

A scenic photograph of a village path. In the foreground, three white sheep are walking away from the camera on a gravel path. To the left is a large, leafy green tree. To the right is a grassy area with a wooden fence. In the background, a large stone castle or manor house is visible under a clear blue sky. The text 'Village Life' is overlaid in the top right corner.

# Village Life

The community magazine  
for Aston Clinton, Buckland  
and Drayton Beauchamp

No.57 April / May 2021



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**The Editor is always pleased  
to receive local news of people,  
clubs and events.**

# Village Life

The bi-monthly community news magazine for  
Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp

*At a turning point in the war, Churchill said, 'This is not the end or even the beginning of the end, but it may be the end of the beginning'. Well, maybe we are at the beginning of the end of the fight against the pandemic. Many of you will have had your first Covid injections and all the statistics are looking more promising.*

Because the situation was so serious at the end of January, when we should have been printing our February issue, we had to hold it back. But now the health situation has improved hugely and, as you will see in the following pages, things are slowly starting to get back to normal. We can (fairly) confidently look forward to the summer with Astonbury, the Aston Clinton Beer festival and the Buck Pub.

Let's not forget, though, that many of our friends and neighbours have suffered over the last year and will continue to do so for a while to come so please keep in touch with any vulnerable people - and remember to do it safely.

Although we can now start to look ahead, I also want to look back ten years as it was in April 2011 that the first Village Life was published. That month also saw the first episode of Game of Thrones and the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton. Alec and Jenny Just, newly arrived in Aston Clinton, took over the old parish magazine and turned it into Village Life.

The first issue had 32 pages, many in black and white, and a circulation of 1800 copies. This has now grown to 64 pages and 2600 copies. We differ from other free magazines in that we have local stories by local writers so hope you will always find it interesting.

Now, as in 2011, a magazine like this relies on the support of our wonderful local advertisers. They have had a horrible year so please give them your custom when you can. Without them we would not exist and currently they need our support more than ever.

*Richard Vincent*





## Church News

*On March 16th, 2020 the doors of our three churches were shut, even for private prayer. In an unknown world of fear and sadness we watched the numbers of deaths rising at a dramatic rate. Not being able to go to church, that safe and peaceful place in times of trouble, seemed so counter-cultural.*

But then we found other ways of 'doing' church; Rev Alison created a fantastic weekly Parish magazine to keep us all entertained during Lockdown, and on behalf of the Church, I joined forces with Liz Tubb, our Parish Council leader to create a support group with over 50 volunteers to help those who were shielding and in need.

As the months went by, we saw churches around the country begin to record their services and then stream then on Facebook or on some other platform. This made us feel rather inadequate as we didn't have the technology to upload and reach out to our own communities. It was Rev Alison who decided to take the bull by the horns and led a beautiful Northumbrian service at All Saints', which was filmed live on Facebook. Since then, we haven't looked back and thanks to Peter Gardiner we now have our own YouTube channel where we can upload services recorded in advance. Don't get me wrong, there is nothing like a real congregation and we have missed everyone so much, but during the lockdowns the recorded services have been a lifeline to many.

*And now the good news!* As we approach Easter our churches will be reopening their doors where I'm sure there'll be plenty of 'Alleluias' as we come together again after so much time apart. We didn't get to celebrate Easter as a community last year, so this year means even more. Jesus lay entombed for three days, we have been entombed for nearly a year, but with his resurrection came new life and now as we begin to step outside, we too will notice the 'new' people we have become. The pandemic has a lot to answer for, especially all those precious lives lost, but it has also changed us in many positive ways as we see the tremendous efforts that have been made to help our 'neighbours' around us... and there's the Good News!

St Michael's, Aston Clinton and All Saints Buckland have re-opened and St Mary's, Drayton Beauchamp will be open from Easter Day 4th April.

*We look forward to seeing you soon!*  
*Rev'd Sally*

# St Michael and All Angels

## Regular Services:

9.15am Family Eucharist every Sunday  
6pm Evensong every Sunday. (*currently only available on Benefice Facebook Page*)



## EASTER SERVICES

Thurs 1 April	7pm	Service for Maundy Thursday	St Michael's Church
Friday 2 April	2pm	Reflective Service for Good Friday	St Michael's Church
Sun 4 April	9.15am	EASTER DAY SERVICE	St Michael's Church

## EVENTS

Mon	2 – 4.30pm	Rhubarb Cafe – <i>Returns 17 May</i> (Closed Bank Holidays)	St Michael's Church
2nd Sat*	9 – 12pm	Repair Café – <i>Returns 12 June</i> (*2nd Saturday of the month)	St Michael's Church

For more information on these services and events, please go to our Facebook Page – Aston Clinton Benefice with Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp or [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) and search for St Michael's, All Saints or St Mary's, or our new website [www.ac-buck-db-churches.org](http://www.ac-buck-db-churches.org)

## Advent Acts of Kindness Calendar

We hope that you all enjoyed our Advent acts of kindness calendar which took place between 1st – 25th December. It was lovely to have something that all the village could take part in. Thank you to Debbie Keeping for coming up with this great idea and hopefully we will be able to run a similar event this year.

## 100 Club

St Michael's has started the 100 Club which gives you a chance for a little flutter and also raises much needed money for the church. The annual fee is £24 and this gives you your individual number. There is a monthly draw where you could win 50% of that month's takings – the church gets the rest.

## May Craft Market

We are planning to hold the "May Craft Market" on **Saturday 29 May 10am – 2pm** at St Michael's church. There will be refreshments as well as some amazing stalls.

If you are a local business/crafter and would like a stall, please contact us.

For more information on anything mentioned, please contact *Natalie* on either **01296 632488** or [Benefice3@gmail.com](mailto:Benefice3@gmail.com)

For a digital version of Village Life  
please visit our website.

[acvillagelife.co.uk](http://acvillagelife.co.uk)



## Baptist Church

*Last year many in the village were encouraged to plant daffodil bulbs whose appearance in the Spring would be an annual reminder of the unprecedented Covid-19 year we were passing through. The bulbs' emergence and flowering would be a sign of our thankfulness to the NHS and other frontline workers and serve as a recurring symbol of hope and new life. I hope you may have seen the displays of the beautiful rainbow-coloured flowers.*

I wonder if the story of the daffodils that emerge and beautify our village will be remembered or our thankfulness to all those who served to save us will continue to be celebrated. I hope so but it will need people to tell the story – and so it is for Easter.

In the Christian calendar new life emerging from the dark grip of death is marked by the colourful and joyous event of Easter which celebrates a moment in time when God reversed history. The way things 'always' worked, being turned on their head by Jesus' sinless life, shameful death and glorious resurrection – oppressive power over people was turned into power for people to live. For around 2000 years the story of new life in Christ has been told, hope imparted and lives transformed. I pray the story will continue and you will hear of its telling.

***Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed.***

***Happy Easter, Nick 07972770361***



## Aston Clinton Spring Bulbs Project

*Were you one of the hundreds of villagers who planted nearly 15,000 bulbs around the village last autumn to honour the NHS? Do you belong to one of the village organisations, who gave of your time and money as we planted and planted and planted?*

It was hard work and we even received a letter from our MP congratulating us on our efforts.

And now the bulbs are flowering. First to appear were the purple crocuses donated and planted by the Rotary Club to raise awareness of their 'Eradicate Polio' campaign, followed by the daffodils which are coming through everywhere.

Each week I check on them and the answer is, in general, they are doing very well. By the time you read this they will hopefully be in full bloom. We are rapidly becoming THAT village with the daffodils everywhere.

Do check them out and smile when you see them. They are all over the village but especially in the park, on London Road, by both the churches, at the entrance to Dean Way, by The Oak and along Green End Street.

Thanks again to everyone who donated their time, their money and their energy to make it happen. Particular thanks to Ralph and Graham of the Horticultural Society, Victoria Milnes, The Pruning Lady and our gardener in residence, each of whom worked many hours on this project.

This has been a year like no other and in future years, as these flowers bloom, we will remember 2020, the good and the bad, our NHS who've looked after us and the enhanced sense of village community.

