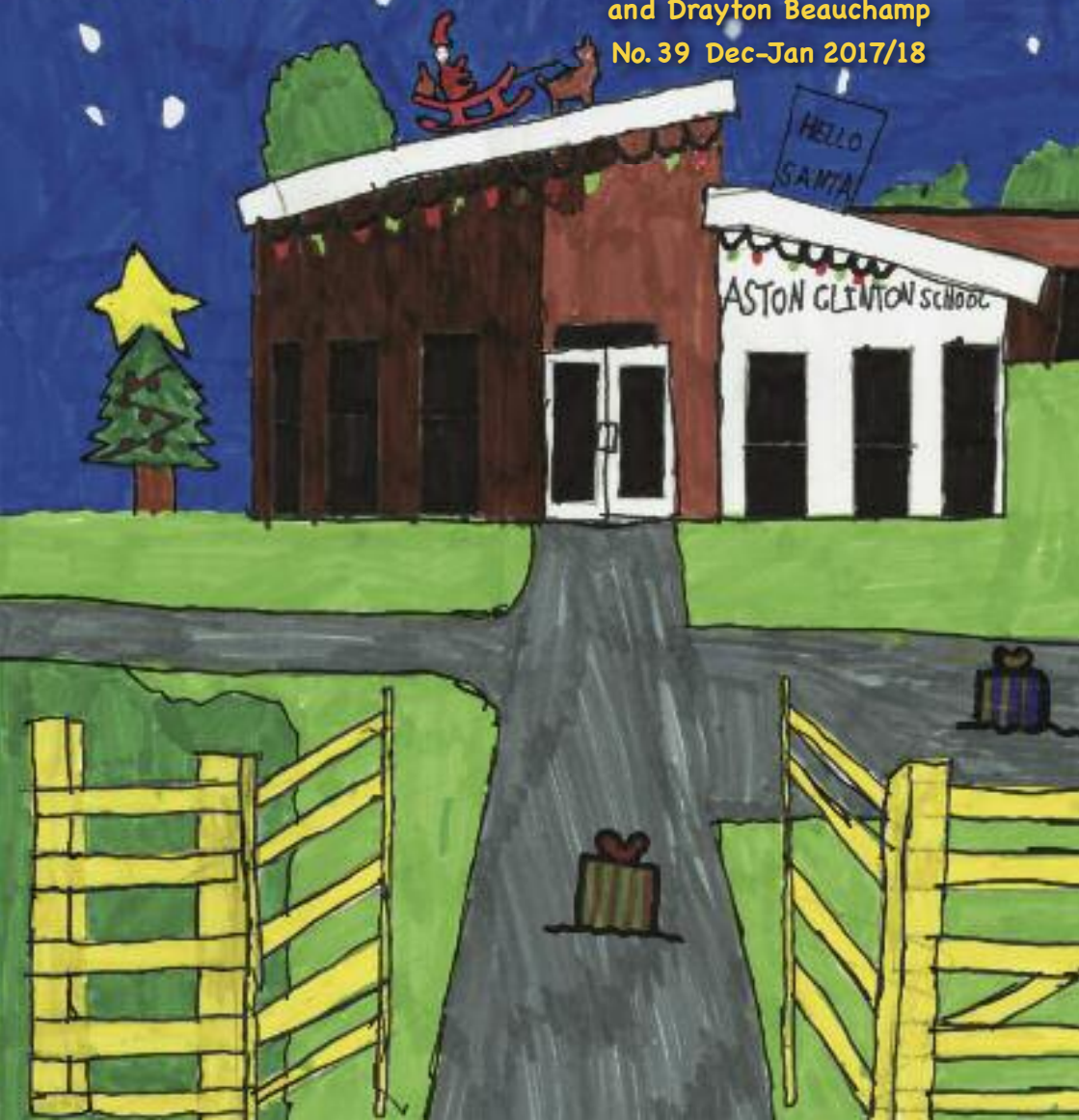


Village Life

The community magazine
for Aston Clinton, Buckland
and Drayton Beauchamp
No. 39 Dec-Jan 2017/18





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Cover picture by Kane Amato, age 10,
winner of a Year 6 class competition
at Aston Clinton School to design a
Christmas cover for Village Life

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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

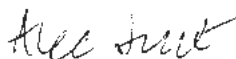


IN an uncertain world, Christmas is a time for celebration. For Christians, it is a celebration of the birth of Jesus. For everyone, it is a time to celebrate our common humanity. For some (pages 6 and 14), it is a time to remember and be thankful for deliverance from inhumanity.

On page 18, Sophy Winfield reminds us that not all of us can expect to savour the joys of family life this Christmas. We should spare a thought for them. It could mean so much to be invited in for a Christmas drink if you are lonely, or perhaps recently bereaved.

Good advice is offered (page 20) from our GP surgery on the risks of celebratory over-indulgence. Ralph Weston, on the same page, suggests a gift that could cost you, at most, a mere bus fare to Aylesbury and yet save a life.

From all the members of the Village Life production team, have a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and equally Happy New Year!



Village Life needs a volunteer editorial assistant

As previously announced, Alec Just has decided to hand over the editorial reins to someone else to take the magazine forward. The February/March 2018 issue will be the last under his editorship.

Village Life is not a commercial publication. It is produced and distributed bi-monthly by volunteers with a close affinity with Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp. Advertising pays for printing.

Our new editor will need an assistant with a computer.

If you are interested in knowing more, please contact Alec at alec.just@btinternet.com for details.

Christmas thoughts from a Baptist Deacon

I have to admit that Christmas is a time of year that I particularly enjoy. I love unpacking the baubles, putting up the Christmas tree and placing large and not necessarily tasteful decorations outside and inside the home.

I have many wonderful memories of stockings hung at the end of my children's beds and the early morning scramble to the lounge, in search of any more gifts that might be found under the Christmas Tree.

Add into that some Christmas music, twinkling lights, a wonderful assortment of nativity plays and a heap of goodwill to all, the scene is set for a wonderful celebration.

But what exactly are we celebrating?

For me, it is the birth of Jesus Christ, that time in history when God sent part of Himself to be born as fully human, whilst at the same time remaining fully God.

The question is why? The best way for we humans to be able to recognise, understand

and have a relationship with the Eternal, Immortal, Invisible and Perfect Creator—God, would be for God Himself also to become, well, human! Which is exactly what He did in the person of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Himself said this: 'Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father'.

Jesus is explaining that all we have to do to be able to recognise, understand and truly know the Love of God, the Power of God, the Forgiveness of God, and the Eternal Life of God personally, is for us to

put our faith and trust in Him.

And the key word here is 'Anyone' – anyone who turns to and trusts in Jesus, will personally get to know God.

Now that to me, really is cause for celebration.

Merry Christmas 'Anyone' ...

With love,




St Michael and All Angels

CHRISTMAS FAIR

at the ANTHONY HALL

Saturday 2nd December 11am–3pm

We'll have stalls offering delicious home-made cakes and preserves, and flowering plants. The gift stall offers an array of fairly-priced quality goods and there is a fine selection of vintage jewellery and accessories whilst old favourites such as pre-loved books and children's toys jostle for space with hand-knitted scarves and hats.

Come and meet Father Christmas. Have a go on the tombola and take a chance at winning one of the excellent raffle prizes.

It's free to come in, so why not drop by and grab a coffee or stop for a delicious lunch. You won't be disappointed.

