



Village Life

The community magazine
for Aston Clinton, Buckland
and Drayton Beauchamp

No.50 October / November 2019

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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

Welcome to the 50th issue of your Village Life.



We started in 2011 when Alec Just developed Village Life from the old Parish Magazine. It looked at the “thriving social, cultural and economic life of our three villages”. There were 32 pages and a print run of 1,800. Today this has grown to 64 pages and 2,800 copies. In issue 16 we had our first crossword puzzle from Helen Lonsdale and by then were up to 48 pages. Another major landmark was issue 25 when we went into full colour for the first time. Our current management team came together for issue 41, although James Adam and Jean Kennedy have been involved from the very start and David Lonsdale has been managing the advertising since issue 11, as well as supplying several cover pictures. In issue 42 we launched our new website, managed for us by Mervyn Ramsay of mervynramsaydesign.co.uk

Regular features have always included local events, stories from the churches, the school, the doctors' surgery and the parish council, plus local organisations like the Horticultural Society and Royal British Legion. One of the most popular features has been stories about the history of the village and our notable residents. And this issue I am particularly pleased to see the return of one of our former contributors, Rebecca Harty. Her article is on page 6.

We never forget, though, that none of this is possible without our advertisers, so please support them whenever you can and mention where you saw their name.

Richard Vincent

Maybe

I heard it said that a Fundamentalist is someone who throws the 'maybe' out with the bathwater.

I'd like to leave the 'maybe' in my adventure of faith because discipleship involves discovery, which in turn requires a willingness to explore and be explored, in other words to allow the 'maybes' to linger.

I think Jesus likes us to have room for 'maybes...'

Turning round, Jesus saw them following and asked "What do you want?" John 1.38

Andrew and John had been disciples of John the Baptist, but now he pointed away from himself to one greater.



Tentatively they followed. Only to be confronted with a question, "What do you want?" It's a good question for any would-be disciple and worth reflecting on in depth. What is it we want from following Jesus?

Our two didn't have that luxury, "Where are you staying?" came the hasty, foot-shuffling reply yet this elicited a profound truth from Jesus, "Come, and you will see".

Would we follow Jesus? What about all our 'maybes', suffering, science, sin, salvation... "Bring them with you" says Jesus "Come as you are and you will see". That's the journey I and others are on.

Jesus knows your heart and mine and the struggles we have with the 'maybes' of this life and invites us to bring them to him, to come and see. I pray that you will take the opportunity to do so – it is a foundational, not to say fundamental, part of the Christian life.

Nick, Minister ACBC

St Michael & All Angels' summer fete 2019

A huge thank you to everyone who played their part in our summer fete this year. To all those who set up, took down, baked, washed, counted, poured and served, my personal gratitude.

To those of you who came- we hope you enjoyed the afternoon as much as we did! So many of you bringing dogs, drinking tea and tombola-ing, THANK YOU! And finally, CONGRATULATIONS to Sonia Lyon who won our Elizabeth Weston award this year for her mesmerising picture of the seals.

Over £1300 was raised for church funds, for which we are very grateful. *Louise Jones*

Charity Ceilidh

Saturday 2nd November, 7.30pm

Anthony Hall Aston Clinton

It's the Barn Rat Band playing and caller Ali Heywood. All the proceeds will go directly to the Chilterns MS Centre. *Tickets £10*

For further details and tickets please call

Nigel on **01296 631010** or via Facebook:

www.facebook.com/BarnRatBand/



St Michael and All Angels

Regular Services:

9.15am Family Eucharist each Sunday except the 4th Sunday.

6pm Evensong every Sunday.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sun 6 Oct	9.15am	Family Eucharist for Harvest	St Michael's Church
Sun 27 Oct	10.00am	BENEFICE SERVICE	All Saint's Church
Fri 1 Nov	7.30pm	Service for All Souls	St Michael's Church
Sun 10 Nov	10.50am	Act of Remembrance	War Memorial
Sun 10 Nov	11.20am	RBL Service of Remembrance	St Michael's Church
Sun 24 Nov	9.15am	BENEFICE SERVICE	St Michael's Church
Sat 7 Dec	11am-4pm	Christmas Fair	Anthony Hall

REGULAR EVENTS

Monday	2 – 4.30pm	Rhubarb Cafe (Closed on Bank Holidays)	St Michael's Church
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More details about these events on the church website www.s-michaels.org.uk

WI

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

Our speaker in October will be Kate Jones *"From Guns & Roses to Hearts & Flowers"*. Also, in October we will be enjoying a gin tasting evening at Meads Farm. Our AGM is in November when we enjoy a fish and chip supper after the business. We have now completed our walk of the Aylesbury Ring. We have walked in all weathers; we started walking in the snow and finished in hot sunshine.

