

# Village Life

The community magazine  
for Aston Clinton, Buckland  
and Drayton Beauchamp

No.52 February/March 2020



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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

Here at Village Life's palatial office complex we are always pleased to hear good news stories and the new Repair Café at St Michael's gave the village a very encouraging start to 2020. Please see page 14 for more news of how this venture took off.

Another piece of good news was that we have heard from the organisers of the National Parish Magazines Awards that we were placed in the top 10 in the 2019 competition, from an entry of 360 magazines. Thanks to the production team, contributors, distributors and advertisers, who all played their part in making this happen.

Village Life is a team effort and one of the key factors is the army of distributors who walk (or perhaps even jog) round the village every couple of months to make sure that your magazine is delivered. They are all valuable and valued but I wanted particularly to thank Jane Preskett who has recently stood down from the role, having been involved for nearly 20 years. Jane started by organising all the deliveries of the old parish magazine in 2000 and has been making door to door deliveries herself since the change to Village Life in 2011. Thanks, Jane, and we hope you enjoy your deserved rest.

The village archive is making progress and we hope to have another exhibition in the church in the Spring. In the meantime, if you could spare some time to help with the cataloguing of the documents, please contact me.

Our next issue will be published at the beginning of April, coinciding with the birth of the new unitary authority for Buckinghamshire. It will probably take a while for everyone to get used to the new set-up but hopefully the information on page 20 will make things a little clearer. More information will be available through the local press, radio and social media as the date gets nearer.

*Richard Vincent, Editor*  
[editor@acvillagelife.co.uk](mailto:editor@acvillagelife.co.uk)

## Baptist Chapel



As part of our bicentenary celebrations we are creating a '200 fund' and inviting donations towards the improvement of the facilities in our hall.

Our ambition is to enlarge and refit the

kitchen, create much needed storage and bring more daylight in through roof lights, so that this much used building will be ready to serve the community here at Aston Clinton well into the 21st century.

The congregation will be holding a Gift Day on 15 March and we hope this will go some way towards the required £50,000. In addition, external funding is being pursued from various grant-making bodies and we wondered if any within the community would like to contribute to the '200 fund'.

An enlarged kitchen will greatly assist us in supplying meals to folk in the community, not just at Christmas time but on a weekly basis. We also envisage developing life-skills

that would include simple meal preparation and cooking for young carers and others who struggle with life. Other community projects are also in the pipeline.

Please get in touch for details of how to donate to the fund. [minister@astonclintonbaptist.org](mailto:minister@astonclintonbaptist.org)

Our Christmas Day lunch was a good occasion for people who would otherwise have been alone, with much help offered from the community (both practical and financial).

A three-course meal was served, with a turkey main course with all the trimmings in the hall, which had been seasonally dressed. In all, nine sat down to eat. There was a mixture of ages and circumstances and all seemed to have a fine time. We said farewell to our guests around 3pm.

We will be doing this again this year so if you become aware of anyone who might like to attend please let me know. That also goes for the weekly soup lunch every Wednesday at 12.45pm in the Baptist Church hall.

*Nick, Minister ACBC*

## 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](mailto:maggiebeaujeux@outlook.com)

## Some more one liners

supplied by James Adam...

*I changed my iPod's name to Titanic.  
It's syncing now.*

*Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.*

*This girl today said she recognised me from the Vegetarians Club, but I'd swear I've never met herbivore.*

*I know a guy who's addicted to drinking brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.*

# St Michael and All Angels



## Regular Services:

- 9.15am Family Eucharist each Sunday except 4th Sunday.  
10am Benefice Service 4th Sunday at either St Michael's,  
All Saints' or St Mary's  
6pm Evensong every Sunday.

## SERVICES

Wed 26 Feb	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Service	St Michael's Church
Sun 23 Feb	10am	BENEFICE SERVICE	All Saints' Church
Sun 22 Mar	10am	BENEFICE MOTHERING SUNDAY	St Michael's Church

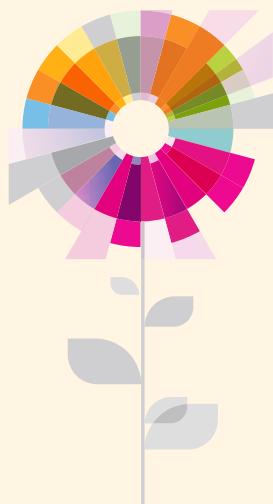
## EVENTS

Sat 8 Feb	7pm – 10pm	Dennis Davis Quiz Night	Anthony Hall
Fri 13 Mar	12.30 – 2pm	Men's lunch	The Oak
Sat 28 Mar	10am – 2pm	Spring Market	St Michael's Church

## REGULAR EVENTS

Mon	2 – 4.30pm	Rhubarb Cafe (Closed on Bank Holidays)	St Michael's Church
2nd Sat*	9 – 12pm	Repair Café (*2nd Saturday of the month)	St Michael's Church

For more information on these services and events, please go to our Facebook Page – Aston Clinton Benefice with Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp or [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) and search for your postcode.



## Spring Market

We will be holding a Spring Market at St Michael's church on **Saturday 14th March 10am – 2pm**. There will be a whole host of local, unique and wonderful stalls for you to come and have a browse through. And perhaps you will find that item that you were looking for or find the solution to that birthday present. There will be refreshments available to buy and all profits will be given back to St Michael's to help maintain the upkeep of our beautiful church.

*If you are interested in having a stall at this exciting event, please contact Natalie at the [Benefice Office](mailto:Benefice3@gmail.com) on 632488 or email [Benefice3@gmail.com](mailto:Benefice3@gmail.com)*

## St Michael's Community Christmas Tree Festival – 2019

*From wine corks to bright red poppies, precious china angels to fluffy owls, these were just some of the beautiful decorations that lovingly adorned the Christmas trees at St Michael's Community Christmas Tree Festival in December. There were 41 trees altogether, including our very own 16ft beauty which stood next to the high altar. Thanks to Ben Mason, who again supplied all the trees.*



We had seven new tree entries from Aston Clinton Baptist Church, Coffee@108, Barnowls Nursery, Colts Football Club, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, Gondoliers Explorer Scout Unit and Aston Clinton Rangers, all of whom added their own unique sparkle to our Winter Wonderland. It really was a sight to behold and made our beautiful ancient church an extra special place of worship this Christmas season, not to mention the glorious smell of

pine that stayed with us for the whole three weeks the trees were up.

Our doors were open to the public on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th December and thanks to the sale of programmes and refreshments we raised just over £500 which will go towards the installation of a much-needed accessible toilet at the church.

None of the above would have been possible without the community support and all the volunteers who helped to set up and man the church during the festival. I would personally like to thank Marion Richards and Tilla Adam for helping with organising the event and a special mention to James Adam, Churchwarden at St. Michael's, who helped me to position all the trees on behalf of the community groups. All in all, it was a fantastic community event and I look forward to the next one in 2021.

If you would like your group to be involved, please do contact me, Rev Sally for more details.

