Vol 49 | No.9

FREE

CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

NOVEMBER 2026



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A word from the Editor...

Welcome to the November issue of Spotlight

Dear Reader,

This month we have several activities going on in the village in the lead up to Christmas. The ever-popular Quiz night at St. Mary's church is being held on Friday 13th November; this year is its 25th anniversary!! The Christmas lights switch on is in November again this year on Sunday 29th, turn to page 14 for details.

Congratulations go to Carolyn Cranswick who was presented with the Chairmans award at the Parish council meeting in October. So richly deserved for so much service to the village over decades, well done Carolyn.

And other news, the whole village has an invite from The Fledglings to a Community Nativity on 10th December at the Methodist Church, see their article on pages 7 and 8. I am planning to be there, hope to see you too 😊

Finally keep saving your stamps! Angela Barker is collecting them again for the Redwings Horse Sanctuary in Norfolk, see page 4 for details.

See you all again in December!!

Best wishes, Elaine

The magazine staff

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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*

Now that the clocks have gone back don't spend winter endlessly tidying in the garden. Instead spend it improving soil, planting for the future, and repairing the damage from hottest and dryest summers on record. Nature can cope with a few leaves and seed heads, but poor soil and neglected lawns take much longer to fix.

If your lawn is full of moss, weeds, and drought damage, this is the perfect time to start reinvigorating it. Scarify to remove moss and thatch – I've found a small hand rake has been perfect as I can do small areas at a time rather than try and do the whole lawn at once. Aerate compacted areas by using a garden fork to make deep holes into the newly bare soil and then you can oversow with your grass seed. If you fancy trying something different then you could do what I'm doing this year and oversow your whole lawn with red and white clover seed. This will help to improve the soil structure as clover has very deep roots plus the white and pink flowers are fabulous nectar sources for insects. You can top dress these bare areas with some compost to help deter the birds from eating the seeds. Doing this now when the solid is warm means grass and clover seed still germinates quickly, while autumn rain does most of the watering for you.

Keep leaves, don't throw them away. Rake them up from your lawn when they are wet and store them in bags or a leaf bin made from chicken wire and leave them to rot down into leaf mould – essential if you are looking to create a woodland style garden and a perfect soil conditioner to help improve out sandy soils.

Improve the soil in your empty beds by spreading garden compost, well-rotted manure, or mushroom compost. No need to fork it in as the worms will do all the work for you over the winter, drawing the surface compost into the deeper parts of the soil. This will help to improve the structure and water retaining abilities and the loose compost on the surface will help to reduce soil compaction and allow rain to be absorbed into the soil more efficiently.

Cut back plants selectively but don't be too tidy. Leave ornamental grass seed heads, Sedums and echinacea seed heads on the plants as these provide lovely wildlife habitats for lots of insects. Do cut back diseased foliage, collapsed herbaceous plants and anything likely to harbour pests such as slugs and snails. A slightly untidy winter garden is usually a healthier one. Take care to avoid pruning spring flowering shrubs until after they have flowered next year.

Protect vulnerable plants particularly after the hot, dry summer that we had this year. Make sure to mulch around any new trees or shrubs, roses, and tender perennials as this will help to conserve rainfall into the soil and protect the crowns and roots of more tender perennials such as dahlias, penstemons and fuchsias. While you are at it move frost sensitive plants in pots closer to walls or undercover to reduce the risk of damage.

Come into the Garden continued

Use the coming months to prepare for next year as the gardeners who suffer least in summer start preparing in winter. Consider adding in more water butts to collect as much winter rain as possible, look to include more drought-tolerant planting and consider adding in small trees or larger shrubs to help improve the shade canopy for your soil.

Happy Gardening

St Mary's School News

from Mrs. Bingley our Headteacher:



October began with a whole school service in Church to celebrate Harvest. Once again, we collected donations from our families that were shared between The Need Project and Clophill Community Hub. We are thankful to our parents for their kind donations.

The Road Safety team from Central Bedfordshire Council visited and held an assembly for children in Reception to Year 4, sharing how to cross roads safely and how to behave safely whilst walking alongside and travelling on roads too.

Our Year 4s represented the school at the biennial Diocesan Harvest Festival at St. Alban's Abbey. They had learnt special songs and hymns to sing at this service.

