

CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

OCTOBER 2026



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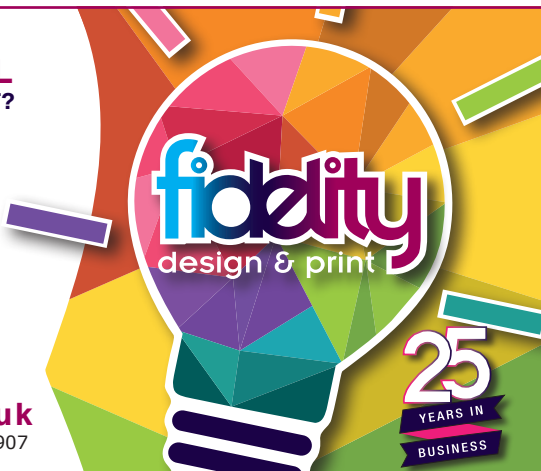
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A word from the Editor...

Welcome to the October
issue of Spotlight

Dear Reader,

This month we have 3 new Advertisers – thank you all!! AlexSoph Tutoring in GCSE Maths, Elvio Property Services and Wards Builders; all local businesses either based here in Clophill or Flitwick.

A few other things to highlight this month; Clophill Pre-school is now called The Nestlings Kindergarten and their first article under the new name is on page 12, plus they have a new colour Advert on the back page.

The Harvest lunch at St. Mary's church is being held on the 14th October, see page 11 for the poster. Finally, if you are looking for something to entertain the young ones this half term, the Greensand Trust are running events throughout the week; some are at Clophill Lakes, see page 17 for details.

See you all again in November!!

Best wishes, Elaine



The magazine staff

EDITOR

Elaine Jones

07918 975823

editorial@clophillspotlight.co.uk

ADVERTISING MANAGER

ads@clophillspotlight.co.uk

DESIGN MANAGER

Colin Watt

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Toni Elston

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*

You may be tempted to stop gardening in autumn, but if you do, you'll be missing a trick as autumn is now the best time of year to plant up our gardens with perennials, bulbs and trees.

Firstly, the rainfall in autumn is now more reliable than spring and the soil is still warm. This means that the plants will get a chance to start growing a good root system before the weather gets colder and they go dormant. Then when the weather warms up in the spring, they are in a good position to start growing immediately. When you plant in the spring the ground is often still cold and our hotter and dryer summers put those new plants under stress as they may not have had sufficient time to develop a resilient root system. There's no wrong time to plant a perennial, but the optimum time is right now in the autumn.

If you have a gap in your garden in spring or summer, then you'll get the most instant colour by planting annuals. These are plants that grow from seed, flower and die in one year and by autumn, they are at the end of their lifespan. Perennials are plants that live in your garden for three years or more. You can plant them now and they'll fill a gap and they'll come back next year (and the year after) looking even better. They're good value for money and less effort than 'bedding plants' because you don't have to keep digging them up and replacing them.

Asters with their daisy-like flowers are easy to grow, flourishing in sunny borders – though some varieties can cope with a partially shaded spot. **Japanese anemones** come in white or pink and their showy flowers enjoy a partially shaded spot, making them ideal for planting underneath trees. Once they're settled, they'll spread readily to form larger clumps.

Planting bare root roses in autumn and winter is cost effective and the plants use the colder months to develop a healthy root system while they are dormant, ready to burst into bloom the following year.

Autumn is a great time to redesign areas of your garden so why not create a sensory Winter garden as these plants can be planted now to invigorate your senses during future winters.

Paperbark maple (*Acer griseum*) is a small- to medium-sized tree for all seasons. In the winter the copper-coloured peeling bark catches the sunlight on bright winters day. **Tibetan cherry tree** (*Prunus serrula*) is a small tree and may not be a first choice for flowers, but its glossy bronze bark is a spectacular sight in winter. It can be planted during the autumn in a sunny spot and suits our sandy soils.

Wintersweet, **daphne** and **Stachyurus praecox** are late-winter beauties. Plant them now and they will flower during the winter filling your garden with scent.