For more details please call Marion Richards on 01296 630577



St Michael and All Angels

Regular Services:

9.15am and 6pm each Sunday



Forthcoming events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sat 2 Dec	11am-3pm	Christmas Fair	Anthony Hall
Sun 3 Dec	6.30pm	Advent Carols and Communion	St Michael's Church
Sat 9 Dec	From 10.30am	Christmas Tree Festival	St Michael's Church
Sun 10 Dec	6pm	Nine Lessons and Carols	St Michael's Church
Sun 17 Dec	9.15am	Joint Christmas Service with Baptists	St Michael's Church
Sun 17 Dec	5.30pm	Carol Singing	The Oak Pub
Sun 24 Dec	6pm	Crib Service	St Michael's Church
Sun 24 Dec	8pm	A Celebration of Christmas	St Michael's Church
Sun 24 Dec	11.30pm	Midnight Mass	St Michael's Church
Mon 25 Dec	9.15am	Family Christmas Communion	St Michael's Church
Sun 31 Dec	9.15am	Benefice Service with Bishop Alan	St Michael's Church
Sun 28 Jan	11am	Benefice Service	All Saints' Church
Sun 28 Jan	4pm	Christingle followed by tea	St Michael's Church

Every Monday 2-4.30pm Rhubarb Café at St Michael's Church

Bridge Group at St Michael's on Sundays 2-4.30pm

More details about these events on the church website: www.s-michaels.org.uk



St Michael and All Angels

Invite you to their community

Christmas Tree Festival

On 9th December,

At St Michael's Church, 10.30 am to 5.30 pm

Programme £1 with all proceeds going to St Michael's north roof fund



My life in wartime Holland

Selly Clarke-Hartog has lived in Aston Clinton for over forty years. She was born in Utrecht in the Netherlands in 1930 and tells her story of growing up in Holland during WW2 under Nazi occupation ...

I WAS NINE YEARS OLD when WW2 broke out. My father was Jewish and my mother, a Christian. They had waited for eight years to marry because of family problems over their different faiths. I was their only child.

My father was an optician with a practice he ran from an optical and photographic shop in Utrecht. He employed an assistant, Simon, who following the death of my father, was to become a great support for us as practice manager.

I recall my mother telling me that in the Thirties, when the distant drums of war were rumbling, a majority of the Dutch people supported the ideas of the Nazi regime in Germany. Indeed, the Dutch far-right Black-shirt fascists were popular and anti-semitism was widespread. Our shop had a Jewish name 'Jos Hartog' and in the run-up to WW2, many of our former customers and clients were choosing not to continue to patronise us and the business steadily declined as a result.

In May 1940, from my bedroom window, I remember watching Nazi parachutists descending into Utrecht. My father was already ill at this time and died shortly afterwards. His assistant Simon continued to run the practice.

Soon after the Nazi invasion, my mother was compelled to register the business with the local chamber of commerce. She said that we were Roman Catholics and, despite the Jewish name of our business, we were fortunate to be granted official registration and able to continue.

Nevertheless, life became very hard. There were terrible food shortages and, as a hungry teenager, I recall longing for a loaf of decent bread and some cheese to eat.

Once news of the Nazi atrocities had filtered through to the people of Utrecht, their revulsion led them to again patronise the shop and our fortunes slowly improved.

One sad wartime memory is of my mother secretly buying an unripe Dutch cheese on the black market which we could ill afford. Keeping it in the cellar, she lovingly turned it every week to ripen evenly. This continued for some time until one day she discovered that it weighed much less than usual. She looked underneath and saw that mice had been enjoying a feast. Can you imagine our enormous disappointment at losing this precious possession.

My mother and I learned after the war that our shop manager Simon had been active in the Dutch underground, cycling to various addresses and distributing stolen newly-printed ration books to many hidden Jewish families.

No-one knew who was informing against anyone who helped those who were hidden. Even children were known to have informed against parents. There was no trust anywhere.

“She looked underneath and saw that mice had been enjoying a feast.”

I recall being gripped by fear when a car stopped outside our house. No-one had a car, only German army officers.

On one occasion my mother and I visited the house of my late father's sister in Rotterdam where there was to be a 70th birthday celebration. Alas, when we arrived, we found that the Jewish house had been ransacked by the Nazis, the windows all broken and curtains billowing out in the breeze. The sister and her husband

Continued opposite



Walking is good for you!

IN NOVEMBER, our local Simply Walk group celebrated its first birthday at the Café in the Park at Aston Clinton, which is the base for all its walks.

Over the last year, the group has provided free gentle health walks ranging from 30 to 90 minutes' duration, over distances from just over one to three-and-a-half miles, in and around our lovely Chilterns' setting. In that time, it has provided over fifty walks for over sixty walkers and has helped numerous people towards a healthier lifestyle, or by helping them as part of their recovery... or, for most, into simply making many new friendships.

For its first anniversary walk, the local group was joined by Fiona Broadbent who is the 'Simply Walk' lead for Bucks CC. Fiona said:

"The Aston Clinton group got off to a flying start in 2016 and has continued to thrive and grow, led by a dedicated group of volunteer walk leaders who make everyone feel welcome. Aston Clinton is one of over 80 walks we now have throughout the county, averaging 67 a week, so there is a great opportunity for anyone to come

and join us to increase their physical activity with a friendly group of people, regardless of their fitness levels".

Our local free Walks take place every Thursday at 10.30am, starting from the car park in Aston Clinton Park. All you need to do is just turn up, look for the person in the hi-viz jacket, introduce yourself and give them some idea of what sort of walk you are looking for. Unlike some walking groups, we will



Part of the Aston Clinton group braving the weather on an autumn walk to Buckland village led by Tina Wood (in the hi-viz jacket).

Wartime Holland, *continued*

had been taken away to be sent to a concentration camp. Later, a card arrived in Utrecht from the sister saying "we're on our way". We assumed that she had thrown the card out of the cattle wagon en route to the concentration camp on the Polish/Russian border (hundreds of miles without food or water) and that some kind person had found it and posted it back to my mother.

Selly Clarke

[to be continued]

always be happy where possible to provide shorter walks for any 'new starters' or people recovering from injuries or operations.

The Group will be walking through the Christmas period so, if you would enjoy a gentle stroll with some good company, we will be walking on **21 & 28 December** and **4 January**.

Did you know that our walks are just some of the 80 or so health walks that take place regularly all over Buckinghamshire? For more information, take a look at the Simply Walk website: www.buckscc.gov.uk/simplywalk or contact Fiona Broadbent on **01494 475367** or at fbroadbent@buckscc.gov.uk

Edward Kempton

The National Film Archive and Aston Clinton

WHEN walking down Green End Street have you noticed the sign for Archive Close, saying it was formerly the site of the National Film Archive? And have you wondered what that actually was?

The archive was a fixture in Aston Clinton for nearly 50 years until exactly 30 years ago, when it moved to new premises in Berkhamsted. During that time it was a well-known local landmark and gave employment to many local ladies (see photo below) some of whom still live in the village. One of these is Heather Davies who worked for the archive from 1974 until 2006 and who kindly explained the role

of British films. A few years later it transferred to Aston Clinton. The concept was to collect any British films released to cinema and many other works of interest. Many of these were donated and the Acquisition Department would choose which were accepted. Films going back to the earliest days of cinema were collected so they could be kept for posterity. If you have ever looked on YouTube and marvelled at old footage of Queen Victoria's jubilee or the suffragette, Emily Davidson, being killed during the 1913 Derby, or even Alfred Hitchcock's silent movies, then you will know the importance of this sort of resource.



The NFA ladies pictured on 12 June 1987, their final day at Aston Clinton. From *l to r*: Heather Davies, Sonia Piani, Diane Lawrence, Beryl Pike (*kneeling*), Iris Warner, Ann Wheeler, Minda Horwood (*seated*), Jean Packer, Janet Wilkinson, Joy Hare (*seated*) and Joyce Inns.

of the archive and supplied some of her large collection of photos of the site.

In 1935, the British Film Institute founded what was then called the National Film Library in London for the collection and conservation

The other aspect of the archive was preservation and this was a major part of what was done in Green End Street. Originally film was made of nitrate, and nitrate film has two significant features; it starts to deteriorate from the day it is made and it is very flammable. When Kodak made the last batch of nitrate film in 1950 they said it may last for 50 years. The BFI realised that something had to be done and the answer was to copy the films onto acetate 'safety stock', which is more stable. This was a costly and time-consuming process for the millions of feet of film stock in existence and the old nitrate film had to be tested first to check its stability and

then kept safe until any work could be completed.

To protect the films and the workers everything was done in almost clinical conditions. Temperature control and fire precautions were



An aerial view of the National Film Archive buildings as they were in 1987 prior to demolition to make way for what is now Archive Close. Long Plough is at the top of the picture with Green End Street on the right. Part of the school playing field can be clearly seen in the foreground.

major considerations.

