

The trail starts at The Flying Horse at the west end of the village and takes you along the High Street to the former Rising Sun.

The Flying Horse public house which dates from 1731 was an important coaching inn on the A6 and would have had stabling for horses. By 1927 it was reported that the business "gets main road traffic, has good yard, gets charabanc parties, mainly a weekend trade" and it was "best pub in village".

Walk along the pavement to the left of the Flying Horse.

The Lock-up & Pound were built 1851 by magistrate Captain Moore of Maulden Cottage. They were used for the overnight control of paupers, mischief makers and drunks together with their livestock. As Clophill had six pubs, the lock-up often housed the occasional drunk on a Saturday night!

The Old Bridge. Before the A6 was rerouted in 1937 it passed in front of the Flying Horse, through The Green and over the Old Bridge. When motorcycles became popular the bridge was notorious for accidents particularly at weekends and it is said that two nurses used to stay in the lock-up over the weekend to deal with the accidents.

Carefully cross over The Green (noting the three fine lime trees) to the north side of the road.

The 'Statty' Fair was held on Garton's Field Yard, which was behind the Green Man where Beverley Court now stands. It was a Statute Fair originally held for hiring labour.

Later they developed into amusement fairs and the Clophill Statty had steam-driven roundabouts owned by Will Thurston.

The Green Man Public House was first mentioned as the Shepherd and Dog in the will of John Richardson in 1758. It may have been known by this name as early as 1719. By 1798 it was called the Green Man and re-fronted.



The Green Man

36 High Street. Oakley House dates from the 18th century and possibly from the mid 17th century. The single storey wing was originally thatched. It has the same unusual brackets supporting the door-hood as at Clophill House and Ivy House.

45 High Street was built about 1836 by James Parrish, a grocer and draper. He named it London House and it was used as a school for training drapers. About 1870 it became known as Clophill Barns because of the farm buildings to the north of it. The present owner uses the old name.

Carefully cross Mill Lane.

Clophill House. In Tudor times (1586) this was two small cottages, the origins of which can still be seen to the right of the main building. Some time between 1719 and 1738 Thomas White rebuilt Clophill House to give it its current Georgian frontage. Notice the parapet surmounted by "pineapples". The pineapple motif was widely used as a symbol of hospitality in the eighteenth-century.

The front gate was bought from the Grange on North End Road in Hammersmith, London when it was demolished in the 1930s. It had once been the home of Edward Burne-Jones, the Pre-Raphaelite painter, and the young Rudyard Kipling, who came to stay there, described the gate as "the wonderful gate that led me to all felicity".

53 High Street was built about 1620 and was a hardware shop then the post office and village shop in the latter part of the 20th century. (See photo)

52 High Street, Ivy House. In 1851 this was a girls' boarding school, later a doctor's house and, at the end of the First World War, a magistrate's house.

79 High Street was The Compasses public house. The first reference to it comes in a conveyance of 1828 which refers to it as the Red Cow. Two years later a gang of poachers, tried at the Quarter Sessions, is recorded as having met there before trespassing in Cainhoe Park. It closed as a public house in 1992.



King's Cottage and the Cross Tree

104 High Street (See Photo) was a shop run for a long time by Ebenezer and Hannah Goss as shown by the censuses of 1861 until 1901. The 1911 census shows that they are still living here but are retired at the ages of 74 and 69. Later the shop was run by Mr and Mrs Stokes.

108 High Street. Taylor's Cottage was built as a Girls' Sunday School in 1799 by the Rector William Nethersole. Girls at the school wore a shawl known a tippet; the doll which is on show in the church on special occasions represents one of the pupils wearing one. The inscribed stone on the front wall translates as 'The gateway to life (is) the word of the Lord'.

St Mary's Church was built in a convincing Gothic style between 1848 and 1849, when the old church on the hill was too small to house the congregation. The church is open to visitors and there is a free guide on the table inside.



104 High Street



15 The Green

7 & 9 The Green was built circa 1700. It is one of the oldest buildings overlooking the Green. Note the timber frame construction of the right-hand cottage. The left-hand cottage is also timber-framed but has been "modernised" with a brick cladding and enlarged dormer windows.

For the rest of the trail keep to the pavement on the left-hand side of the road.

15 The Green. As can be seen in the photo, there was a shop window at the front. At the rear was a separate brick and tile bake house. For many years it was run as a shop and bakery by the Juffs family. The oldest boy, Bert, was the baker and delivered the bread on a baker's cart. His mother ran the sweet shop which was the meeting place for all the youngsters in Clophill in the 1920s.

