25th July**
- Join our evening choirs in **Clophill (Mondays), Hitchin (Tuesdays), Sandy (Wednesdays)**
- **Daytime choir also available in Letchworth (Monday mornings 11am)**

**PREVIEW EVENINGS:**

Clophill, St. Mary's Church - 18th May  
Hitchin, St. Mark's Church - 19th May  
Sandy Baptist Church Hall - 20th May

**SINGTHUSIASM.COM**  
**INFO@SINGTHUSIASM.COM**  
**07975 520085**



**WOBURN COUNTRY FOODS**  
**THE GOURMET BUTCHER**

**HAYNES WEST END - WOBURN SANDS**

**THE FARM SHOP,  
HAYNES WEST END**

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

**FROSTS FOODHALL  
WOBURN SANDS**

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

**ORDER ONLINE**

**WOBURNCOUNTRYFOODS.COM**

# BROOME SIGNS

## SIGNAGE SPECIALIST



**Scan  
Me**

- ☆ Shop & Corporate Signs
- ☆ Engraving & Laser Service
- ☆ Window & Display Graphics
- ☆ Vehicle Livery
- ☆ Full Colour Digital Printing
- ☆ Magnetic Signs
- ☆ Artwork, Design & Manufacture
- ☆ National Coverage
- ☆ Roll of Honours Boards
- ☆ DDA Safety, Braille & Tactile Signs
- ☆ Neon & L.E.D Illuminated Signs
- ☆ A Boards, Banners & Posters
- ☆ CNC Cut Letters & Logos
- ☆ Qualified Installation Team
- ☆ Corporate Re-Branding
- ☆ In House Production

LONDON                      LUTON                      SHEFFORD  
0208 2828813    01582 725768    01462 851919

[sales@broomesigns.com](mailto:sales@broomesigns.com)



Celebrating over 60 years of service

**broomesigns.com**

# Advertisers index

<b>Auctioneers &amp; valuers</b>		<b>Funeral Services</b>		<b>Public Houses</b>	
W&H Peacock	35	AL&G Abbott, Funeral Directors	36	The Stone Jug	25
<b>Bathroom Services</b>		<b>Garden</b>		<b>Repair Services</b>	
Bathroom Vogue	39	Coles Growers	IBC	Tim Downing Repair Services	38
<b>Builders &amp; Carpenters</b>		JK Garden and Landscape Services	31	<b>Schools</b>	
PURE joinery solutions	29	Newbury Farm Plants	40	Clophill PreSchool	BC
T. Butlin Building & Plastering	35	<b>Health &amp; Beauty</b>		Clophill St Mary's C of E	34
Stuart Benson Building Projects	IFC	Bluebird Care	36	Acorn Lower School and Nursery	34
<b>Car Services/Repairs</b>		Pilates Box	41	<b>Security Services</b>	
A&F Motors Ltd	IFC	Tracy's Scentsy Treasures	28	Maximum Security Systems	40
Mint Alloys	34	Tammy's Talons	29	<b>Signage</b>	
TC Coomber Car Services	BC	<b>Home Improvements</b>		Broome Signs	43
<b>Choirs</b>		David James Kitchens	28	<b>Travel Services</b>	
Singthusiasm	41	<b>Legal</b>		Travel Counsellor	33
<b>Computer Services</b>		Photiades Solicitors	37	<b>Tuition</b>	
PCLap Repairs	29	Shaw's Wills	27	Wrest Park Tutors	30
<b>Electrical Services</b>		<b>Pet &amp; Animal Services</b>		<b>Village Hall</b>	
APN Electrical	28	The Conifers Canine Hotel	39	Clophill Village Hall	24
<b>Financial Services</b>		The Bluecat Luxury Cattery	32	<b>Windows/Replacement</b>	
ET Accounting Services	30	Amphill Veterinary Centre	26	Andrew Baker Windows	38
Stellar Financial Planning	37	Floofys Dog Grooming	26	AW Windows	IBC
MB Accounting Services	25	Freyas Dog Grooming	29	Kings Windows	31
The Mortgage Expert	30	<b>Plumbing &amp; Drainage Services</b>		Misty Double Glazing	32
<b>Food &amp; Refreshments</b>		Jamie, the happy plumber	32		
Café at W&H Peacock	33	Beta Plumbing	38		
Woburn Country Foods	42	Chapman & Kirby Heating	25		
<b>Fuel</b>		<b>Print Services</b>			
FireWoodShire	35	Fidelity Design & print	IFC		

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

## Love reading Spotlight?

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

# Coles Growers



**BRITISH CUT FLOWERS**  
SEASONAL, SUSTAINABLE, UNIQUE

Fresh bouquets £15 £25 or £40  
Posy in a jar £12 - these make beautiful gifts  
Bud vases 2 for £14 for a small celebration  
Special occasions please get in touch.  
**Collect from Gravenhurst Fri/Sat am or pm.**  
**Order deadline 3pm the day before.**  
Please contact us via:  
Text/WhatsApp 07736 106326 or  
Email: [lynda@colesgrowers.co.uk](mailto:lynda@colesgrowers.co.uk) for how to order



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



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



**Contact: ANDY WOOD**

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



See reviews from satisfied customers at [awwindows.co.uk](http://awwindows.co.uk)

# Clophill Preschool

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

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



**Ofsted**  
Outstanding  
Provider

**Call or email to find out more**

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



Find us on  
**Facebook**

**T. Coomber's**

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

**Collection  
& Delivery**  
SERVICE AVAILABLE  
Please ask

**AMPTHILL**  
**01525 406330**

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