*Rev Sally Bottomer*

[revsally.bottomer@btinternet.com](mailto:revsally.bottomer@btinternet.com)

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## Stay safe and well this winter

*Winter is a high-pressure season for health and social care services, when harsher weather can lead to increased demands on all services.*

*So, what should people do if they feel unwell?*

If you think you need medical help and it's urgent, or you are unsure what to do, call **111** – *the free NHS number which is available 24/7*. Trained staff can connect you with a nurse, doctor, or mental health nurse. They can also give telephone advice, or book an appointment with a GP, if that is what is needed. It's also available online: [111.nhs.uk/](https://111.nhs.uk/)

Try the app Ask NHS – it's free to download to any mobile device and provides patients with a symptom checker, self-care advice and access to the most appropriate GP appointment.

High street pharmacists are a great first port of call when anyone feels under the weather. They offer clinical advice and over the counter remedies as well as the flu jab, which is available free to those most in need.

*"Many people find winter especially challenging to their mental wellbeing. So if you have concerns about stress, anxiety or depression talk to a GP or go online to Healthy Minds. You could also try Every Mind Matters, which offers practical advice" – [www.nhs.uk/oneyou/](http://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/)*

The important thing is to seek advice or help right away for any illness before it gets worse.

Everyone can play their part this winter and take practical steps to help themselves and others to stay as well as possible.

It can be as simple as offering to get some shopping for an older person – especially in icy weather so that they don't struggle out and risk a nasty fall. It's also a good idea to be ready for winter – so look out for road gritting and weather updates which are broadcast on local radio and social media to help all residents to travel safely.

More information about being prepared for winter including: staying healthy, flu, volunteering, roads, school closures, floods and emergencies can be found on the Buckinghamshire County Council website [www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/community/ready-for-winter/](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/community/ready-for-winter/)

## Art Show Pops Up again in the Chilterns.



*The Chilterns MS Centre's Pop-Up Art Weekend is back in March.*

The Chilterns MS Centre will be showcasing the best of local art during its annual Pop-Up Art Weekend on **7 & 8 March**. Michael Anthony Estate Agents are delighted to be supporting this superb fundraising event for a third year running.

The event is free to attend and visitors will be welcomed by a range of artwork, from paintings, photographs, ceramics, jewellery, sculptures and much more. With over 90 exhibitors, live demonstrations, a range of refreshments, light lunches, cakes and greetings cards there will be plenty to see and do.

The Centre provides a range of treatments, therapies and social activities to over 570 people living with MS in Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and the surrounding areas to help them gain greater control over their symptoms and live a healthier and happier life. To date over 3,000 hours of treatment has been funded by the event, with £113,000 raised in the past 15 years.

So, pop along, take a browse round, purchase some truly unique art and raise money for a local charity at the same time. Details on the event and all of the artists taking part will be available at [popupartweekend.org.uk](http://popupartweekend.org.uk).

For more information, please visit: [www.chilternsmcentre.org](http://www.chilternsmcentre.org) or call 01296 696133.

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

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

## Life-saving miracle in Aston Clinton

*One Saturday evening in November, Michael and Jane Stevens joined their good friends, Ruth and Sean Coffey, at their home for a quiet, relaxed evening.*



Sean Coffey, Ruth Coffey, Michael Stevens and Jane Stevens

But this “quiet, relaxed” evening suddenly turned into a near tragedy when, without any warning signs whatsoever, Michael collapsed unconscious, and stopped breathing! He had suffered a cardiac arrest and was now just moments away from certain death.

However, Ruth, being an ex-NHS Senior Nurse, quickly recognised that Michael was now in critical cardiac arrest, and she

immediately commenced C.P.R. (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation)

As Ruth tired from the strenuous CPR, Jane and Sean took over for a while, then Ruth resumed, until, after just over ten minutes, an excellent team of paramedics arrived and continued CPR, medications, injections, oxygen, and finally, as a last resort, three “shocks” with their defibrillator.

Michael was then rushed to Wycombe Hospital for emergency treatment and resuscitation, and then on to Ward 2A Cardiology Care for the next nine days.

After first class NHS care, including numerous tests and procedures, Michael was transferred to Hammersmith Hospital, where he underwent a three-hour operation to have a Cardioverter Defibrillator implanted and connected to his heart. This is a small battery-powered device which sends electrical pulses to regulate any abnormal heart rhythms.

Michael, who is now recuperating back home in Aston Clinton, says:

*“The hospital stressed to me how important it is to start CPR as soon as possible to keep the blood supply to the brain, so I owe my life to Ruth, her prompt, life-saving action and her first-class NHS training. **Thank you, Ruth – ALWAYS!**”*

## Play Netball

Fun and friendly Back to Netball sessions are held every **Monday from 6.15 to 7.15** at Aston Clinton Tennis Club in Aston Clinton Park, HP22 5HL, just £5 per session.

Contact *Molly Wilkinson*,  
weststandmolly@aol.com



# Inclosure Act

*In 1816 significant changes were happening to the fields of Aston Clinton.*



Under the Inclosure Act of Parliament, fields and common land were enclosed, creating legal property rights to land that was previously held in common. The maps are held at the Local Studies centre in Aylesbury and if you have a chance, book a visit to see the real thing. There are two maps – one in preparation for Inclosure and the final version. There is also the Inclosure Act itself, a huge leather-bound volume detailing what land was allocated to whom, but it is not the clearest of text for reading!

- The maps show many of the roads, footpaths and buildings we know today. The level of detail is impressive and many buildings are marked, such as the Bell Inn, the Old Bell and Ballards Row.

The footpaths between Chapel Drive and Buckland that we still use today can be seen, and who knew there used to be a pond next to where the Oak is now? Some of the changes include road names: the A41 is marked as the Turnpike Road, College Road South as Hill Way Road and Brook Street as Brick Field Lane. Some roads, such as Drift Road and Parsonage Lane, seem to have been lost. Some field names are also shown. For example, Nether Street Field on the right of the A41, Upper Street Field where we now have Rothschild Avenue and Hares Way Field to the right of College Road South. Chicken Mead and Merry Mead lie on the far side of the Aylesbury Canal.

There are tantalising clues about the older history of the village. Where we now have the cricket pitch, and before that the Rothschild kitchen gardens, the remains of a possible medieval moated site are visible. The final map is fascinating for a further reason; it includes the name of the person each parcel of land was allocated to. You may recognise some names, like Minshull or Lake, from memorials in the church. Some are familiar village names like Axtell, Thorne and Horwood. For many of the others, such as Mary Redrup, William Bull, Dorothy Parsley or Richard Slaughter their history is less well known, at least for now.

*Helen Sharp*

*Map reproduced with the permission of the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies. Ref IR/51*





# Aston Clinton School

Head: Mrs Helen Shepherd



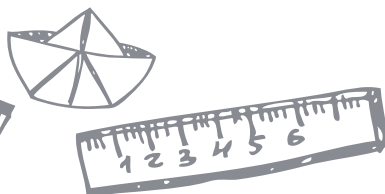
## Computing

We aim to prepare the children for life in a rapidly changing world in which work and other activities are being transformed by developing technologies. They are taught how digital systems work, and how to put this knowledge to use through programming. Computing also ensures that pupils become digitally literate – able to use, and express themselves and develop their ideas through, information and communication technology – at a level suitable for the future workplace and as active participants in a digital world. We have wireless laptop trolleys, with 16 laptops in each, for use in classrooms; interactive whiteboards in every class; a digital projector in the hall; digital cameras and other ICT items for curricular use.