The job for Heather and her colleagues in the Repair Department was to take original films and repair them frame-by-frame so they could be restored and copied. Another department often had to go through various copies of the same film to cut and paste the best parts to make an optimum 'original' to be copied. New copies could then be loaned out to cinemas and places like the National Film Theatre, where they were shown to the public. Films were also used for educational purposes.

For the people who worked at the archive

the work was very exacting as they were dealing with fragile and rare resources but it was very satisfying work. There were other compensations too, with visits from film royalty, like Richard Attenborough and David Lean, plus real Royalty when Prince Charles came to open the new facility at Berkhamsted.

As time moved on, the collection of film and TV output became available in many formats, including not just film but also video and now digital recording. The National Film Archive continues to preserve all of these for future cinema lovers to enjoy.

Richard Vincent

Solution to Crossword No.24

Across 1. Anemic 5. Theology 9. Scrabble 10. Unwrap 11. Wheelbarrows 13. Anti 14. Cleavage 17. Tapeworm 18. Leaf 20. Longshoreman 23. Cinema 24. Editions 25. Stimulus 26. Eleven
Down 2. Nice 3. Meanwhile 4. Cobweb 5. The black markets 6. Educated 7. Lower 8. Glaswegian 12. Antagonist 15. Valentine 16. Mothball 19. Empire 21. Gleam 22. Once

There once lived a couple who had everything except a child of their own. It soon became clear the only way they would be able to conceive would be to use a donor egg. Their fertility clinic posted an advert in a newspaper and the person who answered that advert was me – a single twentysomething with no immediate plans to settle down.

Crucially, I knew someone trying desperately to have a baby and playing the living lottery that is IVF. I saw her putting her life on hold and everything she had into this race against time and financial ruin and then crushed each time the treatment would fail. So when the advert caught my eye that day, I knew there was a chance I could help and I called to make an appointment.

The clinic was thrilled to hear from me. Egg donors have always been rare due to the invasive nature of the donation. I was given a medical check-up and then asked to write a personal statement about myself – from character traits through to skills and achievements. It was a challenging statement to make for someone whose default position has always been self-deprecation. If I passed the screening process it would be given to the couple in receipt of my eggs and thus positive yet honest. Given that my hobbies at the time were shopping and clubbing ... well, you can imagine the struggle.

But like I said, they were desperate and I was a good match so we agreed to start the process. First my own menstrual cycle had to be medically suppressed and then I had to inject myself each day with hormones to stimulate egg production and scanned several times to check. When the time came for the eggs to be 'harvested' I was checked in as a day patient and the process took around half an hour under general anaesthetic. I was sore for a few days but life went on and I soon forgot all about it.



I was asked recently if anyone born from my donated eggs would be able to find me and how would I feel if they did. As the law stands, anyone born from a donor egg has the right to ask the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority for medical information about their donor but is unable to identify or locate them directly. Under UK law, any woman who gives birth to a child is regarded as its legal mother regardless of its genetic origins. The clinic where I donated my eggs won't tell me how many successful pregnancies (if any) resulted from my donation and I don't need to know. I feel the same now as I did back then. I had

some healthy 'cells' and I donated them, like I do with blood. As I would with any of my organs should the worst happen.

Years later, when expecting twins, I attended an ante-natal class specifically for 'multiple' mums. Within the group were several whose babies were conceived via IVF and who found it upsetting to be asked publicly if this was the case. I learned it was a common question (although

no one had ever asked me as my twin pregnancy was my third) and I sensed from these women the shame they felt admitting they had needed treatment. As if their pregnancies were any less miraculous and wonderful because they were the result of medical intervention.

Over the years I've been privileged to know many women who have come to motherhood in all sorts of ways. I have known those who have adopted. Those who have become mothers to step children. Those who used donor sperm and those whose babies have four legs and a wagging tail. It makes no real difference how you get there in the end. If you have put your heart and soul in to nurturing, protecting, caring for and putting another's needs above your own you are a mum. And you rock!

Kelly Cornish



Aston Clinton School

Head: Mrs Helen Shepherd



A broad and balanced curriculum

With the pressure of SATs and league tables hanging over all schools, we all spend a lot of time on key basic and important skills. In a growing minority of schools their whole curriculum (often in years 5 and 6) is focused for the majority of the week on literacy and numeracy. It is tempting for schools to do this as there are significant negative consequences if SATs results are judged to be unacceptable to OFSTED.

In the 2014 National Curriculum the government set out a clear message that every state-funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly-based and which:

- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and
- prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

The school curriculum comprises all learning and other experiences that each school plans for its pupils. The national curriculum forms one part of the school curriculum.

This means schools should teach all the curriculum subjects, but also provide children with other activities and learning opportunities that will allow them to develop as individuals and into well-rounded adults.

Aston Clinton pupils have access to all the curriculum subjects as well as 'Philosophy 4 Children'. We have a long term plan for all the year groups and what they will cover.

The children also have access to a Values-Based curriculum. Assemblies reinforce values; and opportunities are provided to experience those values. For example, children learn the meaning of responsibility by undertaking different roles around the school.

Children are involved in our annual Enterprise Week which develops a range of practical skills such as advertising their products; profit margins; selling their products in the school market (a wonderful sight to see children pitching their wares in the hall) and evaluating what worked well and what could have gone better.

They also take part in a class assembly each year. This gives them a chance to learn how to present information to an audience. Projecting their voice can be a challenge for some and the only way to get better at it is to have a go at it. The children often write their own assembly scripts, so have to prioritise what is important information to be relayed to those watching them and then how they want to impart the information.

Aston Clinton School has always worked hard to ensure the children experience a rich and varied curriculum. This is because we believe education is about helping children discover their talents and interests as well as developing their basic skills. Schooling should prepare children for their adult life. To us, this means their work life and their private life too.

Helen Shepherd

Aston Clinton, Buckland & Drayton Beauchamp Horticultural Society

BACK IN SEPTEMBER, I was on holiday in Norfolk where we took steam train rides and visited the Queen's estate at Sandringham. Whilst the gardens were not designed for summer flower beds (the Queen goes there at Christmas), they are pleasantly laid out to give a peaceful ambience. At least I was able to visit the church on the estate and can now relate to the pictures we see on the television.

During the holiday I spent a day in Norwich and visited a small, almost secret garden called the 'Plantation Garden'. It is only about 5mins from the city centre but you have to know it's there. It is a Victorian garden created out of an old quarry. Unfortunately the Grand Glass-house in the middle has long gone but other statues still stand. The garden was full of butterflies and insects and it was while I was trying to capture a picture of a butterfly I took a picture of this magnificent autumn plant.



Photo: Ralph Weston

As I did not recognise it, I sent the photo to the RHS for identification. It is 'Eupatorium purpureum', a native of North America, often

called Joe Pye weed. It is a herbaceous, hardy perennial growing up to 2m high, producing heads of fluffy pink flowers during late summer and autumn. It grows best in moist but well-drained soil in full sun or light shade and can be propagated by division in either autumn or early spring.

Photo: David Lonsdale



On the theme of autumn flowering plants, the TV series 'Gardeners World' had an item on Asters, which this year have been magnificent. It included recommendations for Aster, frikartii x 'Monch', pictured above. It has lovely bright lavender-blue flowers around golden hearts – brilliant for the autumn garden and the insects love them as they are laden with pollen and nectar. It can grow to 3ft high with flowers 2½ inches across. Another is Eurybia divaricata or commonly known as the White Wood Aster. As the name suggests it is most suitable for dry areas such as under trees. It produces a fairyland of glistening small white daisies in September and October and is lovely when naturalized in shade and average to dry soil. This perennial groundcover grows 1½-2½" tall in filtered to full shade in neutral to slightly acidic soils. Eurybia divaricata is a vigorous grower and is a favorite for attracting wildlife. The third aster is Symphyotrichum or Aster cordifolius 'Little Carlow'. Leaves are simple, lance-shaped and entire, but it is their daisy-like flowerheads that they are grown for; they

have central disc florets that are typically yellow-centered 2cm across, surrounded by strap-shaped ray florets in shades of pink, blue, purple or white. The problem is that stocks of plants that are recommended by the 'Gardeners World' programme are soon sold out as my friend found out when she tried to obtain examples. But I'm sure they will be available again 'on-line' for the 2018 season.

