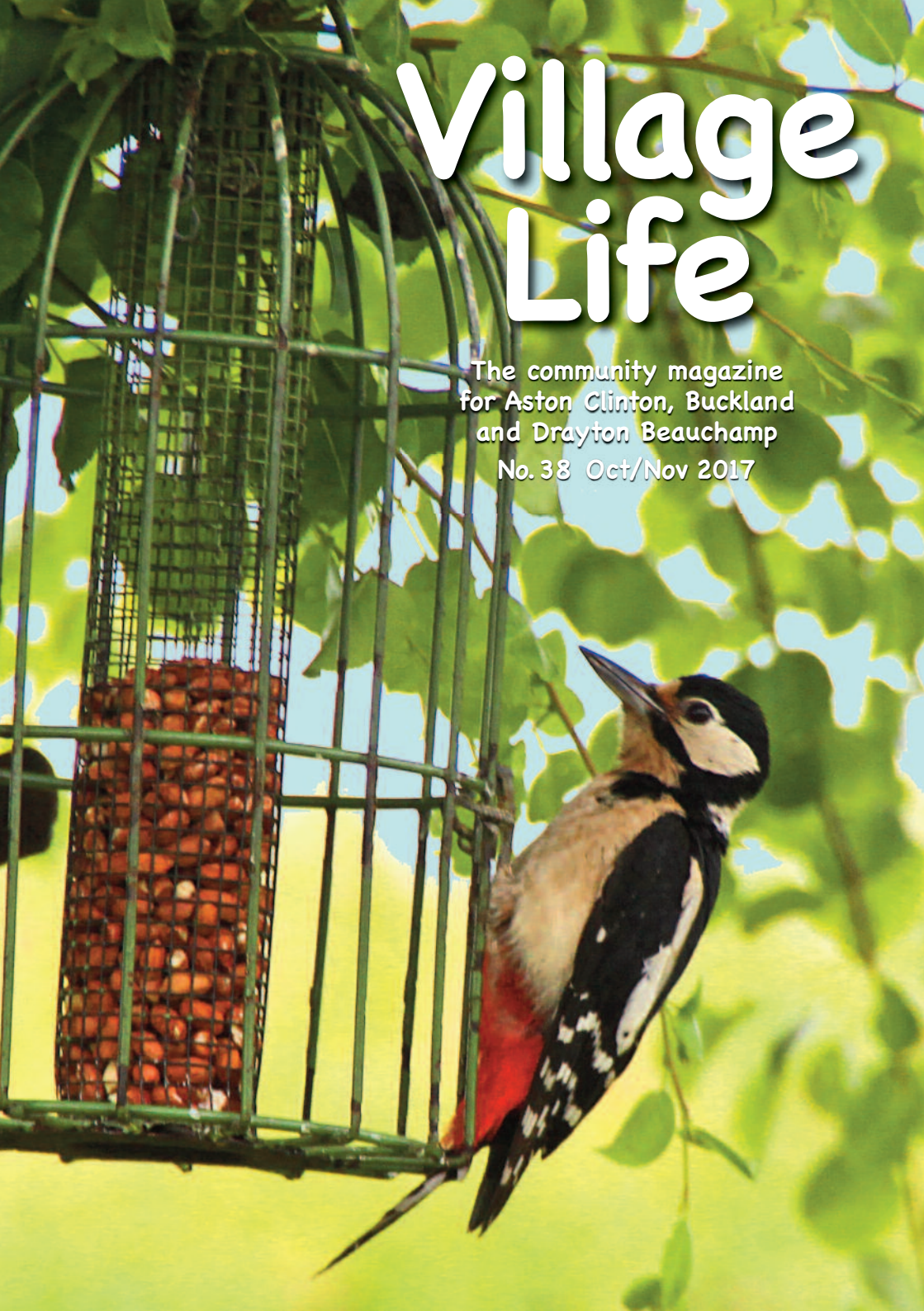


# Village Life

The community magazine  
for Aston Clinton, Buckland  
and Drayton Beauchamp

No. 38 Oct/Nov 2017





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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



IN THIS ISSUE, we have the usual collection of articles  
and news reflecting the wide range of activities and  
interests of our community. If you have something to  
contribute, please contact me.

The big Village Life news is that at long last we have a  
website. Visit <http://acvillagelife.weebly.com> (Note: do  
not put 'www' into this website address – it won't work!)  
The website has been constructed by Geoff Plowman to  
whom we owe a big debt of gratitude. The main value of  
the website will be not only to include a digital copy of  
the current issue (useful for emailing to friends and family  
overseas) but also to provide an archive of past issues.

As you may know, I am retiring as honorary editor after  
almost seven enjoyable years. If you are interested in taking  
over, please do get in touch.

*Alec Just*

## Village Life needs a new volunteer editor

As announced in the last issue, Alec Just has decided to  
hand over the editorial reins to someone else to take the  
magazine forward. The February/March 2018 issue will  
be the last issue under his editorship.

Village Life is not a commercial publication. It is  
produced and distributed bi-monthly by volunteers with  
a close affinity with Aston Clinton, Buckland and  
Drayton Beauchamp.

The cost of printing is met by revenue from advertisers  
who value the magazine as a cost-effective means of  
reaching our fast-growing population.

If you are interested in knowing more, please contact  
Alec at [alec.just@btinternet.com](mailto:alec.just@btinternet.com) for more details.

# Further thoughts from a Baptist Deacon

## *Hi again everyone*

Recently I was having coffee with a friend, who at the end of our conversation remarked, 'I wish I had your faith'. This little throw away comment got me thinking. What is faith? According to the dictionary, faith is to put one's complete trust and confidence into something or someone. Now I don't know about you but if I am going to put my absolute trust and confidence into something or someone, then I want that something or someone to be true, and worthy of my trust.

What is interesting to note, however, is that what we believe about something actually has no bearing as to whether what we believe is true or not. Believing something doesn't make it true, and not believing something doesn't make it untrue!



So it seems to me that the issue isn't so much about our having faith, but rather about who or what we put our faith in.

There's a verse in the bible that says this: 'The earth is the Lord's and all it contains, the world and all who dwell in it'.

Quite a big statement to make. For me, I believe this statement to be true, I have absolute faith and trust that ultimately God, and not mankind, has everything in His hands. To me faith is not just a matter of believing *in* God, but rather *believing* God and what He says.

Of course, you don't have to take my word for what He says, you can always ask Him for yourself.

With love,

*Sue*

## St Michael and All Angels

Invite you to their community

# Christmas Tree Festival

On 9th December,  
At St Michael's Church,  
Aston Clinton  
From 10.30 am to 5.30 pm

Programme £1 with all proceeds going to  
St Michael's south roof fund

# St Michael and All Angels

Regular Services:

9.15am and 6pm each Sunday



## Forthcoming events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun 29 Oct	9.15am	Benefice Service	St Michael's Church
Sun 5 Nov	11am	Benefice Service	All Saints' Church
Sun 12 Nov	11am	Act of Remembrance	War Memorial
Sun 12 Nov	11.20am	RBL Service of Remembrance	St Michael's Church
Sat 18 Nov	7.30-10pm	Film Trivia Quiz & Supper	Anthony Hall
Sat 2 Dec	11am-4pm	Christmas Fair	Anthony Hall

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](http://www.s-michaels.org.uk)

## Aston Clinton Ladies Group

**Wednesday 18 October in the Guide Hall at 8pm**

Carina is bringing her hand made jewellery and will show us how we can make something of our own.

**Wednesday 15 November at Buckland Hall at 7.30pm**

AGM and supper. Tickets £10.00 to include a hot supper and a variety of delicious desserts.

We shall also be holding a raffle.

New members are always welcome. For further info contact Sue Sanders on **01296 630740** or Janet Watson on **01296 631014**.

**In the directory on page 34 you will find a wide range of local services. Please support our advertisers and mention Village Life when you contact them.**  
*Their support makes your magazine possible.*

# All change at the Anthony Hall

THE annual general meeting of the trustees of the Anthony Hall, which took place in June, saw widespread changes in the trustees and the management committee.

James Adam and John Watson retired as trustees after a collective service between them of around 50 years. Both James and John have served lengthy terms as chairmen of the trustees and have overseen the transformation of the hall including the decorating and refurbishment of both the outside and inside, and the committee room. In addition, an integrated sound system, projection screen and wi-fi have been installed. The heating system has been upgraded and a raised-bed garden and a 'lawn' at the side of the hall created with access from the committee room.

