

Vol 49 | No.6

FREE

CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

JULY 2026

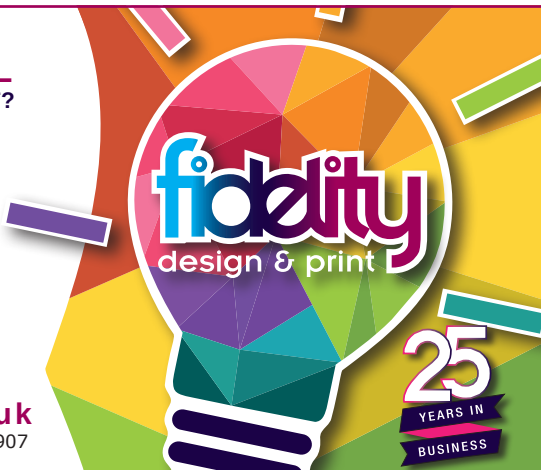


**LOVE YOUR
LOCAL NEWS**

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
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



A word from the Editor...

Welcome to the July
issue of Spotlight

Dear Reader,

Following on from the hugely successful open gardens weekend and yet another heatwave; Kate, our regular contributor, has a very interesting article about how to adapt your garden into a space that can cope with our drier and hotter summers. Turn over the page to have a read, I found it very helpful.

I am delighted to write that we have 4 new advertisers this month. We have the Olde Watermill Shopping Village, Millers Market and Handmade Local, Cuddles and Care (we all could do with some of that!) and a new carpenter, Tim Barker. Spotlight simply wouldn't exist without our advertisers. So if you are looking for someone to fix something, look after your pet, need a financial service, fancy a bit of a shop and much more, do look up the index at the back to see if someone local is advertising.

Spotlight takes a break for the summer now, so see you all again in September!!

Best wishes, Elaine



The magazine staff

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

Deadline for articles is 20th of the month

You can also read Spotlight online

www.clophillspotlight.co.uk

Come into the Garden *With Kate Gardner*

There is a quiet shift happening in our gardens. Summers seem longer, dry spells more frequent and those periods of intense heat that once felt unusual now arrive almost every year. For gardeners working on the area's characteristically free-draining soils, the challenge is particularly noticeable. Water disappears quickly, lawns turn brown earlier, and plants that once sailed through summer can suddenly look tired and stressed. Rather than fighting these changes, perhaps it is time to garden with them.

The good news is that many beautiful plants thrive in exactly the conditions that are becoming more common. By choosing resilient species and adapting a few gardening habits, we can create gardens that are not only more drought tolerant but also rich in wildlife, colour and seasonal interest.

One of the most effective ways to build resilience is to look towards plants that originate from regions with hot summers and poorer soils. Mediterranean plants are an obvious choice, but there are also many prairie and steppe plants that perform brilliantly in British gardens.

The key is not simply drought tolerance, but drought adaptation. Plants that have evolved to cope with dry conditions often possess silver foliage that reflects sunlight, deep root systems that search out moisture, or narrow leaves that reduce water loss. Plants to consider include lavender, *Verbena bonariensis*, sea hollies, shrubby salvias like *Amistad* and *Caradonna* and oriental grasses.

Once established, they cope remarkably well with dry conditions and provides nectar for bees and butterflies throughout the warmest months as well as structure and colour well into the autumn.

Verbena bonariensis with its airy stems weave effortlessly through borders adding movement and despite its delicate appearance, it is remarkably resilient and often survives prolonged dry spells.

As temperatures rise, shade becomes an increasingly valuable garden feature. Even a single well-positioned tree can reduce temperatures in a garden, protect neighbouring plants and create more comfortable spaces for people and wildlife. *Amelanchier*, Olive trees (in particularly sheltered locations) and the Strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*) are all tolerant of drier soils once established and provide year-round interest.

Container plants are often the first casualties of a hot spell, particularly when gardeners are away on holiday. The combination of restricted root space, dark-coloured pots and direct sunlight can quickly lead to stress or even plant loss.

Before going away, gather containers into the coolest part of the garden. Morning sun and afternoon shade is ideal as reducing direct sun exposure by a few hours each day can significantly slow water loss. Plants create a more humid microclimate when clustered together. Grouping pots reduces evaporation and helps conserve moisture.

Come into the Garden *continued*

Give pots a thorough soak rather than a quick surface watering. Water should penetrate the entire root ball. A second watering an hour later ensures compost is fully saturated. A layer of gravel, bark chips or compost on the surface of pots reduces evaporation and helps keep roots cooler.

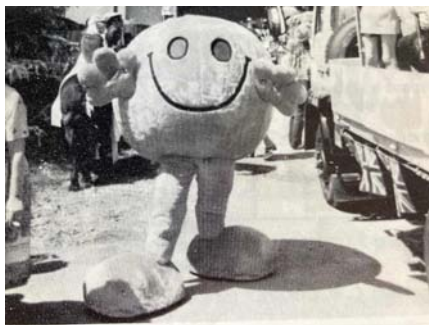
Climate change presents challenges, but it also offers an opportunity to rethink how we garden. By selecting plants suited to warmer, drier conditions and embracing practices that conserve water, we can create gardens that are more resilient, more sustainable, and often more beautiful.