Our AGM took place in October and you will be glad to know that all our officers and committee agreed to stand again for another year. Highlighted was the need for additional help to run our two shows, to search for speakers for our meetings and to encompass the challenge of all the new housing and families that are coming to Aston Clinton.

The Society needs to acknowledge that gardens are much smaller, and families have less time for traditional gardening. Instead of being measured in rods, poles, and perches, they might be only 4 x 3m. Families generally now have much less time for things I've done in the past such as double digging or sowing potatoes by digging three spits and planting in the trench with farm manure. Those days are long gone. Digging will aerate the soil and help break up heavier soils. Nowadays most people use a 'no-dig' regime. This relies on adding mulches to encourage the worms to do the digging for us. This need not be too expensive or time-consuming for a small garden.

"... a 'no-dig' regime relies on adding mulches to encourage the worms to do the digging for us."

The Horticultural Society needs your help to guide us in what it can do for all residents. In particular: in what way do our two shows need to change to reflect what is being grown today? Should we concentrate more on other activities such as handicrafts, domestic and floral art? Some shows now have more non-plant classes

than the traditional flowers and veg sections.

Also, we want our children to learn and take part in these wider activities as they are not now covered by the core national curriculum.

Finally, back to plants or better – a small shrub that I first saw in a garden in Scotland



Photo: David Lonsdale

and am recommending for small gardens because they are ideal for a patio tub. It is called 'Crinodendron hookerianum', commonly known as the Chile Lantern Tree. These shrubs can be difficult to grow, as they need a sheltered south or west-facing position, they like their roots to be kept cool and need a relatively moist and fertile acid soil – not the easiest combination of growing conditions to achieve. Grown in a container you can control soil acidity and move the plant to a suitably sheltered spot. RHS advice says be careful to water regularly though and follow their advice on container maintenance and growing trees and shrubs in containers.

Ralph Weston

**Please mention
Village Life when
responding to our
advertisers.**

**Their support makes
your magazine possible.**

A Chiltern Hero Remembered

PASSCHENDAELE. I have known that name forever, a foreign, frightening word like Auschwitz and Guernica. As a child, I didn't understand the words but felt their vague, unspecified terrors. Only in recent years have I realised the full extent of the horror evoked by that word. Passchendaele, or the third battle of Ypres, resulted in the slaughter of 275,000 men under the command of the Allies, and a further 220,000 Germans between the months of July and November 1917. In 2017 we commemorated the hundredth anniversary of this, one of the worst battles of the First World War.

My maternal grandfather, Robert Henry Payne, who served with the 1st Bucks Battalion, part of the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, was killed in that battle. Robert's father, also Robert Payne, had previously served with the 4th Hussars as a trumpet major. His son was a bugler, and also a stretcher bearer, a role customarily filled by musicians.

Robert Henry worked at Hazell, Watson and Viney, the Aylesbury printers, and married my grandmother Edith in 1910. When he enlisted in 1914, they had two small daughters, Doris aged four and my mother, Connie, who was one year old. I have a postcard showing the battalion leaving Chelmsford, where they trained, for France in March 1915. He survived some of the worst actions on the Somme: Ploegsteert Wood, Hebuterne and Pozières.

My mother was three years old when her father was killed on 16th August 1917 at St. Julien. Researching the details of that time, it seems very likely that my grandfather was killed in the near suicidal attack against the German blockhouse 'Mon du Hibou' carried out on that day, when the tanks, intended to

support the assault, failed to materialise having been bogged down in the mud.

Robert is commemorated at Tyne Cot, the memorial to those who have no known grave, and on the War Memorial in Aylesbury's Market Square. I went to Tyne Cot about 15 years ago. No-one from the family had ever been there: my grandmother would have loved to visit, but in her lifetime a trip to Belgium was about as likely as a trip to the moon.

I recall standing there, wondering what he would have thought of the middle-aged, only daughter of his youngest child travelling via a tunnel under the Channel, to pay her respects to him and thank him for his sacrifice.

I have his medals, some postcards and photographs, and his poignant last letter home to his wife, when he tells her that they were "going into it rather hot shortly" and he exhorts her to be brave until she hears from him again. He closes the letter:

"Now I must finish my duck, God bless you and the kiddies if any-

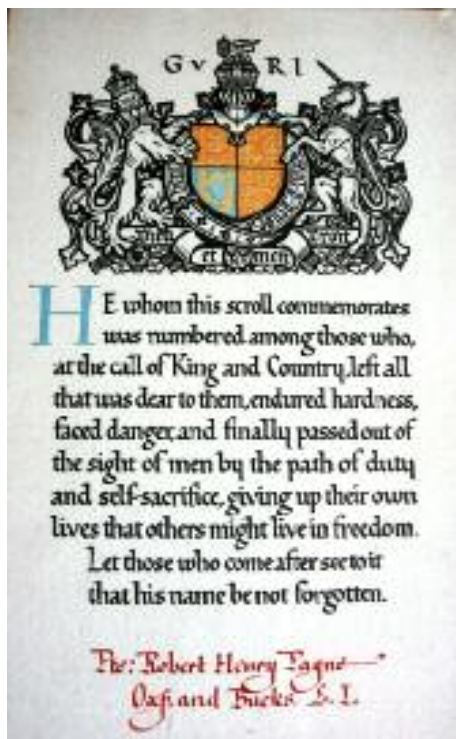
thing does happen, and you and they shall be the last in my thoughts." He was killed a week later, aged 31. His widow Edith brought up their two daughters, Doris, then aged seven and Constance (my mother), aged three. Doris died from pneumonia in 1933 at 22 years of age, and Edith aged 79 in 1966. My mother Connie died at 64 in 1978.

Robert Henry Payne has been part of my life for as long as I can remember. The photograph of him in uniform was always on my Gran's wall, in pride of place above the sideboard. We share a birthday, which must have been bitter-sweet for her, celebrating her only granddaughter's birthday and thinking of her late

Continued opposite



Pte. Robert Henry Payne



husband. My grandfather is also commemorated on his elder daughter's grave in Aylesbury Cemetery, and my Gran lived in Albert Street, close by. Every week when I visited her, we would cross the road to the cemetery, and walk to that grave. My Gran kept an empty jam jar there, and in the summer I would skip around picking wild flowers, especially ox-eye daisies, to fill the jar for him. In 2017 I was seventy years old, no longer prone to skipping, and my mother and grandmother are long gone. I have neither siblings nor children, so the future of



those special things, like that letter, his postcards and his medals, caused me some concern. I have now donated them to the Museum of Oxford Soldiery in Woodstock, where they were on display for a while, and are now part of the permanent collection. I went back to Tyne Cot last July to take part in the moving 100th anniversary commemorations in Ypres, and laid a wreath for my Grandad (see photo above). It was the most marvellous experience, and one I will always remember.

All my life this scroll, commemorating his sacrifice has been on my bedroom wall. The beautiful wording ends with these words:

**“Let those who come after see to it
that his name be not forgotten.”**

This is all I can do. Please remember him with gratitude, and the thousands like him.

Alison Beck

[This article was previously published in the Chiltern Society's 'Chiltern Magazine']

Don't forget to check out our new **website**. You can find recent back issues of Village Life which you can download to send to friends and relatives as email attachments.

Go to: **<http://acvillagelife.weebly.com>**

Parish Council news

Programme of work

ONCE the children have returned to school in the Autumn term, and the Park is less busy, the Parish Council can start its work programme in earnest. At the time of writing, the new All-Weather five-a-side football pitch is being installed. As users will know, the previous one



was looking very tired and we are able to use some Section 106 money to replace it with a brand new 3G facility. The pitch will be leased to Aston Clinton Football Club who will manage it going forward, including lettings to outside organisations. Please visit ACFC's website: www.astonclintonfc.co.uk for details.

In addition, the toilets in the Café will be painted and repaired, the bridge over the brook at the 'beach' will be repaired, there will be a new surface under the slide in the playpark and, in the New Year, the car park will be re-surfaced.