## Design and Technology

Design and Technology prepares children for the future by encouraging them to look critically at their surroundings and improve them. The children develop creative ideas based on specific criteria and communicate their designs in different ways. They work with tools, equipment, components and materials, combining their practical skills with a thorough understanding of the technical possibilities. Children can draw on their knowledge and understanding from other areas of the curriculum. Work can be carried out individually or in groups, so improving pupils' ability to operate as members of a team. This is particularly evident in our Enterprise Week each year. Pupils are encouraged to evaluate their own work and that of others and by doing so they learn to express their opinions in relation to the design criteria. We aim to help children enjoy making things that people want and that work well.



## When it comes to food, are we Spoiled Rotten?

*Over seven million tonnes of food is wasted every year in UK homes. That's not only a massive waste of the Earth's resources, but a waste of money too – about £230 per person annually.*

That's why the Waste Partnership for Buckinghamshire is joining the national '*Spoiled Rotten*' campaign that asks people to consider ways they can act to reduce their own food waste.

A few simple tips can make a big difference, even if you live a busy life.

- Check your fridge and your food cupboard regularly so you know what needs eating up and what's running out – especially important when you're heading off to the shops.
- Make sure everything's stored properly so that it lasts as long as possible – if something's nearing its use-by date, find a way of using it or – where appropriate – freeze it.
- Make a shopping list, and when buying fruit and veg, be realistic about what you can eat – maybe it's better to buy one or two loose items rather than a whole bag.



## January 2020 - New Brownie Term



*On 13th January we were very excited to return to Brownies after Christmas to catch up with our girls. It was lovely to hear who they spent their Xmas time with, and how they loved staying up until the early hours of the morning after New Year's Eve, partying with family and friends.*

I hope you all saw our lovely Christmas Tree at the Festival last year at St Michaels. The tree represented the New Brownie Programme which we introduced in January 2019. We have had lots of fun implementing this and learning new skills for the future and the girls are learning to 'be well' and 'express themselves' in a safe and happy environment.

Our packed Winter/Spring Term will be full of exciting fun and adventures. We will be joining the rest of Wendover District Brownies & Rainbows for a Campfire, and we are off to RAF Halton Amateur Dramatics Pantomime 'Babes in the Wood'. In the Unit we will be spreading the love for Valentines, learning basic First Aid and our new girls will be taking their Promise and becoming Brownies.

This term we are very pleased to announce our new team of Volunteers. There is a theme here, we all have bird names: *Kingfisher, Puffin, Starling, Robin & Penguin*

Robin, our new Unit Helper has joined and we ask you to join us in welcoming Stacey to the team. Penguin will be starting her Young Leader Qualification very soon, which we are very pleased to hear about.

As a unit, we are very lucky to have such a great team of local volunteers of all ages wanting to be a part of Girlguiding. As we know, they are very hard to find and we couldn't do it without them. *A big thank you to all involved. Thank you for reading.*

*1st Aston Clinton Brownies.*

## Scout Christmas Tree Recycle

*Back in January 2017, 1st Aston Clinton Scout Group offered the first Christmas tree recycling service to the residents of Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp. The intention was to offer a useful service to the community and raise money for causes that the young people felt strongly about. That first year we were astounded to raise £1,500 which we shared equally between Ollie's Fund and St. Michael's Church Roof fund.*



We have now completed our fourth year of tree recycling and this year we collected a staggering 280 trees, almost double what we collected in the first year. The trees were taken to Aston Clinton School playground where they were chipped by Greg O'Callaghan, from G. O'Callaghan Tree Care, who voluntarily gives up his day to help us chip the trees.

This year the chippings were taken to the housing development on Church Lane where they will be used as garden mulch once they have rotted down.

So the trees that you had in your homes continue to have a use in the village albeit in a much smaller form! In addition, you have helped us to raise over £1,600 which will be shared equally between Medical Detection Dogs and the Scout Group's fundraising towards Ollie's Hall.

I hope that those of you who met the Scouts and Cubs as they helped on the day could tell how much they enjoy taking part in this activity. As leaders we never cease to be surprised by how much fun the Scouts can have with some bits of tree and some sweeping brushes.

Elsewhere, 18 Scouts spent a day volunteering at Dancersend Nature Reserve last October. After briefly learning something about the reserve, and of course a safety briefing, most of the day was used for hazel coppicing. The Scouts learned that cutting back hazel trees promotes regrowth and encourages wild flowers to grow, which in turn attract insects and small mammals.

They set to the task with saws, loppers and lots of enthusiasm, and reduced a large grove of hazel trees to firewood, some of which was burned.

*"It's fantastic to get young people volunteering outdoors.",* said Assistant Scout Leader David Ball. *"All the Scouts have given up a day of their half term holiday to help today. They have not only worked hard, but also used sharp tools to cut down large branches safely and responsibly. Our thanks to Mick Jones of the Berks, Bucks, and Oxon Wildlife Trust for arranging and supervising the day for us"*

The Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust manages over 80 nature reserves, of which Dancersend is the largest, and works to promote nature and wildlife conservation across the three counties.

Aston Clinton Scout Group provides skills for life to over 70 children in the village, but has never had a permanent home. They are currently looking for support for a new headquarters, Ollie's Hall; please contact [Nigel Pinder](mailto:Nigel.Pinder@ac.gsl@yahoo.co.uk) (ac.gsl@yahoo.co.uk) for more details.

*Claire Walker*

## Aston Clinton Bowls Club



*Although the season has not yet started, we are already looking forward to our fixtures in 2020. Following our AGM, we have a number of new committee members already raring to go!*

Winter activities have included a Winter Luncheon, which took place in January and certainly dispelled the post-Christmas blues. Our Quiz Night takes place in February and we will have our Registrations Night on **Wednesday April 15th at 7pm** – so if you are thinking of joining us, why not come along and meet us?

After a successful Open Day, Aston Clinton Bowls Club is planning to hold another on Bank Holiday FRIDAY, **8th May from 10am until 3.30pm**. You will have the opportunity to work with the club coaches, learn the basics of the sport and have a short game.

If you feel that bowls is a sport you might like to take up, there will be an opportunity to

sign up to the full coaching course (4 sessions of about 90 minutes each and arranged at your convenience) – tuition is free, all equipment is provided and all you will need is flat shoes (slippers or trainers are ideal).

Even if you can't make our Open Day, you'd be more than welcome to come along to the club at a mutually convenient time and have a taster session – just contact the Club Secretary

For further information about Aston Clinton Bowls Club, the Open Day, or if you would like to become a member, contact: *Brian Clark*, Secretary, Aston Clinton Bowls Club on **01844 351461** or by email to [brianp.clark29@gmail.com](mailto:brianp.clark29@gmail.com)

You can also visit the website - <http://www.astonclintonbowlsclub.org>

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## WI

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

We have a full and interesting programme planned for 2020 beginning on Wednesday, February 5th with the 'History of Pantomime'. This is followed by 'Cliveden – Power, Politics and Scandal' on March 4th and 'The Forgotten Elephants of Hua Hin Thailand' on April 1st.

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

We look forward to welcoming new members at any of our meetings – Come along and try us – You will be most welcome. Or for more information please contact me by email [b.d.ac.wi@gmail.com](mailto:b.d.ac.wi@gmail.com) *Lin Mitchell, Secretary*

Please mention Village Life  
when responding to our advertisers.

