

Vol 49 | No.5

FREE

# CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

JUNE 2026

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## A word from the Editor...

Welcome to the June  
issue of Spotlight

*Dear Reader,*

This month, we have the ever-popular Open Gardens Weekend taking place on 27th and 28th June. For full details, see pages 10 and 14. The same weekend will also see Cora's garage sale in aid of Alzheimer's research, so it promises to be a busy and enjoyable few days!!

If you are shopping at Flitwick Tesco, don't forget to vote for Bloomin' Well (see page 8). Bloomin' Well runs the Clophill Therapeutic Gardens, which will also be open to visitors as part of the Open Gardens Weekend. Every vote helps secure a Tesco donation to support this wonderful community project.

For those interested in local history, Julie's fascinating article on the Old Church can be found on pages 4 and 5. Meanwhile, on page 12, Colin continues his series of excerpts exploring life in Clophill during the First World War.

See you all again in July!!

*Best wishes, Elaine*



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***Deadline for articles is 20th of the month***

You can also read Spotlight online

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

# Come into the Garden *With Kate Gardner*

I'm writing this in between watching the BBC coverage of this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show and wondering how to manage my own garden on the run up to Clophill Open Gardens at the end of the month. The lack of rain and the heatwave over the last May Bank Holiday weekend has certainly presented challenges. So, what tips could we take from Chelsea that could work in our own gardens.

This year's Chelsea Flower Show felt different, softer, more thoughtful, less about perfection and more about connection to the landscape, to wildlife, and to us. Lots of naturalistic planting with drifts of perennials weaving into grasses, self-seeders and borders that looked as though they'd gently evolved rather than being built in just under 3 weeks.

Too often we think good gardening means control, but the most successful gardens at Chelsea this year understood the value of allowing plants space to move, seed, soften edges and create atmosphere. Curves were everywhere too. Winding paths, rounded seating areas, gentle flowing lines replacing rigid geometry. Water also played an important role throughout the show with thin rills of moving water, shallow pools catching the sky, small wildlife-friendly features integrated naturally into planting.

But perhaps the strongest message from Chelsea this year was resilience. Designers are clearly responding to our changing climate. Gravel gardens, drought-tolerant planting, Mediterranean influences, and tough structural perennials feature widely. The best gardens try to balance resilience with softness - gardens that can cope with the heat and dry spells that we are experiencing more frequently. Allow plants to mingle. Let stems weave through one another. A little movement creates atmosphere, and atmosphere is what makes a garden memorable.

In my opinion one flower quietly stole the show this year, it was the foxglove. What makes foxgloves so valuable is their versatility. They can feel cottage-garden romantic, woodland naturalistic or almost architectural depending on how you use them. Plant foxgloves in drifts rather than dots. Three or five together always looks more natural than one lonely spike standing to attention.

Foliage matters just as much as flowers. Plants such as *Cerinthe major* 'Purpurascens,' ornamental grasses and smoky-toned foliage plants featured heavily because they hold a garden together long after blooms fade. A good border should still look interesting in poor weather, low light and late summer and its foliage plants that gives you that backbone.

Clematis is having a renaissance and what really stood out was how it was being grown. No longer just trained against trellis panels but instead the plants are allowed to weave naturally through shrubs and small trees which is much closer to how the plant behaves in nature.

## Come into the Garden *continued*

Try growing them through roses, shrubs or even mature grasses for combinations that feel softer and far more contemporary.

My final thought this month is don't overlook scent. Roses, sweet peas, peonies, and old-fashioned scented plants drew crowds not because they were fashionable, but because people instinctively responded to them. You experience fragrance with your whole body, not just your eyes. So, make room for more scented plants in your garden and introduce plants that move, seed, and surprise us. Which, when you think about it, is probably what gardens were meant to do all along.