The Year 4s also travelled with the Year 3s to Bedford towards the end of October, for the Faith Tour. They visited a Church, Mosque and Gurdwara. The children always enjoy this trip and get a lot out of it as part of their Religion and Worldviews curriculum work. As always, the children were impeccably behaved during the day.

Our first half term of the academic year ended with parents/carers visiting school to look through their children's work with them. This is always a lovely event, where the children are very proud to show their parents all their hard work from the first half of term.

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

or joining our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/clophillstmarysschool

Acorn Nursery news

from Mrs. Hayes our Early Years Leader:

Autumn is such a special time for us in Nursery celebrating Harvest and all the amazing changes in the natural world taking place around us. We've explored the traditional story of My Little Hen – learning all about the process of harvesting crops including looking at the types of machinery. A favourite activity was to create our own 'Mr Potato' heads with real potatoes.

We've also enjoyed looking at the story of 'Funny Bones' and made moving skeletons using split pins! It was fascinating to learn about all the bones in our bodies as well as exploring how we can see them in x-rays. We investigated the vital topic of healthy eating and made our own fruit kebabs practicing our cutting skills.

A firm favourite amongst children and staff is the story of 'We're going on a bear hunt' - we read the story together, went on lots of 'bear hunts' around Nursery and our garden and played in our messy tuff tray full of foam (snowstorm), mud, water, twigs (forest), grass - being kind to the bear found at the end of our hunt!

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 Values for November are Compassion and Forgiveness:

In school, we will learn that 'Compassion' and 'Forgiveness' have much in common but both are stronger in meaning than simply 'feeling sorry for' someone. We will discuss how the words have their roots in the idea of putting yourself in someone else's shoes and experiencing what they experience. This leads to a desire to do something. It is not about 'doing good' or simply 'remembering those less fortunate than ourselves'. We will discover that Compassion requires an act of imagination and humility to share in the lives of others. We will be helping the children learn about this through imagining what it might be like in someone else's position and thinking about what we might be able to do in support of this.

At home, you may wish to help your child think about Compassion and Forgiveness when you share stories or experiences; you could discuss the actions of the characters, what led them to behave in a certain way, how they may have affected others, how it might have made them feel and how they might do things differently. You may wish to think of people or a friend in need and put things in place to help and support them.

Please encourage anyone from your families, friends and businesses to collect any used stamps, they can be English, Irish, Scottish and from abroad. Pop them in a packet of any size and drop them into my box (which is labelled for Redwings) by my front door of 59 High Street, Clophill. I post them off regularly to Redwings in Norfolk. The money they raise from stamp collections goes towards the up keep of horses and ponies.

If you would like an acknowledgment from Redwings, put your name and address on your packet and I will ask them to send a thank you letter.

Thank you so much in advance for supporting a great charity.

Angela Barker

Parish Registers for November

1826

Marriages

04 James (?) to Emily Bryant.

Burials

16 Thomas Lindford. (His daughter Sarah was buried on May 29th)

Total of burials for the year 12.

1876

Baptisms

22 Kate, d of William and Sarah Smith.

Burials

16 Ambrose Coley, 44. Breaking of blood vessel.

29 Thomas Boss, 50. Break up of constitution.

1926

Marriages

06 Frederick Charles Willison, 31, to Lesley Ellen Billington, 28.

27 George William Hore/Hone, 33, widower to Annie Lammas, 26.

Burials

04 Mary Ann Palmer, 65.

15 Thomas Lincoln, 76.

20 Sarah Bottoms, 83.

29 Mary Jeffrey, 64.

1976

Baptisms

28 James Ashley Dickens.

No marriages or burials recorded.

CLOPHILL UNITED CHARITIES

Christmas donation to Widower(s) and Pensioners –November 2026

This year the distribution will take place in November: **Saturday 28th November**, 11-12 am in the Oakley Room, St Mary's Church and 10am at Beverley Court.

The distribution is taking place early this year due to other commitments of the Trustees and the availability of the Church.

No person or group is entitled to receive this benefit as of right. Please be aware that forthcoming Christmas donations should only be claimed by those widow (er)s and pensioners who are really in need of extra help at an expensive time of year and not by those who don't need it. This will enable us to provide help to others throughout the year. Posters will be displayed in the village during November as a reminder of these times. Please remember too that all through the year, Clophill United Charities are pleased to be able to help Clophill villagers of all ages in times of hardship. If you, or anyone you know who lives in the village, is experiencing financial hardship please contact me (on 07845731134) in total confidence.