We look forward to welcoming new members at any of our meetings. Come along and try us – you will be most welcome. For more information, please contact me by email b.d.ac.wi@gmail.com *Claire Castle, Secretary*

St Michael & All Angels



Christmas Fair
THE ANTHONY HALL
SATURDAY 7th DECEMBER
11am to 3pm

For further information or to give contributions to the stalls, please contact *Marion Richards* on 01296 630577.

Christmas Tree Festival
ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH
SATURDAY 14th DECEMBER
1.30 to 4.30pm

Followed by carol singing until 5.30pm
Refreshments, including mulled wine, available. Also on Sunday 15 December, from 1.30 to 4.30pm

Rebecca's Return

After the sad death of previous editor, Alec Just, we were pleased to hear from Rebecca Harty, who was one of our regular contributors. Here Rebecca brings her story up to date.

I first reached out to Alec Just in 2012 – a few short weeks after deciding that a career in journalism was my calling. I was therefore taken aback when he offered me my own column 'A Teenage Perspective' to write about a topic of my choosing, a task I found incredibly daunting. However, from the outset he was warm, funny and inquisitive about my ambitions, providing detailed feedback on each of my articles for Village Life and offering advice on how to improve and achieve my goals.

We kept in contact over the years and he always took an interest in what I was doing with my life – whether it was heading off to University or travelling around China. Alec would encourage me to continuously write about my experiences and shared his own personal stories with me. Despite my tendency to send him a rushed 500-word story at 11:59pm on deadline day, he would always include my (heavily edited) writing in the magazine and persuade me to write another.



In July I received the news that I had been accepted onto a training scheme at The Times. I was devastated not to be able to thank the person who had given me so much after hearing the news of Alec's passing the previous month.

In my memories, he was someone who took the dreams of a 16-year-old seriously and encouraged me to work to the best of my potential. I am so grateful to him for providing me with a voice in Village Life and help demonstrate my commitment to journalism which has enabled me to be in the position I am today. As his wife Jenny summed up so well:

"It was so typical of Alec to want to encourage others, and particularly young people, to work towards their goals and help them in any way he could to accomplish that aim." **Rebecca Harty**

A Visit From Alpacas



Alpacas are a rare sight in nursing homes, but here's one visiting the Leonard Pulham Nursing Home in Halton. He even looked in on residents who wanted to see one but couldn't leave their rooms.

Events like this are an everyday part of life for Liz Jones, who has just celebrated 26 years as Activities Organizer at Leonard Pulham.

Some of the activities on offer are what you might expect: quiz afternoons, whist drives, knitting circles, visits from Pets as Therapy dogs and entertainers. Perhaps more unusual are the interaction with local schools, visiting DJs, seated dancing, Tai Chi, exotic animals as well as a visit from alpacas. Liz, who lives locally, also take residents out on trips, often using the Wendover Community Car.

Aylesbury and Wendover RDA celebrates its 40th Anniversary – what do we do and where?



Aylesbury and Wendover Riding for the Disabled run several riding sessions for children aged between five and ten years. These children have various disabilities, both physical and emotional.

A typical Friday afternoon in the life of a small stable yard in a quiet area of Weston Turville starts around midday, when a couple of our volunteers arrive to groom and tack the ponies that will be used for our afternoon session. At present we have three ponies, which enables us to provide riding lessons for 12 children during the afternoon, throughout the year, during term time.

Then, at 1.30, when the rest of the volunteers have arrived, the Wendover Community minibus arrives with three children from a local special needs school. These children have emotional disorders and ADHD, but you

would never know it. There is an excited buzz around the yard whilst we get them ready, and once they have been fitted with a hat, they head off to the mounting block to get onto their pony. Off they go with a volunteer leading the pony, and two side walkers.