Happy Gardening

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

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

“Cover picture - Tom Aitken of the ‘Flying Horse’ dressed as ‘Mr Happy’, a hit with many people at the recent Village Fete”. As you can imagine, the pages of Spotlight, well, the first four, are a fete report, beginning with “The 2nd Bedford Boys’ Brigade Band led a super Fete Day procession through the village in beautiful



sunshine on Saturday 13th June, when the Annual Fete and Dog Show was held in the playing field.” There were six floats up for judging – which the PTA won. “Children from all over the village gathered at ‘the Rising Sun’ where they boarded the main float as entrants in the largest ever Fancy Dress Parade.” The winner of the “3-6 yrs – Sharon Collis – Queen of hearts; 7-11years – Maxine Collis – Gypsy and Pairs – Rebecca Feris and Adrian Puddephatt – Alice and the Mad Hatter.”

The system of 50% of takings or £10 for a stall “created much wider interest in the event as organisations were able to raise cash for their own funds as well as to give support to the village hall.” (The proceeds were to go to “the new storage extension”.) There were stalls provided by St. Mary’s School P.T.A., the W.I., the Flower Club, Darby and Joan, St. Mary’s Church, Toddler Group, Playgroup and Mrs Mary Hutchinson. (*Much the same as now eh!*) Sideshows were organised by the Senior Football Club, the guides, Ampthill and District Lions, Mr. Gumble and Mrs Saville, not forgetting the people who kindly helped to man additional stalls. Here must be included a special thank you to the Kiln Youth Club Officials who acted as car park stewards and to Mrs. Rosemary Ilett and her helpers who dealt with the afternoon’s catering arrangement.”

Reflections continued

Among the children's running race 1st and 2nd places were Matthew Bird, Paul Hill, Philip Wynn, Gregory Wiles, Richard Gibbs, Neil Smith, Stephen Wynn and Stephen Gibbs." Rebecca Fisher, Lisa James, Joanne Davis, Louise Hughes, Jennifer Graves, Lucy Knowles, Julia Drake, Martin Dorrell, Julia Duggan, Alan Panter, Hayley Conde and Caroline Duggan skipped their way to 1st and 2nd places while a host of children enjoyed the three-legged race, dribbling the ball; and an Obstacle race – with Julia Duggan, David English, Caroline Duggan, Rachel Naylor and Jane Duggan coming to the fore. There were umpteen classes in the Dog Show and Javalstar Holly, an Irish Setter owned by Lorraine Davies claiming 1st prize in the 'Best Clophill Resident'.

The Tug-O-War was won by 'The Flying Horse' with 'The Stone Jug' coming second. There is information concerning 'The Royal Wedding Celebration Party', entry to which "will be by badge only" the folk to contact were Pauline Ashton, Mary Baldwin, Tessa Carpenter, Diana Collins and Rita Portas.

Under 'Local History', the story of our village continues: "By the time of the Rev. William Norman 1619-1651 the part of the village around the Old Rectory (*opposite the church on the High Street*) was regarded as the centre of the 'town'. Paths led to open fields where residents laboured for their bread. Cottages, many of which have since disappeared, clung to their sides. Land given to the parish for a school in 1630 is thought to have been the site of the old Reading Room, in the High Street. The remains of this very old building can be seen just past Church House on the left in the direction of Beadlow. (*Now it's a house.*) A document dated 1657 described a piece of land near Church Path as 'where the Tainters stood', a reference to the tenters or tenting hooks on which weavers stretched their cloth. Some of the oldest houses have stood in this part of the village. Barbara Izzard of 124 High Street tells us that the weavers lived in her cottage for several generations. Their name was Pennyfather and they were there during the 17th and 18th centuries. 'The Tainters' or drying ground was opposite her cottage, on the corner of Church Path and High Street, lying south of Pine Hill and now occupied by allotments.

Other old buildings in this area have included Cross Tee House, Cops Hall, Broom Close and Ladymead. Although there are a number of old buildings to the west of the parish such as Clophill House and The Water Mill, the village didn't develop in this direction until the 17th century when other traders joined the inn and the smithy, to catch business from the main road to London. (*This used to be over the original bridge on the Green.*) Back Street was later formed from a series of houses built on waste land. A very risky procedure in those days as the lord of the Manor had the right to order their removal."

BLOOMIN' WELL CIC



BLOOMIN' WELL CIC

CLOPHILL THERAPEUTIC
COMMUNITY GARDEN

CELEBRATING
OUR
2nd
YEAR!

OPEN DAY

All are welcome!

SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER
12 – 2PM

♥ WE ARE HAVING A ♥
GRAND OPENING
OF THE POND AREA!



FACE
PAINTER



FREE
BBQ



SCAVENGER
HUNT



LOOK AROUND
THE CUT
FLOWER GARDEN



SENSORY
GARDEN



SMALL
ORCHARD



ALLOTMENT



WILDLIFE
GARDEN



POND



POLY
TUNNEL



THE
HIVE
(CABIN)

CAKE & PLANT STALL ♥ MEET OUR STAFF & VOLUNTEERS ♥ SEE THE GARDENS
MAYBE SIGN UP FOR SOME VOLUNTEERING!

