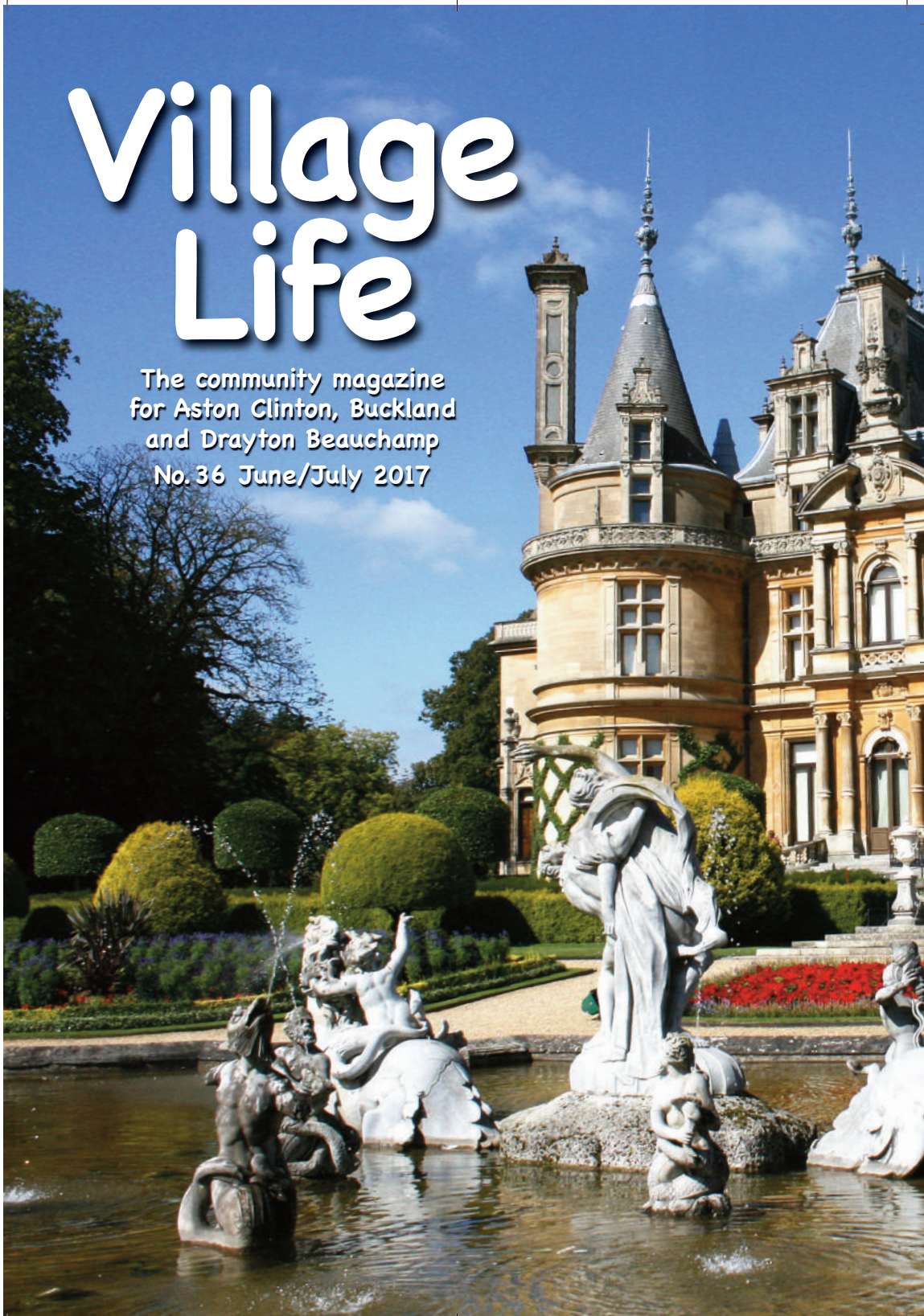


Village Life

The community magazine
for Aston Clinton, Buckland
and Drayton Beauchamp
No.36 June/July 2017





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**The Editor is always pleased to
 receive local news of people,
 clubs and events.**

VILLAGE LIFE JUNE/JULY 2017

Village Life

The bi-monthly community news magazine for
 Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp



OUR community is growing numerically. Government planners have recognised that Aylesbury Vale has two important advantages from a planning point of view. It has space and excellent road links with the capital. Aston Clinton has the misfortune to be among the most favoured locations for development within the Vale, leading to the flood of new homes currently being built.

For the last three years our parish council have been painstakingly preparing our Neighbourhood Plan which is reaching its final stages this year. It is of the utmost importance that all residents get involved in these final stages if we are to have any chance of avoiding becoming a suburb of Aylesbury. Please read and take heed of the notice on page 11. Once green space is built over, it is gone for ever.

Our parish council deserve praise for their enterprise. In a few weeks' time, 'Astonbury' will be upon us. It promises to be a one-day mini-Glastonbury without the tents and (hopefully) without the mud! Read all about it on pages 8 and 9.

Both vigorous and energetic outdoor summer exercise is reported on and suggested in the pages that follow. On pages 16 and 17, Claire Walker describes the fun and games enjoyed by the Scouts on their Kelvedon sleepover in March, made possible by adult leaders who probably had as much fun as the youngsters.

The older generations are invited on other pages to join a walking group or to try the game of bowls at our superb bowls club, the envy of many. See pages 20 and 21.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue. I am constantly amazed at the range of activities and interests represented in our still small, but growing, community.

Alec Just
 Editor

Simon's farewell message

I WRITE TO YOU TODAY with a sense of uncertainty about the future, as my time of being the Minister at Aston Clinton Baptist Church gradually comes to a close. I finish at the end of June. Naturally, to make the decision I have is difficult, and its implications are significant in many ways. But rather than viewing it from the perspective of fear and worry, I am trying to see it as an opening up into new things.

Often we hear the phrase: 'what will be will be'. Others may talk in terms of 'fate', or that the Universe will unfold as it is meant to and, as that is so, things have the habit of simply falling into place in one's life.

Whilst I understand and appreciate the sentiment of such words, I very much see my life as under God and his supreme plan. In a world where there seems too often, little hope, to know that one is under God's purposes, does give a different and a more hopeful perspective. I am drawn to the words from Isaiah 42v9: 'see, the former things have taken place, and

new things I declare...' and Psalm 90v2: 'from everlasting to everlasting you are God.' Other verses would be Isaiah 40v31 and Psalm 39v7.

My life is not some hapless random event occurring in an unguided Universe, it is a life that is precious to Jesus, and he is from everlasting. I am passing through, my life is so short comparatively, yet he remains as he is,



Rev. Simon Downing, Baptist Minister

always. And he holds me and knows me, and he is declaring new things for me and my family, for the Church and others I know. Is there not a joy and hope in these things? Life is not always easy, but God is there for anyone and everyone.

And so I close, trusting that some of the things I have written over these many years will have helped people, and perhaps stimulated some thoughts about life and its meaning. It has been an honour to be part of this wonderful community.

God bless you all.

Simon

Wild summer flowers at College Lake nature reserve photographed by Alan Newland in July 2016



St Michael and All Angels

Regular Services:

9.15am and 6pm each Sunday



Forthcoming events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sat 3 June	10-4pm	Quiet Day focussing on Prayer	St Leonard's Church
Sun 18 June	9.15am	Family Eucharist for Fathers' Day	St Michael's Church
Sat 8 July	11-4pm	Summer Fete	St Michael's Church
Sat 8 July	5-8pm	Family Barbecue	St Michael's Church
Sat 29 July	9.30am	Distribution of Village Life	St Michael's Church

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

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

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

St Michael's social events

At St. Michael's we have a huge selection of events planned and look forward to welcoming you all. In June we will be hosting a special family BBQ and quiz evening. Teams of young and old can pit their wits against each other and enjoy an alfresco feast in the church grounds. It will be followed on the Sunday with a special Fathers' Day service (followed by brunch!).

Assuming we are blessed with sunny weather, our church fete in July will be a busy afternoon of cream teas, games, stalls and maybe music.

We will be holding our successful Bake Off again. Amateur bakers will be welcomed and, following the judging, cake will be sold in aid of the St Michael's Roof Fund.

If you would like more information, to offer help or book tickets, please contact Louise at

mrs_louise_jones@yahoo.com or Maggie at maggiebeaujeux@outlook.com or speak to us after one of the services. We look forward to seeing you!

17 June Family Quiz and BBQ from 5-8pm

18 June Family Eucharist service at 9.15pm followed by Father's Day Brunch

8 July Summer Fete at St Michael's from 2-5pm

9 Sept Bake Off at St Michael's from 12 noon

17 Sept Farewell Service for Elizabeth at 11am followed by Bring and Share lunch

30 Sept Harvest Supper/Ceilidh Anthony Hall from 7pm.

In the directory of advertisers on page 34, you'll find a wide range of local services.

ASTON CLINTON NEWS

Dear Camping

There's something I need to tell you. It's over between us. It's not you – it's me. I've tried to make it work, I really have. You are so popular and all my friends love you but it's time to face the facts. I'm just not that into you.

You came into my life when I was a school-girl and gave me that first taste of staying out all night, without my parents. The games and songs around the fire and the toasting of marshmallows made me giddy with excitement. Listening to an owl twit-twooing nearby gave a city girl like me quite a thrill. We even celebrated the end of GCSEs together, down in Charmouth, plenty of illicit Scrumpy Jack cider to keep me warm.

After that, I moved on to back-packing and holidays abroad and we lost touch for many years, but then you came back on the scene. You were cool and funny and I heard loads of great stories about you. It was inevitable that I'd give you another go. And I admit that first time we got back together, it was great.

The weather was amazing, the location in the Cotswolds idyllic, and my children adored you and your bbqs for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

But it didn't last long. There was too much baggage, literally. It's exhausting having to pack for just two nights away with you. I never know what I'm in for. I talk the talk but deep down, we both know I'm not the outdoorsy type. I like being warm and dry and when we're together I wake up wet for all the wrong reasons.



Having a pathetically weak bladder makes me no match for you and the fields you make me trek through in the middle of the night. And as for those long-drop toilets you forced me to use last time? That was cruel. The fear of that flimsy structure collapsing and dropping me into that rancid, stinking pit of other people's poo was paralysing. And I couldn't even wash my hands. There's not enough anti-bac gel in the world to make that acceptable.

Yes, you've upped your game with your artisan bakery and smoothie bar on-site but that just means I'm competing with all those yummy mummies from Fulham (with whiny children named Hunter or Wolf). Why don't they need to shave their legs every day? How does their hair stay so glossy?

"But the children love camping!" people say, "all that fresh air and freedom". And that is true, but no one else ever puts their kids to bed. And then they all wake up at 5am. There is no fun in hands-on parenting for 17 hours straight without electricity. And you can't argue

properly or even fart in a tent because everyone else is listening.

So I've got to do what's right for me and end it now. I've found someone who treats me better. He's All-Inclusive and I want to be with him, somewhere sunny and warm. I can't resist his crisp sheets and soft towels. He gives me hot showers and unlimited mojitos. I love the look of his extensive buffet..... I need more than just sausage.

Kelly Cornish

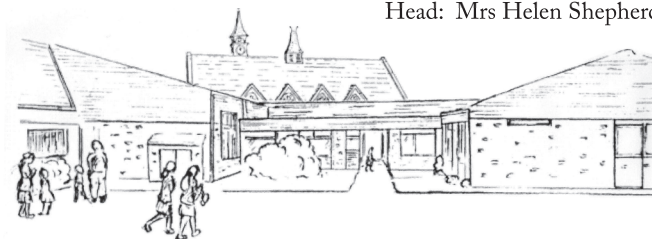
Solution to Crossword No.21

Across 1 & 12. Summer Holiday 4. Escape 9. Nag 10. Barricade 11. Ant 12. see 1 14. Greasepaint 17. Refusal 18. Ether 20. Carving 22. Use 23. Paella 24. Advent
Down 1. Sundae 2. Might 3. Embarrass 5. Ski 6. Abandon 7. Enemy 8. Archaeology 13. Leasehold 15. Referee 16. Ardent 17. Recap 19. House 21. Ill



Aston Clinton School

Head: Mrs Helen Shepherd



The Governing Body

Have you ever wondered what the governors of a school do?

All local authority schools have a governing board which comprises of several different types of governor. Governors provide strategic leadership and accountability in schools. Their key functions are:

- to set the aims and objectives for the school
- to set the policies and targets for achieving those aims and objectives
- to monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making towards achievement of its aims and objectives
- to be a source of challenge and support to the headteacher (a critical friend)

Governors appoint the headteacher and deputy headteacher. It is governors who hold the main responsibility for finance in schools. They work with the headteacher to make the tough decisions about balancing resources and setting the budget.

The headteacher's role is different. He or she is responsible for the day-to-day organisation and management of the school and the implementation of the strategic framework established by the governing board.

Governors are people who are prepared to volunteer their time as they want to make a positive difference to the education of children. Almost anyone over eighteen can apply to become a governor. A number of governors are parent governors, elected by the parental body of the school, but there are other types of

governors too. A governor will be expected to attend the full governing board termly meetings, as well as being a member of one of the sub-committees that meet each term. Realistically, this equates to about 10-15 hours a term, including the time needed to read the advance paperwork.

As part of the governing board, a governor's role is also:

- to get to know the school and gain a good understanding of its strengths and weaknesses and always to act in the best interests of all the children
- to be prepared for and contribute actively to discussions at meetings
- to attend training to enable them to perform their duties to the best of their ability.

* * *

Have you ever thought about becoming a school governor? You can contact Bucks CC on **01296 395000** to find out more. There are also organisations such as the National Governance Association (www.nga.org.uk) Governors for Schools (www.sgoss.org.uk) and Inspiring Governance (www.inspiringgovernance.org) where you can register your interest in becoming a governor on their websites.

A successful governing board will look at the strengths of its members and identify the skills gaps they may need to fill. Co-opted governors are a way of filling skills gaps. These governors may not always come from the immediate school community.

Helen Shepherd

Parish Council news: a tale of two projects

THE WORK of the parish council is always more varied than people imagine and we seem to do a whole lot more than just manage the park and allotments. Two contrasting projects this spring, one of them now complete, really embrace both the old and the new.

Aston Clinton Village Clock

About a year ago the beautiful clock in the tower of the school stopped working and



specialist repairers, Smiths of Derby, told us that it needed to be completely stripped and serviced, costing just under £4000. We didn't have that sum in our budget, so parish council chairman Liz Tubb wrote to Lord Rothschild who kindly offered us a grant through the Rothschild Foundation.

This covered the repair and the parish council paid for the scaffolding needed to

get this beautiful piece of antique machinery out of its tower. The council arranged for the work to take place over the Easter school holidays and it was all carried out extremely successfully.

We are delighted to see this community heirloom working again for the benefit of us all.

History of the clock

The village is indebted to local farmer Richard Nicholls who winds the clock by hand every week. To the best of Richard's knowledge, the clock was installed after the school was built, during the Victorian era, approx. 1888. It was paid for partly by the Rothschild family along with donations from village residents. It was thought to have been installed for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee along with the school bell and was originally wound by the head-

master and after that the school caretaker.

However, somewhere along the line, a caretaker would not wind the clock at weekends and so the parish council got involved. Around the 1980s, well-known local councillor Dick Stratford took over the winding and Mr Nicholls followed on from him. From the 1950s to the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977, the bell did not strike and this was fixed for the Jubilee by the parish council.

In recent years, Smiths of Derby have maintained the clock. However, up to last year, it had started failing until eventually one of the faces seized up altogether. We hope that this recent



Part of the Victorian clock's internal mechanism, installed over 125 years ago and running on-and-off ever since.

overhaul will keep the clock going for many years to come. It is our village's pride and joy.

Astonbury!

From the ancient to the modern: the PC is currently putting together the programme for our village festival: 'Astonbury! This event takes place on **Saturday 19th August 2017** in Aston Clinton park and promises to bring together residents of all age groups. It starts at 12 noon with the opening of the Horticultural Show.

The programme is as follows (times approx):
2pm Horticultural Show – Pavilion (Café in the Park) and Churchill Hall (Youth Club)

Continued opposite

12 noon Children's Play Event – including zorb balls, nerf battles, penalty shoot-outs, face painting, bouncy castle and magician

3pm Community Group Showcase – including dancing, singing and martial arts

4pm Dog Show – with prizes for 'the waggiest tail', 'most-like-the-owner' and 'obedience'

5pm Bands: currently confirmed are Callow Saints, Thrifty Malone, Bad Penny and Ska legends Skamungas

Food and drink will be served all day in the Café in the Park with beer tent, burgers, pizzas and vintage sweets served all afternoon until late.

Any community groups who would like to be involved/perform and non-profit local organisations who would like a stall please contact the clerk on parishcouncil@astonclinton.org

With something for everyone, let's celebrate what brings us together!

Gill Merry CiLCA
Parish Clerk



Astonbury Music Festival
19 August 2017 Midday to 11pm
Aston Clinton Park, Aston Clinton, Aylesbury, Bucks HP225EU

Skamungas
Purveyors of the finest ska and reggae

Bad Penny
A tribute to Classic Rock

Thrifty Malone

Callow Saints

Dealey Plaza
POP & ROCK COVERS BAND

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ASTON CLINTON NEWS

The WI local branch

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

Our next meetings are:

June 2017 Confessions of an Allotmenteer – Josie Jeffrey gives a light-hearted look at keeping an allotment. We will also be having a plant stall on this evening.

July 2017 The History of an English Concertina – Malcolm North

August 2017 Bagels and Bacon – Jeff Rozelar tells us about his childhood in the East End of London in the 1950s.

Our lunch group continues to thrive with at least fourteen members attending every month. Our walking group is now walking each month, enjoying the beautiful Aylesbury Vale countryside, followed by lunch at a hostelry

near the finish point.

We welcome new members at any of our meetings. Come along and try us – you will receive a warm welcome. Or for more information please contact me by email at : bucklandraytonbeauchampastonclintonwi@gmail.com

Claire Castle

Aston Clinton Ladies Group

Forthcoming meetings

Wed 19 July in the Guide Hall at 8pm

Sarah Pearson will show us some fun gentle exercises for ladies. All are welcome.

For more info, contact please contact Sue Sanders on **01296 630740** or Janet Watson on **01296 631014** if you would like to come and for directions. New members are always made very welcome.

Please note: there will be no meeting in June.

Battle of Britain Commemoration Service: advance notice

EVERY YEAR the village branch of the Royal British Legion attends the Battle of Britain Commemoration Service at Westminster Abbey. This year it is on **Sunday 17th September**. We leave the village at 08:00 sharp to ensure that we arrive in good time for the service as doors open at 10:30.

We hire a coach to take us to the Abbey so it is a hassle-free trip and we leave the Abbey at 14:30 for the return journey. It is a wonderful service and we are also able to take a few non-members of the Royal British Legion each year as it is an opportunity to take part in a major

national commemorative event.

Those who have joined us in the past have enjoyed a wonderful experience. There is no charge for us to enter the Abbey but there is a cost of £20 each for the coach.

For further details please contact Mike Collins, secretary of the Aston Clinton and District Branch of the Royal British Legion on **01296 632039**. There are a limited number of tickets available so early contact is essential.

Mike Collins



Please mention Village Life when responding to advertisers

A Neighbourhood Plan for Aston Clinton

Shaping our future...



We are pleased to announce the upcoming Pre-Submission* consultation of the Aston Clinton Neighbourhood Plan.

This is the first formal opportunity for stakeholders to comment on the proposed plan. The consultation will run for 6 weeks from the date of publication and you are invited to make your comments.

Please visit the website at www.astonclintonneighbourhoodplan.org for further details, important dates and deadlines, where to access a copy of the plan and how to have your say.

Despite recent planning approvals which have swelled the village boundary, this plan aims to preserve the remaining open countryside between an expanding Aylesbury and our neighbouring villages.

You have told us you want to see the identity of the village preserved and this is the essential feature of the plan and the means for achieving the village wishes. The recent appeal decision for 85 houses in College Road South was refused with this in mind.

Aston Clinton Neighbourhood plan – it's our/your plan and with your support, we believe we can make a real difference for Aston Clinton.

Your village, Your future, Your Say!!

* In accordance with Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General Regulations) 2012

ASTON CLINTON NEWS

Aston Clinton, Buckland & Drayton Beauchamp Horticultural Society

THE Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp Horticultural Society held its 21st Spring Show and plant sale on Saturday 8th April at Aston Clinton School.

We were all greeted with a wonderful spring day, with the temperature way above average as it had been for some time before the show. Consequently, some of the daffodil entries were a little sparse. The tulips made up for this with many exhibits being to a very high standard. As well as the daffodills and tulips there were classes for floral art, domestic entries and handicrafts and children's classes. The popular plant sale contributed towards the success of the afternoon, with tremendous support from the public. More than 200 people attended the show. The plant sale almost sold out in the course of the afternoon and made over £200 profit, which went a long way to offset the cost of running the show.

The most prestigious award in the daffodil section, the Violet Rolfe Daffodil Shield was

won by Ralph Weston and the Best Bloom in show was awarded to Graham Thirkettle. The Grow-for-Show award was won by Philip Bailey; the pre-junior daffodil class was won by Oscar Bradley, and Best in the Junior class went to Charlie Wallis. The Pauline Rust Trophy was won by Sue Lipscomb, the 'Village Six' trophy by Ken Halls, and the 'Village Pink' daffodil trophy by Dave Wallis. Many of the other daffodil trophies were shared between Sue Lipscomb and Graham Thirkettle.

The Spring Cup for flowers was won by Elizabeth Weston and Tom Allen won the Village Tulip Trophy. The Stewkley Cup for hellebores was won by John Seaton.

The prize in the Floral Art section was won by Frances Farley. Elizabeth Weston was awarded the Domestic Trophy and the Park Farm Challenge Plate for handicrafts was won by Rosalind Nicholls. The winners in the children's classes were Oscar Bradley (5 years and under), Phoebe Bax (6-8 years) and Megan Bax (9 to 13).

The trophies and awards were presented by Ken Halls who has been a member of the

Continued opposite

This year's Spring Show prizewinners display their various cups, shields, trophies and rosettes.



Photo: Richard Needham

Surgery news

WE are already into hayfever season and will soon (hopefully) be enjoying a sunny summer. Please remember that you can buy sunscreen, medication and nasal sprays that may help you from the pharmacist who can also give you good advice on alternative methods for dealing with hay fever symptoms. When you are properly sun-screened and medicated you will be better able to go out and get some natural vitamin D and enjoy some healthy exercise – not forgetting to take your water and stay well-hydrated. Our advice is to drink fewer sugary drinks in favour of water and to moderate your alcohol intake.

We offer information and access to forms and services on our website and, if you are signed up for online access, you will also be able to book appointments, order repeat prescriptions and start your registration process on line, although registrations will still need a final visit to the surgery for verification of identity. If you have not signed up for this or would like

more information please ask at reception.

In response to patient feedback we are in the process of upgrading our website again and we also now have WiFi available for patient use in the surgery. Ask at reception for the passcode.

In order to make it easier for patients to identify staff groups and staff members we are presently looking at providing our staff with uniforms and badges. We are also changing our signage to consulting rooms in response to requests from our patients to make it easier to find which rooms they are being called to.

The disabled space in the car park is now fully marked and feedback is that it works well (as long as other people don't use it!). The post sign will be re-sited to the wall in front of the disabled space to identify it more clearly. If only we could now magic up another layer of spaces to park in we would be all set!

Don't forget your sunscreen and plenty of water and have a lovely summer.

From all at Aston Clinton Surgery

Horticultural Society, *contd*

Society for many years and was the show secretary for the last ten years years.

The show secretary, Graham Thirkettle, would like to thank all those people who helped to organise, set up and run the show, and to all the exhibitors and general public who supported us. All this ensured the success of the Society's 21st Spring Show.

Coming up on **Wednesday 14th June** in the Anthony Hall at 8pm we have Peggy Verrell giving us a talk on the artist Maria Merriam and her work. She lived some 300 years ago and illustrated both flora and fauna. This is a bit different for the Horticultural Society but should be an interesting talk on plants common at that time.

Our Summer outing this year is on **6th July**

and we are going to Beth Chatto's Gardens. There are still a few seats available if you wish to join us.

Our 60th Annual Summer Show will take place on **Saturday 19th August** in the hall at the Cafe in the Park, as last year. Entry is free. There is a wide range of classes for both vegetables and flowers as well as children's and domestic classes.

I trust that your garden is growing well by now and that you have planted out all the seedlings and plants purchased at the village market. However, since frosts are in the past, now is the time to plant out dahlias. Continue to look after your lawns. Don't forget they need to be treated with a fertilizer and not mown too short.

Ralph Weston

John Colet is a friendly and inspiring school

"THROUGH hard work, inspiration, mutual respect and enjoyment, we will achieve success together."

This is the mission statement for the John Colet School in Wendover, and this focused approach helped the school secure a 'Good' Ofsted report in May 2016. This non-selective secondary school serving Aston Clinton and the surrounding area is an increasingly popular choice for local families. There has been a significant demand from parents for places in next year's Year 7.

John Colet School prides itself on a positive school environment, with high quality teaching. Staff place high standards on themselves and the students and this clearly appeals to parents.

Students can take part in many after-school activities, often linked to academic courses. These are run by the staff who always go the extra mile to help their students achieve.

The school offers extra opportunities for students to extend their learning and develop valuable life skills. Students are able to participate in schemes such as World Challenge – a group will be travelling to Nepal in 2018. Other schemes include the National Enterprise



Photos: Jolt Media

Challenge, the national Brilliant Club scheme and national Maths Challenges.

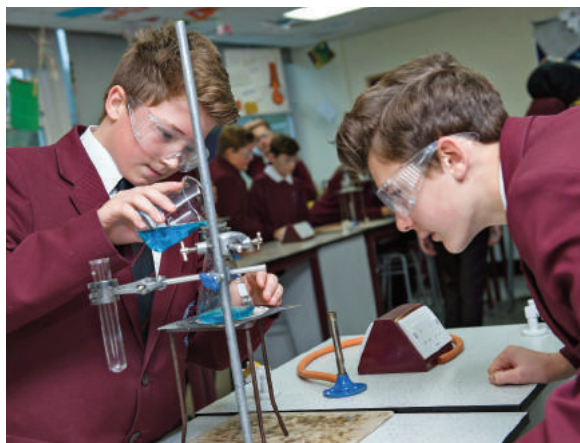
The school is committed to making a positive contribution to the local community, each tutor group organises their own 'Make A Difference' week. This is an opportunity for the students to either raise money for charity or take part in an activity to benefit the local community. Most recently the students from 9L completed a six-hour bikeathon, on a static bike in the school reception, to raise further funds from the school for Ollie Gardiner. The aim is that every student can 'Make A Difference' to others.

James Kemp, a Year 7 student, said:

"At the start of your year the teachers make you feel welcome and help ease you into school life. The Student Support Officers also help people settle in.

"Break time and lunch time is a chance to get to know people in your form. There are sports activities and clubs during lunch, some of them just for Year 7. Year 7 has flown by.

"There have been lots of new things to get used to but I've enjoyed it and I can't wait for what lies ahead."



Counselling can help

If someone you knew confessed to having mental health problems or counselling, how would you react? The uncertainty of the response can be why many choose not to tell anyone at all. Some manage to seek help. Some quietly live with their problems every day. Just about keeping their heads above water. Others are unable to cope and take their own lives.

The shame and stigma of mental health issues are often part of the reason not to tell others. Thoughts might include: 'Pull yourself together'; 'Why am I so weak?'; 'I have let you down'; 'What will people think?'.

The struggle often comes to light after 'the event', through whispered conversation. The response can be surprising, with others quietly confessing to their own struggles, or those of friends and family. You may not realise that a quarter of us experience mental health problems each year.

Someone experiencing mental health issues may look fine and behave as normal. They may get up every day, get dressed, go to school or work, take children to school, and go to the

"... greeting others with 'I'm fine thanks' when it's the last thing they feel."

pub, greeting others with "I'm fine thanks" when it's the last thing they feel. Others may face more of a struggle to keep going. Mental health issues are not visible in the same way as a broken arm or a cut leg. Migraines are not visible, but are recognised as painful and sympathy often freely offered.

Help is always at hand. Talk to your GP, a friend or family member. Other places where you can find someone to talk to is your school, work schemes, a private counsellor or an organisation such as Mind, the Samaritans, Childline, Cruse and many others.



Once someone seeks help, even self-help, things can change and there is an opportunity to make things better. Whether this is in the form of changes or decisions, after thinking about what needs addressing, or facing up to something and laying it to rest. It is not always as simple as that might sound. It can be hard, even terrifying, to look the problem right between the eyes.

Counselling does not have to be limited to crisis moments in life. It offers the opportunity to consider what is really important, and to give each of us a space to discover who we are and what really matters.

One-in-four of us. Quite a powerful statistic. When we look at someone, we never know what they are going through. Even if it may sound trivial, they might be quietly seeking some help. 'Fine' can mean quite the opposite.

Sophy Winfield

BACP registered counsellor working with adults, children and young people

Useful contacts

Samaritans – www.samaritans.org Tel: 116 123
 Childline – www.childline.org.uk Tel: 0800 1111
 Mind – www.mind.org.uk
 Papyrus – www.papyrus.org.uk Tel: 0800 068 4141
 Young Minds – www.youngminds.org.uk
 Child Bereavement UK – www.childbereavementuk.org
 Cruse Bereavement Care – www.cruse.org.uk
 British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy
 Hector's House – www.hectorshouse.org.uk

Kelvedon Sleepover 2017

ON Friday 24th March, 66 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and adult Leaders from 1st Aston Clinton Scout Group and Gondoliers Explorer Scout Unit went on their biggest and most amazing sleepover. The venue was the Kelvedon Hatch secret nuclear bunker in Essex. It was originally designed for up to 600 military and civilian personnel, (possibly even the prime minister), whose collective task was to organise the survival of the population in the awful aftermath of a possible nuclear war.

Now a museum, open to the public during the day, on that Friday night it was a battleground for the biggest nerf gun war ever seen, as two teams of Aston Clinton Scouts attempted to beat each other to find clues, locate a bomb, defuse the bomb and be back in the canteen in time for cocoa.

Buried 80ft underground, the 3-storey bunker has been left pretty much as it would have been intended for use. Mannequins in some of the rooms added to the slightly creepy atmosphere



resulting in some children (and adults) refusing to go to the toilets alone.

A late bedtime, followed far too swiftly by an early breakfast, meant that some individuals were looking a little weary in the morning. Fortunately, scout leaders are well trained in coping on five hours' sleep and after breakfast everyone packed up and shipped the gear outside to our makeshift 'day' camp.

The Cubs and Scouts headed off to try out their strength and endurance on the assault course whilst the Beavers tested their nerves on the high ropes course. Explorers had their own

activity escaping the 'Dungeon of Doom'. A quick lunch was followed by high ropes courses for the Cubs and Scouts and fire-lighting and shelter-building for the Beavers.

Eventually, the children made for their parents' cars to catch up on their sleep on the M25, whilst the Leaders packed up the remnants of the camp and tried not to fall asleep on the drive home! *Claire Walker*



"I enjoyed the obstacle course and going down the zip wires. We had nice food, sausage, mash and beans then traffic light coloured jelly! I liked sleeping next to my friends." *Charlie H*

"I loved it—especially the Nerf gun fight. The high ropes were great. When we went to the sick bay it was a bit creepy. The food was yummy. Thank you all the leaders who helped, it was the best sleepover in the world!!!!" *Faith*

"What a great place to visit. It was really interesting to learn about what would have happened inside a government nuclear bunker.



I loved how everything was preserved just how it was back in the day. This was a once-in-a-lifetime camp and I'm so glad I went."

Harry C

"I liked going on the camp to the nuclear bunker. We went on a tour of the bunker, did an assault course and climbed high ropes. I liked the assault course because the older children helped me when I got stuck. I didn't like the tour of the bunker because the statues were freaky!"

Duncan

VILLAGE LIFE JUNE/JULY 2017



My favourite bit of the nuclear bunker was the nerf war because everyone took it so seriously. When it came to bedtime that was the least favourite bit because we slept in some beds that looked a good 100-years-old and they were bunk beds so I was on the bottom bunk and Andrew was on the top and I was scared his bed was going to crush me but thankfully in the morning I was not flattened!!

Ollie G

My favourite bit of the nuclear bunker trip was the high ropes. By my second-time round, I was speeding along with no problems, that is until the zipline. I had got everything ready so I slid off the platform to find I wasn't going anywhere. Apparently, something had got stuck so I was dangling and had serious wedgy. I actually enjoyed dangling there while Neil took pictures of me in a superman pose. I think that it was the best and the weirdest camp I've been on ever!

Theo G



Sunshine and success at the Village Market!

ASTON Clinton's Village Market seemed to herald the start of summer when it opened its doors for the ninth time this year.

But it wasn't only the temperature that was hotting up at Aston Clinton Primary on Sunday 7th May, with an amazing 1,800 people turning up to this now much-loved annual village event and a brilliant £5,300 raised in aid of the school.

Sunglasses, shorts and sunhats were all out in abundance as visitors to the market enjoyed checking out the many different stalls and food pitches on offer.

The market's fine foodie heritage was as usual really popular, with the BBQ stall selling out and the launch of Aston Clinton Village Cider which raised a brilliant £300 in aid of Ollie's Fund.

This year there were 59 pitches for people to visit and browse—with new faces to the market including Corrective Chiropractic, Patricia's and Brown Bread—and shoppers stocked up on everything from plants to gorgeous scarves and bags to mouth-watering cakes.

The always-popular children's entertainment on offer included giant inflatables, bungee trampolines and 'hook-a-duck', with many of the adults enjoying a refreshing pint or glass of Pimm's and the bands on the live stage, including The Faeries and The Caution Horses.

Clare Simmonds, who organises the market alongside James Brine, said: "I would like to thank all the stallholders who attended, the members of the community who came and supported our wonderful school and the hard work of all the volunteers that make the day so successful."

Veteran market attendee, Laura Milham from local company Polka Dots and Roses said: "As always the market was wonderful. Clare Simmonds and her team are so organised, but yet still so friendly and approachable."

"The weather added an extra element this year with lots of happy faces! It was great to see lots of community stalls and people from the village attending, not just people with connections to the school."

We hope to see you all next year!

Sarah Marsh

Photos: Louise Brine



Aston Clinton U3A news

FIRST a warm welcome to the new members who have joined us since our Coffee Morning which was enjoyed by all who attended. We look forward to seeing you at our monthly talks and are sure you will find some of our many interest groups to your own liking.

Our St. George's lunch at Chiltern Forest Golf Club was a great success with very amusing entertainment being provided, between courses, by 'Two Blokes & a Piano'. The trip to the Houses of Parliament went ahead despite the terrorist attack happening just two days before the visit and our thanks go to our own organisers and the staff at Westminster for ensuring that the visit was so interesting and enjoyable. Coming up we have a trip to Kew Gardens to see the gardens in their summer splendour following our Christmas visit last December.

At the main meeting in June one of our members, Tony Hawkins, will be giving a talk entitled 'Seeing it my Way', giving us an insight into the world of someone who is visually impaired. July's talk is entitled 'Achieving the Happiness and Good Health You Deserve', an intriguing title!

Our various interest groups remain very active. The History Group has talks on 'Crime & Punishment' and 'Historic Maps'. The Science & Technology Group will be visiting the Amazon Fulfilment Centre at Hemel Hempstead and also the Refuse-to-Electricity Centre at Greatmoor. The Wildlife Group will be visiting the Aston Clinton Ragpits in June to see the wild orchids in flower, and also Pitstone Hill in July to see the summer flora.

The Film Studies Group will be watching 'One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest' and 'Taxi Driver'. Our Music for All Group meets once a month and listens to and discusses a broad spectrum of music from the classics to jazz, rock and pop, each programme being selected by a member of the group.

The Walking, Walking Intermediate and Strolling Groups are all now enjoying the better weather so whatever your capability, if you like to get out and about in the fresh air, there is a group to suit you.

Aston Clinton U3A has a vibrant membership of men and women, part of the national and international organisation University of the Third Age, usually referred to as U3A. This organisation was created to provide access to a variety of activities, both educational and therapeutic, for retired and semi-retired people. More importantly it enables members to meet and make new friends, it is open to single people and couples.

For more information visit our website:

www.acu3a.weebly.com

Jeff Meek

Strolling Group members on a recent visit to Waterperry Gardens, near Oxford



Photo: David Lonsdale

Walking's good for you!

IF YOU'VE NOTICED groups of people strolling around the villages on Thursday mornings over the past few months then they were probably part of our local 'Simply Walk' group, which has now been providing gentle walks for the folk of Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp, since it first started back in November.

Simply Walk is part of the National 'Walking for Health' scheme, which aims to provide walks for anyone who needs to take exercise, either because they're looking to offset the adverse effects of a sedentary lifestyle, or as part of their recovery from a recent injury or illness, or simply want to get out and meet new friends, be part of a sociable group and enjoy the local landscape... and where better to do it, than in the countryside that surrounds our villages at the foot of the Chilterns?

Since the walks first started back in Novem-

ber, we now have six qualified leaders, who all take it in turns to both 'lead' and 'backmark' the walks, to ensure that no-one is overstretched or gets lost. Numbers too are growing and on 6th April a group of some 21 of us took part in the stroll down to the RAF Halton airfield, on what turned out to be a beautiful spring day (see photo).

The walks take place from 10:30am every Thursday and start and finish at the car park in Aston Clinton Park ... and the good news is that they're all absolutely free!

If you'd like to try one, simply turn up on the day and look for the person in the 'Walking for Health' hi-viz jacket or, for more info on any of the many Simply Walks in Buckinghamshire, please contact Fiona Broadbent on **01494 475367** or at: fbroadbent@buckscc.gov.uk or visit www.buckscc.gov.uk/simplywalk

Edward Kempton

Members of our local 'Simply Walk' group arrive at RAF Halton after an enjoyable stroll in April.



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

Have you tried Bowls?

One of Aston Clinton's hidden gems is its superb bowling green, the envy of many other clubs, tucked away in a corner of Aston Clinton park, close to the parish council office.

If you have moved into the village recently you may not be aware of our thriving, long-established and friendly flat-green bowls club. You are welcome to visit the club at any time.

You can join as a playing or social member. There is a large clubhouse with disabled facilities, a fully licensed bar and tea or coffee is always available.

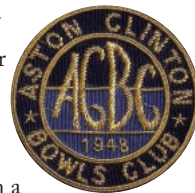
As well as bowls, there is a full range of other social activities – bridge, quiz nights, lunches and race nights.

The playing season extends from the middle of April until the end of September. The game

can be enjoyed by players of all ages. It can improve your health and introduce you to a whole new range of friends.

Come and learn to play in a relaxed and secure environment; ladies are particularly welcome. If you are new to bowls, *See if you like it sessions* – with free coaching and the loan of bowls – are available at a cost of £10, refundable on becoming a member.

Full details of the club's history and current activities can be found on the website below:
www.astonclintonbowlsclub.org/Pages/default.aspx
Or you can contact me on 01296 630403 or by email at flatfish@waitrose.com



Melvin Blackaller



A Baldwin descendant visits from the USA

THE Baldwin family were wealthy land-owners in the 1500s at Dundridge Manor, St Leonards which was then in the parish of Aston Clinton.

In 1638, Sylvester Baldwin, who had been baptised in St Michael's, emigrated to New England with his wife Sarah and six children aboard the sailing ship 'Martin'. Tragically, Sylvester died on the voyage, aged only 38.

The rest of the family survived and settled at Milford, in New Haven – now in the state of Connecticut – where they and their descendants prospered and, over the centuries, eventually spread across the entire USA.

One of those descendants is Nancy Napier (née Baldwin), pictured right with her husband Alan at the ancestral Dundridge home. Nancy and Alan live in Plymouth, a city near Minneapolis in the state of Minnesota.

On 10th April, they ended a European trip with a visit to Aston Clinton and St Leonards. At St Michael's church they were met by James Adam, a senior member of the Aston Clinton parochial church council, who showed them the stained glass window commemorating the Baldwin family's historic links with Aston Clinton. The window had been dedicated to



Sylvester Baldwin's memory by his American descendants. James also showed Nancy and Alan the numerous entries in the St Michael's church visitors' book by Baldwins from America and across the world. *Alec Just*



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College Lake Nature Reserve, Tring, HP23 5QG

Becca Harty is an adventurous young Aston Clintonian. After leaving school in 2014, she and a friend decided to take a gap year and go off on a four-months' trip around the world. For many months she worked hard to save the £6,000 needed, finally jetting off to Thailand in the spring of 2015, having secured her university place for September 2015. She recounted her experiences for us during that trip and clearly has been bitten by the travel bug. Now at university, she opted to take part in a student exchange scheme with a Chinese university near Shanghai. Read on ...

WHEN I spontaneously signed up to study abroad in China for a semester, I had absolutely no idea what I was letting myself in for. Now, one year on, having been living in China for the past four months, I can safely say it has been one of the strangest, craziest and best things I have ever done.

The city of Ningbo, where the university is, in my head was a quaint little Chinese town, with a small traditional centre and lantern lit streets. In reality, it is one of the most populous cities in China, with over seven million people; almost double the population of Ireland. With several business districts and countless skyscrapers, you have the feeling of being in an incredibly urbanised city—quite a contrast to my initial thoughts.

In terms of the language barrier, I came out here with no prior knowledge of Chinese, or any natural talent for languages. So far, I have managed to get away with my limited vocabulary consisting of 'ni hao', 'xie xie' and 'Laiwaitan'—'hello', 'thank you' and the name of the night club strip in Ningbo. This, in combination with making friends with Chinese language students, has got me by so far.

I have also been fortunate enough to further procrastinate my studies with wider travel, so far having been to Shanghai, Hangzhou, and Putuoshan island, and completing a three-day trek up the spectacular yellow mountains in the Anhui province. The latter trip in particular

proved to be a highlight despite, after a final six-hour trek to the summit of the mountain, discovering that our last-minute hostel at the top dealt with over-booking by simply putting mattresses all over the reception area and hallways. This was not what we were hoping for, but something that it seems you have to expect in China.



Ningbo university itself can appear to be a slight bubble at times; the English exchange students are all around, and one of the canteens, my favourite one, even has a Subway sandwich store. You can understand that it is easy to forget you are in China. However, this huge nation always manages to keep things in perspective; from everyday things such as tediously slow social media due to it being 'banned' by the government, to censored human rights sections in class

textbooks, you are constantly learning about the fascinating everyday life in China.

Overall, with my brief time studying in China coming to its end, I can say it has been one of the best decisions of my life to come out here. From the people around the world that I've met, together with the experiences I've had with them, to simply learning to adapt and respect the Chinese way of life; witnessing first-hand such a unique country at the pinnacle of its development is certainly an incredible opportunity that I am so thankful to have had.

Becca Harty

Support for MS sufferers

THE Chilterns MS Centre is based in Wendover and supports people with multiple sclerosis (MS) from across Buckinghamshire and neighbouring counties. The independent charity has 550 members with MS, 330 of whom visit for treatments and therapies weekly. A diagnosis of MS affects the whole family, so the Centre also supports their partners, parents and children.

MS is an unpredictable, often disabling disease that causes a range of symptoms including difficulties with walking, balance, impaired vision and bladder problems. Living with MS can be tough; although we don't know what causes MS and we know no cure, we can treat many symptoms with physio, hydro, oxygen, complementary and occupational therapies. The Centre helps its members gain greater control over their MS empowering them to lead happy and healthy lives. This type of long term support is not available on the NHS. As well as treatment and therapies, the Centre also runs social, art and gardening groups as it understands the need to support the social and emotional wellbeing of its members.

'I came here thinking it would all be about the medical support – which is brilliant – but

actually the social and mental support is almost more important. The combination of the two means I look forward to coming to the Centre every week'. Mark

Although it costs the charity £1m to meet the needs of people like Mark in the local MS community, it receives less than 10% of its funding from the NHS so corporate supporters and fundraising are vital.

You can support the Centre through fundraising. One of the flagship fundraisers is 'Walk the MS Mile' which will be in its third year in 2017 and has raised over £91,000 for the charity to date enabling them to deliver over 2,600 hours of treatment. Put the **16th and 23rd of September** in your diary now, join your local mile and raise money through sponsorship. Enjoy the fun in fundraising!

Find out more about the Chilterns MS Centre at www.chilternsmcentre.org and www.walkthemsmile.org You can find them on Facebook and on Twitter @ChilternsMS or call them on 01296 696133.



Getting old isn't all bad

I decided to stop calling the bathroom the 'John' and renamed it the 'Jim' I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet.

Of course I talk to myself; sometimes I need expert advice.

The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant. And I don't have acne.



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**Well over 2200 local homes
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Max: a very special dog



MAX is very fortunate to have Sarah Sweeting as his owner. Around eight years ago, he was a fit young labrador, full of energy and playfulness. He lives in Green End Street with Sarah and her husband John, having moved from Pitstone about eight years ago.

One day in the park soon after they arrived here, Max teamed up with some people who were throwing a ball to another dog when Max decided to join in the fun. Determined to catch the ball, he leapt up, twisting his body in mid-air, then with a yelp he fell to the ground in great pain, unable to move.

He was taken to the local vet where it was discovered from x-rays of his back that, somehow he had severely damaged the main nerve

to both back legs causing paralysis, meaning that he would never walk again on all fours. After several weeks in an animal hospital with many sessions of hydrotherapy, he regained limited use of his rear left leg.

Shortly afterwards, Max was fitted with a specially made 'wheelchair' and very quickly learned to regain his mobility.

For some years now, he has been a familiar sight in the village and is able to use his left back leg as a sort of paddle although the wheels take his weight.

It is truly remarkable how animals are able to adapt, following injury or accident, with a little help from human ingenuity and perseverance.

Alec Just

See the back pages for a great range of local trades and services and please mention Village Life when responding to advertisers.

BUCKLAND NEWS

All Saints' Church, Buckland

Regular Services:

8am Holy Communion each Sunday

11am Morning Worship – First and Third Sundays

6pm Choral Evensong – Fourth Sunday each month

10am Midweek Communion each Wednesday



Forthcoming events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sat 3 June	10am	Produce Stall	All Saints' Church
Sun 18 June	11am	Family Communion for Fathers' Day	All Saints' Church
Sun 18 June	2-5pm	Open Gardens and Teas	Buckland Village
Sat 1 July	10am	Produce Stall	All Saints' Church

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

A message from Frances

A BIG *thank you*, for all the help I received from my loyal ladies. The Easter flowers at All Saints and the Easter table looked really effective with the moss. Thank you, Elaine.

This year, I thought everything looked especially spring-like and gained a lot of compliments from everyone—so well done to you all!

Thanks also for your donations of flowers and a special thanks to Mary for her delicious cakes with our coffee.

Perhaps in the future we can get the 'Young Saints' involved.