***Joanna – The Bulb Lady***

## Aston Clinton Parish Council

*The Red Kite Pavilion is complete but due to the current COVID guidelines, we will be delaying any public opening ceremony until later in the year. In the meantime, Your Café in the Park, who will be managing the facility, are looking to open it up gradually, COVID guidelines permitting.*

The cafe is now opening its doors 10-4pm Monday to Friday and 9-5pm Saturday and Sunday with takeaway from inside the cafe. From Monday 12 April they expect to open from 9-5pm every day and make benches available outside for "table service". At this stage, they are hoping to be able to allow organised groups to hire the venue adhering to the government guidelines.

From Monday 17th May they plan to open up to soft play with tables inside and with a limit of six people to each table.

**Play park refurbishment** - With phase 1 of the play park refurbishment complete, the Parish council is now looking towards phase 2 which will focus on the toddler area.



## Why not consider becoming a Parish Councillor?

- Do you care about Aston Clinton?
- Do you want to do something positive for your community?
- Can you think, listen and act locally?

Elections to Aston Clinton Parish Council are scheduled for 6 May 2021

To find out more please contact [parishcouncil@astonclinton.org](mailto:parishcouncil@astonclinton.org)

*\*Applications must be submitted by 8 April.*

**Astonbury** - We are planning to hold Astonbury on Saturday 14th August subject to any government restrictions that may still be in place. It will be a free event.

As usual, children's activities will run from midday and from mid-afternoon various bands will perform. A full range of concessions has been booked and the beer tent will be run by DAYLA. We have teamed up with our Charity Partners, Kirbys Herd who will be there on the day. *Elaine Barry, Clerk to Aston Clinton Parish Council*

## Drayton Beauchamp Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at St.Mary's Church on **Thursday 29 April, 2021**. Due to the Corona Virus Pandemic restrictions it will be socially distanced with places for 24 and masks must be worn. To book a place contact *Meryl Nodes*, [merylnodes2018@outlook.com](mailto:merylnodes2018@outlook.com) or **01296 630396** *The time will be circulated nearer the date of the meeting.*



## Flutter of Angels

*As we went into Tier 4 on 19 December, it was heart-breaking to get notifications of community members cancelling their places at our Christmas services, understandably in fear of Covid but knowing they would almost certainly spend Christmas by themselves.*



One of the events we were most looking forward to was “The Flutter of Angels”.

In November we asked the community to decorate angels using a template we distributed. Our aim was to fill St Michael’s with angels flying above our heads: it would have created a truly wonderful sight!

The response from the community was incredible with Aston Clinton School producing “baubles of angels” made from hula-hoops decorated beautifully with angels hanging from them. Mrs MacDonald brought them over, helped by the children on their last day of term. I would like to say a big thank you to Aston Clinton Primary, both children and staff, for their awesome effort.

Our intention was to decorate the church on December 23rd and open on Christmas Eve so people could come and admire the display.

Sadly, with the rise in Covid cases we were unable to go ahead.

We have kept the angels “safe” (*so thank you if you and your children decorated them for the display*) and what better time to hang them up than at Easter to celebrate the goodness of God and to give thanks for all we have. We are unable to organise an event to showcase the angels but please do pop in when you are next passing to admire the children’s work.

*Rev Sally, Rector Of Aston Clinton  
With Buckland & Drayton Beauchamp.*

## Women’s Institute

*“We are probably related to most people buried in the graveyard” said my cousin after a visit a few years ago. My name is Christine Johnson and I am a member of Buckland, Drayton Beauchamp and Aston Clinton Women’s Institute. I have been a member for about 27 years.*

If you are interested in joining our WI and meeting via Zoom for the next few months please contact Lin Mitchell b.d.ac.wi@gmail.com

Over the years my membership has meant a great deal to me. I won a Bursary of £100 for a course at Denman, the WI’s College, and since then I have done many different courses there, ranging from Flower Arranging to Patchwork, Creative Writing to Lifestyle... The WI is not all Jam and Jerusalem! We meet in the Anthony Hall, which is significant because my parents met there at a dance during the second World War.

Dad was training in bomb disposal at Halton Camp and Mum was on leave from her wartime job as a nurse in London. My father was Jozef Krzewina from Poland and my mother Phyllis Gwendolyn King, born and bred in Aston Clinton. In fact, I am probably the 5th generation of the King family to live in



# Chiltern Arts Festival 2021

## 21st – 27th May



*Chiltern Arts has announced rescheduled dates for its live, socially-distanced 2021 Festival, which is now taking place 21–27 May in Berkhamsted, Princes Risborough, Marlow, Henley, Old Amersham and Great Missenden.*

Artists featured include the Nuevo Tango Quintet, City of London Sinfonia, Mahan Esfahani and Clare Hammond. Tickets and further information can be found at [www.chilternarts.com/whats-on/](http://www.chilternarts.com/whats-on/)

The Festival theme this year is '*musical resonance*' – exploring how music can mean so many different things to individual listeners, or how it can tell a story or reveal an identity.

On Wednesday 26 May, dive into an immersive Argentinian experience at The Gatsby in Berkhamsted, with an Argentinian Wine Tasting from Tring Winery, a concert from the Nuevo Tango Quintet and a fabulous two course Argentinian-inspired meal – plus a selection of mouth-watering canapés to start.

Aston Clinton. The family were builders and undertakers.

My parents married at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in Aylesbury on 4 November 1944 and after the War moved to Shepherds Cottage Farm, in Eaton Bray, where I was born. When I was five I was sent to The Convent of Saint Francis de Sales in Tring.

My brother and I were good at getting into mischief on the farm, I remember one day climbing into a big metal water carrier and closing the lid! Luckily we were found. The farm was not a very safe place for young children, and I think it was for this reason we

spent our holidays in Aston Clinton. I have so many wonderful memories of those holidays. We usually stayed with my Great Aunt and Uncle in Aylesbury Road. My mother would put us on the Number 16 bus at the Travellers Rest, Edlesborough and ask the conductor to put us off at 'King's Cottages'.

Uncle Alf worked at Hazel, Watson and Viney, in charge of the Book Binding Department. Aunt Poll was a dressmaker and kept house for Uncle Alf. We would have cream crackers for supper, stone hot water bottles and a chamber pot, under the bed. The bathroom was downstairs... *To be continued*



## "A Guide Faces Challenges and Learns from her experiences"

*This is one of the six Guide laws.*



*Guiding develops good resilience and Covid has certainly tested both the children and the leaders. All our Aston Clinton Units have risen to the challenge and provided some form of Guiding.*

The outdoor meetings in September were very popular. The Guides' favourite night was watching the bats in the trees and running through the mist in the park! For the Brownies, who were looking for wildlife in the dark, the best part was paddling in their wellies in puddles and the stream! Just being together in a group outdoors was very rewarding if only for a few short weeks. But all too suddenly we were back to Guiding on Zoom!

We were all new to Zoom meetings and a lot of the subsequent adult learning has been online and very public.

The leaders have also learned that sewing and cooking work better over Zoom, when you can just turn off at the end of the call, leaving the parents with all the tidying up!

Despite the challenges, we intend to carry on Guiding in 2021 and continue to learn from these new experiences.

A lot of our members missed being able to attend the Remembrance parade in November. 2nd Aston Clinton Brownies painted Poppy Pebbles and talked about remembrance on a Zoom activity. Here is Lyla, laying her pebble at the Aston Clinton War Memorial on her way home from school.

Unable to get together as a group to fundraise for "Children in Need" 1st Aston Clinton Brownies held a sponsored "act their age" challenge to take their age and do something good with it to raise money for this cause. One of their leaders encouraged the girls by collecting 74 bags of rubbish from around the village. Thank you, Starling, for cleaning up the village, raising money for a good cause and sharing your age with the Village magazine!