FIND US HERE



First field
on the left,
up the track
opposite
Hawthorne Close,
Claphill.

FOR ANY ENQUIRIES CONTACT

✉ bloominwellcic@gmail.com

☎ 07468 121504

🌐 www.bloominwellcic.co.uk

Funded by
UK Government

Central
Bedfordshire

Gardening with
Disabilities Trust
ADAPTING GARDENS, CHANGING LIVES, DEFYING DISABILITY

COMMUNITY
FUND



BL
CF
Bedfordshire & Luton
Community Foundation

CO
OP

St Mary's School News

from Mrs. Bingley our Headteacher:

June is always a busy month at school, but this year seemed especially busy! The month started with the Year 4's tackling the Government Multiplication Check and the Year 1's working through the mandatory Phonics Check.



Amongst the work, there was also lots of play! We had a surprise, last minute offer of a FREE show on the first day back after half term; meaning Years R-4 all enjoyed an impromptu performance of Treasure Island from a visiting theatre company!

Years R and 4 both enjoyed their end of year trips to Mead Open Farm and Go Ape respectively, and Acorn Nursery were visited by Teaching Talons.

We held our first ever Football Fundraising Day, led by ProStrike, receiving a fantastic £2180.96 boost to our school budget thanks to the very generous donations from parents, carers and associated family members and friends. We are incredibly grateful to the funds raised to support our school.

A member of the Road Safety Team visited Years R-4 to lead Road Safety sessions to each class, helping them to understand how to be safe crossing a road, travelling in a car and the need to wear hi-vis in dark and dreary weather.

Our month ended with the school receiving an annual assembly from the NSPCC (led by school staff) on the importance of being safe and what to do if they don't feel safe.

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

Acorn Nursery news

from Mrs. Hayes our Early Years Leader:

We've had so much fun continuing with our virtual 'trip around the world', exploring and learning about Australia, Antarctica, North America and Africa. We've also learnt all about 'growth' - investigating human, animal and plant lifecycles. As well as all this, we've also found time to look at the History of Transport focusing on planes and Formula One Racing!

We enjoyed meeting all sorts of unusual animals up close, including a Madagascan hissing cockroach and an owl at our annual Teaching Talons visit and we always love seeing their amazing dog Chip who performs tricks!

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

or email nursery@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk.

St Mary's School News continued

Our Values for July are Courage and Confidence:

In school, especially with school and class transitions coming up, we will talk about what we're afraid of and go on to consider how we can overcome our fears. We will think about the importance of talking to friends and family when we are worried. We will also look at examples of others who have shown courage and reflect on times when we have been brave, considering how that made us feel. We will also discuss how bravery doesn't just mean physical feats but also to words and actions that we use daily, like standing up for what you know is right.

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

"Sometimes the biggest act of courage is small one."

This month, as a family, you could try and do something reasonably challenging like removing the stabilisers from a bike or jumping into the swimming pool for the first time. As a family you could also discuss the importance of having the confidence to talk about your worries and how you can overcome them bravely, together.

Our Forest School provision are seeking additional volunteers.

- Do you love the great outdoors?
- Do you enjoy spending time with children?
- Would you like to learn new skills?
- Do you enjoy a cuppa and a biscuit around a campfire?
- Can you spare a morning or two each half term?

If so, you might have found your perfect match! Please get in touch with us to request more details about this rewarding volunteer role:

generaladmin@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk

Or visit our website here for more information:

www.clophillstmarysschool.co.uk/Voluteering-at-Forest-School/

The role would involve spending time in a local woodland on Wednesday mornings, with between 10 and 15 five and six-year old children, supporting them in their chosen activities between September and July. Training will be provided.

Clophill in the Great War by Colin Watt.

Abridged Excerpts from the book. Part 6 of 13.

1916 – Somme, Gallipoli, and Life on the Home Front

By 1916, the Great War had transformed life in Clophill and across the country. The army adjusted its recruitment rules, lowering the minimum height to 5 ft 0 in for Bantam Battalions, allowing fit and strong men previously turned away to enlist. Local soldiers, like Private Doggett, served bravely but some, tragically, did not return. Doggett died after surgery on 7 March 1916, leaving a wife and five children, and is commemorated at Brookwood Cemetery, Woking.

Labour shortages at home drove wages up to 15 shillings or more per week, while women increasingly took on work in fields and smallholdings. Haymaking, essential for feeding livestock, was particularly hard-hit by the absence of men.

The war continued across the globe. Sapper A. G. Hunt of the Royal Engineers wrote from Egypt about the evacuation of Gallipoli in January 1916, describing narrow escapes, dangerous beaches, and the long journey to Cairo. He marvelled at surviving nearly unscathed, despite the chaos of war.

In the seas around Britain, the Battle of Jutland (31 May) tested the Royal Navy. Although the British lost more ships and sailors, they successfully contained the German fleet. Meanwhile, Lord Kitchener, en route to Russia, tragically drowned when HMS *Hampshire* struck a mine on 5 June.