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

## Repair Café – an instant success

*Aston Clinton now has its own Repair Café. The idea came from Peter and Jane Gardiner, who explained that their family wanted to give something back to the community that had supported them and their son, Ollie, during his illness.*



New life for a toy garage

Around a dozen volunteer repairers, ranging from 14 years old to over retirement age, turned up at St Michael's church on Saturday, 11 January. Social media had spread the word and Peter and Rev Sally Bottomer had been interviewed on 3 Counties Radio but, even so, no-one was really sure how many people would visit the café.

In the event, they had nothing to worry about as scores of people arrived, clutching a huge range of items – there were computers, phones, toys, coffee machines, ornaments and

even a leaf-blower. People waited patiently while soldering irons, screwdrivers, drills and sewing machines worked their magic for over three hours. Visitors from at least two other churches were interested in starting similar schemes.

An impressive number of items were repaired and if a repair was not possible on the day then advice was given about where parts could be obtained before trying again next time. If you have repair skills and would like to help, please contact Peter.

The concept behind Repair Cafes is to give another lease of life to damaged items and avoid the need for more rubbish to go to landfill. Linked to this, there will be a reduction in raw materials and energy used in new manufacture. Everyone wins.

There were less obvious bonuses from the day as well. As Reverend Sally Bottomer explained, it was a wonderful opportunity for people to meet and have a chat. This is good for all of us but especially for those who may be lonely and don't often have that chance.

The labour for any repair is free but many people were kind enough to make donations and, with the sale of teas and coffees, nearly £300 was raised for the church.

Repair Café will now become a regular feature at St Michael's, on the second Saturday every month, from 9am to noon. For more details or to volunteer to help, contact [acrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:acrepaircafe@gmail.com)





*Thank you for your support for the annual Poppy appeal. Emma, our Poppy Appeal Coordinator, has raised over £3000 this year and thanks are due to all those who either collected or had collecting tins and supported her.*

Thank you also for turning out on Remembrance Sunday at the War memorial. It shows that our village supports the RBL and its objectives.

There have been some changes following our annual meeting. Our chairman, Lee, has retired after many years of leading us and has been replaced by Robert Letton. Emma Jenkins has taken over the treasurer's post and Ian Bottomer has volunteered and been appointed deputy standard bearer. He will relieve George when he cannot attend ceremonies. The standard bearer is often called upon to attend funerals.

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The main objective of the Royal British Legion is to provide welfare and support to current serving members and ex-servicemen. Whilst we do not have any welfare officers in the Aston Clinton Branch, we keep an eye on all veterans living in our area and if we know of anyone needing support we refer them to the county welfare officers.

From providing dedicated care homes for older veterans, to support for carers, to helping ex-serving personnel and their families to live safely at home – the RBL is there to help people live on through life.

The welfare team can provide practical support as well as advice and guidance to make sure those needing support can access the services they need.

There are six care homes across the country for the Armed Forces community and their families. Five include specialist dementia care and all have warm and welcoming atmospheres.

As the care homes are designed for veterans and their families, there is a unique camaraderie and residents often establish strong friendships and bond over their shared experiences.

These are some of the activities that are paid for through the monies you give to the poppy appeal – *thank you*.

Your local Branch in Aston Clinton urgently needs a volunteer to run our stall at the Village Market in May. If you can help, please contact [Emma](mailto:emma@rbl.org.uk) on 07597 944223.

*Why not come and join us and learn more about what we do?* We meet on the second Tuesday of the month in the Parish Council Office in the Park at 8pm in the evening.

*Ralph Weston.*

## The Mouse's Tale

*I don't like killing things. I am prepared to share my house with many minor forms of wildlife, but I draw the line at ants and mice. When I had cats, mice were an occasional problem as one of the cats would bring a live mouse in to play with, and then lose it. But these days I have no cats, so meeting a mouse scuttling towards me along the hall the other day was something of a surprise.*

It vanished, as they do. A few days earlier I had noticed a slightly odd smell in what I grandly call my office, a room stuffed with papers, old videos and CDs, files and all kinds of things I don't need but never get round to sorting out. A search revealed nothing, so I thought I must have imagined it but then I had the evidence. Traps had to be set.

We all know that one single mouse is unlikely. There are different kinds of trap: the humane ones give you the problem of disposing of your captive, and the execution variety give you a corpse to dispose of. I remember many years ago, when we had mice at the surgery, I insisted on buying one of the humane traps rather than the lethal ones. I baited it, set it and promptly forgot all about it. Days later I discovered a dead mouse, who had starved to death – I had condemned him to a much worse death than the instant variety. So, lesson learned, I bought conventional traps, and sure enough, caught several mice. Unlike what we all used to be told, cheese isn't the best bait: mice can't resist chocolate, flaked almonds or peanut butter. All my little corpses had enjoyed a last meal of peanut butter and died instantly.

I continued to set the traps, and every morning found them empty of bait but no mouse. It became clear that a Super Mouse had moved in. He or she took the bait, over and over, without springing the traps. I wondered if it was a very small mouse, and reflected that he

or she was probably an orphan as we had killed the rest of the family. The resourceful rodent was, for some reason, christened Colin, and continued to elude capture day after day. So I bought a humane trap, and eventually Colin was captured.



### *But what to do with Colin?*

The weather was cold, which is no doubt what had attracted the mice in in the first place. I knew that if you released them very locally, they just came back, so Colin was taken to a nearby village (*I won't name it!*) and released quite near some houses.

I still think about him sometimes. I hope he had a good life and learned to keep away from peanut butter. *Alison Beck*

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## Could you be a good neighbour this winter?

*Looking out for neighbours who are elderly or frail is something everyone can do which can make an enormous difference to older people who may live alone, or are vulnerable in the colder winter months.*

Supporting one another in our local communities is also an important way to help the NHS, social services, voluntary groups and others to keep our older residents safe and well.

If you want to help your elderly or frail neighbours but are not sure how, just follow

this easy five-point guide to

#BeAGoodNeighbour:

- Say 'hello' – surely nobody is too busy for the most basic friendly contact which is vital for our general wellbeing.
- Ask – not everyone will ask for help, but that doesn't mean they don't need it, so make the first move and ask if there is anything they need.
- Medicines – check that they have supplies of their regular prescription medicine and, especially when the weather is bad, offer to collect them from the pharmacy.
- Shopping – in very cold or icy conditions it's safer for older folk to stay indoors. Why not offer to pop out to the shops for them when picking up your own groceries – and stay for a cuppa and a chat.
- Know the signs that they may need help – not seen a neighbour for a while? Are their curtains always drawn? Is milk still on the doorstep or mail in the door? They may need help, so don't wait – pop round and check if they are ok.

Find out more about how to be a Good Neighbour on Buckinghamshire County Council's website pages, Ready for Winter: <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/community/ready-for-winter/> For urgent medical help or advice you should call 111 or go online to [www.111.nhs.uk](http://www.111.nhs.uk) but if it is a serious or life threatening emergency, call 999.

If you need to speak to someone urgently about a vulnerable adult, contact the Adult Social Care Team on 01296 383 204 or outside office hours: 0800 999 7677.



## U3A co-operation

*U3A, or the University of the 3rd age, is an organisation which aims to provide personal development and education for retired people. In Aston Clinton there are around 30 groups within U3A and in January we had the chance for an interesting co-operation between two of them.*



U3A members Geoff and Maggie Evans were looking to sell their much-loved 1968 Morris Minor Traveller. They advertised it in the on-line Exchange and Mart and were a little surprised with the most promising enquiry, which came from someone called Erick. This was especially so as he lives in France and speaks almost no English. And that was when Geoff and Maggie thought of the U3A French groups.