Viburnum x bodnantense 'Dawn' is a winter-flowering shrub for a sunny place whose fragrant pink flowers cover the stems from November to March.

Christmas box (*Sarcococca hookeriana*) is a small evergreen shrub that can be

Come into the Garden *continued*

planted during the autumn and will produce sweet-smelling white blooms during the winter.

The best autumn-flowering bulbs to plant now include *Colchicum*, *Nerine bowdenii*, *Cyclamen hederifolium*, and *Crocus speciosus*, all of which can be planted from late summer into early autumn for blooms between September and November.

Tender plants such as pelargoniums, citrus and bananas may be damaged by the cold, so it is best not to leave them outdoors, even if they are under cover. Keep an eye on the weather forecast in early autumn and be prepared to bring in plants at short notice when the weather drops below 12-15°C.

Happy Gardening

Central Bedfordshire Council are keen that Clophill forms a **Community Emergency Response Team**.

CERTs are made up of local individuals/groups who could assist the community during emergencies and provide valuable support to the official emergency responders. **Using local knowledge, local people** are best positioned to know who needs help, what parts of the community are most affected, and what resources are available within the village itself. **A CERT does not replace the emergency services**, but is formed of local people who might be able to support the authorities in the early stages of a significant incident – think flooding, fire, wide scale power outages. Clophill has seen all of these in recent times.

The CERT is an informal network of coordinated local community members. People involved can be part of the parish council, or be community building owners/managers, local emergency service workers, community group leaders, amateur radio licensees, local school staff, GP/doctors/nurses who live in Clophill; care home staff, farmers, local shop owners, faith leaders, local pub managers, local sports club coaches, and more. In fact, **almost anyone prepared to help out for a short time in an emergency.** CBC's Emergency Planning Team will be part of the CERT. Volunteers stay connected through a local CERT WhatsApp group.

More information can be found at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/about-your-council/emergency-planning/community-emergency-response-teams-certs.

If you are interested or want to know more information, please contact Paul Downing at pdowning865@btinternet.com

Paul Downing

St Mary's School News

from Mrs. Bingley our Headteacher:

We hope you all had a pleasant Summer. This is our first Spotlight entry for the 2026-2027 Academic Year!

It has been lovely to welcome all of our new families to St. Mary's, as well as welcome back our current children and parents. We are currently FULL in our Reception class and numbers are building to our published admissions number of 30 in the other classes too!

Since returning, our new band of Forest Schoolers have visited Irene's Wood and started their fortnightly sessions there. Our Year 4 children have also begun their block of 12 weeks swimming lessons at Happy Tiddlers in Barton.

We recognised Jeans for Genes Day with a non-uniform day on 18th September and voted in our new School Council and Eco-Warriors. The teachers also chose their new Values Ambassadors for the term. Sports Leaders and Wellbeing Warriors for the year have also been selected.

There are lots of events planned in the diary, as always, so we look forward to sharing our news with you as we move through the months.

Don't forget, you can keep up to date about school events by visiting our website: www.clophillstmarysschool.co.uk or by joining our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/clophillstmarysschool



Acorn Nursery News

from Mrs. Hayes our Early Years Leader:

We've had a lovely start to the new term in Acorn Nursery. Our older children have been living their values of friendship and love by helping the younger and new children.

We started the year exploring some beautiful stories together – the lovely 'Guess how much I love you', 'The Smartest Giant in Town' and 'Elmer'. Our adult led activities based on these stories have provided so many opportunities for play (including making bunny headbands and taking turns to be Nutbrown Hare!) and learning (for example measuring and making life size collages of ourselves!), the fun never stops!

We have spaces available from January 2027 (and beyond) in our wonderful bespoke Nursery, if you would like to find out more, please look on our website at www.clophillstmarysschool.co.uk

Our Value for October is Co-operation:

In school, we will learn that co-operation is everyone's responsibility. We will also discuss how co-operation can take courage and willpower to achieve. Through stories we read in our daily Worship (Assemblies) and our Class Worship activities, children will learn that co-operation requires us to recognise the unique role of every individual, whilst keeping a sincere and positive attitude. We also hope to realise that those who co-operate with others will find that others co-operate with them!