On behalf of the Trustees: Val Martin (Clerk)

Clophill and District Flower Club

www.clophillflowerclub.com

Present their Christmas Special entitled

'Sleigh Bells, Slippers and Sparkle'



a festive floral demonstration by

National Demonstrator

Lorena Dyer

Thursday 3 December

Clophill Village Hall
Doors open at 6.45
for prompt start at 7.30 pm

** Christmas Sales Table **

Tickets available from Nicki on 07960 662334 or see website
Members £10 : Visitors £15

Ticket includes a glass of mulled wine or soft drink with a homemade mince pie

It has been another wonderful few weeks at The Fledglings, with plenty of adventures, hands-on learning and opportunities to bring history to life!

Our children have been continuing their exploration of World War Two, with a fantastic trip to Bletchley Park. They discovered the fascinating world of wartime code-breaking and learnt about the incredible people whose work helped change the course of history. It was a brilliant opportunity to see how problem solving, mathematics and determination played such an important role during the war.

Back at The Fledglings, the children have been getting stuck into their own wartime projects. They have designed and built miniature Anderson shelters, explored how families protected themselves during air raids and even constructed their own wartime lookout posts in our woodland woodwork area. We also visited the cenotaph at St Mary's Church, giving the children an opportunity to reflect on the lives affected by war and the importance of remembrance.



One of our highlights was our very own VE Day celebration! The children learnt about the celebrations that marked the end of the Second World War in Europe before trying their hand at some dancing inspired by the era. They practised Charleston and Jive steps before putting them together into their own routines. Our older children also spent the morning baking biscuits, which everyone later decorated with icing pens ready for our VE Day party. It was a lovely way to bring history to life, combining learning, creativity and a little celebration!

Fridays have also become even more exciting with Hayley leading our Forest School sessions. Our woodland provides endless opportunities for children to develop practical skills, take on challenges and grow in confidence. From using tools and building to exploring and creating, Forest School gives the children the time and freedom to become increasingly independent and capable.

We have also loved welcoming the Red Kites, the Reception children from our sister setting, The Nestlings Kindergarten, to join us in the woods for Forest School. It is wonderful to see our youngest school-aged children making themselves at home in the woodland, learning alongside our older children and becoming familiar with the environment that many of them will move on to as they grow.

Our French lessons have been another real highlight! The children have been picking up the language remarkably quickly, and there is something particularly lovely about hearing our Year 1 children enthusiastically singing *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes* in French! It is wonderful to see how naturally children absorb a new language when it is introduced through songs, games and plenty of opportunities to practise.

As we head towards Christmas, we would love to invite the whole village to join us for our **ever-popular Community Nativity on Thursday 10th December at 10am at Greensands Methodist Church**. This is always such a special occasion, bringing our children and the wider community together to celebrate the festive season. Everyone is warmly welcome, whether you have a connection to The Fledglings or not, and we would love to see as many of our local community

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Reflections – Clophill in October 1968! - Voices from the past.

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



Well, as you can see, this is not the cover of 'November 1981's 'Spotlight Magazine! That's because I cannot find that particular edition. But I did come across a photocopy of October 1968's 'Action', so it's life in Clophill 58 years ago – six years before I moved here and about the time my house was being built!

Looking inside the magazine, the **advertisements** include: "I. Stokes - Bargains galore from your Wavy Line store." This shop was just along the High Street to the right of the school – now a house. It had three steep steps down into it and I can recall having to run along there from school to buy a box of chocolates when it was realised that we didn't have a prize for the Mother's Race at School Sports day!

Another advert was for 'Tony Ashton Motors', then to be found adjacent to the right of the path by the school field, now leading to The Lakes.

The 'Stone Jug' has a 'Hearty Welcome from Kitty and Charles Rayer' while Mary Ryan invites folk to visit her at "1, High Street for all your Wools, gloves, socks, stockings, shirts, towels etc." 'The Green Man' offers Morning coffee, luncheons, hot snacks, buffet weddings, bachelor nights and Green Kings Beers'.

Reflections continued

The articles begin with the Editorial which warns readers of an increase in price – to "eightpence and the penny extra that you pay could win you a prize of your own choice to the value of 10/- in our new monthly lucky number contest." Also, there is to be a "new look cover, with different pictures of the village free for you on the front of 'Action'. Real photographs *(of these)* postcard size …. can be obtained … price 6d."

