

## **FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT CLOPHILL IN 1911**

Using resources such as the Amptill News and the minutes of the Parish Council Meetings, Colin Watt has put together a picture of life in Clophill in 1911...

- The new rector, Rev Matthews, was very popular, judging by the size of his congregations.
- The minutes of the Parish Council show that 130 men and women (out of a total population of 916) received payments of 4s (20p), Clothing tickets and coal from the charities.
- The school held a tooth-cleaning competition with prizes for the children who took the greatest care of their teeth.
- The Primitive Methodist Chapel managed to pick a rainy day for their annual camp meeting in one of the hottest, driest years on record! The previous year (1910) had been very wet but 1911 was a drought year with very high temperatures.
- The Council were split on the desirability of requesting a Sunday postal delivery.
- George Dunham was summoned for using obscene language to the annoyance of certain persons in Clophill.
- Two 'pretty' weddings are reported along with the rector's wedding. At another wedding the clergyman didn't turn up!
- The 'Parish Rooms' was a thatched building opposite the church and the social centre of the village. A report of a concert shows that there was a lot of talent in the village.
- The state of the path to the old church was discussed many times as was the cleaning out of the main stream of the river.
- Miss Florence Gudgin went to hospital for an X-ray after a minor bicycling accident whereas young Henry Upton was sent home after crushing his toes in a chaff-cutting machine.