



Village Life

The community magazine
for Aston Clinton, Buckland
and Drayton Beauchamp

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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 know you have a general election and Christmas to cope with, but I hope you will find Village Life offers something to take your mind off things for a short while at least.

We have a special guest in our Village People feature this time. Although he doesn't actually live in the area he is a regular visitor and very popular. We are lucky to have been able to visit him at his home and you can see the interview on page 22.

A few issues back we were introduced to Bridget, the dog belonging to school caretaker, Paul Arnold. This time, on page 10, we learn a bit more about the vital role she plays at the school.

As well as our usual crossword from Helen Lonsdale we also have a quiz from her husband, David, this time. It is quite challenging but should keep any quizzers out there interested.

A new venture comes to Aston Clinton in January when a Repair Café opens up in the church. Repair Cafes started in the Netherlands and there are now nearly 2000 worldwide. In a throw-away world they offer a way of avoiding wasted resources and unnecessary use of landfill. Have a look around at home and see what can be repaired rather than replaced. More details on page 12.

Santa is coming to town on 22 December, starting in Wenwell Close at 2.30pm and finishing at The Oak at about 8.30pm. You can check his exact route on the Parish Council website www.astonclinton.org.uk

A final thought, although Christmas is a wonderful season for most of us, there are those for whom it can be the most difficult time of year. If you know someone in this position, please keep them in your thoughts and, if you can, give them a call or make a visit so that they know they are not forgotten.

*Our very best wishes for Christmas and 2020
from all at Village Life. Richard Vincent*

Divine recycling...



*Revelation 21.5
He who was seated on
the throne said, "I am
making all things new!"*

There seem to be so many upgrades to mobile phones and tablets these days, I can't keep up.

They all communicate *"Out with the old, in with the new"*.

The *"new and improved version"* can be the tired old advertising technique that rightly arouses our suspicion but not so with this promise *"I am making all things new"* because it comes from God, who is utterly faithful.

We are promised that there will come a day of new things, when God dwells once again with humanity in harmony.

A day when God has reserved for himself the task of wiping every tear from the eye, when all suffering ceases, no more death or

mourning or crying will be heard because there will be no more cause, a day when all things are made new.

It will not be a day when all new things will be made, but a day when all things are made new.

There will not be a discarding of what has gone before, as if it no longer matters and can be scrapped and replaced by the shiny new version. No, on that day all things are renewed, perfected, completed and that is important, the ultimate upgrade.

God doesn't make all new things, he makes all things new, and that includes all who follow him.

So as we enter another New Year with those resolutions, hopes and dreams which may be a little too similar to the ones we had the year before, know that God is at work seeking your permission to upgrade your life.

May you experience the blessing and Shalom of God, Father, Son & Spirit in 2020 and enjoy a wonderful Christmas. *Nick, Minister ACBC*

Aston Clinton Ladies Group

Wednesday December 18th 8pm

A Carol Service at St Michaels and then to Janet Watson's for coffee and mince pies.

Wednesday January 15th

Lunch at the Oak, Aston Clinton. Meet there at 12.30 for sit down at 1pm. A menu will be available beforehand.

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

New members are very welcome.

Santa is back in Aston Clinton

Our favourite December visitor is riding round Aston Clinton on Sunday **22 December from 2.30 to 8.30pm**. If you want to know where and when to see him, check the parish council website www.astonclinton.org.uk



St Michael and All Angels

Regular Services: (**except December*)

9.15am Family Eucharist each Sunday except the 4th Sunday.*

6pm Evensong every Sunday.*



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sun 1 Dec	9.15am	Morning Prayer	St Michael's Church
Sun 1 Dec	6pm	Advent Carols & Communion	St Michael's Church
Thur 5 Dec	2pm	Bereavement Group	St Michael's Church
Sat 7 Dec	11am – 4pm	Christmas Fair	Anthony Hall
Sun 8 Dec	9.15am	Family Eucharist	St Michael's Church
Sun 15 Dec	9.15am	Said Eucharist	St Michael's Church
Tues 17 Dec	7.30pm	WI Christmas Service	St Michael's Church
Wed 18 Dec	8pm	AC Ladies Advent Service	St Michael's Church
Sun 22 Dec	10am	BENEFICE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS & COMMUNION	St Mary's Church
Thur 2 Jan	2pm	Bereavement Group	St Michael's Church
Sat 11 Jan	9am-12pm	Repair Café	St Michael's Church
Sun 26 Jan	10am	BENEFICE SERVICE	All Saints' Church

REGULAR EVENTS

Mon	2 – 4.30pm	Rhubarb Cafe (Closed on Bank Holidays)	St Michael's Church
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More details about these events on the church website: www.s-michaels.org.uk

St Michael & All Angels

Christmas Fair

THE ANTHONY HALL
SATURDAY 7th DECEMBER

11am to 3pm

For further information or to give contributions to the stalls, please contact *Marion Richards* on 01296 630577.



Christmas Tree Festival

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH
SATURDAY 14th DECEMBER

10.30 to 4.30pm

Followed by carol singing until 5.30pm
Refreshments, including mulled wine, available. Also on Sunday 15 December, from 1.30 to 4.30pm

Christmas Services

St Michael & All Angels

Sun 8 Dec	4pm	Christingle Scouts
Thur 12 Dec	8.45am	Barnowls Nativity & Mince Pies
Sat 14 Dec	10.30am	Christmas Tree Festival
Sat 14 Dec	4.30pm	Carols at Christmas Tree Festival
Sun 15 Dec	1.30 – 4pm	Christmas Tree Festival
Sun 15 Dec	6pm	Nine Lessons & Carols
Sun 22 Dec	7pm	Carols at The Oak Pub
Tues 24 Dec	6pm	Crib Service
Tues 24 Dec	8pm	Carols by Candlelight
Tues 24 Dec	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Wed 25 Dec	9.15am	Family Christmas Communion
Sun 29 Dec	9.15am	Family Eucharist
Sun 29 Dec	6pm	Evensong

All Saints'

Sun 8 Dec	11am	Messy Sunday Christingle
Sun 15 Dec	11am	Outdoor Nativity
Tues 24 Dec	4pm	Carols around the Crib
Wed 25 Dec	8am	Christmas Communion

St Mary the Virgin

Sun 15 Dec	4pm	Nine Lessons & Carols
Sun 22 Dec	10am	BENEFICE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS & COMMUNION
Wed 25 Dec	8am	Christmas Communion

Call for local Santas

Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity is putting out a call for Santas of all ages to take to the streets of Wendover this December. Last year's event, which saw over 320 Santas run, walk and scoot 2km through the town raised over £2,000 for local hospice care. This year's Santa Dash will take place on Saturday 21st December.



The Santa Dash is suitable for all generations, making this a great Christmas event for all the family. All entrants will be provided with a Santa suit to make a splash of seasonal colour through the streets.

A very special visitor will join the ever-popular Florrie Bear to set the crowd of Santas on their way, cheer everyone on and say hello to all the children.

You can register for the events online at the Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity website at fnhospice.org.uk/events/santa-dashes/ or call 01296 429975 for more information.