At home, you could tackle a jigsaw puzzle or task (like sorting out the garden or clearing out the garage) that requires the whole household to co-operate to get the job done! Understanding the importance of and practising taking turns in a game also helps children to understand that everyone has a role to play in order to make the game work and that patience and waiting is sometimes required to do this 😊.

Parish Registers for October

1826

Baptisms

01 Eleanor Jane (?) mother a single woman.

06 Mary Ann, d of John and Sarah Izzard.

09 Joseph, s of James and Elizabeth Odell.

Marriages

06 James Carter of Higham Gobion to (unreadable!)

11 Charles Roberts to Catherine Izzard.

1876

Baptisms

29 David, s of Henry and Mary Mandlin/Maudlin.

Harry, s of Caleb and Sarah Roberts.

Kate, d of George and Jane Braybrook.

Ada, d of Charles and Ellen Roberts.

Frederick, s of Henry and Charlotte Odell.

Burials

10 Robert Brittam (?), 75, paralytic stroke.

1926

Baptisms

03 Albert (?), s of Alfred and Doris Richardson.

No marriages or burials recorded.

1976

Baptisms

17 Sharon Louise Collis.

No marriages or burials recorded.

St. Mary's Church Registers for September 2026

Baptism

06 Billie Josephine Rumbellow of Shefford.

Marriage

12 Jonathan Keith Smith to Kelly Marie Harper.



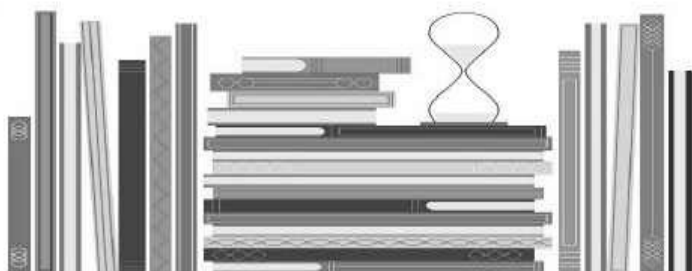
Clophill and District Flower Club

www.clophillflowerclub.com

invite you to join them for



'Stories'



A floral demonstration by
Naomi Wells

Thursday 5 November 2026

6.45 for 7.30pm start

Clophill Village Hall

Visitors always welcome at all our meetings - £8



For further details see our website
or contact Gillian on 07960 662334

It has been a wonderfully busy start to the new academic year at The Fledglings, with new faces, new adventures and plenty of opportunities to take our learning beyond the classroom.

We have been delighted to welcome Kirsty, our new teacher, to the Fledglings team. Kirsty is working with our oldest children in Years 5 & 6, and her arrival marks another exciting step for us.



As ever, our learning has already taken us out and about. The children joined The Nestlings for a fantastic day at the Bedfordshire Steam & Country Fayre, where



they watched sheepdog displays and heavy horses, explored vintage machinery, rode in old army vehicles and enjoyed the music and atmosphere of the day.

We have also been making the most of the windy autumn weather! The children designed and made their own kites before heading to Dunstable Downs to put them to the test. There is something rather brilliant about learning through designing, making, experimenting and then actually getting outside to see whether your creation works!

Back at Fledglings, Rachel from Adventure Yoga has returned for our regular yoga sessions, and we have also welcomed May, our new languages teacher. The children have begun learning French and have amazed us with how quickly they are already picking up new words and phrases.

One of the joys of our approach is being able to follow the interests and questions that naturally emerge from the children. This term, they have shown a real fascination with learning more about war, which has led us into a wider War and Peace topic.

We began by exploring the idea of peace and held our very own Peace Festival. The children embraced the theme with 70s clothes, hair braids, temporary tattoos and plenty of music. We were also joined by SuBear for a very special sound bath, where the children experienced the incredible sounds and vibrations of the gongs. They also learnt about the symbolism of gongs as instruments of peace, including the history of gongs being created from melted-down remnants of war, such as mortar shells, artillery casings and battlefield scrap metal; transforming something associated with destruction into something used to create sound, reflection and peace.