Letters from the front gave villagers a vivid sense of warfare. Sergeant Cunnington described the horrors of bombardments, gas attacks, and trench assaults on the eve of major engagements, reflecting on the courage of men facing “murder pure and simple.” The Battle of the Somme, beginning 1 July, became one of the bloodiest in history, with over 57,000 British casualties on the first day alone.

Amidst the grim news, village life continued. The wedding of Corporal John “Jack” Durston of the Footballers’ Battalion brought a rare moment of joy. Durston had served in France, recovering from wounds, before returning home. Events such as the showing of the Battle of the Somme film at Bedford in August brought the realities of war vividly to the public.

Up to 200 wounded soldiers were safely evacuated by Volunteer Aid Detachment nurses from Wrest Park mansion, in the adjoining village of Silsoe, when a devastating fire broke out at the stately home that had been in use as a military hospital since November, 1914.

Even in distant lands, soldiers maintained contact. Private C. W. Smith, stationed near Cairo, wrote home with humour and resilience, describing guarding Turkish prisoners, enjoying simple amusements like cinema, and keeping a diary for his family. Despite the war’s dangers, he remained in good spirits, reflecting the perseverance and adaptability of those far from home.

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

Marking 40 years of the Greensand Ridge Walk - Bedfordshire's premier walking route

The Greensand Trust is continuing its spring and summer walk programme along the Greensand Ridge Walk throughout July and August with three routes available - we very much hope you will join us! 2026 marks the 40th anniversary of Bedfordshire's premier walking route, and to celebrate this we devised a programme of walks along the Greensand Ridge from May to September. Distances vary from 3-9 miles per walk - it's 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 it.

We head to Old Warden on **Saturday 18 July** for the **Old Warden Circular with The Cowshed Café**, an 8-mile guided walk meeting at St Leonard's Church. We will walk through Old Warden and Ickwell onto the Greensand Ridge Walk before heading back towards Old Warden. This walk is run in collaboration with The Cowshed Cafe - our lunch stop will be at the cafe, so please consider buying your lunch and hot drinks from there.

We move to the Biggleswade area on **Sunday 9 August** for the **Weneslawe Circular Walk** - an 8-mile guided route which will begin at The King's Reach pub in Biggleswade, through Biggleswade Common and Sandy Heath, Potton and Sutton, finishing back at The King's Reach.

On **Sunday 23 August** we go to the start/finish of the Greensand Ridge Walk meeting at the Gamlingay Eco Hub where we will complete a 7 mile walk around the village and out onto the Greensand Ridge path to discover the historic parklands of Tetworth and Woodbury, before looping back round to discover Gamlingay's hidden parkland story.

Places on all walks are £10pp and support the environmental conservation work of local charity The Greensand Trust - full details and booking is available via our website: www.greensandtrust.org/events



At The Fledglings, we have spent some time focusing on nature and growth. The children learned about mini beasts and pollination, explored the importance of trees and spent time identifying different species in our woodland area. They investigated habitats, grew sunflowers, measured their progress and learned about the water cycle through practical activities and experiments. Our older children enjoyed pond dipping, learning about living things through MRS GREN, writing nature poetry and adventure stories and exploring renewable energy.



As part of their local studies, the children focused on Clophill, designing questionnaires to gather residents' views about the village, carrying out traffic surveys and presenting their findings in graphs. These activities helped develop both their mathematical and communication skills.



More recently, we have been looking at transport and travel. The children have explored how people travel around the world by train, aeroplane and car, while learning about the history of transport through a visit to the Museum of Transport at Stockwood Park. They have also been discovering different countries and cultures. Our studies of Italy included learning about the Leaning Tower of Pisa as well as enjoying discussions about Italian food. We were also grateful to receive photographs and information about Cape Town from a friend in South Africa, helping bring our learning to life.

Life at The Fledglings is always full of practical experiences and adventures. This term, the children have continued to develop their independence through regular visits into the local community, including trips to Beverley Court and our Faith Tour, where we were incredibly proud of the thoughtful questions the children asked and the respect they showed at each place of worship we visited.

Cooking remains a favourite activity, and the children particularly enjoyed making samosas this term. We have also continued our yoga sessions, helping children develop balance, coordination and mindfulness.



As we move towards the end of the academic year, our older children have been preparing for their next steps, building confidence, resilience and independence ready for the transition ahead. It has been wonderful to see the friendships, curiosity and enthusiasm for learning that continue to flourish within our small group.

We are incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved this term and look forward to enjoying more adventures together over the coming weeks.

BLOOMIN' WELL CIC



Bloomin'
Well CIC's

ANNUAL

PUB? QUIZ?



7pm

TEAMS
OF UP TO 4

£20^{PP}

INC LIGHT MEAL

CHOOSE FOOD
ON THE NIGHT

Friday
11TH SEPTEMBER

at
the cross keys
PULLOXHILL



THERE WILL BE A RAFFLE

ABOUT BLOOMIN' WELL CIC ♥

Bloomin' Well CIC is a non-profit organisation working with adults with mental health challenges, who are neurodiverse and/or have learning difficulties.