*Sue Wall*

## Centenary of the Aston Clinton War Memorial

*The first World War claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of British service personnel and obviously had a huge impact on the country as a whole. Thousands of memorials were erected in towns and villages across Britain as a focal point for the grief of those left behind. So it was in Aston Clinton, where our War Memorial was unveiled exactly 100 years ago.*

The semi-circular piece of land on London Road, opposite Brook Street, was donated by Nathan Rothschild and public subscriptions raised the £230 to buy the memorial. A committee, including parish councillors and local rector Rev J R Cohu, was set up to collect the details needed after the war ended. They ordered the 4.2m tall, Cornish granite memorial, now a Grade II listed monument, from Aylesbury builders Newman and Harper.

The wording above the names of the 30 men who gave their lives reads 'To the glory of God

and in memory of the men of Aston Clinton who fell in the Great War, 1914-1919.'

On Sunday 3 April, 1921 the official unveiling was performed by Major-General J C Swann, of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry in the presence of Lord Rothschild, Rev Cohu, other dignitaries and many ex-soldiers and grieving families. The Aston Clinton Brass Band was there to accompany the hymns and to play the Last Post.

Major-General Swann thanked all those who had served and said how the epithet desired by all soldiers was that 'he did his duty'. During his speech Lord Rothschild looked to the future and said that the audience should 'follow in the footsteps of the men on the memorial and to strive to live up to their example and to see their sacrifice was not in vain.'

Despite the general feeling that this had been 'the war to end all wars' it was only another generation before another 13 names were to be added after World War II.

The memorial is still in excellent condition and for this we have to thank John Disbrey who ensures it is kept clean and tidy all year round.



## Royal British Legion AC

*In Aston Clinton, we are only a small branch of a much larger organisation. However, we meet when we can (currently we do everything by telephone or video link). Our main effort is raising funds for the Poppy appeal. In 2020 we raised approximately £900, which is much less than the several £1000's we normally achieve through the sale of poppies and other events. You can still donate to the appeal by going online to the RBL website. Here you will also be able to purchase a wide range of merchandise.*

This year, we would like to recruit more members. You can become a full Poppy Supporter by giving £10 or more each month and support our Armed Forces community with the assistance they need all year round. A bigger team will enable the branch to organise the poppy appeal properly and to cover the three villages. It will also help us to support a wider range of events such as trips to London for the annual Battle of Britain service, the annual service of remembrance and to the National Memorial Arboretum, which is part of the RBL.

We support some of the most vulnerable people in society, and during the current pandemic, they need us more than ever. Last year, RBL spent £49.3 million providing support for serving and ex-serving personnel and their families. Regular donations raise vital funds to ensure we are here to provide life-long support for those in need.

We ensure they get the assistance they need to recover, physically and mentally. This includes financial advice, support in adjusting to civilian life and providing care homes for older veterans. We will keep working until their needs have been met. *Ralph Weston*

## Buckland and Aston Clinton Cricket Club

*Following the shortened season last year we are hopeful of getting back to some sort of normality in 2021. We expect some changes are here to stay and we may not be able to use the clubhouse as normal to start with. However, in the two months we managed in 2020 we rediscovered the joy of just being able to play again and recapturing that spirit is our main aim for this year.*



Off the pitch, we have remained busy and have continued our good progress during the close season. The clubhouse refurbishment is near completion and we cannot wait to welcome the local community to join us. We also have plans for several further improvements. The groundsman managed to get in a first cut of the outfield towards the end of February, which is almost unheard of. We just need the local badgers to stop digging up the field now as they have made plenty of holes for us to fill in again!

For the 2021 season we have two adult Saturday sides in the Four Counties Cricket League, an occasional Sunday team and have entered the midweek 20-over competition. We are always looking for players and umpires so please get in touch if interested. Maybe the shift to home working means you might have a bit of extra time in which to join our

friendly bunch. Whether it is simply for 20/20 or over the longer form on weekends we would be delighted to hear from you. Or if you just want to pop down to watch our games or grab a drink you can find us at the end of Church Lane next to St Michael's.

Our Colts section suffered in 2020, both in terms of how many we were allowed for training sessions and the level of interest amidst the pandemic. As a result of this and the inability to host indoor nets we are rather more uncertain of how this year will turn out. Reluctantly we have had to go back down to two teams, at Under 13 and Under 15 level and could do with more players for both. We continue to welcome children from Year 4 upwards to training and hope we can reinstate a younger age group soon. If you would like to know more about our junior section or if your child is interested please get in touch with us on [bucklandastonclintoncc@gmail.com](mailto:bucklandastonclintoncc@gmail.com) or via our Facebook page.

*Phil Samuels*

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## Aston Clinton Bowls Club

*With the Bowls Club now in 'hibernation', the only work being undertaken is maintenance on the green. With the season due to commence in April the surface still needs to be cut and cared for.*

Unfortunately, none of our planned winter activities went ahead, but we are hopeful that we will start our season at the end of April. There may be certain restrictions we have to abide by, but bowls clubs throughout the country are working with Bowls England to provide a Covid-safe environment in which to return to play.

Planning for the 2021 season is already complete - fixtures have been confirmed and the club has been chosen to host several



important matches. These include a Bucks County Ladies game versus Hertfordshire Ladies in May and also rounds and finals of several county competitions. Aston Clinton member Cathy Clark is the Buckinghamshire County Ladies President in 2021 and the club has been chosen as the venue for the annual Bucks Men v Ladies game at the end of the season – a prestigious match, fought in a competitive but jovial manner. The Ladies want the trophy back!

In the hope that we will be able to return to play at the start of the season, the club will be holding an Open Afternoon for anyone interested in taking part in a “taster session” on Monday 3 May – don’t worry if you can’t make this date, as we will also be offering another session as part of the Bowls England’s Big Bowls Weekend at the end of the month! Maybe you have decided that your cricket, football, rugby or golfing days are nearing an end and you are looking for a less strenuous sporting activity? There is no obligation to take up bowls – just that you give it a go.

Judging by the number of likes we are getting on our Facebook page, there is a lot of interest in the sport, so if you are considering bowls, why not come along to one of the sessions? All equipment is provided – all we ask is that you wear flat-soled shoes (trainers or slippers are ideal). If you do decide you would like to learn, a full course of instruction can be organised at your convenience with one of our qualified coaches.

For further information, please contact our secretary **Brian Clark** on **01844 351461** or by email **brianp.clark29@gmail.com** their own home.

Please mention Village Life  
when responding to our advertisers.

**acvillagelife.co.uk**



*Action Fraud has received hundreds of reports from members of the public who have been sent text messages claiming to be from the NHS, offering them the opportunity to sign up for coronavirus vaccinations. The texts ask the recipient to click on a link which takes them to an online form where they are prompted to input personal and financial details. In some cases, the online form has looked very similar to the real NHS website.*

### *How to protect yourself:*

In the UK, coronavirus vaccinations will only be available via the National Health Services. You can be contacted by the NHS, your employer, a local GP surgery or pharmacy to receive your vaccination. Remember, the vaccinations are free of charge and you will not be asked for a payment.

### *The NHS will never:*

- ask for your bank account or card details
- ask for your PIN or banking passwords
- arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
- ask for documentation to prove your identity, such as a passport or utility bills

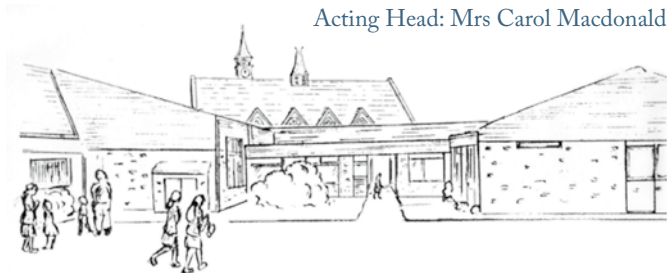
If you receive a call you believe to be fraudulent, hang up. If you are suspicious about an email you have received, forward it to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk). Suspicious text messages should be forwarded to the number **7726**, which is free of charge.

If you believe you are the victim of a fraud, please report this to Action Fraud as soon as possible by calling **0300 123 2040** or visiting [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk).