Continued on next page ->

Having spent time considering peace, we are now beginning to explore the other side of our topic and look more closely at wartime history. Later this month, the children will be travelling by train to Bletchley Park, where they will discover more about its extraordinary wartime story, including codebreaking, communication and the people who worked there.

These experiences are such an important part of what we want learning at The Fledglings to be. Whether we are speaking French, flying homemade kites from the top of Dunstable Downs, exploring history, caring for our environment or heading off on the train for our next adventure, we want children to understand that learning doesn't have to stay within four walls.

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

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

This cover photograph taken and printed by courtesy of Beds. Times, is of the **Clophill Methodist Church** Sunday School and was taken in 1950, so marking a 31st anniversary. The first article is from the Methodist Church, relating to its Harvest Festival celebrations, with two church services being held on Sunday 13th September. "The Church was beautifully decorated with fruits and flowers" and "Mrs



Marjorie Brown accompanied the singing at the organ." The following Tuesday evening "some fifty or more enjoyed the Harvest Supper and quite a brisk sale of fruit and vegetables followed." *(These I remember well – great fun – and we took a wheelbarrow to carry all the lovely fresh produce home, it being too heavy to haul!)* Just down the road at **St. Mary's Church**, "The Rector, Philip Swindells is jointly leading a 'Meditation Retreat' at Verulam House, St. Albans" and "will also be leading a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land" in 1982. There were many winners of raffle prizes at the Summer Fete, held in September, the list including Fred Kirby, George Robinson, Flo' Sheppard, Clara Stimson, Denny Dorrell, Liz Henman and Ann Jeffrey, while Stan Collins won the 'Welly Throwing contest'. *(Now, there's a skill!)* **The Guides** had had a busy Summer, taking part in the Ampthill District Shield challenge as well as camping, along with nine other companies at Abbot's Ripton. "The weather was perfect throughout and everyone enjoyed the various activities which included crafts such as macrame, corn dollies and stone painting; an outing to St. Ives Swimming Pool *(usually mid-week – to freshen up as often the 'facilities' on camp were less than adequate)*, welly-wanging and of course, camp fire." Another special event was that of Katy Bousted receiving her Queen's Guide badge. "It was presented to her in the Middlesex Hospital, where her father is seriously ill, by Mrs Nancy Watkins, District Commissioner." Family and friends also attended. "Finally, a horseshoe was formed around the bed for the singing of 'Taps'."

Reflections continued

Other lovely things were going on – “The recent house-to house collection in aid of the National Children’s Home raised £111 5/1½d” and £23 was raised by Sarah Robunson and Sharon Webb when they held a sale in aid of ‘Guide Dogs for the Blind’.

The Netball Club held their AGM in September and their report was in rhyme – which tells that Rita Portas was taking over secretarial duties from Carol Graves who was moving away, Stella Brooks was ‘Netballer of the Year’ and Beryl Telford was thanked for her ten years as chairman.

Gardening tips included lifting gladioli corms “and take late flowering chrysanthemums into the greenhouse. Cut down dahlias and lift the roots, storing in a frost-proof shed. A dusting of Sulphur Dust will prevent disease during storage.” *(Remember this information is 45 years old.)*

Under the title of **Local History 1915**: “Man in Distress – Miss Maud Webb and Miss Parkinson, were making their way along the public footpath leading to Cainhoe and Gravenhurst when they saw a man in distress in the river. They quickly alerted three Royal Engineers, stationed close by, who rescued the man and gave artificial respiration. The patient was later named as Mr John Gudgin. Dr. Winkworth said that the occurrence had been due to apoplexy.