Half an hour later, having done a variety of activities, they return to the yard as the next group of children have already arrived with their parents or carer. Despite their more physical disabilities; cerebral palsy and autism; these children arrive with huge grins on their faces eager to get on their pony. Two more sets of children arrive during the afternoon with Rett Syndrome, Pompe Disease and various communication needs. The children really look forward to their ride each week and gain enormous pleasure and benefit from the experience of being on a horse; their confidence improves as well as their balance and muscle tone. There is often noticeable improvement in speech development, and the beaming smiles and laughter during the activity session each week show clearly how much the children enjoy themselves – in addition to the physical benefits. At the end of their ride some of the children are keen to feed carrots to their pony.

All our sessions are run by a group of qualified coaches who determine which pony to use depending on each child's needs, such as improving core strength and stability. One such 'horse' is Liquorice – a mechanical horse used by some children to introduce them to their first ride or who are unable to ride a real pony.

Aylesbury and Wendover RDA is run by nine volunteer Trustees covering Secretary, Treasurer, Coaching and Safeguarding. There are also another fifteen volunteers without whom we could not function.

For further information please contact our secretary, *Vanessa Morgan* on 07914 905196 or at ness.morgan38@gmail.com

Aston Clinton's Eurostar Connection



Nigel Brown (R), with a Belgian colleague at Brussels station

One of the greatest engineering feats of the twentieth century was the Channel Tunnel. Work started in 1988 and from 1994 trains started running from Waterloo to France and Belgium, extending now to include The Netherlands. Travelling at up to 200 mph, they run through the longest under-sea section of tunnel in the world.

The regular service began 25 years ago, on 14 November, 1994, but before that the line had been officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II on 6 May, 1994. And the driver who took the Queen from London to Calais was Nigel Brown, from Aston Clinton.

Nigel joined the railways in Wolverhampton, straight from school. He had progressed to become a driver and by 1991 was instructing new drivers in Birmingham. He saw an advertisement in Railway News saying that drivers would be needed for the new channel crossing service and was one of the 11 successful applicants. Two years of intense training, including a very thorough study of French, followed. Despite Nigel's experience as a driver there were plenty of differences with the French and Belgian signalling systems and routes that had to be learnt.

At the time Nigel and his wife, Liz, had three young sons, with another on the way so a move nearer to the London base was going to be difficult, but eventually they arrived in Aston Clinton in a very cold January, 1993. There was still another year of training before Nigel found out he was on the shortlist of four drivers for the Queen's trip to meet President Mitterand in Calais in May, 1994. On the day it was Nigel who drove the outbound journey and received considerable media coverage at the time, appearing in the newspapers and on television.



By courtesy of the Bucks Herald

Eventually life returned to normal and in addition to driving the trains he also trained new drivers and was line manager for them. For the last five years before his retirement last year Nigel's role was liaising with the Belgian railways.

Looking back over a lifetime with the railways, Nigel has nothing but fond memories, particularly of the places he has been able to visit and the friends he has made in various countries. The job must have something going for it as two of their sons are now working for Eurostar.

Aston Clinton Branch Royal British Legion

Every Year, following the Remembrance Day Memorial Service at St Michael's, the Aston Clinton Branch of the Royal British Legion parades its Standard in the churchyard where there are four war graves for Aston Clinton residents who died as a result of the world wars. For many years we have placed wooden crosses on each of these graves. The wooden crosses, despite being cleaned up and repainted, had deteriorated and a decision was made to replace them. We obtained some oak at a discounted price and had new crosses made up, each with a metal identity badge. They have been finished to a high standard as you will see from the picture. They will be dedicated at this year's Remembrance Service by the Rector. One cross will remain in church as a reminder of all servicemen who have given their lives or have returned home injured or traumatised.

This is what the annual poppy appeal and remembrance services are all about. This year, Emma is now a fully registered Poppy Appeal Organiser for Aston Clinton. The appeal is concentrated from the last weeks of October up to Remembrance Sunday. She will be coming around the villages asking shops, pubs, etc to hold and sell poppies for the appeal. Emma is also looking for volunteers to sell poppies and Legion merchandise. If you are willing to help, please contact [Emma](#) on 07597 944223.

Please support us by buying a poppy and coming to the service at our War Memorial and/or the service that follows in St Michael's. *Thank you. [Ralph Weston](#)*



U3A Discussion Group

Franklin D Roosevelt once said, "there are as many opinions as there are experts". If that is true, then there are many experts in the U3A's Discussion Group.

Every month a wide range of topics is debated - some serious, some less so. The more serious have included charities spending a large proportion of income on marketing, restricting gambling advertising, the loss of high street bank branches in rural areas, the prospect of robots replacing doctors, political correctness limiting freedom of speech, adopted children seeking their parents and compulsory driving tests for those over the age of 70. That last one resulted in a lively debate.