# Aston Clinton School

Acting Head: Mrs Carol Macdonald



## WANTED – New Governors!

*Our school Governing Body is made up of Governors from all walks of life and different backgrounds, skills and experiences. They are all volunteers who work together for the benefit of the School and link the School to the community it serves.*

We are currently looking for new Community Governors to join our friendly Governing Body and would be delighted to hear from anyone who has:

- an interest in the performance of the school.
- a desire to contribute to and represent the community.
- an open and enquiring mind
- the ability to look at issues objectively
- the confidence to ask questions and join in debate.
- a willingness to listen and make informed judgements
- the ability to work well with others

### *Do you match this description?*

Everyone has something to offer and we want people with as wide a range of interests as possible.

### *We offer*

- a chance to develop your own personal skills
- access to free training in education/ governance matters, plus the support and guidance from fellow governors
- the opportunity to work with our team in improving our School
- a sense of achievement in making a difference to our School
- the pleasure of helping the children reach their potential

If you are interested or know of somebody else who would be then please contact me and I will be more than happy to contact you for an informal chat. Governors are essential for the effectiveness and success of the school and it is an extremely rewarding and fulfilling role. Do have a look at the school website [www.astonclintonschool.co.uk/](http://www.astonclintonschool.co.uk/) and videos [www.astonclintonschool.co.uk/reception-2021-admissions-information/](http://www.astonclintonschool.co.uk/reception-2021-admissions-information/) !

*Carole Green, Chair of Governors* [chairofgovernors@astonclinton.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:chairofgovernors@astonclinton.bucks.sch.uk)

# Dylan Mitchell

8 January, 2012 – 13 December, 2020



## *What is a Superhero?*

The Cambridge English Dictionary defines a superhero as:

*“A character in stories or movies who has special powers. A superhero is also a person whose actions or achievements are far greater than what people expect.”*

To us, Dylan Mitchell was our very own superhero - his everyday actions and achievements made him one of the strongest, and most courageous superheroes we have known. Every day he fought the ‘bad guys’ with a smile and a sense of humour, something that continued even on his darkest days.

Dylan loved Superman, and he would emulate his hero by hiding playfully and jumping out, catching us by surprise! He was also a watchful protector ensuring that anyone who entered the medical room knew where to sit and what to do; then he would comfort them by gently patting their shoulder. Once he had assured himself that his work was done, he would leave.

Dylan’s school friends were very important to him, as he was to them. He loved working in groups with his friends, but mainly he loved playing with them. It always made us adults chuckle to see him arrange to meet his friends on the playground (planet Krypton). He would stop them in their tracks and say “Hey guys, you go outside and I’ll meet you there – ok!” He always said “Hey guys” and finished with “ok”, and his friends were always there waiting to play football with him. On rainy days, another favourite activity was Play-Doh. He loved making food especially pizza and had a team of Play-Doh chefs eager to play with him.

Walking around the school with Dylan was quite something. We couldn’t go more than a few feet without someone saying “Hi” or high fiving him. It was amazing to see.

Dylan always tried his best and worked hard. He was proud to show off his work to his friends and teachers. He would proudly take his achievements around the classroom to show everyone and would often ask for a picture to be taken. His sense of pride was seen in lots of things he did. For example, when asked to lead the class into assembly, his head would be held high and he’d say “Come on guys, follow me”, and with great authority he’d march the class into the hall, checking they were following.

Dylan didn’t let anything hold him back. He taught us how to be brave, to fight and persevere, no matter what.

It is rare that a superhero dies, but when this happens, they deserve to be eulogized by those who knew them best. We celebrated Dylan’s birthday at school on 8 January by setting off confetti cannons and dressing up as Superheroes. We felt honoured to have known Dylan and to call him our friend - our very own superhero. He was and is a true inspiration. *Carol Macdonald*

## What's in a Name?

### How Lionel Martin met Aston Hill.

*This is one of very few photographs from the actual 1914 Hillclimb and is of my great grandfather, Stevie Statham.*



*As you look from the new Community Centre in Aston Clinton Park beyond the greater park area to the Green Park Centre and on to Aston Hill, you may not realise that this land was once Lord Rothschild's back garden!*

The gates to Green Park by the traffic lights on Stablebridge Road are almost all that remains of a magnificent stately home. And it was from these gates that the Aston Hillclimb, a timed race up the back drive of the house, was run.

It was not a genteel stroll up into the woods but the cutting edge of motor sport of the day. The cars were powerful, with poor brakes and steering by today's standards. The road surface was gravel with ruts, chalk and stone.

Hundreds turned out to watch, which was almost as dangerous as being the 'riding mechanic' in the passenger side (usually with no seat to sit on).

The cars and motorbikes represented all makes and models many of which were modified for competition by the owners or their mechanics.

One such sportscar was the self-modified Singer 10 of one Lionel Walker Birch Martin. He won at his first attempt on 4th April 1914.

Lionel was an entrepreneur running a small workshop in London's Kensington district with his business partner and engineer, Robert

Bamford. They were just working on a project of building and selling their own vehicle.

Knowing a great opportunity to sell when he saw one, Lionel combined his surname with that of the most challenging hillclimb in the Chilterns.

The company became Aston Martin, the luxury sportscar brand, loved and respected by motoring enthusiasts, international spies and persons of good taste throughout the world.



The Commemorative Cairn placed on Aston Hill by Aston Martin and the Aston Martin Heritage Trust is in the car park of Aston Hill Bike Park, about half-way up the 1914 Hillclimb course.

*Dominic Walker*



## A passion for puffins

*In the best forgotten year of 2020, holidays became something you looked back on or forward to – very little chance of actually having one for most of us. I have been lucky enough to do a great deal of travelling, so I found myself thinking about some of my favourite trips of recent years.*

No matter how keen a birder you are, your chance of seeing a puffin in Aston Clinton is pretty remote. What is it about these dumpy little seabirds that appeals to so many, even those who have no particular interest in birds? I remember Puffin books as a child: the children's imprint of Penguin Books, founded in 1940. That's probably why so many of us know what a puffin looks like.

My love of puffins has taken me to some wonderful places over the years: Iceland, the Faroes, the Farnes, Skomer, Orkney, Shetland and several other places where puffins are promised. Such is their appeal that many sites attempt to lure the keen birder with the promise of a sighting, but nowadays many of their former strongholds are deserted, or contain just a few pairs. They are not doing well. Their main food is sand eels, and they are having to fly further and further to find enough – for the Shetland birds, up to 200 miles in some cases. The sand eel population is thought to be affected by global warming, causing the eels to leave their usual areas and be replaced by less nutritious fish. Over-fishing is also taking its toll.

The puffin's Latin name, *Fratercula arctica*, translates as 'little brother of the north', a reference to the fact that they look a bit like dumpy friars. In Shetland they are known as Tammie Nories.

In 1982, whilst the Falklands War was in full swing, I was hanging off the edge of a cliff in Iceland trying to get a good puffin photograph. More recently I was doing the same thing

in Shetland. We drove our camper van right up to the tip of Unst, where we camped at the lighthouse – that night we were the most northerly people in the UK. We climbed the remote cliffs of Hermaness, covered with gannets and the occasional puffin, to look out over Muckle Flugga. The next land is the North Pole – unforgettable.



But back to the puffins. The best spot for them is at the opposite end of the Shetland Islands at the southernmost point at Sumburgh Head. To get to the lighthouse, built by Robert Louis Stevenson's grandfather, you drive across the airport, pausing to look both ways carefully as you cross the runway. Another quiet camping spot, and it was wonderful to get up at first light to watch the puffins busy at their burrows, or watch them as the summer dim falls – the nearest you get to darkness that far north in June. You need luck with puffins: they are communal birds, and when they decide on a fishing trip, they all go. This means you can visit an area overrun with puffins one day, and return the next to find it deserted. We camped there for three nights, and spent many hours just watching these amazing little birds. I got some lovely photographs, and those days are some of the happiest memories of recent years.