### ***Happy Gardening***

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

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

Well, there's well known site – but perhaps not quite as it is now. It was the subject of an article – more of which later! In the meantime, Pauline Cue, then editor wrote: "When I write out the diary, I think of people from Luton who ask 'Isn't it boring to live right out in a village?' Surely it would be difficult to be bored this month, there must be something for everyone here."



Looking at the diary, she is not wrong with the Village Fete and Dog Show at the Village Hall and with the procession assembling at 12:30hrs, ready for the 'off' at 1pm. This was preceded a couple of days before by a children's magic show and followed by a Family Disco. There was to be a Junior Disco at the Village Hall as well as the local pubs Domino and Darts Tournament and all happening before the month was out! *(It just goes to show what a warm, welcoming and busy village it was then – and is still now, as mentioned at the Parish Council Annual meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May this year.)*

Other articles include the **Parish Council** noting bus timetable changes and the kick-around area with goal post erected for the children of Townshott.

Then there were **Ruby celebrations** - of Florrie and George Robinson – and that of the **WI** as well. Mrs Maureen Warner stepped down as President of the WI and Mrs Sally Myers was elected to take her place, with her Vice-presidents Mrs Cranswick and Mrs Everitt.

The southern route of proposed Ampthill / Maulden Bypass was chosen by the Government while the **1<sup>st</sup> Clophill Guides** "celebrated the presentation of Queen's Guide badges and certificates to Juliet Gordon and Karen Wynn." Two Brownies, Chloe Benson and Rachel Bodiley, were received into the Guide Company."

## Reflections continued

**Congratulations** were sent “to Dawn Chapman and Sarah Gibbs on passing their recent violin examination.”

**The Flower Club’s** demonstrator was Mrs Barbara Hudson, the founder President of the club”. Mrs Carolyn Cranswick, current President “spoke of the appreciation owed to Mrs Hudson in establishing such a flourishing organisation.” *(The ‘Clophill & District Flower Club’ is celebrating their Golden Anniversary this year – absolutely brilliant!)*

There is an advertisement for **‘Open Gardens’** in July. *(What has changed – this year 15 gardens will be opened on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June. I do like tradition!)* Hazel Brooks, Graham Palmer, Paul Baker and Amanda Telford had June birthdays, with Hazel winning a £1 Boots Gift Voucher.

The Health and Beauty Centre at Hilltop Farm was opening in June and **St. Mary’s School PTA** held a mock auction “with Dick Wheeler in good voice and form, encouraging people to make the highest bid to help swell the PTA funds.” *(Nothing changes here either – funding is still vital ....)*

Obviously there is much more from other groups but I did say that there was an article about the ‘Old Church’ and with space at a premium, these had to be left out. “The d’Albini’s of Cainhoe gave the church during the time of their relative Richard d’Albini, fifteenth abbot of St. Albans 1097-1119. We imagine that this was situated up the hill, and could have been a wooden building, as the Old Church as we know it today was not built until the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> century. On establishing the first Church they formed a parish joining Cainhoe and Clophill into one. The first priests were rectors, or ruler, of the parish, the revenues of the Church going to the religious houses, who in turn provided an incumbent. Clophill was later constituted a vicarage, the first vicar being Radulphus Capellanus, presented by the prior of Bello Loco in 1236. The living was attached for some time to Beadlow Priory, when monks brought to Clophill by Robert d’Albini, of the second generation ‘for the good of his soul’. The priory is thought to have been near a river, probably around the site of Top Farm.

When the living was reconstituted a rectory in 1436, and the priory at Beadlow had been absorbed into St. Albans Abbey, some of the Church lands were not returned. As with the Manor of Beadlow they passed into secular hands at the time of the dissolution and so were lost to the church.

Legend says that the village once lay near the Old Church and was moved to its present position after an epidemic. Probably this was the Black Death, as in 1376 ten houses stood empty and had fallen into the hands of the Lord of the Manor, by reason of the pestilence. It is possible that this stretch of desolation lay near the Old Church. We find Well Springs and Spring Close as place names in its vicinity and a house called the Church Orchard stood in Elizabethan times, in the Church grounds, abutting east on the Beadlow estate.