Guess what the main subject was at the **Parish Council** meeting; it "was that of the danger of the heavy traffic using the High Street." (It has to be remembered that the High Street was once the A507 – before the bypass was built, but not a lot has changed in the Council discussions has it!)

St. Mary's Church had a fundraising event in the church grounds, raising £50 10/- from stalls and competitions ranging from 'Produce' & 'Cakes and Fancies', to 'Pick'n Win Bottle and packet', 'Lucky envelope' and raffle. Thanks were expressed to "Mr & Mrs Garrard of the Commander in Chief for donating 10/- worth of chocolate, to Mr & Mrs Mellor of the Green Man for donating a crate of two dozen bottles of lemonade and also to Mr & Mrs Eaton of the Compasses for so kindly donating a bottle of Port, and to Townsend brothers for donating a chicken".

Interestingly, the "Weight of Cake (2lb 11oz) nearest entries were by Miss Willmore and Mrs Izzard who shared the cake"! There is an invitation to boys of age about 13 years to join the Army Cadets "the only youth organisation in the village". **A letter** from Mrs Hay (Amy Roberts) who was billeted with Mr & Mrs Jack Sheppard tells of life in the Women's Land Army; "H.W. Brown reviews the **best Classical record Releases** Classic of the Month – Berlioz – Symphonie Fantastique by New York Philharmonic Orchestra" and Dave Peters looks at the **pop scene** – the Dave Clark Five, Kaleidoscope and Jackie Lomax.

The second AGM of the **Clophill Village Hall Association**, with Sir Douglas Howard – President, Mr Chisholm – Chairman, Mr Lobb – Secretary and Mr Lucraft - Treasurer telling of the fundraising which was going on to provide a new village hall – with just over £2,000 being found so far. The village had to raise 25% with the rest coming from grants. The Architect, Mr Chipperfield was questioned about the design. "It was thought that the hall would be too big and expensive (total cost £13,000) and it was discussed in full if one of the two committee rooms could be left out to bring the total cost to about £12,000. After a vote by the show of hands it was agreed to accept the £13,000 Hall and to raise the remaining sum in the eighteen months that it would take to get the government grant and to build the hall"

The **final item** in the magazine is an advert for "The Pine Laundry Ltd – Laundry collected in Clophill on Tuesdays, delivered on Fridays, washed, ironed and aired ready for use." ***(Those were the days!)***


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BELONG
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Volunteers Wanted!
Join our friendly team and help us grow our community garden and make a positive difference to people's wellbeing.
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1pm – 3pm
or all day (10am – 3pm)
Sundays
10am – 12pm:
Adults & Children
1pm – 3pm: Adults Only
Or all day (10am – 3pm)
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Our new wood workshop will give even more opportunities for learning, creativity and wellbeing.
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CREATIVITY
WELLBEING
Get in contact if you are interested and for more information.
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07468 121504
First field on the left, up the track opposite Hawthorne Close, Clophill

Clophill in the Great War by Colin Watt.

Abridged Excerpts from the book. Part 9 of 13.

1917 – War at Home and Abroad

The war dragged on through 1917, with trench fighting continuing on the Western Front, the Russian Revolution bringing major changes, and Clophill feeling the ongoing cost. Captain the Rev. Cecil Lloyd Matthews, was promoted to Major, now supervised sixteen chaplains and 70,000 men. He is reported to have survived multiple near misses from enemy fire.

Letters from the front reflected both hardship and hope. Private Harris, captured in battle, wrote to his wife from a prisoner-of-war camp, requesting simple comforts like arrowroot biscuits, home-made cake, and tobacco, while reassuring her of his well-being. Private Jesse Titmas, serving in the R.A.M.C., described the dedication and humanity of British soldiers, even as they faced the horrors of battle.

Back in Clophill, life adapted to wartime conditions. Children contributed to the war effort by picking blackberries, a vital source for jam to send to the troops. Despite poor weather, they collected nearly a thousand pounds, earning 3d per pound. Meanwhile, parcels and letters from home remained a lifeline to soldiers, including Private Arthur Richardson, writing from a German POW camp, who found correspondence from family and friends to be a great comfort.

Tragically, more Clophill men lost their lives. Private Sidney Sharman, a former organ blower at the Parish Church, was killed by shrapnel on October 19th while entering the trenches for the first time. He was remembered fondly by the village.