This year? Who knows? That kind of choice and freedom feels very much in the past, and I realise now how much we took it for granted. Let's hope for better times for the puffins and for us. *Alison Beck*



*"I've set my alarm for 07:59, there it goes, put the number in my phone. Sam, hit dial"*

*"This is White enterprises, we are experiencing a higher-than-normal volume of calls, your call is important to us. One of our representatives will be with you shortly, please continue to hold"*

*Aghhhhhhhhh! We have all experienced this.*

This is one of the reasons for introducing the NHS App, and many patients are already using it. The App, run by Sensley [www.sensley.com/asknhs/](http://www.sensley.com/asknhs/), can be downloaded to your i-phone or android device. You can also access it via the Westongrove website [www.westongrove.com](http://www.westongrove.com)

We ask that you use it if you are age 16 and over, and you have an acute symptom you are concerned about. A virtual nurse will then ask you a series of questions related to your problem. You may be given some self-care advice, or it will direct you to a pharmacy or a health care professional. The information obtained is put into your medical notes. Your details, including your answers, will be reviewed by a clinician and they will decide the best way to deal with your concerns. It may be a text message with advice, a telephone call by one of our clinical team, or you may be offered a routine appointment with the doctor or nurse who knows you and your condition better for ongoing issues. You will have a response from us within approx four hours.

You can also use the 'self-care' option from the menu. This allows you to get advice on specific medical problems, for example, 'Back pain'. The App will direct to the NHS website where you can obtain advice about how to manage your condition.

The App also allows you to self-refer to Healthy Minds, without needing to contact us at the practice.

Please use the App when you can, and if you need help with it, let us know. Give us feedback on how helpful you feel it is. The App is not designed to deal with ongoing problems or for under 16-year-olds.

*Remember, the App will not put you on hold.*

*Craig White, GP partner Westongrove*

## Silver Fizz

*Helen Lonsdale suggests this elegant classic cocktail, to put some fizz into our spring days.*



### Ingredients:

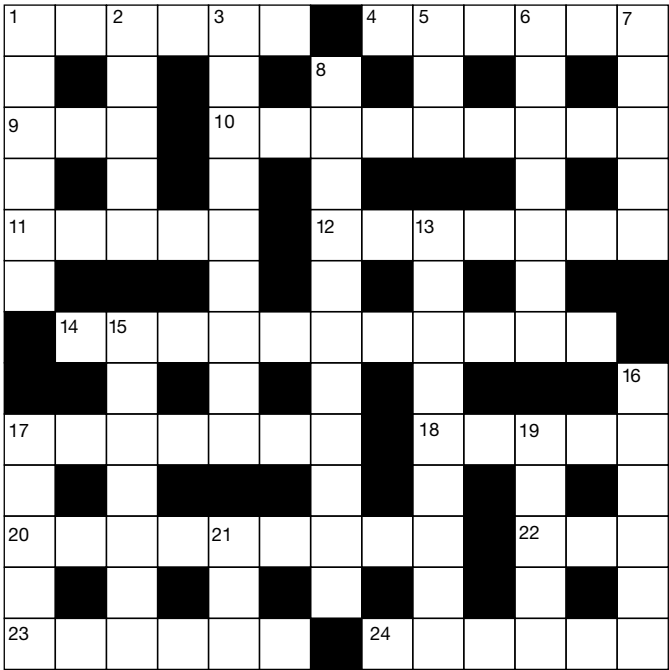
Juice of ½ lemon  
1 ½ teaspoons of caster sugar  
2 measures gin (50ml)  
1 egg white  
Soda water to top up

### Method:

Shake the ingredients well, strain into a tall tumbler and fill with soda water. Add a twist of lemon peel. For a Golden Fizz, replace the egg white with a yolk.

# Village Life crossword no.41

Crossword compiled by **Helen Lonsdale** (SOLUTION ON PAGE 26)

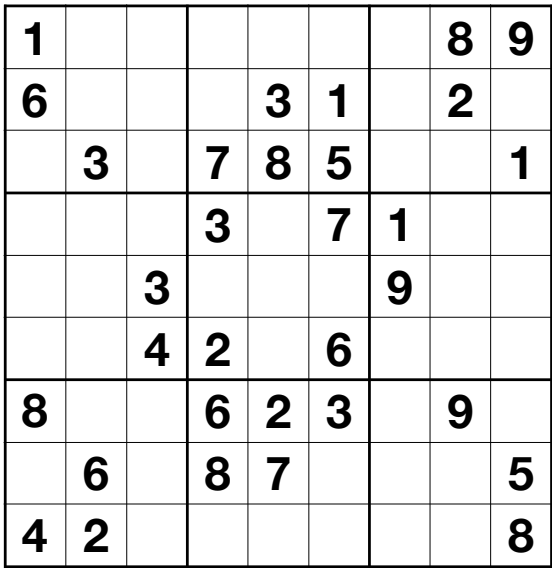


## CLUES ACROSS

- 1 The coldest season (6)
- 4 Foreigners (6)
- 9 Throw (3)
- 10 Relaxed (9)
- 11 Happening (5)
- 12 Angrily (7)
- 14 Board (11)
- 17 Down payment (7)
- 18 Soil (5)
- 20 Lady performers (9)
- 22 Noise (3)
- 23 Colour (6)
- 24 Not at sea (6)

## CLUES DOWN

- 1 Notecase (6)
- 2 Aristocratic (5)
- 3 Ballots (9)
- 5 Stump (3)
- 6 Apparent (7)
- 7 Squashy (5)
- 8 Defect of the eye (11)
- 13 Lectures (9)
- 15 Chief town (7)
- 16 Alter (6)
- 17 Journal (5)
- 19 Wireless (5)
- 21 Self-worth (3)



## Sudoku

All you have to do is fill in the squares so that each row, column and the nine small 3 x 3 squares contains the numbers 1-9.

(SOLUTION ON PAGE 27)

# Village People

*A series about people who are a part of the daily life of the villages.*

**Carole Paternoster** is a District Councillor.



**Q. How long have you been a councillor?**

A. I joined Aylesbury Vale District Council in 1999, but have been a parish councillor since 1978.

**Q. What are your responsibilities and what does the role involve?**

A. My responsibility is to represent the interests of all the residents of my ward in the unitary council. This means that I must be there to help them when required with issues such as planning, housing, environmental health, refuse collections, highways, transport, etc. I also need to know what is going on in the local community, by staying in

touch with parish councils, social media, etc. Until March 2020 I was cabinet member for strategic planning with AVDC, and this role included representing the interests of the Vale in discussions about housing development and major infrastructure projects with neighbouring and regional authorities.

**Q. How do you become a local councillor?**

A. As a parish councillor I was asked by a political party if I would stand as a candidate for them in the District Council elections. You can stand as an independent councillor if you wish and details are available on the Buckinghamshire

Council's website. The next elections are due to be held in May 2021.

**Q. What advice would you give to anyone wanting to become a parish councillor?**

A. It does take up much more of your time than anybody will admit! There are the inevitable meetings, but work within your ward, whether with individual residents or with groups, will also take up a lot of your time, and you must be available for them when they need you. It's definitely not a 9 to 5 job. You need to be approachable, willing to listen and help people overcome the issues that are troubling them. For this you will need to know



where you can find the necessary information or the right body to help them find a solution.

**Q. Do you live locally?**

A. Yes, I live in Buckland village.

**Q. How long have you lived in the area?**

A. I have lived in Buckland and Aston Clinton since I was 3 months old. I attended Aston Clinton School before moving on to secondary school in Berkhamsted.

**Q. Are you involved in any local groups or activities?**

A. Not as many as I wish. Council meeting timings are unpredictable and make this difficult. However, I already have a list of local groups I am hoping to join when I retire in May.

**Q. What are your hobbies, what do you do to relax?**

A. My main hobbies are gardening and family history. I have a fairly large garden which takes up a lot of time in Spring and Summer, but which was invaluable during the Covid lockdown. I have been researching my family

history for several years – it is addictive! I have managed to make contact with long lost cousins, which is very satisfying, as well as finding the occasional ‘black sheep’.

**Q. What’s your favourite music?**

A. When I am working, I like easy listening music – something to help me concentrate.

**Q. What’s your favourite film?**

A. My favourite film is Dunkirk, and I am currently reading the book of the film. My uncle was at Dunkirk and returned on one of the last boats to England. I have researched the part his unit played and found the film captured the despair and relief of those desperate days.