James and John have now been elected as

ordinary members of the management committee and Kathryn Sykes and Liz Tubb have been appointed trustees. Kathryn takes James' place as chair of the trustees and the management committee.

New members of the management committee are Dave Wallis and David Timmins. Dave

Wallis has already won his spurs by going up on a cherry picker to inspect the cupola on the top of the roof. Repairs to that will probably take place early next year.

The committee has been deeply saddened to hear of the death of Rosemary Mojsak. Rosemary had been a committee member and secretary of the Anthony Hall and had had to resign due to ill-health. She will be greatly missed. The trustees and committee all extend their condolences to Andrew and the family.

Sally Smith, who has been our treasurer for many years and has kept our finances on a firm and well-managed footing, has retired. We are very grateful to her for all the work she has put in over the years.

The portrait of the daughters of Sir Anthony de Rothschild for many years used to hang in the hall and was in a very bad state of repair. With the help of Janet Brassington, who is a retired solicitor as well as being our bookings secretary, a deal has been struck with the Rothschild Archive. In exchange for allowing the Archive to have the original on permanent loan, the Archive agreed to restore both the painting and the frame and supply the hall with the high quality reproduction now hanging in the hall. The original is now hanging at the Rothschild Bank headquarters in the City of London where it can be viewed by residents of Aston Clinton by appointment.

As the Anthony Hall is a Grade II listed building (this also includes the shed!), all work has to be carried out carefully and in keeping with the original building. As it is over 130-years-old, maintenance is a constant problem and the committee has appointed Jason Ford to oversee the maintenance of the hall on a regular basis. With the hall being in almost constant use, the floor gets a great deal of wear. It will be refurbished later this year.

The Anthony Hall is a registered charity which exists for the benefit of the residents of Aston Clinton. Thus, it needs only to make enough profit to keep itself going and maintain its fabric. With a good flow of income from hirings, the committee has decided to hold hiring charges again this year. Charges were last raised around five years ago.

All enquiries for bookings should be addressed to Janet Brassington on **01296 630229** or [theanthonyhallac@gmail.com](mailto:theanthonyhallac@gmail.com)

*James Adam*



Photo: Alec Just

# An appreciation of Elizabeth

ELIZABETH'S delightful farewell message in the last edition of Village Life told us of the happy time that she has had in our community since arriving as a curate twelve years ago.

Elizabeth's rectorship since 2008 has been an outstanding success in so many ways. She has unambiguously demonstrated her profound belief in God, and her sincerity in this has shone like a beacon from her sermons, the countless services she has led and her interaction with the community of her three parishes.

She has been a much-loved and respected leader and has demonstrated great strength of character when dealing with adversity, in particular of course the tragic death of her husband, my dear friend Chris, in 2010.

She has been extremely supportive of her curates Carole, Andrew, Sally and now Alison, and has taken every opportunity to encourage their sharing of leading services in the Benefice. Likewise she has given every support to her



Photo: Peter Elwin

three PCCs and to the nuances of interpretation of the Christian faith that each parish has favoured.

However it is not just within the church community that she has been active; she has done so much to integrate with the wider community, irrespective of individuals' personal belief in Christianity, that she is widely recog-

nised as a friend to all and open at any time to those needing support.

Elizabeth has always welcomed new ideas and thinking, not least the cross-community activities in the three churches. Rhubarb café, Flicks in the Sticks, concerts and

produce stalls have all flourished during her rectorship and helped to build the assumption now that church buildings are open to all.

We shall miss you Elizabeth and wish you a long and very happy retirement in Cowes. Please keep in touch with the very many friends that you have made.

*Peter Elwin*

## Opening of the Anthony Hall

*Extract from the address by Mrs Cyril Flower (née Constance de Rothschild) given on 6th December 1884*

"I rise to declare this Hall open. My mother has built it for the use of this village, and she hopes that it may prove a great benefit to many of our friends whom we see around us this evening.

The foremost objective of this Hall is to provide recreation for the people of Aston Clinton.

You will find comfortable seats, plenty of warmth and light, and often something good and amusing to listen to.

This Hall has been built to the memory of my dear father, Sir Anthony de Rothschild, who lived for thirty years amongst you, whose greatest pleasure lay in devising measures for the welfare of the people and whose constant object was to improve their social and moral condition. We are merely trying to finish what he began."

*[With thanks to Mike Collins]*



## Girlguiding international trips

EVERY year in the autumn term, Girlguiding Bucks hold a selection weekend for girls wanting to travel abroad. Some girls and parents find the word 'selection' off-putting. However, in this case it is a fun weekend to make sure that the girls mix confidently with other Guides outside their normal unit and are comfortable working with leaders they are not familiar with. After this weekend, girls are picked to represent Girlguiding Bucks for international trips in the following year. Being prepared to travel without the comfort of your immediate friendship group is a big challenge to a teenage girl, but everyone we have sent has had the most fabulous time.

Since I have been running Aston Clinton Guides, I remember sending girls on trips to many European countries, Iceland, USA, Canada, India and Mexico. We've also sent girls to international camps in Scotland and Northern Ireland, where they've had the chance to mix with international members of the association without leaving our own shores. Every year the girls come back to tell their peers of their wonderful trip which enthuses the next age group to apply for the experience.

The girls are encouraged to raise the money to fund their trip as we believe that helps them

The four Aston Clinton girls ready for take-off ...



more fully appreciate the whole experience when they have had to make some sacrifice to get there. Thank you to everyone in the village who, over many years, have supported their efforts in baby-sitting, dog-walking, sponsorship or sweet-selling. When you are under 16, working to raise funds is a difficult task.

This summer, Eden, Emma, Ffion and Heather have been to Switzerland and would like to share with you the highlights of their trip. We have another two girls signed up for selection this autumn, so very good luck to them. Who knows where in the world Guiding could take them next year ...

*Sue Wall*

### Switzerland report

On the 27th July 2017, 11 excited Girl Guides



were about to embark on an incredible trip they would remember forever. Four girls from Aston Clinton Guides were ready to go and excited for the packed week ahead.

After being selected and going to a practice camp we quickly learned a lot about each other and were comfortable with all the new Guides from different parts of the Anglia community.

Some of the tasks abroad were daunting – the Rodelbahn (bob-sleigh ride), zip-wire and mountain climbing. Yet the girls took everything in their stride.

We took part in great activities such as Dream Catcher Weaving, lake-

*Continued opposite*



# Forthcoming church service plans

AS FROM October, the three churches across Aston Clinton, Drayton Beauchamp and Buckland will be taking turns each month to host a Benefice Service. We are very aware that some people may find it tough when worship is changed and following Liz Moxley's retirement as Rector we endeavour to cover as many services as possible with the minimum of change to our regular worship until a new Rector is appointed.

The idea for a once a month Benefice Service was initiated by the churchwardens, following their concerns that until a new rector is appointed the ministry team's hours will be substantially reduced. So once a month the Benefice Services will be the

only services to take place across the three parishes. The aim of the services will be to introduce extra energy and enthusiasm as our community journeys through the uncertainty of the interregnum.

Sally and Alison have been thrilled by the response they have received from the priests and the bishop who have expressed delight in being invited to come and preach and, in some cases, preside.

The Benefice Services are now booked up until March; and we look forward to welcoming you to hear the wide range of interesting speakers that we feel can only enhance and enrich and, yes, sometimes maybe challenge our faith.

*Rev Alison Roberts*

## 29 October at 9.15am

St Michael's, Aston Clinton  
Rev Sue Smith,  
Chaplaincy Team at Grendon  
Underwood Prison

## 5 November at 11am

All Saints', Buckland  
Rev Val Plumb  
Area Dean for Rural Mission  
and Development

## 31 December at 9.15am

St Michael's, Aston Clinton  
The Rt Rev Alan Wilson  
Bishop of Buckingham

## 28 January at 11am

All Saints', Buckland  
The Venerable Guy Elsmore  
The Archdeacon of Buckingham

## 25 February at 10.45am

St Mary's, Drayton Beauchamp  
Rev Andrew Allen  
Chaplain and Bishop Radford  
Official Fellow,  
Exeter College, Oxford.

## Switzerland, *contd.*

paddling and an exciting trip to the town of Thun where we ordered our own meal in a restaurant to demonstrate our independence.

One of our lasting memories will be the Swiss National Day celebrations on 1st August that included activities on-site, parading down to the Kandersteg village with all the other Scout and Guide groups, a bonfire and an

amazing firework display. The first thing we all said when we got home from Switzerland was "Take me back!"