The home front faced its own challenges. Food shortages persisted, compounded by reduced imports due to German submarine attacks. While national rationing would not begin until 1918, local initiatives encouraged strict economy in food and clothing. Clophill formed a Food Economy Committee, chaired by Mr. A.H. Tanqueray, which undertook house-to-house visits to promote conservation and support for the war effort.

International developments also shaped the year. On 15th December, Russia formally left the war following the Bolshevik takeover, while the United States' entry the previous year continued to shift the balance of power. Despite the distances and dangers, Clophill men and women maintained their courage, resourcefulness, and communal spirit.

Through letters, news reports, and local initiatives, 1917 in Clophill highlighted the intertwining of battlefield sacrifice and village life, showing the resilience of families, the bravery of soldiers, and the unwavering support of the community amid global upheaval.

It has continued to be a busy autumn term at The Nestlings Kindergarten, with our children making the most of everything the changing season has to offer!

Our children have been exploring what it means to care for others, themselves and the world around them. From feeding our sheep, guinea pigs and chickens to helping clean out their homes, the children have been learning that caring for animals comes with real responsibility. During our Wellbeing Week, they turned their attention to looking after themselves, enjoying hair treatments, cucumber eye masks and peaceful moments relaxing in hammocks in the woods!

They have also been fascinated by owls after reading Owl Babies. They explored the difference between nocturnal and diurnal animals and were delighted to spot an owl's nest during one of their woodland adventures.

Our 'Red Kites' Reception children have also been enjoying the season! Each week has brought a new nature-inspired topic, from spiders and mushrooms to apples, leaves and sticks. The children have created mushroom houses, woven stick spider webs, made leaf kebabs and headed out on autumn scavenger hunts to discover how the world around them is changing - even stopping for a leaf pinata just for the joy of it.

The Red Kites have been making wonderful progress with their phonics and have already learned ten sounds! Maths has been just as hands-on, with children weighing ingredients during cooking, comparing collections of autumn treasures and counting seeds in our allotment.

Speaking of our allotment, we have been busy planting up all our flower beds with spring flowers, ready for the children to pick and arrange their very own bouquets when the warmer weather returns. There is something rather lovely about planting something now, knowing that we will have to wait patiently through the winter to enjoy it!



We have also been delighted to welcome so many new faces to The Nestlings this term, with even more little ones due to join us after half term. It has been wonderful watching new friendships blossom and seeing our kindergarten community continue to grow.

We were also delighted to welcome our local MP, Blake Stephenson, who visited us to learn more about our pioneering approach to education.

With our unique educational pathway for children aged 2–11, spanning The Nestlings Kindergarten and The Fledglings, he was keen to see for himself what makes our approach so different. He was blown away by what he saw, and his PA was even moved to tears! It was a very special moment for us and a wonderful opportunity to share our vision for an education that puts childhood, curiosity and real-life experiences at its heart.

We are now well into our season of Festivals of Light, and the children have been exploring Diwali through food tasting, stories and plenty of hands-on creativity. There has been clay everywhere as little hands have been busy making their own diva lamps! And although Christmas still feels a little way off, preparations are already beginning. If you happen to walk past the village hall and listen closely, you might just hear the first few notes of our Nativity songs drifting out!

Looking ahead, we are especially excited for our Christmas events! We can't wait to join the village celebrations with our stall at the Clophill Christmas Lights. We are delighted to be bringing back our ever-popular Magical Woodland Walk on Saturday 19th December. This enchanting event is open to the whole village and we would love to welcome local families along to experience a little woodland Christmas magic.

Please get in touch with us for tickets to what promises to be the most magical event of the year! office@edenwoodeducation.co.uk

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Licensed Bar | Festive stalls | Santa
Brass Band starts at 3pm | Choir 5pm
Light switch on 5.30pm

If anyone local would like a stall please contact:
clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk

CLOPHILL
Parish Council

St. MARY'S NEWS



The annual Harvest Festival service was held on October 4th at the Family Praise led by Rosemary Ilett, our Lay Leader of Worship. Gifts of food were donated to The Hub. In the afternoon we held a new activity for children and parents with harvest themed crafts and pizza! This was a successful start and a second event on December 6th will feature Christingles. We'd love to see you and your family there.

Our Harvest Lunch was on October 14th and as always attracted more than 50 people who enjoyed baked potatoes followed by scrumptious puddings! Almost £650 was raised for church funds.