The less serious have included whether nude bathing should be allowed on normal rather than on designated beaches, if it is now acceptable to send an email greeting instead of a Christmas card and whether Megan Markle will turn out to be like Fergie (the Duchess of York, not the former manager of Manchester United!). Some have even been controversial like the suggestion that maybe it's time to take the Great out of Great Britain. After a collective sharp intake of breath and looks of disapproval there followed a good and lively debate, with opinion divided.

The U3A Discussion Group meets the first Thursday of the month at the Aston Clinton Bowls Club. After the customary greetings and personal updates, the two-hour discussion begins at 10.30am. There are some subjects that are off-limits. We do try to avoid direct discussion about politics, religion, Brexit and Trump. If you wish to join the debates contact [Richard Woodley](#) at richardwoodley@tiscali.co.uk

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

acvillagelife.co.uk



Aston Clinton School

Head: Mrs Helen Shepherd



Our School Vision

Together we: Aspire, Care, Succeed

The start of a new school year is a good time to share our school ethos with the wider community. To confirm the Vision the school facilitated an interactive session with staff and governors. We shared the output and sought feedback from parents via the Parent Forum. Whilst the outcome was very similar to the previous vision, it has been updated and now includes a strap line. The School Vision is our reference point and the Vision needs to be integrated into everything at school. The strap line will help to keep our Vision front of mind especially when we are developing new policies and activities; is the School being true to its Vision?

So what does the Vision mean?

Together:

All members of the school community work in partnership to: Aspire, Care, Succeed.

Aspire:

Our children will have high expectations of themselves and the self-confidence to strive to be the best they can be. Our children will be encouraged to 'dream big dreams'. They will be resilient learners who are not afraid to make mistakes or take risks.

- We will provide a broad, balanced and creative curriculum that inspires the children and develops the skills and attitudes they need to develop a lifelong love of learning.
- We will raise aspirations and ignite their curiosity by focusing on positive role models within and outside our community.

Care:

Our children will be proud of their school and their wider community, and the part they play within them. They have strong values that are demonstrated through their behaviour at all times and in all circumstances. They will recognise that we are all unique and show appreciation, respect and tolerance for each other. They will have a global awareness and take responsibility for caring for the world.

- We will provide a safe, caring environment that supports and nurtures each child as an individual.
- We will provide opportunities for children to lead initiatives on school, local and global issues.
- We will model the behaviours and school values that we expect the children to demonstrate.

Succeed:

Our children will fulfil their potential academically, socially and emotionally in all areas of the curriculum. They will have lively and enquiring minds. They will be articulate, thoughtful children who are confident to speak in front of a variety of audiences. They will be prepared for secondary education and beyond in an ever-changing world.

- We have high expectations of our children.
- We will continue to review our curriculum to ensure it meets the needs of children for the future.
- We will celebrate all individual and group successes.
- We recognise that children need to be happy in order to succeed and will provide strong pastoral support to enable this.

From the previous Village Life articles you will have read about some of the many school activities, which show how the Vision is implemented internally and externally in the wider community.

Helen Shepherd, Headteacher
Carole Green, Chair of Governors

Talk About Books at Coffee at 108

Talk About Books starts this autumn at Coffee at 108. These completely informal gatherings will discuss, recommend and share books we have enjoyed. We start on Thursday **3rd October**, then the first Thursday each month from **8 – 10pm**. For more information and to register an interest contact *Katy*: **01296 632442** email. bramleycottage73@gmail.com

New support service launches for Buckinghamshire families

A new Family Support Service offering wide-ranging advice, help and information to Buckinghamshire families has been launched by the County Council.

The new Buckinghamshire Family Support Service will offer support, services and activities for local families from a network of 16 new family centres. Importantly, the service will also provide more targeted, specially tailored help for families with more complex challenges. Where needed, a lead family worker will create a team of professionals around families experiencing problems such as drug and alcohol misuse, money problems, mental health issues, domestic violence, or who may have children with poor school attendance or emerging additional needs.

The Family Support Service aims to help these families to overcome their problems before they get worse and reach crisis point – so that in the longer term they become more self-sufficient and lead happier, healthier lives. Families will be helped directly in their homes or other places where they are comfortable such as libraries or community spaces as well as being able to go to specific sessions at the family centres.