Daniel Pedroletti, who acts as a mentor to the French learners, kindly volunteered his services as a translator when Erick and another French car-enthusiast, Maurice, arrived to complete the transaction. Erick already has an MGA and Maurice is the proud possessor of two E-type Jaguars and a racing Mini.

Daniel was able to act as the perfect go-between, the transaction went without a hitch and Erick is now back home in Amiens with his new purchase. So, if you want to know what the French word for carburettor is...

## Aston Clinton Ladies Group

*We are a group of ladies who meet on the third Wednesday of every month, usually at the Guide Hall.*



When the group began it was organised by June Lewis, the wife of the late Reverend Terry Lewis, as Aston Clinton Church Ladies' Group. Our earliest record is from 17 October, 1956 and shows that Mrs Lewis was the group leader, with Mrs Riddell as treasurer and Mrs Davis the secretary. Other committee members were Mrs Dickey, Mrs Duckworth and Mrs Smithson.

We have a varied programme of events every year, including a Lenten Service and an Advent Service, held at St Michael's church. These are followed by coffee and hot cross buns/mince pies at one of the member's homes. We also have a Summer Evening at one of the member's homes and regular speakers and demonstrations. At each meeting there is a raffle to raise funds and our annual membership is £15. Anyone who would like to come along to see what we do is very welcome and is asked for a £1 donation.

At our AGM we allocate donations from the funds we have raised during the year. These donations go to local charities and groups. This year we have given to the Scanappeal for a new 3D mammography system for the additional breast biopsy suite at local hospitals. We have also donated to the Guide Hall and to St

Michael's church towards its disabled toilet. In total we have donated £600 - not bad for a group whose membership is now only half what it was at one time.

We are a very friendly group and always make prospective new members welcome. We are particularly keen to meet people new to the village as it is an ideal opportunity for them to make new friends.

If you are interested in finding out more please have a look at our programme for this year or contact [Sue 01296 630740](tel:01296630740) or [Janet 01296 631014](tel:01296631014).

**2020 programme.** *All meetings at the Guide Hall at 8pm, on the 3rd Wednesday of the month unless stated otherwise.*

**19 February** – Beetle drive

**18 March** – “Give nothing to scammers”

A talk by Pamela Hayton

**15 April** – Lenten Service. “New beginnings”, by Reverend Sally Bottomer. At St Michael's church at 8pm, followed by coffee at Janet Leech's house.

**20 May** – “History and restoration of the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union canal”

A talk by Clive Johnson

**June** – No meeting

**15 July** – “Hearing and ear care”

By Nikki McGrath.

**19 August** – Summer Evening at Marion Richards' house.

**16 September** – “Entertaining and Napkin folding” by Irene and Linda.

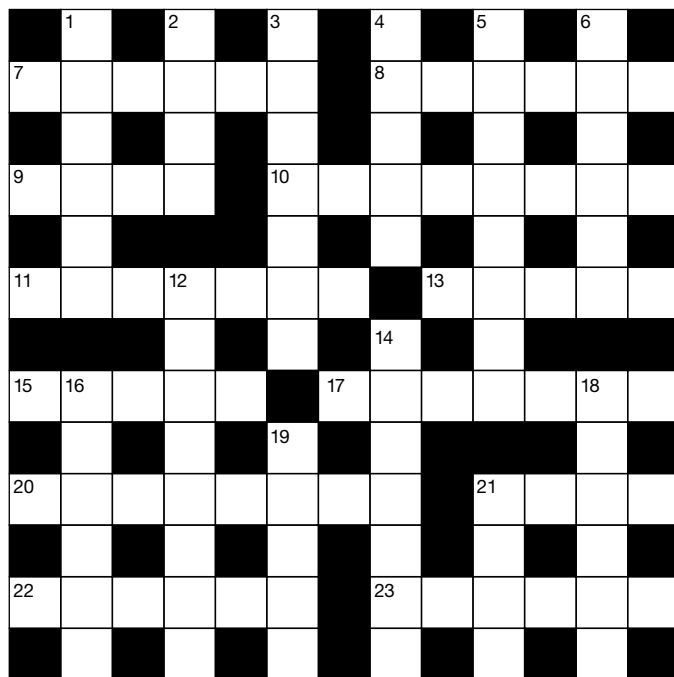
**21 October** – “The work of street angels”. talk

**18 November** – AGM and anniversary supper, 7:30pm for 7:45pm at Buckland Village Hall.

**16 December** – Carol Service. 8pm at St Michael's church. Followed by coffee and mince pies at Janet Watson's house.

# Village Life crossword no.37

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



## CLUES ACROSS

- 7 Past master (6)
- 8 Tuberous herbaceous flowering plant (6)
- 9 Stoop (4)
- 10 Popular small sized newspapers (8)
- 11 Runner (7)
- 13 Garnish (5)
- 15 Odour (5)
- 17 College (7)
- 20 Flying machine (8)
- 21 Ova (4)
- 22 Fuel (6)
- 23 Appliance (6)

## CLUES DOWN

- 1 Await (6)
- 2 Blob (4)
- 3 Law (7)
- 4 Sun dried brick (5)
- 5 Concealed (8)
- 6 Remainder of a burned coal (6)
- 12 Support for light in street (8)
- 14 Extent of land (7)
- 16 Dried grape (6)
- 18 Lodestone (6)
- 19 Lady who cleans (5)
- 21 Vortex (4)

## Westongrove *(Aston Clinton Surgery, Bedgrove Surgery and Wendover Health Centre) Partnership Primary Care Network Update*

We are currently in cold and flu season, meaning the demand for appointments is very high. Most patients telephone or come into the surgery to book an appointment or ask for advice, meaning you may have to wait on the telephone line or in a queue, but there is a new app available that patients can use any time of the day or night as an alternative to access advice and appointments. It's called Ask NHS, and takes you through a series of questions about how you are feeling, which results in the app offering self advice leaflets, suggesting

speaking to a pharmacist or will let you book a call back appointment at the practice. More information can be found at [www.sensely.com/asknhs/](http://www.sensely.com/asknhs/) where you can download the app. The app is live at Westongrove and other local surgeries. We will actively be promoting this within our practices during February. If you'd like to get ahead of the game access the website and download the app now.

Our Facebook page keeps you up to date with healthcare messages and local events [www.facebook.com WestongrovePartnership](http://www.facebook.com/WestongrovePartnership).

Or take a look at our website [www.westongrove.com](http://www.westongrove.com) where you can gain patient access to online services, such as prescription requests, health reviews, and much more.

## Aston Clinton Parish Council – Progress on the new Community Centre and Aston Clinton Park

*At the time of writing, in mid-January, the old building has been demolished and new foundations laid. The building is already taking shape with the steel frame in place along with brick and block work being added to the first storey sections. Through February and March we should see the roof to the upper storey being installed, blockwork added to the second storey and external cladding and windows fitted to the first floor.*



Construction starts on the new building

Although the project has fallen a week behind schedule because of poor weather conditions, the contractors expect to make this time back during the build with completion scheduled for September.

For the construction period, the Parish Council has installed a temporary path running behind the Churchill Hall which is wheelchair and pram-friendly and provides access to the play park. New disabled parking bays have also been created in the large car park.

Between the February and Easter school holidays the Parish Council is also looking to run a repair and refresh programme to the play park.

For those who enjoy the café and soft play facilities in the park, please be aware that they are housed in smart new temporary accommodation in the old, small car park on the left as you enter the park and are open for business as usual.

*Elaine Barry, Clerk to Aston Clinton Parish Council 01296 631 269*

## Unitary authority Countdown to a new council for Buckinghamshire

*With less than 60 days to go, preparations are well underway to create the new Buckinghamshire Council that will launch in April this year.*

The new council will deliver the whole range of local services currently delivered by the five existing councils.

For most people there will be no change to the day-to-day services they use, like bin collections, social care, libraries and parking. Getting in touch with their local council will be more straightforward because from 1 April residents will only need to contact one council for all of these services.

New from April, residents will be able to access information, advice and support on a range of topics near where they live or work through a network of 17 local Council Access Points (CAPs). These will offer a face-to-face contact point at the heart of the local community – usually in a library or a council office in one of the county's main towns. The current council main offices located in Aylesbury, High Wycombe, Amersham and Denham will become 'access plus' points, geared up to handle more complex enquiries.

In addition, 16 Community Boards will be set up across the county to help the new council build strong links with local communities and respond to local needs more effectively.

Buckinghamshire Council councillors will work closely with local people and community organisations to understand the key issues affecting their area. Each board will be made up of local people, town and parish councils, community groups, police and healthcare organisations who will focus on finding solutions to local issues. These could include improving facilities for young people, tackling social isolation of older people or helping to set up a community bus.

All the current elected members from the five existing councils will continue serving their communities until the councillors elected to the new Buckinghamshire Council in May take up their posts.

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## Spare Change or Real Change?

*New 'diverted giving' campaign launched in Aylesbury Vale*



Visitors to Aylesbury Vale are being encouraged to donate to local charities rather than to give money to people begging on the street. The *'Spare Change or Real Change?'* campaign highlights the fact that many people begging have drug and alcohol issues and giving them money enables them to feed their habit, rather than engaging with agencies that can help them to make positive changes to their lives.

### *How can you help?*

If a member of the public sees a person sleeping rough and has an immediate concern for their health and wellbeing – they should call 999. Overnight, at weekends and on Bank Holidays, contact StreetLink who will connect with local services by calling **0300 500 0914** or contact: [www.streetlink.org.uk](http://www.streetlink.org.uk). And, Monday to Friday 9am to 4.45pm reports can be made directly to AVDC's Housing Service by calling: **01296 585168**

The campaign highlights ways that members of the public can support people with genuine needs. This includes talking to beggars and offering them food or a drink, rather than cash; encouraging them to engage with support services – including the free overnight emergency accommodation; and supporting local charities working with homeless people, either by donating or volunteering their time.

To find out more about the initiative, the support available to rough sleepers and beggars in Aylesbury Vale and a list of frequently asked questions go to: [www.aylesburyvalcdc.gov.uk/rough-sleeper-initiative](http://www.aylesburyvalcdc.gov.uk/rough-sleeper-initiative)

Councillor Mark Winn said:

"No one should feel guilty if they don't give cash to people begging, as there is a network of support ready to help people make real and positive changes to their lives.

"There are a number of local charities and church groups that provide free hot meals to people in need. Given that the life expectancy of someone living on the streets is early to mid-40s we are desperate to engage with people and offer them assistance as soon as possible. Our dedicated team of outreach workers is trying to help them on a journey from addiction, so that they don't live on the streets. There have been real success stories."

# Village People

*This is a series about the people of Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp. Not just about the people who live in these villages but the people who are a part of the daily life of the villages.*



**Colin Tufnell MBE**  
*is a member of the Aston Clinton U3A.*

**Q. Do you live in Aston Clinton?**

A. Yes, and no. The address is in Aston Clinton but the northside of London Road from our house as you head towards Tring, is actually in the parish of Buckland.

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

A. Following retirement, we moved to Aston Clinton in 2009 for a more 'relaxed' way of life.

**Q. What did you do before you retired and moved to Aston Clinton?**

A. In 1962 I joined the staff at Salvatorian College in Harrow as a newly qualified teacher, 55 years later I retired from teaching at the same school. Whilst at Salvatorian I was Head of Design & Technology, produced some 70 school productions, ran the cricket for 30 years and led numerous ski trips and school journeys. During my last eight years at the school I was appointed a school governor. Two of my former students live in Aston Clinton and have served this community with distinction.

I was also an External Examiner, Chairman of the Schools' Cricket Association for Middlesex and a judge for the National Teaching Awards. In addition, I was Chairman of Harrow Cricket Club for 25 years where I also set up the Colts, was Co-founder and Chairman of Harrow Arts Centre and directed 18 plays for Harrow's prestigious AmDram group, 'Proscenium'.

In 2005 I was awarded an MBE by HM The Queen, for services to Education and Young People.

**Q. How long have you been involved with the Aston Clinton U3A?**

A. I've been involved with the U3A for eight years now.

**Q. What was your first role and what have you done since then?**

A. Soon after joining the U3A I was invited to become group leader for Science & Technology. Our late chairman, Pat McRory, then persuaded me to join the committee and be responsible for organising the monthly speakers. Latterly I have also organised annual Science & Technology residential trips, the theatre group and a successful U3A cruise on The Rhine last year. This year sees us heading off to the USA to see New England in The Fall.

**Q. Which role has given you the most satisfaction and why?**

A. I like to organise things for people. It gives me so much satisfaction when everything works as planned.

**Q. What advice would you give to anyone wanting to get involved with U3A.**

U3A has given retirees not only new friendships but also the opportunity to explore new interests and widen their horizons. It caters for many activities so find one, or several, that are of interest and just join in and get involved. You get as much out of it as you put in.

**Q. Are you involved in any other activities or groups in the Aston Clinton area?**

A. I was a Buckland parish councillor for five years.

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

A. I have several hobbies such as a photography, d-i-y and the theatre and really enjoy walking the dog.

**Q. What's your favourite music?**

A. I really enjoy musical theatre, especially Les Miserables, also Gilbert and Sullivan operettas such as The Mikado.

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

A. My first car was a 1950s Austin and I now own a Renault Scenic.

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

A. The increase in volume and speed of traffic up London Road and concern that the village infrastructure may not support the increasing development. However, I welcome the rebuilding of The Hub with its facilities in the park.

In 2005 I was awarded an MBE by HM The Queen, for services to Education and Young People.

“

*Interview Andrew Andersz  
Picture Colin at Buckingham Palace for his MBE investiture.*

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

## All Saints' Buckland

### Regular Services:

- 8am Holy Communion, each Sunday except 4th Sunday.  
 10am Benefice Service 4th Sunday at either St Michael's, All Saints' or St Mary's  
 10am Midweek Communion each Wednesday  
 11am Family Communion, 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays \*  
 11am Messy Sunday each 2nd Sunday (9th February and 8th March)



### SERVICES

Sun 23 Feb	10am	BENEFICE SERVICE	All Saints' Church
Sun 22 Mar	10am	BENEFICE MOTHERING SUNDAY	St Michael's Church

### EVENTS

Fri 14 Feb	7.30pm	Flicks in the Sticks	All Saints' Church
Sat 15 Feb	4pm	Junior Flicks	All Saints' Church
1st Thurs*	2pm	Bereavement Group (*1st Thurs of month)	All Saints' Church
1st Sat*	10am	Produce Stall (*1st Saturday of month)	All Saints' Church
Fri 6 Mar	7.30pm	Flicks in the Sticks	All Saints' Church

For more information on these services and events, please go to our Facebook Page – Aston Clinton Benefice with Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp or [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) and search for your postcode.

