

Village Life

The community magazine
for Aston Clinton, Buckland
and Drayton Beauchamp

No.63 April/May 2022





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concept Victoria Dicken

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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

I hope you like our front cover which was suggested by our designer, Victoria Dicken, a seasonal scene but chosen also to show support for Ukraine.

Spring is always a time for optimism and despite the pandemic and the current desperate problems in Ukraine, we have much to look forward to locally.

As you read through this issue you will see that regular features in our calendar are getting back to how they were before Covid, like walks along the canal and sporting events, plus several events commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, with plenty of tree planting.

For those of you with an interest in the Arts, the Bucks Museum is re-opening and there are exhibitions to see at St Michael's and elsewhere.

Here at Village Life we are always interested in adding fresh ideas to the magazine, so if you would like to volunteer to join our small team please contact me so we can have a chat. My email and phone number are at the top of this page.

Triskaidekaphobia is the fear of the number 13, and for the superstitious it gets even worse when a Friday falls on the 13th of the month. This year the only time this will happen is in May. The origins of the superstition are not entirely clear although many think it is because of the 13 people at the Last Supper and that Jesus was crucified on Good Friday. However, there are also stories that link 13 with Norse legends.

In more modern times many people are reluctant to make expensive purchases, move house or travel on Friday 13th and some of the new roads recently built in Aston Clinton do not have a house number 13.

I have a personal connection with the date as my wife and I married on 13 May (*Happy anniversary, Pam*) and we moved to Aston Clinton on Friday 13 May, although obviously not the same year. So, as I am not superstitious, I am not expecting any major problems that day. Touch wood. *Happy Easter and enjoy the Spring.*

Richard Vincent



Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent,

nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. John 1:12-13

There was a time when a Christian would say "DV" at the end of a statement about the future –

"We plan to travel this weekend to collect mum, DV"; "The wedding will be solemnized on 13th April at St Michaels, DV"; "Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Methodist. Come hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa. DV"

– Sorry couldn't resist the last one!

DV – Deo Volente "God willing", has rather fallen out of fashion.

We make our plans – and expect them to occur. We are in control... until we aren't and life spins unexpectedly out of control. A lump appears. The boss calls you in. A loved one is lost. An ordinary day becomes a memorable date.

We don't *DV* anymore – perhaps we should. It serves to remind us of our fragility; that our plans will not necessarily come about.

We would be unwise to live as if life will always be well. We would equally be unwise to live as if nothing ever would be well.

To live *DV* is to acknowledge life is bigger than I am, and God is bigger than life. To live within the will of God is surely a more certain and accepting place to be, because God's will comes about. And his will is for your wellbeing. "*God willing*" does not mean God wills the pain

and suffering you experience. Life is more complex than that.

It does not mean God wills a particular punishment for you to endure for some sin committed years ago.

These are fatalistic and Karmic views of life, not Christian ones.

God wills wonderful things for each of us. Supreme in his providential care is that we be given the right to become children of God. The right to become is an extraordinary gift, to become more than we are, to become more than we can imagine, to change, to develop, to grow regardless of physical restrictions and circumstances is a wonderful entitlement.

Such is the future laid out for people of Christian faith. Such a future can and will suffer frustrations and deviations from the divine intention. This is a fallen world, but they will ultimately be achieved because *DV* is our reality.

Revd Nick Harris

Minister, Aston Clinton Baptist Chapel

Church news

St Michael's 100 Club

This fundraising 100 Club gives you a chance for a little flutter as well as raising much needed monies for the church.

It is a monthly draw where you could win 50% of that month's takings – St Michael's church gets the rest. If you would like to take part in this fundraiser, please contact [Natalie](mailto:Natalie@Benefice3@gmail.com) at the Benefice Office on either **01296 632488** or Benefice3@gmail.com

Aylesbury Foodbank

St Michael's and All Saints' are collection points for Aylesbury Foodbank. If you can support these families in need by purchasing

St Michael and All Angels

Regular Services:

9.15am Family Eucharist every Sunday

6pm Evensong every Sunday.



EVENTS

Mon	2 – 4.30pm	Rhubarb Cafe (Closed Bank Holidays)	St Michael's Church
Wed	2pm – 4pm	Communi-tea Friends Group (FREE SESSION)	St Michael's Church
2nd Sat*	9 – 12pm	Repair Café (*2nd Saturday of the month)	St Michael's Church
9/10 July	11am-5pm	Flower festival More details from <i>Marion Richardson, 01296 630577</i>	

For more information on these and other services and events, please look at: Facebook: Aston Clinton Benefice with Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp www.achurchnearyou.com and search for St Michael's, Aston Clinton or www.ac-buck-db-churches.org

additional items in your shopping each week, it would be greatly appreciated. Please check Pews News, the Benefice Facebook page, or Aylesbury Foodbank to see what items are needed and you can drop them at either St Michael's or All Saints'.

Craft Fayre

St Michael's will be hosting a Craft Fayre on Saturday 23 April 11am to 3pm. Entry is free and the fayre will have lots of local stall holders selling their wares. There will be refreshments, homemade cake and a church stall raising funds for St Michael's Open House Project.

If you are interested in having a stall please email Benefice3@gmail.com

Bucks Art Week

As last year, St Michael's will be taking part in this popular Art exhibition. There will be eight local artists in residence within St Michael's church from Tuesday 21 to Sunday 26 June.

Please look at our Facebook page, website or posters for more information on times.

Jubilee Celebrations

4th June:

All Saints' and Buckland Community, Time TBC

5th June:

4pm St Mary's Civic Jubilee Service

5pm St Michael's Civic Jubilee Service.

Cake & prosecco to follow.

Easter services across the benefice.

14th April: Maundy Thursday

7.30pm *Eucharist for Maundy Thursday*

St Michael's

15th April: Good Friday

10am – Noon *Walking with Jesus*, **All Saints'**

2pm – 3pm *Stations of the Cross* **St Michael's**

17th April: Easter Day

8am Easter Fire Holy Communion **All Saints'**

9.15am Easter Fire Family Eucharist **St Michael's**

11am Easter Fire Holy Communion **St Mary's**

6pm Evensong **St Michael's**



Aston Clinton School

Head Teacher.: Mrs Carol Macdonald



Knowledge is a seed that grows when you read

We are a reading school! We are passionate about growing our children into fluent, confident readers.

Reading is given high priority at Aston Clinton; no other skill is more important than reading. It is the gateway to all other knowledge. If children do not learn to read efficiently, the path is blocked to every subject they encounter in their school years.



They learn to read and then read to learn.

Our aim is to ensure that pupils develop a love of reading so that they can read for purpose and for pleasure. Moreover, reading for pleasure, often and with enthusiasm, lays the foundations for life; you interact, react, empathise and understand the tools to express

yourself and interpret life. Can you remember the first book that truly 'hooked' you?

It was World Book Day on Friday 4 March and we used that as a focus to encourage the children's love of reading and reading for pleasure. The children were encouraged to come to school dressed in their pyjamas or their cosiest clothes ready to read a story.

The reason for this was to link to the routines they may have when reading at home. Furthermore, during the following week, we arranged for a drama company to come into school to bring the story chosen to life for the children in drama and dance workshops.