Timetables of activities on at the family centres can be seen online via the Buckinghamshire Family Information Service website www.bucksfamilyinfo.org.

Families with younger children (0-5) will be able to go to open sessions at their local family centre, as well as being able to access the health services and drop-in clinics they already use.

Painted Ladies

By the time you read this, there won't be many butterflies around. But this summer, the UK experienced one of the 'once in a decade' mass immigrations of the beautiful Painted Lady.



I visited Edinburgh in June this year, and climbed Arthur's Seat on a sunny day. I spotted two butterflies on the heather and scrambled to get close enough to identify them – they were Painted Ladies. I was rather surprised to see them so far north, and although most years a few appear, I thought it was an unusual sighting.

Back home, the Ladies started to appear in our gardens in increasing numbers. The last mass migration was 2009 when 11 million butterflies reached our shores, and this year it may have been even more. Already records have shown that there were 30 times the number of Painted Ladies here than were spotted last year, and in the three weeks of the Big Butterfly Count, half a million were recorded. I have a large buddleia in my garden, and on most sunny evenings one or two would appear to feed. They have a strong, fast flight, and I found I could usually identify them from some distance once I'd 'got my eye in.'

Painted Ladies are irruptive migrants, meaning their migration is not caused by seasonal or geographic factors, and the reason for the once in a decade explosion is not fully understood.

Each individual only lives for two to four weeks, so the butterflies we see may be six generations on from the ones starting the migration in sub-Saharan Africa. They are able to complete their entire life cycle, from egg to caterpillar, then chrysalis and finally adult, in less than a month. They are the most widely distributed butterfly in the world, occurring on every continent except Australia and Antarctica.

These small but amazing insects can fly up to 100 miles a day when migrating and attain speeds of up to 30mph. Their favourite food is thistles, so leave some to flower in your garden and maybe these beautiful Ladies will visit us again next year. *Alison Beck*

Raising a glass at Aston Clinton Beer Festival

The eighth Aston Clinton Charity Beer and Music Festival took place from 2nd to 4th August in the school grounds in perfect weather. Living in Putnams Drive means I can hear most of the three days of live music from my back garden, but we always go and support the festival on at least one of the days and enjoy the wonderful range of music, food and drinks.

This year we went to Smooth Sunday, that being more our thing, and really enjoyed The Estrellas who were having a great time. It's fascinating how you can remember all the lyrics to songs you haven't heard for forty years! I believe the Friday session got off to a rousing start, and Saturday had plenty of grunge, punk, new wave and rockers to keep everyone happy.

Over 2,000 people attended on the Saturday alone this year, and the festival made a profit of £18,000. Most of this goes to local charities, and the weather must have helped everyone work up a thirst: apparently so much lager and Pimms was consumed on Saturday that the

chiller expired from overwork – good thing all the volunteers didn't do likewise. With over 80 cask ales, cider, lager, wine. Prosecco, Pimms and gin, there really was something for everyone. There were even alpacas, and I enjoyed meeting one called Tina Turner, although whether the music was to her taste she didn't say.

The organisers take great care to minimise the disruption to neighbours, and the volunteers work really hard to make the whole thing the great success it is. Local businesses provide sponsorship, the school provides the venue, and we as a community should be proud to support the event. The organisers are always keen to recruit more business sponsors and volunteers, so if you can help, contact [Dave](mailto:dave@accf.org.uk) at dave@accf.org.uk

I haven't seen the dates for 2020 yet, but when they appear they'll be going in my diary. Cheers! *Alison Beck*

The Millennium Map

As the year 2000 approached many communities across the country were looking at ways to commemorate the start of a new millennium. Parish Councillor Teresa Kirtland had read in a newspaper that an Oxfordshire-based artist, Myrica Jones, had designed a map for the village of Westcott and thought the idea could be adapted for Aston Clinton.

A committee was put together in 1997 and the work started to piece together the elements that were to make up the map. The committee included Richard Nicholls, Stuart Nicholls, Rosemary Mojsak, Marion Richards, Pat Williams and Teresa Kirtland, all of whom had long-standing connections to the village. As this was soon after the theft of part of the Rothschild fountain it was decided that any profits could go towards its restoration fund.



During 1998 questionnaires were sent out to local residents and clubs asking for suggestions about what should be included and also for historical background that could be used. Help also came from Ordnance Survey who allowed the use of their maps for plotting roads, canals, footpaths etc. One of the parish councillors even provided aerial photographs of the village.