We really enjoyed our stay in Kandersteg and hope to do more international trips in the future.

*Emma Carlile, Heather Norris,  
Eden Williams and Ffion Winfield  
1st Aston Clinton Guides*

## Date Night

It's a concept that makes me cringe. Though not quite as much as my children did the last time Husband-on-a-Short-Fuse and I told them we were off out by ourselves.

"Urgh, why are you going on a date, you're married?!?!", the twins exclaimed in genuine wonder. Which is a valid point really. The beauty of finally finding "the one" and settling down is surely that you no longer have to go on dates anymore. No more pretending to be charming, funny and interesting in bars where the music is too loud. Coupling up gives us unofficial licence to ease off on the need to spend ridiculous amounts of cash on expensive meals out, doesn't it? Are there any real couples with young children who would both willingly choose to scrub up and head out on the town together when they could in fact be sprawled on the sofa in mis-matched pj's watching Netflix with a bag of peanut M&Ms to share?

Yet somebody somewhere made "Date Night" a thing for harassed parents to feel obliged to do. But is there anything less romantic than feeling obliged?

We all know that becoming parents is a bond that ties you together in a way that marriage never can. But it's one of life's greatest ironies that parenting can also drive your relationship apart just when you are supposed to be at your most together.

Take our most recent family trip. Our kids are a bit older now so we are through the arguing over whose turn it is to change the nappy/ have the lie-in stage. But still we had a rubbish time that left us both feeling utterly drained. It dawned on me the root cause is that we fundamentally parent differently. Which creates constant arguments not to mention four perplexed children. So in the most idyllic setting with perfect weather we argued. Me and him. Him

and the kids. Me and the kids. Me and him. It was an awful, vicious cycle from which we were unable to break free. Both of us angry, resentful and pushed apart, ultimately, from being parents in a not-very-together fashion.

As it so happened we were booked to go away for a night to celebrate a friend's birthday shortly after, just the two of us. An inadvertent 'date night' if you like, that included flying up to Scotland and spending the night in a hotel. And what a difference it made. Because take us away from our default setting of parents (him – stressed, grumpy and hardly ever home and me – stressed, grumpy and always home)

and we're actually quite fun to be with. We had several hours before hotel check in so we had some brunch and mooched around the shops. We made each other laugh and sometimes we held hands in comfortable silence. It was uncomplicated and lovely and reminded us both of the person we met for a blind date in an expensive bar where the music was too loud, 17 years ago.

Without wishing to make the kids gag, I'd go so far as to say we fell back in love and we learned a valuable lesson that the trashy mags and well-meaning friends have known all along. You do need to look after your relationship and you do need the occasional 'date night' even if it is just time alone together on your own sofa (Note to HOASF: Netflix and M&Ms is genuinely my ideal date night but now the kids stay up later, I'll settle for a mini-break away with you once or twice a year!). Time spent together as a couple is never an indulgence, it's a valuable investment.

*Kelly Cornish*



**Please mention Village Life when responding to our advertisers**

# Keep fit and eat well for £11 a year!

**I**F YOU ARE LOOKING for that one pub-quiz question that will get you banned for life from setting questions, how about: “How many times has the word ‘Allotment’ been mentioned in the title of an act of parliament since 1880?”

For such a humble pastime, it is surprising how many times the title of an act of parliament has referred to ‘allotments’. Be assured, allotments are not a quaintly British eccentricity. Take the road south from Calais and you’ll find a huge allotment area to the side of the main road.

Locally, the main allotment provider is Aston Clinton Parish Council, not surprisingly because they have the land to allocate. Buckland Parish Council used to have a single plot just off Tring Hill. And there are a few allotments owned by the Turpin charity off London Road, near Putnams Drive. The law provides that local residents may require a parish council to provide allotment space – “A local council must formally consider any written request by six or more electors...” and in such an event, parish councils may have to commercially rent

land to offer as allotments but they may charge accordingly – £50 to £60 per annum would not be unusual in such a case. However, where allotments are provided and there is an excess of demand over supply, a waiting list regime is in order.

Within Aston Clinton park, there are now 45 allotment plots of 15m by 5m for which a charge of £11 is levied per annum. Currently, there are seven plots unallocated so why not apply for one today from the clerk to the parish council? The allotment area has recently been fenced in with ‘animal-proof’ fencing and there is a huge water tank which is regularly filled through the summer months that avoids you having to take water down there in your car. A new shed is also planned for use by allotment holders. You may take your car inside the allotment fence and right up to your plot.

More pub quiz questions for you – There is a National Allotment Society and we have just missed the National Allotments Week which this year was 14th-20th August.

By the way, the answer to the original question is five!

*Geoff Plowman*



Photo: Geoff Plowman



## Aston Clinton, Buckland & Drayton Beauchamp Horticultural Society

### Summer Show 2017

This year our summer show took place at the same time as 'Astonbury'. It was our 60th Show and the second at the Café in the Park, sponsored by Nick who operates the café. We are also grateful for the support we get from the parish council, particularly with parking for competitors.

Once again the show was a success, especially when measured by the increased footfall of people and families looking at the exhibits.



Photo: Richard Needham

A spectacular dahlia bloom

This year we were joined by members of the Mid-Herts Dahlia Group. The dahlia exhibits were housed in a separate marquee which helped make it a stunning display despite the stiff wind blowing across the park trying to blow the marquee over. The displays of vegetables, flowers, cookery and handicrafts were all of a good standard.

Congratulations to Geoff Nash, who won four cups and a shield for his exceptional vegetable entries together with the prestigious Banksian medal. Andrew Barrow and JW Harding shared the trophy for most points in the flower section. Gill Cox and Frances Farley shared the Greenway shield for the most points

in floral art. Rebecca Potton won the cup for most points in the domestic classes, with Hilary Weston close on her heels. In the children's classes the four entrants Freya Potton, William Mitchell, Lizzie Pearson and Ben Potton all worked extremely hard and all won cups. Mel Price won the best exhibit in the handicraft section and Chris Ronson received the Rolfe cup for the best allotment in the park.

Not many children entered but they did enter every class within their section. Their entries were of such a high standard they are to be congratulated for such a tremendous achievement. We hope that the many families that walked around the show will be encouraged to help their children enter next year's show.

What would we do without the volunteer stewards and willing helpers who spend hours helping to set up and then dismantle everything at the end of the afternoon? We cannot name them all here but I would like to mention Dick Bignell who, by now, must be one of our longest-serving members, and is always there to set up and again to dismantle. Dick grew up in Aston Clinton. Our grateful thanks to everyone who helped make it a successful show.

Despite our success over the past 60 years, without the support we receive, the Horticultural Society in our villages could collapse tomorrow just like many of the surrounding societies such as Tring, Weston Turville and Wendover. As the Kitchener poster says: "Your Society needs you!" The increase in housing in the area gives the Society opportunities to expand, perhaps not in the traditional vegetable classes but in the arts as well. Why not come and join us? We are a friendly group that usually meets on the second Wednesday of the month in the Anthony Hall.

### Harvest in the garden

There is one thing about gardening and that is that no two years are the same. This year some

*Continued opposite*

**Horticultural Society, *cont.***

members have experienced blight on their tomatoes rather than their potatoes. I know someone whose shallots were wiped out and, due to the cold dry weather earlier in the growing season, hardly managed a potato to show. However there have been some good crops. Many are saying how good the runner beans are and mine are virtually stringless.

Top fruit such as apples and plums have cropped well but so too have my pears and apricots, and also figs. The downside is that most of the fruit is on the small side. Earlier in the year I had a good crop of cherries and my sweet peas have been outstanding. We might not have very big gardens these days but it is surprising what can be grown with today's miniature varieties.

*Ralph Weston*

Green-fingered Ralph Weston selling home-grown produce, jams and juices to eager customers at the Society's summer show in Aston Clinton Park on Saturday 19th August.