Santa's visit

On to the important matter of Santa's Sleigh! This year, Santa will do the rounds in Aston Clinton on **Sunday 17th December**, starting off as always in Wenwell Close around 2pm and finishing up at the Oak. The route is slightly different this year – as follows:

Times are approximate.

2pm	Wenwell Close
2.30pm	Bishop's Field
3-4pm	The Chilterns Estate
4.30pm	Lower Icknield to Dean Way
5pm	Rosebery Road – Stopping point
5.30pm	Beaconsfield Road
6pm	Beechwood Way
6.30pm	Rothschild Avenue, the Pleasaunce, Yorke Close (if access is possible)
7pm	New Road – Twitchell Lane
7.30pm	Pavilion Gardens, Green End Street
	Stopping point (at Chapel Drive junction)
8pm	Long Plough
8.30pm	The Oak

As always, the proceeds of door-to-door collection will be divided equally between the Aston Clinton Scouts, Guides and the Rennie Grove Hospice, so please give what you can.

Gill Merry CiLCA Parish Clerk



When are we going to have a new Rector?

REV ELIZABETH MOXLEY told the PCCs informally that she was going to retire almost a year ago and since January the six Churchwardens of Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp have been beavering away with a hand-picked team preparing a Parish Profile.

This document sets out who we all are, what we do as three lively congregations and how we do it and says what sort of person we would like to be our new Rector. It also sets out the benefits of living amongst us and what we would like to see happening in the three parishes in the near future.

At the end of October there were two joint meetings of the three Parochial Church Councils and the one on 31st October was attended and chaired by the Bishop of Buckingham. At that meeting the Parish Profile was approved and it was agreed that the post of Rector would be advertised in the Church Times newspaper in November.

Each Parish has appointed two representatives to the panel who will interview the appli-

cants which will also include the Bishop and representatives from our patrons. The Area Dean or the Deanery Lay Chairman will also be on it.

Provided that a suitable candidate can be found who is considered to be the right person for the job, an appointment will then be made. If, however, in the opinion of the panel, none of the candidates is thought to be suitable, no appointment will be made and we will start all over again! It is hoped that an offer will be made in January and our new Rector will be in place soon after Easter 2018.

In the meantime the Diocesan Buildings Committee (which is responsible for the upkeep of the Rectory) has allowed the parishes to continue to use the Rectory as the Benefice Office and will not let it during the vacancy.

All enquiries about weddings, baptisms and funerals can continue to be made to the Benefice Administrator, Cate Prickett on **01296 631488** or, alternatively, you can email her at catelomasbeneficeoffice@gmail.com

James Adam Churchwarden

Latest news on our Neighbourhood Plan

THE Aston Clinton Neighbourhood Plan, now formally the ACNP, will have been submitted to AVDC for the statutory six-week period for comments before it progresses to the Examiner for his comments or approval.

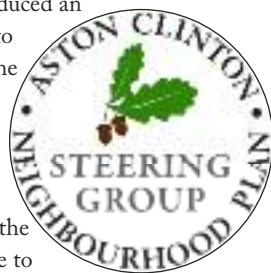
We would like to thank all those who have commented at the pre-submission stage. Those comments, along with those from the statutory consultees have been incorporated, where necessary, into the finished document.

The proposal for Green Park to be designated a Local Green Space elicited a controversial response from Bucks CC, and as result a further consultation, both online and in the council

offices was held. This produced an overwhelming decision to maintain our proposal. The comments have been collated and will be appended to the Plan for the Examiner's decision. Thanks once again to all the people who took the time to attend or complete the online survey.

It's been a tortuous journey for all involved but we are approaching the final stretch to the finishing line.

Colin Read Chairman ACNP



It's the most wonderful time of the year...

CHRISTMAS is looming. For most there will be great excitement. Beautifully wrapped presents, family get togethers, feasts, crackers, charades and festive fun. Many look forward to it for months ahead, planning and preparing for the upcoming season with gleeful anticipation.

For others it could be very different. Some may be facing the festive season with fear, sadness, loneliness or dread—comparing themselves to those online images of happy faces and piles of presents.

For so many, it will be a Christmas without a much missed loved one; a mother struggling with post-natal depression; realising you bought the wrong gift, or no gift at all; a military family missing their other half.

Ways that might help you cope include:

- Talk to friends and family
- Make lists about everything that needs to be done
- Plan ahead as much as possible
- Delegate some of the jobs
- Manage people's expectations of what you can offer or do

Christmas really can be a time of the greatest joy. Fun-filled special times with special people. If you know someone who might be facing a very different Christmas this year, be sensitive towards them. Keep a neighbourly eye out for those who might need it. It might be the most wonderful time of the year for you. For them, it might be the very worst.

If you recognise yourself in any of the above descriptions, there are loads of places and people who can help. Friends and family, local services, anonymous phone lines or websites, whatever works best for you. Seek someone out and speak to them, or ask for help. Many are available day and night and are waiting to hear from you.

Sophy Winfield

BACP registered therapeutic counsellor for adults, children and young people



**ENJOY
LUNCH AND
A CHAT**

**EVERY
TUESDAY
12 noon - 3pm**

**at the Churchill Hall Lunch Club,
Aston Clinton Park (over 18s only)**

Freda and Tony Hare invite you to visit the Lunch Club at the Churchill Hall in Aston Clinton Park

Special Christmas Buffet: Tuesday 19th Dec

Everyone welcome. Non-regulars: A small donation is requested from non-regulars who are requested to book in advance.

*For more information, or if you need a lift,
please phone 01296 631 384*

Guides' ramble for Children in Need

EVERY TERM WE TRY and offer the 1st Aston Clinton Guides a residential experience. Sometimes it is just a sleep-over in our Guide Hall, but we try to offer all sorts of different opportunities to tempt the girls to stay a night away from home and increase their independence.

This term we offered a Pudsey sleepover at the Guide Hall. The girls made their own individual pizzas for dinner, using salami or pineapple chunks as Pudsey spots. They also made some wonderful Pudsey biscuits which we saved for them to eat as a reward at the end of their ramble the following morning. As well as the cooking (and washing up) the girls played some games and we had an indoor campfire before bedding down for the night in the hall. The following morning after a cooked breakfast, everything was cleared away, ready for their parents to collect and the girls kitted up appropriately for their 10km sponsored ramble.

We walked out to the airfield, along the canal to Wendover then through the back of Wendover and up into Wendover Woods. Many of the girls had no concept of how far

10km was, and the last few kilometres were quite hard work for several of the girls and called on all our powers of persuasion. I am happy to say that everyone finished the walk and were pleased to see leader Laura in the yellow gazebo, set up with drinks and hot dogs and the Pudsey biscuits, waiting for them at the finish in the woods. Amazingly, after food and drink and a couple of games the girls had all forgotten the challenge of the walk.

It was unfortunate that many of our girls have other commitments at the weekend, so we did this event with only a small number. However, we achieved many of our Guiding goals. The girls developed their independence with cooking and washing up and sleeping a night away from home. They had fun with their friends with silly songs and games. They pushed their boundaries with a long walk and all felt like they had achieved something. The Guides learned that a positive attitude gets you through a lot and not to give up when something becomes challenging. Finally, they also raised a lot of money for charity – in total we have sent £391.72 to BBC Children in Need.

Sue Wall



You don't have to be a doctor to save lives

IN AUGUST I gave blood in Aylesbury at the blood donor session at the Methodist church. It was my 81st donation and once the needle had gone in, it only took five minutes for the bag to be filled.

Has anyone else given blood recently? I donate about three times a year. It is important to help those having surgery who need blood and blood products. I started giving blood

when I joined the army. Then they gave you a bottle of Guinness to fill your arm – not like the tea and biscuits of today.

When I worked in London I gave blood four times a year. The blood always went straight to one of the London hospitals. You can donate blood in Aylesbury, Wendover and Tring. Visit www.blood.co.uk for more information.

Please join us.

Ralph Weston

GP corner

AS WE GO forward into what is usually the coldest part of the winter please take good care of yourselves and any elderly relatives, friends or neighbours. Ensure that you eat nourishing hot meals, keep warm indoors and when venturing out in icy weather, wear lots of layers and be extra careful to wear shoes or boots with soles that have good grip to prevent falls.