We create welcoming, supportive spaces and meaningful activities that promote wellbeing, inclusion and personal growth.

TO BOOK CONTACT

☎ Sandy on 07944361247

☎ Bev 07468121504

✉ or email
bloominwellcic@gmail.com

Clophill Preschool

One of the highlights of the term has been following the life cycle of our chicks. The children

were fascinated as they watched the eggs hatch and the chicks grow, leading to lots of discussions about how living things change over time. We have also been observing the environment around us, noticing the changing seasons and talking about the different types of weather we experience. This sparked plenty of interest in extreme weather, with the children keen to learn about storms, floods and other weather events from around the world. Our budding archaeologists have been busy digging for treasure and taking part in excavation activities. The children loved uncovering hidden objects and working together to investigate their discoveries.

Music has been filling the preschool too, with the children exploring a variety of instruments and enjoying singing together. Our school leavers have begun practising their leavers' song and are already showing great enthusiasm and confidence as they prepare for their next adventure.

There has been plenty of learning through play. Group word games have supported the children's phonics development, while maths activities have focused on counting, addition and exploring how larger numbers can be made up of smaller ones. The children have also enjoyed sequencing activities and a range of turn-taking games, helping develop their social skills, and ability to work together.

Friday knife skills sessions continue to be a favourite for many of the children. Through whittling activities, they have shown impressive progress in their control, concentration and ability to listen carefully to instructions. It has been wonderful to see how much confidence they have gained since the start of the year.

Our adventures have taken us further afield too. Visits to Barton Springs gave the children the opportunity to paddle in the natural spring water and explore the local environment. They have also enjoyed travelling by bus, learning valuable independence and road safety skills along the way. Another memorable outing was our visit to Chicksands Military Museum, where the children explored a range of fascinating exhibits and learned more about local history.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to all the dads, grandads and other family members who joined us for our recent Men at Work session. With tools in hand and plenty of enthusiasm, they helped tackle a variety of jobs around the setting, fixing and improving different areas for the children to enjoy. We are especially grateful for their help in building our brand-new ring toss game, which is ready for Sports Day. The children have already enjoyed trying it out, and we greatly appreciate the time and support our families continue to give to the preschool.

Clophill Preschool continued ...

As the end of the school year approaches, our Green Group children have been focusing on school transition activities, helping them feel confident and excited about moving on to primary school.

We are incredibly proud of all the children and look forward to celebrating with our leavers as they prepare for the next stage of their learning journey.

Clophill Parish Council

There was a meeting at Clophill Village Hall on Tuesday 23rd June.



- **Chairman's Award** – If you know of anyone who you believe may deserve this most prestigious award, please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk
- **Defibrillators** – The Parish Council are still working alongside the Co-op and The Clophill United Charity to raise the funds needed for this. Please donate if you can when you are next in the Co-Op.
- **Recreation Ground** – The new rabbit proof fencing is now complete! We would ask anyone using the area to please use the gates to ensure that the rabbits don't move back in. The repair to the damaged grass area is now the final stage of this project and will hopefully be completed in the next few weeks.
- **Christmas Lights Switch On** – This has been confirmed for the 29th Nov from 3pm to 6pm. Stall holders please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk in the first instance to book your pitch.

Planning Applications:

CB/26/00295/FULL Paradise Farm, The Causeway

Proposal: Creation of an additional pitch to contain one static caravan and parking for 2 cars. Revised layout and hardstanding with associated infrastructure (Retrospective).

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

Proposal: Erection of 1 detached dwelling with associated parking, landscaping and access from High Street. Appeal reference: 6010315.

CB/TCA/26/00282 London House, 45 High Street

Proposal: Works to trees within a Conservation Area: Lightly reduce Silver Birch (T1, T2) and remove any growth effecting phone wires. T3 - Yew Tree - Reduce Yew (T3) closest to house by 30%. Reduce Yew (T4) on side boundary by 20%.



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



Wildlife Walks & Talks

July

Saturday, July 25th, Dunstable Downs' National Trust car park (LU6 2GY) at 10.30am

Butterfly Walk with Wilf Powell

Another try at a butterfly walk with Wilf Powell, hoping for better weather, join Wilf as we search for some of the lovely butterfly 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 per person**

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

Please contact Ann by email: flitvale.info@gmail.com or

Phone (leave a message or text if you prefer) 07580 178-889 to reserve your place.

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

Thank you....

We would like to thank all the people for their kind condolences, and those who were able to attend the funeral, of Rosemary Graves (nee Nichols) who died on the 22nd of May 2026.



Brendan Graves and Cecilia Nichols

Parish Registers for July and August

1826

Baptisms

- July 25 John, s of Henry and Ann Costin (?)
- Aug 06 Susannah, d of Samuel and (?) Millard.
- 13 Betsy, d of John and Sarah Robinson (?)
- Betsy, d of Joseph and Ann Willis.
- George, s of Joseph and Ann Willis.
- Ann, d of John and Sarah Denton.
- 18 Sophia, d of Richard and Jane Waller (?)
- 20 William, s of Martha Caves (?) single woman.
- Jane, d of John and Sarah Chapman.