Photo: Richard Needham

## FILM TRIVA QUIZ!

at the Anthony Hall on 18 November 2017  
at 7 for 7.30 pm

Admission £12 to include a hot supper (bring your own drink)

Tickets from Pat Rozental 01296 630124

All proceeds to St Michael & All Angels Church, Aston Clinton

## Green Park: the economics of beauty

**G**REEN PARK is a very beautiful area of private wooded parkland, adjacent to our extensive public park and recreation ground. It is what is left of the grounds of the Rothschild mansion, now demolished. The site is owned by Bucks CC and, until recent years, had been used as an outdoor youth training centre, operated by the county council. Recently it has been leased to the Adventure Learning Foundation (ALF), a charity providing paid-for residential and day courses and other services to encourage personal development through adventurous experiences. Green Park is open to the public by booking an experience. They also welcome anyone who merely wants to wander around the grounds. Because many of their service users are children, they ask visitors to first report their arrival to Reception. Currently, they operate a 'no dogs' policy which may change once dog bins are installed.

It was with some shock that we learnt in August that Bucks CC have announced that,

The outstanding natural beauty of the Green Park wooded landscape

contrary to our emerging Neighbourhood Plan, they had plans to develop part of Green Park for residential housing. The county council say that this is in order to fulfil government requirements for yet more housing in North Bucks where land is relatively more available. Although present indications are that these proposals are for the medium-to-long term, what is seen as the prospective loss of one of our most beautiful stretches of managed countryside within walking distance of the heart of the village has provoked fury among those who believe that Aston Clinton is losing its charm as a rural country village in an enviable setting.

Sentiment apart, reality has to be faced. Its use as a youth training centre over the years had never been self-sustaining. The ALF charity (the present lessee) has done a marvellous job with limited resources in improving the facilities offered.

Because it does not own the land, the charity cannot provide security to potential sources of finance and must rely entirely on income generated from services and corporate loans and grants. ALF's primary funding source is an unsecured interest-free £250,000 working capital loan by BCC, originally repayable over the duration of their initial 25-year lease. The first tranche was due to be repaid in 2020.

According to their annual trustees' report and accounts, the charity has incurred a





further additional loan obligation to Bucks CC to be repaid by October 2018. The charity has little chance of repayment without re-financing its working capital fund.

ALF's latest published trustees' report reveals that the charity had planned this year to re-negotiate their lease to provide for a term of 99 years. It appears that this has now been agreed. As a financially prudent local authority, Bucks CC may well have had to balance its wish to support the ALF charity with its duty to behave with financial responsibility during stringent times. It is probable that the county's plan to develop part of Green Park is to be seen in the context of making possible an extension to ALF's lease of Green Park.

We are living through tumultuous times in which we are having to accept unwelcome

change unless we can suggest credible ways of keeping the status quo. Although not freely accessible to the general public, Green Park is a valuable public asset which has to earn its keep in this era of austerity. Aston Clinton already has a wonderful public park, enjoyed by thousands. If the only way to preserve the heart of Green Park is by developing its outer fringes, then many may say: so be it.

Government, even at county level, is about choices. Bucks CC and the ALF charity may have arrived at a solution to the dilemma of how to preserve most of the finest piece of local landscape for the future. Much will depend on the sustainability of ALF itself. In that context, please read and consider Jeannette Baxter's article on page 26. Also, read Bill Chapple's statement below. *Alec Just*

## Statement from Bill Chapple OBE

**A**LL OF YOU, the residents of Aston Clinton, are fully aware how the village (like many others) has been inundated with opportunistic developers building on inappropriate sites and ruining the character of the village. I am just as angry and sad that there is very little we can do to stop them.

Hopefully, now that the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan will soon be out on deposit, the flow of applications will be stemmed, especially now that we have over the minimum of five years' housing stock.

The County has been told by central government that there will be around 45,000 houses across the County allocated between 2013 and 2033, more than half being in Aylesbury Vale.

Obviously there has been a search for suitable sites, and we as the County Council have asked our consultants to help identify those sites on land the County owns. But that doesn't mean that every site identified will be built on.

That is why housing was mentioned in the

County's letter to Aston Clinton parish council. However, I can advise you that the County has no intention to cover Green Park with housing estates, indeed as the cabinet member for planning and environment I want the County to consider making it a Country Park. We know that RAF Halton is closing in 2022 and we have Wendover Woods so near to both. Now that Aylesbury has been designated a Garden Town, both BCC and AVDC will be looking at various sites to green up the area.

These are early days and early thoughts but we *can* say that Green Park will remain an important green asset for the benefit of Buckinghamshire residents and I'm happy to play my part in trying to make Green Park more available to all.

***Councillor Bill Chapple, OBE***

Local County Councillor for the  
Aston Clinton and Bierton Division  
Cabinet Member for Planning  
and Environment, BCC

## Parish Council news

AT THE TIME of writing, summer is ending and we are looking back on some successful (and free!) events in Aston Clinton Park, as well as general busyness and fun. 'Play Around the Parishes' at the start of the holidays was well attended as always, with extra parking having to be hastily arranged down in the meadow for approx. 100 extra visitors. Later in August, there was a free craft event in the Churchill Hall for younger children, run by the Aston Clinton Childminders which provided another day of things to do in the holidays.

Then of course there was the big one...

**'Astonbury-A Village Festival'** took place on Saturday 19th August and we can say with some satisfaction, that it was an enormous success. The Council's original idea was to bring together all members of the community, young and old, with lots of different things to do, culminating in a concert in the evening. The day started blustery with gazebos flying away but

the Colts, pre-school and sweet stalls, as well as the Café were soon attracting plenty of visitors. Play activities from 'Learn and Master' were very popular with small (and some larger!) people in zorb balls rolling around the Park.

As the afternoon wore on, the sun came out and a party atmosphere in the meadow area started to ensue, as the first of the 'amateur' bands began to play. It became apparent that Aston Clinton was in for a musical treat.

The two 'amateur' bands from Piper's Corner School: Harmonix and XXVI were utterly professional and entertaining, and paved the way for what was to follow. After some engaging displays from Tairyoku Shotokan Karate Club and the Yangsheng School of Tai Chi, the atmosphere became electric as the evening bands took the stage.

By now, the meadow had an estimated 600 in the audience with Dayla's bar, the Oak's hog

*Continued opposite*



Photos: Anlia Horwood-Jenkins and Elaine Nicholls

# Royal British Legion: Aston Clinton branch

OUR BRANCH has organised another visit to the Battle of Britain Memorial service at Westminster Abbey. We are also sending two members, including our banner bearer to Belgium to join in the 'Great Pilgrimage 90'. This will take place in August 2018. Attendees will take part in a full two-day programme of visits to battlefield memorial sites, trenches and cemeteries, as well as the parade on 8th August to the Menin Gate.

Each branch will bring with them a wreath containing a Remembrance message, ideally written by their community e.g. the children of a local school. These will be collected as the parade marches to the Menin Gate, and subsequently built into a display within the Commonwealth War Graves Commission grounds that surround the memorial, for later viewing by the general public. We are looking

for donations from the general public and businesses in and around Aston Clinton to help send our two delegates. If you would like to support us please contact Ralph Weston at [muchpottering@btinternet.com](mailto:muchpottering@btinternet.com) or alternatively, contact Lynn Lawson, at [LLawson@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:LLawson@britishlegion.org.uk)

This is the time of year for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Emma Bone will be organising helpers and collectors. We hope that you will support us again and raise even more money than last year. There will be a short service and wreath laying at our war memorial on **Sunday 12th November** followed by a march to St Michael's Church for the full service of remembrance. Lots of people came last year and we hope to see you all again this year.

*Ralph Weston*

## Parish Council news, *continued*

roast and the burger van doing a roaring trade. Dealey Plaza and Callow Saints kicked things off, ramping up the energy levels in the crowd, but things really took off when Thrifty Malone from Gibraltar, with local lad Alan Jenkins, took the stage with their Irish inspired brand of popular tunes.

After that we rocked out with Bad Penny and then danced the night away to ska and reggae greats from Skamungas. During Skamungas set, I looked around to see toddlers on their dads' shoulders and some 'senior' friends all dancing away, as were all ages in-between. This was what we wanted. In these controversial times for the village, we wanted to bring

people together and remind us what lifts our spirits as a community. In addition, our charity partner Relay for Life (Kirby's Herd) managed to raise over £750! We can't wait for next year!

*Gill Merry CiLCA* Parish Clerk

## Dates for your Diary:

**Remembrance Sunday** – Aston Clinton War Memorial – Sunday 12th November (main road closed from approx. 10:45 to 11:15)

**Santa's Float** – Sunday 17th December, 2:30 onwards

**Parish Council Meetings** – every month, first Wednesday in the month at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

**Please mention Village Life when responding to advertisers.**



## Aston Clinton's bride in the bath

**I**N LATE 1914, Britain was absorbed by the Great War which had been going on across the Channel since August and, despite the hope it would all be over by Christmas, the signs were that the two sides were digging in and it could be a longer conflict than had been expected. However, life at home went on.