The Shefford doctors’ services were also required urgently one Monday lunchtime when Mrs J. Bushby of Jacques Lane was troubled by a piece of beef which became firmly lodged in her throat. The efforts of her family proved to be of no avail, but fortunately Dr. Winkworth arrived to clear the blockage, in the nick of time.” *(What a happy note on which to conclude October 1981’s Spotlight information even though it happened 66 years before!)*

GARAGE / YARD SALE

If you have a few minutes to spare on
Saturday 7th and /or Sunday 8th November,
why not pop down to Cora’s at 122a, High Street,
between 12.00 and 5pm and browse through interesting
Bric-a-Brac, books, toys, shoes, handbags – and lovely
clothes and have a go on the Tombola and raffle?
All profits go to an extremely worthwhile cause –
The Alzheimer’s Society UK
Thank you, it will be lovely to see you.

Clophill in the Great War by Colin Watt.

Abridged Excerpts from the book. Part 8 of 13.

1917 – Trench Warfare and New Fronts

The year 1917 saw the continuation of brutal trench warfare, the entry of the United States into the conflict, and the Russian Revolution, while Clophill continued to feel the heavy toll of war. By mid-year, seventy-four local men had been on active service, with four more losing their lives.

Thomas Izzard of Jacques Lane had already endured several months at the front. In January, 1917, reports reached Clophill that he was seriously ill from nephritis and later pneumonia. His name appears on the Roll of Honour, confirming his death in action.

Life in the village adjusted to wartime shortages. School staff were stretched, leading Mrs. Cunningham to take on additional teaching duties. Villagers were also reminded of the wider conflict when they heard the explosion at the ammunition factory in East London that killed 73 people and injured hundreds.

Letters from the front provided vivid glimpses of the soldiers' daily lives. Private William Garner, stationed in France, described his time under canvas and the small frustrations of life at the base. Private John Blackburn wrote of the freezing weather and relentless rats gnawing at soldiers' ears and hands, while maintaining his spirits for the sake of correspondence with home.

Clophill's support continued through gifts and parcels. Easter parcels were sent to sixty-two local men serving at the front, with smokers receiving cigarettes and non-smokers OXO cubes, demonstrating the village's ongoing care and solidarity. Several Clophill men were killed during the year. Bertram Harris, from The Kiln, died aged 26 while serving in the Yorkshire regiments during the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line and the Cambrai operations. Joseph Lomas of Back Street, who had enlisted in 1914 with the Bedfordshire Regiment, had served in Gallipoli and later in Egypt and Palestine. He lost his life during a successful raid on Turkish positions at Umbrella Hill in Gaza, part of the campaign that would culminate in the eventual fall of the city.

The war was not only fought in France and Belgium; Clophill men were now engaged across multiple theatres, from the Western Front to the deserts of the Middle East. Meanwhile, the village continued to contend with shortages, illness, and anxiety over loved ones at the front, highlighting both the local and global dimensions of the conflict.

The letters, news reports, and personal accounts, portrayed courage, hardship, and steadfast support from home, even as the war dragged on through 1917 and claimed more of Clophill's young men.

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



St Mary's Church Clophill

Harvest Lunch

Wednesday 14th October

12 noon - 2pm

in St Mary's Church

A two course meal with soft drinks included.

Pre bookings required by 5th October.

£12 per person

Contact juliebenson@talktalk.net

01525 860497



Everyone very welcome

As many of you will already know, we had a little bit of a transformation over the summer! Clophill Preschool has officially become The Nestlings Kindergarten, bringing us more closely together with our sister setting, The Fledglings.



We are incredibly proud of our new name, new look and lovely new uniform. Over the summer, the whole setting was renovated and refreshed and it has been wonderful watching the children explore and make the new spaces their own.

We have also welcomed some new neighbours! Our sheep have moved closer to the Nestlings site so that caring for them can become part of everyday life. Feeding and looking after the sheep now joins our growing list of real-life outdoor jobs, alongside caring for our chickens, guinea pigs and African land snails. And, knowing us, there may well be a few more animals joining us before too long!

It has been an incredibly busy start to the academic year, with lots of new children joining us and another very exciting first: our first ever Reception class. We are so pleased to have 16 families who chose for their children to stay with us for Reception, continuing their education in the small, nurturing and outdoor-focused environment they already know and love.