The Church Orchard was pulled down at the end of the seventeenth century, but the name survived for many years.

The Old Church also survived. The faithful could be seen Sunday after Sunday wending their way up the steep path to the Church. Although a new Church was built in the High Street in the eighteen-forties, it was found possible to keep the Old Church weather-tight and for a century or more, it was used as a mortuary chapel. At least one service a year was held there on an August evening, but after some of the lead was stolen from its roof in 1956, the PCC decided they could not afford to re-roof it or even maintain it. Anything of value was salvaged and incorporated in the new St. Mary's. The Old Church and its grounds have recently been improved by the works of various local authorities via the redundant Churches Board and the result, as shown on the front cover of this issue, is delightful."

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## **Annual Parish Meeting**

### **Tuesday 19th May 2026, Village Hall**



The Annual Parish Meeting is a wonderful opportunity for local clubs and associations to come together and showcase the work they do in our community. While it is officially a Parish Council meeting, it is far more informal, making it an excellent chance to learn about the activities available in Clophill. It is also an opportunity to see what your Parish Council has been working on and what it plans for the year ahead.

#### **Representations were made from:**

- **Bloomin' Well**
- **St Mary's Church**
- **Clophill and District Flower Club**
- **Clophill Community Care**
- **Clophill United Charities**
- **Greensand Trust/Clophill Lakes**
- **Clophill Heritage Trust**
- **Clophill United Football Club**
- **St Mary's Lower School**

We hope everyone who attended found the meeting informative. We would love to see even more local groups represented at next year's meeting. If you know of any organisations or clubs that should be invited, please contact the Parish Clerk at: [clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk)

# St Mary's School News

*from Mrs. Bingley our Headteacher:*

May began with an extra-long weekend for the bank holiday – which is always nice! The first week then began with a Transfer Festival/Multi-Sports event for some of our Year 4's who will be transitioning to Robert Bloomfield Academy this September. It's one of the events we attend to support the children prepare for their new schools.



The sporting activities continued with some of our Year 3 and 4 children attending a Continuous Cricket event at Flitwick Cricket Club, alongside other local lower schools.

We celebrated David Attenborough's special 100th birthday by wearing blue and green to represent the world he's dedicated his life to exploring and trying to protect. We also talked about the great man in our assembly that day.

Mid-May we recognised Mental Health Awareness Week with activities linked to the actions we can take to look after our own mental health. The week ended with another non-uniform day. This time we wore green – to highlight the importance of looking after our mental health.

May ended with our Year 1s and 2s visiting Shepreth Wildlife Park and a special assembly for the children to say, 'goodbye and thank you' to our beloved Mr. Derek, our Site Agent, who is reducing his hours from June so probably won't see the children very much anymore. Mr. Derek was presented with a very special gift from the children and they also shared words they'd chosen to describe him. 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](https://www.facebook.com/clophillstmarysschool)

## Acorn Nursery news

*from Mrs. Hayes our Early Years Leader:*

We've continued our 'Trip around the World' this month - we 'visited' Asia, learning about the amazing animals that live there and reading the story 'The Tiger came to Tea'. Our themed activities included weaving stripes onto tigers and building, then measuring our own Great Wall of China! We've also learnt about Australia and its culture, making our own rain sticks and jumping like a kangaroo!

Our outside playhouse has been transformed into a 'Healthy Eating Café' where we've learnt about healthy foods and enjoyed lots of role play - serving and helping out with all jobs required in a café!

We have LIMITED 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 June are Honesty and Openness:

**In school**, we will discuss the importance of telling the truth, even when we know we've done something wrong and are worried we could get in trouble. We will reinforce the fact that we always respect honesty and thank people for being honest. We will explore a range of stories to emphasise the importance of honesty and openness, discussing the phrase 'living a lie' and explore the effect of a 'tissue of lies' that can lead to greater and greater complications and situations which can be very difficult to sort out. Finally, we will also talk about the importance of saying 'sorry' and meaning it when we are in the wrong.