As well as news from the front, there was another article in the News of the World just before Christmas that year that interested fruit grower Charles Burnham of Yew Trees, Brook Street, Aston Clinton. The Burnhams were a prominent Baptist family in the village and in the 1911 census there were 34 Burnhams listed in Aston Clinton. There are three men of that name on the village war memorial, probably nephews of Charles.

What caught the attention of Charles Burnham was a story about the tragic death of Margaret Lofty who had drowned in her bath less than 24 hours after her wedding. There were several similarities to the death of Burn-



George Joseph Smith

ham's own daughter, Alice, a year before and so he contacted the police. The article was also seen by the Crossley family of Blackpool who ran the guest house where Alice had died and, independently, the Crossleys also contacted the police. And so started the hunt for one of the most notorious serial killers of the 20th century, George Joseph Smith.

Smith was a petty criminal and conman, born in East London in 1872. Working under his guidance, his first wife had stolen from her employers and was sent to prison when caught. On her release she informed on him and in 1901 he was given a two-year sentence, during

which time his wife emigrated to Canada. Despite already having a wife, he was to marry a further seven times, all bigamously, between 1908 and 1914. Three of these wives were murdered in their baths so he could access their money and insurance pay-outs.

In those days record keeping was not as sophisticated as today and it was relatively easy for Smith to move around the country, using different names and tricking women into marriage. He would then take their savings and disappear to another town and another alias. However, he found a more profitable system was to kill the woman, having first insured her and then got her to name him as beneficiary in her will.



Alice Burnham

The first to die like this was Bessie Mundy who had been killed in Herne Bay in July 1912. Next on Smith's agenda was Alice Burnham.

Alice had been born to Charles and Elizabeth Burnham in 1888. Alice had an

older brother and sister and a younger sister. Each member of the family had been born in Aston Clinton. At the time of the 1891 census Charles was listed as a coal merchant. (In 1911 he was shown as a fruit grower). Alice qualified as a nurse and by 1913, now aged 25, she was working in Southsea, near Portsmouth. It was here she met Smith in September that year and they were to marry in Portsmouth on 4th November. Right from the start he put her under pressure to get £100 from her family, which they were keeping for her. Understandably, they were very uneasy about the relationship. We cannot know Alice's thoughts at the

time but this was an era when women were worried about being left on the shelf and Smith was evidently very plausible, so perhaps it is not entirely surprising that she went along with his plans.

A month after they married, Smith suggested a honeymoon in Blackpool, but before they went he asked her to make out a will in his favour. He also insured her life for £500. Once in Blackpool, they found a room in Mrs Crossley's house at 16 Regent Road. Smith insisted that a bath was available – not something particularly common at the time. Indeed, he had previously turned down a room in another house as there was no bath.

Significantly, Smith took Alice to see a doctor because, he said, she was suffering from headaches. This was the same as he did with his other victims. Later that day, 12th December 1913, Alice asked if she could use the bath. Around 8pm, the Crossleys noticed a large damp patch on the ceiling downstairs but before they could do anything about it, Smith came in looking “breathless and rumpled” saying that he had just been out to buy some eggs for Mrs Smith's breakfast. He then went upstairs.

Almost immediately he called down to Mrs Crossley to fetch a doctor. When he arrived, the doctor found Smith holding Alice's body and declared her dead. The body was taken to the sitting room and it was noted that although she was wearing no rings Smith took three or four rings from his pocket.

An inquest was held the very next day and the finding was “death from a fit in the bath”. This fitted in nicely with Smith's previous comment to the doctor about Alice's “headaches”. Smith arranged the cheapest funeral available and she was buried in a pauper's grave. He also wrote to her family to say she was very ill but when they arrived they found she was already dead.

Despite the tragic circumstances, the death was accepted as an accident and on 20th

December the Burnham family placed an advert in the Bucks Herald thanking friends for their sympathy in their bereavement. That was how it stayed until the News of the World article a year later.

The police then started to investigate and found out the details of Smith's marriages in various names and various towns. Thanks to the lead from Mr Burnham they were waiting for Smith on 1st February 1915 when he arrived at the solicitor's office to collect his inheritance from the death of Margaret Lofty. Originally he was charged with bigamy but then the whole story unravelled.

... Smith came in looking “breathless and rumpled” saying he'd just been out to buy some eggs for Mrs Smith's breakfast.

The three bodies were exhumed and the most puzzling aspect was that there were no signs of struggle or injury. This seemed to back Smith's theory that each wife had had a fit in the bath and drowned. The murder trial started on 21st June and lasted eight days. Pathologist Bernard Spilsbury was to discover however that if you grab the legs of someone in a bath and pull them towards you the victim has a rush of water up their nose which renders them unconscious immediately. All you then have to do is wait for the drowning to take its course. (As they say on all the best TV programmes, please don't try this at home.) Using the actual bath, which had been brought from Blackpool, and an experienced female swimmer, Spilsbury tried the technique in a side room at the court and it was so successful that it took half an hour to revive the volunteer swimmer.

Smith protested that it was coincidence that all his wives had died in exactly the same circumstances and that each time he had been out buying food for breakfast only to come home

*Continued overleaf*



BUCKS DISTRICT ASSOCIATION  
of the  
**NATIONAL VEGETABLE SOCIETY**



## Autumn Talks

at the Holiday Inn Aylesbury HP22 5QT

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

**Wed 18 Oct at 7.30pm**

'For serious vegetable growers...'  
with John Branham and Jim Thompson

**Wed 22 Nov at 7.30pm**

'Growing vegetables in a confined space'  
with Graham Wagstaff

## Surgery news

HAPPY AUTUMN to all our patients!  
We hope you all had an enjoyable summer.

The annual 'flu prevention vaccination programme has already begun. Our 'flu clinics have two dates in October. If you have not yet had your 'flu injection please don't worry, you can check the Saturday morning dates or call the surgery and get advice on how to receive it. There are posters in the surgery, local pharmacy and in the post office with the dates of Saturday morning sessions and reminding people of eligibility. If you need to confirm your own eligibility, please check the posters or call the surgery. The posters will also be on display in Weston Turville and Tring.

Information will also be on prescriptions, on [www.westongrove.com](http://www.westongrove.com) and on Facebook. If we have your mobile number, you will be messaged.

**Bride in the bath**, *contd from page 19*  
to find his wife dead. The jury was not convinced and took just 22 minutes to find him guilty.

Smith was sentenced to death and was hanged at Maidstone jail that August. It was Friday the 13th.

*Richard Vincent*

Please make sure that your contact details are correct and apply for our text messaging facility if you don't already have it. Text messaging is very helpful if you like to book appointments across the patch as it will also remind you which site to attend.

We have a new look to our website with the introduction of a new route through different areas to access information, forms, communication, appointments and prescriptions. We hope you will find it easier to use. Please remember that you can update contact information on our website. You can also access more of your own information, complete forms online and get medical advice through easy links to other NHS sites. Please ask at the surgery for information on Patient Access so that we can give you secure access to any new services you would like.

We will sadly be saying goodbye to one of our GP partners. Dr Gwen Williams will be retiring at the end of the year and will be much missed by us all. We wish her a very happy retirement.

Best wishes to all our patients ...

*From all at Aston Clinton Surgery*

**Please mention Village Life when responding to our advertisers**

# Aston Clinton U3A news

OUR monthly general meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the Anthony Hall, starting at 2.30 pm until 4.30pm. At the meeting on 17th October there will be a talk on Great Ormond Street Hospital and on 21st November the talk will be about Medical Dogs.

In October, 50 of our members will be visiting Beamish Museum on a four-day trip. Beamish is a world-famous open air museum, telling the story of life in NE England during the late 19th and early 20th centuries up to around 1950. During the trip we will also be visiting Alnwick castle and gardens, Denby Pottery in Derbyshire, and the Leeds Royal Armouries.

There are three events in November starting with a group meal at the Mela restaurant where we will be entertained by a Dolly Parton tribute act. Later in the month we are holding an afternoon social event at the Anthony Hall; tea and cakes will be served and there will be live music, provided by one of our members, including a selection of 'Screen Themes'. Finally there will be a coach trip to the London museums at the end of the month.