After 18 months of research the data was given to Ms Jones in June, 1999 to produce the first draft and after some revision the final version was ready in August. There was an official launch of the map at the Anthony Hall in October and Aston Clinton had its Millennium Map.

A few copies from the original print run of 1500 are still available and can be bought for £5.50, one of very few prices that has not risen since 1999! It is hoped that the new sales will finally move the restoration fund closer to completion. If you would like to see a copy there is one on the north wall of St Michaels Church and you can buy a copy by contacting [Andrew Mojsak](mailto:ajm_aston@yahoo.com) on 07479 848516 or ajm_aston@yahoo.com or Marion Richards on 01296 630577

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Buckland and Aston Clinton Cricket Club



The 2019 season has been an eventful and enjoyable one down at Church Lane. The year started with a few damp weeks and it took a while for the sun to come out to make it feel like summer had actually arrived. We didn't get the long hot spells we had in 2018 and unfortunately lost a few more games to the rain this season – but there was still plenty of cricket played.

In the midst of this, the 1st XI performed strongly in Division 3 of the Four Counties Cricket League. Out of 15 completed games we won 8, lost 6 and tied a thrilling game at Sharnbrook & Bromham. There were several tight finishes and lots of impressive individual performances. Due to repeated points deductions for not providing a non-playing umpire we had to settle for 7th out of 10 teams. Skipper Mike Parsonage was again the top wicket taker as he picked up 20 scalps with his wily slow bowling and was well supported by Hammad Ali and Qasim Asghar. Safer Ahmed and Khurram Shahzad were once more the top run scorers. Adnan Raza showed significant improvement with a number of important displays and wicket keeper Phil Samuels was consistent behind the stumps

before playing a couple of crucial knocks with the bat in the last few league games.

The 2nd XI had a similar record with 8 wins from 15 completed games and came 4th in Division 5. New captain Casey Dawson was the club's top wicket taker with 23 victims with stalwart James Wood just behind him. Liam Smith again top scored with the bat and the returning Gary Wiltshire provided a consistent source of runs opening the batting. Max Burgess topped off an impressive season by adding a maiden century to a number of other key innings and his 14 wickets with the ball. While never really in the hunt for promotion or in danger of relegation it was an enjoyable and sociable campaign under Casey's leadership, with a number of new players joining the club during the campaign. Our Aylesbury & District Midweek League team also had their best season in recent history with a number of impressive wins securing 3rd place in the 7 team league.

We had a record number of Colts at the club this year and 32 players took part in competitive matches for the mixed (boys and girls Under-11 and Under-13 teams. We also hosted a hugely

enjoyable World Cup family event with parents and siblings joining some of our Colts for a hard ball game on the main square, as well as our now traditional end of term family cricket, rounders and BBQ evening.

We had fewer boys than expected so fielded a fairly inexperienced Under-11 team for most of the season and this showed in the results. However, there are a good number of promising players in this group and team spirit remained excellent as the younger players gained some valuable experience. Highlights included 4 wickets in a match by both Sunny and Tom K and some brave displays against bigger and stronger children by our Year 4 and 5 players. Our Year 7 girls, who were eligible to play mixed cricket at the lower age group, provided a vital bit of know how to this squad and performed well throughout.

The Under-13s had a mixed season, albeit against some really strong opposition, and we continued to see improvement in many of the players and some excellent individual performances Harry S was the top run scorer and, as per league rules, had to retire once he passed 30 on a couple of occasions. Kyan also impressed with the bat in the early weeks of the campaign. The bowling was spearheaded by Charlie M with good support from Ryan in particular. A number of others contributed on occasion and again there is plenty of potential in this group. We hope next year some of the older players may be able to step up to play some adult cricket and continue their learning curve to the benefit of both themselves and the club.

Although the season has now drawn to a close this autumn and winter will be an important period for the club. With the assistance of the Parish Council we have some Section 106 developer contributions to spend on improving our facilities and buying new equipment and are looking to begin refurbishing parts of the clubhouse.

Lastly but by no means least the BACCC committee would like to thank those who have given up their time to support the club over the course of the season, particularly the groundsmen and those who have helped run the Colts training sessions and matches. As always we remain keen to hear from anyone who can help us to keep the club thriving - whether by playing, umpiring, helping with the Colts, sponsoring us, or in any other capacity you can think of. Like many village groups we rely on a small band of unpaid volunteers to run the club and any assistance from our local community will always be most welcome.

