



Village Life

No. 34 Feb-March 2017

The community magazine
for Aston Clinton, Buckland
and Drayton Beauchamp



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Cover photo by John Ridler of the
view looking SW along the canal
path from the lower end of Tring Hill
towards the Upper Icknield Way

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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



THIS is likely to be decision year for Aston Clinton.

We may soon be asked to say in a parish-wide referendum whether or not we approve our Neighbourhood Plan.

A team of parish councillors and residents have been working to develop a plan to reflect your wishes as to how you want this village to change over the next fifteen years. Given that no change is not an option and that numerous planning permissions have already been granted, there remain some aspects of change over which you have a right to express a view. The government has pledged that your views, expressed in a neighbourhood plan, must be taken into account in all future planning decisions. A high turnout and a strong vote in favour of the plan is essential. Read the latest news on page 15.

Most English villages are very different today from what they were when agriculture was a more dominant industry of our country. Joy Atkins, a familiar local figure, recalls on pages 12-14 the world of her youth in a rural village in Shropshire before she moved to Chenies and eventually to Aston Clinton.

Elsewhere in this issue, we update you on brave young Ollie Gardiner. Through your extraordinary generosity, he has access to treatment for his cancer through a new drug unavailable on the NHS. We wish him courage as the treatment continues. He is blessed to have a supportive family within an exceptionally caring community who have risen to the challenge presented to them.

Big changes in school structures are explained by Helen Shepherd on page 7. Many of us will look forward to hearing from Helen's bosses what they plan to do to provide more places for the children of newcomers.

Light relief with a philosophical twist is, as ever, provided by Kelly Cornish on page 6.

Alec Just Editor

Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends

Did you make any New Year's Resolutions at the start of 2017, I wonder? I'll admit, I've not made any for several years now as I find that willing myself to change only works for a few weeks or months, and then I slide back to old ways and readopt the bad habits I thought I'd left behind.

Not that making resolutions or taking time for introspection are bad things in themselves. Self-examination has a long Christian tradition going right back to biblical times. But if you're one of those people who finds sustaining your New Year's resolution beyond early February well-nigh impossible, then why not try something different this year?

Instead of looking at yourself judgmentally as you would a house which needs repair, instead of walking through your life room-by-room drawing up a list of work to be done, bits

to be patched, imperfections to be tackled, why not take a God's-eye-view?

God sees the muddle and the mess we're in but he loves us with all our faults and failings. He's only too aware of the cracks we've carefully papered over to conceal our problems

from our friends and family, but he doesn't focus on those. Maybe this year, if we really want to make some profound changes, we should borrow God's eyes and walk through the rooms of our lives... not looking for flaws, but for potential. I believe then we will see ourselves as we truly are, those with the potential to be welcoming to those in need and generous in giving: people with a

huge capacity for love and an unshakable hope for the future.

Now surely that's enough for one year!

With love

Elizabeth



All the homeless bears and stray dogs at St. Michael's Christmas Fair found loving homes. The event raised in excess of £3000 towards church funds. A big thank you to all those who helped, contributed and supported us.

Photo: Alec Just

St Michael and All Angels

Regular Services:

9.15am and 6pm each Sunday



Forthcoming events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sat 11 Feb	7.30pm	Quiz Night	The Anthony Hall
Wed 1 March	8pm	Ash Wednesday Communion	St Michael's Church
Fri 3 March	2pm	Women's World Day of Prayer	AC Baptist Church
Sun 12 March	10.30am	Annual Parochial Church Meeting	St Michael's Church
Wed 15 March	8pm	Aston Clinton Ladies Lent Service	St Michael's Church
Sun 26 March	9.15am	Mothering Sunday Service	St Michael's Church

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

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

Aston Clinton Ladies Group

Forthcoming meetings

Wed 15 February in the Guide Hall at 8pm

Beetle Drive fun evening. Nibbles and refreshments provided together with our usual raffle. New members are especially welcome.

Wed 15 March at 8pm

Lenten Service at St Michael and All Angels followed by coffee and hot cross buns at Janet Leech's house.

For more info on both meetings, contact Sue Sanders **630740** or Janet Watson **631014**.

The Rhubarb



**Open at St Michael's Church,
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afternoon from 2 to 4.30pm**

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In the directory of advertisers on page 31 you will find a wide range of local services. Please support our advertisers and mention Village Life when you contact them.

WHEN I was a teenager, my nickname was Saffy. Those of you familiar with the Ab Fab character will know why. For those that aren't, this was largely down to the fact that while my parents owned a nightclub, threw wild hedonistic parties and partied all night, I remained a resolute non-drinker. A total square. Looking back, perhaps it was the only way I could rebel.

It wasn't all strict moral high-ground though, I genuinely didn't like booze and even now I still dislike the taste of beer or wine. Back then I assumed that when I grew up I would learn to appreciate a fine merlot but either I'm still not a proper adult, or it's just not going to happen.

When I started working in media it became clear that declining alcohol was an immediate buzz-kill that others found a bit odd and suspicious. At the regular PR launches (I would have gone to the opening of an envelope if invited), I would take a glass of the complimentary white wine and sip it, trying not to grimace as the acidic liquid slipped down my throat. Shortly afterwards I discovered that hard spirits could be sweetened with soft drinks and lose their alcoholic taste almost completely, and that was me done for. Only about ten years after everyone else of my age had learned to drink.

And when I look back I am horrified by the scrapes I got myself into whilst completely wasted. From getting into the back of a stranger's car – "I'm not a taxi love, but I'll take you home for twenty quid" – to flashing my bra from the sunroof of a moving limo. Back then, I felt liberated and full of Girl Power but looking back I realise how fortunate I am to have escaped a more sinister consequence.

I am now your classic middle-aged mum

binge-drinker, going for weeks without even a sniff but hitting it hard when I am (to paraphrase Micky Flanagan) out, out. I haven't completely learnt my lesson either – twice I've fallen asleep on the train home, neither Cheddington nor Bletchley being ideal spots to find a passing taxi at 1am. After a few tequilas, I also tend to forget if my kids are within earshot and crack the kind of jokes that would make a sailor blush, only to be mortified the day after when they are repeated.

On a more serious note, I have a friend who has been allowing her 14-year-old daughter the occasional alcoholic drink, and always



under supervision. I have admired her for 'normalising' the experience and thereby removing the thrill of underage drinking. At least that's what I thought would happen. At New Year, the family attended a party at a neighbour's house and when their youngest child was ready to crash out they took her home, leaving the teenager there for an extra hour. During that time, she drank so much she went further with

her boyfriend than she really wanted to, was violently sick everywhere and worst of all, was filmed by a so-called friend who then posted it on Snapchat. Thankfully, smartphones weren't around back when I was doing embarrassing things under the influence. Video footage and images posted online don't just disappear after a fat coke and a bacon roll, like your hangover does.

Perhaps my parents had the right idea after all. Maybe we need to party hard at home a bit more frequently to turn our kids off the idea of getting plastered. Well, that's my excuse and I'm sticking to it.

Kelly Cornish

See the back pages for a great range of local trades and services



Aston Clinton School

Head: Mrs Helen Shepherd



Educational landscapes

Schools have been changing for a while with no end to the process in sight.

All schools, Aston Clinton included, are deciding what type of school they want to be. I am not referring to the school ethos as most schools are very clear about the ethos of their school which permeates through school life.