Thank you also to all the other ladies who have signed up once again to be on the rota for the altar flowers, making it possible for the church to have fresh flowers every week.

The beautiful grey slate memorial on the far side of All Saints' churchyard marking the reburial of the remains of Iron Age settlers found during the excavations for Arla and the A41 bypass.



Photo: Alec Just



On **Sunday 18th June** from 2-5pm, once again a number Buckland residents are opening their gardens to the public. The **Open Gardens** will be Church Leas (by the church), the Old Rectory, 8 Model Row, 14 Blackmore Gate and, new this year, Rannoch House (by the crossroads on the Lower Icknield Way). A plant stall, organised by the Horticultural Society, will be held at the church and tea and cakes will be available in the church from 3pm. Entry £5. All proceeds go All Saints' Church.



DRAYTON BEAUCHAMP NEWS

St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp

Regular Services:

10.45am each Sunday



Forthcoming events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun 4 June	12-4pm	Wendover Arm Trust Open Day	St Mary's Church
Sat 17 June	7.30pm	Cavendish Wind Quintet	St Mary's Church
Sun 25 June	10.45am	Celebration of Alison Roberts' Priesting	St Mary's Church

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

St Mary's Church,
Drayton Beauchamp

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SATURDAY 17 JUNE 2017
at 7.30pm



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£35 per pair

Tickets from:
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Rosemary Brooke tel: 01296 630446

In aid of St Mary's Church, Drayton Beauchamp

Tringford Pumping Station open for visits




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Sunday 23 July 11-4pm

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-  Ivinghoe Beacon to Wendover (approx. 12 miles)
-  Wigginton to Wendover (approx. 6 miles)

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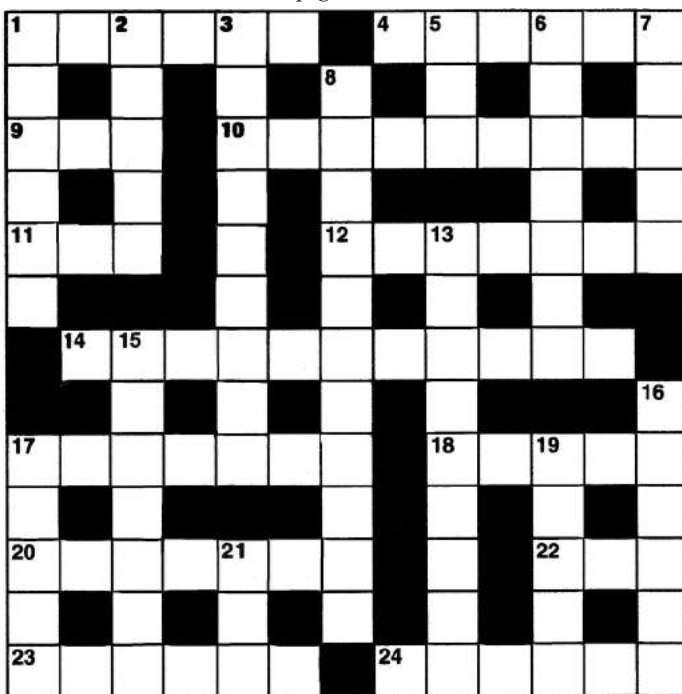
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Village Life crossword no.21

Crossword compiled by **Helen Lonsdale**

Solution to this crossword on page 6



CLUES ACROSS

- 1 & 12. Cliff Richard Film (6,7)
4. Get free (6)
9. Old Horse (3)
10. Obstruction across a road (9)
11. Emmet (3)
12. see 1 across
14. Actors make-up (11)
17. Rejection (7)
18. The clean sky (5)
20. Slicing (7)
22. Employ (3)
23. Spanish rice dish (6)
24. The arrival (6)

CLUES DOWN

1. Sweet ice cream dessert (6)
2. Strength (5)
3. Discompose (9)
5. Glide over snow (3)
6. Desert (7)
7. Adversary (5)
8. Study of ancient times (11)
13. Rented property with fixed term (9)
15. Umpire (7)
16. Intense (6)
17. Go back over main points (5)
19. Bingo call (5)
21. Sick (3)

Turpin's Charity NEEDS A CLERK

Turpin's Charity is a village charity providing grants to village people.

The Clerk is a paid position (amounting to a few hours a year) involving minute-taking and some administration.

*For further information
call Richard Maskell
on 01296 630857 or
email: richard_maskell@sky.com*

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Useful telephone numbers

<i>Name</i>	<i>Contact</i>	<i>Telephone no.</i>	<i>Email address</i>
1st Aston Clinton Rainbows	See below*	-	
1st & 2nd Aston Clinton Brownies	See below*	-	
All Saints' Friends email dist. list	Peter Elwin	01296 630454	peter.elwin@elwins.net
Amersham Hospital	—	01494 434411	
Anthony Hall (Bookings Sec)	Janet Brassington	01296 630229	theanthonyhallac@gmail.com
Aston Clinton Badminton Club	Maureen Davison	07958 479690	
Aston Clinton Baptist Church	Simon Downing	01296 631824	
Aston Clinton Parish Council	Gillian Merry	01296 631269	
Aston Clinton School	Helen Shepherd	01296 630276	
Aston Clinton U3A	John Bullard	01296 436403	
Aston Clinton Youth Club	Teresa Smith	01296 631685	
Aston Park Tennis Club	Sue Hoey	01296 630826	
Aston Wine Club	Julia Norman	01296 630531	
Ballet, Tap and Jazz Classes	JoAnn Latus	07800 518654	
Ballroom Dancing	Yvonne Domican	01296 630467	
Baptist Church Hall	Valerie Owen	01296 630303	
Bosom Buddies	Tracey Norris	079102 58259	BosomBuddiesTring@hotmail.co.uk
Bowls Club	Rosemary Stratfull	01296 631339	
Buckland Book Group	Barbara Fletcher	01296 631111	brfletcher@hotmail.co.uk
Buckland Bridge Club	Viv Barton	01296 630776	
Buckland Vilge Hall (Bkings Sec)	Paula Graves	01296 630310	
Buckland Parish Council	Fiona Lippmann	01296 626073	bucklandpc@googlemail.com
Buckland Society	Kelly Cornish	01296 632119	
Childline	—	0800 1111	
Citizens Advice Bureau	—	0870 126 4056	
Cricket Club	Mike Parsonage	01296 631788	
Crimestoppers	—	0800 555 111	
Dentists' Surgery	—	01296 323090	
Doctors' Surgery	—	01296 630241	
Drayton B'champ Parish Meeting	Meryl Nodes	01296 630396	
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Environmental Health	Out of hours	01296 585093	
Environmental Health	Helpline	01296 585605	
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Football: AC Colts	Ray Lucas	01296 630076	
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Green Park Life Saving Assocn	Liz Youens	01296 622895	
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High Wycombe Hospital		01494 526161	
Highways on Call	Out of hours	01296 486630	