*Mrs Carol Macdonald,
Headteacher*





Please take a moment to read this...

Hi, my name is Emma, I am from Aston Clinton and volunteer for The Hygiene Bank.

Before I explain my plea, I (*on behalf of The Hygiene Bank*) thank you sincerely for your continued, kindly donations of hygiene products for those local to us. Your generosity truly overwhelms me every time I am out collecting. So thank you very much indeed.

One location I deliver to is a local Womens' Aid (a non- profit organisation), which cares for women and children who have suffered domestic abuse. These women and children have refuge there and are looked after by a dedicated team of kind-hearted ladies, until they are ready to be rehomed.

On my last delivery I asked the ladies who work there 'Apart from the wonderful donations of hygiene products, is there anything else that you are desperate for?' '*Bed linen*' was their immediate response. One of the ladies explained that for the unlimited time that women and children are there, bed linen needs to be replaced on a regular basis. It becomes damaged, soiled and worn. Their request is for bed linen (sheets, pillow cases, pillows etc). 'Anything at all' they said would be extremely useful. I said I would do whatever I could to try and help.

My appeal to you is for fresh, clean bed linen for these women and their children.. They have suffered, often for long periods, but now have

a secure haven to rest and recover. Perhaps you may have a spare pillow case, or duvet cover, in good condition, but you no longer use it? A basic necessity, which will be gratefully received and very much appreciated.

If you able to contribute any item of single bed linen (in good condition), please contact me and I will be more than happy to collect.

Thank you so very much for reading this and I hope to hear from you. Please text, or call *Emma, on 07719 854562.*

Become a Community Champion for Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity



Could you be a local representative for our Charity in Aston Clinton?

We are seeking a team to be our eyes and ears, and feet on the ground, in your community, letting us know of any new fundraising opportunities, collecting contribution tubs, putting up posters and just generally making as many people as possible aware of the work Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity does. The volunteers will be key in helping the Charity raise much needed funds to run the Florence Nightingale Hospice Services.

If you have a friendly and professional manner, are happy on the telephone, have your own transport and you think this sounds like something you'd enjoy doing, please get in touch via volunteering@fnhospice.org.uk or call our Volunteering Team on **01296 429975**. Or to find out more visit our website www.fnhospice.org.uk/work-for-us/



New Scout Hall – Ollie's Hall Update



Firstly, a very big thank you to the villages and people of Buckinghamshire for all your support with our February campaign asking for our project to be heard at a proper Council committee meeting. Our petition to Buckinghamshire Council received over 2,500 signatures making it the largest ever received, we believe.

As a result of the petition the project was referred to the Wendover & Villages Community Board for consideration on 28th February. The Board was unanimous in its support for the project to go ahead which is fantastic news for the Scouts and for Ollie's Hall.

We very much hope that matters can soon be agreed with the Council's property department and work can then begin in earnest to start fundraising and to progress the detailed design for the hall.

We will keep you posted on progress!

Christmas Tree Recycling

After counting all the funds received we are delighted to announce that our amazing village has raised £2,473 this year! This will be split equally between Florence Nightingale Hospice and Hector's House. Well done to all the leaders, parents and Scouts who took part and of course to Greg O'Callaghan, without whom we couldn't run this service.

1st Aston Clinton Scouts

Time to get the pads on

2022 is shaping up to be an exciting year for Buckland and Aston Clinton Cricket Club. There is lots going on and hopefully plenty of good cricket to be played and watched.

We managed to escape with minimal damage from the February storms (the badger

population continue to pose a bigger problem for us!) and have plans in place to continue the improvements we have made to our ground and facilities in recent years. The new scoreboard should be ready for the start of the season and our next area of focus is to tidy up and upgrade some of the outside areas by the clubhouse. This will tie in nicely with an expected increase in social events, with these having understandably been scaled right back in the last couple of seasons. A Race Night and more frequent BBQs are among our immediate plans.



Our Saturday 1st team were promoted at the end of 2021 back to Division 2 of the Four Counties Cricket League and our 2nd XI will be looking to challenge again towards the top of Division 5. The Senior midweek team will be aiming to make it to the Village T20 Finals Day once more as well as trying to defend both the Coronation Cup and Great Central Cup titles.

We have Colts teams entered into Under-11, Under-15 and Under-17 leagues. Our squads for the older teams are thin so we would very much welcome any new players who would be interested in joining those groups. Last year we saw record numbers of young players at the club, with the increase in our younger age groups, and with a few more volunteers hoping to have finished their coaching courses by the start of the season we should be well placed to build on this in the 2022 season. *Phil*

Bucks Council Mental Health

Some of us find it hard to talk about how we're feeling. The pandemic has affected all of us in different ways and, for many, it has been a difficult time.

Mental health issues can affect any of us at any point in our lives. This is why Buckinghamshire Council and our partners in the Suicide Prevention Group and our Champion the Change Hub are promoting good mental health for all.

If you have noticed a relative, friend or colleague isn't their normal self, please just check in with them. Ask if they're really OK and be prepared to #AskTwice if they just say 'I'm fine'.

If you need to speak to someone, the Bucks 24/7 Mental Health Helpline is a great place to start. Anyone concerned about their mental health or that of a loved one can ring 111 at any time, day or night, to speak to an NHS mental health professional. They are ready to listen and support adults and children who need advice urgently to ensure they get the right help at the right time.

If you have concerns that you or someone you know is about to act on suicidal thoughts call **111** or **999**, or go to the nearest Accident and Emergency Department, at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

To find out more about how *Champion the Change* is working to end mental health stigma, head to www.bucksmind.org.uk/champion-the-change. Further information and advice, including support for people bereaved by suicide, is on the Buckinghamshire Mind website.

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

acvillagelife.co.uk

The A C Colts annual football tournament is back!

On 2 and 3 July there will be two full days of football for age groups U6s up to and including the U16s. There will be a BBQ, stalls, inflatables and event photography.

Parking will be at Aston Clinton Park and Green Park and entry/programmes at both entrances.

Please expect the park to be very busy, but we would welcome the villagers to pop along and see us if they wish, grab a burger, a drink, browse the stalls etc.

The Club is growing all the time with most age groups having two teams and some with three. The U6 age group for year 1 children is especially popular!

The Girls Only group is thriving and approximately 20 girls attend training on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. They hope to join a league next season.

It is wonderful to see all the children & youth players back at the park training and playing matches once again.

After a long 2 years of lockdowns and Covid restrictions, they are just happy doing what they love, playing football, getting exercise in the fresh air, seeing their friends and having fun. Which is what it's all about.

This season we have seen a few new committee members taking over the reins of running the Club. Liam Hickey took over the role of Chairman, and Kev Keane and Jenifer Rhodus took over as Vice-Chairs (sharing the role between them)

Antonia Lloyd is the new Treasurer and Di Waller, in her 13th year with the Club, stays in her role as Club Secretary & CWO.

If you feel you have the commitment and dedication to become a volunteer with the Colts, then please email us at: committee@acolts.com (Note - you will only be able to take on a role at the club after a successful DBS check). *The Colts Committee.*

Aston Clinton Bowls Club



We're sure everyone was glued to the curling during the Winter Olympics. Curling requires very specialist facilities and you need to be physically capable of delivering your stone and energetic enough to sweep them up the sheet; with so few curling clubs in England, bowls is the next best thing, because there is a club near you!