**Q. What was the first car you owned and what do you drive now?**

A. Our first car was a Hillman Minx – now I have a Corsa.

**Q. What changes to village life (good or bad) have you noticed in recent years?**

A. Aylesbury has been a growth area for many years and is destined to continue.

**You need to be approachable, willing to listen and help people.**

“

Aston Clinton has seen a lot of new development over the last few years and now needs a period of consolidation. We have welcomed many new residents to enrich our village community. This has meant more vehicles on local roads which have not been upgraded to cope with the additional traffic, although this may improve when the new link roads around Aylesbury are built and take away more through traffic.

*Interview **Andrew Andersz***

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*If there is anyone whose contribution to village life you believe should be featured in a forthcoming issue of Village Life, please send details to **Editor@acvillagelife.co.uk***

## All Saints' Buckland

### Regular Services:

8am Holy Communion, every Sunday

10am Midweek Communion every Wednesday



### EASTER SERVICE

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Sun 4 April	8am	HOLY COMMUNION FOR EASTER	All Saints'
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For more information on these services and events, please go to our Facebook Page – Aston Clinton Benefice with Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp or [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) and search for All Saints, or our new website [www.ac-buck-db-churches.org](http://www.ac-buck-db-churches.org)

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## New rainwater goods at All Saints – at 2.5% of cost!

*The gutters and downpipes at All Saints' Church, Buckland had long been inadequate for the task. Many of them were made of plastic, or were too small, or both, and those that were iron were generally severely rusted.*



They had contributed to numerous damp problems in recent years, and an inspection had highlighted the need for them to be replaced urgently.

In December, All Saints received a generous grant from the National Churches Trust (NCT) for half the net cost of upgrading the rainwater goods to cast iron; and on the back of this, an appeal was launched for sponsorship of individual items such as gutters and downpipes to cover the balance of £4,820.

The response was exceptional, and by mid-January, 51 items had been sponsored, raising £4,514. Remarkably, the NCT grant, sponsorship and VAT reclaim together reduced the total cost of the project from £11,568 to £306. All Saints' PCC would like to say a big thank you to all those who have donated so generously.

The excellent new cast iron, high-capacity gutters, hoppers, downpipes, swan necks and shoes were fitted by N. R. Green Builders of Aston Clinton, and the photo shows Russell Green, Liam Hickey and Ian Green fitting the last downpipes just before Christmas.

*Peter Elwin*

## Green travel in Aylesbury

*Free to access and use, the new Aylesbury Travel app lets people find the best way to walk, cycle or wheel around Aylesbury.*

There are many benefits to walking and cycling including keeping active, improving health and general wellbeing whilst also reducing the environmental impact of travel.

The aim is to make Aylesbury accessible for everyone and the app also indicates which routes are suitable for those with impaired mobility or using wheelchairs.

Just visit [aylesburygardentown.co.uk](http://aylesburygardentown.co.uk) and locate the app on the home page. The app provides a series of maps showing the Gemstone cycling network, rights of way, national cycling routes, canal tow paths, points of interest and the Town Council's Heritage Trail together with places to eat and drink. Chairman of Aylesbury Garden Town Board, Cllr. Steve Bowles said:

*"The Aylesbury travel app will provide a 'one stop shop' so that people can see all the sustainable options for getting around Aylesbury at a glance. All you have to do is open the app and decide whether you want to walk or wheel and then see what routes are available."*

*"Choosing to travel in an environmentally friendly way has so many benefits. It will save us money, improve our physical and mental wellbeing, improve air quality by lowering carbon emissions."*

The Aylesbury Garden Town Masterplan sets an ambitious target that by 2050, 50% of all trips to work and school originating in Aylesbury will be made by sustainable transport.

## Spring has arrived at Lindengate

*At Lindengate, we have been busy planting wildflowers, kitchen garden vegetable seeds, digging the beds and enjoying the return of our resident ducks to our five acre therapeutic gardens and wildlife haven. Come and see for yourself, taking in the sights and sounds of Spring, sitting in one of our many sheltered areas and take a moment for yourself.*



Our opening hours are changing giving you the opportunity to enjoy the longer evenings. From 7 April we will be open Mondays and Wednesdays 4.30 to 6.30 and Saturdays 1.30 to 4.30. If you are bringing children, why not take part in our nature trail, connecting with nature and the Five Ways to Wellbeing: *Be Active, Give to others, Take Notice, Keep Learning, Connect with Nature.*



*Take a look at our website for full details and other ways that you can look after your wellbeing. [www.lindengate.org.uk](http://www.lindengate.org.uk) or if you are unable to visit have a look at [Lindengate@Home](mailto:Lindengate@Home) for activities that can be enjoyed at home, to maintain health and wellbeing.*

## Cobblers' Pits

*Among the hidden gems of our local countryside are the Cobblers' Pits. Although many people will know the location, they may not know what the area is called.*



It is an area of mixed woodland on an old chalk pit and runs up a slope from the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal to join the Icknield Way, not far from the Aston Clinton Ragpits. Formerly part of the old Rothschild Green Park estate it has been managed by the Chiltern Society for many years.

There is speculation about the path running through the woods but it may have been a link track between the ancient Upper and Lower Icknield roads. One story about the name is that during the Civil War Cromwell's troops had a camp there where their boots were made and repaired.

To find the pits, join the towpath of the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal at the bridge in Stablebridge Road and walk about 500 metres towards Wendover. The entrance is via a kissing gate on your left. The path runs up steep and often muddy paths through mixed woodland with plenty of interesting yew trees.

For an area of its size there is a surprising diversity of flora and fauna.

## Traffic regulations in Buckinghamshire



*A new, single point of contact has been introduced for residents regarding legal orders that control traffic and roads throughout Buckinghamshire.*

There is a legal order, known as a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), behind every speed limit, double yellow line, council owned car park, parking bay, one way system and anything else that controls traffic or pedestrians. Over the last year, all the legal orders have been merged into one system, which can be found at [www.buckinghamshiretraffweb.uk](http://www.buckinghamshiretraffweb.uk) and is now one single point of contact.

As well as being able to view the legal orders in one place, you will also be able to view any proposed changes to the parking controls, speed limits, weight limits and other regulations, which will also be displayed. It is also possible to use the website to comment on any proposed changes.

**Chiltern Society**

### *Join our team of volunteers!*

*Thinking about something new to do this year?*

The Chiltern Society urgently needs to fill volunteer vacancies for planning field officers, fundraising and an area secretary and hope you can help them.

Volunteers play a vital role in helping us to protect the Chilterns... and it's a great opportunity to give your wellbeing a boost. All roles can be tailored to fit your skills and availability.

*For more information call 01494 490667*

## Wendover Arm Trust

*During December 2020 volunteers from the Wendover Arm Trust planted 420 saplings in the area behind the completed winding hole. The saplings were kindly provided by the Woodland Trust and comprised a wide variety with Goat Willow, Crab Apple, Hawthorn, Hazel and Downy Birch.*



This follows a previous planting of 130 trees near the former pumping station at Whitehouses. They have been registered with the 'Plant Britain' crusade which was started by BBC 'Countryfile' in December 2020.

The Trust has now cleared and re-lined the canal to Bridge 4 and re-watering of this section is planned for the Spring. This will add a further 246 metres to the 960 metres already in water from Drayton Beauchamp. A further 852 metres needs completing to join up with Phase 1 which is fully navigable from the junction with the Grand Union canal.

Considerable costs will be incurred to complete this section and the Trust is seeking funds from various potential avenues.

In February the Inland Waterways Association, Chiltern Branch, in conjunction with the Wendover Arm Trust, held a webinar on the "History and Restoration of the Wendover Canal". There were 223 attendees from all over the country listening to an illustrated

talk by Clive Johnson with a question and answer session afterwards.