**At home**, you may like to examine this 'thought for the month' and discuss its meaning:

"If you tell the truth you don't have to remember anything." Mark Twain.

Everyone in the home could be encouraged to make a special effort to be honest with each other this month, as well as in the future, with honesty being acknowledged in a positive way.

## Garage Sale

In aid of Alzheimer's Research UK at Cora's  
122A High Street Clophill on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>  
June. Lots of: -

- Bric a Brac
- Clothes
- Electrical Goods
- Shoes and Handbags
- Pictures.



Also, a lovely Raffle and Tombola. Please come and support this worthy charity.

Thank you,  
*Cora Sheppard*

**ALZHEIMER'S**  
**RESEARCH UK** **FOR A CURE**

**Vote for**  
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Helping improve mental health and  
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Voting in-store at

**Flitwick Tesco from**  
**Tuesday 28th April 2026**

until the end of July 2026



**MK45 1LX**

## 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:

- 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.





# **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**



# Clophill and District Flower Club

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

*invite you to join them for*



## *'Twists and Turns'*



*A floral demonstration by*

**Louisa Rigden**

**Thursday 2 July 2026**



**Clophill Village Hall**

6.45 for 7.30pm start



Visitors always welcome at all our meetings - £7

For further details see our website

## **Clophill in the Great War by Colin Watt.**

*Abridged Excerpts from the book. Part 5 of 13.*

### **Late 1915 – Voices from the War**

By the autumn of 1915, the war felt both distant and uncomfortably close. Letters from the front brought vivid glimpses of places few villagers had ever heard of. One such letter, dated 18 September 1915, came from Corporal C. S. Molyneux of the Royal Engineers, writing from the Dardanelles during the Gallipoli campaign. He described harsh conditions—cold weather, wind, dust, and difficult terrain—but remained upbeat. He spoke fondly of Clophill and of how well the soldiers had been treated there, a reminder that small kindnesses at home were remembered far away. His matter-of-fact account of casualties, lost horses, and narrow escapes hinted at the dangers faced daily.

Other letters painted starker pictures. Private J. W. Lee of the Royal Sussex Regiment wrote to his family describing the advance in France: ruined villages, endless lines of wounded, and four terrible days under shellfire and machine-gun attack. His words conveyed both horror and pride—fear endured, comrades lost, and hard-won victories that came at a terrible cost.

At home, the village continued to support the war effort in practical ways. Vegetables were collected and sent to sailors, thanks to the appeal by Miss Moore of Maulden Cottage. The Royal Engineers and other units billeted in and around Clophill won the affection of villagers, especially the “billet-mothers,” who welcomed soldiers into their homes. Acts of kindness were often returned, sometimes with soldiers helping by holding the baby while the mother did the daily chores.

Life was not without hardship. Disease remained a constant threat. Whooping cough forced the closure of the infant school and, tragically, claimed the life of the seven-month-old son of a serving soldier. With many men away, women increasingly stepped in to work on farms and smallholdings.

As winter approached, soldiers wrote of preparing rough shelters and stables, bracing themselves for colder months. Meanwhile, enlistment continued. By December 1915, most eligible unmarried men in Clophill had joined up, with many married men also registering under the Derby Scheme.

Christmas brought mixed emotions. Ernest Eddy, who had enlisted at just seventeen and served with the Bedfordshire Regiment at Gallipoli, wrote reassuringly to his family on Christmas Day. The Gallipoli evacuation had been carried out with remarkable success, and hopes were high. But joy soon turned to sorrow. In January 1916, Ernest was reported missing, believed drowned—a sobering reminder that even when battles ended, the war's reach did not.