I am referring to decisions about who 'oversees' and funds the school. Aston Clinton School, like many primary schools, is a local authority school. Bucks County Council fund the school and have certain responsibilities for services used by the school. However, there are alternative models around now. Our school is run by me, but I am accountable to the governing body and to Bucks CC.

Academy schools in England are directly funded by the Department for Education and independent of local authority control. Most academies are secondary schools. However, some primary schools are also academies. Responsibility for the day-to-day running of such a school still lies with the head teacher, but he or she is overseen by an independent, non-profit charitable body called an academy trust.

Academy trusts may receive additional support from personal or corporate sponsors. They do not have to follow the National Curriculum, but do have to ensure that their curriculum is broad and balanced and that it includes the core subjects of maths and English. They are subject to inspection by Ofsted.

An academy trust that operates more than

one academy is usually known as an academy chain: a partnership between a group of academies. Chains vary in size and composition. They can be loose, informal collaborations or can have a formal shared structure. These trusts and chains provide advice, support, expertise and a strategic overview. They control their own admissions process and have more freedom than other schools to innovate.

All schools that remain local authority schools have to decide on their future as the government agenda is still focused on making all schools convert to academies in the future. This might be as 'sponsored' academies (forcing a failing school to convert to an academy) or encouraging good or outstanding schools to become 'converter' academies.

Should we remain as we are, or think about becoming an academy? If academisation interests us, who would we like to join with? These decisions are wide-ranging and require a lot of time for fact-finding, discussion and thought. With all this in mind our governors are working with the school to decide the best route for us to take.

We will not rush into any decisions. In some ways it is frustrating to spend time on these matters as they distract us from our core purpose...educating the children. However, we need to make sure the school continues to thrive and be successful in the evolving political landscape. The time spent on this issue will not be wasted. We will keep you posted!

Helen Shepherd

Parish Council news

The year 2016 was a very satisfactory year for the parish council. We achieved almost everything we set out to achieve. Sadly, as we enter 2017, we find ourselves in a less happy position. The village is under threat from several developments and we may have to face the reality that the nature of the village could change in the years to come.

We find ourselves having to look at different ways of running things in the village. We will need more resources for what may become a large village, or even a suburb of Aylesbury. (*See also page 21 – Ed.*) We also have threats of cuts to our services from the larger authorities and may need our own resources to run services ourselves.

We will be looking at how best to provide for this growing and changing community, and one of our first large-scale projects is our plan to build a community centre that is fit for purpose for the Aston Clinton of the future. The Community Centre committee has raised over half the cost in pledged funding, and in 2017 intends to submit a planning application.

It is important now to have the support of the community and we welcome feedback from the plans which are currently exhibited on our website at www.astonclinton.org.uk The exhibition was also on public display before Christmas and we received some very useful feedback.

Traffic Measures

Alongside planning for a growing village, we continue to address, as best we can, the many housing developments. We continue to believe in our Neighbourhood Plan as our best defence against uncontrolled building and we have recently funded the development of a traffic mitigation scheme. Our budget for next year will include money to help implement this scheme, details of which can be found at:

www.astonclintonneighbourhoodplan.org

Dog Fouling

The winter months always bring an increase in dog fouling and we would like to remind dog owners/walkers to use the dog bins provided. If these are full, you can also place bags in the regular bins. Owners who don't pick up can be fined up to £1000 and the public are urged to submit to the parish council any evidence of dog fouling, which we will then pass on to AVDC for enforcement. We provide the bins which you, the council taxpayers, pay for! It is for this reason too that residents are not permitted to bring bags of dog mess from home and put them in the dog bins.

Village Bins

We also receive regular complaints about the village bins. However, these are AVDC bins and they are responsible for emptying them. The parish council bins are the ones in the park itself. If the village bins are not emptied weekly, the number to call is **01296 585235**.

Inconsiderate Parking

On a similar note, the parish council is not able to do anything about bad parking or parking on the pavement. If the poor parking is caused by a housing development being built, we will try to help by contacting the developer, where it is possible to do so, or the planning authority. However, the authority for enforcing rules on parking is the police (by calling 101). Only they can enforce the law. As a guideline, though, parking on the pavement is NOT recommended. Better to slightly inconvenience motorists who may have a few seconds added to their journey, than mums with pushchairs, the elderly, visually impaired or those in wheelchairs and mobility scooters who cannot get around the parked cars. Parents doing the school-run are welcome to park in Aston Clinton Park and walk the children to the school and walk to meet them in the afternoon.

Santa Float

On a lighter note, the Christmas Santa float toured the village again before Christmas with a new, longer route. We are happy to report that it raised £1482.73 (£326 more than last year).

As always, the donations were split equally between Rennie Grove Hospice, the Scouts and the Guides but this time, both the scouts and the guides agreed to donate their third straight to Ollie's fund. How lovely and selfless of these super village groups! Massive thanks to the scouts, guides and cubs for all the door knocking, to Dayla for the truck and the lovely driver Spencer, and of course to Father Christmas himself!

Photo: Lesley Ronson



Santa (a.k.a. Cllr Peter Wyatt) and Spencer, the float driver from Dayla

Allotments

The Parish Council has a few allotments available for rent this year. The cost is £11 a year. Contact the Clerk on 01296 631269 or astonclintonpc@gmail.com for further details. When they're gone, they're gone!

Gill Merry CiLCA
Parish Clerk

Our multi-talented Parish Clerk

SINCE the 1970s the role and functions of parish and town councils have increased hugely. It is often generally thought that 'parish clerk' suggests a secretary with some admin skills and does not reflect the many roles the modern parish council officer must fulfil. These include legal and financial advisor to the parish council, publicity officer, events organiser, first-point-of-contact, election manager, etc.

In late 2014, Gill Merry answered an advert in the Bucks Herald by our then Parish Council who were looking for a replacement clerk. Gill, a professional dance teacher, had no experience of local administration but thought she'd give it a try.



As no qualified parish clerks had replied to the advert, the council invited Gill to fill the post on a trial basis. After successfully completing her trial period, initially supported by Christine Jensen (an ex-AC and fully qualified parish clerk), she enrolled to gain her Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA). During 2016, she studied hard, culminating in her certificate. The management of parish council business is now in qualified hands and she deserves our warm congratulations! I am also

happy to report that Gill still manages to fit in some dance teaching and examining (but not for councillors!)

Alec Just

Aston Clinton, Buckland & Drayton Beauchamp

Horticultural Society

A HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our supporters and readers! Already the first signs of spring are evident in the garden. As always my early snowdrops were in flower before Christmas.

How did your garden fare last year? A mild winter was followed by a cold spring. This meant that the soil did not warm up, delaying seed germination and spring growth. The chilly spring was followed by an unsettled summer.

For me, this meant that I had to sow parsnips, carrots and peas more than once. In the end, I got a good crop of carrots by growing them in a trough and screening them against the carrot fly. Peas had to be germinated in pots before planting out.

Early Rivers plum blossom



Photo: John Ridler

My early potatoes did well. I was harvesting them into the middle of the summer. Summer flowers also did well especially the dahlias and delphiniums. The fruit did surprisingly well considering the winter weather and, though the quantities were down, the quality was good and the harvest was better than expected, especially my apples and plums. All in all—not a bad year.