For Harvest Festival, we visited Silas at Greensand Community Church. Our families very generously brought in donations and we all walked to the church together to deliver them and enjoy a wonderful Harvest service. As ever, one of the highlights was singing along to our favourite tractor song!

Back at Nestlings, our weeks have been just as busy. Rachel from Adventure Yoga continues her weekly yoga sessions, while Katie from Silsoe's dance school gets everyone moving with weekly dance. We have also had the privilege of welcoming Rosemary in to read with the children, which is always a real treat for us all.

There is plenty more to come too. Later this month, we are looking forward to taking part in the planting programme at Ampthill Park, giving our children another opportunity to care for and contribute to their wider community.

We will also be hosting a charity tea party at Clophill Village Hall on Friday 9th October, from 1:30–2:45pm, raising money for Breast Cancer Now. We would love members of our local community to join us for tea, cake and a lovely afternoon together. Please do email us if you would like to come along: office@edenwoodeducation.co.uk

Then, of course, we'll be rounding off our first half term as The Nestlings with our Halloween disco!



Monday 2nd November 2026

The King's Weighty Matter – The Annulment of the Marriage of Henry VIII and Katherine of Aragon



The king was Henry VIII, and his weighty matter was his marriage to Katharine of Aragon. Without a legitimate son, the Tudor dynasty was in a dangerous situation. Was his marriage lawful? If not, was this why God had failed to provide a son? Henry needed to know, and the resolution has shaped our national story ever since.

Speaker: Kay Kemster, Dunstable Tour Guides

Flitwick Library Lecture Theatre, MK45 1QJ, 7.30 for a 7.45 pm start.

ADALHS members are free, visitors are very welcome £5.00, payable at the door.
Tea and coffee will follow.

The talk will also be broadcast live via Zoom to ADALHS members.

Next Meeting: December 7th

4 St James's Square, the London Home of the De Greys

www.adalhs.org.uk



Clophill Parish Council

The Parish Council meeting was held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 8th September.



- **Chairmans Award** - This month the award was presented to Henry Belbin for his sterling efforts to litter pick in the village. Although initially Henry was doing this to work towards his D of E, it was felt this his efforts deserved an additional award from the Parish Council. Well done Henry! What a fantastic attitude to have towards our village.



- **Christmas 2026.** - The date for this year's Christmas Lights Switch On has been confirmed for the 29th November. We will keep you updated with any further information.
- **Hayfield Play Area** - We know residents are concerned that this is still not open for use, Greensand Trust have are now involved and looking into the situation. It has been suggested that any residents of Hayfield Close complete the form on the Central Bedfordshire website to report a suspected breach of planning.
- **Hedgrows** - A new call for sites for Hedgerow planting has been launched. If you know of any areas that would benefit from new Hedgerows, please let the Parish Council know.
- **Poppy's** - The Parish Council are once again offering residents of Clophill that chance to "Sponsor A Poppy" to go up on the village streetlights. All proceeds go to the Royal British Legion. If you would like some more information, please contact the clerk by email at clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk.

Recreation Ground – Rabbit Management.

The Council have made the difficult decision to resume active management of the rabbit population at the Recreation Ground. We know that some residents will find this upsetting, so we want to explain clearly why the decision has been made.

Earlier this year, following concerns from residents about the previous culling of rabbits, the village raised funds for rabbit-proof fencing around the Recreation Ground. We were very grateful for the support that made this possible and hoped that fencing would provide a long-term alternative to population control. Unfortunately, it has not been enough.

Gates have repeatedly been left open, allowing rabbits onto the Rec, and rabbits entering the site have subsequently dug beneath the fencing. At the same time, the local rabbit population has increased considerably. The effects are now being experienced well beyond the Recreation Ground, with rabbit activity clearly visible in all surrounding gardens and fields, at the allotments and the Village Hall grounds.

The condition of the Rec itself is also becoming increasingly difficult to manage. This past weekend, members of the football club gave up their Sunday to repair and top-dress the pitch using topsoil kindly donated by Carl Bradshaw from SC Bradshaw in Haynes. By the following morning, multiple new holes had already been dug.