Check in on each other and make sure things are OK. Does someone need help to collect medication? If someone lives alone a quick 'pop in' for a cuppa may be all that is needed to ensure they are safe and well and feel cared for. This does not only apply to elderly people, sometimes a lone parent may need a little help and attention.

Please enjoy your alcohol sensibly and stick to the recommended limits. No amount of alcohol is totally safe but the recommended limits ensure the lowest risk: that's no more than 3-4 units for men or 2-3 units for women daily. A unit is 10ml of pure alcohol, described as a percentage of the drink's volume – known

as ABV – alcohol by volume

Ten minutes after a drink, half the alcohol is absorbed into your bloodstream with all of it being absorbed after 1 hour. Remember that alcohol takes a long time to disperse from your bloodstream, despite drinking coffee, having a big fry-up or taking remedies.

1 small measure (25ml) of spirits (ABV 40%) = 1 unit

1 pint of beer (ABV 4%) = 2.3 units

1 pint of beer (ABV 5%) = 2.8 units

1 pint of beer (ABV 6%) = 3.4 units

1 pint of super strength beer (ABV 9%) = 5.1 units

1 x 175ml glass of wine (ABV 12%) = 2.1 units

1 x 175ml glass of wine (ABV 14%) = 2.5 units

After a big night out, you could still be above the legal level for driving until the next afternoon! If in doubt, take a taxi or have a designated driver.

With all that sobering information in mind please enjoy yourselves. We would like to wish all our patients a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Best wishes to all our patients ...

From all at Aston Clinton Surgery

News of local clubs and other organisations is always welcome, especially news of sports clubs. Every home in Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp receives a copy of Village Life.

Aston Clinton U3A news

Our monthly general meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the Anthony Hall, starting at 2.30pm until 4.30pm. At the meeting on 19th December there will be a talk entitled “The Very Model of an Englishman”, and on 17th January the talk will be about “The Building of St Petersburg”. Also in December, following on from last year’s trip to Kew Gardens, we will be taking a coach to Blenheim Palace to view the Formal Gardens which will be decorated for an after-dark festive trail of lights.

In the coming months most of our 30 interest/activity groups will be holding Christmas events and also planning for next year’s programmes which are sure to be as varied and interesting as ever. If you have any ideas as to what you would like to be included make sure you talk to your Group Leaders to let them know.

The University of the 3rd Age in Aston Clinton is not all academia; there are many groups involved in things practical as well as educational. One such is the Model Railway Group. At present there are ten members modelling railways in various scales and gauges, some in their home and others in the garden – some are even lucky enough to have both!

Everyone is trying to recapture that magical era of steam locomotion, whether that be main line express trains or little industrial narrow gauge railways. Interest extends to British railways, Welsh narrow gauge, Swiss (but without the mountains) and also to various times in history. One member is modelling the London and North Western Railway at a time just before the First World War. Some of the railways are set in fictitious locations and periods, others are the subject of historical research. There is a

wealth of history in the architecture, locomotives, carriages, goods stock and operations of every railway to be explored. Research is another fascinating aspect of building a model around your chosen theme.

Members visit each other’s homes one afternoon a month to show off their ‘pride and joy’. Discussion ensues relating to origin of the model and methods of construction, detailing and painting. The exchange of views can be quite lively at times! It is a great hobby, for young and old, with many facets of interest.



Keith Robinson's 16mm scale garden railway

If it sounds as though that could be you, then do give our U3A secretary a call.

If you are no longer working full-time or raising a family, now is the time to make the most of life. U3A gives you a chance to develop your interests, make new friends and enjoy yourself.

For more information visit our website:
www.acu3a.weebly.com

Jeff Meek

Please mention Village Life when responding to our advertisers

AC Pre-School is 50 this year!



IN 1967 the Anthony Hall on London Road became home to Aston Clinton Playgroup. Much has happened in the 50 years that have followed: decimal currency, the first female British Prime Minister, mobile phones and Concorde's first and last flights! But here in a quiet corner of rural Buckinghamshire the playgroup continued, withstanding the test of time and morphing into the fabulous community asset that Aston Clinton Pre-School has become.

In September of this year, I was thrilled to be appointed as the new manager of the Pre-School. I may be familiar to some of you having worked in Early Years education in the village



in one way or another for almost nine years now. This has included setting up and running my own childcare business, which is where I discovered my passion for nurturing and developing young minds. I have also been fortunate enough to broaden my experiences through working at the Pre-School and within the

early years reception class last year at Aston Clinton School.

For those of you who may not be familiar with us, we are a pack-away unit, run by a charity committee. This means that we rely on our wonderful team of volunteer parents to make the Pre-School the success that it is. We are open five days a week and you are able to use your 30 hour funding with us.

From January 2018 we will also be accepting children from the age of two. Our aim is to assist your child with unlocking the extraordinary potential that is within them on the first step of their journey into education.

Having recently picked up the reins to a

successfully run, Ofsted 'Good' rating, I am looking forward to updating and innovating the work that we do. The first part of the new school year has seen some exciting adjustments within the Pre-School including the introduction of new online systems to allow parents to view and keep up-to-date with their children's development and progress at any time in their own homes.

I operate a true open-door policy - if you didn't know we were there or have not got round to getting in touch and you have children approaching pre-school age, do feel free to knock on the door next time you are passing. I will be more than happy to show you around and give you some information about what we do. Also keep an eye out for the various events that we run! In the past we have held pamper evenings, race nights and fun days for the children. If nothing else it's an excellent way to continue to expand the ever-thriving community we are so lucky to be part of.

I loved the opportunities that the Pre-School provided to both of my own children during their time here and feel strongly that it played a big role in promoting their self-confidence and self-worth. If we can assist our small people to be confident in their own abilities and feel valued as part of a larger community, it gives them skills and strengths to take forward on every step of their path to adulthood.

I look forward to meeting lots of new faces as I progress my own journey in leading the Pre-School and I'm excited to see what the future holds for us.

Charlotte Trustram

Please mention Village Life when responding to our advertisers

The WI local branch

BUCKLAND, Drayton Beauchamp and Aston Clinton WI meet on the **first Wednesday of every month at Anthony Hall at 7.45 pm.**

Our WI is coming to the end of a busy and interesting year. We have had many interesting speakers at our monthly meetings, including a female photo journalist, a bird vet and a solicitor. We have also visited Bath, Frithsden (our local vineyard), as well as the cinema and theatre. As well as looking back over the year, we are looking forward to the coming year which promises to be just as exciting.

In December we'll reach our WI 87th birthday, and our lunch group will be celebrating Christmas at a local inn. In January our meeting will be a Beetle Drive.

We welcome new members at any of our

meetings – Come along and try us – You will receive a warm and friendly welcome. Or for more information please contact me by email at bucklandraytonbeauchampastonclintonwi@gmail.com

Claire Castle

Aston Clinton Ladies Group

Wednesday 20 December at 8pm

A carol service will be held at St Michael's Church. All are welcome, we will then have coffee and mince pies at Janet Watson's house.

Wednesday 17 January at 12.30 for 1pm

Lunch at the Greyhound pub in Wigginton. Menus will be available in the New Year.

For further info contact Sue Sanders on **01296 630740** or Janet Watson on **01296 631014**.

New members are always very welcome.

An early autumn day in our spacious and beautiful Aston Clinton Park, photographed by Marion Mason



Grants available from Turpin's Charity

FURTHER to an article in Village Life in 2016 by the chairman of Turpin's Charity, I am pleased to announce that the charity is now taking applications for grants from individuals within the village of Aston Clinton and neighbouring areas.

The charity has already made its first grants which have included—helping vulnerable adults cover rent charges when unable to work due to illness; making home improvements in order to improve health outcomes for the needy and funding potentially life-saving private health treatment, unavailable on the NHS.

The scope of Turpin's Charity is wide-ranging and covers assistance of the young, the elderly and vulnerable in order to provide short-term support to improve lives long-term.

So, if you are young and need financial assistance in making the next step to your future career – with training, or an educational visit for instance; or if you are elderly and struggling to receive sufficient support in some aspect of your life, or are experiencing financial distress due to ill health, please, in the first instance, make contact with me, the clerk to Turpin's Charity, by email: turpincharity@outlook.com or by telephone: **01494 758843** and leave a message.

Please note: All applications will be considered by the charity's trustees. Only one application per person can be submitted for an award.

Hayley Lewis

Clerk to Turpin's Charity
Registered charity no. 203751



QUIZ NIGHT

in association with
premierholidays

★ RAISING MONEY FOR FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE HOSPICE ★

Saturday 27th January 2018 - 7PM Start

Weston Turville Village Hall, School Approach, HP22 5RW

£10 a ticket including Fish & Chip* Supper - Bring your own drinks

A raffle will be held on the night -
Tickets now on sale and available to purchase from Adams Travel

Adams Travel
11 Market Square, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP20 1TJ
Tel: 01296 873017

* Alternatives available: Sausage & Chips or Veggie Burger & Chips

The green, green grass of home

EDWIN BEARD BUDDING has a lot to answer for. He invented the lawn mower in 1830, and thus encouraged a feature of gardening that has spread all over the world. Have you ever wondered why so many of us spend so much of our precious time trying to produce a plain green patch of grass in front or behind our houses? Lawns lack interest and biodiversity: they're great for sitting on and for the kids to play on, but not much else, and they take so much time to maintain. During 2017, I have been able to enjoy a different and much more interesting vista.

I have lived in Aston Clinton for forty years, and over the years the occasional bee orchid has popped up in my front lawn, to be carefully mown round. Some years there are none, and recently I assumed that the moss, which is taking over from the grass, had choked them out. This year I was away for almost three weeks from

"When I got back, it was a sea of dog daisies, buttercups, hawk bit and thirty-five bee orchids!"

mid-May, so the front lawn took the opportunity to go into production. When I got back, it was a sea of dog daisies, buttercups, hawk bit and thirty-five bee orchids! It looked absolutely beautiful, a real wild flower meadow, and I couldn't help thinking how much more interesting and useful it was than all that grass. Bees, butterflies and hoverflies were delighted, and so was I.

Bee orchids are fascinating plants. They have a complicated life cycle, and although their appearance and scent originally evolved to attract bees to pollinate them, the species of bee needed does not occur in the UK, and here they self-pollinate. They are not rare: although declining, their conservation status is 'common'. They are more often found in the south of

England, with a preference for scrub land, coastal sand dunes, chalk grassland and unkempt lawns: I have clearly provided the latter. They are perfect little flowers: whilst they can grow to 30cm, mine were much more modest in size. But their beautiful pink flowers were perfect, with a tiny dark velvet lip.

Once they have flowered, the orchids produce millions of tiny dust-like seeds, and these will only germinate where the right soil fungus is found – I must have that too. And then the seeds take from five to eight years to produce a flowering plant, so it isn't surprising that they often vanish from well-tended lawns. I have looked up how best to encourage my beautiful visitors to stay, and the advice is to do what we always used to do traditionally with meadows: stop mowing from April through to early September. I am not sure that everyone will agree, but to me it seems a blessing not to be ignored, and one less job to do!

Alison Beck



Photo: Alison Beck

The Bee Orchid flower in close-up. It is apparent how it got its name.

Please mention Village Life when responding to our advertisers

All Saints' Church, Buckland

Regular Services:

8am Holy Communion each Sunday

11am Morning Worship – First and Third Sundays

6pm Choral Evensong – Fourth Sunday each month

10am Midweek Communion each Wednesday



Forthcoming events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Fri 1 Dec	7pm	Flicks in the Sticks	All Saints' Church
Sat 2 Dec	10am	Produce Stall	All Saints' Church
Sat 2 Dec	5pm	Junior Flicks	All Saints' Church
Sun 3 Dec	4.30pm	Messy Christingle	All Saints' Church
Sat 9 Dec	10.30am	Christmas Tree Festival	St Michael's Church
Sun 10 Dec	11am	Nativity and Communion	All Saints' Church
Christmas Eve	4pm	Carols around the Crib	All Saints' Church
Christmas Day	8am	Christmas Communion	All Saints' Church
Sun 31 Dec	9.15am	Benefice Service with Bishop Alan	St Michael's Church
Sat 6 Jan	10am	Produce Stall	All Saints' Church
Sun 28 Jan	11am	Benefice Service	All Saints' Church

More details about these events on the church website: www.allsaintsbuckland.org.uk

A message from Frances

Thanks to all my ladies who helped with the decorating for Harvest, for all donations and for the refreshments given by Mary Bourne. We had some beautiful displays with wonderful bright colours of flowers and leaves. Special thanks go to Jane and Graham Lewis for their gift of gorgeous dahlias. This year I think the church looked radiant!

Our next get-together will be for Christmas. We will meet at **10am** on **23rd December**. The colour theme this year is red and green including baubles etc. Anyone is welcome to come and join in the fun and have a glass of sherry!

I would like to thank everyone on my church rota for helping to keep flowers on the altar throughout the year. And a big 'thank you' to the ladies who always give their time and skills to help with the Festivals. If there is anyone new to the area and dying to join us, please get in touch. My number is **01296 630072**. Or you can contact me by email at francesmfarley25@gmail.com *Frances Farley*



St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp

Regular Services:
10.45am each Sunday



Forthcoming events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun 17 Dec	4pm	A Celebration of Christmas	St Mary's Church
Christmas Day	10.45am	Christmas communion	St Mary's Church
Sun 31 Dec	9.15am	Benefice Service with Bishop Alan	St Michael's Church
Sun 28 Jan	11am	Benefice Service	All Saints' Church

More details about the church on the church website: www.s-marys.org.uk

Pony Express

THE Pony Express will deliver Christmas cards in Drayton Beauchamp again this year. I will aim to do a final delivery on Saturday 23rd December. If I have enough cards I will probably do a first delivery earlier in the week depending on weather and helpers. I don't plan to go to Buckland this year unless several people ask me to.

Please drop cards in at The Dray House by **9am** on **Saturday 23rd December** at the very latest. Sorting the cards is very time consuming, so earlier would be better.

If you wish to give me something for charity I will divide the money between one of the local hospices and an equine charity.



Erica Godman, 01296 630066

St Mary's Church, Drayton Beauchamp

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Admission free. Following the concert, mulled wine and mince pies will be served.

The Ridgeway Chorale

Wednesday 6th December at 8pm

Further information from
Elizabeth Moores 01442 826241

The Ridgeway Chorale is a small choir based in Tring and directed by Richard Grylls. They will be singing some familiar and some unfamiliar Christmas music – all beautiful and often exhilarating. The concert will include well-known carols for all to sing.

There are three guest soloists: two talented teenage horn-players, Thomas O'Shea and Arthur Summers; and former choir member, Alan Power, a recorder player.

Come and enjoy some fine and festive music making.

Lindengate: a boost for butterflies

IF YOU are an avid reader of Village Life you will have come across Lindengate, the award-winning local charity based near Wendover. Lindengate is a five-acre garden, a haven where gardening, craft and cooking activities are used to help people dealing with depression, dementia, learning disabilities and loneliness and many other Mental Health needs.

Lindengate is also playing an ever-increasing role in conservation, working with Butterfly Conservation, the RSPB and Hampshire & IOW (H&IOW) Wildlife Trust. The site is acting as a feeder nursery to propagate and nurture enough suitable plants to guarantee a sustainable supply of primary foodplants for particular species.

The Marsh Fritillary butterfly is the subject of a re-introduction project at the RSPB reserve at Otmoor, Oxfordshire, where Devil's Bit Scabious is vital to its survival. Young plants grown at Lindengate are being planted out to create a big enough colony for the sustainability of the butterfly.



The beautiful Marsh Fritillary butterfly feeding on the flower head of Devil's Bit Scabious.

With H&IOW Wildlife Trust, they are providing the young caterpillars with the plants they need to feed on to reach healthy maturity so that they can be released into an existing

site. Lindengate provide the same 'nursery catering' service to the Duke of Burgundy butterfly whose favourite food is Cowslip.



The Devil's Bit Scabious is grown at Lindengate to help conserve the Marsh Fritillary butterfly.

Lindengate is also propagating and growing Black Poplar which is one of the most endangered trees in the UK, working with Aylesbury Vale District Council. The Vale is one of the last places where Black Poplar is still found in the wild. Lindengate will be helping to keep this population healthy by nurturing a new disease-resistant strain developed at Kew.