No marriages or burials recorded.

1876

Baptisms

- July 23 Anne, d of George and Ann Webb.
- Ann, d of William and Anna Doggett.

1996

Baptisms

- July 18 Steven Wiseman

No marriages or burials recorded

- Aug 27 Susannah Letitia (?) d of single woman.
- Mabel, d of Thomas and Mary Ashby or Ashley.

Marriages

- July 11 George Gudgin, 22, to Eliza Stanford, 23.

1926

Baptisms

- July 04 Eileen, d of Frederick and Mary Gudgin.
- Betty Doreen, d of Arthur and Florence Heath.
- Aug 01 Kathleen Edith, d of Arthur and Nellie Peat.

Marriages

- July 18 Arthur John Catlin (?) 33, widower, to Millie Louise Ansell, 30.

Burials

- July 31 Susan Garner, 62.
- Laura Gardner of Ampthill, 62.
- Aug 14 Emma Elizabeth Perkins (?) 67.

What's on in and around Clophill

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 5th – Clophill Therapeutic Community Garden **Open Day**. 12noon – 2pm. *See poster.*

Friday 11th – Bloomin' Well **Pub Quiz** Cross Keys, Pulloxhill. 7pm. *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.

1st Sunday: United Service 10.30am held at different hubs

2nd Sunday 10.30am Local Preacher

3rd Sunday 9.30am Communion Rev. Wood

4th Sunday 11:00am Rev. Wood

Useful numbers

Gas (Emergency)			0800 111999
Electricity (Emergency)			0800 7838838
Emergency Fire/Police/Ambulance			999
Water/Sewage (Anglian Water)			0845 7145145
Telephone		(Customer Services) 150	(Faults) 151
Highways Department (Central Bedfordshire Council)			0300 3008049
Benefits Agency (Bedford office)			01234 361500
Registrar's Office (Births/deaths/marriages)			0300 3008089
Rail (Enquiries)			0845 7484950
Buses	01234 262151	(Link A Ride) 01525 840511	(Flittabus) 01582 406561
Luton Airport			01582 405100
Swimming		(Flitwick) 01525 717744	(Robinson Pool) 01234 212479
LOCAL GOVERNMENT			
Central Beds Offices (Chicksands)			0300 300 8000
Mid-Bed; MP		Blake Stephenson	020 7219 7477
Central Bedfordshire Councillors		Susan Clinch	0300 300 8516
		Gary Summerfield	0300 300 8561
		Mark Smith	0300 300 8541
Clophill Parish Council	PC Clerk. Lynne Killeen clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk		07888 685886
HOSPITALS			
Bedford (North & South)	01234 355122	Admissions	01234 261150
		Appointments	01234 359012
Luton & Dunstable			0845 1270127
DOCTOR'S CLINICS			
Amphill	(Houghton Close) 01525 300898	(Oliver Street)	01525 631395
		(Greensands)	01525 631390
Shefford	Enquiries 01462 818620	Appointments	01462 810034
Barton	01582 528700	Flitwick	01525 715300
POLICE		Non Emergency	101
County Police HQ			01234 841212
Amphill Station			101
CHURCHES			
St Mary's Parish Church			TBA
(Rector) Steve Marsh			
(Church Warden) Mrs Anne Shegog	anneshegog@gmail.com		01525 864868
St Francis RC Church, Shefford			01452 813436
Clophill Methodist Church	Revd Silas Wood, email: swood11@me.com,		01525 571392
	Mr John Errick		01525 860695
Baptist Churches		(Maulden) Ian Crawford	01525 634325
		(Shefford) Hazel Arnold	01462 812564
SCHOOLS			
St Mary's C of E Lower School, Nursery & Preschool (Headteacher Mrs K Bingley)			01525 860206
Harlington Upper School, Harlington			01525 755100
Preschool	clophillpreschool@gmail.com (Chris) 07936 006381 or (Imogen)		07765 887868
Redborne Upper School, Amphill			01525 404462
Robert Bloomfield Middle School, Shefford			01462 628800

Village groups

Beverley Court		860920
Brownies	enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk	
Clophill Community Care	Duty Contact	07791 773705
Clophill Heritage Trust	Ali Bradbury	07894 710001
Clophill Parent and Toddler Group		
	Imogen	07765 887868
Clophill Preschool	Alex Hale and Sophie Hale	07939 823721
Clophill St Mary's C of E Lower School, Nursery and Preschool	Tracy Hayes	860206
Clophill United Charities	Val Martin	07845 731134
Community Garden	Bev Hall (Bloomin Well)	07468 121508
	www.bloominwellcic.com	
Conservation Group	Brian Adams	862297
Fledglings	Alex Hale and Sophie Hale	07908 162354
Flower Club	Gillian Hill	860539
Funzone After School Club		07903 167493
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

Greensand Ridge Walks July to September

The Greensand Trust is holding a programme of walks to discover Bedfordshire's Greensand Ridge Walk to mark the 40th anniversary of the county's premier walking route. The remaining scheduled walks are as follows:

- Old Warden Circular (8 miles) Saturday 18th July
- Weneslawe Circular (8 miles) Sunday 9th August
- Gamlingay and Parklands Circular (7 miles) Sunday 23rd August
- Haynes Circular (5.75 miles) Sunday 6th 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 All proceeds fund the walks and go towards the environmental conservation work of The Greensand Trust.