This creates a genuine safety issue on land designated for use by residents for recreation. There is also a legal responsibility that the Parish Council cannot ignore. Under the Pests Act 1954 and the Rabbit Clearance Order, occupiers of land in England have an ongoing responsibility to control wild rabbits on their land or take steps to prevent them causing damage.

The fencing was our attempt to meet that responsibility without returning to lethal control. Unfortunately, the evidence we now have is that fencing alone is not controlling the problem.

For that reason, the Council has agreed that active population management will resume, using appropriate and lawful methods.

This is not the outcome we hoped for when the fencing was installed, and the decision has not been taken lightly. We know that people care about the rabbits and we understand why the prospect of culling them is upsetting. However, the Parish Council also has a responsibility to maintain a Recreation Ground that can be safely used by our community and to manage a rabbit population that is now causing significant problems both on the Rec and in the surrounding area. The fencing will remain an important part of the long-term solution. Please help us make it effective by ensuring that the Recreation Ground gates are closed behind you every time you enter or leave the site.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with the fencing, repairs and ongoing maintenance of the Rec, and particularly to the football club members who have already given so much of their own time trying to keep the rec usable.

Planning Applications:

CB/26/02596/FULL 12A Back Street

Proposal: Erection of a detached chalet bungalow and associated works.
Erection of detached garage for existing dwelling.

OBJECT

The next meeting will be held on 20 th October 2026 at 7:45pm in the Village Hall
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COME & SING: RUTTER REQUIEM

Saturday 17th October

Maulden Village Hall, Bedfordshire

🕒 Registration: 12:00pm

🎵 Rehearsal: 12:30pm

🎤 Performance: 6:00pm

Join us to explore and perform
Requiem by John Rutter

£20 (includes music hire & refreshments)



Scan to book your place

October Half Term with The Greensand Trust

Local environmental charity The Greensand Trust will be celebrating the natural world and autumn during the October Half Term at both its flagship sites – Rushmere Country Park near Leighton Buzzard and Clophill Lakes Nature Reserve.

Coming up at Rushmere Country Park

Throughout Half Term we'll have our **Autumn Trail** available – pick up your trail sheet from visitor services (£4 includes the trail and a treat!) head off out to follow the clues on the pumpkins and solve the puzzle.

From October Half Term to the end of November, Rushmere visitor centre will host **'Wild Birds', a group art exhibition** by three Bedfordshire-based artists, each inspired by their love for birds and nature - Marisa Straccia, Mique Moriuchi and Eleanor Archer. By presenting an art exhibition away from the traditional gallery space and into the environment which inspired its creation, the artists aim to reach



a diverse range of visitors just as we enter the bird feeding season. The art on display will be a celebration of our relationship with birds and the appreciation of their beauty.

Clophill Lakes Spider Trail

Be fascinated - not afraid of spiders! Autumn is a great time to spot spider webs. Pick up our self-led **Spider Trail sheet** at the Riverside Cafe available every day during Half Term week and discover some amazing facts about these important creatures on our spider web trail around the reserve. Price £4 (includes trail and treat) - all proceeds are reinvested into the nature reserve which is run not for profit.

On **Sunday 25 October** our annual family-fun event **Feed the Birds** takes place - come and learn more about our feathered friends and how we can help them thrive. Free to take part, though there may be a small charge for some activities - parking fees apply.

Join our Education Team on **Thursday 29 October** for our **Autumn Animal Detectives Walk** in the woods to discover how animals and insects survive the winter. You'll have fun creating a hedgehog den in the woods and make an insect house to take home. Places are limited and will sell out quickly – just £5 per child (must be accompanied by an adult).

For more information, please visit our website:
www.greensandtrust.org/events



St. MARY'S NEWS

The annual Coffee and Cake morning for MacMillan Cancer Care was held in the church on Saturday September 19th. As always there was a wonderful selection of cakes, and this year the coffee had been donated by Wooden Hill. We are very grateful for their generous contribution. The event was well supported by the village and an amazing total of over £600 was donated, and still rising at the time of writing. So, thank you to everyone who donated in any way to this wonderful charity.