*Nigel Williams, Publicity Director,  
Wendover Arm Trust*



## How does your garden grow?

*Would you like to be part of a fantastic new floral fundraising initiative for Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity?*

Being confined to our homes for much of the last year, we know that lots of you have turned to your gardens as a lockdown project or haven of peace and safety away from Covid-19. With restrictions relaxing would you be willing to share and show off your hard work and help raise funds for the Hospice in our season of Open Gardens?

We are looking for individuals, streets and communities to open their gardens for a day or two between May and August this summer. So, whether your garden is small or large, urban or rural, traditional or modern, please get in touch to find out more at [fundraising@fnhospice.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@fnhospice.org.uk) or call *Claire* on 01296 429975.

We will support you to ensure that all Open Gardens are Covid-19 secure and comply with any government restrictions in place at the time. *Many thanks.*

*Bonnie Doe, Marketing & Communications  
Manager, Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity*



# Horticultural Society

*This is our first article this year so we wish everybody a Happy New Year and that whether you grow vegetables or flowers you will be successful. Covid restrictions have made it difficult to plan a programme for 2021, however now there is a government roadmap for lifting restrictions, we do have plans for the coming months.*

We have Zoom talks arranged for April, May, and June but you have to be a member to watch them. This year membership is free so please email [info@astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk](mailto:info@astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk) if you would like to join.

**Wed 14 April, 8pm**, "*The Garden, forage & bees*", Pam Hunter, Master Beekeeper; **Wed 12 May, 8pm**, "*Two leaves and a bud*", Dananjaya; and **Wed 9 June, 8pm**, "*Horatio's Garden, Spinal Injuries Unit, Stoke Mandeville Hospital*", Amy Moffett, Head Gardener.

Unfortunately, we are not able to hold the Spring Show this year, so will be donating daffodils to the three churches for Easter displays.

Many people look forward to our plant sales at the Spring Show in April and the village market in May. This year our charity plant sale will be held on **Saturday 17 April** outside the Partridge Arms commencing at 10am. A Late Spring Showcase & Plant Sale on **22 May** is under consideration.

Details of our events are on our website and Facebook page.

## CROSSWORD No.41 SOLUTION

**Down**  
 1. Waller 2. Noble 3. Elections 5. Log 6. Evident  
 7. Soggy 8. Astigmatism 13. Addresses 15. Capital  
 16. Change 17. Diary 19. Radio 21. Ego

**Across**  
 1. Winter 4. Aliens 9. Lob 10. Easygoing 11. Event  
 12. Irately 14. Accommodate 17. Deposit 18. Earth  
 20. Addresses 22. Din 23. Yellow 24. Ashore



Our website also holds a monthly advice and guidance page and jobs in the garden that need attention. Amongst these is guidance on the Leek fly which has devastated several people's leeks, as shown in the picture.

## New Elm Trees – Ulmus New Horizon

*When we collected our five new trees in November we found that they had been grown in containers. I was truly thankful because the wet weather in the autumn meant we had to delay planting.*

These have recently been planted in the park and are looking good. Now the species has been reintroduced to the village they will provide a haven for wildlife. Three of the trees replaced oaks that the parish council had planted but had subsequently died.

My thanks to those who have sponsored the purchase of the trees and their support stakes. Thanks also to those who offered to help plant them, but it was decided to employ a contractor and not put volunteers at risk. We will still need volunteers to keep an eye on the new trees and the others that the Society has planted.

*Ralph Weston*

## Aston Clinton's First Pub?

*In a famous Monty Python sketch, a group of Britons asked "What have the Romans ever done for us?" After much moaning they reluctantly admitted that the Romans actually had brought many benefits. What has this to do with the first pub in Aston Clinton you may ask?*

Aston Clinton has an important Roman Road, Akeman Street, running through its centre. It is known that the Romans built tabernae alongside Roman roads to serve soldiers who were travelling along them. Tabernae sold wine, but the local population preferred ale, so they soon adapted to serve that too.

The Romans used vine leaves outside tabernae as a trading sign to tell passers-by that wine was available, therefore creating the first pub sign. They changed to hanging bushes in Britain as vine leaves were in short supply and 'tabernae' gradually changed to become 'taverns'.

Archaeological excavations on the site of the new housing estate on Stablebridge Road found evidence of an Iron Age-Romano-British settlement and a 'substantial trackway' which appeared Roman because it was straight. When viewed on maps it appears to align with the course of the Lower Icknield Way and so may have origins in the Iron Age or earlier.

Roman historian and archaeologist Paddy Lambert says settlements in Britain occurred at crossing points on Roman roads. Although Aston Clinton had some settlement before the Romans, it is probable that it expanded because the ancient Icknield Way and Roman Akeman Street crossed here.

It is therefore not fanciful to imagine Roman legions marching through Aston Clinton perhaps on their way from Londinium to

Cirencester, where there was a Roman fort, stopping for refreshment at a taberna in Aston Clinton.

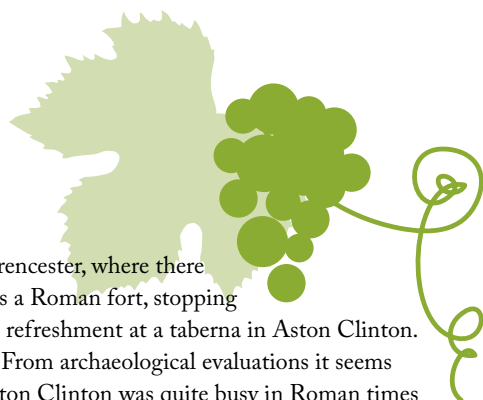
From archaeological evaluations it seems Aston Clinton was quite busy in Roman times with soldiers marching up and down, travellers on the Icknield Way and drovers driving their cattle across Akeman Street, creating quite an opportunity for trade. Evidence of a long-lived settlement that lasted into early Saxon times, was found at the site where the A41 bypass crosses the Lower Icknield Way.

There was also evidence of a settlement near College Road North where there was a short-lived attempt at cultivation in the early Roman Period.

As I walk around the village I like to think about its history and the people that came before me. The historic crossroads in Aston Clinton might not have been the most important along a Roman road, but I like to think that it was probably significant enough to warrant a taberna or 'pub' as it has now evolved to become. *Rosemarie Storr*

### SUDOKU SOLUTION

1	7	5	4	6	2	3	8	9
6	4	8	9	3	1	5	2	7
9	3	2	7	8	5	4	6	1
5	8	6	3	9	7	1	4	2
2	1	3	5	4	8	9	7	6
7	9	4	2	1	6	8	5	3
8	5	1	6	2	3	7	9	4
3	6	9	8	7	4	2	1	5
4	2	7	1	5	9	6	3	8



## St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp

St Mary's is in the process of becoming a 'Festival Church' this means that St Mary's will be able to serve you, not only as a place of worship but also as a community centre, being used respectfully and creatively by the community of Drayton Beauchamp.

*If you have ideas or would like to get involved, please contact Rev Alison on 07702 268157 or email [Benefice3@gmail.com](mailto:Benefice3@gmail.com)*



### FORTHCOMING CHURCH SERVICES

Sun 4 April	11am	EASTER DAY SERVICE	St Mary the Virgin
Sun 9 May	11am	Rogation – Pet Service	St Mary the Virgin

For more information on these services and events, please go to our Facebook Page – Aston Clinton Benefice with Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp or [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) and search for St Mary's, or our new website [www.ac-buck-db-churches.org](http://www.ac-buck-db-churches.org)



### Local names – far and wide

*Signs for Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp are a familiar sight locally, but it can come as something of a surprise when these names, or parts of these names, are seen in other parts of the country.*

It was while on a scenic drive down to Cornwall for a holiday last year that these familiar names were spotted. A sign for Aston appeared in Oxfordshire, for Buckland in Gloucestershire and for Drayton in Somerset. None were spotted in Cornwall.

Further research has found that there are approximately 101 towns and/or villages throughout 23 counties in England whose name includes the words Aston, Beauchamp, Buckland, Clinton or Drayton. These stretch from South Yorkshire in the

North to Dorset in the South, Norfolk in the East to Devon in the West. Aston is the most popular with 53 examples, followed by Drayton on 21, Buckland on 19, Beauchamp on 6 and just two Clintons.