## Flicks in the Sticks and Junior Flicks

Last month we launched our brand new audio/visual system at All Saints' and it was amazing. The new screen, projector and BlueRay DVD are a dream. Tickets are priced at:

**Flicks evenings - £10 each** (which includes a hot supper) are available from *Rev Alison* on 07702 268157 or [alisonroberts999@btinternet.com](mailto:alisonroberts999@btinternet.com)

**Junior Flicks - £5 each** (which includes a hot dog, pizza, popcorn and a drink) are available from *Rev Sally* on 01296 632488 or [revsally.bottomer@btinternet.com](mailto:revsally.bottomer@btinternet.com).

### Forthcoming dates:

Friday 14th February 7pm – Flicks  
 Saturday 15th February 4pm – Junior Flicks  
 Friday 6th March 7pm – Flicks  
 Saturday 7th\* March 4pm – Junior Flicks  
 (\* this date is to be confirmed)

**New Facebook Page** – The Benefice has set up a new Facebook page – Aston Clinton Benefice with Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp. If you have not already liked the page, please, if possible, can you do so? There is always a whole host of information on this page regarding events within the churches and also community events. It would be great to have your support.

## Lindengate

*Make sure you tune into Mix 96 radio during February because Lindengate Mental Health Charity is sponsoring Mix 96's Mental Health Awareness Month.*



We were so thrilled when Mix 96 Breakfast Show presenter Nia, approached us to sponsor the month-long "*Mix 96 Mental Health Awareness Campaign*". Mental health problems affect one in four of us and this opportunity to raise awareness about our unique work with those with mental health needs was very important to our charity.

The aim of the campaign is to inspire listeners to take positive action for their own wellbeing. People of all ages need to be aware of their mental health, but unfortunately often ignore warning signs that they are unwell. They may suffer alone because they are afraid of the stigma associated with mental health. This campaign will get everyone talking about mental health, becoming better informed and more in tune with how we feel, making it easier to talk about it to family, friends, colleagues or neighbours. We need a plan to keep mentally fit and know what to do when we are not feeling well.

At Lindengate, we support those with mental health needs from the age of 16 through social and therapeutic horticulture on our stunning five-acre site, believing that if you nurture nature, nature will nurture you through to recovery.

If you want to know more about Lindengate Mental Health Charity, please look at our website [www.lindengate.org.uk](http://www.lindengate.org.uk) or email [info@lindengate.org.uk](mailto:info@lindengate.org.uk)

Did you know you can hire the Lindengate site for your special event on any Sunday from May to September? For more details contact *Anne* on **01296 622443**

## Buck Pub 2020

*This year's Buck Pub will run from Friday 12th to 14th June in the Village Hall in Buckland.*



The community pub is run entirely by volunteers with all profits going to charity, supporting Rennie Grove Hospice Care.

For lots more information please visit [www.thebuckpub.co.uk](http://www.thebuckpub.co.uk) where you'll find opening times, what's on and the contact details you need to book tables or offer help.

*Thanks.*

## Pony Express 2019



I delivered Christmas cards in Drayton Beauchamp again this year. I drove only Lily this year. I made two deliveries, on 22nd and 23rd of December. On both occasions I delivered to at least 20 houses and I had about equal numbers of cards.

I will have to remind you next year to put at least the surname and/or the house name. It is quite confusing for my helpers when I ask them to check that each bundle contains letters for the same house and John and Jane, Mr and Mrs Jones and Jasmin Cottage could all be the same house.

I would like to thank Amie Woodbridge and Jenny Chalk for helping me. Also, to all of you who left me cards to deliver and for your generous donations. After adding a little myself I have sent £75 each to World Horse Welfare and the Rennie Grove Hospice.

*Thank you all. Erica Godman*

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

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

# Horticultural Society

## Climate Change

*Our Horticultural Society contributor, Ralph Weston, here puts forward some of his thoughts on climate change. This year, in Glasgow, there will be another climate change conference but what can we do in these three villages?*

As we look forward to a new year in our gardens, I am conscious of the uncertainties in the weather. Late last year was no exception, with one day very wet and the next, blue skies and bright sunshine leading to frosts. This is all helped by climate change. Last year was kinder to us in that we did not have months and months of hot dry weather. What will 2020 bring? I don't know, but we must be prepared for anything.

As you know, I have a 'thing' about trees. Many people including me, scientists and politicians (All parties have promised to plant millions of them) know that trees absorb carbon dioxide (CO<sup>2</sup>) from the atmosphere. Planting trees is a great way to help CO<sup>2</sup> removal from the atmosphere to slow or reverse pollution and to mitigate global warming. Through photosynthesis trees absorb carbon dioxide to produce oxygen and wood.

If we all planted a tree in our garden then perhaps it would absorb the pollution from our car exhausts.

### ***How much CO<sup>2</sup> does a tree consume per year?***

One mature tree can store 48 lbs CO<sup>2</sup> and give out 260 lbs O<sup>2</sup> per year. Trees absorb CO<sup>2</sup> + Water (H<sup>2</sup>O) and generally store hydrocarbons.

In 2007 the Society planted 50 field trees in Aston Clinton Park to celebrate our 50th anniversary. The picture shows some of the stalwarts that were involved in the original planting. With a bit of luck the trees will be

there in 100 years' time absorbing the pollution we are putting into the atmosphere.



During the year, when I am out in the garden, I often hear the sound of chain saws cutting down trees and these need to be replaced. Whilst I don't think your Society could plant another 50 trees today – we are all 13 years older, but I ask you, the reader, to support your Horticultural Society to initiate a tree planting programme to start this Autumn. There is plenty of space around the villages where they could be planted

### ***Which trees are best for absorbing CO<sup>2</sup>?***

Recently there was an item on the news about elm trees resistant to the disease that wiped them out in this village and it would be good to plant a small stand of them in the park.

While oak is the genus with the most carbon-absorbing species, there are other notable deciduous trees that sequester carbon as well. The common horse-chestnut is a good example. The black walnut bears hard nuts and can be messy as a landscape plant but is great in a grove. The London plane and American sweetgum sequester a large amount of carbon and are great landscape trees.

By ensuring that the trees planted are native broad leaf species you can help to preserve the

UK's environment and biodiversity.

Come and support your Horticultural Society either at our meetings, our shows, or helping us to plant elm and other trees in the village. *Ralph Weston*

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## Society news



*Welcome to 2020; the days are already getting longer. After a very wet tail-end to last year I hope that you can now get on in your gardens and allotments. If you want an allotment have a word with the Parish Council administrator, [Angie Moore](mailto:Angie Moore parishcouncil3@astonclinton.org) parishcouncil3@astonclinton.org 01296 631269. Charges are £20 per annum, for a plot size 15x5 metres.*

This year as always, success will depend on earlier preparation. For instance, members who ordered seeds early now have them; shallots are all planted in pots and daffodils for this year's show were planted back in September and will be ready to bring into the greenhouse on 14th February. We have a full programme of meetings again this year:

**Wednesday 12th February, Russell Savory gives a talk on Essex Beavers, Natures Engineers.**

**Saturday 14th March** we have our annual *Social Supper at the Anthony Hall, 7pm for 7.30pm, tickets are £12.50. The supper will be followed by a demonstration by Neil Gurney: – Mad March Hairdresser. Everybody is most welcome.*

**Thursday 2nd April, from 6pm to 7.45pm, at the Anthony Hall is entry night for our 24th Spring Show. The show itself is at 2pm at Aston Clinton school on Saturday 4th April.**

Now is the time to be thinking about entering. It is a show where there is something for everyone. The show schedule is not quite ready but last year's schedule is on our website. For more details please contact Graham Thirkettle. *Ralph Weston*



Winter in Wendover Woods by Alison Beck

## St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp

### Regular Services:

- 10am Benefice Service 4th Sunday at either St Michael's,  
All Saints' or St Mary's
- 10.45am Holy Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sunday
- 10.45am Matins 2nd and 5th Sunday



### SERVICES

Sun 23 Feb	10am	BENEFICE SERVICE	All Saints' Church
Sun 22 Mar	10am	BENEFICE MOTHERING SUNDAY	St Michael's Church

For more information on these services and events, please go to our Facebook Page – Aston Clinton Benefice with Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp or [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) and search for your postcode.

## Stringing along at St Mary's

*An appreciative audience of around 100 people thoroughly enjoyed the varied and lively programme provided by the Oxford Fiddle Group on 30th November.*



Those who had attended previous OFG concerts knew the treat which lay in store for them. For those unfamiliar with the group's quality and variety of foot-tapping jigs, airs and laments from Scotland, England, Ireland and USA, it came as a delightful surprise.

The acoustics were perfect and it was great to see St Mary's so full to hear quite a different sound within its walls. The twelve strong group was admirably led by conductor Tom Bell-Richards.

It wasn't just the fiddles that shone during the concert, as we were treated to Adrian Broadway's sounds from an assortment of unusual instruments along with the group singing, which provided a nice change of pace.

Those hoping to replicate Lynn Swain's amazing clog dancing, I suggest, would not be covered on their health insurance.

Due to the generous prizes from the village for Meryl Nodes' raffle and the generous donation of the wine, *St Mary's Church was delighted to receive a cheque for £1071.*

From the positive feedback, I believe many would like to see them return at a future date, and to introduce them to all their friends who missed out. I am assured parking will be less of a challenge next time. Thanks to so many for their support.

*David Lonsdale*

### CROSSWORD No.37 SOLUTION

**Down**

1. Expect 2. Bead 3. Statue 4. Adobe 5. Shrouded  
6. Cinder 12. Lamppost 14. Acreage 16. Raisin  
18. Magnet 19. Daily 21. Eddy

**Across**

7. Expert 8. Dahlia 9. Band 10. Tabloids 11. Athlete  
13. Adorn 15. Aroma 17. Academy 20. Airplane  
21. Eggs 22. Diesel 23. Gadget

## Emergency

### HEALTH

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

### 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	<a href="http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk">www.thamesvalley.police.uk</a>
Childline	0800 111	

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

### EDUCATION

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

### SPORT AND LEISURE

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

## YOUTH GROUPS

Aston Clinton Guides, Brownies and Rainbows		<a href="http://www.girlguiding.org.uk">www.girlguiding.org.uk</a>
Aston Clinton Scouts	01296 708158	<a href="mailto:ac.scouts@Yahoo.com">ac.scouts@Yahoo.com</a>
Aston Clinton Cubs	01296 708158	<a href="mailto:ac.cubs@Yahoo.co.uk">ac.cubs@Yahoo.co.uk</a>
Aston Clinton Beavers	01296 708158	<a href="mailto:ac.beavers@yahoo.co.uk">ac.beavers@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Aston Clinton Youth Club	01296 298682	

## CHURCHES

St Michael and All Angels, Aston Clinton	01296 632488	<a href="http://www.s-michaels.org.uk">www.s-michaels.org.uk</a>
All Saints, Buckland	01296 632488	<a href="http://www.allsaintsbuckland.org.uk">www.allsaintsbuckland.org.uk</a>
St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp	01296 632488	<a href="http://www.s-marys.org.uk">www.s-marys.org.uk</a>
Aston Clinton Baptist Church	01296 631824	<a href="http://www.astonclintonbaptist.org">www.astonclintonbaptist.org</a>

## HALLS FOR HIRE

Anthony Hall	01296 630229	<a href="mailto:Theanthonyhallac@gmail.com">Theanthonyhallac@gmail.com</a>
Baptist Church	01296 630303	<a href="http://www.astonclintonbaptist.org">www.astonclintonbaptist.org</a>
Buckland Village Hall	01296 630310	
Green Park / Adventure Learning Charity	03303 030101	<a href="http://alfvillages.org.uk">alfvillages.org.uk</a>

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aston Clinton Parish Council	01296 631269	<a href="http://www.astonclinton.org.uk">www.astonclinton.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:parishcouncil@astonclinton.org.uk">parishcouncil@astonclinton.org.uk</a>
Buckland Parish Council	01296 626073	<a href="mailto:bucklandpc@googlegmail.com">bucklandpc@googlegmail.com</a>
Drayton Beauchamp. Parish Meeting	01296 630396	
Aylesbury Vale D.C.	01296 585858	
AVDC Councillors		
Bill Chapple OBE	01296 426814	<a href="mailto:bchapple@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk">bchapple@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk</a>
Mike Collins	01296 632039	<a href="mailto:mcollins@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk">mcollins@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk</a>
Carole Paternoster	01296 630710	<a href="mailto:cpaternoster@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk">cpaternoster@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk</a>
Bucks County Council. Councillor Bill Chapple OBE	01296 426814	<a href="mailto:b.chapple@buckscc.gov.uk">b.chapple@buckscc.gov.uk</a>
Environmental Health (fly tipping)	01296 585605	
Highways	01296 486630	<a href="http://www.buckscc.gov.uk">www.buckscc.gov.uk</a>
M.P. for Aylesbury	David Lidington	020 7219 3432 <a href="mailto:david.lidington.mp@parliament.uk">david.lidington.mp@parliament.uk</a>

## MISCELLANEOUS

All Saints Friends, Buckland	01296 630454	<a href="mailto:peter.elwin@elwins.net">peter.elwin@elwins.net</a>
Aston Clinton Ladies Group	01296 630740	
Aston Clinton U3A	01296 436403	<a href="http://www.u3asites.org.uk/aston-clinton/home">www.u3asites.org.uk/aston-clinton/home</a>
Horticultural Society	01296 633376	<a href="http://www.astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk">www.astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk</a>
Royal British Legion	01296 632039	
SSAFA Forces Help	01296 631030	
Churchill Lunch Club	07921 172642	
Turpins Charity	01296 630162	<a href="mailto:www.turpinscharity@outlook.com">www.turpinscharity@outlook.com</a>
Wendover Heights Veterinary Centre	01296 623439	<a href="http://www.whvc.co.uk">www.whvc.co.uk</a>
Women's Institute	01296 706908	<a href="mailto:b.d.ac.wi@gmail.com">b.d.ac.wi@gmail.com</a>