The next event in the church will be the Harvest Lunch on Wednesday October 14th. This is for church funds and will cost £12, Please let us know if you wish to come. There are leaflets in the church with details and an order form. Or you can simply tell somebody from the church who will pass it on to the team.

Harvest Festival will be celebrated at the Family Praise service on October 4th at 11.00am. Gifts of tins and dry goods will be gratefully received and passed on to a foodbank. Please come along and enjoy the fellowship of this special service.

In other news, a few weeks ago we were surprised, shocked and saddened to learn that Eric and Anne Shegog are upping sticks and leaving us for pastures new. They have been stalwarts of the church for many years, and, quite simply, we don't know how we could have managed without them. Eric led services throughout the vacancy and has continued to do so monthly since. Anne was Churchwarden for several years, and enabled the church to run efficiently. Her work was especially appreciated by the 2 Rectors she served. They had both recently retired from their posts and now will move to Hampshire to be closer to their sons. We will sorely miss them, but we wish them well. They thoroughly deserve their rest and go with our love.

MAULDEN ART GROUP - EXHIBITION AND SALE

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER 10.00am - 4.00pm

Maulden Village Hall

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What's on in and around Clophill

OCTOBER

Wednesday 14th – Harvest Lunch, St. Mary's Church. 12noon – 2pm. *See poster.*

NOVEMBER

Thursday 5th – Flower Club meeting, Village Hall. 6:45 for 7:30pm start. *See poster.*

Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th – Cora's Garage Sale, 122a High Street. 12:00noon – 5pm both days. *In aid of Alzheimer's Society UK. See ad.*

Plus....

Weekdays

* 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

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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 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	07939 823721
Flower Club	Gillian Hill	860539
Funzone After School Club	Alex Hale and Sophie Hale	07903 167493
Singthusiasm Choir	Luke	07975 520085
Indoor Carpet Bowls	Tony Meredith	860754
Messy Church	Victoria Higgins	07920 568861
	victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk	
Nestlings Kindergarten		07939 823721
Friends of St Mary's (FOSM)	Johnathan Matlock and Anna Neuff	
	fosmclophill@gmail.com	
Scouts and Cubs	www.scouts.org.uk/get-involved	
Tea and Chat	Anita Errick	860695
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Marylin Browning	07821 643936

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Clophill Village Hub

Reducing food waste • Supporting our community

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

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

We would warmly welcome:

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

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

To get involved today please contact:

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

Donations: finance@clophillvillagehall.com (GP Mantini)



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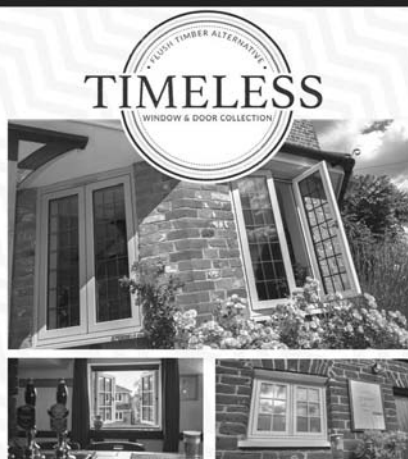
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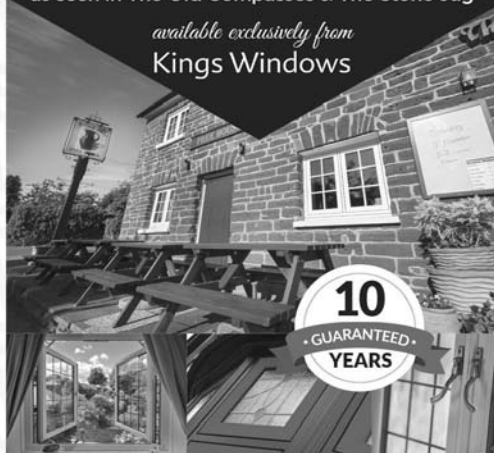


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