I use the word 'approximately' because the research was a close scrutiny of the 29-page index of a 2.5 mile to one-inch scale map of Great Britain & Northern Ireland. This index contains more than 28,000 place names, so I may have missed one or two.

The names of our three villages have their origins in Old English and with one from pre-Brexit French. Aston is 'east town' or 'ash tree settlement'; Clinton can be a place name meaning 'settlement on the River Glyme', although our one is named after the de Clinton family; Buckland is land held by right of a written charter; Drayton is from dragan 'to draw or drag' + tun 'enclosure' while Beauchamp is borrowed from the French beau 'handsome, fine, attractive' + champ 'field'. As with most things found on the internet these days, other meanings are available!

*Andrew Andersz*

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### BUILDING SERVICES

BH Property Services	45
C D Lane Contractors	63
Cesare & Co	64
Dom Walker	34
GP Renovate	55
Hands-on-Handyman	33
K-Lin Woodwork	47
Laxton Properties	52
M D Marriott decorators	56
N R Green	58
P Greville	36
Smashing Windows	33
Telnik Roofing	38

### BUSINESS SERVICES

Actopia IT support	61
Netquest Consulting	38
Problems with my PC	39
Virtual PA services	54
Wendover Computers	48

### CARE & CARE HOMES

Age UK	59
Oxford Aunts	45
Right at Home	41
Your Own Home Care	57

### CARS & MOTORING

Roy Chapman	40
Tyre Changers	41
Wendover Autobodies	43

### CHILDCARE

Barnowls Nursery etc	57
PACE Charity	46

### ELECTRICAL

E Sharp (Electrical) Ltd	37
MJ Electrical	58

### GARDENS

Arbocare	36
Gatemakers	48
Greg O'Callaghan	56
JT Bucks Landscapes	41
Merryweather Mowers	56
Passiflora	39
R B Treecare	35
R D Leonard	56
Town & Country	57

### HOUSE & HOME

A Brighter Home Carpets	42
A Brighter Home Ovens	34
Albany Carpets	39
Alpine Painter	58
Bailey's Bedrooms	43
Elizabeth Anne Blinds	46
Galaxy Aerials	32
Johnson Sewing Machines	56
Mike & Kym	56
Stitch & Mend	56
Super Happy Windows	37
Super Happy Gutters	37
Warren ovens & carpets	54

### HEALTH & FITNESS

A C Dental Clinic	53
Aston Park Tennis Club	38
Bucks Vision	49
Helen Mulhall	56
JoAnn Latus Sch of Dance	51
Jazzercise	50
More Joy Now	37
Perry House, Dental	49
Tai Chi	59
Tring Yoga Studio	35
Tropic Skin Care	42
Wendy Hilliard	50

### HAIRCARE

La Vita	47
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### HOTELS/RESTAURANTS/PUBS

Haldi Restaurant	60
The Oak village pub	2
West Lodge Hotel	35

### LEISURE & TRAVEL

Adams Travel	59
Chiltern Archery	44
Travel Impressions	54

### PETS

The Dog Mumma	32
The Dogs Yard	62
Wendover Heights	
Veterinary Centre	44

### PLUMBING & HEATING

A C Plumbing & Heating	55
Jenkins Heating	34

### RETAIL

P E Mead Farm Shop	50
Puddingstone Distillery	52
Tring Brewery	32

### SPECIALIST SERVICES

Absolutely Polished	56
Aston Wine Club	61
F R Jeffery coal	36
Heritage & Sons	62
Impact Sign Solutions	62
Martin Holman's Pest Control	46
Simply Precious Cakes	56
Sophy Winfield Counselling	49
Tring Market Auctions	36

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Aston Clinton Dental Clinic	01296 323090	<a href="http://www.astonclintondentalclinic.co.uk">www.astonclintondentalclinic.co.uk</a>
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Stoke Mandeville Hospital	01296 315000	<a href="http://www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk">www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk</a>
Wycombe Hospital	01494 526161	<a href="http://www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk">www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk</a>
NHS Direct	111	<a href="http://111.nhs.uk">111.nhs.uk</a>
Samaritans	116123	<a href="mailto:jo@samaritans.org">jo@samaritans.org</a>

### ENERGY SUPPLIERS

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Gas Emergency	0800 111 999	
Water Emergency	0800 3169 800	

### CRIME

Police Emergency	999	
Police non-emergency and Neighbourhood watch	101	<a href="http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk">www.thamesvalley.police.uk</a>
Childline	0800 111	

## Organisations *Any error or omission in this list should be notified to the Editor.*

### EDUCATION

Aston Clinton School	01296 630276	<a href="http://www.astonclintonschool.co.uk">www.astonclintonschool.co.uk</a>
Aston Clinton Pre School	07928 309321	<a href="mailto:pre-school.acpsmanagement@gmail.com">pre-school.acpsmanagement@gmail.com</a>
Totspot (AC Baptist Church)	01296 631824	<a href="http://www.astonclintonbaptist.org">www.astonclintonbaptist.org</a>

### SPORT AND LEISURE

Aston Clinton Badminton Club	07958 479690	
Aston Clinton Bowls Club	01296 630403	<a href="http://www.astonclintonbowlsclub.org">www.astonclintonbowlsclub.org</a>
Aston Clinton Colts Junior F.C.	07786 908219	<a href="mailto:coltsclubsecretary@outlook.com">coltsclubsecretary@outlook.com</a>
Aston Clinton F.C.	07930 925840	<a href="http://www.astonclintonfc.co.uk">www.astonclintonfc.co.uk</a>
Aston Park Tennis Club	01296 630826	<a href="http://www.astonparktennis.co.uk">www.astonparktennis.co.uk</a>
Aston Wine Club	01296 630531	<a href="http://www.astonwineclub.co.uk">www.astonwineclub.co.uk</a>
Aylesbury Green Park Sub Aqua Club	07092 075004	<a href="http://www.aylesburydivers.org.uk">www.aylesburydivers.org.uk</a>
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St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp	01296 632488	<a href="http://www.s-marys.org.uk">www.s-marys.org.uk</a>
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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aston Clinton Parish Council	01296 631269	<a href="http://www.astonclinton.org.uk">www.astonclinton.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:parishcouncil@astonclinton.org.uk">parishcouncil@astonclinton.org.uk</a>
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Highways	01296 486630	<a href="http://www.buckscc.go.uk">www.buckscc.go.uk</a>
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Royal British Legion	01296 632039	
SSAFA Forces Help	01296 631030	
Churchill Lunch Club	07921 172642	
Turpins Charity	01296 630162	<a href="http://www.turpinscharity.org.uk">www.turpinscharity.org.uk</a>
Wendover Heights Veterinary Centre	01296 623439	<a href="http://www.whvc.co.uk">www.whvc.co.uk</a>
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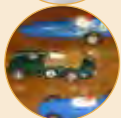
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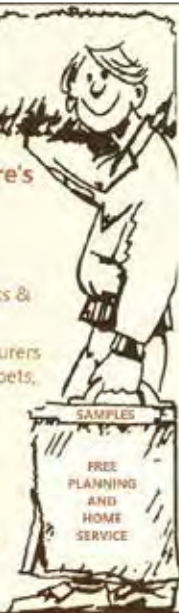
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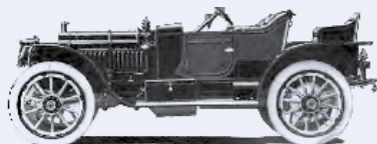


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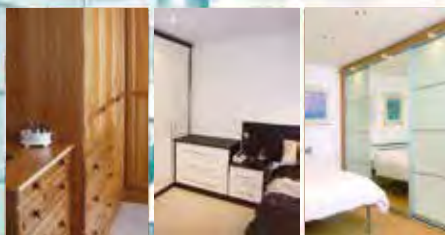
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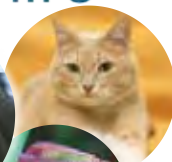
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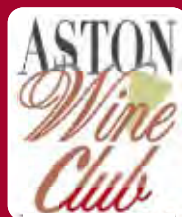
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