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**

Bookings: now made via the website or Email: - 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 (Andy Gardner)

Donations: finance@clophillvillagehall.com (GP Mantini)



Discover the The Olde Watermill Shop. Eat. Relax

RESTAURANT

Delicious homecooked food
& homemade cakes

INDEPENDENT SHOPS

Over 20 independent shops

MILLERS MARKET
& ANTIQUES

100+ dealers of new
& old treasures

HANDMADE LOCAL

Gifts & crafts from
talented local makers

FREE PARKING

Over 20 Independent shops.

Restaurant,
Millers Market.
Handmade Local.



The Olde Watermill Shopping Village,
Barton Le Clay, Beds MK45 4RF

www.oldewatermill.co.uk

Chapman & Kirby Heating

Gas, Plumbing & Heating Installations



Gas Safe Registered

Boiler Servicing & Maintenance

Call us now on: 07831 132308

Email: 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

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

www.facebook.com/thestonejugclophill



BEDFORD ROAD, CLOPHILL, MK45 4AE

10% OFF
YOUR FIRST
GROOM

Get in touch with
Amber to book an
appointment

📞 07592966619

📷 floofysdoggrooming

📱 Floofys Dog Grooming



Cuddles & Care Pet Services

PROFESSIONAL CARE FOR
YOUR PET

🐾 Dog Walking (Groups or
Solo)

🐾 Mobile Vet Nurse
Services

🐾 Pet Sitting

🐾 Pet Taxi

🐾 Wedding
Chaperone

DBS Checked
Full Insurance
Qualified Veterinary Nurse
First Aid Trained
20 Years Experience



CONTACT ALICIA MARTIN:
07568349434

ALICIATNMARTIN@GMAIL.COM

WWW.CUDDLESANDCAREPETSERVICES.CO.UK



A Family Vet for Family Pets

We are a family-owned veterinary practice in the centre of Ampthill. 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.amphillvets.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 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



tracysscenttreasures.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

07786 463217



Tammys' Talons

Nail Technician
Gel. Manicure and Pedicure

IZABELLE HAMMON
NAIL TECHNICIAN
CALGEL **iz** by *Charm*

Tammy Kirby

Clophill, Bedfordshire, MK45 4AW

Tel : 07968379309

tammystalons@gmail.com

Laptop & Computer

Printer, Apple Mac, Setup, Repairs, Virus infection, Hacked, Internet Mail setup, Network, Data recovery. Home/Office computer problems.

7days services. Qualified & Experienced. We visit you

PcLaprepairs@gmail.com 01525 306316 - 07925 338435

A new professional
dog grooming salon in Clophill

Please contact Freya on
07503 923165



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

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**

f @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

**Chartered Accountant and
Chartered Tax Adviser**

**Emma Thoullass FCA CTA
www.et-accountancy.co.uk**

01525 590465



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

Telephone:
07789 693959

Email:
**jamieb535@
googlemail.com**

*I specialise in
bathroom design*

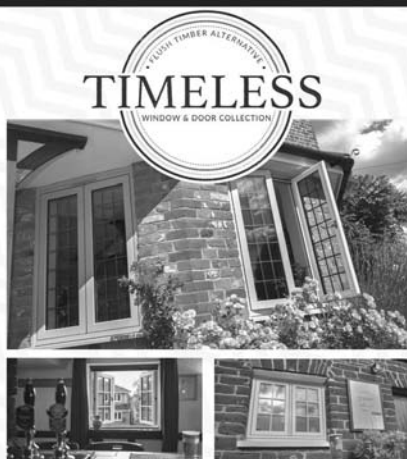
JK Garden and Landscape Services Ltd



*full landscaping service
patios
fencing
decking
new lawns
driveways
all garden maintenance*

Contact us on **0791 2028254**
or at **jkgardening@hotmail.co.uk**
You can also find us on Facebook

Kings Windows

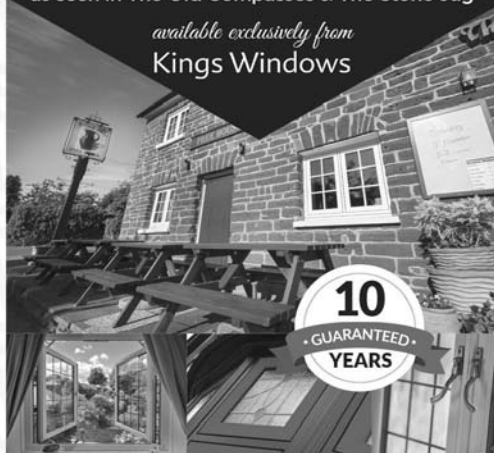


Available in a range of traditional colours
Choose classic joints to look like wood
Stunning handle options

TIMELESS FLUSH TIMBER ALTERNATIVE WINDOWS

as seen in The Old Compasses & The Stone Jug

*available exclusively from
Kings Windows*



01582 882 800
www.kingswindows.co.uk



Discover Millers Market & Antiques Vintage. Retro. Collectables. Gifts



Explore over 100 dealers
offering everything from vintage
treasures, retro, collectables
and gifts.