Wendover Woods, Alison Beck

Simply Walk

Our Simply Walk group celebrated its 3rd Birthday with lots of cake at the beginning of November, at the new temporary Cafe in the Park accommodation.

It's been another year of successful walks for the group. In the three months to the end of October alone, we have led over 30 walks with some 439 participants, involving an average of just over 31 walkers per week.

We have also recently welcomed three newly qualified Leaders: Kevin, Rod and Dorothy, who have helped extend and consolidate the range of walks we can provide.

Weekly Walks will continue as usual over most of the holiday period, with the exception of Boxing Day, and we'll be kicking off the New Year with a full set. So, if you're looking to start shedding some of that seasonal excess, or simply want to go for a nice gentle stroll with some good company then you'd be more than welcome. Walks take place every Thursday at 10:30am prompt from the car park at Aston Clinton Park - just look for the person in the hi-vis jacket.



The Leaders at Aston Clinton Simply Walk would like to wish all our walkers a very happy and healthy Christmas time and we look forward to meeting with you all again in 2020.

Holiday Walks schedule:

19/12/19 Short & Long Walks.

26/12/19 No Walks (Boxing Day)

02/01/20 Short, Long & Progression Walks

Aston Clinton Archive

The planned archive took a huge step forward when more than 100 people visited an exhibition at St Michael's church over the last weekend in October.



Hundreds of pictures and documents were on display and generated a great deal of interest from the visitors. As a bonus, some people even donated pictures for loan or permanently so the archive has already grown. Volunteers were on hand to take notes

as names were put to faces on old black and white photos. It was fascinating to see how much some places in the village had changed and equally interesting to see how some had hardly changed at all.

Conversations seemed to break out spontaneously and in one case two visitors realised that the grandfather of the man they were talking to had been their teacher back in the 1950s.

In addition to the paper exhibits, James Adam was able to contribute a wonderful black lace dress, more than 100 years old (*the dress, not James!*), once owned by Margaret Lowe. It had originally come from the Rothschild House at Green Park, where it was possibly owned by Lady Rothschild.

The event was such a success that it is planned to hold another one in the Spring, by which time the exhibits will have been catalogued and should be easier to identify.

At present the range of the archive is limited because many local organisations have their own documents. If you or your organisation would like to donate or share any old records for copying onto the central archive please get in touch.

Anyone who would like more information or would be interested in helping with the record-keeping should contact ac.villagelife@hotmail.com

WI

Buckland, Drayton Beauchamp and Aston Clinton WI meets at 7.45pm on the first Wednesday of every month at the Anthony Hall. However, please note that our January meeting will be on Wednesday, 15th January at the Anthony Hall. We will be having a fun games evening on that date.

Our Gin Tasting evening at Mead's Farm

was very enjoyable, even for those who said they didn't really like gin!! Our lunch group will be celebrating Christmas at The Greyhound in Wigginton and we will celebrate our 89th birthday at our December meeting too. We look forward to welcoming new members at any of our meetings. Come along and try us you will be most welcome. For more information, please contact me by email b.d.ac.wi@gmail.com *Claire Castle, Secretary*

75th anniversary of war time air crash

As the second world war entered 1945 the Allies were looking forward to victory, although there was still a long way to go.



Commemorative plaque, St Michael and All Angels.

Locally, at Cheddington airfield, there was a US Air Force unit which was involved in “psychological warfare” and tragically one of their planes was to crash in Mr Bates’s orchard, off College Road, Aston Clinton. It was just north of where the by-pass now crosses College Road.

The B-24H Liberator bomber was part of the 406th Squadron of the US 8th Air Force and Pilot, 2nd Lieutenant Ray Hendrix and his crew took off at 18.29 on the evening of 3rd January, 1945. Just three minutes later observers noticed flames coming from the plane and it crashed, killing all ten on board. Their mission had been to drop leaflets over Holland. Other missions flown by the unit were to parachute agents, weapons and equipment into occupied Europe.

An enquiry into the crash was unable to discover the exact cause, although it was possibly engine failure immediately after take-off, leading to the fire.

The accident was close to the heart of Astonians and in 2000 a brass, commemorative plaque was erected in St Michael’s church.

A group of local people, including Councillor Jack Disbrey, organised the memorial and arranged for several of the crew’s family members to attend a special service at the church. The plaque was unveiled by the widow of co-pilot Jerome Pfullman, Mrs Frances Staley.

Each year since the plaque was erected, the US Air Force has sent a representative to the Aston Clinton Remembrance Day service to honour the Liberator crew.

We are grateful to Jack Disbrey’s son, John, for the details of this story.

Refill Aylesbury: official launch

Refill, the national campaign to reduce plastic pollution by encouraging people to use refillable water bottles and local businesses to provide free tap water, has launched in Aylesbury.

There are already **39 Refill Stations across Aylesbury identified on the App** and other businesses are joining the campaign all the time.

Aylesbury Refill organiser Michael Fryer said: “*the initial response from local business has been great but we want more to join. Together we can keep people hydrated – which is really positive for general health and wellbeing – and also help reduce the amount of plastic waste we generate in Aylesbury.*”

Diane Fawcett, Aylesbury Town Centre & Regeneration Manager said: “*The Town Centre Partnership is fully behind this campaign. A significant proportion of the litter and waste we collect in the town centre is discarded plastic bottles. If we can encourage the use of refillable bottles this will help keep the town centre an attractive area to visit for shopping, dining and leisure purposes.*”

Email: refillaylesbury@gmail.com
www.refill.org.uk/refill-aylesbury



Aston Clinton School

Head: Mrs Helen Shepherd



Bridget, our wonderful PAT Dog



Orla with Bridget

My name is Orla and I go to Aston Clinton School. I am lucky to be able to read with Bridget, she is a Pets as Therapy dog. When I read to Bridget it makes me feel happy and excited because she is gentle, funny and silly, she rolls on her back and she makes strange noises.

Bridget is a big dog and when you first meet her she is a bit scary but when you get to know her she is a soppy, cuddly beast who just wants lots of tummy tickles and back scratches.

Bridget is the best thing that happened to our school, everybody loves her and she makes us all feel calm and chilled. The only bad thing I would say is she does really smelly farts.

Orla, Year 6 Aston Clinton School

We are very lucky to have our very own Pets as Therapy (PAT) dog. Bridget is a Dogue de Bordeaux and is seven years old. She belongs to our Caretaker, Paul Arnold, and can often be seen around school hearing children read or providing a listening ear if children are feeling upset or anxious. Bridget has now also started work at the John Colet School where her visits help to reduce anxiety and stress in children and help teach empathy. Bridget is a valued and much-loved member of our school community.

Carole Green, Chair of Governors

Adams Travel Quiz Night

Raising money for Florence Nightingale Hospice in association with North America Travel Service

Saturday 1st February 2020 7pm start
 Weston Turville Village Hall, School Approach,
 HP22 5RW **£12.50** a ticket including Fish & Chip* Supper. Bring your own drinks.
 A raffle will be held on the night

Tickets available from **Adams Travel**
 11 Market Square, Aylesbury HP20 1TJ
01296 873017

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

Village Life Year End Quiz

David Lonsdale, who is married to our crossword compiler, Helen, has put together this fiendish quiz to keep you amused and scratching your head.

See how you get on without resorting to the Internet but if all else fails the answers can be found on page 21.

- 1 Which English County has the most castles?
- 2 Who is the Greek Goddess of Victory?
- 3 What is the world's oldest Sunday newspaper?
- 4 Which football team is nicknamed the Chairboys?
- 5 Which is the only Channel Island which is in the English Channel?
- 6 Who was last seen at Twinwood Airport?
- 7 Pancake Racing and the hymn 'Amazing Grace' originated in which town?
- 8 Where was the site on which seven Protestant Martyrs' were burnt to death in 1506 and 1521?
- 9 Who lived at 48 Doughty Street, WC1?
- 10 Where did Sir Francis Dashwood hold his secret meetings?
- 11 Which country gave the Statue of Liberty to the USA?
- 12 Who painted the series of pictures 'Water Lilies'?
- 13 What colour is a Welsh poppy?
- 14 Which drink is called Adam's Ale?
- 15 Where are the famous Spanish Steps?
- 16 What is the name of the bell used at Lloyds in London?
- 17 Who in 1888 invented the Kodak Camera?
- 18 Which is England's southernmost National Park?
- 19 Which country was the first to give women the vote?
- 20 What were the Brownies originally called?

Proposed New Scout Hall to be known as Ollie's Hall



Proposals for a new Scout Hall to be constructed on land adjacent to the park, Old Rectory Farm and London Road are progressing and it has been announced that the hall will be named Ollie's Hall in memory of Ollie Gardiner, who sadly died two years ago of a brain tumour. Ollie was a very active Scout, as is his brother Theo, and their mum, Jane, continues to support the scouts as a Section Assistant with the Beaver Scouts. The Gardiner family has also pledged a generous donation from Ollie's fund to kick start the fundraising for the new hall which they see as a fitting way to remember their much-loved son



1st Aston Clinton Scouts pictured on the newly opened Zebra Crossing delivered as part of the Church Green development.

Professor Ed Peile and his wife, Linda, have kindly offered to gift the site of the proposed hall to the Scouts. The land forms part of a residential development site that has planning consent for four houses. That residential development land is now owned by Laxton Properties, which proposes to bring forward a revised development proposal including four

houses and the Scout Hall. The Scouts and the builders are now looking to reach agreement with Bucks County Council, which controls the access to the development site. They are also working with local councillors and the Parish Councils of Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp, as the scout group serves all three villages.

The Scouts are asking the local community to show its support for this unique opportunity to provide a new community asset and a long-term legacy to benefit future generations. We would encourage as many people as possible to write to their local County Councillor.

Giles Holder

Repair Café



Repair Shop, BBC 2's early evening essential TV viewing for many people, will soon be coming to Aston Clinton. No, not the television programme, but a real repair shop for the community.

A Repair Café, located at St Michael and All Angels church, will make its first appearance on the morning of **Saturday, 11th January from 9am to 12 noon**. The intention is for the Repair Café to be open on the second Saturday of every month.

The idea for a Repair Café in Aston Clinton came from Peter Gardiner who said:

"After all the love and support we had during Ollie's illness I have been looking for a way to give something back to the community and repairing things is pretty much all I'm good at. I started volunteering at a repair café in Marlow earlier this year to see how it all works. Basically, volunteers set up a temporary 'café' where anyone can bring a broken item and we will either fix it, recommend how to get it repaired or advise if it's not repairable. The labour for any repairs is free. I am an electrical

and electronics engineer, but I have fixed things at the Marlow Repair Café as diverse as a Victorian mantel clock and a necklace. Everything that is repaired is logged and a website works out how much CO² emission has been prevented. Ultimately, we hope to help the environment by keeping stuff out of landfill (24% of all UK waste still goes to landfill) and help our community. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided by our dear friend Fatima King from Tesco, who helped us lots during Ollie's fundraising."

Anybody who turns up on the day with an item for repair will be welcome, but people are encouraged to let Peter know in advance if they are planning to bring anything that may need parts. For example, if someone has broken their phone or tablet screen Peter can advise where to buy the new screen and then fit it for them on the day.

In addition to Peter, volunteers include a mechanical engineer, electronics engineer and three sewing and soft furnishings specialists. Anyone with relevant skills who wishes to volunteer would be most welcome. The more volunteers, the better.

If anybody would like to contact the Repair Café either for volunteering, information or repair request, the email address is acrepaircafe@gmail.com or call **01296 632488**.

Dennis Davies Supper Quiz

St Michael's Church is holding its annual general knowledge quiz on **Saturday, 8th February** at the Anthony Hall, **7 for 7.30pm**. Hot sausage supper, vegetarian and gluten free options available. Bring your own drinks.

Come on your own or book a table and bring all your friends. Everyone welcome. Tickets **£12.00**. Proceeds to St. Michael's church. Contact maggiebeaujeux@outlook.com.

Nail-biting Climax to Village Sporting Season



Colin and Katharine Ruscoe, Alistair and Charlotte Dunbar

Following strong expression of interest, a Drayton Beauchamp Doubles Croquet Tournament took place this autumn.

Contestants new to Association Croquet soon appreciated that they were playing "the greatest game of co-operation and sabotage to be found on earth"! Regrettably, injury and other circumstances forced three of the original participating teams to drop out early in the Tournament - but the remainder competed fiercely; on occasion the rules were contested as hard as the match itself!

The Grand Final was held on 5th October, at the carefully tended Beauchamp Barn court, in front of a capacity crowd. There was no clear favourite - Team Ruscoe had an injured member, whilst Team Dunbar had to field a last minute (but extremely effective) substitute. Despite an early, strong lead by Team Dunbar, the Ruscoes managed to overtake them at the fourth hoop, causing a flurry of late betting at the grandstand. Even at the final hoop, it was anybody's game - but the trophy was clinched narrowly by Team Ruscoe.

Players (and non-players) expressed great enthusiasm for a further Tournament in 2020, already being planned as a one-day knockout culminating in a gala barbeque and prizegiving.

Farewell to RAF Halton – but not quite yet

2019 was the centenary of RAF Halton, but it won't be celebrating many more anniversaries. The announcement in November 2016 gave the proposed closure date as 2022, but in February 2019 it was announced that the station would not close until at least 2025. This 'phased withdrawal' will represent the end of over a century of involvement in the local area.



Tornado aircraft at Halton.

I can't remember a time when it wasn't there. Personal memories include many friends having their babies in Princess Mary's Hospital: the hospital always took a proportion of civilian cases, and the maternity unit was especially popular. Now the old Hospital Circular Road is gone, along with all the hospital buildings: the only acknowledgements are that the area where it once stood is now a huge housing estate called Princess Mary Gate, and there is a small memorial in Fleming Road.

We used to love watching the gliders being winched up from the airfield and waiting for the line to drop. That still goes on from the airfield, although I believe most of the gliders are towed up nowadays. My Mum always liked to drive along Chestnut Avenue in Spring and Autumn to admire the trees: she's been gone over 40 years now, but I still do it every year and think of her. The trees don't look very healthy this year. We'd get stopped driving to

Wendover to wait whilst marching apprentices went from one part of the station to another, and admire the precision with which they'd been drilled.

I do some photography for the Chiltern Society's on-line archive, and we thought it a good idea to try and record some of what is left before it vanishes. I have made two visits, escorted both times and made very welcome, but the vast site is a rather sad place now. Some readers may have seen the Duchess of Cornwall inspecting the training trenches to celebrate the station's centenary, and no doubt they were spick and span for her visit. But many of the old buildings are now unused, and no money is available to maintain them. The lovely old Art Deco Astra cinema looks especially forlorn, and there is a pervasive air of abandonment. The huge hangars are used for filming quite often, and they now store small private planes, dwarfed in the enormous interiors.

Apprentice training still takes place at Halton: there are perhaps 2,000 people based there now: trainers, trainees and admin staff, but a very small number compared to the station's heyday. The ten week basic training course covers square bashing, Health and Safety, RAF background, and vital things like how not to get blown up or gassed. Phase Two training depends on the speciality chosen, and can vary from 12-15 weeks up to two and a half years for an aircraft technician.

It is probable that all these things will eventually transfer to the RAF stations at Cranwell and Cosford. One thing that will remain is the beautiful St. George's church with its stained glass windows commemorating so many past apprentices. I also hope that the Trenchard Museum and the adjacent James McCudden Heritage Flight Centre will stay here: both are full of amazing items and can be visited free, by arrangement.

Royal British Legion



Faith, Emma, Rebecca and Emma get in a Land Girl mood at the Poppy Appeal launch.

Well, what hasn't been going on in the village during our Poppy Appeal? We had our launch at the Churchill Hall with swing music and land girls, supported by the Football Club and Cafe in the Park. Our branch and villagers were out in force throughout Poppy Appeal, manning stalls and door to door collecting. Every establishment in the village bent over backwards to house our stalls and raffles, looking after the collectors wonderfully.

Remembrance Sunday brought out every generation to line the streets around our War Memorial to remember our fallen villagers and all who paid the ultimate price for our freedom. Our new memorial crosses were laid in the churchyard by a united group from the Legion, Armed Forces and members of youth organisations.

We were delighted to provide a wreath to Aston Clinton Scooter club. For the last four years they have set out early on Remembrance Sunday to join the Ride for Remembrance journey to the War Memorial at Hyde Park Corner, where the wreath is laid. The RBL would like to say a special thank you to the

Scooter club for their mark of respect for our fallen and we are very proud of you for flying the village's flag.

It's been a very busy time for us at the RBL and it never ceases to amaze me how much support we have within this village. Businesses have been so quick to hand out raffle prizes for us to fundraise and have accommodated our collectors. Many villagers have helped by going door to door collecting with their kids, passing on the message of remembrance to the next generation. Your RBL branch cannot thank you enough for your continued support.

Personally this year was very special, my first as official Poppy Appeal Organiser, yet my 5th in the role unofficially and my 10th year poppy collecting. Yet again it humbles me that our entire village united in remembrance and I truly believe that in Aston Clinton that message will live on forever.

Now we are waiting for the totals to come in from another successful appeal.... *Thank you!*

Emma Bone RBL Aston Clinton Branch PAO

Charity Ceilidh



Many thanks to all those who attended the Ceilidh in support of the Chiltern MS centre on 2nd November. The Anthony Hall was full, everyone had a great time and we raised £200 for the Chilterns MS Centre.

Nigel Kippax, Barn Rat Band

Nature on your doorstep

Aston Clinton, Buckland, Drayton Beauchamp and adjacent parishes include land which is very rich in wildlife, much of it managed by BBOWT, the Wildlife Trust for Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. Two nature reserves, in particular, are easy and amazing places to visit.

Aston Clinton Ragpits is an area of old chalk pits at the bottom of the road that climbs towards Wendover Woods and Aston Hill. Although only six acres in size, it features a wealth of wildlife typical of the chalk landscape of the Chilterns. Towards the end of June there is always a spectacular display of wild orchids. 2019 was a record year with over 46,000 plants counted across nine different orchid species.

In contrast, Dancersend at 211 acres is the largest BBOWT reserve in Buckinghamshire and one of the oldest, having been established in 1940 by the Rothschild family to commemorate Charles Rothschild, founder of the whole Wildlife Trust movement. The main entrance and car park can be found by following the narrow, winding lane past Dancers End House to the ornate Victorian pumping station at the top of the valley. From here you can walk north through meadows, beech woods and more mixed woodland to a series of clearings where rare flowers and butterflies can be found. This autumn has seen a fine display of Chiltern gentians, with over 4500 counted across the reserve, followed by many different species of fungi.

Now is the time when winter work parties take place to mow and rake grassland, cut back invading scrub, coppice and thin areas of woodland and maintain paths, steps and fences ... so that the reserves will be in splendid condition for their special wildlife and for visitors to enjoy. If you are interested in helping, please contact either of the volunteer wardens. Phil Townsend philjtownsend@yahoo.



Top: Chiltern gentian at Dancersend.

Below: Orchids at Aston Clinton Ragpits.

co.uk will be leading sessions at the *Ragpits on Saturday 22nd February and Saturday 28th March, both starting at 10am*. Mick Jones jonesmick365@gmail.com leads sessions at *Dancersend on the second Sunday of every month throughout the year, starting at 10am*. Tools are provided.

There will be field visits and guided walks at Dancersend during the winter and spring: **'End of Year Invertebrate Hunt'** on **Sunday 29th December**, **'Explore the Woods in Winter'** on **Sunday 19th January** and **'Signs of Spring'** on **Sunday 29th March**.

There is also a programme of illustrated talks through the winter months on a range of wildlife topics. These are held at Great Missenden Memorial Hall on the third Tuesday of the month. Coming up soon are 'The Forgotten River' by John Tyler and 'Ancient Woods in the Chilterns' by John Morris. For details of all BBOWT events in your area go online to www.bbowl.org.uk/events

Mick Jones

U3A Autumn trip to Liverpool and Manchester

A full coach of us went up to Liverpool, stopping at the Wedgewood Factory en route. Most Wedgewood china is now made and decorated in Indonesia but we could still see work in progress at the factory here. We watched the transfers and the relief painting in enamel and gold. Why, oh why, do we no longer cherish our grandparent's beautiful china?

The Albert Docks area in Liverpool is a superb example of modernisation, complete with statues, a Tate Modern and Museums of Liverpool, slavery and the Beatles. The café culture abounds and reflects the history, the Beatles and the University as well as tourism. We saw the cathedrals: the Catholic with its wigwam shape and outstanding glass and sculpture work, and The Anglican with its great community spirit. The Bombed Out Church with the statue of the two soldiers – British and German with their football – also used as a concert venue, was very moving. There was also, of course, The Cavern where the Beatles used to play. The ferry taking passengers around the river was a work of art in itself – vibrant in its attitude of Liverpool as a modern city.



The Mersey Ferry

From Liverpool we sailed into the Manchester Ship Canal, which was built to allow Manchester not to be outdone by Liverpool as a port. In the past the area had a

huge cotton industry, so the raw cotton came into these ports. Now it is mostly chemical factories along the canal.

We went through locks and swing bridges, one of which refused to open until an engineer was called. We sailed on through mudflat areas teeming with 20 species of birds. We went under the elegant cable-stayed bridge, lift bridges and through the amazing Barton Swing Aqueduct Bridge where another canal was cut apart as it crossed the Ship Canal. In Manchester we docked close to The Lowry Art Centre and the other attractions of the Salford Quays.



Quarry Bank Mill

This was a Science and Technology trip organised, as usual, by Colin. He made sure that we saw The Quarry Bank Mill and Gardens. This we loved as we saw the machinery demonstrated by the enthusiastic volunteers, but we were also shocked by the original working conditions of the adults and so many children. The air would have been so thick with a mist of cotton that they could see no further than a few feet and would suffer or die from 'Cotton Lung'. The children were recompensed for their nine years of working with meagre board, lodging and minimal education. So sad.

On our way home we stopped at Wightwick Manor, a beautiful old home full of little alcoves and beautiful Pre-Raphaelite Art.

Another successful trip. Victoria Pollard

Wendover Arm Trust Waterways Recovery Group Family Camp

The idea of Family Camps is to encourage youngsters to enjoy the outdoor life and get satisfaction by learning new skills through conserving our heritage waterways. The Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal provides a scenic and tranquil route from Bulbourne to Wendover – built as a feeder to provide much needed water to the Tring summit on the Grand Union. The canal was used for the carriage of coal, timber, straw and manure until 1904 when the canal ceased navigation due to leakage. It is currently being restored by the Wendover Arm Trust volunteers.



Thirteen children and guardians arrived on Friday evening at Green Park with the purpose of beautifying the new parkland alongside Whitehouses. The first task was to produce some model clay toppers for the bamboo canes, this was enthusiastically done, with the resulting multi-coloured models of animals, boats, flowers and cartoon characters coming to life.

Next morning the weather was not looking good, but nevertheless the planting of the 2000 snowdrop bulbs started. Meanwhile the bonfire was lit to consume the branches left from the recent adult work party.

At 1pm we made a hasty retreat back to

Green Park, our accommodation base. Included in our facilities was a large bubble room which we used to assemble the bird boxes/bug houses. This is not an easy task, so, as a granny, I left the instruction on sawing and nailing to Alex and any other parents willing to help.

Sunday proved sunny so the rest of the snowdrop bulbs were planted, and an enormous bonfire built, which enabled marshmallows to be toasted. All six bird/bug boxes were nailed to available trees to encourage more wildlife in the future. In the afternoon the scrubland along the towpath was cut or sawed back to give more room for passing. Many walkers paused to thank us and enquire which group we were from. All this gives good publicity to the Trust and the Inland Waterways Association.

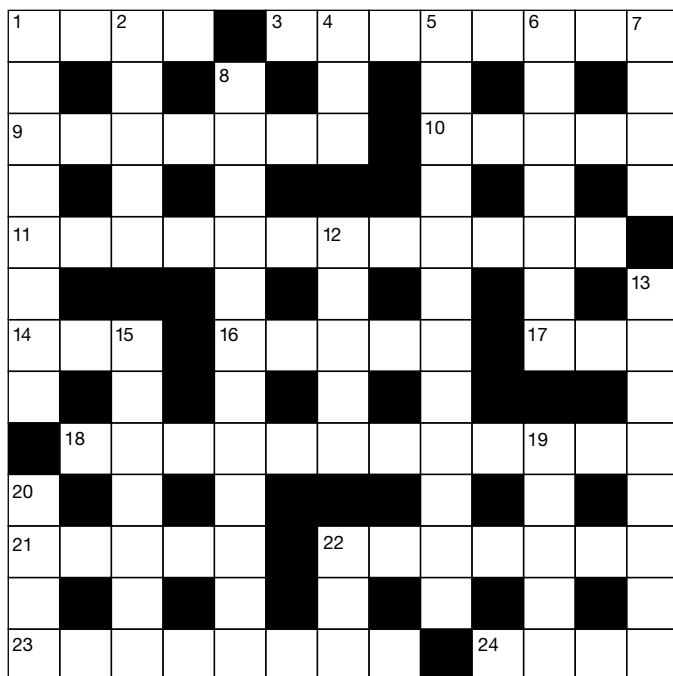
During the coming winter months, why not choose a sunny day to walk the towpath between Drayton Beauchamp and Little Tring. Originally this section was dry, but over the last ten years various sections have progressively been re-watered. The Pocket Park is at Whitehouses between the two wooden foot bridges on the opposite side to the towpath. During 2020 this section will be re-watered, benches installed and the historical pump site will be given new explanatory signposting boards.

As this proved to be a successful camp, it is hoped to include another Family Camp in our programme of events during 2020. Please check out these websites for future events:- www.waterways.org.uk/wrg family volunteering www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk events team or call IWA **Alex Melson 01494 783453 ext 611** or **07983 824438** or email alex.melson@waterways.org.uk These Family Camps are sponsored by the Inland Waterways Association. **Jenny Brice** WAT Events Team **07841 168043**

Village Life crossword no.36

Crossword compiled by **Helen Lonsdale** (SOLUTION ON PAGE 28)

Crossword No: 35 Apologies for 3 down and 14 across



CLUES ACROSS

- 1 Matured (4)
- 3 Simple devises for calculating (8)
- 9 Untidy (7)
- 10 Endure (5)
- 11 Skill of riding (12)
- 14 The cup that cheers (3)
- 16 Burglar (5)
- 17 Chap (3)
- 18 A unit of monetary value (12)
- 21 Additional (5)
- 22 Books of maps (7)
- 23 Viewers (8)
- 24 Hive inhabitants (4)

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Sensitive to art and beauty (8)
- 2 Mistake (5)
- 4 Cove (3)
- 5 Able to be organised into a category (12)
- 6 Travelling over water in a boat (7)
- 7 Embryo (4)
- 8 Warm hearted (12)
- 12 Plea (5)
- 13 Acrobatic performers (8)
- 15 Encouraged (7)
- 19 Edition (5)
- 20 Second letter of the Greek alphabet (4)
- 22 Crescent (3)

Bucks C.C. Recycling

Bucks C.C. recycling centre service is achieving significant cost savings after introduction of changes.

A report has been published which shows the early results of the changes to the county's household recycling centre (HRC) service that were brought in on 1 April.

The report shows that a big rush in March to get non-household waste to HRCs ahead of charging meant that there was a reduction in the waste being received over the following months. However, the amount of waste is now beginning to return to expected levels, and the financial forecasts show that the

service is on target to make the necessary budget savings.

The introduction of charges for non-household waste and the reduction of opening days have not resulted in any increase in fly tipping in the county.

"I'm pleased to be able to report that the changes haven't led to an increase in fly tipping – though this is something we'll continue to keep a close eye on." commented Councillor Bill Chapple.

Read and download the report here:

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MId=11084>

Aston Clinton Parish Council – New Community Centre Progress:

Our exciting new Community Centre project is now well underway, with the recent establishment of the temporary accommodation to house the Café in the Park and the Football Club.



Demolition starts on the old building.

The lengthy tender process to select our building contractor is complete, and there has already been a huge amount of work involved in getting this project moving forward. The Café in the Park and Football Club are now up and running in their smart new temporary homes, the old building is empty and after the necessary checks and removal of services was set for demolition towards the middle of November. Our contractors will then clear the site, ready for the new build to start.

This is a very exciting project, which is being funded by AVDC New Homes Bonus grants, and Section 106 monies (paid by developers building new houses) from some of the developments that have happened in our village, and it is a massive project that we should all be so proud of.

We will be documenting the whole building process on the Community Centre page on our website (www.astonclinton.org.uk), with up to date information and a gallery of images. Please keep an eye on the website, along with

our Facebook page, as it will also give you information on any temporary disruptions to the park while the build progresses. Nick and his Team in the Café will continue to welcome customers in the temporary building throughout the build, until the new Community Centre is completed towards the end of 2020.

Aston Park Tennis Club and the New Builders

The tennis club is one of the village facilities that has prospered, courtesy of the developers of the new housing being built. On the completion of the houses in Stablebridge Road, we were asked to suggest how the builders could help with improvements to the club. The committee opted for a roll away net on the court marked out for netball, so that the 'Back to Netballers' could conserve their energy for the game rather than lugging heavy tennis nets around before and after playing. The netballers were extremely grateful that their sessions are now easier and less strenuous.



The following year the builders again asked us how we would use a similar donation and this time the club opted for more weather-proof benches. These were duly acquired and they have meant that we can now sit outside to watch the on-court action. The backless benches, situated between the courts, have proved even more beneficial as, in winter, they provide a dry, frost-free area in which players

can dump bags, jackets and other paraphernalia.

For the past few years, since the closure of the Hub, the tennis club has suffered from the lack of toilet facilities within the tennis complex, particularly during evening matches when the café is closed. However, because of a generous section 106 grant, the club and the Parish Council are embarking on a major project to install toilets and a kitchen within our own complex. This will come as very welcome news not only to our own players, but also to members of visiting teams.

The tennis club is not the only organisation to benefit from the contribution made by the housing development companies.

Barbara Wilkinson

Callum Powell



2019 has been a busy year for Aston Clinton's junior golfer Callum Powell with tournaments in the UK and the USA and an appearance at a Pro-Am event with a BBC TV dragon.

Callum's season started with a 22nd finish out of 90 competitors in the U21 South of England Nick Faldo series at the Royal Ashdown Forest golf course in East Sussex. At 15 years of age, Callum was one of the youngest competitors at the event.

Then followed three victories on the Shire Junior Tour as well as four top five finishes on the British Junior Golf Tour. In May, Callum played in the European U18s Championship at The Renaissance Golf Club in Scotland, finishing 19th out of an international field of 70 players.

The highlight of the year was the World Stars of Junior Golf Championship event at the Paiute Golf Club in Las Vegas, played over four days. Callum got off to an excellent start, placed 6th out of 75 competitors at the end of the first day but slipped back to 16th place on the second day and finished a very creditable 20th overall.

A relaxing, rather than competitive, day's golf was enjoyed on the August Bank Holiday Monday at the Trump International near Aberdeen. The Pro-Am event paired Callum with entrepreneur and long serving Dragon's Den investor Peter Jones. They finished in 9th overall and raised £5,295 for Diabetes UK.

Following a month's rest Callum is now back in training for next season. He'll play less golf than this year because of GCSE exams but will still compete in the Dustin Johnson World Junior Championships at the TPC Myrtle Beach Golf Club in South Carolina in February as well as the U21 South of England Nick Faldo series and the European Championships in Scotland.

We wish him well both in his golf and his exams.

Village Life Year End Quiz

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Northumberland | 11. France |
| 2. Nike | 12. Claude Monet |
| 3. The Observer | 13. Yellow |
| 4. Wycombe Wanderers | 14. Water |
| 5. Alderney | 15. Rome |
| 6. Glen Miller | 16. Lutine |
| 7. Olney | 17. George Eastman |
| 8. Amersham | 18. Dartmoor |
| 9. Charles Dickens | 19. New Zealand |
| 10. The Hellfire Club | 20. Rosebuds |

Village People

The person featured this month has been a part of village life for ever. He may only come here once a year but is fondly remembered by everyone who comes into contact with him.

*As we get closer to Christmas, **Santa Claus** is getting ready to visit the villages once more. Village Life met Santa in his grotto at the North Pole.*



Q. How long have you been coming to Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp?

A. I've been coming to the villages for nearly 1,000 years.

Q. What have been the biggest changes over that time?

A. The villages were much smaller so there weren't so many presents to deliver compared with now.

Also, children had less choice of presents. Today, there is so much for children to choose from and I really don't know how they can decide what they really want.

A hoop and stick, skipping rope or a doll would keep children happy for days. Not today.

Q. How many children do you visit each year?

A. Too many! Do you know that there are more than 500 million children under the age of 14 in the world who celebrate Christmas on December 25th. That means I deliver presents to almost 22 million children an hour, every hour, on the night before Christmas. That's about 365,000 a minute or nearly 6,100 each second.

Q. What should children leave for you when you visit?

A. What I really like is a cookie or mince pie and please don't forget carrots for the reindeer.

Q. What are the names of your reindeer?

A. Originally there was Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen. Rudolph joined us more recently.

Q. How big is your sleigh?

A. The sleigh is about 10 metres long, without the reindeer. If you add in the reindeer, then the sleigh and reindeer together are about 20 metres long.

Q. Do you really say 'Ho Ho Ho'?

A. Yes. I've been saying 'Ho Ho Ho' my whole life. It's like my own personal calling card and is recognised around the world no matter what language is spoken.

Q. Is it fun being Santa?

A. Yes, it's great fun. People love Santa and I know I can bring happiness to so many children. All the travelling, hard work and long hours are worth it just to see the smiles on their faces.

Q. What are your favourite Christmas songs?

A. *Jingle Bells* and *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer* but my real favourite is *When Santa Got Stuck up the Chimney*. It's never happened to me, well not yet.

Q. What's your favourite film?

A. I like *Miracle* on 34th Street, the 1994 version starring Richard Attenborough.

Q. What would you like for Christmas?

A. What I would really like is a long holiday, somewhere in the sun and by the beach.

Interview **Andrew Andersz**

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

What's on at Bucks County Museum this Winter

There's lots going on at Bucks County Museum in Aylesbury during the winter months. Enjoy a Christmas science show, take a nostalgic trip back to childhood or pick up some unique presents in our gift shop.

Katie Surridge Residency Exhibition

9 November 2019 –
4 January 2020

This year's Muir Trust Artist in Residence at the Museum has been Katie Surridge, an exciting mixed media artist specialising in metal casting. During her residency, Katie has been exploring the archaeology collections and creating her own artworks inspired by her finds. Come and see the fascinating results of her residency in this special exhibition.

12 Days of Christmas Science Show

Saturday 14 December,
1.30pm & 3pm

Start your Christmas with a FIZZ and a BANG! Bring the children to our amazing Christmas science show with festive experiments that include dry ice, bubbling potions, flashes

and bangs. Our brilliant friends from Bright Sparks Science return with their popular scientific twist on the 12 days of Christmas carol. Lasts 40 minutes. This is a popular event so booking advised. Check website for charges and booking.

Toy Box Exhibition

14 December 2019 –
28 March 2020

This family favourite is back again with lots of hands-on toys and games to play with and toys that will bring back memories of childhood for parents, too. It's the perfect place to bring family and friends on a cold winter day.

The Museum also has a café serving light snacks and a gift shop with unusual gifts, cards, books, great stocking fillers and now a beautiful selection of jewellery and ceramics made by the Bucks Craft Guild. Drop in and take a look.



Bucks County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP
01296 331441 www.buckscountymuseum.org

All Saints' Buckland

Regular Services: (*except December, **not on 25th December)

8am Holy Communion, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Sundays

11am Family Communion, 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays *

11am Messy Sunday each 2nd Sunday

10am Midweek Communion each Wednesday **



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thurs 5 Dec	7.30pm	Advent Course	All Saints' Church
Fri 6 Dec	7pm	Flicks in the Sticks	All Saints' Church
Sat 7 Dec	10am	Produce Stall	All Saints' Church
Sat 7 Dec	4pm	Junior Flicks	All Saints' Church
Thurs 19 Dec	7.30pm	Advent Course	All Saints' Church
Sun 22 Dec	10am	BENEFICE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS & COMMUNION	St Mary's Church
Sat 4 Jan	10am	Produce Stall	All Saints' Church
Fri 10 Jan	7pm	Flicks in the Sticks	All Saints' Church
Sat 11 Jan	4pm	Junior Flicks	All Saints' Church
Sun 26 Jan	10am	BENEFICE SERVICE	All Saints' Church

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

For a full list of Christmas Services please see page 6

W C Fields quotations

If you don't already know him, W C Fields was an American actor, comedian (and juggler) famous for his misanthropic, hard-drinking approach to life.

*If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.
Then quit. No use being a damn fool about it.*

I cook with wine, sometimes I even add it to the food.

A woman drove me to drink and I didn't even have the decency to thank her.

I am free of all prejudice. I hate everyone equally.

Always carry a bottle of whiskey in case of snakebite and furthermore always carry a small snake.

Start every day with a smile and get it over with.

Once, when I was on safari, someone lost the corkscrew and I was forced to live for days on nothing but food and water

Anyone who hates children and animals cannot be all bad.

Who took the cork out of my lunch?

Everybody's got to believe in something. I believe I'll have another beer.

Flicks in the Sticks

Our Flicks in the Sticks and Junior Sticks are proving very popular throughout the Benefice and we hope that you have been able to attend and enjoy the films.

The dates for future *Flicks and Junior Flicks* are:

6th December: *Flicks in the Sticks*

7th December: *Junior Flicks*

10th January: *Flicks in the Sticks*

11th January: *Junior Flicks*

17th February: *Flicks in the Sticks*

18th February: *Junior Flicks*

Tickets for the Flicks evenings are **£10 per person** which includes a light supper. There are also drinks available to buy at the Holy Orders bar. Tickets are available from *Rev Alison* at alisonroberts999@btinternet.com or the Benefice office at Benefice3@gmail.com.

Tickets for the Junior Flicks afternoons are **£5 per child** which includes a hot dog, pizza, drink and popcorn. Tickets are available from *Rev Sally* at revsally.bottomer@btinternet.com or the Benefice office at Benefice3@gmail.com.

Outdoor Nativity

On **15th December** there will be an Outdoor Nativity held at All Saints' church **from 11am**. *Please come along to this quirky and unique service dressed as a Nativity character.*



Ice Cream Christmas Pudding



We are grateful to Christine Johnson, one of the Rhubarb Café bakers, for this family favourite twist on Christmas Pudding.

Ingredients:

- ¼ pint milk
- 2 tablespoons sherry
- 4 oz marshmallows
- 2 oz maraschino cherries
- 1 teaspoon cocoa
- 2 oz chopped almonds
- 1 teaspoon instant coffee
- ½ pint thick cream
- 2 oz raisins
- 1 oz sultanas

Method:

1. Put the milk, marshmallows, cocoa and coffee in a saucepan.
2. Heat gently until the marshmallows are nearly melted. Allow to cool.
3. Meanwhile, mix the dried fruit with the sherry. Allow to stand for 30 minutes, then add the marshmallow mixture, diced cherries and nuts.
4. Freeze for a short while until slightly thickened.
5. Fold the whipped cream into the mixture and pack into a chilled basin. Freeze until firmed.
6. Turn out and decorate as desired.



Horticultural Society

Weather affects all our garden activities and after the drought conditions I have reported recently we now have the complete reversal.

The last few weeks have seen the heaviest rain in Aston Clinton for a long time, although we have not seen any flooding. The water table was so low that the ground has just been absorbing all the rain. In the past, this sort of weather would have left strips of flooding across the middle of my garden and on one occasion Green End Street was flooded. My garden had an inch of water so that my children, who were camping in the garden, had to come in!



Our Summer show, held in September, was another success with the entries, particularly from children, up on last year. It continues to display the wide range of talent that we have locally, from growing vegetables to making things and taking photographs.

The standard of entries was high, as illustrated by the Floral Art. Although it was too late to include sweet peas we did include two classes for early chrysanthemums. Whilst my own were not brilliant there were some magnificent blooms entered. Once again dahlias, which are our main flower section, were shown off to their best. *(mine are still flowering now!)*



The domestic section was creative (*watch out Bake Off!*) with many entries. My daughter's efforts created so much that she arranged to have a tea party in the evening to eat it up!

The children's section was a WOW with so many colourful entries. It is good to see the children walking around wearing their rosettes. Well done children. It is all good fun and if your children did not enter this year we not only have our summer show but a Spring Daffodil show for them to enter.

Finally, we had a handicraft section and photographic display that are always popular. The photographic classes display a high level of creativity.

More pictures of winning entries can be found on our website. www.astonclintonhorticulturalsociety. Thank you all for entering our show, which is one of the oldest village events, and thanks to our team of organisers working throughout the year.

Now is the time to think ahead. One of the joys about December is that we go through the shortest day and thereafter the days get longer by four minutes per day and we can dream ahead to another summer. Recently one of our expert speakers was asked how to control black spot on roses. He said *"During December mix up a solution of Jeyes Fluid and water it liberally"*

on and around your rose bushes, also your fruit bushes and on the ground.” Beyond that the tasks this month are cleaning up from the past year; get a cut from your grass if possible; order your seeds for spring sowing; sow garlic corms and plant shallots in pots (plant on shortest day and harvest on the longest).

The Horticultural Society wishes you a Happy Christmas and a successful growing year in 2020

Ralph Weston muchpottering@btinternet.com

Pictures by Richard Needham

Learning new skills at Lindengate



Lindengate Mental Health Charity was delighted to welcome local artist James Ort to work with its Gardeners (service users) on an exciting new collaborative art installation for the Sound and Light Garden, using the flowers and animals of Lindengate as their inspiration.

The collaborative project is based on the Gardeners own experiences of nature at Lindengate. It is constructed from wire, in the form of an arch decorated with flowers, animals or insects. Visitors will be able to view the completed sculpture and other art installations at regular drop-in sessions held for the general public during 2020. This will allow them to experience its beautiful gardens and wildlife areas, learn more about opportunities to volunteer for the award-winning charity and how they can access its care and support. www.lindengate.org.uk email info@lindengate.org.uk or call 01296 622443.

Drayton Beauchamp Village Walk/Lunch



A walk to explore our wonderful array of country paths, tempted 25 villagers to meet at The Old Rectory in Drayton Beauchamp on Saturday 14th September.

Following a group photo at St Mary's Church, we scaled the steps down to the canal and crossed Drayton Bridge before progressing through fields to cross the Upper Icknield Way. With the by-pass fading behind us, we enjoyed the open country and weaved our way up a wooded path and across a field to be welcomed by Guy and Elizabeth Moore at Terriers End, with much appreciated coffee, tea and nibbles.

A choice of routes was offered for the return journey. Guy led a more adventurous group onto The Ridgeway, with its stunning views, before meeting the others at The Old Rectory.

Our usual band of wonderful caterers helped Lucy and Gary Kibble prepare a splendid buffet lunch. A further nine villagers joined us for lunch with the opportunity to chat and share village news.

A donation of £173 was handed to St Mary's Church from the proceeds. *David Lonsdale*

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

acvillagelife.co.uk

St Mary the Virgin Drayton Beauchamp

Regular Services: (*except December)

10.45am Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays *

10.45am Matins on the second Sunday *



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sun 1 Dec	10.45am	Advent Carols & Holy Communion	St Mary's Church
Sun 8 Dec	10.45am	Holy Communion	St Mary's Church
Sun 22 Dec	10am	BENEFICE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS & COMMUNION	St Mary's Church
Sun 26 Jan	10am	BENEFICE SERVICE	All Saints' Church

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

For a full list of Christmas Services please see page 6

Pony Express

I will deliver Christmas cards in Drayton Beauchamp again this year. **I plan to do a delivery over the weekend of 21st and 22nd December with a final delivery on Monday 23rd December.** Please drop your cards in at The Dray House, with a contribution for charity if you wish. I will sort the last cards on Monday morning so please leave them **before 9.30 on the morning of 23rd December.**

I have been delivering cards with the ponies in Drayton Beauchamp for about 30 years now. At first I delivered just my own Christmas cards then I decided to take cards for anyone who would like them delivered. I probably get between 10 and 20 bundles of cards and deliver to a similar number of houses. Any contributions are divided between an equine charity and the local hospice.

If you have any questions you can call me on Erica Godman, 01296 630066



CROSSWORD No.36 SOLUTION

Across 1. Aged 3. Abacuses 9. Scruffy 10. Abide 11. Horsemanship 14. Tea 16. Thief 17. Guy 18. Denomination 21. Extra 22. Atlases 23. Audience 24. Bees

Down 1. Aesthete 2. Error 4. Bay 5. Classifiable 6. Sailing 7. Seed 8. Affectionate 12. Alibi 13. Gymnasts 15. Abetted 19. Issue 20. Beta 22. Arc

Emergency

HEALTH

Aston Clinton Surgery	01296 630241	www.westongrove.com
Aston Clinton Dental Clinic	01296 323090	www.astonclintondentalclinic.co.uk
Amersham Hospital	01494 434411	www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk
John Radcliffe Hospital	01865 741166	www.ouh.nhs.uk/hospitals/jr/
Stoke Mandeville Hospital	01296 315000	www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk
Wycombe Hospital	01494 526161	www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk
NHS Direct	111	
Samaritans	116123	jo@samaritans.org

ENERGY SUPPLIERS

Electricity Emergency	0800 7838 838	
Gas Emergency	0800 111 999	
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

SPORT AND LEISURE

Aston Clinton Badminton Club	07958 479690	
Aston Clinton Bowls Club	01296 630403	www.astonclintonbowlsclub.org
Aston Clinton Colts Junior F.C.	07786 908219	coltsclubsecretary@outlook.com
Aston Clinton F.C.	07930 925840	www.astonclintonfc.co.uk
Aston Park Tennis Club	01296 630826	www.astonparktennis.co.uk
Aston Wine Club	01296 630531	www.astonwineclub.co.uk
Aylesbury Green Park Sub Aqua Club	07092 075004	www.aylesburydivers.org.uk
Back to Netball	07545 033986	weststandmolly@aol.com
Buckland & Aston Clinton Cricket Club	01296 631788	www.baccc.play-cricket.com
Buckland Book Group	01296 630531	brfletcher@hotmail.co.uk
Buckland Bridge Club	01296 630552	Buckland.bridge@gmail.com
Dolphin Swim School	07966 450458	dolphinswimschool2017@gmail.com
Swimezee	01296 730742	www.swimezee.co.uk

YOUTH GROUPS

Aston Clinton Guides, Brownies and Rainbows		www.girlguiding.org.uk
Aston Clinton Scouts	01296 708158	ac.scouts@Yahoo.com
Aston Clinton Cubs	01296 708158	ac.cubs@Yahoo.co.uk
Aston Clinton Beavers	01296 708158	ac.beavers@yahoo.co.uk
Aston Clinton Youth Club	01296 298682	

CHURCHES

St Michael and All Angels, Aston Clinton	01296 632488	www.s-michaels.org.uk
All Saints, Buckland	01296 632488	www.allsaintsbuckland.org.uk
St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp	01296 632488	www.s-marys.org.uk
Aston Clinton Baptist Church	01296 631824	www.astonclintonbaptist.org

HALLS FOR HIRE

Anthony Hall	01296 630229	Theanthonyhallac@gmail.com
Baptist Church	01296 630303	www.astonclintonbaptist.org
Buckland Village Hall	01296 630310	
Green Park / Adventure Learning Charity	03303 030101	alfvillages.org.uk

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aston Clinton Parish Council	01296 631269	www.astonclinton.org.uk parishcouncil@astonclinton.org.uk
Buckland Parish Council	01296 626073	bucklandpc@googlegmail.com
Drayton Beauchamp. Parish Meeting	01296 630396	
Aylesbury Vale D.C.	01296 585858	
AVDC Councillors	Bill Chapple OBE	bchapple@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk
	Mike Collins	mcollins@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk
	Carole Paternoster	cpaternoster@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk
Bucks County Council. Councillor Bill Chapple OBE	01296 426814	b.chapple@buckscc.gov.uk
Environmental Health (fly tipping)	01296 585605	
Highways	01296 486630	www.buckscc.gov.uk
M.P. for Aylesbury	David Lidington	david.lidington.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	
Churchill Lunch Club	07921 172642	
Turpins Charity	01296 630162	www.turpinscharity@outlook.com
Wendover Heights Veterinary Centre	01296 623439	www.whvc.co.uk
Women's Institute	01296 706908	b.d.ac.wi@gmail.com