The Old Forge. To the right of "The Old Forge" was a smithy's shop. The blacksmith, Mr Cakebread, was kept very busy because of the number of horses that had to be shod.

Along the High Street the odd numbers are on the left-hand side. It is also safer to stay on this side where there is a continuous footpath.

3 High Street. Before motorised transport there were carriers who regularly carried goods to and from Ampthill, Shefford and Bedford, where there were railway stations from the mid 19th century. Sam Gaylor, known as "The Carry", lived here and made trips to Ampthill on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

19 High Street. Formerly known as "Taylor's House", it was a dairy farm with cattle sheds opposite and meadows down the south side of the High Street and along the Causeway. The cattle were driven along the High Street to be milked. The old granary borders the road.

33 High Street. Charles Palmer ran his butcher's business from here. The slaughter house was to the left. There was no refrigeration but the meat was fresh!

34 High Street. There was a hat factory run by Mr Manning in the two-storey wing on the far side of the house which employed about twenty women machinists. In the 19th century it was a straw plait school.



53 High Street

Clophill Water Mill. The current mill dates from the late 18th century and has an undershot wheel which drove three pairs of stones. It ground both wheat for flour and grain for animal feed.

Clophill Methodist Church opened in 1937 uniting the previous Wesleyan and Primitive Chapels. Note the Art Deco style window.

46 High Street Wootton House. James Wootton and family are recorded as living here in the 1861 to 1911 censuses. He was a tailor but he also ran a sub-post office staffed by members of his family.

St. Mary's School. As early as 1630 attempts were made to provide schooling for Clophill's children. In 1871 the National Society (C. of E.) provided money to build schools to accommodate 185 infants and juniors. The School Log Book for 6th Oct. 1879 states "Owing to the harvest being so backward this year, another week's holiday was given to enable the children to go gleaning"

The new building has developed since 1973 and it remains a Voluntary Aided (church) school. All that remains of the old building is the bell tower in the grounds.

The Cross Tree (see photo) stood in the middle of the junction of Little Lane, Great Lane and the High Street. It was removed in 1939-40 as apparently it became a hazard in the blackout at the beginning of World War 2.

King's Cottage was originally two cottages. They were bought for £400 in 1878 by Susan Collip, who had been a domestic servant in Kensington Palace Gardens. She ran a shop here until at least 1911. Later the King family lived here hence the current name.

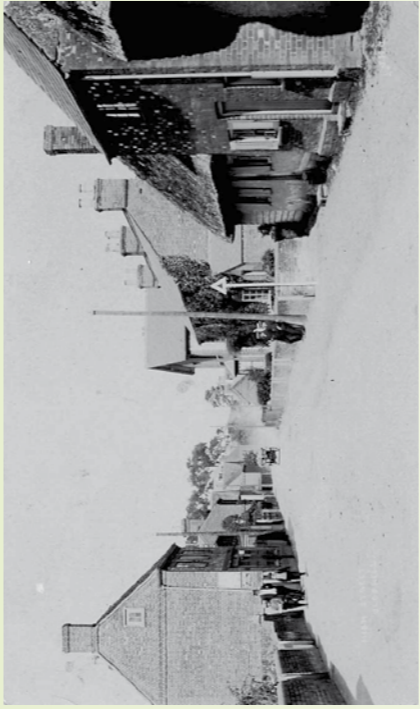
110, 110a and 110b High Street. The Old Rectory. The rectory dates from 1700 when the timber and tiled structure had a separate kitchen and bakehouse, which were thatched and had stone floors. The present building dates from the mid 18th century and is now divided into separate dwellings.

120 High Street was the New Inn public house. First recorded in 1839, it closed in 1959.

126 High Street, Ladymead. The 1911 census shows that John Blackburn, lino salesman, lived here with his wife, eight children and a niece. As all the children, from four to fifteen years of age, went to school (rather than working) he must have been fairly successful.

The Rising Sun public house was a beer-house from 1851 until 1954 when it was granted a full licence. It is now a private house.

This is the end of the trail. See over for return route.



The High Street with No 12 on the right and No 7 on the left

Introduction

Clophill is a typical linear village with its High Street of three quarters of a mile lying along the River Flit with the Flit valley to the south and the Greensand Ridge to the north where there is a secondary residential area mostly along Back Street. Although the village has developed by infill it used to be much more open with fields between the High Street and Back Street.

Clophill has a long history. There is evidence for a Roman road running east-west through the village. In the Domesday book of 1086, the village is called Clopelle, which means "tree-stump hill".