Judging by the number of likes we are getting on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/Aston-Clinton-Bowls-Club-1587338421538006, there is a lot of interest in the sport.

The club will be holding an Open Afternoon for anyone interested in in a taster session on Monday 2 May— don't worry if you can't make this date, as we will also be offering other sessions as part of the Bowls England's Big Bowls Weekend on Monday 30 May from 2pm. All equipment is provided – all we ask is that you wear flat-soled shoes.

We now have three active club coaches, Ian Watson having qualified to teach beginners at

the end of last season. The club is fortunate to have been donated four new sets of coaching bowls, which will help those with smaller or arthritic hands. All are welcome to come along, both families and individuals. If these times are not convenient, we can arrange a session at any time - please contact our secretary [Brian Clark on 01844 351461](mailto:brianp.clark29@gmail.com) or by email brianp.clark29@gmail.com or drop in while we're playing.

Not only that, but the club has secured a grant from the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fund to purchase equipment to enable members, both existing and potential, to enjoy our sport for longer. These aids will help less mobile and disabled people to take part. Two of our coaches have undertaken special inclusion training, run by Disability Bowls England, to enable the club to offer bowls to a wider community. We already have ramp access throughout our facilities, a disabled toilet and a green-friendly wheelchair is available.

Bowls is one of the core sports in the Commonwealth Games taking place in July in Birmingham. It has been played at every Games since 1930, with the exception of Kingston in 1966, where no bowls facilities were available. The CWG schedule is fully integrated, with the para-sports taking place at the same time, which again is a first. The venue for the bowls is Victoria Park, Royal Leamington Spa, which is also the location for the National Championships in August/September.

Planning for the 2022 season is complete - fixtures have been confirmed and the club has been chosen to host a number of important matches. These include a Bucks County Ladies game versus Hertfordshire Ladies on 16th May and the Bucks County men v Bedfordshire Men on 28th June. You'd be very welcome to drop in anytime - *if you see us on the green as you walk past, why not pop in and watch?*

Can your company sponsor Aston Clinton Pre-school?

Aston Clinton Pre-school has been in the Anthony Hall for over 50 years. As a registered charity our mission is to provide high quality early years provision to prepare children for their onward educational journeys.

As for so many others, the last two years have had a devastating impact on our finances and as a not for profit organisation our reserves are running low. Our ordinary fundraising efforts have also been limited due to restrictions meaning we are having to reach out to our community.

We are currently in urgent need of two or three tablet devices with the ability to take good quality pictures. If there are any companies that would consider sponsoring the purchase of these tablets, we would happily share your details via our social media and website. If you feel this is something you could help with please email acpsmanagement@gmail.com.

Thank you in advance on behalf of the pre-school.



Aston Clinton u3a

Science & Technology meetings

Science and Technology group meetings are at 10am on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Recent events have included talks on Modern Ear Care and Water Treatments. Visits to the Military Intelligence Museum at RAF Chicksands, Bentley Priory & the Harrow Museum, and the Silverstone Museum of Engineering are planned. Each November the group has a 'Members Participation meeting' with several members giving 10 – 15-minute talks on a relevant topic of their choosing.

Following the successful use of Zoom during the pandemic, some meetings are hybrid with members either attending face to face or logging on electronically. Speakers may also attend in person or give a presentation over Zoom. Further details can be found on the 'Groups' page on the ACu3a website.

Book group 2

A small group of interested u3a members set up a second book group in 2019 and we have met almost every month since. During lockdown our meetings were on Zoom, in 'ordinary' times we meet at a local café. We have read a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books; each member of the group suggests a book for the list, which is usually agreed about six months in advance.



Books we have reviewed include *The Salt Path* by Raynor Winn, *Erebus* by Michael Palin, *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce, *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell, and *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. Following a presentation by a member of the Science and Technology group we decided to read *Let It Go* by Dame Stephanie Shirley, a book that most of us found fascinating and very inspiring.

Recently we have read *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig, an interesting book by an author who writes self-help books such as *The Comfort Book* and *Reasons to Stay Alive*.

We have also read *A Marriage of Inconvenience: The Persecution of Ruth and Seretse Khama*, by Michael Duffield. This book explores a mixed marriage between the chieftain-in-waiting of the Bamangwato tribe in the British Protectorate of Bechuanaland (modern day Botswana) and a typist from London. Set amid the rise of apartheid in South Africa in the 1950s it provides a detailed and insightful political discourse on the racial tensions and international negotiations underlying the British government's deliberations as to whether they should recognise Seretse Khama as chieftain. The book was made into a film in 2016 called *A United Kingdom* starring David Oyelowo and Rosamund Pike. It is an interesting read and is the fourth non-fiction book we have tackled.

One of the things we enjoy about the group is that it encourages us to read books outside our usual genre and sometimes outside our comfort zone. It also enables all group members to choose a book they think others will find interesting and possibly challenging. The u3a book groups are necessarily small to ensure everyone has an opportunity to speak on the book in question. A third book group has now been set up to accommodate several members who were interested in joining.

Please contact the Groups Coordinator through the 'Contact' page on the ACu3a website: u3asites.org.uk/aston-clinton/contact if you would like further information on this or any other activity group offered.

If you would like to join the Aston Clinton u3a please download a membership form from the website and send it to acu3amembership@gmail.com or send the Membership Secretary a message via the button on the 'Contact' page.

Diamond Wedding

I love a 'first' in my church ministry and this one was such an amazing privilege to take part in that I just had to share!



Photo by Barry Keen, a family friend.

On 27th November 2021 Heather and Philip Davies celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary with a 'Renewal of Vows' ceremony at St Michael & All Angels' church surrounded by their family and friends. They were married in that very same spot 60 years before on 25th November 1961 by Reverend Terry Lewis—what an achievement I'm sure you'd agree. Neither Philip nor Heather wanted a big fuss but how could we not rededicate those holy vows they exchanged all those years ago. It was a very emotional service throughout with family members paying tribute to the inspirational couple after I read 'their story' which included many family memories here

in Aston Clinton. Heather and Philip are very proud of all their family and have six granddaughters and great grandchildren.

Rev'd Sally.

A view from Westminster

As I write this in March, my thoughts are with the people of Ukraine as they face an outrageous attack on their sovereignty. Putin's invasion appals every one of us, and I know that we all stand with Ukraine at this extremely difficult time.

Since my last contribution to Aston Clinton Village Life, we have continued to make tremendous progress in curbing coronavirus. The success of the vaccination rollout has allowed us to move considerably closer towards normality. The Government's decision to lift all remaining legal restrictions is extremely welcome, and reflects the huge efforts of scientists, NHS staff and volunteers who have contributed to the vaccination programme. Our progress would not have been possible without the sacrifices made by local residents over an extremely difficult two years. We must now adapt to live with Covid, taking care of the most vulnerable, but also returning as far as possible to the freedoms we cherish.

In Westminster, I have continued to raise local people's concerns with individual ministers and on the floor of the House of Commons. As we progress on the roadmap back to normality, I will continue to support local people and businesses in our villages, hamlets and surrounding countryside, and make sure your concerns are heard in Parliament.