Graham Austin from Home Farm Plants in Bovingdon gave an excellent talk on how to grow and overwinter delphiniums. I have followed his good advice. Delphiniums are surprisingly hardy and my overwintering pots are already showing growth. The biggest problem with young shoots is the slugs and snails. I've found a liquid slug killer that is working well.

Looking forward into 2017, the seed and plant catalogues will have arrived and orders placed. Now is the time to sow sweet peas and tomato and cucumber seedlings. I have already planted my onions and shallot sets in pots in a cold frame. I also grow specialist onions from seed. These seeds should be sown now in the greenhouse with some bottom warmth.

Our gardens are getting smaller but there is always room for a raised bed or two to grow sweet peas, runner beans, courgettes and your favourite salads and veg. Alternatively there are allotments in the park. The parish council keeps the waiting list but there are often some available at this time of the year. Contact the parish clerk at ParishCouncil@AstonClinton.org

There are a lot of new properties in the three villages, none of which have large gardens. However small your garden may be, it will give you the opportunity to be creative. The developer's brochure will show homes with trees, shrubs and planted borders, etc. In practice you get something nearer to a blank canvas. Buy a range of perennials that will give you height as well as spread.

Your estate will mature much quicker if you plant at least one tree in your front garden. It shouldn't be a large tree whose roots could



Photo: John Ridler

Crown Imperials (*Fritillaria imperialis*)

undermine the foundations of your home. Don't plant weeping willow, leylandii or field trees such as horse chestnut.

Ideal for a small garden are the flowering cherries especially *Prunus Kanzan* which has an upright vase shape or column variety. Alternatively there are the crab apple or *Malus*. They are a genus of deciduous spring flowering trees that don't grow too large. We need more trees in our gardens to help absorb the carbon dioxide and other pollutants in the atmosphere. Now is the time to plant them.

Your local Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp Horticultural Society has there to help and advise. We have monthly meetings with a speaker, a Spring and Summer Show, a Summer Outing and a Social Supper in March.

Why not join us? It costs only £5 per year and this gives you free entry to our meetings and regular newsletters. All meetings are held in the Anthony Hall and start at 8pm. They are all free to members and £2 to non-members. There is a raffle and a plant and produce stall. Coffee and tea are served during the interval.

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 8th February** when John Morris will be talking

about "Our Box Woodland Heritage".

On **Saturday 11th March** we will be holding our Social Supper at the Anthony Hall at 7 for 7.30pm. After supper, Jackie Watson will talk about "Movies from Pinewood interpreted by floral art".

For more information go to our website at www.astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk or email info@astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk

Several members of the Society are growing daffodils for the Spring Show in April. I have uncovered mine and they are shooting well. Unless the weather is too warm, they will be brought into the greenhouse in mid-February to grow on.

Our **21st Annual Spring Show** and plant sale is on **Saturday 8th April**. It is held in Aston Clinton School hall and starts at 2pm. Entry is £1. The many competitions are open to all. Members' daffodils are not the only things on show. There are classes for children to enter. Other classes range from floral art through showing tulips and other spring flowers to domestic and handicrafts. The easiest way to get hold of a show schedule is to download it from our website (see above). The **entry night** for the Spring Show is on **Thursday 6th April** at the Anthony Hall, 6-7.45pm.

Ralph Weston

Autumn Crocus (*Colchicum autumnale*)

Photo: John Ridler

Fond memories from the past ...

MANY of us who walk or drive along Green End Street will recognise the lady pictured below. For those who don't know her, it is the doughty and fearless figure of Joy Atkins. She is to be seen slowly, but determinedly, pushing her trolley to and from the village store – as often as not in the road, to avoid “the uneven footpath” – and quite oblivious to the danger from traffic.

Now in her tenth decade and widowed some years ago, Joy lives independently in Aston Clinton with the support of her two married daughters who both live nearby. A few years ago Joy wrote a privately published book, telling her story. She has kindly consented to the publication of a shortened, abridged version in *Village Life*.

This is the first instalment which describes her early years.



Photos: Alec Just

I AM THE DAUGHTER of a country parson. My father's profession took the family to live at various times in Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire. I was educated as a boarder at St Brandon's Clergy Daughters' School in Bristol and left in the early 1940s.

During the holidays I helped out at a local farm in Worcestershire and developed a love of animals, especially horses, eventually owning my

own mare, named 'Flash'.

My father's early death meant that my mother and I had to leave our home at the Rectory. My life of relative privilege had suddenly changed to one of relative poverty. My mother went to live with her parents in Chorleywood and my brother and I (and Flash) followed a year or so later after she had found a small cottage at Chenies to house us. I found a job at

Manor House Farm at Chenies where I met my husband, Bill Atkins.

I had always loved farming and had worked at a farm in Herefordshire in my early teens. At Chenies, shortly after the end of WW2, I joined the Land Army and was given a much-needed set of clothes. I have sheared sheep, milked cows and driven tractors during my working life.

My mother's parents had recommended the job at the Manor House Farm in Chenies, where I went to work, met my husband, settled down, and raised two daughters who both live locally.

In 1996, I came to live in Aston Clinton, to be near my daughters who were raising their own families. I remember the old shop on the corner of Twitchell Lane and Green End Street and still walk to the village shop for my daily needs.

* * *

I was born on December 20th 1924 at Torworth parsonage in Nottinghamshire with Nurse Adams in attendance. I have only one memory of that part of my life—we left there when I was two. The only thing I can remember is crawling up the drive to the gate and watching the hounds go by. It remains a clear picture, even now.

My mother, Aileen Tracy Simmons, was the daughter of Frank Goodyear Simmons and his wife Lillian Bland Turner. My mother met my father, Reverend John William Peppercorn, whilst she was attending confirmation classes at St Andrew's Church, Chorleywood. He was twenty years older than my mother and was the curate at the church. My mother's father, a bank manager, did not approve, a curate was not quite what he wished for his eldest daughter!

My father was sent to Africa as a missionary on the Rhodesian Railway for two years. Grandfather hoped that might well cool things down. Well... it didn't—they were devoted and faithful. When he came back they married in February

1924 and I arrived on December 20th 1924.

My father's work in Rhodesia covered a big area. He had a railway carriage to live in and a native servant to look after him. When I say carriage, I don't mean like the modern ones, I mean a basic horsebox type. This would be shunted into a siding and my father would work the area on his bicycle. When he had finished, the horsebox would be hitched up to a train and moved to another area where it would begin again and he would work yet another large area.

Several of my father's belongings, which he



Father and I scything the grass in the vicarage garden at Upper Sapay, Worcestershire in the early 1940s

brought back, are now in the Horniman Museum, south-east London. These include a ticket for one adult, a bicycle and a servant!

In 1926 we left Torworth and moved over 120 miles away to Cardington in Shropshire, a beautiful stone village in the hills near Church Stretton where my father was to be the new vicar. The vicarage stood at the edge of the village and had a large garden and orchard. The buildings included a shed for four cows, a loose box, calf shed, pig sties all in a high stone walled yard just off the main high walled yard at the back of the house. This included stables, workshop and coach house with two unused rooms above. The yard had high double doors with a small pedestrian door in the middle of one, so we were well enclosed.

Lewis Heath rented the cow yard and glebe fields. He and his wife Muriel lived at no.1,

Continued overleaf

Fond memories from the past, contd

the first cottage just down the lane to the village. Lewis and Muriel were very much part of my young life. They were always patient with me and I would trail around after Lewis whenever possible—standing and watching him milking, helping feed the calves and taking the cows down the lane to the field. This lane became deep in mud in the winter and Lewis had to carry me. As I got older I would try to walk in my wellies. One time, I got stuck and walked out of one of them and was upset with a very muddy foot and sock—Lewis had to rescue me!

Haymaking was a wonderful time. Louis borrowed his father's pair of horses, Darky and Smiler, (known as 'Weary Willie' and 'Tired Tim') and, with the horse mower, cut the hay. If the weather was kind the swathes of grass were turned by hand with a rake.

"Haymaking was a wonderful time"

A few days later, if ready, it was horse-raked into rows and then made into stooks with a two-pronged pike, the sides were raked down from the top which made them reasonably weather proof for a few days, if needed. Then a wagon and horse was borrowed and the hay loaded up, taken to somewhere near the buildings and made into a haystack with a sloping top or roof which would be thatched with straw as soon as possible to keep the weather out.

When the winter came and extra fodder was needed, the hay would be cut with a hay knife out of the stack in sections about three foot square and as deep as the pike would stab and carried over your shoulders. Tea was taken out into the fields in haymaking and this was a treat enjoyed by all, sandwiches and cake and sometimes, if you were lucky, some home-made lemonade—a real treat!

Lewis milked four cows as a rule, we had our

milk from them, Muriel made butter and there was cream for a treat. The back room of Lewis and Muriel's little house was kept as a dairy and always had a special milky scent. The main room had a table and chairs beside the fire, the floor was scrubbed red tiles with a rag rug in front of the fire, which was an iron range with an oven and an adjustable hook over the fire for a kettle or cooking pot. A wire fork hung at the side, ready for toasting bread. There was a big steel fender at the front and everything was highly polished with 'black lead'. People took great pride in their ranges and if, by any chance, they had any brass or copper articles to display this was even better.

Mrs Crockston, two doors down, had a wonderful display of horse brasses hanging down on leather straps each side of her fireplace. Horse brasses decorated the harness of working horses in the days when horses were the only means of transport. The more brass decoration the better when they were out on the road and shown off. The pad for the shaft chain would have brass strips and large studs and these studs would also be used on the breeching straps. The bridge and the blinkers were also decorated.

Lewis and Muriel's little house had two bedrooms, the staircase ran up into the smaller one and the other was through a door at the top of the stairs. The ceiling was sloped each side up to the roof. There was a bucket toilet at the bottom of the garden and a small washhouse by the front door, which was the only door into the house; there was also a large porchway outside this door. I can remember Muriel teaching me how to deal with the door mat, instead of banging it against a wall, she would lay it upside down on the stone floor of the porch and then take the broom and turn the head over and bang the mat with the broom head. Very effective and not nearly so dusty, you just swept up with dustpan and brush.

to be continued ...

Grants available from Turpin's Charity

FOLLOWING ON from an article in the Oct/Nov 2016 issue of Village Life magazine by the chairman of Turpin's Charity, I am pleased to announce that the charity is now inviting applications for grants from individuals within the parish of Aston Clinton.

Turpin's Charity can provide funds for individuals who may need help and support, including:

- training costs for a young person
- funds for a school trip
- the initial outlay required for a rental accommodation away from home, such as college or university
- a holiday for a terminally ill person
- funding towards medical treatment
- help with cost of a mobility aid

For vulnerable adults who need assistance with keeping their home warm:

- a new carpet
- contribution towards the cost of a replacement boiler, additional radiators or wall insulation

Turpin's Charity can consider applications for any other assistance to those in need due to hardship or distress where a cash grant could provide an improved living situation.

If you would like to be considered for a grant, please contact the clerk of the charity, Claire Hill:

Email: turpincharity@outlook.com or phone **07864 974200** and leave a message with your name and a contact number.

Please note: All applications will be considered by the trustees; only one application per person can be submitted for an award.

Claire Hill

Clerk to the charity

Neighbourhood Plan nears completion

THE Neighbourhood Plan committee has collated the results of the public consultation event on 3rd December at the parish council offices. Thank you to all of you who attended. We appreciate your comments.

We met with our outside consultants in early January to finalise the draft plan. It will now be presented to AVDC for analysis and comment before it goes out to the parishioners again for final approval before submission to the govern-

ment planning inspectorate.

When approved by them, our Neighbourhood Plan will be put to the local electorate for approval in a parish-wide referendum.

We are on the last laps of a long journey and ask you to stay with us to completion to try and preserve what this village still has to offer. See also page 21.

Colin Read
NHP committee chairman



Theatre in the Villages

Theatre in the Villages will no longer be supported by AVDC and its funding has been withdrawn. This means that this wonderful scheme, which ran for 17 years, will no longer happen. I would like to thank all the promoters who have given their time over the years and been responsible for bringing excellent professional theatre and music to village halls across Bucks, including Buckland and Aston Clinton.

Jeannette Baxter



Firelighting with the Scouts

"I can light a fire with just two sticks, as long as one of them is a match" slogan on a T-shirt sold by the official Scout Shop.

MESSING about with fire is one of the most popular activities in Scouting and appears on the programme of every section from Beavers to Explorers throughout the year. One of the first things everyone learns in Scouting is how to toast a marsh-mallow over an open fire and that skill stays with you for a lifetime. You can buy a very exotic-looking extendable roasting fork or you can use a pointy stick, just remember that embers work much better than flames for any campfire cooking.

Dutch ovens (a cast iron cooking pot with a lid) are great for cooking over open fires, perfect for stews, curries and anything where all the



Photos: Neil Walker

ingredients are piled in together and left to bubble away, but we've also used them to steam puddings and bake bread. However, you don't need utensils to cook over an open fire, the easiest are roasting potatoes in the embers or baking dough on sticks, (technically called damper bread and delicious when filled with jam). Other ideas tried by Cubs and Scouts are baking eggs in orange peel (works well but the peel does flavour the eggs), cooking burgers in cabbage leaves (works even better, the burgers don't pick up any cabbage flavour) and cooking

eggs in potatoes (the best of all and the easiest). The one thing to defeat us was boiling a pint of water in a paper bag over an open fire, it works well on YouTube but we couldn't replicate it, maybe our paper bags were faulty.

Beavers are the youngest section (6-8) and start with simple activities such as striking a match and lighting a candle. This might not seem unduly taxing but it's no longer something that comes up in everyday life and part of the fun of Scouting is learning practical skills that sometimes aren't used anywhere else.

Cubs (8-10) start to learn how to light their own fires. They look at the difference between kindling and fuel and how to lay a fire so that it will light with the minimum number of matches. Singing around the campfire is a great way to end a day at camp and this activity seems to be the most successful with Cubs, maybe it's the enthusiasm of the leaders or maybe they remember all the songs they were taught while in Beavers.

By the time they are in Scouts (10-14) the most difficult task appears to be collecting wood. It is of course much more fun to poke at the nascent flames with a stick than to tramp around looking for fuel but it is amazing how long it takes a Scout to realise that a handful of thumb sized sticks is insufficient to provide a fire on which you can cook dinner. We've tried firelighting without matches. Rubbing two sticks together may be the well known method but is rarely successful while a flint and steel is much more reliable. The best way to get this to work is by striking sparks onto tissue or toilet paper, although very dry moss (surely an oxymoron) and silver birch bark also work if you are really determined to do the full 'Bear Grylls'. Once your sparks have made your tinder smoulder a judicious amount of wind should produce flames, this is where the leaders come in!

By the time you are in Explorers (14-18) fire



still holds great fascination and simple camp fires still regularly feature in the programme. However, for an additional challenge, fires afloat, fires suspended in the air and fire juggling take things to another level.

Neil Walker

Claire Walker writes:

Thank you to all the Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and parents who gave up their Saturday to collect Christmas trees. Special thanks to Greg O'Callaghan for free use of his time and chipper and to Darren and Alison Lewis from

Spot-on Print for printing the advertising leaflet free of charge. Thank you, Aston Clinton School for letting us use the playground as a base and huge, huge thanks to the people of Aston Clinton and Buckland for using our service and donating so generously.

A special mention also to those villagers who missed us and chased us around the village in order to donate. We have counted just over £1,500 which will be shared equally between Ollie's Fund and St Michael's church roof fund – an amazing community effort!



The WI local branch

BUCKLAND, Drayton Beachamp and Aston Clinton WI meet on the first Wednesday of every month at Anthony Hall at 7.45 p.m.

Our lunch group continues to thrive with at least 14 members attending every month and our walking group will be starting again in the spring

We welcome new members at any of our

meetings. Come along and try us – you'll receive a warm welcome!

Claire Castle

Our upcoming meetings (following publication of Village Life) are:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1 March | 'Where there's a Will there's a ...'
There will also be an exhibition of family heirlooms. |
| 5 April | Alan Jones will be speaking about his life as a bird vet. |

Surgery news

WE HOPE that everyone had a lovely Christmas and New Year holiday. We would like to thank everyone who very kindly sent us cards and gave us gifts of sweets, biscuits, delicious hot sausage rolls and other much appreciated 'goodies'. All too often the NHS workforce is criticised and can become demoralised whilst working hard to do their very best in what is sometimes a creaky system. It is a boost to their morale to get such lovely feedback and warm wishes from our patients, so once again – thank you all!

In January 2016 we launched a new system called Web GP that offered patients the option to submit an online consultation that would then be assessed and actioned by our doctor team. Unfortunately, the use of the system has been quite minimal with only 200 patients out of our 28,500 (across our three sites) using the system, and it hasn't achieved the objectives that we set when it launched. For this reason it is not financially viable to continue beyond the initial 12-month period.

Consequently, as from 11th January 2017, Web GP has not been in use. We are currently

looking at other ways to provide an alternative to the Web GP system, that patients might find easier to engage with. There are various other options and as soon as we have further information we will let everyone know.

Please remember that you can still apply for patient access which will allow you to see some areas of your record and our website is constantly changing and being updated with useful information.

Here at Aston Clinton we have had some difficulties with our disabled parking space. Patients have said that it is too small and is often used by other patients or obscured by another parked vehicle. To try to address these issues we will be moving the site of the space to the end of the row of spaces in front of Lloyds Pharmacy. There is more room there and access should be easier. The space will have proper markings and a sign which should also discourage non-disabled patients from using it. Hopefully, by the time this article is published, the space will be marked and in use.

We hope you all have a healthy and happy spring and send our best wishes from all at Aston Clinton Surgery.

Tina Moran

Site Manager

Tel: 01296 630241

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.

The Royal British Legion page

Poppy Appeal

This year's Poppy Appeal, thanks to Emma Bone, has exceeded all expectations. The total sum raised was £6,244. Our sincere thanks go to all who took collecting boxes and either knocked on doors, had them on their counters or stood in all weathers outside B&Q.

Ina Lyth's funeral

Ina died in November and her Requiem Mass was held at the Memorial Church of the Holy Family, RAF Halton. Ina was born in Scotland and joined the RAF as a clerk in 1949. She was posted to Halton where she met and married Tom Lyth who was an RAF apprentice. When Tom retired from the RAF they settled in Aston Clinton where they were both active members of various clubs and societies in our community. Ina had a variety of jobs, including working in the NAAFI at Halton; Deans Farm Eggs; the local village post office and Jacksons the bakers in Bedgrove amongst others. She will be missed, especially by her friends and contemporaries at the Aston Clinton branch of the RBL.

The First World War story of Ronald Walter Charles Burnham

Ronald Walter Charles Burnham, only son of William Gates Burnham & Ellen (née Smith),

was born on 29 June 1898 in Aston Clinton. Resident at The Junipers, London Road, he enlisted, on 17 September 1914, for four years in the Territorial 1st Hertfordshire Regiment.

Despite the minimum enlistment age for Territorials being 17, he was only 16. Ronald sailed from Southampton for France on 10 July 1915, and was attached to A Company, No 4 Entrenching Battalion at Rouen. He spent the next 14 months in the field, and appears to have suffered various bouts of influenza and debility fatigue.

On 20 March 1916, Ellen Burnham wrote to the Hertfordshire Territorials recruiting office, enclosing Ronald's birth certificate and appealing for him to be sent home. She repeated her request in May 1916, this time pointing out that he was still under 18.

It appears that Ellen's wish was granted because Ronald's military record states 'Under age, born 29 June 1898, to be withdrawn from the firing line'. However, whilst he returned to England on 5 October 1916, he was then sent to Calais with the 5th Reserve Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment in July 1917. He received a fatal gunshot wound to the chest on 29 April 1918 and died on 12 May, aged 19.

He is buried at the Esquelbecq Military Cemetery, northern France. *Ralph Weston*



There are a few vacancies in the Village Life team of volunteer distributors. If you would welcome some gentle but regular exercise, please contact Geoff Plowman, our distribution organiser, for more details. Geoff can be contacted on 07864 769776 or you can reach him by email at geoff.plowman@gmail.com

Please mention Village Life when responding to advertisers.

Aston Clinton U3A news

OVER the Christmas period we were entertained at our regular monthly general get-together by the Chesham Germaines Male Voice Choir who gave a very enjoyable performance, ending with a singalong of festive music. In addition, over eighty members went on a trip to Kew Gardens to go round their spectacular light show which winds its way through the gardens on a one-mile-long path in a magical after-dark experience. This was such a success we are already planning a trip to Blenheim Palace next December.

Our general meeting on **21st February** will be the AGM followed by refreshments and time to socialise. On 21st March there will be a talk entitled 'The Victorian Novel'. Other events include trips to the Kensington museums on **13th February** and to the Houses of Parliament on **24th March**. There will also be a theatre trip to Milton Keynes on **15th March** to see 'The Play that Went Wrong'.

As ever, the 30 individual interest groups continue to meet on a monthly basis.

In February the Science & Technology group will be visiting the Moog Space and Defence facility at Wescott Park, where liquid rocket engines for use in spacecraft and launch vehicles are developed. The Wildlife group has talks lined up on Spiders and Bats. The Film Studies Group will be watching 'On the Waterfront' in February and 'The Boy in the Striped Pajamas' in March.

Our three walking groups, 'Walkers', 'Intermediate Walkers' and 'Strollers' cater for all abilities and are putting together their programmes for 2017. The Strollers recently took a stroll around Buckland, up to the canal bridge (see photo below) and back to the church for tea and cakes.

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 the chance to develop your interests, make new friends and enjoy yourself.

For more information visit our website:

www.acu3a.weebly.com

Jeff Meek



Booking Buzz for the Village Market!

AS the local community calendar goes it has grown to be one of the year's most loved and anticipated events.

Aston Clinton Village Market has amazingly been hitting new fundraising heights year-on-year for the best part of a decade, with 2017's ninth annual springtime shopping and eating outing looking set to be just as popular.

Combining the nostalgia of a great village party with a truly fabulous mix of stalls, mouth-watering food and drink and great entertainment, there really is no better place than the market to reach thousands of new customers at the same time as supporting Aston Clinton School.

Last year the range of things on offer

included beautiful hand-crafted homewares, jewellery, traditional sweets, ethnic clothing, furniture and a wealth of stunning deli produce. Plus of course a great range of foodie options, including a great BBQ and the Aston Clinton Beer Festival tent.

Pitches are already selling fast so make sure you don't miss out. Bookings cost just £25 for a pitch and £60 for a catering pitch. We're also on the look-out for bands, choirs and entertainers, so please do get in touch if you'd like to show-case your talents at this unique and very well attended village event. For more details or to reserve a spot, please email bookings@acvillagemarket.co.uk

Sarah Marsh



Photo: Louise Brine

A development too far?

YOU may feel that the proposal to build 250 homes at Gingers Farm, adjacent to the Estone Grange development off Chapel Drive, is a step too far. Many believe that the impact of this latest scheme would do great harm to the village character of Aston Clinton.

So far, AVDC has already approved 12 planning applications totalling 580 new houses, some of which are already built or are under construction. The addition of a further 250 dwellings, making a grand total of 830 new houses would represent a potential increase of more than 50% in the number of households in Aston Clinton. This will severely impact on already overstretched local healthcare services, let alone Aston Clinton School which is already all-but full.

You can add your name to a petition at change.org Type Aston Clinton in the search box and the petition will appear. As the deadline has been extended for objections to the planning application, you can still comment by going to AVDC planning website and search for 16/04000/AOP.

Jeannette Baxter (jeannette.baxter@gmail.com)

Latest news on Ollie's progress

Readers will be aware that local individuals and firms and have responded in large numbers to the appeal to raise funds needed to enable 12-year-old Ollie Gardiner to receive experimental life-saving cancer treatment. The NHS had been unable to meet the huge expense of the new drug after all approved treatments had failed. Ollie's family were told that the new drug was his only chance of survival. His private treatment started some three months ago. Here, his father Peter updates us with Ollie's progress to date ...

OLLIE AND I were surprisingly nervous on our first day at the Harley Street clinic. Having spent most of the previous 18 months in hospitals and clinics you would have thought we'd be used to it, but we had never experienced private medicine. We had no choice but to take the private route following the NHS refusing further cancer treatment for our 12-year-old son. He had been diagnosed with relapsed brain and spine cancer only eight weeks before and that was 'officially' 'incurable'. But following an exhaustive search we had found a treatment from Austria, and the only doctor in the UK able to give it had left the NHS and was now private only.

After taking a seat in the clinic reception, my nerves got worse when I was immediately presented with a form to sign. The form listed



some of the costs of what was about to take place and was effectively a blank cheque. We had already had to put £75,000 'on account' and we'd had to borrow that against our house in the short term while waiting for the first of the incredible amount of money raised by our awesome community to become available.

The doctors were also evidently unsure what to expect of Ollie and had planned for the worst. We were shown to a private room and told that shortly we would be going down to the operating theatre where they would inject a chemotherapy drug directly into Ollie's brain fluid. For this he would have to remain totally still and they had a full theatre team stood by to make sure that, one way or another, he would be.

After so many MRI and CT scans Ollie is a master of lying still and he amazed the doctors by not even flinching once during the whole procedure. Not only was I very proud of him, but considering this procedure was going to take place 6 times every 4 weeks for the next two years, not needing an anesthetic has an enormous effect on the overall treatment cost. Already I was frantically adding up the cost of everything in my mind and trying to work out how our funds were going. Our oncologist said Ollie was the first patient he had ever given an



Intrathecal (into the brain) injection while conscious.

After a brief period in recovery, we were taken back to our room for the next procedure, a 2 hour intravenous drip of Avastin into Ollie's new port-a-cath. This is a device surgically placed in his chest which allows access to a main vein and Ollie's had been put in less than two weeks before. The fresh wound proved very troublesome for the nurse and her repeated attempts to access the port with a long needle reminded me of the shower scene in the film Psycho. Although in obvious discomfort, Ollie remained still and didn't complain. Eventually, after obtaining an even longer needle, the drip was successfully placed and I found myself in awe of this tiny bag of fluid. Not only since I had heard how effective Avastin could be in fighting cancer, but also since I knew this small amount cost over £2000. This would be repeated every two weeks.

At the end of the day we were presented with an enormous bag of pills and potions and a pharmacist went through how they should each be taken. Some in the morning; some midday; some evening; some at bedtime; some with food; some after food and some on an empty stomach. Although he provided a helpful crib-sheet for this, I have still installed an app on my phone to assist us. This being private medicine, the bag also had the bill taped to it: £2,634. Ollie and I left the hospital exhausted, but I felt elated since the treatment that we had thought didn't exist was now underway and the fight-back was on.

We have now been going back-and-forth to Harley Street for three months and we are used to the routine. There have been good days and

bad, but on the whole Ollie is taking it all well. He has been able to attend school and that always lifts his spirits. After the early days when he had very little energy and often retreated to his bed, he is now back to his old bouncy self. Santa even brought Ollie the three-wheeled bike he wished for and he can ride with his friends despite his cancer-impaired balance.

Our wonderful fund-raising team and the wider community have continued to amaze us with their love, support and innovative ways of raising funds to pay our astronomic costs. I hesitate to mention any particular person or event in the fear of missing somebody out, but our entire family will be forever grateful to each and every one of you. We have one last push this year to reach our target, but we are now within striking distance and that will cover the entire two years of treatment. We will then be able to breathe a huge sigh of relief and just concentrate on getting Ollie better and giving him the long life all children deserve.

Thank you.

Peter Gardiner



Photos: Peter Gardiner

If you would like to donate towards the sum needed to enable Ollie to complete his two-year course of treatment, please go to: www.olliesfund.com

Youth Club Re-Launch!

The Youth Club at Aston Clinton Park has been dormant for about a year but has just re-launched under a new committee. It started in January as a new Youth Café and Drop-in Club.

Where? The Churchill Hall (*next to the Parish Council Office in the Park*)

When? Fridays: 3.30-5.30pm – Ages 7-11
6-7pm – Age 11 upwards

Come along and join us! For more information, call Teresa Smith on **01296 631685**



NATIONAL VEGETABLE SOCIETY
BUCKS DISTRICT ASSOCIATION



Spring Talks

with advice for all vegetable growers
at the Holiday Inn Aylesbury HP22 5QT

NVS Members free Guests very welcome (admission £3 incl. refreshments)

Wednesday 22 March at 7.00pm

Barry Newman

with advice, ideas and techniques on how to improve our vegetable growing. Barry trained at Pershore College, has vast experience and is an excellent, easy-to-listen-to speaker

Wednesday 19 April at 7.30pm

Roger Umpelby

offers us an alternative look at weeds. Roger, another great speaker, shares with us his thoughts on those often unloved but beautiful plants most of us call WEEDS.

Both evenings should help us get off to a good start with the 2017 growing season. Do join us, you will feel very welcome.

Solution to Crossword No.19

Across 1. Edicts 5. Mackerel 9. Accident 10. Leeway 11. Appreciation 13. Aunt 14. American 17. Broccoli 18. Peep 20. Additional 24. Active 25. Narcissi 26. Bergamot 27. Keeper
Down 2. Deck 3. Climactic 4. Sherpa 5. Mathematician 6. Calliper 7. Event 8. Evaporated 12. Curry 15. Impulsive 16. Colliseum 19. Anorak 21. Dying 22. Acre 23. Isle

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 3 Feb	7.30pm	Film Night	All Saints' Church
Sat 4 Feb	10am	Produce Stall and Coffee	All Saints' Church
Sat 4 Feb	4pm	Junior Flicks	All Saints' Church
Wed 1 March	8pm	Ash Wednesday Communion	St Michael's Church
Fri 3 March	2pm	Women's World Day of Prayer	AC Baptist Church
Fri 3 March	7.30pm	Film Night	All Saints' Church
Sat 4 March	10am	Produce Stall and Coffee	All Saints' Church
Sat 4 March	4pm	Junior Flicks	All Saints' Church
Sun 19 March	7pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting	All Saints' Church
Sun 26 March	4pm	Messy Mothering Sunday	All Saints' Church

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

Members of the newly-formed Simply Walk group at All Saints' Church during a sunny autumn walk – see overleaf



'Simply Walk' scheme off to good start

Photo: Abi Parveen



See larger photo on page 25

THE Buckinghamshire 'Simply Walk' scheme is now providing gentle walks for residents in the Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp area.

The scheme is part of the Government's national 'Walking for Health' initiative which is designed to help improve the quality of people's lives, especially amongst those who, for whatever reason, are leading an increasingly sedentary lifestyle.

The walks currently start and end at Aston Clinton Park, which provides ample free parking and has a café where you can get hot and cold drinks afterwards. All you'll need are

suitable clothing and sturdy outdoor shoes or boots, appropriate to the prevailing weather conditions to ensure your own comfort.

The walks take place **every Thursday at 10.30 am** from the car park and are each led by a qualified leader and back-marker to ensure that no-one gets lost or over-stretched.

So, if you are recovering from an injury; or your doctor has suggested that you really ought to 'take more exercise'; or you still have a few pounds to shed after all the Christmas festivities; or you'd just like to get some fresh air and have a chat and make some new friends—then why not come along and join one of the walks ... and the good thing is that, as well as making you feel better, they're all absolutely free!

If you'd like to try one then simply turn up on the day and look for the person in the 'Walking for Health' hi-viz jacket, or, if you'd like further details on this, or any of the other 'Simply Walk' in Buckinghamshire, please contact Abi Parveen on **01296 387031** or at **simplywalks@buckscc.gov.uk**

Edward Kempton

**You can advertise your
business in Village Life and
reach over 2000 homes for
only £40 for a whole year.**

Unbeatable value!

St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp

Regular Services:
10.45am each Sunday



Forthcoming events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Wed 1 March	8pm	Ash Wednesday Communion	St Michael's Church
Wed 22 March	8pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting	St Mary's Church
Sun 26 March	10.45 am	Mothering Sunday Service	St Mary's Church

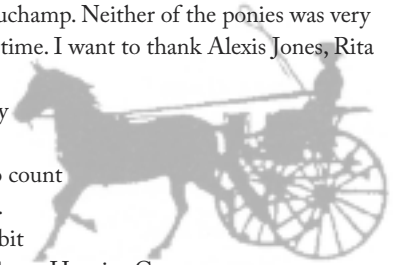
More details about the church on the church website: www.s-marys.org.uk

Pony Express Christmas 2016

In December I delivered Christmas cards in Drayton Beauchamp. Neither of the ponies was very fit so I made four trips only, doing part of the village each time. I want to thank Alexis Jones, Rita McGowan and my granddaughter Rosalie for their help.

Every year I try to count the bundles of letters and every year I get into a muddle and can't remember which I have counted. I delivered to about 30 addresses. I also forgot to count the envelopes but it must have been between 100 and 200.

Thank you for your generous donations. I have added a bit and sent £75 each to World Horse Welfare, and Rennie Grove Hospice Care.



Erica, Sorrel and Lilly

Meryl Nodes writes: Drayton Beauchamp's Annual Litter Blitz 2017 is to be held on **Saturday, 8th April**. Volunteers are asked to meet at Lower Farm at 10am, wearing waterproof footwear. Afterwards the customary bacon rolls and coffee will be served. Contact Meryl Nodes on **01296 630396** for more information.



The book of Drayton Beauchamp

In their book, so aptly sub-titled "The Village That Time Passed By", Margaret Ross and David Lonsdale have between them created and illustrated a comprehensive account of the story of the village and its inhabitants, past and present. The book is the result of painstaking research and is profusely illustrated. A few copies remain from the second impression and are available from Margaret Ross, still at only £10. A true collector's item!

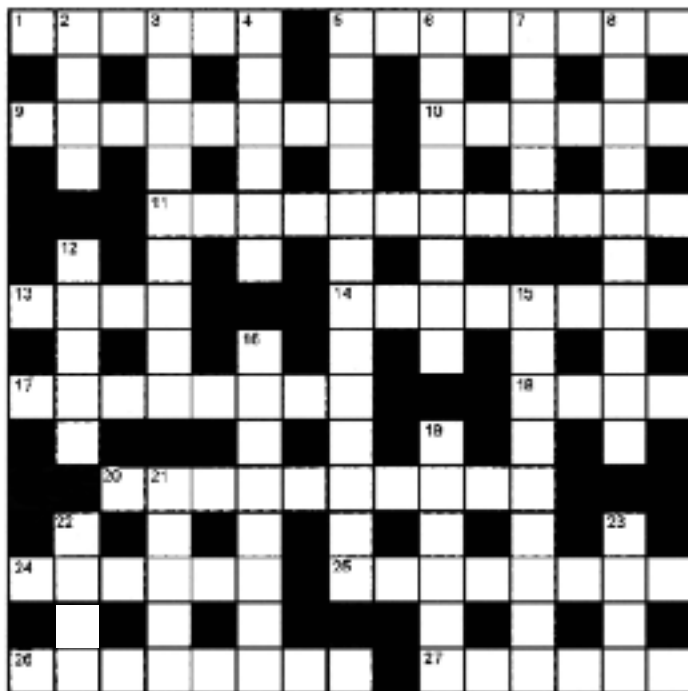
You can reach Margaret on **01296 630098**.

Alec Just

Village Life crossword no.19

Crossword compiled by **Helen Lonsdale**

Solution to this crossword on page 24



CLUES ACROSS

1. Decrees (6)
5. In the sky or on a plate (8)
9. Unfortunate incident (8)
10. Scope to move (6)
11. Tribute in recognition (12)
13. Mother or father's sister (4)
14. Citizen of USA (8)
17. Green brassica (8)
18. Quick look (4)
20. Supplementary (10)
24. Busy (6)
25. Daffodils or jonquils (8)
26. Aromatic herb (8)
27. Caretaker (6)

CLUES DOWN

2. Festoon or adorn (4)
3. Crucial to a storyline (9)
4. Nepalese ethnic group (9)
5. A numbers man (13)
6. Leg splint (8)
7. Happening (5)
8. Vaporized (10)
12. Ruby Murray (cockney slang) (5)
15. Rash (9)
16. London theatre (8)
19. Jacket with hood (6)
21. Passing (5)
22. 4,840 sq yards (4)
23. Of Wight (4)



Village Life magazine

Village Life is a successful bi-monthly community magazine edited by someone past the first flush of youth.

Sooner or later he will need to give way to someone else.

Are you either already retired or coming up to retirement with some experience in writing, editing or graphic design ?

If so, look forward to an interesting way of keeping mentally fit and register your interest by contacting Alec Just on 01296 634955 or email him at: alec.just@btinternet.com

An imaginative use of money!

AS reported in the previous issue, Village Life is a nonprofit community magazine, whose only production cost is that of printing by Buxton Press. Our competitive advertising rates, coupled with interesting local content has resulted in ever-increasing support by advertisers.

This, in turn, has resulted in modest annual

surpluses, enabling us to make grants to local charities. Our treasurer, James Adam, thought you would like to see this letter of thanks received from the 1st Aston Clinton Guides.

Sue Wall, their leader, tells James how they used the money. This, and other grants, were made possible by the joint efforts of all those involved in producing and delivering the magazine.

Alec Just

1ST ASTON CLINTON GUIDES

17th December 2016

Dear James

Donation of £350 from the Village Life Magazine

Thank you for the donation of £350. We have five Girlguiding units in the village. One Rainbow Unit, two Brownie packs, a Guide unit and a Ranger unit, providing a variety of fun and challenging activities for girls aged 5 up to 26! As our previous donations have all been put towards our big project of providing our hall with some audio-visual equipment, this year we decided to split the money five ways and let each unit have some extra money to spend.

After a lot of debate, it was decided that the common theme was to put the donation towards the different Christmas treats that the girls were having. The Rainbows attended a special screening of "Trolls" which was a fundraiser for Iain Rennie Hospice. So, they spent their money having fun and also benefitting another charity. One Brownie pack attended the pantomime and the other had a very exciting Christmas sleepover, which they were able to provide to the children at no cost, due to the donation. The Guides had a slightly more challenging activity to suit their age group and had a wonderful time sledging at the Snow Dome in Hemel Hempstead. Finally, the Rangers also decided to go to the pantomime, a trait we often find in Guiding, the older they get, the more they like to re-visit activities they enjoyed as younger children and enjoy them again, on a different level.

I am able to report that your donation was very much appreciated and has now all been spent providing some fun experiences for approximately 100 children. Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely

Sue Wall, 1st Aston Clinton Guides

Is making a Will on your New Year's resolution list?

IT MAY SOUND DRAMATIC but making a Will is the best way to safeguard your family in the future. Even if you're married, living with a partner or have children, you can't assume they will automatically inherit if you die without a Will. Making a Will is the only way to ensure that your money and assets will be shared according to your wishes.

This February, a selection of solicitors from across the Chilterns are donating their time and Will-writing expertise in return for a donation to Rennie Grove Hospice Care.

Rennie Grove is a local charity providing specialist nursing care in Herts and Bucks, including Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp to patients and families diagnosed with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses.

Make Your Will Month is the perfect incentive

to bring making or updating your Will to the top of your 'to-do' list as not only will you be setting your affairs in order but you'll be helping others too.

All Rennie Grove asks is that you consider making a donation of £99 for a single Will or £195 for a pair of matching Wills – less than most standard solicitors' fees. If your needs are more complex your solicitor will be happy to discuss additional fees with you at your appointment.

Simply choose a solicitor from our list and contact them to arrange an appointment during February quoting 'Rennie Grove Hospice Care'.

For a full list of participating solicitors go to www.renniegrove.org/makeyourwill or call Rennie Grove on 01442 890222 for further details.



"As your life changes it's important to make a Will - it's the only way to make sure your wishes in life are carried out after you're gone."



Make Your Will Month February 2017

This February, selected local solicitors are kindly waiving their Standard Will-writing fees in return for a comparable donation to Rennie Grove Hospice Care. If making a Will is on your 'to do' list then there's no better time to tick it off your list.

Participating solicitors in your area:

D C Kaye & Co, Wendover, 01494 729004

ISO Solicitors, Chesham, 0345 030 1101

Wills Moloney, Hemel Hempstead, 01462 719191



For a full list of participating solicitors go to www.renniegrove.org/makeyourwill or contact Rennie Grove on 01442 890222 / fundraising@renniegrove.org

Local Trades and Services

Auction houses

Tring Market Auctions 36

Bathrooms

Yeardye Bathrooms 43

Bedrooms

Bailey's Bedrooms 36

Builders

C D Lane Contractors 63

GP Renovate 45

N R Green 48

R & G King 57

Business services

Duke Design 53

Virtual PA services 44

Cars and Car hire

Blue Ribbon Chauffeurs 34

Butlers Cars 40

Executive Voyager 51

Triple White Weddings 55

Car wash & valeting

Roy Chapman 61

Chiropodist

Wendy Hilliard 42

Childcare

Barnowls Nursery etc 47

Marsworth Preschool 34

Cleaning services

Bonnie Bubbles Rug Wash 46

Brighter Home carpets 35

Brighter Home ovens 55

Warren ovens & carpets 44

Computing

Actopia IT support 51

Aston Computer Care 52

Practical Computing 62

Dentistry

AC Dental Clinic 50

Electrical engineers

Circuitfix 60

E Sharp (Electrical) Ltd 53

MJ Electrical 48

Farm shops

P E Mead Farm Shop 34

Darren & Heidi Smith 49

Fencing/Gates

R D Leonard 52

Town & Country 47

Fish and chips

Sully's Fish & Chips 59

Foot care

Footworks 52

Helen Boswell 57

Wendy Hilliard 42

Fuels

F R Jeffery coal 58

Gardening

Buckland Landscapes 41

G O'Callaghan tree care 46

J O'Callaghan tree care 60

Merryweather Mowers 46

MJB Smart 40

Passiflora 60

RB Treecare 56

Town & Country 47

Haircare

La Vita Hairdressing 58

Tracy (mobile hairdresser) 19

Health & Fitness

Helen Mulhall 52

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Express Heating 46

L V Holman 39

Homecare

Elizabeth Anne Blinds 39

Johnson Sewing Machines 46

Stitch & Mend 46

Hostelries/Hotels

The Oak village pub 2

West Lodge Hotel 56

Leisure, Art & Crafts

Chiltern Archery 37

Complete Outdoors 55

Marquee hire

Amelia Marquees 52

Motor engineers

Roy Chapman 61

Wendover Autobodies 64

Nursing homes & care

Leonard Pulham 36

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L V Holman 39

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Dom Walker 56

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Mike & Kym decorators 46

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P Greville 58

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Johnson sewing machines 46

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Travel Impressions 37

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SSAFA 35

Windows

Smashing Windows 54

Woodwork/Joinery

K-Lin Woodwork 40

P Greville 58

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	janet@goggle.plus.com ('goggle' is correct)
Aston Clinton Badminton Club	Maureen Davison	07958 479690	
Aston Clinton Baptist Church	Simon Downing	01296 631824	
Aston Clinton Friendship Club	Selly Clarke	01296 630207	
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	
Aston Wine Club	Pat Rozental	01296 630124	
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	Viv Barton	01296 630776	
Buckland Vllge 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	
Citizens Advice Bureau	–	0870 126 4056	
Cricket Club	Mike Parsonage	01296 631788	
Crimestoppers	–	0800 555 111	
Dentists' Surgery	–	01296 323090	
Dial-a-Ride	–	01296 330088	
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*	–	