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



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FOR TICKETS  
£12





**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*

### **ST. MARY'S CHURCH NEWS**

It was with some trepidation that we approached Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> and the annual Church Fete and Village Event this year, as for several days the weather forecast was predicting a wet day. But we were wrong to have worried. The Rector had been praying fervently for a fine day, and his prayers were



duly rewarded and we enjoyed the warm sunshine. In the approx. 20 years we have held this event we have been driven inside only once, which is remarkable!

The tried and tested format was followed with village organisations and charities running their own stalls with a percentage of their takings going to the church. There is a lovely atmosphere of friendship and mutual co-operation. Entertainment was provided by the Community Choir, the Pre-School children and the Halo All Stars. The barbecue did a roaring trade, and we are grateful to Richard Wiles for that, while in the church there were stalls and of course, our famous refreshments. "More cake, Vicar?"

When all takings were counted and expenses taken, church funds were benefitted by approx. £2,200. So, thank you to all who contributed in any way.

We now look forward to seeing you at the Open Gardens on June 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> when 14 gardens will welcome you.

#### **ATTENTION ALL CHILDREN!**

**If you planted a sunflower seed at the Fete, don't forget to come to the church over Open Gardens weekend to plant it out. The one that grows to be the tallest by the beginning of October will win a prize.**



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



## Wildlife walks & talks

# June

**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)

## Parish Registers for June

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### 1826

#### **Baptisms**

07 Charlotte, d of William and Sarah Maddams, f a farmer.

25 Betsy, d of Joseph and Lucy Ashby.

William s of John and Catherine Odell.

Sarah Anne, d of John and Martha Manston (?) f a baker.

No marriages or burials recorded.

### 1876

#### **Baptisms**

25 Sarah Ann, d of Walter and Mary Webb.

Mary, d of William and Ann Bottoms, f a bricklayer.

James William, s of (?) and Susan Daniels, f a sawyer.

(splodge!) child of John and Emma Bushby.

Lily Ada, d of Thomas and Clara Lincoln (?).

Frank, s of John and Hannah Flint.

#### **Marriages**

06 Henry Bulpit (?) 21 to Elizabeth Phebe (sic) Bottoms.

### 1926

#### **Baptisms**

06 Daphne Rose, d of Hubert and Lilian Whittemore.

20 (?) Irene, d of Walter and (?) Gardner.

**No marriages or burials recorded**

#### **Omitted in error - Burials**

Mar 20 Harry Huckle, of Haynes, 78.

27 Elizabeth Martin, 91.

### 1976

#### **Baptisms**

06 Philip Erle Cresser.

Lisa Marie Mann.

Lee Gary Smoth.

27 Stuart Neil Hoare.

#### **Marriages**

27 John Victor Marengi, 25 to Rosemary June Knight, 18.

**No baptisms or burials recorded.**

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

#### **Baptism**

25 Frederick James Chipperton-Wain.

# What's on in and around Clophill

## JUNE

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

**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.*

## JULY

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>** – **Flower Club meeting**, Village Hall, 6:45pm for 7:30pm start. *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) (Greensands)	01525 631395 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, Mr John Errick		01525 571392 01525 860695
<b>Baptist Churches</b>		(Maulden) Ian Crawford (Shefford) Hazel Arnold	01525 634325 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	<a href="http://enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk">enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk</a>	
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
	<a href="http://www.bloominwellcic.com">www.bloominwellcic.com</a>	
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
	<a href="mailto:victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk">victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk</a>	
Friends of St Mary's (FOSM)	Johnathan Matlock and Anna Neuff	
	<a href="mailto:fosmclophill@gmail.com">fosmclophill@gmail.com</a>	
Scouts and Cubs	<a href="http://www.scouts.org.uk/get-involved">www.scouts.org.uk/get-involved</a>	
Tea and Chat	Anita Errick	860695
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Marylin Browning	07821 643936

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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)

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or

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- ◇ 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.

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- **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)

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**PREVIEW EVENINGS:**

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Sandy Baptist Church Hall - 20th May

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