Similar work on disease-resistant elms will help the many species of butterfly that have been affected by the loss of elms across our countryside in the past twenty years.

The mother and carer of one of the regular Gardeners explained "I am amazed by how much work is going on in this one site. My autistic son benefits hugely from having two mornings a week developing his gardening skills at Lindengate, and it makes me very proud to think that, even if he just waters the Black Poplars on a hot summer's day, he is contributing to such important national conservation work. It's all down to the intelligent dovetailing of conservation and people projects that goes on constantly at Lindengate."

Continued opposite

Have you enjoyed reading this issue of Village Life?

With the retirement of the present editor in the Spring of 2018, a new editorial team of volunteers is coming together.

If you would like to be part of the team, please contact Alec Just on 01296 634955 for details.

Village Life:
your community
magazine



Lindengate, continued

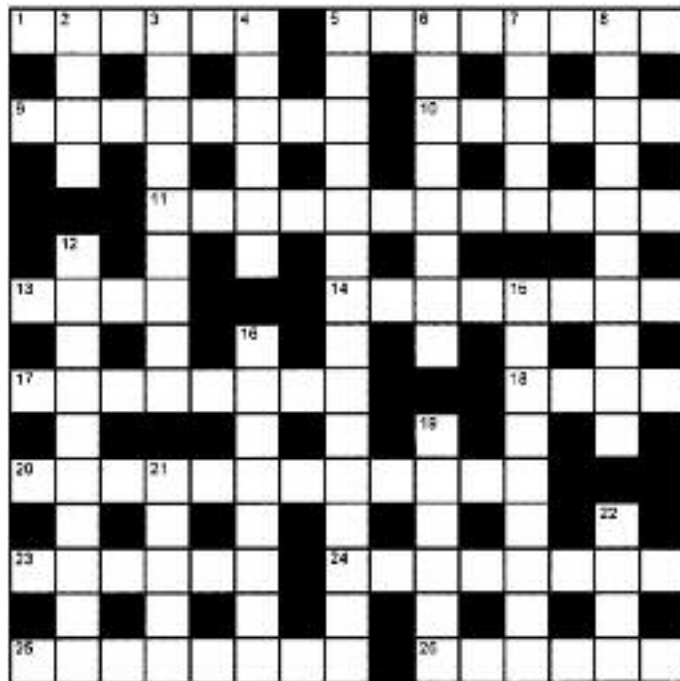
You can support Lindengate by making a donation through the Big Give Christmas Challenge 2017, the UK's largest match funding campaign. Your donation will be doubled from the pledges already offered to Lindengate via the Big Give. Why not make a donation as an

early Christmas present for those people you know who already have everything? Go to the website by typing in <https://goo.gl/jzprnJ> before **Wednesday 6 December 2017** to make your donation and help Lindengate access the pledged match-funding.

Village Life crossword no. 24

Crossword compiled by **Helen Lonsdale**

Solution on page 9



CLUES ACROSS

1. Iron deficiency (6)
5. Study of the nature of God (8)
9. Word game (8)
10. Uncover (6)
11. Garden carts (12)
13. Against (4)
14. A sharp division / A split (8)
17. Parasite living in intestines (8)
18. Page of a book (4)
20. A docker (12)
23. A theatre showing films (6)
24. Issues (8)
25. Impetus (8)
26. One less than 12 (6)

CLUES DOWN

2. Pleasant (4)
3. Hitherto (9)
4. Fly trap (6)
5. Underground economies (3,5,7)
6. Learned (8)
7. Dim, as lights (5)
8. Resident of Scotland's largest city (10)
12. Opponent (10)
15. Anonymous card (9)
16. Store for the future (8)
19. Kingdom (6)
21. Flash of light (5)
22. A single time (4)

Progress report on the Wendover Arm

Work continues by volunteers of the Wendover Arm Trust (WAT) who are restoring Phase II from Drayton Beauchamp to Little Tring where Phase I was opened to canal boats in 2005.

Currently 671 metres is 100% complete and in water, although not to full navigable depth, and a further 246 metres of bank lining was finished during October. The Trust is working between bridges 4 and 4a, which are timber footbridges erected some time ago. It is anticipated that bank lining work will reach Whitehouses by spring 2018, subject to satisfactory progress during the forthcoming winter.

Whitehouses is where there was originally one of the three pumping stations, serving the

canal (and some brick culverts remain) but pumping was subsequently centralised at Tringford following construction in 1817.

There have been subsequent alterations to the structure but it is still in use and has recently undergone major restoration by the Canal & River Trust, the owners of the canal. Two public Open Days were held in 2017.

WAT is actively co-operating with CRT in respect of a Heritage Lottery bid, having successfully passed Stage 1, but needing to secure Stage 2 before funds are hopefully released.

Nigel Williams

Publicity Director
Wendover Arm Trust



Some idea of the scale of the future challenge facing the dedicated group of volunteers of the Wendover Arm Trust (see opposite page) can be gauged from this photograph. Taken by Alan Newland in late October 2017, it shows the view along the canal channel from Wendover looking towards Halton and Aston Clinton. The channel in this section of the Arm has long been largely silted up and colonised by vegetation rooting in the silt.

However, the towpath remains as a pleasant level footpath through a green corridor which may one day see waterborne leisure activities along its length.

Useful telephone numbers

Name	Contact	Telephone no.	Email address
1st Aston Clinton Rainbows	See below*	-	
1st & 2nd Aston Clinton Brownies	See below*	-	
All Saints' Friends email dist. list	Peter Elwin	01296 630454	peter.elwin@elwins.net
Amersham Hospital	–	01494 434411	
Anthony Hall (Bookings Sec)	Janet Brassington	01296 630229	theanthonyhallac@gmail.com
Aston Clinton Badminton Club	Maureen Davison	07958 479690	
Aston Clinton Baptist Church	Simon Downing	01296 631824	
Aston Clinton Parish Council	Gillian Merry	01296 631269	
Aston Clinton School	Helen Shepherd	01296 630276	
Aston Clinton U3A	John Bullard	01296 436403	
Aston Clinton Youth Club	Teresa Smith	01296 631685	
Aston Park Tennis Club	Sue Hoey	01296 630826	membership@astonparktennis.co.uk
Aston Wine Club	Julia Norman	01296 630531	
Badminton (Monday Night Club)	Allen Fairbrother	01296 631159	allen8686@gmail.com
Ballet, Tap and Jazz Classes	JoAnn Latus	07800 518654	
Ballroom Dancing	Yvonne Domican	01296 630467	
Baptist Church Hall	Valerie Owen	01296 630303	
Bosom Buddies	Tracey Norris	079102 58259	BosomBuddiesTring@hotmail.co.uk
Bowls Club	Rosemary Stratfull	01296 631339	
Buckland Book Group	Barbara Fletcher	01296 631111	brfletcher@hotmail.co.uk
Buckland Bridge Club	Janet Cato	01296 630552	buckland.bridge@gmail.com
Buckland Village Hall (Bkings Sec)	Paula Graves	01296 630310	
Buckland Parish Council	Fiona Lippmann	01296 626073	bucklandpc@googlemail.com
Buckland Society	Kelly Cornish	01296 632119	
Childline	–	0800 1111	
Cricket Club	Mike Parsonage	01296 631788	
Crimestoppers	–	0800 555 111	
Dentists' Surgery	–	01296 323090	
Doctors' Surgery	–	01296 630241	
Drayton B'champ Parish Meeting	Meryl Nodes	01296 630396	
Electricity emergency		0800 7838 838	
Environmental Health	Out of hours	01296 585093	
Environmental Health	Helpline	01296 585605	
Fly tipping	Hotline	0845 330 1856	
Football: Aston Clinton FC	Mark Foster	07831 765738	
Football: AC Colts	Ray Lucas	01296 630076	
Gas emergency		0800 111 999	
Green Park Life Saving Assocn	Liz Youens	01296 622895	
Guides, Brownies & Rainbows	See below*	–	
High Wycombe Hospital		01494 526161	
Highways on Call	Out of hours	01296 486630	