Always something new to discover

Whether you're a
collector, treasure hunter
or just looking for a
hidden gem it is full of
unique discoveries



Restaurant. Independent shops. Free parking



Handmade with Love, Created Locally

Discover beautiful handmade
gifts from over 55
talented local makers



Shop unique, Shop local



From jewellery & candles
to home decor, textiles
and unique gifts, every
purchase supports a
local small business.

The Olde Watermill Shopping Village, Barton le Clay, MK45 4RF

www.oldewatermill.co.uk



Tel: 01525 861416
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 Clapham. 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?

**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
café

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

Visit

www.peacockscafe.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

For more information visit: 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**

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



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

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 ✉ 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
centralbedfordshire@bluebirdcare.co.uk



Residential Conveyancing

Experienced Local Consultant Conveyancer (Clophill)

Michele Hosey

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

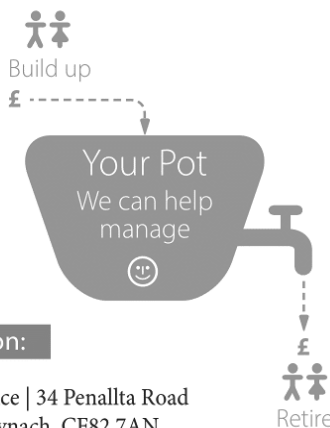
Do you have a plan?

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
Enterprise House, B52 Wrest Park, Silsoe MK45 4HS

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

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

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
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

T BARKER CARPENTRY

Experienced Carpenter & Joiner

Fitted furniture · Joinery · Door Hanging · Skirting Boards · Flooring
Fascia & Cladding · Timber structures · Window & Door Replacement
Timber, Brickwork & Plaster Repair

Email: info@tbarkercarpentry.com

Call: 07540258426

www.tbarkercarpentry.com



THE CONIFERS
CANINE HOTEL

LUXURY
ACCOMMODATION
HOLISTIC FOOD SHOP

01525 860339

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

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.



www.maximumsecuritysystems.co.uk

Contact:

01582 864138 / 07746 111520

For a free quote and consultation



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

THE PILATES BOX

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

Singthusiasm

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

4
**CHOIRS
TOGETHER
IN ONE
CONCERT!**

- 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



Celebrating over 60 years of service

broomesigns.com

Advertisers index

Auctioneers & valuers

W&H Peacock 31

Bathroom Services

Bathroom Vogue 35

Builders & Carpenters

PURE joinery solutions 25

T Butlin Building & Plastering 31

T Barker Carpentry 35

Stuart Benson Building Projects IFC

Car Services/Repairs

A&F Motors Ltd IFC

Mint Alloys 30

TC Coomber Car Services BC

Choirs

Singthusiasm 37

Computer Services

PCLap Repairs 25

Electrical Services

APN Electrical 24

Financial Services

ET Accounting Services 26

Stellar Financial Planning 33

MB Accounting Services 21

The Mortgage Expert 26

Food & Refreshments

Café at W&H Peacock 29

Woburn Country Foods 38

Fuel

FireWoodShire 31

Funeral Services

AL&G Abbott, Funeral Directors 32

Garden

Coles Growers IBC

JK Garden and Landscape Services 27

Newbury Farm Plants 36

Health & Beauty

Bluebird Care 32

Pilates Box 37

Tracy's Scentsy Treasures 24

Tammy's Talons 25

Home Improvements

David James Kitchens 24

Legal

Photiades Solicitors 33

Shaw's Wills 23

Pet & Animal Services

Cuddles & Care Pet Services 22

The Conifers Canine Hotel 35

The Bluecat Luxury Cattery 28

Amphill Veterinary Centre 22

Floofys Dog Grooming 22

Freyas Dog Grooming 25

Plumbing & Drainage Services

Jamie, the happy plumber 27

Beta Plumbing 34

Chapman & Kirby Heating 21

Print Services

Fidelity Design & print IFC

Public Houses

The Stone Jug 21

Repair Services

Tim Downing Repair Services 34

Schools

Clophill PreSchool BC

Clophill St Mary's C of E 30

Acorn Lower School and Nursery 30

Security Services

Maximum Security Systems 36

Shopping

The Olde Watermill Shopping Village 20

Millers Market & Antiques 28

Handmade Local 28

Signage

Broome Signs 39

Travel Services

Travel Counsellor 29

Tuition

Wrest Park Tutors 26

Village Hall

Clophill Village Hall 19

Windows/Replacement

Andrew Baker Windows 34

AW Windows IBC

Kings Windows 27

Misty Double Glazing 28

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!

ColesGrowers



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 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

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

clophillpreschool@gmail.com

www.clophillpreschool.co.uk



Find us on
Facebook

TLCoomber

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

Locally printed by



| Tel: 01234 907907 | www.fidelityprint.co.uk