Forthcoming interest group activities include a History Group talk on heraldry in October when it is hoped some light will be shed on the very fine hatchments in St Michael's Church. This will be followed in November by a talk about the dukes of Buckingham. The Wildlife Group will be visiting Ashridge looking at deer and fungi. The Science and Technology Group have talks arranged entitled 'The Land Speed Record' and 'The Planes Above Us' – about the air traffic control round Luton Airport and the work of the Luton Air Traffic Consultative Committee.

The Film Group will be watching 'Schindler's List' and 'The Philadelphia Story'. The Music

Group's October Meeting has been cancelled, as many members will be away on the Beamish trip, but in November the programme will be 'Capriccio and Variations'.

You may remember that in the spring the newly formed Knit & Natter group took on a charity project. This involved knitting 'chicks', to fit over a crème egg, for the Francis House Easter Chick Appeal. The good news is that nationally the appeal produced some 40,000 chicks, which in turn raised over £50,000. Well done everyone for supporting this very worthy cause.



A little egret, seen at Wilstone reservoir during a field trip by the U3A Bird Watching Group. Photo: Mick Stallwood

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 and probably 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](http://www.acu3a.weebly.com)

*Jeff Meek*



## Bob Laker's story

*Bob Laker, born in Aston Clinton in 1926, celebrated his 91st birthday this year. He emigrated with his family to Australia in 1960. His niece, Sue Flavin, daughter of Bill's older brother Tom tells his story here in the hope that anyone who remembers him or the Laker family will contact her at [susan.flavin@btinternet.com](mailto:susan.flavin@btinternet.com)*

**B**OB (Robert) was born in Aston Clinton where he lived with his parents, Charles and Annie Laker (née Hawkins) and his three brothers Cyril, Thomas and Edward.

Bob has said, looking back, that he enjoyed his childhood. He remembers fondly the Apprentice School at RAF Halton and the canal that ran alongside being part of his playground. As a young schoolboy he and his friends never had any money in their pockets



Bob and Betty on their wedding day

but they were happy making their own fun, occasionally getting into trouble for taking a few apples from the farmer's orchard.

When war was declared in 1939 it affected everyone. His brothers, Cyril and Tom enlisted first, and having a trade behind them they were not sent to the front line; instead they worked

for their army regiments doing essential mechanical and electrical jobs. Edward, the third brother, enlisted when he was 18 years old and having no trade experience behind him was sent into the infantry; Edward was sadly killed on the 8 July 1944 in Normandy, France (his name is on the war memorial in the village). When it was Bob's turn to sign up, around late 1943, he went along for his medical and was then given his National Service number; he had no trade so he felt he was destined to follow Edward into the infantry.

At this particular time in the UK, over 36,000 miners had left the coal industry to join the armed services since the onset of war and the British Government decided it needed around 40,000 men to take their place. In December 1943, Ernest Bevin, the Minister of Labour and National Service, devised a scheme whereby a ballot took place to put a proportion of conscripted men into the collieries rather than the armed services. Regular ballots were held when the numbers 0 to 9 were put into a hat and 2 numbers were drawn out; if your number ended with either of these numbers you were directed to the mining industry. These 'ballotees' became known as the 'Bevin Boys', and that is how Bob ended up going down the mines and not to the front line.

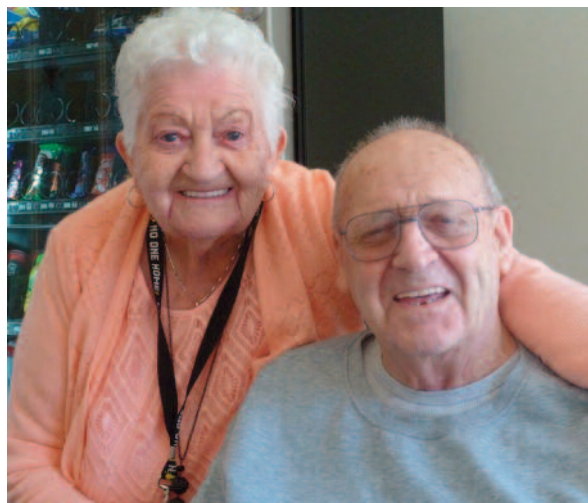
Bob's number (2) was drawn at Christmas 1943 and shortly afterwards he was directed to go to an address in Sheffield where there was an old, unused mine, and it was here that he was trained in the methods of coal transport from the coal face to the pit shaft and then to the surface. He and the other young conscripts spent six weeks there training and then they were directed to various mines around the north of England. Bob was sent to a coal mine just north of Nottingham and this is where he spent the next four years. Looking back he feels he was one of the lucky ones – he always had food to eat and a bed to sleep in at night.

Bob also thinks that he has mining to thank for meeting his wife, Betty. If he had been sent into the infantry they may never have met.

Betty, whose home was in Harrow, Middlesex, had joined the Land Army for women and was originally billeted at the old vicarage in Drayton Beauchamp, which had been requisitioned for the Land Army in the war. When it was closed down she then went, along with a number of other Land Army girls, to an unused shop in Kingsbury Square, Aylesbury. She worked at

One of Betty's Land Army friends emigrated with her husband to Australia shortly after the end of the Second World War and the pair had kept in regular contact by letter. With the help of their friends sponsoring them, Bob and Betty made the big decision to move to Australia. They felt it was just the place for them to bring up their young family and arrived on the 25th June 1960 and settled in Melbourne.

Their friends had also helped in getting Bob a job at Fords, which he started within days of



Betty and Bob at home in Australia in March 2016

the time at Halton Camp in the vegetable gardens, which were there to serve the camp.

Bob was demobbed in 1947; the ballots had been suspended in May 1945 with the last Bevin Boys being demobbed in 1948. Unlike other conscripts they had no right to go back to their previous employment, did not receive a service medal, 'demob suit' or even a letter of thanks!

Bob and Betty married soon after; they eventually lived in Hemel Hempstead with their two young daughters, Janice and Karen.

arriving in the country. A few years later they moved to Frankston, south of Melbourne. By this time they also had another daughter, Stephanie, a real 'Aussie'. A change of jobs also came for Bob, ending with a company that made lifts and escalators, and this is where he remained until his retirement in 1991.

Bob also joined the Lions International Men's Club, belonging to it for 23 years and both he and Betty had some very good times with them. They both went to all the conventions and belonged to the social club, one of the conven-

tions was held in Darwin which involved travelling a 10,000 mile round trip, passing through Alice Springs and Ayres Rock (which they climbed).

Bob celebrated his 91st birthday in March, he can't get around as he used to but still does remarkably well, as does Betty. Bob often thinks about Aston Clinton and has fond memories of the village and growing up here. He wishes to be remembered to anyone who knows or remembers him.

*Sue Flavin*

**In the directory on p.34, you'll find a wide range of local services.  
Please mention Village Life when responding to advertisers.**

## Get back to Netball!

**Hundreds** of women from all over the country are getting 'Back to Netball' each week. Come along and give it a try in Aston Clinton!

Local session details are as follows:

**Venue:** Aston Clinton Park, London Road

**Day:** Mondays

**Time:** 6pm - 7pm

**Session cost:** £5 per session

**Coach name:** Molly Wilkinson

**Contact mobile no:** 07545 033986

**Contact email:** weststandmolly@aol.com

You don't need any special kit, just clothes that you feel comfortable exercising in and trainers. Make sure you bring some water and that you've had a snack a couple of hours beforehand so that you've got plenty of energy. See you on the court!

To find out about other sessions in Bucks (including Walking Netball) visit the session finder on the England Netball website:

[www.EnglandNetball.co.uk/my-game/back-to-netball](http://www.EnglandNetball.co.uk/my-game/back-to-netball)



*Joanne Odro*

## Can you help our local Marie Curie fundraising group?



Residents of Aylesbury Vale are invited to join the Aylesbury Marie Curie Fundraising Group to help raise vital funds for their at-home nursing service for people with a terminal illness.

The Aylesbury Fundraising Group run events through the year, and are looking for a chairperson and secretary to help lead the group meetings and deal with any admin and correspondence, as well as other members to help support with events and collections.

All money raised by the Aylesbury Fundraising Group will help Marie Curie provide expert care, guidance and support to help people with a terminal illness, and their families, get the most from the time they have left.

Fundraising groups are a great chance to make a difference while having fun—our volunteers are involved in a range of events, from tea parties to fashion shows!