Rob Butler MP for Aylesbury

Please mention Village Life
when responding to our advertisers.

acvillagelife.co.uk

Aston Clinton Parish Council

The beginning of 2022 has been very busy, with all councillors and our clerk Samantha involved in a variety of projects in the village. We are excited to report that the restoration of the Molique fountain on London Road is progressing well, with a new top section currently being built under the watchful eye of Councillor Corrine Judge who has worked hard on this project.

In the office, our clerk has been working on filling the vacant Assistant Clerk position, with final interviews arranged. By the time you read this article, we hope to have our newest member of staff in place.



As the Spring days offer warmer weather and longer days, we appreciate the many bulbs that have been planted in the village and which now give us welcome bursts of colour.

In 2021 we were awarded a grant by Grantscape, from the Gib Lane Solar Fund, towards the extension of the security system/ CCTV which will extend towards the MUGA and skatepark and assist in the prevention of anti-social behaviour and vandalism.

On the events front, we are looking forward to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee event we have planned for Saturday 4 June 2022 in our

park (save the date!) - arrangements are well underway with lots of fun and games planned, details of which will be updated on both our website and Facebook pages, but which will include zorbs, a bouncy slide, side-stalls, Punch & Judy, tug-of-war competition, music from Ellesborough Silver Band, BBQ and food provided by Your Café in the Park, and lots more! We are delighted to have local charity Kirby's Herd as our charity partner for this event. In addition, a tree to contribute to the Queen's Green Canopy has already been planted in the park.

If you wish to find out more about the workings of our busy parish council, why not come along to one of our monthly meetings which are normally held on the third Wednesday of the month, and you'll find the agendas and details on our website. www.astonclinton.org.uk

Simply Walk

Everywhere you look nowadays there seem to be articles and reports being published telling people that regular exercise will improve both your mental and physical health. It's something that your Simply Walk team manifestly witnesses every week.

The group has been going for five years and we have been able to help numerous people who are either recovering from injury or illness, or simply trying to escape the negative effects of a sedentary or solitary lifestyle. Our walks have also provided a forum where many friendships have been made which now extend beyond our weekly activities.

It was therefore extremely heart-warming to learn of the number of members who formed their own walking 'bubbles' during the lockdowns and are now continuing to walk independently, which is really what Simply Walk is all about.



Photo by Edward Kempton

It's also been heartening to see our numbers slowly recover since the last lockdown, back to their pre-covid levels. At our 5th Birthday Party in November we had 31 walkers, old and new, *(plus as much cake as we could all eat)* and were pleased to welcome-back Fiona Broadbent from Bucks Council, who is the Head of Simply Walk for the County. One sign of getting back to normal has been the recommencement of our monthly 'Progression Walks' which are in addition to our regular weekly 'short' (30-60mins) and 'long' (60-90mins) walks. Progression Walks are primarily provided for anyone who is seriously considering walking with one of the more experienced walking groups such as the Chiltern Society or the Ramblers but are unsure what to expect and/or whether they will be fit enough. It is fundamentally important to us that whatever walk you do, it should be an enjoyable and rewarding experience. So, what we say is: 'if you can successfully complete our three Progression Walks then you know you will be fit enough to take on one of their five-mile walks'... and therefore be able to enjoy the experience, without worrying if you're going to be able to complete it!

Our walks take place every Thursday morning at 10:30 sharp from the car park at Aston Clinton Park (by the new Red Kite Pavilion). Just look for the person in the Hi-Viz jacket. To find details of all Simply Walks available in Bucks and to book a place, please

go to our website at buckinghamshire.gov.uk/simply-walk. However, if you're not an 'internet' person simply turn up on the day a bit earlier and we will try to get you onto a walk that best meets your capabilities. Please come equipped with footwear and clothing suitable for the prevailing weather conditions (and, if you're not sure what that is, we'd be happy to advise you) ... and we'll do the rest.

Edward Kempton

Discover Bucks Museum (formerly Bucks County Museum)

We are delighted to announce the opening of our Discover Bucks Galleries on **2 April 2022**. Our exciting new galleries are packed with objects to delight and amaze. Visitors will enjoy discovering the story of Bucks people and landscapes from 200 million years ago to today.



Discover Bucks Museum, Church Street,
Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 2QP

Tel: 01296 331 441

www.discoverbucksmuseum.org

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

acvillagelife.co.uk

Following our article in the previous Village Life, here are some more of Margaret Lowe's memories of local life in the early 20th century.

Childhood in the First World War Part 2

Mr Pullen, a young bachelor, owned the Brewery opposite The Bell in Green End Street. He left to join up, leaving his housekeeper, Miss Carter, in charge. She could manage the brewers, but the books were beyond her. My mother, who was a good mathematician, came to the rescue and we were often there while she wrote up the books. When the brewery's off-licence became the Bell Wine Shop, I was reminded of times long ago when shopping there.

Under the Rothschilds, the streets of Aston Clinton were lit with oil lamps. Whilst visiting my great aunt in London, I experienced a Zeppelin raid when we had to have a blackout. The blackout curtains were flimsy in comparison with those used in the Second World War, but we only had oil lamps and candles.

We had an excellent supply of pure water from the Rothschild's Water Works at Dancersend. Electricity, gas and mains drainage only materialised between the wars. Street lighting was not to come until 1949. In the First World War, very few homes had water closets. Earth closets outside the back door were the rule.

The most hated woman in the village was Miss Molique, the daughter of a celebrated German violinist. She was employed by the Rothschilds in a variety of tasks including Further Education. She taught German, Music and Home Economics before they were generally available in country villages. Unwisely, she insisted that children should curtsy to her as they did most willingly to the Rothschilds.



When the First World War was approaching, little girls would hide behind hedges rather than curtsy to her and once the War started it was felt that she was lucky to avoid internment. She was, however, forbidden to leave the village and had to report regularly to the village policeman. I was kept from any contact with her, but once when she passed by on the other side of the road, my mother whispered to me *"She's an old German; your Daddy's fighting them!"* I was given the same explanation when we encountered a group of German prisoners being marched down Brook Street to work on a farm.

Armistice Day came and we could all hear the hooter from the Rivet Works in Aylesbury proclaiming the great news. I went down to the front gate just as the Rector cycled past on his way to gather the bell ringers together. *"The war is over; Mr Lowe will soon be home!"* he cried. Three months later my father returned having come across Europe in a cattle truck.

Many children's fathers didn't return and their mothers struggled to bring them up on a pittance. Saddest of all, perhaps was Olive Sheehan (nee Smith) whose Canadian father, returning briefly en route for demobilisation in Canada, said he would send for them as soon as he reached home, kissed them goodbye and was never seen or heard of again.

Margaret Lowe (1915-2005)
Memories recorded by James Adam

Bench Appeal

My name is Helen Boswell (nee Crook), and I moved to Aston Clinton in 1971.

During the pandemic I was very lucky, and was still able to enjoy our amazing village and surrounding countryside, as one of my hobbies is walking. I witnessed more and more people venturing out into the fresh air, which was wonderful. All this made me think about the many people who were not able to get out and were unable to walk far without the reassurance of a place to rest.