The Winter Warmer Lunches resumed from 12 noon on Thursday Nov. 5th with homemade soups and something sweet to follow. There is no charge for this, but donations are gratefully received for costs with any surplus going to The Hub. They will continue throughout the winter months, with the exception of Christmas and New Year's Eves.

Remembrance Sunday is on November 8th and the service will start at 10.15, followed by the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial.

We are going to lose a second couple from our fellowship. Heather Jarvis and Gordon Layne are upping sticks and heading to the south coast. They both make valuable contributions to St. Mary's. Heather serves on the fund-raising group, rings the bells before services and is a brilliant minute taker for the PCC. Gordon keeps the heating functioning and sweeps up the churchyard leaves, as well as other "manly" jobs when called upon. We shall really miss both their hard work and their presence. We wish them well in their future life by the sea.

CLOPHILL FRIENDS OF THE SUE RYDER – ST JOHN'S HOSPICE AT MOGGERHANGER

Fundraising Total Smashes £600!

A huge *thank you* to everyone who supported our sale on 2nd October. The team's hard work raised £562.85, and with further sales already exceeding £40, we have officially passed the £600 milestone!

As the team continues working through the year, our more premium items will be sold online (and hopefully via the Church Fete) to maximise our fundraising for the Hospice. Other unsold items are being taken to various charity shops so nothing is wasted.

We send our warmest thanks to all our helpers—both new and longstanding—as well as our donors and supporters. Everything you do for the charity is very much appreciated.

Sue Pearson

Clophill Parish Council

There was a Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall on Tuesday 20th October.

- **Chairmans Award**: This month the award was presented to Carolyn Cranswick in recognition of her dedication to the community, creativity and putting Clophill on the map. She has been involved with the village for 55 years, including 28 years at the school, and 50 years with the flower club!
- **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.
- **New Councillor**: We are pleased to announce that Daniel Pool was co-opted onto the council at the October meeting. Daniel grew up in the village but then moved away for a while. He has now returned and very much wants to get more involved with the village.
- **Neighbourhood Plan:** Councillors are working hard to get a Neighbourhood Plan in place for our Parish. **To this end they need your input!** Please look out for any meetings coming up where you can have your say on how you would like your village to look in the future.

  A meeting has been booked on the 22nd November in the Village Hall from 12 noon to 4pm where the councillors will be available for you to talk to. They will also be at the Christmas Lights switch on so please feel free to come along and ask them what it is all about!

Planning Applications:

CB/26/02754/FULL 122 High Street

Proposal: Demolition of existing garage/annexe, construction of a detached self-build dwelling with double car port and single garage/shed and associated works. Alterations to the existing boundary wall.

The Parish Council commented by email to the planning officer that according to our Housing Needs Survey carried out in 2025, more small affordable housing was needed in the Parish as opposed to large houses.

The next meeting will be held on 17th November at 19:45 in the Methodist Church

St Mary's Church. Clophill



25th Annual Quiz Night

Friday 13th November

7.15pm for 7.30pm at St Mary's Church

£5 – Please bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles.
Tea and coffee available.
Bring a team or be part of another team – this can be arranged.
Children are welcome.

To book a place contact

Julie Benson: 72 High Street Clophill, enquiries to
juliebenson@talktalk.net



St Mary's Church, Clophill



Winter Warmer Soup lunches



Every Thursday 12 noon – 2pm

Starting 5th November

If you are feeling cold.
If you are feeling you want some company.
If you would enjoy a bowl of homemade soup and some bread in warm surroundings, you would be very welcome to come to St Mary's Church where there will be a warm welcome and hospitality.

A small donation would be appreciated but not essential.

Everyone will be welcome

KEECH HOSPICE

Registered Charity No. 1035089

Wrap a family in care

Tractor Run

Starting in Maulden

19 December

4.30-7.30pm

Route: Maulden (MK45 2BJ), Clophill, Silsoe, Flitton, Pulloxhill, Greenfield, Westoning, Flitwick, Ampthill.



Scan for more details

Join us. Rally.

Make the difference.

keech.org.uk/tractorrun

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

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D&Ksf; kfZ

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PqĚĚĂLqbtłIŚ/'' '* ZŝnjŶŝÓŚi¸i^Ł ïU ĂqĽ.JqgŚZqĐĚŚ ij ' ơǫiĨŽqj ' tơĐÂvi ĞłĂqł ïi^ĞĞaĐŽĞłĞĞł ^ZŶĚĂLqdϵIŚ/n 'yvĂĞůŝÓŚłĞłĞl łĐĚŚiŽŶ¸isŝůůÁÓĞĞŐĞĞĞŶ ił-cĐÂv ïi^ĞĞaĐŽĞłĞĞł

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ϰlŚ/i^ZŶĚĂLiqơơÓơĂÂvitfĞł ·it ŽŽĚ

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			
Ampthill	(**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
Ampthill Station		101

CHURCHES			
St Mary's Parish Church			
(Rector) Steve Marsh			TBA
(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, Ampthill		01525 404462
Robert Bloomfield Middle School, Shefford		01462 628800

Clophill Success at the Home Counties Floral Art Show

On 26th September 9 members of Clophill and District Flower Club entered the Home Counties Floral Art Show in Wheathampstead, where arrangers from Hertfordshire, Essex and Bedfordshire competed in 12 different categories.

Karen Harwood and Nicky Olden represented the Club in the Inter-Society Class titled 'All is Safely Gathered In' and we were very grateful to Clophill Parish Council who kindly sponsored our exhibit. They created a beautiful design based on the Queen of the Harvest, spending hours of work preparing and arranging. It was beautiful and they gained 3rd prize with competition of a high standard.

The show was full of varied designs, both traditional and contemporary, large pedestals and petite, by beginners, novices and more experienced arrangers. Clophill and District swept the board with 18 awards including the Best in Show by Celia Thompson, Runner up Best in Show by Linda O'Toole, five 1st prizes, four 2nd prizes, two 3rd prizes and various highly commended and three special awards and trophies.

We have some very talented members who have learnt their skills by attending the classes and demonstrations at our Club. They all did us proud and really put Clophill on the map! ***Carolyn Cranswick - Chairman of Clophill and District Flower Club***

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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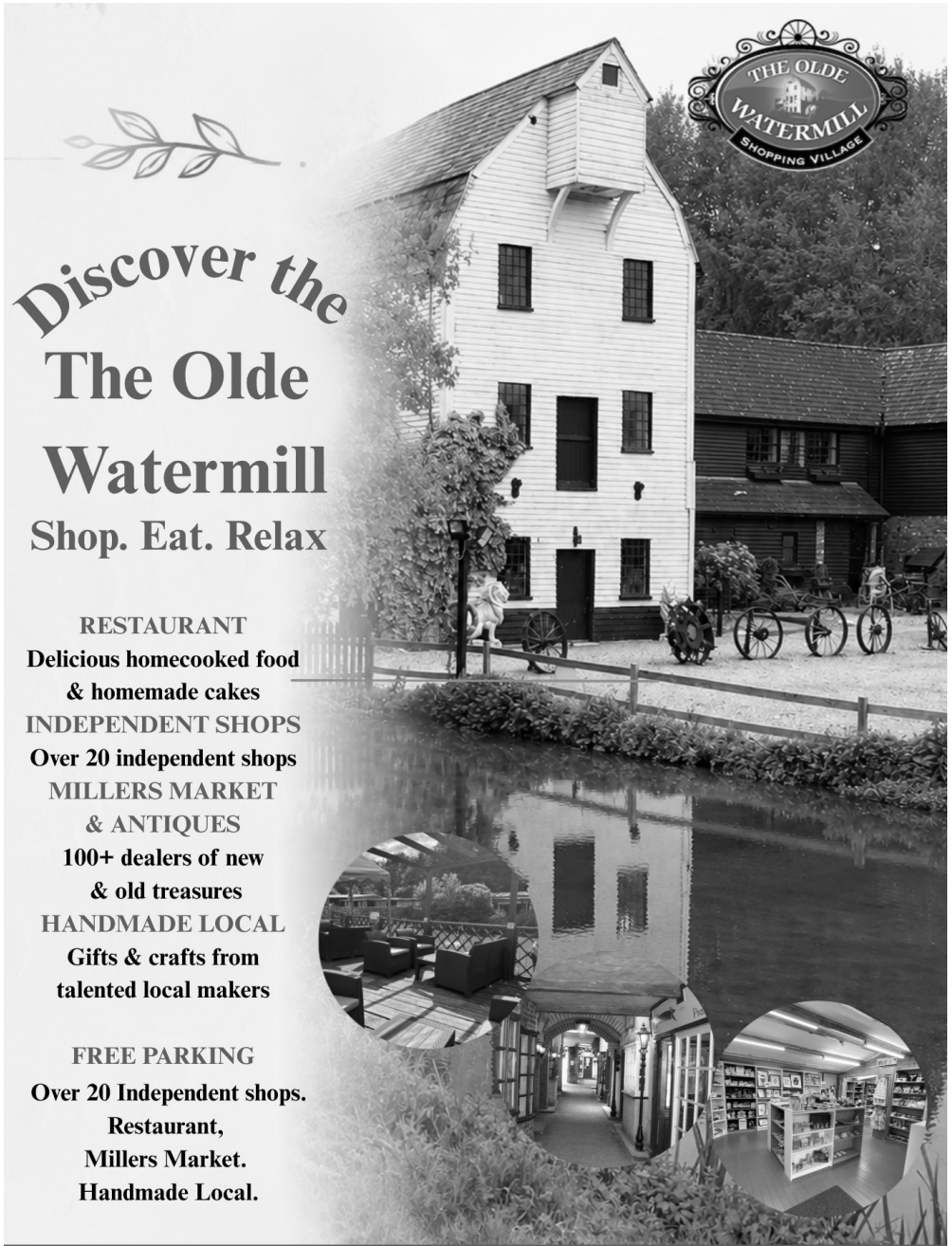
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◊ Was your Will home made? If so, you could be storing up difficulties for the family and higher tax could be payable.

◊ 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

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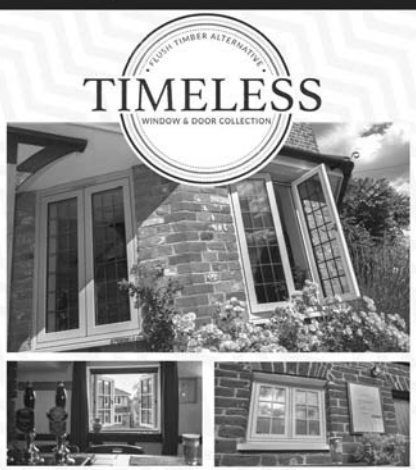
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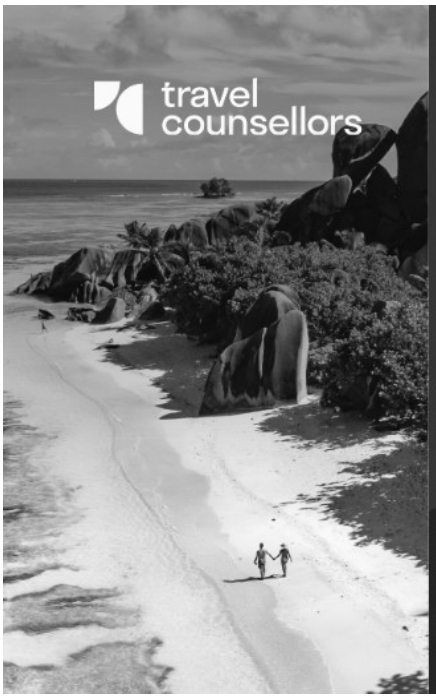


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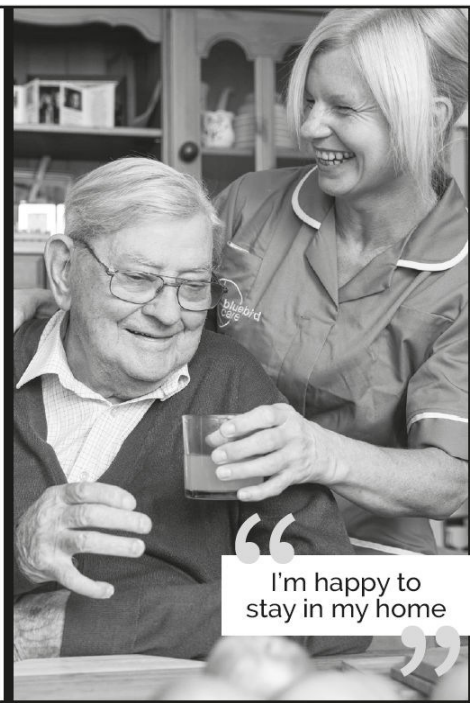
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