To get involved, you can contact Hazel Bendon, Bucks Community Fundraiser, on **01604 258758**, or you can email me at [emailhazel.bendon@mariecurie.org.uk](mailto:emailhazel.bendon@mariecurie.org.uk)

*Hazel Bendon*

## 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:

**October** 'Call of the Wild' – Professor Bearder, wildlife photographer, tells us about the different sounds made by wild animals. We will also be making a visit to Aylesbury Museum to see an exhibition; and having our last walk of the year around Wigginton in October.

**November** Our Annual Meeting when we elect our president and reflect on the year's activities. We will also be attending one of the Royal Albert Hall's Christmas concerts this month.

**December** This month we celebrate our WI birthday. We will be 87 years young, and our lunch group will be celebrating Christmas at a local inn.

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

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

*Claire Castle*

# Aston Clinton Scout Group news

AFTER a summer of our own adventures, from riding roller coasters in America to camping out in all weathers across the UK, we as leaders turn our minds to planning an exciting term for our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Explorers have the pleasure of choosing and planning their own programme.

We are always keen to involve the local community in our meetings, so we would love to hear from you, if you have an awesome collection that would inspire a Beaver, Cub or Scout to start their own collection and work towards their Collectors/Hobby Badge. If you have a fantastic or unusual skill you would like to share with our young people, please let us know and we would love to invite you to one of our meetings. Village Life Editor Alec Just braved a Cubs' meeting last February and lived to tell the tale!

As a group we continue to fundraise for local causes. Last year we turned our attention to 'unwanted' Christmas trees! With our 'Collect and Recycle' project with Greg O'Callaghan Tree Services and Aston Clinton School, we recycled 200 Christmas trees and raised £1,554 that was shared equally between the Church Roof

Fund and Ollie's Fund.

We will be running this project again, so please look out for a leaflet through your door in December. We will look forward to recycling your Christmas tree for a minimum donation of £5.

If you are a local charitable organisation and would like to put your group forward as a fundraising cause, please get in touch.

If you would like to know more about our meetings or the Christmas tree recycling please email: [ac.cubs@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ac.cubs@yahoo.co.uk) or, alternatively, [ac.beavers@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ac.beavers@yahoo.co.uk)

*Clare Simmonds & Rob Kenney*



## Lunch and a chat

**at the Churchill Hall Lunch Club, Aston Clinton Park** (over 18s only)

Looking for an inexpensive lunch and some pleasant company?  
Freda and Tony Hare invite you to visit the Lunch Club at the Churchill Hall  
in Aston Clinton Park

**12 noon - 3pm every Tuesday**

**For more information, or if you need a lift, phone 01296 631 384**



## Green Park update

BY NOW you will have seen and heard, and hopefully completed, the survey conducted by Aston Clinton Parish Council as part of their consultation on the proposed designation of Green Park as a local green space. An ePetition was also put forward to Bucks County Council asking them to re-consider their opposition to this.

However, there is also another way to keep Green Park available for all to use and that is by giving your continued support to the charity that currently leases the land from Bucks County Council. Adventure Learning Foundation has occupied all 80 acres of Green Park for the past three years and intends to remain there for a very long time.

Their CEO, Amanda Foister, OBE has said:

“as long as we can keep the charity going we will ensure Green Park is just that – a park. So the very, very best way to protect the Park is to support the charity by using the centre – we are open to all ages and all abilities. Our website [www.alfvillages.org.uk](http://www.alfvillages.org.uk) gives details on how.”

The swimming pool is currently not open to the public because they need to always have a lifeguard present. However, if a number of volunteers could be found, who would be prepared to undergo a training course if they are not already qualified, then the pool could be open to the public at those times when a lifeguard is present. If you are interested in volunteering please contact: Amanda on **020 3356 7133** or email: [amanda.foister@alfcharity.org](mailto:amanda.foister@alfcharity.org)

*Jeannette Baxter*

Please mention  
Village Life when  
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advertisers.

Their support makes  
your magazine possible.

## Events at the County Museum

THIS autumn, Bucks County Museum at Church Street in Aylesbury is holding events not to be missed. They include:

*Until 21 October:*

**James Fox: textile artist**

Muir Trust Artist in Residence

*Until 28 October:*

**The Beautiful Stitch** – textile treasures from the Embroiderers' Guild collection

*11 November – 9 December:*

**Off the Wall Art Fair** – popular selling show of original and affordable art to buy and take away in time for Christmas.

More info at [www.buckscountymuseum.org](http://www.buckscountymuseum.org)

### Solution to Crossword No.23

**Across** 1. Barn 8. Ear-marking 9. Flanders 10. Name 12. Bazaar 14. Fields 15. Barrel 17. Insect 18. Seed 19. Adequate 21. Unrevealed 22. Oink  
**Down** 2. Amalgamate 3. Neon 4. Arrear 5. Massif 6. Skinless 7. Ogre 11. Medication 13. Abridged 16. Leader 17. Ideals 18. Slug 20. Undo

# Whitechapel Mission and Harvest Festival

HARVEST FESTIVAL this year has been delayed until October due to the retirement of our Rector. During Harvest Festival, we say thank you by supporting the work of the Whitechapel Mission in London. The Mission provides over 300 breakfasts every day of the year including Christmas Day. These breakfasts are prepared, cooked and served by volunteer groups and we have sent teams from Aston Clinton on two occasions. Sadly, there were no volunteer groups offering to do this on August Bank Holiday Monday this year.

The Whitechapel Mission has been serving the homeless and marginalised for 140 years. The daily breakfasts are not the only service they provide; another is supplying clothing to their clients who come off the streets. They are offered showers, toothbrushes and toothpaste as well.

Over the past years our three churches have collected food, clothing and toiletries etc. The Whitechapel Mission then sends a trailer that's nigh on well filled. I already have some black

bin bags full of clothing and am looking for more. If you have good clean clothing you do not need any longer please bring them to St Michael's and leave them in the church. A list of essential needs is posted on the church noticeboard. Breakfast foods such as cereals, baked beans, tinned tomatoes and tomato sauces are also wanted. If you prefer, you can donate money through me, Ralph Weston, Sally Bottomer or Alison Roberts and we will go to a cash-and-carry wholesaler to purchase suitable foodstuffs.

Thank you if you have helped us in previous years but please help us now. If you want to know more of the work of the Mission, they have an extensive website. You can phone me on **01296 630456** or, alternatively, you can email me at [muchpottering@btinternet.com](mailto:muchpottering@btinternet.com)

*Ralph Weston*

**Please mention Village Life when responding to our advertisers**

*St Michael and All Angels*

## CHRISTMAS FAIR

at the ANTHONY HALL

**Saturday 2nd December 11am–3pm**

*As always, we will have stalls that include delicious home-made cakes and preserves, and flowering plants. The gift stall itself has a tremendous array of fairly-priced quality goods and there is a fine selection of vintage jewellery and accessories whilst old favourites such as pre-loved books and children's toys jostle for space with hand-knitted scarves and hats.*

*Come and meet Father Christmas. Have a go on the tombola and take a chance at winning one of the excellent raffle prizes.*

*It's free to come in, so why not drop by and grab a coffee or stop for a delicious lunch. You won't be disappointed.*

*For more details please call Marion Richards on 01296 630577*



## 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 7 Oct	10am	Produce Stall	All Saints' Church
Sun 15 Oct	11am	Harvest Family Service	All Saints' Church
Sun 15 Oct	6pm	Choral Evensong for Harvest	All Saints' Church
Fri 27 Oct	7.30pm	Film Night	All Saints' Church
Sun 29 Oct	9.15am	Benefice Service	St Michael's Church
Sun 5 Nov	11am	Benefice Service	All Saints' Church
Sun 12 Nov	12.30pm	Act of Remembrance	All Saints' Church

More details about these events on the church website: [www.allsaintsbuckland.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsbuckland.org.uk)

## An alert from Frances

### Hello Friends

Later than usual but it's that time again—to adorn All Saints ready to celebrate Harvest Festival.



We will be decorating on **Saturday 14th October** from 10am. Foliage, brightly coloured flowers, berries, fruit, veg and **you**.

All are welcome!

On **Sunday 15th** there will be Choral Evensong at 6pm followed by a Plate-and-Share supper.