Near Top Farm, Shefford Road, Beadlow, is the site of the Benedictine Priory of Beaulieu which was founded between 1140 and 1146 by Robert D'Albini.

At Cainhoe Castle is the remains of a motte and bailey castle dating from 1138.

The Trail

This guide takes you around the village describing old buildings and retelling anecdotes.

The main trail, in the centre fold, covers the High Street starting at the The Green near the A6.

In the rest of the pamphlet is information about other important buildings and locations in the village which you may like to visit on your way back.

Safety

Please take care as you walk around the village as many of the narrow streets and lanes do not have pavements.

Clophill Heritage Trail



"Yet still there is a spell that charms us in this place. We walk along its narrow stream, which used to drive two mills, up and down among the cottages, in and out of the dark Warren Wood, and feel that from such place as this our folklore came."

Arthur Mee: The King's England, 1939

A small donation towards the production costs appreciated



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Enquiries: info@clophillhistory.org.uk

More photos: www.clophillonline.co.uk/clophillphotos

Facilities

Post Office and Stores. The Green.
The Green Man. Italian restaurant. The Green.
The Flying Horse. Country pub and dining. The Green.
The Stone Jug. Traditional village pub. Back Street.
There are no public toilets in the village.

How to get to Clophill

The village is situated near the intersection of the A6 between Bedford and Luton and the A507 between Amphill and Shefford. There are half-hourly buses from Bedford and Luton and a less frequent service from Biggleswade and Amphill.

Postcode for Sat Nav – MK45 4AD



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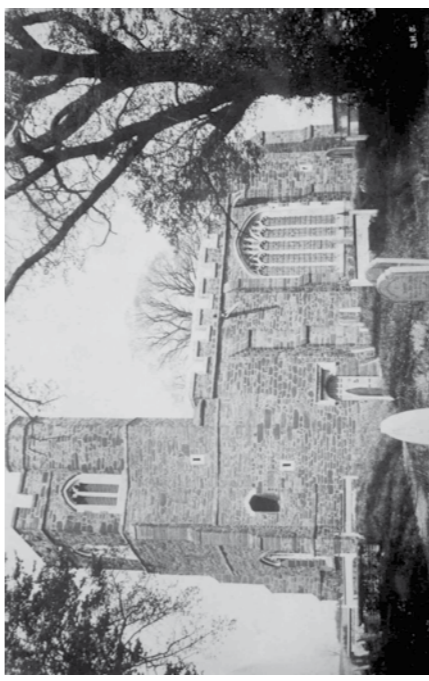
The Benedictine Priory was also known as Beaulieu Priory or the Priory de Bello Loco (beautiful place). The Abbot of Saint Albans visited Beadlow in the early 15th century and found it in such a poor condition that it barely supported two monks. He decided to close the house and unite it with Saint Albans. Archaeological excavations have shown that it was in the field immediately east of Top Farm, Beadlow, though there are no visible signs of it now.

Beaulieu Priory

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Cainhoe Castle

To the south, across the Flit valley, stand the remains of Cainhoe Castle, an earthenwork castle of the late eleventh or early twelfth century with a motte and three baileys well protected by ditches. As well as the castle there is also a series of earthworks which are presumed to represent a deserted medieval village.



Ancient Sites

Old St Mary's Church

The old church on the hill was the parish church since the 14th century, at least. It is listed Grade II* and was built in the Gothic Perpendicular style. The nave, unusually, had just two large windows. Due to the rapid increase in the population (and hence the congregation) it was decided to build a new one in the village. In 1956 the lead was stolen from the roof and so the remaining fittings were removed and the building allowed to fall into ruin.

Heritage Trail routes

Main route

In the centre-fold is the main High Street Heritage Trail route. When you have completed this you can return along the High Street or take the alternative return route which takes you around other parts of the village and is described below.

Return route (See small map)

• Go up Church Path to the old church and have a look round. There fine views of the Chiltern Hills to the south. Then take the footpath opposite the church to Great Lane. Turn left and walk along the road to the orchard on the right and take the footpath to the left of the orchard to Kiln Lane.

• If you haven't time to visit the old church then return along the High Street to Great Lane and proceed up Little Lane. After the white thatched cottage on the left take the public footpath to Kiln Lane.

• Turn left at Kiln Lane and walk down the road to the Y-junction with Mill Lane and turn right into Mill Lane.



• The junction of the the Slade, Mill Lane and Back Street was known as The Hiend which may have been a corruption of "The End". The photo shows the well that served the houses in this area.

• In Back Street you will find the Stone Jug public house.

• Proceed along Back Street and turn left into Readshill.

• Then right then left past Beverley Court and back to The Green.