I started to research seating, and I found some amazing designs which could provide the seating needed. The benches could also act as a fantastic conversation starter for younger members of our community in the village due to the beautiful designs.



I started fundraising for the benches on Facebook, and was not just pleased by the positive feedback I received, I was amazed by the incredibly generous donations from so many in the village.

Dayla contacted me and kindly donated to the campaign, which was brilliant.

Gareth Steele who runs 'The Fitness Division' organised a charity boot camp event in the park on 26th February and between him and his team raised £145.00 (*thank you so much Gareth for really putting your team through their paces!*).

The Beer Festival, who donate to local fundraising, have been amazingly generous. They have kindly donated for one of these benches as they too thought that this idea would benefit the village community. Their next Beer Festival is to be held in the village on 29- 31 July.

So far, we have raised a staggering £3127.00, and I am pleased to say I am about to place our first order. I would love to raise enough money for more benches, so that we can place more through the village. If you would like to donate towards these beautiful benches, please either go to my just giving page www.JustGiving.com/crowdfunding/Helen-boswell-1

JustGiving™

Or scan the QR code to take you straight to the just giving page.



Women's Institute

The WI has a full programme of events planned for 2022. We meet on the first Wednesday of every month in the Anthony Hall at 7.45pm.

We welcome Keith Muras and his talk entitled *The KGB Remembered* on **Wednesday 6 April** and our next speaker is Yvonne Bell whose presentation, *Silk for Sundays*, takes place on **Wednesday 1 June**.

In addition to our monthly meetings, we arrange theatre trips and have several thriving groups including a walking group, lunch club and craft club.

We look forward to welcoming new members at any of our meetings – Come along and try us – You will be most welcome.

Or for more information please contact me by email b.d.ac.wi@gmail.com

Lin Mitchell, Secretary

Let's love where we live

We live in a fantastic village on the edge of, arguably, the most beautiful part of England. Aston Clinton has so much to offer with its park and new Red Kite Pavillion, tennis, cricket, bowls, football clubs, a thriving u3a, Pilates House, vibrant churches with popular Repair Shop and Rhubarb Café and so much more. People are welcoming and friendly and it is a place we are proud to call home. Just look at Village Life where you can read all about what is happening in and around our community. What's not to like?



Well, we could do with a bit of a spring clean or tidy up. The park is well managed and maintained and the real hub of the village, but from along the roads and by-ways it looks a bit rundown. The grass verges have crept over the pavements, themselves in need of repair, and last autumn's leaves and storm debris cover remaining surfaces. We have to accept that there is no money to spend on non-essential services and we are grateful to all local litter pickers who make an enormous difference.

During March, groups of guerilla cleaner-uppers made a start on Clean for the Queen to spruce up Aston Clinton for the Platinum Jubilee celebration weekend.

But this is just the start of a move to create a group to support our village across the community. This will need to be established and in the meantime people, especially the young, will be asked what they think about life in and around Aston Clinton.

To have your say, to comment and to register an interest in joining please contact: *Sally Holder*: sallyholder@btinternet.com

Katy Todd

Art enthusiasts flock to Wendover



The Chilterns MS Centre's Pop-Up Art Weekend returns to Wendover.

The physio tables and exercise equipment were moved to the side for the weekend and replaced by paintings, glasswork, ceramics and jewellery as the Chilterns MS Centre transformed itself into a pop-up art exhibition to help raise money for the Wendover-based charity.

After last year's cancellation, the charity was able to open its doors again and welcome people in.

Almost 1,500 people attended the exhibition which featured 90 different painters, jewellers, potters, and ceramicists displaying almost 750 pieces of art.

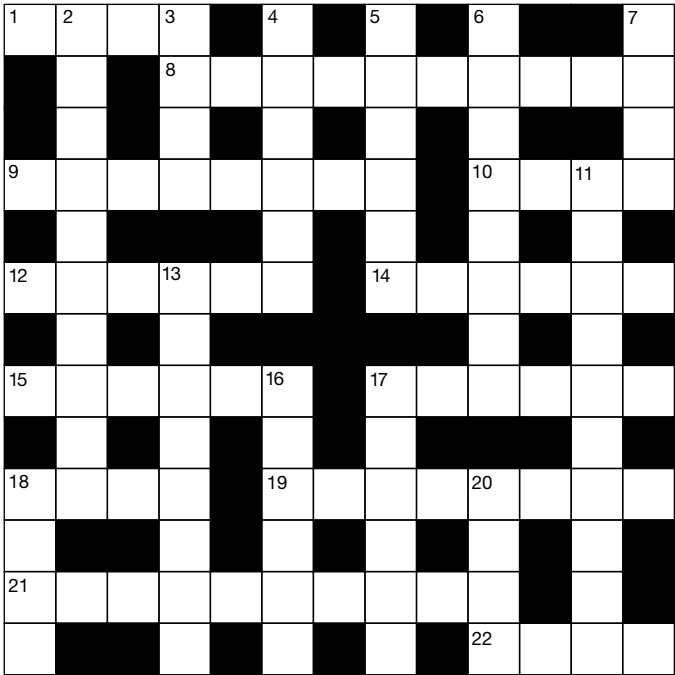
In total the charity raised over £16,000 which will be used to support people living with multiple sclerosis.

Over the years, the annual exhibition has raised almost £150,000 to help the Centre to provide physical, practical and emotional support to people with MS and their families. The services are free to those affected by MS and so events like the Art Weekend provide the vital funds the Centre needs to keep supporting the MS community.

To find out more about the work the Chilterns MS Centre does for people affected by MS visit chilternsmcentre.org

Village Life crossword no.47

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

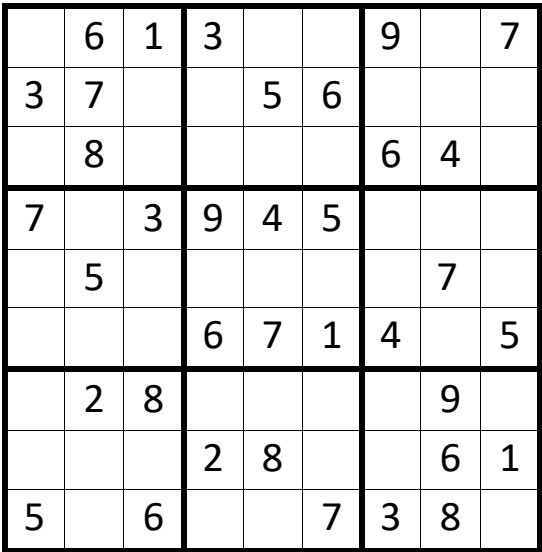


CLUES ACROSS

- 1 Performances (4)
- 8 Came near (10)
- 9 Running away (8)
- 10 Siesta (4)
- 12 Seasonings (6)
- 14 Fears (6)
- 15 Fashioned (6)
- 17 Igneous rock (6)
- 18 Scorch (4)
- 19 Explain (8)
- 21 Plant growing in streams in The Chilterns (10)
- 22 Osculate (4)

CLUES DOWN

- 2 Bad-tempered person (10)
- 3 Chronicle (4)
- 4 Garden pests (6)
- 5 Make a mess of (6)
- 6 Runs off (8)
- 7 Update (4)
- 11 Sacks attached to seat of bicycle (10)
- 13 Unit of energy obtained from food (8)
- 16 Take away (6)
- 17 Shopping bag (6)
- 18 Top for chimney (4)
- 20 Hazard (4)



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 28)

Village People

This is a series about the people of Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp. Some are involved in the daily life of the villages while some, like Mervyn Ramsay, are involved in helping to improve the lives of the disadvantaged.



Q. Over the years you've helped to raise money for the Lord's Taverners. What is the Lord's Taverners and how did you get involved?

A. The Lord's Taverners was founded in 1950 at the Tavern pub at Lord's Cricket Ground. It is the UK's leading youth cricket and disability sports charity. Its mission is to knock down barriers and empower disadvantaged and disabled young people to fulfil their potential and build life skills. I was introduced to the Lord's Taverners 25 years ago and became a member and volunteer.

For the last five years I have worked for the charity and am primarily responsible for organising and managing our celebrity cricket team along with several fundraising golf days and other charity events. There are currently 900,000 disabled children in the UK and 4.1m living in poverty. The Lord's Taverners creates a range of opportunities for young people with a disability and those from deprived areas to engage in sport and recreational activities in their local communities. These programmes support some of the most marginalised and at-risk young people in the UK.

Q. Have the Covid related restrictions over the past two years affected your fundraising activities?

A. Like many charities Covid has had a major impact on our fundraising but most importantly has had a serious impact on the young people we support who feel isolated at the best of times, never mind during a pandemic. This year is looking very positive with all of our programmes and fundraising activities returning to 'normal'.

Q. During the recent lockdown you were a part of the Aston Clinton Covid Support Group. What did you do?

A. I supported the group by delivering many prescriptions from both Aston Clinton Surgery and Rothschild House Surgery in Tring to residents in the parish.

Q. Are you involved in any other activities or with groups in Aston Clinton?

A. I am proud to be one of the organisers and founders, along with Liz Blake, of Astonbury Music Festival which is again planned for Saturday 13 August – watch out for further information!

Q. When did you move to Aston Clinton?

A. My dad was stationed at RAF Halton and on his untimely passing in 1976 my mum bought a house in Aston Clinton, and I have been in the area ever since.

Q. What are your hobbies, what do you do for fun?

A. Cricket has always been an integral part of my life and after many years of working in IT and Events, my hobby and passion is now my job. Rumour also has it you might find me propping up the bar on occasions at various local watering holes!

Q. What's your favourite music?

A. Genesis

Q. What's your favourite film?

A. Reach for the Sky

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

A. My first car was a 1969 Ford Escort and my current car is a BMW 523 Tourer so I can carry all the kit I need for work.

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

A. With the number of new houses being built in recent years it is disappointing that the services have not been improved accordingly but having lived in the village for so long it is great to see the community spirit that still exists.

Helping to
improve the lives
of the
disadvantaged

“

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

*Interview **Andrew Andersz***

All Saints' Buckland

Regular Services:

8am Holy Communion, every Sunday
10am Midweek Communion every Wednesday



FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Sun 10th April	11am	Messy Sunday	All Saints'
Sun 8th April	11am	Messy Sunday	All Saints'

EVENTS

Sat 2th April	10am	Produce Stall with refreshments	All Saints'
Sat 7th April	10am	Produce Stall with refreshments	All Saints'

During the March event £270 was raised for the DEC Ukraine appeal.

For more information on these and other services and events, please look at: Facebook: Aston Clinton Benefice with Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp www.achurchnearyou.com and search for All Saints' or www.ac-buck-db-churches.org

Buckland Parish Council



Roads

The Parish Council has been reporting the numerous potholes on our roads to the highway authority via Fix My Street. Several were filled within 24 hours of reporting. However, the timescale for repair is generally somewhat longer.

The very poor surface on London Road at Buckland Wharf and on parts of the Lower

Icknield Way have been selected by the Capital team to be resurfaced this year. In the meantime, the highway safety team will inspect this section once a month and will take appropriate action. Currently, the defects are not deep enough to take immediate action.

The overgrown pavements on the Lower Icknield Way and Tring Hill have been reported several times since September, but Buckinghamshire Council has failed to carry out the promised work so far.

Please report any highways matters requiring attention via Fix My Street with photos of the defects if possible. www.fixmystreet.com

Lower Buckland Community Orchard

Planting during the winter went well, but more trees and shrubs are still to be planted. We are hoping to be able to do more planting during the Jubilee Year as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative. Residents who would like

to plant a tree to commemorate the Jubilee or a family occasion are very welcome to plant them as part of the copse. The list of native species we can plant has been approved by the landscape officer. If you are interested in planting trees, please contact **Fiona Richardson**, our Parish Clerk. Tel. **01296 630962** email: clerk@bucklandpc.org.uk

Neighbourhood Plan update

Our replacement Neighbourhood Plan has now been passed to an examiner. Once that report is received and changes made, the plan will go to a referendum for approval by Buckland residents.

Footpath Updates

The footpath at the bottom of Cherry Farm just before the A41 has been partially resurfaced to improve access after requests from the parish council. The culvert under the A41 remains blocked, and the Parish Council has again requested action from the council to remove debris and roots to allow water to drain away. Once this is completed further compacting of the pathway should be possible.

Queens Platinum Jubilee Event 4 June

Planning for a village celebration is in the early stages. The fun event will include a BBQ, Pimm's and beer tents at Buckland Village Hall and tree planting by the Parish Council on behalf of Buckland Village. A further update and tickets will be available during April.

Arla/Olleco update

A resident's liaison meeting was held in February. The minutes of the meeting are on our website: www.bucklandpc.org.uk/meeting

Cllr Nigel Hayward

Chairman of Buckland Parish Council

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Promoting cycling safety

Buckinghamshire Council's road safety initiative, Travel Safe Bucks, is working in partnership with Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service to promote their 'Two wheels' campaign – encouraging drivers and cyclists to share the road safely.

With the recent changes to the Highway Code, Travel Safe Bucks wants to promote the rules regarding overtaking cyclists. The changes state that, as a guide, drivers need to leave at least 1.5 metres when overtaking cyclists at speeds of 30mph, and more space than that when overtaking at higher speeds. To remind drivers of this while they're out and about, advertising will be visible on the back of buses around Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

Safe passing isn't the only change to the Highway Code that affects cyclists. There have also been adjustments made to the guidelines around cycling at junctions, cycling at roundabouts and cycling past slow moving or stationary vehicles. These changes have all been made in a bid to keep the most vulnerable road users safe, and it's important that all road users are familiar with them – particularly those who have been driving for some time and may struggle to form new habits.

All drivers should be patient and give priority to cyclists at junctions and roundabouts and follow the new rules on safe passing distances and speeds when overtaking them. Drivers should also be mindful of other vulnerable road users.

Cyclists should follow the updated guidance for road positioning, which includes riding in the centre of the lane on quiet roads, in slower-moving traffic and at the approach to junctions or where roads narrow. Please also wear something bright and make yourself visible and ensure your lights are working and that you are using them.

For more information about the changes to the Highway Code, visit GOV.UK

Horticultural Society

Now that Covid restrictions have been removed, our monthly meetings, on the second Wednesday in the month, starting at 8pm, are now back in the in the Anthony Hall, Aston Clinton.



Our first meeting of the year, in February, was very special. Geraint Richards gave his long-promised lecture about working with trees belonging to the Duchy of Cornwall estates.

Our annual social evening for members, which is a quiz with a fish and chip supper, has been postponed until September. The exact date has yet to be confirmed.

In April, Graham Thirkettle will be running our first Spring Show for two years. The entry night is **Thursday 7 April** at the Anthony Hall from 6pm till 7.45pm and the Show itself will be held in the Aston Clinton School hall on **Saturday 9 April**. The show schedule and entry form are available on our website (www.astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk). Show entries are more than just flowers; we have a domestic section, handicrafts, photography, and special sections for children. In other words, something for everyone - why not give it a go? This is a village event, so please do come along and support us. It will be a good excuse to meet up for a cuppa and piece of cake, following two years in isolation!

We will also have our usual Spring Show plant and produce sale which is always very popular. Let's hope the weather is kind to us, although most of the show is undercover anyway.

On Wednesday **13 April, at 8pm**, the talk is *"Give Your Garden the Designer Touch"*, by Maria Greenhills, and will be held in the Anthony Hall. Our **11 May** talk is *"Aston Clinton Rag Pits"*, and will be given by the Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT).

We will be having a Plant Sale in Aston Clinton Park on **Saturday 14 May, 10am – 1pm**. We are planning to have a selection of perennials and bedding plants together with young vegetable plants, including tomatoes. If you have any spare plants please bring them to the sale.

Further ahead, on Wednesday **8 June**, the talk is *"Alpine Gardening"*, by Katharine Woods.

During the summer we are running a coach trip to the *RHS garden at Hyde Hall*. It is *planned for Thursday 7 July*.

Platinum Jubilee Tree Planting

Part of the village celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee has been to plant two oak trees donated by the Society in lieu of a speaker's fee for Geraint Richards. One has been planted to replace the horse chestnut tree that fell down on the corner of the main road and Stablebridge Road. The other was planted beyond the allotments in the park on 11 March.

We are always looking for new members to join the Horticultural Society; we are a friendly and knowledge bunch! Subscriptions remain at £5 per member and further details can be obtained by emailing info@astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk.

Ralph Weston

Better health & wellbeing for all, through nature



With Spring in the air at Lindengate, new life is appearing across our six-acre gardens on a daily basis. Our team, volunteers and programme participants have been busy weeding and planting across the whole site, in preparation for the Summer months.

While Lindengate is perhaps best known for its wellbeing services locally and regionally, our community-fuelled conservation programmes have national reach, supporting the reintroduction of endangered native species into biodiverse landscapes nationwide. In the seven years since opening, the gardens have been nurtured and transformed into what is now a habitat rich biodiverse environment showcasing many of our native species. It is self-sustaining, providing educational opportunities and sufficient stock for us to propagate to the benefit of the wider community. Our team of staff and expert volunteers can offer advice to those looking to rewild their spaces.



Most notable, is that Lindengate is home to the largest clone bank of Black Poplar trees in the UK and is renowned as the leading expert.

We were recently honoured by a request from the Greater London Lieutenancy to supply a Black Poplar and attend its ceremonial planting in Regent's Park in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Since opening, we have worked on significant projects with the Butterfly Conservation, Wildlife Trusts and RSPB growing Devils Bit Scabious, the sole food source of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly, earning us extensive media coverage, but also recognition through our achievement of multiple National and Regional Awards for conservation initiatives.

For more information on our programmes, events, volunteer opportunities & opening times, go to: www.lindengate.org.uk

Aston Clinton Ladies Group

Wednesday 20 April 8pm Guide Hall

A light hearted talk by Mandi Simons on her life in the Police Force.

Wednesday 18 May 8pm Guide Hall

Peter Gardiner from the Repair Café will be coming to talk to us. The Repair Café is held on the second Saturday of each month from 9-12 at St Michaels.

New members are very welcome. For more information call **Sue Sanders 01296 630740** or **Janet Watson 01296 631014**



St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp

Regular Services:

St Mary's is open once a month for church services.

It will also be open every Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm for private prayer.



FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Sun 17th April	11am	Easter Fire Holy Communion	St Mary's
Sun 1st May	11am	Holy Communion	St Mary's

For more information on these and other services and events, please look at: Facebook: Aston Clinton Benefice with Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp www.achurchnearyou.com and search for St Mary's or www.ac-buck-db-churches.org

Drayton Beauchamp stream clearance

On a cool, dry morning in January, 16 intrepid villagers from Drayton Beauchamp met at Kimego for a final briefing before spending a morning tackling an overgrown stretch of the village stream.



Using a mix of wellies, garden forks, spades, wheelbarrows, and people power, a surprising amount of debris (and quite a lot of very muddy clay) was cleared. A bit of extra oomph was provided by Gordon, our local farmer with a very big digger, but most of the work was done in hand-to-hand combat. What had seemed like a short walk from Badgers End to

the Winter Aconite wood, turned out to be a lot farther when measured in muddy spadefuls. A couple of individuals also proved that there are indeed spots where the water is deeper than a wellington!

However, our Stream-leader was unrelenting in his determination and enthusiasm and after three hours of physically demanding work, the water course looked magnificent. The weary, mud-splattered volunteers finally retired back to Kimego for well-earned coffee, bacon rolls and, of course, banter.

Hats off to Roger Beechey for a lot of thoughtful planning and preparation and to those attending for all their hard work (and it was hard!). A special mention for Lynne whose 32 bacon rolls were exceptional.

Alistair Dunbar

CROSSWORD No.47 SOLUTION

Down
 2. Crosspatch 3. Saga 4. Aphids 5. Bodge
 6. Scarpers 7. Edit 11. Saddlebags 13. Calories
 16. Deduct 17. Basket 18. Cowl 20. Risk

Across
 1. Acts 8. Approached 9. Escaping 10. Rest
 12. Spices 14. Dreads 15. Styled 17. Basalt
 18. Char 19. Describe 21. Watercross 22. Kiss

Local village community gathers to plant trees for Queen's Platinum Jubilee



Photo by Chris Walker

In response to the encouragement for local communities to plant trees this year to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, local farmer, Gordon Nicholls organised a tree planting event on land at Upper Farm, Drayton Beauchamp. English oak trees were planted by members of the Nicholls family on a field crossed by a footpath that is well used by walkers. In all, seven trees were planted, one for each decade of Her Majesty's reign. The trees, located either side of the path, were enclosed in metal tree guards, each bearing a plaque. Whilst the trees were being planted, a great deal of interest was shown by passers-by.

The event, held on the 30 January, was also attended by local residents who enjoyed refreshments provided by Gordon Nicholls. The trees were blessed at the event by Rev Sally Bottomer and will provide a fitting tribute to our monarch and a long-lasting feature in the village.

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Drayton Beauchamp Parish

The annual meeting will be held in St.Mary's Church on **Thursday 5 May at 7.30pm**

All parishioners are welcome and the agenda will be circulated nearer to the date.

For more details contact the *Clerk, Meryl Nodes* email merylnodes2018@gmail.com telephone **01296 630396**.

Drayton Beauchamp's Big Lunch for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Drayton Beauchamp is planning a whole-village event to celebrate our Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It will take place at St Mary's Church on Sunday 5 June. Proceedings will start with lunch in the grounds of St Mary's at 1pm. At 4pm there will be a short civic Service for the Queen. This will be followed by tea and cakes outside at 4.30pm.

At this stage, we need to get an idea of the numbers who might be able to attend, so if you think you will be able to come, please let *Alistair Dunbar* or *Lucy Kibble* know as soon as possible.

If you would like to get involved with planning and delivering the event, please contact *Lucy Kibble* 07796 662193 or lucykibble@me.com or *Alistair Dunbar* 07979 182086 or chrisandalistair@gmail.com

An invitation with more details will be circulated nearer the time but please put the date in your diaries and think about getting involved to help make it a memorable occasion for our village.

Lucy Kibble



Shall we go for a walk?

After two years of being in lockdown or with limited access to entertainment and sporting events, isn't it time we got out and enjoyed life again? Time to take in the fresh air, appreciate our beautiful countryside, and get back with nature.



*The Wendover Canal Trust is offering just that. As part of our commitment to local involvement, the Trust is leading a monthly circular guided walk. Wendover Walks will be held on the first Saturday of the month, lasting about 1½ to 2 hours. The first is at **10.30 on 2 April**. The walks start and finish at the recently completed Mead Farm Tea Rooms, on the B489 near Wilstone Village.*

While on the walk, you will be able to:

- View a restored section of the Wendover Canal - fed by a chalk stream (one of a limited number in the World).
- See fine examples of 18thC engineering, recently refurbished by the trust to meet current safety and operational standards.
- Have a chance to spot extensive bird and wildlife in and around the large Wilstone

reservoir, graded as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

- Discover why the reservoirs were built, and what purpose they still play today.
- Learn some of the fascinating history of the area from your experienced and knowledgeable guide.

Along the way you will see a section of the canal restored by the Wendover Canal Trust and will be able to appreciate the immense effort that has gone into the project. Walks are scheduled to match our work party dates, so you may have the chance to speak with our volunteers and ask about any aspect of what they are doing.

For further details, information on how to take part and contact details, please refer to our website www.wendovercanal.org.uk, or email Jenny at events@wendovercanal.org.uk

If you or your partner would like to lend a hand for an hour or so at one of the walks (e.g. handing out leaflets, etc.), please let us know.

We never say no to an offer of assistance!

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

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K-Lin Woodwork	41
Laxton Properties	46
M D Marriott decorators	50
N R Green	52
P Greville	61
Smashing Windows	58
The 50 Plus	50

BUSINESS SERVICES

Actopia IT support	55
Netquest Consulting	32
Practical Computing	37
Problems with my PC	33
Virtual PA services	48
Wendover Computers	42

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Age UK	53
Chiltern MS Centre	62
Oxford Aunts	39
Right at Home	35

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PACE Charity	40

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E Sharp (Electrical) Ltd	62
MJ Electrical	52
R Powell & Son	43

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Greg O'Callaghan	50
Merryweather Mowers	50
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A Brighter Home Ovens	59
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Super Happy Windows	62
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CM Workout	56
Helen Mulhall	5-
JoAnn Latus Sch of Dance	45
Jazzercise	44
Perry House, Dental	43
Progressive Sports Massage	60
Tai Chi	53
The Palates House	37
Tring Yoga Studio	60
Tropic Skin Care	36
Wendy Hilliard	44

HAIRCARE

La Vita	41
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HOTELS/RESTAURANTS/PUBS

Haldi Restaurant	54
The Oak village pub	2

LEISURE & TRAVEL

Adams Travel	53
Chiltern Archery	38
Travel Impressions	48

PETS

The Dogs Yard	57
---------------	----

PLUMBING & HEATING

A C Plumbing & Heating	49
Jenkins Heating	59

RETAIL

Alura Candles	58
Aston Clinton Fruit & Veg	42
P E Mead Farm Shop	44
Puddingstone Distillery	46
Tring Brewery	57

SPECIALIST SERVICES

Aston Wine Club	55
F R Jeffery coal	61
Harpers Estate Agents	47
Heritage & Sons	56
Martin Holman's Pest Control	40
Newman Property Expert	38
Sophy Winfield Counselling	43
The Print Lab	51
Tring Market Auctions	61

Emergency

HEALTH

Aston Clinton Surgery	01296 630241	www.westongrove.com
Aston Clinton Dental Clinic	01296 323090	www.astonclintondentalclinic.co.uk
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Samaritans	116123	jo@samaritans.org

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Electricity Emergency	0800 7838 838	
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Water Emergency	0800 3169 800	

CRIME

Police Emergency	999	
Police non-emergency and Neighbourhood watch	101	www.thamesvalley.police.uk
Childline	0800 111	

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

EDUCATION

Aston Clinton School	01296 630276	www.astonclintonschool.co.uk
Aston Clinton Pre School	07928 309321	pre-school.acpsmanagement@gmail.com
Totspot (AC Baptist Church)	01296 631824	www.astonclintonbaptist.org

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Swimezee	01296 730742	www.swimezee.co.uk

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Aston Clinton Beavers	01296 708158	ac.beavers@yahoo.co.uk
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Anthony Hall	07443 976639	hallbookingonline.com/anthonyhall/
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Buckland Village Hall	01296 630310	
Red Kite Pavilion	01296 630270	nick@yourcafeinthepark.co.uk

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aston Clinton Parish Council	01296 631269	www.astonclinton.org.uk parishcouncil@astonclinton.org.uk
Buckland Parish Council	01296 630962	clerk@bucklandpc.org.uk
Drayton Beauchamp. Parish Meeting	01296 630396	
Buckinghamshire Council	0300 131 6000	www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk
BC Councillors	Bill Chapple OBE	Bill.Chapple@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
	Mike Collins	Mike.Collins@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
	Julie Ward	Julie.ward@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Environmental Health (fly tipping)	01296 585605	
Highways	01296 486630	www.buckscc.go.uk
M.P. for Aylesbury	Rob Butler	rob.butler.mp@parliament.uk

MISCELLANEOUS

All Saints Friends, Buckland	01296 630454	peter.elwin@elwins.net
Aston Clinton Ladies Group	01296 630740	
Aston Clinton U3A	01296 436403	www.u3asites.org.uk/aston-clinton/home
Horticultural Society	01296 633376	www.astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk
Royal British Legion	01296 632039	
SSAFA Forces Help	01296 631030	
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Turpins Charity	01296 630162	www.turpinscharity.org.uk
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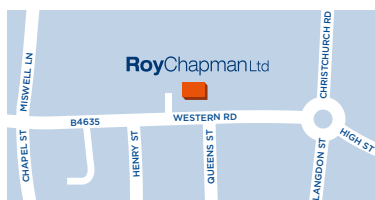
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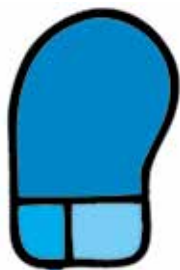
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