If you want to know more, please contact me on **01296 630072** or you can always email me at [francesmfarley25@gmail.com](mailto:francesmfarley25@gmail.com)

*Frances Farley*

St Mary's Church, Drayton Beauchamp

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Tickets £10 to include mulled wine and mince pies following the concert

**Wednesday 6 December  
at 8pm**

**The  
Ridgeway Chorale**

Tickets and programme details from  
Elizabeth Moores 01442 826241

# St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp

Regular Services:  
10.45am each Sunday



## Forthcoming events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun 8 Oct	4pm	Evensong for Harvest	St Mary's Church
Sun 29 Oct	9.15am	Benefice Service	St Michael's Church
Sun 5 Nov	11am	Benefice Service	All Saints' Church
Sun 12 Nov	4pm	Evensong for Harvest	St Mary's Church

More details about the church on the church website: [www.s-marys.org.uk](http://www.s-marys.org.uk)



Photo: Alec Just

**IT IS AS WELL** that the magnificent marble monument to the 2nd Viscount Newhaven in St Mary's Church was installed well after the time of Queen Elizabeth I.

According to the records of the Bucks Archaeological Society published in 1870, she was renowned for helping herself not only to the manors and estates of the dioceses of England and cathedrals of her time, but also the silver plate and valuables they contained.

She had signified to Cox, Bishop of Ely, her

pleasure that he should give up to her one of the manors under his jurisdiction. The Bishop hesitated to comply with her requirement.

Thereupon, Elizabeth wrote to him the following characteristic epistle:

*"PROUD PRELATE, - Remember what you were before I made you what you are. Give up the manor, or by God I will unfrock you"*

*"Yours, as you shall behave yourself,*

ELIZABETH

*Alec Just*



# Celebrating our foster carers

**T**HE HARD WORK, commitment and dedication of Buckinghamshire County Council's foster carers was celebrated at a special awards ceremony and dinner on Friday 8th September.

Organised by the Council's Fostering Team, the awards, attended by over 100 guests, recognised long service and training success and also offered the opportunity to give special praise to individuals and couples for a range of achievements.



The awards are now in their 11th year and give the unique opportunity for the County Council to celebrate the hard work, enthusiasm and commitment to caring for children of all its foster carers.

Six individuals and couples were nominated for the Foster Carer of the Year award with the public invited to vote online for their favourite contender. The prize went to Gemma and Adam Butler who became foster parents to their four nieces and nephews following a tragic family event.

Speaking after the event Gemma said: "We're amazed as we didn't expect to win in all honesty. We're doing it because they are family so it doesn't feel like anything special, and it's become family life now. So it's really nice to have that acknowledged as it's really hard work."

Sheila and Alastair Kay won the award for Best Newcomer to Fostering. Their first child had no verbal communication ability and significant special needs. After a year with them, he has made significant progress in his speech and Sheila and Alastair have made a huge difference to his life.

Sheila said about fostering: "It's about making a difference. You can't put a price on being part of bringing out the deeply hidden abilities of a child which changes their self-esteem and enables them to engage in a more effective way, changing the expectations of others for the better. We have also learned more about ourselves as well as how to foster children. We have a greater respect for parents, carers and those who work with children who have special needs. They are unsung heroes!"

Chris Driscoll won the award for her Outstanding Contribution to Fostering as she goes the extra mile helping to run the South Bucks support group, is a mentor to other foster carers whilst caring for young babies and toddlers alongside her own four children.

Chris said: "Being a foster carer can be challenging, emotionally and physically exhausting at times but it is so, so worth it. Seeing the progress the little one makes, seeing them begin to flourish and remembering what a privilege it is to care for them in this stepping stone of their lives is amazing. Opening our hearts and home in this way has been the best decision we've made as a family."

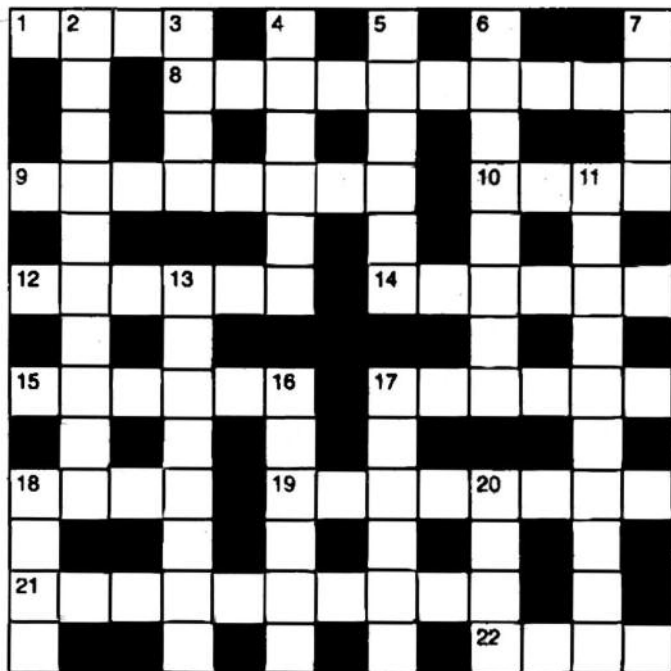
Juliet Cleverdon won the award for Service to Disabled Children for her dedication to caring for these children. Speaking after the event, she said: "It was a real surprise, I was not expecting it at all and I'm very honoured and proud. I'm very passionate about working with children with disabilities so it makes the last 30 odd years worth it. I love doing it and I'll

*Continued opposite*

# Village Life crossword no. 23

Crossword compiled by **Helen Lonsdale**

Solution to this crossword on page 26



## CLUES ACROSS

1. Farm Building (4)
8. Setting aside for a special purpose (10)
- 9 & 14. WW1 poem by John McCrae (8,6)
10. By which a person is known (4)
12. Fete, Fair or Jumble Sale (6)
14. See 9
15. Butt or Cask (6)
17. Aphid, for instance (6)
18. Kernel or Germ (4)
19. Satisfactory (8)
21. Undiscovered/concealed (10)
22. Pig noise (4)

## CLUES DOWN

2. Compound (10)
3. Bright as in light (4)
4. Overdue debt (6)
5. A complete group of connected mountains (6)
6. Without peel (8)
7. Legendary man-eating monster (4)
11. Tablets to make you well (10)
13. Shortened (8)
16. The one in front (6)
17. Standards (6)
18. Garden pest (4)
20. To open or erase (4)

## Fostering, *continued*

continue to do so with my very supportive husband."

She was nominated by a young person who said: "Juliet strives to make sure that children are getting the best out of life and are treated as equals. She fights for the rights of children that have disabilities to make sure that they receive the help they need later in life."

The evening also celebrated those for their commitment to fostering:

Ron and Kate Gutteridge received an award for 25 years of respite fostering. Kate said: "We feel it's a real privilege to foster and we gain so much more from it than we give. Giving respite to a family is such a worthwhile thing to do and can be a real life saver to some families."

Keith and Sally Howard have been fostering for an amazing 35 years. They said: "We do it because the children appreciate what we do for them. We have mainly done long-term care and we build up relationships with the children and keep in contact with most of them. One of our former foster children visits every weekend with his two children. They're our family."

Could you foster? You really can make a difference to the life of a child or young person. Bucks CC will provide you with all the training and support you need.

Anyone wishing to find out more about fostering should contact the council's fostering team on 01296 382555 or alternatively, email [fostering@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@buckscc.gov.uk)

*Bucks CC Fostering Team*

# Useful telephone numbers

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Telephone no.</b>	<b>Email address</b>
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	membership@astonparktennis.co.uk
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	Janet Cato	01296 630552	buckland.bridge@gmail.com
Buckland Village 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	
Cricket Club	Mike Parsonage	01296 631788	
Crimestoppers	–	0800 555 111	
<b>Dentists' Surgery</b>	–	<b>01296 323090</b>	
<b>Doctors' Surgery</b>	–	<b>01296 630241</b>	
Drayton B'champ Parish Meeting	Meryl Nodes	01296 630396	
<b>Electricity emergency</b>		<b>0800 7838 838</b>	
Environmental Health	Out of hours	01296 585093	
Environmental Health	Helpline	01296 585605	
Fly tipping	Hotline	0845 330 1856	
Football: Aston Clinton FC	Mark Foster	07831 765738	
Football: AC Colts	Ray Lucas	01296 630076	
<b>Gas emergency</b>		<b>0800 111 999</b>	
Green Park Life Saving Assocn	Liz Youens	01296 622895	
Guides, Brownies & Rainbows	See below*	–	
<b>High Wycombe Hospital</b>		<b>01494 526161</b>	
Highways on Call	Out of hours	01296 486630	
Horticultural Society	Maureen Ridler	01296 633376	info@astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk