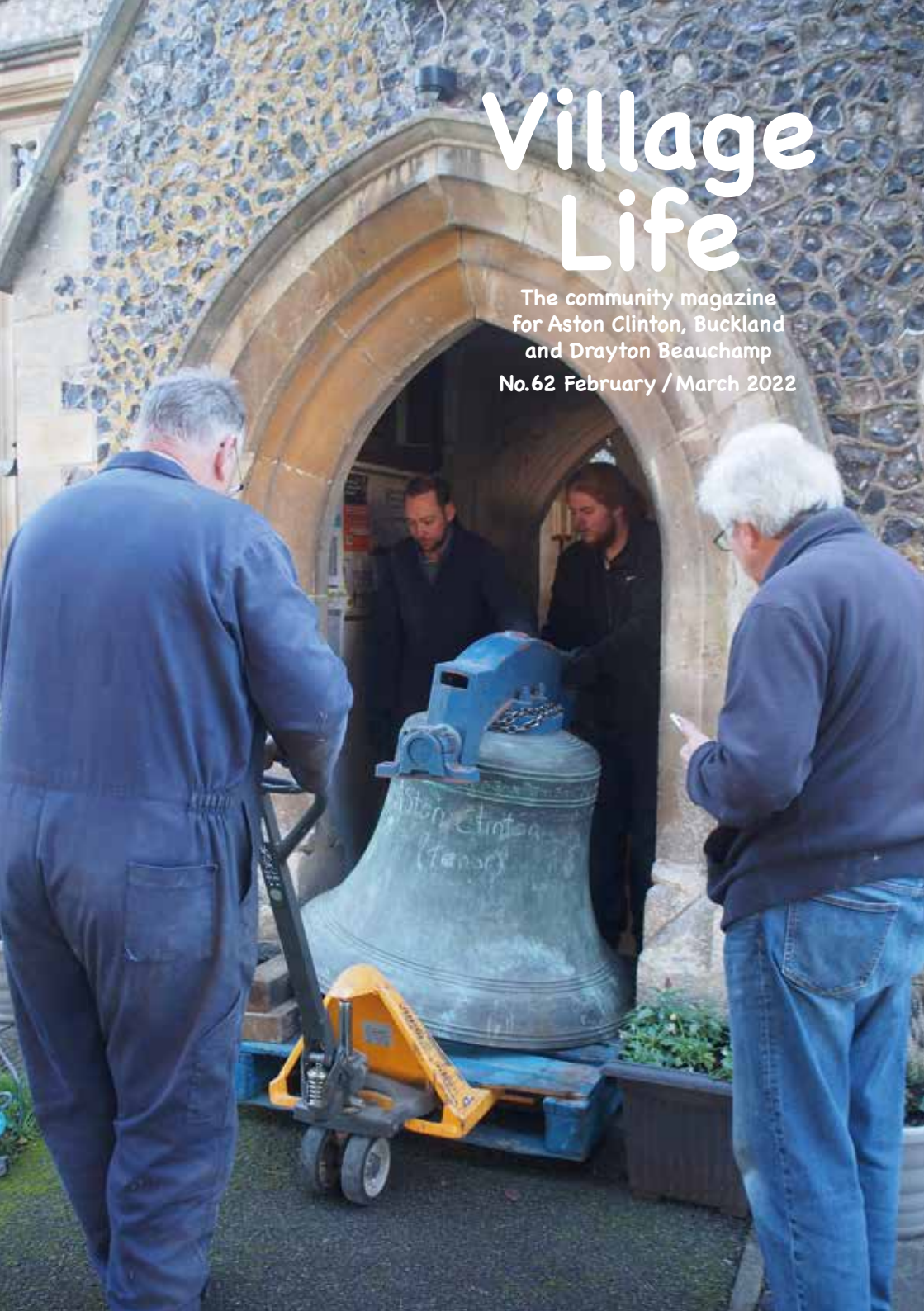


# Village Life

The community magazine  
for Aston Clinton, Buckland  
and Drayton Beauchamp

No.62 February / March 2022





# The Oak Aston Clinton

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

#### PRODUCTION TEAM

Editor: Richard Vincent

Email: [Editor@acvillagelife.co.uk](mailto:Editor@acvillagelife.co.uk)

Tel: 01296 631391

Advertising Manager:

David Lonsdale Tel: 01296 631791

Email: [Advertising@acvillagelife.co.uk](mailto:Advertising@acvillagelife.co.uk)

Graphic Designer:

Victoria Dicken Tel: 07968 180926

Email: [Design@acvillagelife.co.uk](mailto:Design@acvillagelife.co.uk)

Distribution Organiser:

Louise Rolfe Tel: 07808 172198

Email: [Distribution@acvillagelife.co.uk](mailto:Distribution@acvillagelife.co.uk)

James Adam, Andrew Andersz, Alison Beck, Jean Kennedy & Helen Sharp

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#### Contributors and advertisers

##### PLEASE NOTE

Copy deadline for  
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Editorial contributions are welcomed subject to availability of space and Editor's decision on suitability for publication. The publishers take no responsibility for statements made by contributors or advertisers.

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Quarter page ..... £95

One-Tenth page ..... £45

Front cover. Removing tenor bell at St Michael's. See page 17.

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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 our first issue of 2022 so an appropriate time for reflection and looking forward.*

This time last year we were not able to publish Village Life because we were advised that it may not be safe for our dedicated team of distributors to be putting the magazines through hundreds of letterboxes. In January, 2021 hundreds of people were dying every day so that advice made perfect sense. Although we are far from clear of Covid-19 we have made some progress since those dark days.


One of the well documented effects of the pandemic has been on mental health and we would all benefit from a belated new year's resolution to follow the Mind charity's five ways to mental well-being: • *Connect with others*, • *Be active*, • *Take notice of our surroundings*, • *Learn something new*, • *Help others*.

For a variety of reasons not all our local events took place last year but let's hope 2022 will see them back. There is normally such a full calendar of things to do in the villages and by being involved we will certainly help to achieve the five ways to mental and physical well-being mentioned above.

Village Life is a team effort and the importance of all the members of the team should be acknowledged. There is a small committee that looks after writing, proof-reading, distribution, advertising and finance so thanks to Alison, Andrew, David, two Helens, James, Jean, Jenny and Louise for all they do. In addition, we have Vicky who designs the magazine and Mervyn who looks after our website. This would all be wasted if the 2,700 magazines were not delivered to every home and many businesses in the three villages by our team of volunteer distributors, so, thanks to you, too.

A final word of thanks to all our advertisers. Advertising manager, David, has built a wonderful relationship with our splendid advertisers and many of them have had a very difficult year or two. *Please support them whenever you can.* **Richard Vincent**





## *A new year message from Rev'd Sally*

*They say we should never look back on a bad year and that we should move on in hope of better times, but, just sometimes, it's good for us to reflect on all that has happened and be grateful for the legacies that have been left behind, legacies that we will never forget and will take with us into everything we do...*

Rev'd Alison sadly left our Benefice in January, going to pastures new, but if we talk about the legacies she leaves, we have much to be thankful for. I've only known Alison for seven years, but our time together in ministry has been one of the most unforgettable periods of my life. Alison was one of the creators of the very successful Rhubarb Café at St Michael's. Rhubarb is more than just people, cakes and teapots - it's about this vision of hospitality which Alison shared with others more than 10 years ago.

Just like the vision she had for Flicks in the Sticks at All Saints'. Alison's innovative idea of a cinema in an ancient rural church might have seemed crazy to some but not to her. Flicks has been running for about 10 years now and has not only brought in much needed financial help but also brought into this beautiful church an array of local film fans who now have an affiliation with our community church. Yes, we have much to thank Alison for. Again, it's not just what she has done but also about who she has been, is and will be. Rev'd Alison is loved by many (more than she will ever believe!) for her wackiness, her playfulness, her friendliness, her inclusivity, her beautiful services and her love for all God's creation..... oh and let's not forget her pink hair!

What about other legacies that have been left from 2021? Well, look at all that has been achieved within our communities, even during pandemic times: Covid support groups rallying round to help others, new relationships forged, kindness to others, patience, and compassion with one another. Again, there is much to be thankful for and we must continue with all these things in the year ahead. This is also the legacy that Jesus left us. He didn't leave us with a man-made religion but rather the gift of 'koinonia', which is the Greek word for fellowship, describing a group of friends with a shared goal, in partnership with Christ where we are invited to live and discover all we can share as a community.

So, my hope and prayer for this year, is that as we remember all those wonderful legacies that we have been left, we continue to work together towards our shared goals for our wonderful communities and that we never forget those who have gone before us. *Rev'd Sally*

# St Michael and All Angels

## Regular Services:

9.15am Family Eucharist every Sunday

6pm Evensong every Sunday.



## EVENTS

Mon	2 – 4.30pm	Rhubarb Cafe (Closed Bank Holidays)	St Michael's Church
Wed	2pm – 4pm	Communi-tea Friends Group (FREE SESSION)	St Michael's Church
2nd Sat*	9 – 12pm	Repair Café (*2nd Saturday of the month)	St Michael's Church

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

### *St Michael's 100 Club*

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

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

### *Aylesbury Foodbank*

St Michael's and All Saints' are collection points for Aylesbury Foodbank. If you can support these families in need by purchasing additional items in your shopping each week, it would be greatly appreciated. Please check Pews News, the Benefice Facebook page, or Aylesbury Foodbank to see what items are particularly needed and you can drop the items at the churches for one of our volunteers to take to the foodbank.

### *Communi-tea Friends Group*

*Last year, St Michael's church teamed up with Maria Butler who we meet at the local Community Champion meeting.*

She was organising free local sessions for people to come and meet over a cup of tea, hence the name Communi-tea Friends Group.

The sessions, which are held at St Michael's church every **Wednesday from 2pm till 4pm, are free and are open to all.** There are hot refreshments and biscuits (all free of charge), along with a friendly greeting. There are weekly activities like bingo, quizzes and craft, but mainly it is a welcoming group for everyone.

So please, if you feel like you need some company, something to do or fancy a change from your four walls, come along to St Michael's church on a Wednesday afternoon.

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

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

*Forget the former things, Do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?*

*Isa 43:18-19*



*in the past. We put ourselves into your keeping, to guard and to guide us this day and every day and we offer our lives to you through Jesus Christ, your eternal son our Saviour. Amen*

May you know a hope filled year.

*Revd Nick Harris*

*Minister, Aston Clinton Baptist Chapel.*

Nostalgia isn't what it used to be, or at least needed handling with care according to Isaiah, God's messenger to destitute, exilic nation of Israel languishing in Babylon.

His message was "Don't escape into the past; nor seek to escape from the past, open your eyes and look to see what is now to occur".

Before their very eyes God created new hope, a way back home. There came a benign ruler who returned the ethnically cleansed to their own land, overthrowing the seemingly indomitable enemy – the Israelites were going home.

I imagine what those homecoming people would say is "It's never hopeless with God", even though it may seem it from both past experiences and the present realities of life. The good news is that the past need not determine our future. God is active in our present time doing a new, better thing.

Enthralled to powerful forces such news may have been hard to hear or believe at the time, but as time unfolded it was found to be true.

And their truth is ours, for God does not change. If the times you live in seem to be gloomy and uncertain, may I encourage you to put your hope and trust in God who says "behold I am coming to make all things new" – and that can include yourself and your circumstances if you so choose.

### **A prayer of Thanksgiving and trust**

*Everlasting God, We place our days within your care. We trust and praise you for your faithfulness*

## **Let's Move Together**

*Age UK Bucks is pleased to launch Let's Move Together – our pilot project aimed at increasing movement and confidence in physical activity. This is in conjunction with our friends at Fittswarm.*

The best thing is, you can join sessions in your own home, as they are all online – and you have a choice of live sessions (where the trainer can see and interact with you) or recorded sessions. Full joining instructions will be provided.

You don't need to be a fitness expert and this service is free. You just need access to a laptop or tablet, the internet and energy and enthusiasm! If you are over 60 and live in Buckinghamshire, you are able to take part in this free service.

- There will be one live session every Wednesday at 11.00 and this will last 30 minutes
- Each Let's Move Together programme is a set of 6 sessions.
- You are also able to log onto recorded sessions.

You can take part independently or with the help of friends and family.

To find out more, please look at our website [www.ageukbucks.org.uk](http://www.ageukbucks.org.uk), and click on Activities and Events, call the main office on **01296 431911** or call our Let's Move Together coordinator, *Andrew Anderson* on **07369 241864**

## A view from Westminster

*We begin 2022 in a much better place than we started 2021. Thanks to the amazing work of scientists and biochemists around the world, the miracle of the Covid-19 vaccines has enabled us to return to a degree of normality in our lives over recent months – even with the Plan B restrictions that are currently in force.*



Photo credit: Office of Rob Butler MP.  
(Rob Butler with Marion Richards and a friend at St Michael's, Christmas Fayre)

I got to see first-hand the wonderful work of local vaccination teams when I welcomed the Prime Minister to the Stoke Mandeville Stadium Vaccination Centre at the start of January. Boris Johnson paid tribute to local volunteers, GPs and NHS staff who have jabbed more than 200,000 people in our area: the dedication of so many local people has been extraordinary.

The astonishing rollout of the booster programme meant many of us were able to have a better Christmas than in 2020. I was especially pleased that Aston Clinton's fantastic Christmas fayre was able to return, this time held at St Michael's. There was an absolutely fantastic turnout of village residents and people from further afield, which meant that many

of the stalls selling cakes, jewellery, books and other Christmas-related delights had sold out within a few hours. I warmly congratulate the planning committee and team at St Michael's for such a wonderful festive treat, especially the chance to meet Father Christmas!

With Christmas now behind us, MPs have returned to Parliament, where I will continue to raise the concerns of local people: my team and I can be contacted via [rob.butler.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:rob.butler.mp@parliament.uk) if you would like to get in touch.

*Rob Butler, MP for Aylesbury.*

### Assistant Parish Clerk Vacancy

*The Parish Council is seeking an enthusiastic and motivated person to support the work of the Parish Clerk and Council. The postholder will undertake a variety of duties to support the smooth and effective operation of the Council and its services.*

This role is extremely varied and requires an individual with strong organisational and inter-personal skills, along with excellent computer literacy.

**Hours:** 24 hours per week (flexible working) with some evening work

**Location:** Council Office,  
Aston Clinton Park, London Road

**Salary:** £24,982 to £27,741 pro-rata depending on experience

**Pension:** Local Government Pension Scheme

Closing date for applications:

**Monday 21st February 2022.**

*Further details can be found on our website [www.astonclinton.org.uk](http://www.astonclinton.org.uk) or by emailing [clerk@astonclinton.org](mailto:clerk@astonclinton.org)*

*If you would like an informal chat about the role please contact the Parish Clerk, Samantha Payne, on 01296 631269.*

## Popular Art Show Returns to Wendover

*After a two-year wait, on Saturday 5 March and Sunday 6 March, the Chilterns MS Centre in Halton will be hosting their Pop-Up Art weekend.*



The event is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the charity, which, like many small charities, had much of its income reduced due to the pandemic and the lack of events it could run. So, there is a lot of excitement about the return of the Art Weekend from the staff and volunteers at the Centre, as well as the artists who will be exhibiting.

The event is free to attend and visitors will be welcomed by a range of work, from paintings, photographs, ceramics, jewellery, sculptures and much more. The diversity and quality of work being exhibiting this year is fantastic. With live demonstrations from some of the artists there will be plenty to see and do.

In the past, over £132,000 has been raised by this event alone.

The Chilterns MS Centre provides a hugely valuable service to over 500 people living with MS in Buckinghamshire and the neighbouring counties, including many from Aston Clinton.

The Centre plays an important role in empowering people with MS to manage their symptoms and live life to the full.

This year the art weekend is being sponsored by The Clare Foundation, a charity that brings together key stakeholders from businesses and charities to facilitate and create positive change across society in Buckinghamshire.

To find out more visit  
[www.popupartweekend.org.uk](http://www.popupartweekend.org.uk)

## Aston Clinton Parish Council

*The end of 2021 was a busy time for the parish council, as we finished off a number of projects, organised the well-attended annual Remembrance event and, of course, Santa's float visited the village. Once again, Santa was ably assisted by his elves - in the form of AC Scouts & Guides - who enthusiastically rattled their collection buckets throughout the village and managed to collect the fantastic sum of £1031, which, when added to the monies donated via the Just Giving page, resulted in a total of £1166 which will be split equally between Rennie Grove Hospice and Aston Clinton Scouts and Guides. Well done all, and special thanks to Tim and Spencer at Dayla Drinks for providing Santa's transport and driver.*

Moving into 2022, the parish council has a busy year ahead, not only with the more routine tasks like setting budgets, but also with more exciting projects such as the restoration of the fountain, renewal of equipment in the park, and more events in the park, particularly the Queens Platinum Jubilee weekend celebrations in June.

We also look forward eagerly to the longer days and a view of the many spring bulbs planted during 2021 which will no doubt transform our lovely village.



## Buckinghamshire Council awards Recycling Centre contract to FCC Recycling



Garden waste containers at Household Recycling Centre

Buckinghamshire Council has awarded the new contract to manage and operate its Household Recycling Centres to FCC Recycling (UK) Ltd. The contract is due to start on 1 April 2022 and run for five years with the option to extend a further five years (ten in total).

Buckinghamshire's Household Recycling Centres attract over a million visits a year and handle more than 60,000 tonnes of waste. FCC Recycling (UK) Ltd, which manages the current contract for Buckinghamshire's Household Recycling Centres, was agreed as the successful bidder, subject to contract, at the council's Cabinet meeting.

The new contract is worth £15 million over five years rising to £28.5 million over ten years if the contract is extended. Some elements of the successful bid include:

- Partnership with South Bucks Hospice to ensure more waste is reused from all sites through the shops at Aston Clinton and High Wycombe

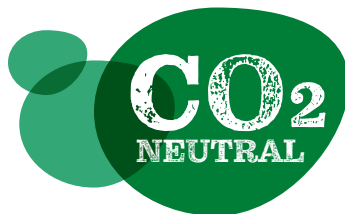
- A Waste Awareness and Education Manager to support residents and the wider community to recycle and reuse more.
- A target of recycling at least 68% of the waste brought to the sites.
- There are no changes to current opening days or times to any sites as a result of the new contract.

Peter Strachan, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment, said:

*"With over a million visits a year, we know that our Household Recycling Centres are very important to Buckinghamshire residents. This new contract will continue to encourage everyone to recycle and reuse more, building on our current success with FCC and providing continuity as the new contract begins. They share our passion for customer service and value for money, so I'm confident that together we will work to deliver an excellent service, with strong environmental performance."*

Steve Longdon, FCC Operations Director, commented:

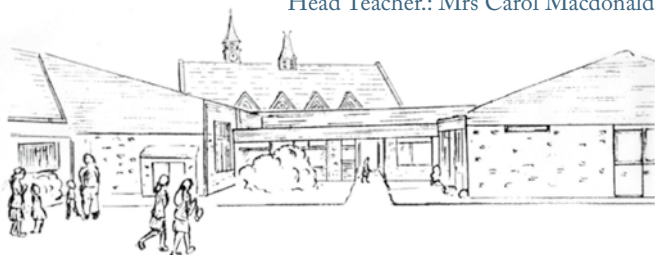
*"We have operated the facilities in Buckinghamshire since 2012 and we have worked hard during this time to deliver an exceptional service, so we are delighted to have been awarded the new contract to provide the management and operation of the nine Household Recycling Centres. The new contract will allow us the flexibility to work with Buckinghamshire Council to embrace new ways of working focusing on the waste prevention, repair and reuse agenda that is vital if we are to meet our Net Zero targets as a nation."*





# Aston Clinton School

Head Teacher.: Mrs Carol Macdonald



## Our school, our say...

*At Aston Clinton we believe in encouraging positive relationships between adults and pupils and amongst pupils themselves. We value the thoughts and opinions of every pupil and use the principles of 'Restorative practice' to underpin how we teach the children to build empathy and self-reflections towards one another. Despite the restrictions we have worked hard to try and ensure that our pupils feel that they have a say in the decisions that are made.*

Our school council is made up of two elected children from each class from Years 2 - 6. The year 6 children hold the roles of chair and vice chair; secretary and vice secretary. "Our school, our say" gives each school councillor the opportunity to lead a circle time activity to ascertain the views of the children within that class. The year 6 children summarise the thoughts and opinions and present them at the weekly school council meeting. Recently the children looked at what it means to be safe - below is their report.

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## School Council - Focus on Safety

### Safety, what does it mean to you?

We found out from each class from Y2 - Y6, what safety means. Here are some results we found out.

### Rules of Road Safety

- Always wear seatbelts (the majority spoke about this, and how they need it in case a car crashes or any other dangerous events happen).
- Keep a good distance away from cars/any types of transport
- Always cross at a Zebra crossing
- Don't mess around on the streets
- Always walk on the pavement
- Do not cross near blind spots (hidden driveways/walkways)
- Pay attention to your surroundings, you never know when a car stops and approaches you.
- Look left and right before crossing the roads, because you don't know when a car could pass.



### How to keep yourself safe

- Don't go near danger eg: don't run away from parent's sight.
- Don't share your passwords with anyone, even if they are your friend.
- Don't leave your front/ back door open, unless it is an emergency.
- Think before you do it, it could cause an accident.
- Listen to trusted friends/family to keep you and others safe.
- Don't talk to strangers, you may get trapped

### Questions you asked and answered!

#### *What happens if you don't feel safe?*

- Find a trusted adult or go somewhere a friend or family member lives.

#### *What would you do if a stranger approached you?*

- Don't listen to them if they say they have an item like food, instead if you have a phone, call your parents and then call the police (999)

### Being safe means

- Feeling comfortable and protected in your surroundings.
- Feeling like you are in an comfortable environment where nothing will happen.
- Having a right to feel safe.
- It means you don't feel like having any threat.
- To not feel like anything bad will happen.

*Mrs Carol Macdonald, Headteacher*

## Generous residents make it a Christmas to remember for vulnerable children

*The Inspire Bucks annual appeal to give Christmas gifts to Buckinghamshire's vulnerable children and young people has broken its £10,000 target, thanks to the enthusiastic generosity of the county's residents, businesses and community groups.*

With the money raised – and the kind donation of hundreds of presents by well-wishers – the charity provided more than 1,700 Buckinghamshire children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds with a Christmas gift in 2021. That's an increase of around 500 on 2020.

*"Absolutely fantastic!" said Inspire Bucks Chairman Paul Irwin, paying tribute to the hundreds of donors who helped the charity burst its target in a little over six weeks. "The generosity that people have shown towards our vulnerable children and young people in difficult circumstances has been beyond our expectations. Thank you so much for enabling us to help a record number of children this year!"*

Cash donations came through the charity's GoFundMe page and gifts were dropped off at collection points around the county.

Paul said: *"I'd like to say a big thank-you not only for this generosity, but also to the Inspire Bucks volunteers who helped with the purchasing, sorting and packing that ensured each child or young person received something suited to their age and interests."*





## New Scout Hall – Ollie's Hall Update

*Two steps forward, one step back*

*At Ist Aston Clinton Scouts we have never had a home of our own and desperately need one. A team of volunteer leaders has been working since 2018 to find a site and build a Scout Hall that will be known as Ollie's Hall after Ollie Gardiner who sadly died of a brain tumour in 2017 aged 13. Ollie was a very keen Beaver, Cub and Scout.*

Having secured a site for free immediately adjacent to Aston Clinton Park as part of a small development of five new homes, planning permission was secured in 2021. The local Parish Council is fully supportive of the project, as are two out of our three Unitary Councillors.

However, the Leader of Buckinghamshire Council has refused to allow access to our site across a small strip of land owned by the Council, and the release of an old restrictive covenant so that we can deliver the new scout hall. We believe the merits of this project should be debated, and voted on, by a full Council meeting.

There is more information about the project, and a link to an online petition, at [www.Ollies-hall.org.uk](http://www.Ollies-hall.org.uk)

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when responding to our advertisers.

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

## 1st Aston Clinton Scouts

Another successful year recycling Christmas trees from the village. Over 300 were collected by Scouts, leaders and parents and £2000 was raised, which will be shared between Hector's House and Florence Nightingale Hospice.

Thanks, as always, to Greg O'Callaghan for chipping all the trees.



## Discover Bucks Museum

**SIT and PLAY: New sculptural exhibition and play experience**

We are delighted to announce the opening of a new sculptural exhibition and play experience.

Sit and Play shows 12 chair-like sculptures by Material Architecture Laboratory (M-A-L), a research lab at University College London. The structures are built entirely with M-A-L's own building blocks – interlocking pieces produced from recycled plastic which are shaped like the letters S, U and P. Visitors can also use the SUP to play, invent and build their own creations resulting in an ever-evolving display of visitor-made temporary artworks. The Sit and Play exhibition runs until 12 March and can be enjoyed by visitors of all ages. For opening times, to book and events please visit [discoverbucksmuseum.org](http://discoverbucksmuseum.org)

Discover Bucks Museum (formerly Bucks County Museum), Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP



## Happiness is... Scottish country dancing!



*We had a positive restart to dancing in September and welcomed 13 new dancers to the tuition course. In October, we held an informal dance with live music and ended the term with a Nice and Easy Dance Party and Christmas refreshments.*

Our Christmas Dance was a sell out with 70 dancers enjoying the exhilarating music of local musician, Ian Robertson and his band. Oh, how we danced, laughed (and sang) to well-known tunes and some favourite Christmas songs. It was a night which perfectly illustrated that “*Happiness is Scottish Country Dancing!*”

A further cause for celebration was news of our affiliation to the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. We look forward to being part of this international organisation which will have many benefits and seems a natural development for our thriving club. Dancing resumed on 6 January with tuition starting on 13 January. This term, we'll be running two classes concurrently. This arrangement will accommodate both beginners and those who are ready to progress a little faster having covered the basics.

If you're looking for a new fitness activity why not join us? Scottish country dancing is very sociable and a terrific way to keep fit mentally and physically. You don't need to be Scottish, wear a kilt or have a partner – and

your first visit is *free*. Please see our website or contact me for further information.

*Liz Mitchell, Lucy Clark SCD Club*

[lucyclarkscottish@gmail.com](mailto:lucyclarkscottish@gmail.com)

01296 631695/07947 000368

[www.lucyclarkscottish.org](http://www.lucyclarkscottish.org)

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## Aston Clinton Surgery

*Aston Clinton Surgery is now supported by AskFirst online consultation, one of a range of online tools which make it easier for you to get the help you need.*

AskFirst was formerly AskNHS. It is free to download on any mobile device or is available through practice websites. It provides a symptom checker, self-care advice, and it helps you to find local healthcare services and book GP appointments.

- Available 24/7
- Check your symptoms
- Find local services
- Make appointments
- Self-care advice



### How does it work?

A virtual healthcare assistant called ‘Olivia’ will ask a series of questions to assess your symptoms in a clinically safe way.

Olivia will then recommend the most appropriate care for you. This might be self-care advice via [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk), a GP appointment, GP call back or you may be directed to get urgent or emergency care.

If you need to see a GP, the app can prioritise patients into the most appropriate appointment slots based on your needs. You can directly book an urgent or routine appointment without having to call the practice.

The AskFirst app is available to download free on both iOS and Android phones and smart devices, as well as practice websites. You can also create an AskFirst account.

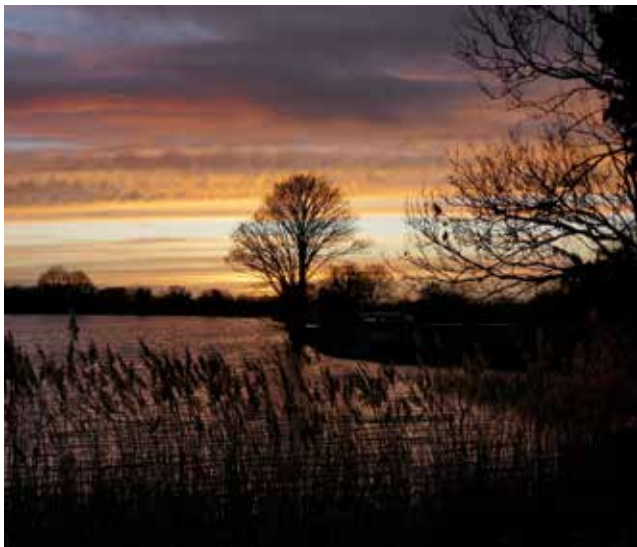
## My Trees

*One of the many things we have really come to appreciate in these days of pandemics and global warming is the importance of our trees. I've just completed a project photographing a group of poplars at Marsworth reservoir through a whole year in changing weather and light, and what a joy it has been.*

The four Tring reservoirs have always been part of my life.

They were built on Rothschild land to feed the Grand Union Canal and are now a Site of Special Scientific Interest and among the best birding spots for miles. Marsworth, built in 1806, is the smallest. As a girl I lived in Aylesbury and we cycled to Startops and bathed in the corner of the reservoir – living so far from the sea it was the only wild place for a swim and a paddle. I note that this is no longer permitted, but I don't think nowadays I would be tempted anyway!

I remember photographing my dad standing right out on the frozen reservoir in the winter of 1962/3. Herons used to nest in huge numbers in the reeds fringing Marsworth, although now they have taken to the trees. Egrets are frequent now, unknown in my youth, and this winter a great white egret spent some time there, attracting many



birdwatchers. One year I spotted a bittern lurking in the reeds during a cold winter. On any visit I enjoy the swans, great crested grebes, geese, mallards, coots and moorhens as well as the more unusual migrants on passage.

I've photographed 'my' trees in frost and fog in the depths of winter, in the spring when

the new leaves emerge; in high summer when the shades of green were too many to count, and in autumn when everything turns to gold. I've been there at sunrise and sunset to capture the changing light. I've met many interesting people: seldom did I visit and not see anyone. I've met walkers, runners,

birdwatchers, photographers, fishermen, picnickers and Canal and River Trust workers. I've had special moments like murmurations of starlings just before dusk, wheeling overhead before they drop into the reeds to roost. I've seen wonderful cloud formations reflected in the water and sat just watching the shifting light and changing colours.

At first, I was just photographing the trees, but as the year progressed I noticed that the colours and forms of the reeds below them changed just as much, so they began to form part of the shots too. I ended up with well over 300 pictures of 'my' trees and would be the first to concede that there would be a limited market for looking at that many. The project was at the request of the Chiltern Society, so I eventually trimmed them down to 25, and wrote captions about my thoughts at the time. The results can be seen at [www.chilternphoto.org.uk](http://www.chilternphoto.org.uk) and click on Personal Albums.

The project deepened my affection for the reservoirs I have known for so long, made me notice so many details that I had missed over the years, and provided solace at a time when the natural world has never mattered so much nor needed us to care for it more wisely.

*Alison Beck*

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## 70 trees for 70 years

*Do you have a favourite tree or woodland in Buckinghamshire?* We're looking for the best-loved trees and woodlands in Buckinghamshire, as part of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

The Queen has launched a unique tree planting initiative called The Queen's Green Canopy which invites people from across the United Kingdom to "*Plant a Tree for the Jubilee*".

As well as inviting the planting of new trees, The Queen's Green Canopy will dedicate a network of 70 Ancient Woodlands across the United Kingdom and identify 70 Ancient Trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service. Alongside this, we would like to celebrate more of Buckinghamshire's trees and woodlands, and are inviting residents to nominate their favourites. We are aiming to compile a list of the 70 most-loved trees and woodlands in Buckinghamshire.

To take part, take a photo of your chosen tree or woodland, tell us where it is and why it is meaningful to you, and send it to us via social media [@BucksCouncil](https://twitter.com/BucksCouncil) or [70trees@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:70trees@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

By submitting your photograph, you are consenting to its reproduction across Buckinghamshire Council social media channels and its use by the media. The photograph must have been taken by you.

The trees or woodland must not be on private land that is not accessible to members of the public.

You can nominate more than one tree or woodland. If more than 70 trees are nominated, the 70 with the most nominations will be chosen. ***Nominations close on 1 May 2022***

Find out more about the Queen's Jubilee and how you can celebrate via our website [www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/the-queens-platinum-jubilee/](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/the-queens-platinum-jubilee/)

We are encouraging residents and community groups to support tree planting as part of the Bucks Tree Mission - a shared mission to plant trees for a greener future.

The Bucks Tree Mission is an important part of our Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy. The strategy will reduce our carbon emissions by 75% by 2030 on the way to achieving net-zero no later than 2050.

*Older residents of the village will remember Margaret Lowe, who lived her whole life in Aston Clinton. She died in 2005. James Adam recorded some of her memories. Here are some of her memories of the village during World War I. There will be a further instalment next time.*

## Childhood in the First World War

*I was born in Aston Clinton in 1915, during the First World War.*

It was then still very much a Rothschild Village. Old Lady Rothschild had died, but her daughters kept on the Estate, visiting their old home for Passover and Jewish New Year. They visited the Girls' and Infants' Schools that they had founded when they were children. New babies were inspected, and I was carried out to the Rothschild limousine for this purpose.

Less publicised than the Halton handover, the Aston Clinton Estate was placed at the Government's disposal and the 21st Division from Lancashire was encamped at Catsbrains, and what is now Aston Clinton Park became their Parade Ground. Villagers, including me in my pram, were admitted to the Park when King George V came to inspect them prior to their departure to France where they sustained heavy losses at the Battle of Loos.

Soon after my first birthday in 1916, my father, Allen Lowe, the Headmaster of the village School, departed on Mr Howe's horse bus en route to join up in Oxford. He fought with the Royal Artillery in the Salonika Campaign, was gassed, contracted malaria, and never once slept in a bed until he returned in time for my fourth birthday in 1919.

During his absence, my mother helped in the YMCA Canteen in the Anthony Hall. A pound of tea had to produce 240 cups of

tea at an old penny a cup. There was no fresh milk and I enjoyed scraping out the tins of Nestles milk with a lead spoon. I remember the excitement when it was discovered that I had bitten off the tip of one of the spoons and, presumably, swallowed it!



There were concerts for the troops in the Anthony Hall at one of which a large soprano sang 'Let the great big world keep turning'. I demanded to sing too and mounted the stage. My mother's attempts to remove me were shouted down with cries of 'Let her sing! Her Daddy's out there fighting the Germans!' My childish rendering of 'Burlington Bertie' was received with applause.

*Margaret Lowe*

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## Aston Clinton Ladies Group

**Wednesday 16 February 8pm, Guide Hall**  
A Beetle Drive. All are welcome to this fun evening.

**Wednesday 16 March 8pm**  
A Lenten service at St Michaels followed by coffee and hot cross buns at Janet Leech's house.

New members are very welcome. For more information call [Sue Sanders 01296 630740](tel:01296630740) or [Janet Watson 01296 631014](tel:01296631014)



## One of our bells is missing!

*Some of you may well have heard us ringing in the New Year at St Michael's. This is a long bellringing tradition up and down the country, but this year was very different for us as one of our bells is missing.*



At a recent inspection of the church bells by the bellhangers, the 10th bell (the heaviest, known by ringers as the tenor bell, weighing 11cwt) was found to have a small crack near the bottom. The bell was cast in 1806 but, as we have the bells inspected every two years this crack is quite recent. So, what is to be done? We could carry on ringing it but eventually the crack would spread, sound terrible, with disastrous possible consequences or we could have the bell recast at vast cost. Fortunately, there is one company in Newmarket that specializes in welding church bells that have cracks. This is a complicated process involving heating up the whole bell in a furnace in order to apply the weld.

Firstly, the bell has to be removed from the tower right at the top. This was done at the end of November. This bell was originally made and hung in the tower long before the porch was built and is wider than the entrance arch. No problem for the bellhangers as they just tilted the bell sideways and passed through with 1cm to spare! The next problem was to hoist the

bell onto the lorry. We are grateful to Richard Nicholls of Park Farm who drove his tractor round and used the baler hoist. He made this look easy.

The bell is now in Newmarket and we hope to have it back soon, but this is not the end of its journey. It has to go back to the bellhangers' works to be re-drilled and re-tuned to match the other nine bells. Finally, they will hoist it back up the tower so that it can be rung again, hopefully for another 300 years.

The total cost of this small crack will be £8,000. We need to raise about £3,000 to pay the final bill so if you would like to contribute to this project, please get in touch with me. We would love to hear from you. If you would like to learn how to ring the bells, this would be a real bonus or just to see what goes on, come any Friday night. *Roger Powell, Tower Captain*  
[Roger.powell@willowend.net](mailto:Roger.powell@willowend.net)

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## Women's Institute

*The WI has a full programme of events planned for 2022, Covid regulations permitting.*

We meet the on first Wednesday of every month in the Anthony Hall at 7.45pm. We begin the new year on **Wednesday 2 February when our speaker will present, 'When Birds Sing'**, which includes recordings, music and illustrations. This is followed on **Wednesday 2 March by a presentation on Ian Fleming - His Life and Connections**.

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. For more information please contact me by email [b.d.ac.wi@gmail.com](mailto:b.d.ac.wi@gmail.com) *Lin Mitchell, Secretary*

## BBOWT – your local Wildlife Trust

*Most of our activities at BBOWT (The Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust) have now resumed with Covid safeguards where necessary. As the weather improves we hope you will visit and enjoy the local nature reserves – Aston Clinton Ragpits, Dancersend, Weston Turville Reservoir and our flagship reserve and visitor centre at College Lake. There may be some temporary path closures, especially in the Pavis Wood section of Dancersend Reserve, due to safety work on trees affected by Ash Dieback Disease, but as I write this it looks as though that work may be delayed due to the very wet conditions*



Hebridean sheep at Dancersend.

Our programme of Winter Talks, traditionally held in Great Missenden, have once again been moved online due to the Covid risks, meaning they will also be more accessible to people from further afield. On Tuesday 15 February Laurie Jackson will be talking about Rewilding the Knepp Estate and on Tuesday 15 March John Tyler will talk about Reading the Countryside. This talk will be followed by a linked guided walk at Dancersend Reserve on Saturday 19 March. Further details and

booking instructions can be found at [www.bbowl.org.uk/events](http://www.bbowl.org.uk/events).

If you would like to get more involved with conservation work at our reserves you could try one of the regular work parties and then possibly join one of the volunteer teams that keep the sites in good condition and safe for wildlife, our grazing animals and visitors. Work party arrangements vary from site to site. At our largest reserve, Dancersend, there is a regular session on the second Sunday of each month as well as smaller half-day sessions on weekdays, often Wednesdays. To find out more, contact [Mick Jones \(01296 720623, jonesmick365@gmail.com\)](mailto:jonesmick365@gmail.com) who will put you in touch with the relevant work party leader.

If practical work is not your thing, there are other volunteering opportunities with the Trust. College Lake Visitor Centre is looking for more volunteers to help with meeting and greeting, helping in the café and shop, and providing information to visitors. The BBOWT Chilterns Volunteer Group is also looking for more people to get involved with organising walks and talks, fundraising and social/promotional events in your area. For more information email [volunteering@bbowl.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@bbowl.org.uk).

We live in one of the most beautiful and wildlife rich areas in the country. Please support BBOWT to help keep it like this and further improve it through projects with other landowners and local community initiatives. We are devoted to maintaining wildlife sites, restoring nature across your local area and helping people to connect with wildlife.

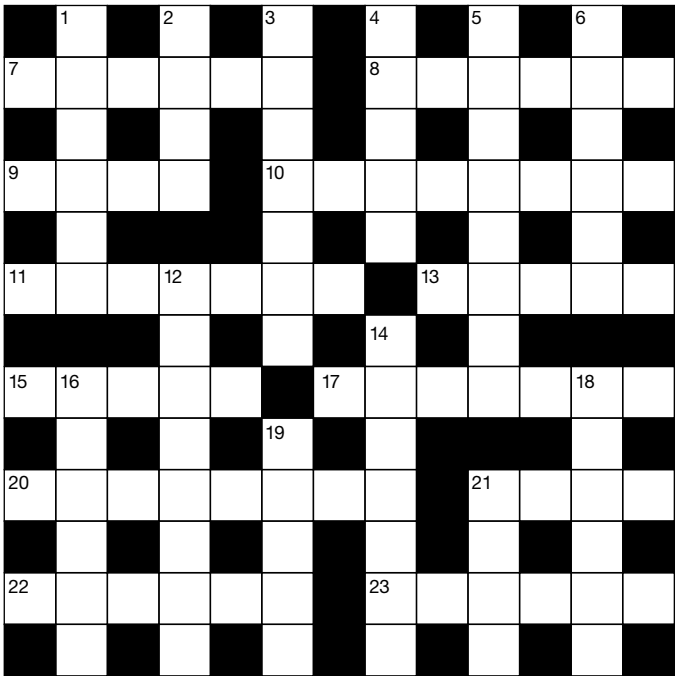
*Mick Jones MBE, Chairman of BBOWT Chilterns Volunteer Group*

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

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

# Village Life crossword no.46

Crossword compiled by **Helen Lonsdale** (SOLUTION ON PAGE 25)



### CLUES ACROSS

- 7 Leap up (6)
- 8 Funfair car (6)
- 9 Land measure (4)
- 10 Breed of large retriever (8)
- 11 Puncture (7)
- 13 Group of eight (5)
- 15 Distrust (5)
- 17 Enduring (7)
- 20 In the open air (8)
- 21 Protuberance (4)
- 22 Yearly (6)
- 23 Empty space (6)

### CLUES DOWN

- 1 Tribe of North America (6)
- 2 Bees home (4)
- 3 Nimbleness (7)
- 4 Sun-dried brick (5)
- 5 Bring forward (8)
- 6 In front (6)
- 12 Tree with yellow hanging flowers (8)
- 14 Pardon/Acquit (7)
- 16 Rectangle (6)
- 18 Rain cloud (6)
- 19 Sacred song (5)
- 21 Behind (4)

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

## Sudoku

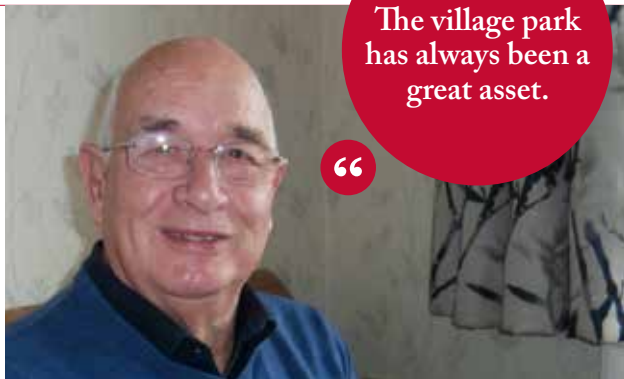
All you have to do is fill in the squares so that each row, column and the nine small 3 x 3 squares contains the numbers 1-9.

(SOLUTION ON PAGE 27)

# 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.*

**Richard Maskell**  
*has spent a lifetime in Aston Clinton.*



The village park has always been a great asset.

“

**Q. You were born in Aston Clinton and have lived here pretty much all your life. What do you miss most about village life compared with life in the 1970s or 1980s for example?**

A. There is no longer a butcher or a hardware shop or for that matter a draper in the village. Also, at one time there were more than a dozen public houses. What I don't miss is the traffic which queued through the village at peak times prior to the opening of the by-pass.

**Q. You were a police officer for many years and must have seen a lot of changes during that time. What were the most significant that affected the way you operated?**

A. I joined the Bucks Constabulary in 1963 and was stationed in Slough. At that time constables patrolled

on foot, nearly always alone, with the only equipment being a truncheon and a pair of handcuffs. No personal radio. While on patrol I disturbed two men committing a burglary who made off in a vehicle. There was no way of calling for assistance, so I stopped the next motorist and pursued them, we caught up with them and with the aid of the motorist I made two arrests. Help from the public was not unusual.

Personal radios were not issued until late in the 1960s in Bucks and about the same time 'Panda' patrol cars replaced most of the foot patrols.

In the 1960s, fingerprints and the scientific examination of articles were the only addition widely used in the detection of crime. The greatest advance came with CCTV in 1970-1980 which was of assistance

in the detection of crime. DNA came into use by the police towards the end of the 1980s - a great improvement!

**Q. You were involved with setting up some community bus initiatives in the county. Did that work and should there be more?**

A. On retirement from the police, I worked for Bucks County Council as the Community Transport Officer. Community buses are successful, and their numbers over the years have increased, but their success relies on an identifiable need, and when set up that they are actually used, but to be successful volunteers are needed to operate the service. Community buses can be very expensive to setup and run and few can operate without local authority financial or charity support.



A good local example is the Wendover Community Car, which is a small wheelchair accessible mini-bus operating since 1996. It provides a door-to-door service to the people of Wendover and surrounding villages who need a bit of help getting out and about. The drivers are volunteers.

**Q. You were a parish councilor and then Chairman of the parish council. Has that role become more complex in recent years?**

A. For all councils' issues arise, some are more complex than others. I am not aware that they have become more complex in recent years.

As soon as I was appointed Chairman of the council a survey form was sent to each household to identify what the residents considered to be the issues in the village. Over 500 were completed. The first need identified was for affordable housing to rent or buy, particularly for the young and elderly, so they can continue to live in the village. The second, a pedestrian crossing in the London Road between Twitchell Lane and Putnam's drive, and a speed camera in the London Road near Putnam's Drive.

**Q. Are you involved in any activities and/or groups in Aston Clinton?**

A. I am a member of Aston Clinton u3a and also a Trustee of the Turpin's Charity, a village charity which provides grants to persons who are in need, hardship or distress.

**Q. You've had an interesting and varied career. Which role has given you the most satisfaction?**

A. I had just two careers, both helping the public but in different ways.

For the last four years of my police service, I was responsible for the Rural Section around Aylesbury. Having one's house burgled is most distressing. During that time the officers on the section targeted areas where burglaries were taking place, this led to arrests from Stewkley, to Aston Clinton and Wendover. For over two years during the winter period houses were being broken into at dusk. Police observation led to the offenders being identified and arrested. They admitted to having committed more than five hundred burglaries across the County. While working as a transport officer I was involved in the instigation of the Winslow Community Bus which has now been operating for more than 20 years, providing a very popular bus service and days out for the people living in villages around Winslow.

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

A. My wife and I are both member of The National Trust and English Heritage, so we regularly make visits to their properties. We are keen on walking and gardening and taking holidays both home and abroad.

**Q. Your favourite music?**

A. Elton John and Queen.

**Q. Your favourite film?**

A. The Battle of Britain.

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

A. An Austin Mini. I don't now own a car, I sold it last year. My wife owns a car which meets our needs.

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

A. The opening of the by-pass in 2003 was a real necessity. An increase in the population of nearly 30% in the last 10 years. The village park has always been a great asset to the village and remains so. The pavilion which was built in the 1970s and needed to be updated, thanks to the parish council and the New Homes Bonus, it has been.

*Interview **Andrew Andersz***

## All Saints' Buckland

### Regular Services:

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



### FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Sun 13th Feb	11am	Messy Sunday	All Saints'
Sun 13th Mar	11am	Messy Sunday	All Saints'

### EVENTS

Sat 5th Feb	10am	Produce Stall with refreshments	All Saints'
Sat 5th Mar	10am	Produce Stall with refreshments	All Saints'

*Flicks in the Sticks & Junior Flicks* will be coming back to All Saints' but the launch date is TBC.

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

## Buckland Parish Council



*In December the Buckland Parish Council office moved from Halton to the upstairs committee room at Buckland Village Hall. We also welcome Fiona Richardson, who lives locally, as she joins us as our new Parish Council Clerk.*

The former Parish Clerk, Fiona Lippmann, retired in December. We thank Fiona for the help and support she has given during her years as our clerk and wish her well for the future.

The Buckland Neighbourhood Plan, now over five years old, is currently undergoing a review. Despite delays caused by the pandemic, it is now in its final stages and a referendum to approve the changes is due to be held in the Spring, giving parishioners an opportunity to engage with it. The main changes are a policy defining the settlement boundary, and additions to the heritage and environmental policies to make them more robust. Additional changes have been made to ensure that the

Plan conforms with the newly adopted Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan. Details of the replacement Neighbourhood Plan can be found on the Parish Council's website [www.bucklandpc.org.uk](http://www.bucklandpc.org.uk).

With the recent sale of farmland in Lower Buckland, Buckland Parish Council took the opportunity to buy 1.86 acres near Monks Court to use as a community orchard, nature reserve and wildflower meadow. The parish council gained planning consent to change the use of this site from agricultural. The landscaping plan was approved just in time for the 2021 planting season. We were lucky to receive a donation of 22 standard native trees, including black poplars, as well as a grant from Buckinghamshire Council for 25 heritage variety apple trees, which were all planted just before Christmas.

The plans include a copse of native trees with glades, heritage fruit trees planted in a wildflower meadow, a hazel coppice, and an area densely planted with shrubs to provide a safe wildlife habitat. It will be a nature reserve with a large variety of flora and fauna as well as becoming a focal point for future community activities, and a place for residents to enjoy. The project will take several years to complete. Full details are available on the Parish Council website.

We are awaiting further action from Buckinghamshire Council to solve the damp problems affecting public footpaths near Cherry Tree Farm.

Buckland Parish Council's contact details are now email: [clerk@bucklandpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@bucklandpc.org.uk); tel **01296 630962**; address: Village Hall, New Road, Buckland HP22 5JB. Office hours: Monday and Thursday 9am to 3pm.

*Cllr Nigel Hayward*  
*Chairman of Buckland Parish Council*



## Remember a loved one this spring with a Forever Snowdrop

*Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity has partnered with Waddesdon Manor to launch a very special event to remember loved ones and raise funds for local hospice care this Spring.*

In March a stunning temporary display of 500 bespoke 3-headed metal snowdrops will be installed at the Aviary Gardens at Waddesdon Manor. Each Forever Snowdrop will represent the life of a loved one and has been uniquely designed and hand crafted by British Ironworks.

The Charity is offering you the opportunity to be a part of this event by purchasing one of these limited Forever Snowdrops, which also includes an invitation to a private viewing of the display on Monday 21st March whilst the grounds are closed to the public. The Forever Snowdrop installation will then remain on display to the general public for two weeks. And once the installation is removed, you will be able to take the flower home to display as a Forever Snowdrop keepsake.

The money raised from the display will help to raise vital funds for hospice care, ensuring that the Florence Nightingale Hospice team is there to support patients and their families through the toughest times.

Dedicate your Forever Snowdrop at [www.fnhospice.org.uk/foreverflowers](http://www.fnhospice.org.uk/foreverflowers) or call **01296 429975** for more information.

# Horticultural Society

*Thank you for following the Horticultural Society throughout 2021. We have another exciting programme planned for 2022. Please refer to our website - [www.astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk](http://www.astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk). We also have a Facebook group for up-to-date information.*



Our monthly meetings, are held on the second Wednesday in the month, starting 8pm, in the Anthony Hall.

Our first meeting, on **9 February**, is a very special one; Geraint Richards is giving his long-promised lecture. He is the Head Forester for the Duchy of Cornwall and is responsible for the management of the trees, woodlands and forests across the Duchy's extensive landholding in England and Wales. The Duchy's woodlands extend to some 6,000 acres (2,500 hectares) and contain a variety of species and forest types. Geraint, a Member of the Royal Victorian Order and holder of the Royal Forestry Society's Gold Medal, is also involved with a wide range of national and international organisations and initiatives beyond the Duchy.

He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Foresters and the current Vice-President. His talk is entitled: 'The Duchy of Cornwall, its trees, woodlands and forests'. He will give

an overview of the Duchy of Cornwall as a landowner before focussing on some of the opportunities and challenges we are facing at the present time. It will be presented via Zoom and we are expecting that this talk will be online from the comfort of your home rather than in the Anthony Hall. See our website for confirmation.

Whilst on the subject of trees, there is a nationwide project called '*The Queen's Green Canopy*', which invites people from across the UK to '*Plant a Tree for the Jubilee*'. So why not think about planting a tree in your garden?

As part of the project the Woodland Trust is providing hundreds of thousands of trees to schools and community groups. Further information can be found on [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk).

On **Wed 9 March, at 8pm**, we have a talk, '*Tooth, Claw & Mane*', by Tom Way, in the Anthony Hall. Tom Way is a well-known speaker to our society. This talk may also be moved to Zoom.

In March we have our annual social evening for members which this year is a quiz with a fish and chip supper.

In April we hope to run our first Spring Show for two years. The Spring Show entry night is **Thursday 7 April** at the Anthony Hall from 6pm till 7.45pm and the show itself will be held at Aston Clinton school on **Saturday 9 April** at 2pm. The show schedule is available on our website or alternatively please contact Graham Thirkettle at [gathirkettle@gmail.com](mailto:gathirkettle@gmail.com)

Lastly, on **13 April** at 8pm in the Anthony Hall, we have a talk entitled, '*Give Your Garden the Designer Touch*', to be given by Maria Greenhills.

*Ralph Weston*



# Lindengate – Better Health & Wellbeing for All, Through Nature



*Through the provision of nature-based activities, we empower everyone to nurture their wellbeing, connect to the healing power of nature and respect the environment.*

After a well-deserved Winter Wellbeing break, our incredible team and volunteers have been busy onsite, planting bulbs and wildflower seeds to ensure that our bees and other pollinators have plenty of food in the Spring and Summer months.

We offer an all age, fully integrated service, through a variety of different programmes, all based on the Five Ways to Wellbeing to promote positive wellbeing. Why not come along to one of our free drop-in sessions as part of Rest & Reflect, to see how we can support you.

Wednesdays 1.30 – 3.30pm (no children/dogs) & Saturdays 1 – 4pm. (seasonal opening times, please check website before visiting)

If you've ever thought about volunteering, why not get in touch to see how you can get involved. From weekend Green Volunteers (13-18 yrs), working alongside the Programme team, supporting participants, or supporting the team to keep Lindengate looking fabulous,



there are plenty of opportunities to join our community.

Further information on volunteering and all our programmes, can be found on our website: [www.lindengate.org.uk](http://www.lindengate.org.uk)

## Apple Dumplings

*This time our recipe is supplied by Pam.*

*It comes from a Belling recipe book that her mother received when she bought her new Belling Compact Cooker in the late 1950's.*

*The recipes were meant for use in electric cookers, but no doubt you will be able to make the necessary alterations. The recipe we chose was a reminder of an almost forgotten comfort food which will probably take many of us of a certain generation back to our schooldays.*

### Ingredients:

Cooking apples (average size)  
Sugar  
Butter  
Short pastry

### Method:

1. Peel and core apples, leaving them whole. Cover the bottom of each centre hole with butter and fill up with sugar.
2. To make the short pastry, mix 8 oz plain flour with ½ teaspoon of salt. Rub in 2 oz margarine and 2 oz lard. Mix to a stiff paste with very little cold water.
3. Roll out pastry and cut into strips about 1 inch wide. Dampen edges and, starting at the centre bottom, mould the strips of pastry around the apple until it is completely covered.
4. Put on a flat baking tin and brush over with egg or milk. Cook at 400 degrees. Time about 45 minutes.

## CROSSWORD No.46 SOLUTION

**Down**  
1. Apache 2. Hive 3. Agility 4. Adobe 5. Advanced  
6. Before 12. Laburnum 14. Absolve 16. Oblong  
18. Nimbus 19. Psalm 21. Back

**Across**  
7. Spring 8. Dodgem 9. Acre 10. Labrador  
11. Deflate 13. Octet 15. Doubt 17. Abiding  
20. Alfresco 21. Bump 22. Annual 23. Vacuum

## St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp

### Regular Services:

St Mary's is now a **Festival Church** which means it will be open once a month for church services. It will also be open every Sunday 10am to 4pm for private prayer.



### FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Sun 6th Feb	4.30pm	Candlemas Service	St Mary's
Sun 6th Mar	11am	Holy Communion	St Mary's

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

## St Mary's, Drayton Beauchamp – a Festival Church



*On 1 November 2021, a large congregation attended a unique event, conducted by Alan Wilson, Bishop of Buckingham, and the Archdeacon of Buckingham, Guy Elmore, to celebrate the granting of "Festival Church" status to the church.*

A Festival Church is no longer viable for weekly services but still valued for local events. It must hold at least six services a year (likely to be on church festivals, eg Christmas and Easter) as well as weddings, baptisms

and funerals as required. St Mary's has long suffered from difficulty delivering the legal requirements for officers and the finance for proper maintenance due to a dwindling congregation. Given these threats to its viability, the "Festival" model was clearly ideal for its future.

There were many upbeat contributions including those from our Revs Sally Bottomer and Alison Roberts. Guy Elmore noted that St Mary's is the first in the Oxford Diocese to achieve Festival status – a mark of a church going somewhere new for its community. "These are tough times for churches in smaller rural parishes" he said, "and initiatives like this help churches survive and breathe new life into communities. Rather than staying locked away for the few they can become welcoming to the many, for hospitality, learning and leisure, as well as worship".

Guy saw the partnership between the clergy, the Parochial Church Council and the Drayton Beauchamp Parochial Charities Trust as a model of co-operation. "When assessing a proposal for revitalisation, I look at finances, leadership, the number of people involved, and the mix of skills and energy. Your partnership

has all these - with energy in abundance! This augurs very well for a bright future," he concluded.

So, as a Festival Church, St Mary's can legally remain open, as a church and a centre for the community, responsive to Drayton Beauchamp's needs. Much recognition for achieving St Mary's Festival Church status is due to Rev. Alison Roberts. Without her great enthusiasm for the church and the local community, this milestone would not have been achieved.

St Mary's plans to hold a service on the first Sunday of every month, plus Easter and Christmas services. Please look for the times and dates in Village Life, Pews News or on the benefice website [ac-buck-db-churches.org](http://ac-buck-db-churches.org).

---

## Random Acts of Kindness

*It's a simple concept but it can make a whole lot of difference. Do something kind, however minor, to make someone's day a bit (or a lot) better.*

It is thought the modern version was first put forward by Anne Herbert in 1982. She proposed "Practice random acts of kindness and senseless acts of beauty" in response to the phrase "Random acts of violence and senseless acts of cruelty". The idea, though, has been around for much longer, and it is enshrined in many philosophies and religions.

There is now even an annual Random Acts of Kindness Day, this year on 17 February. The world would be a better place if we could all practice these acts every day, rather than just once a year. The key to it is that, whatever you do, you should expect nothing in return - just do it. These altruistic acts don't need to be grand gestures. Yes, people do pay for a stranger's meal in a restaurant, or you may choose to buy the coffee for the person behind you in the queue, but the acts do not need to cost anything financially.

Even a smile and a kind word can work wonders for someone having a rotten day. Is there an old friend or neighbour you haven't spoken to for some while? Give them a call and the gift of a few minutes of your time.

Then there is the idea of 'paying it forward'. The American statesman Benjamin Franklin told a friend not to repay a loan to him but, when the chance came, to pass the money to someone else in need, asking that person to pass it on in turn, rather than pay it back. Franklin's idea was that the same sum of money could be used time and again to help several people. He realised that someone would eventually break the line but despite this, hoped the money would help many people first.

Again, it doesn't have to be cash. If you receive a favour, why not do a favour for someone else? Don't do it expecting a reward but one day it may be your turn again.

*So, what can we do?* Pay a compliment to a colleague or friend, buy flowers, take food to the food bank (The two in Aston Clinton are at St Michael's Church and the Baptist Chapel), even let a car into the traffic queue ahead of you. More long-term, could you spare a few hours to volunteer at a local charity or organisation?

Whatever you decide to do, you do not have to wait until 17 February, and it could become a habit. You never know, you might even find you feel better for it.

---

## SUDOKU SOLUTION

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



*On a cold and blustery November day volunteers from the Wendover Canal Trust (formerly the Wendover Arm Trust) commenced re-watering of a further quarter mile section of the canal between the two footbridges. This is another milestone for the Trust whose volunteers have worked tirelessly, sometimes in appalling weather, to complete this new section which has not held water for over one hundred years.*



Whitehouses (Old Pumping Station) before re-watering  
Whitehouses taken 24 hours after re-watering commencement.

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'Pulling the plug' by the existing bund was carried out by both the oldest and newest volunteers to the Trust. Permission had to be obtained from the Canal & River Trust, the owners of the canal, and it has been estimated that re-watering will take up to a fortnight. However, this will not be to navigable depth and completion of the remaining section linking up with the Phase 1 restoration at Little Tring will be necessary before boating is possible.

Removal of a major obstruction by way of an old tip at Little Tring will cost the Trust a very substantial sum and funding for this work is being investigated. Any contributions will be very welcome!

Whilst re-watering was in progress seven scouts aged 11- 17, three scout leaders and two mothers all braving the blizzard conditions at the winding hole, planted 60 saplings along the back fence and weeded around last year's trees. This was for their Community Service badge.

## Pony Express 2021

*I delivered Christmas cards in Drayton Beauchamp again this year. I made three deliveries on 11th and 18th and 23rd of December.*

I would like to thank Maddy and Chloe 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 £90 each to World Horse Welfare and the Rennie Grove Hospice. I do enjoy doing the deliveries and hope that I can continue doing them for a few years. *Erica*

*Editor's note: I have been looking at some old parish magazines and found that Erica has been making these deliveries for over 20 years now. It's only Santa who has been making deliveries for longer.*

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## Emergency

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Aston Clinton Dental Clinic	01296 323090	<a href="http://www.astonclintondentalclinic.co.uk">www.astonclintondentalclinic.co.uk</a>
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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	<a href="http://111.nhs.uk">111.nhs.uk</a>
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>

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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>
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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

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Baptist Church	07834 772937	<a href="mailto:lettings@astonclintonbaptist.org">lettings@astonclintonbaptist.org</a>
Buckland Village Hall	01296 630310	
Red Kite Pavilion	01296 630270	<a href="mailto:nick@yourcafeinthepark.co.uk">nick@yourcafeinthepark.co.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 630962	<a href="mailto:clerk@bucklandpc.org.uk">clerk@bucklandpc.org.uk</a>
Drayton Beauchamp. Parish Meeting	01296 630396	
Buckinghamshire Council	0300 131 6000	<a href="http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk">www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk</a>
BC Councillors	Bill Chapple OBE	<a href="mailto:Bill.Chapple@buckinghamshire.gov.uk">Bill.Chapple@buckinghamshire.gov.uk</a>
	Mike Collins	<a href="mailto:Mike.Collins@buckinghamshire.gov.uk">Mike.Collins@buckinghamshire.gov.uk</a>
	Julie Ward	<a href="mailto:Julie.ward@buckinghamshire.gov.uk">Julie.ward@buckinghamshire.gov.uk</a>
Environmental Health (fly tipping)	01296 585605	
Highways	01296 486630	<a href="http://www.buckscc.go.uk">www.buckscc.go.uk</a>
M.P. for Aylesbury	Rob Butler	<a href="mailto:rob.butler.mp@parliament.uk">rob.butler.mp@parliament.uk</a>

## MISCELLANEOUS

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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="http://www.turpinscharity.org.uk">www.turpinscharity.org.uk</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>

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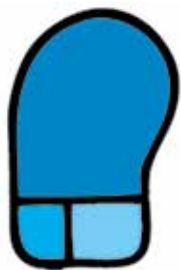
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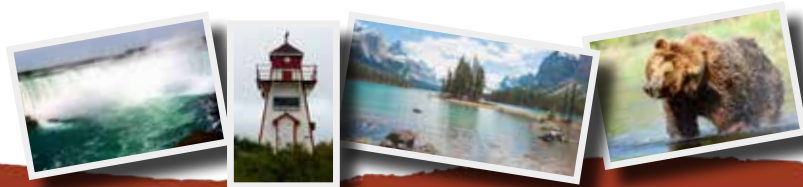
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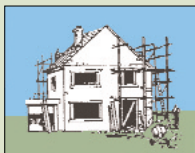


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