Lucy Clark Scottish Country Dancing



You don't need to be Scottish, or bring a partner, to enjoy the irresistible rhythms of the jigs, reels and strathspeys of Scottish country dancing. Our thriving club meets **every Thursday evening** in Wendover Memorial Hall – a great dancing space for our members to experience this wonderful way of socialising, having fun and keeping fit!

Each week we have a beginners' class, followed by club dancing, plus social dances during the year. It's our proud boast that we're a friendly club and we'd like nothing better than to share our love of Scottish dancing with more new dancers. If you're tempted to find a different way of keeping fit, all you need to start with is a pair of soft shoes – and a ready smile. We can help you through the rest. ***And your first visit is free!***

For further information please contact our Secretary: *Liz Mitchell* 07947 000368 or email info@lucyclark.org.uk Or go to our website lucyclark.org.uk

Lindengate Thanks Our Local Support



In November Lindengate celebrates its 5th birthday, an amazing milestone for the mental health charity which supports people with a wide range of mental health needs, including anxiety, depression, Autism spectrum disorder (ASD), memory loss and dementia or those who feel their wellbeing could be improved.

In those five years the site has been transformed from overgrown and derelict allotments to beautiful therapeutic garden spaces linked by wildlife areas. The carefully designed gardens, expert staff and trained volunteers offer its Gardeners (service users) a friendly and calm environment with a managed programme of activities. The approach is called Social and Therapeutic Horticulture (STH), which alleviates depression, anxiety and the symptoms of stress by contact with nature. Gardeners and volunteers work together to explore their creativity in gardening, construction, conservation, cooking, arts and crafts. Over its five years the caring community has encouraged

people to thrive, lead more independent lives, develop work skills and recover their wellbeing. Some Gardeners have become volunteers at Lindengate to help other people.

In September Lindengate held a Garden Party to thank its supporters, a wide range of businesses and individuals who have enabled Lindengate to improve life for so many people. Chairman of the trustees Phil Chattle thanked everyone for their support in creating such a beautiful garden but reminded everyone that for the Gardeners it was much more. In the words of one Gardener "*Lindengate's made my life worth living*". The guest of honour, Polar explorer James Reddon, spoke to the guests about overcoming feelings of isolation and self-doubt on expeditions. But he said these challenges were insignificant when compared to those that people with poor mental health overcame every day. James announced that he was undertaking a new expedition to the South Pole in aid of Lindengate.

There will be more activities celebrating Lindengate's 5th birthday throughout the year, details of these and all future events can be found on www.lindengate.org.uk and Facebook page www.facebook.com/lindengategardening/



Photo: Steve Cook, Swale Photography

Aston Clinton's Surgery News

As the 2019 flu season will soon be upon us we will be holding walk-in flu vaccination clinics at Aston Clinton Surgery, subject to the vaccines being delivered on expected dates.

For patients over 65 years old with surnames beginning A to K the planned date was at the end of September. **For patients over 65 with surnames beginning L to Z the clinic is from 8 – 11am on Saturday 12 October.**

For patients aged 18 to 64 that need to have a vaccination, we will be having Saturday morning clinics, dates to follow, please see our signs in the surgery, the local pharmacy and post office. If you need to confirm your own eligibility please check the posters or call the surgery. We have been given expected dates for delivery of the vaccines for these clinics, however we have no control over any shortages or delivery changes that may occur.

Please check with the surgery website or at the surgery to check the dates or if you have missed yours.

Our new Urgent Same Day Service has been live since July. We have had lots of positive feedback from patients who have accessed the service. We are constantly monitoring our appointment offerings and tweaking them to try to ensure that we have the right balance between urgent appointments in the service, and routine appointments. This can be challenging but we are doing our best to get it right. Please bear with us during this period as our clinical and reception teams are all working very hard to help everyone. The NHS and its staff are under great pressure to provide more services with reduced funds and, to its credit, it comes up trumps more often than not. Please appreciate the service we provide, and the staff who provide it, and try to use it wisely so that we can continue to do so.

Please may we remind everyone that you need to let us know when you change your contact details so that we can keep you up to date and ensure that information is sent to your correct address and mobile number. You can update this information on our website or when you call the surgery. You can also access more of your own information, complete forms on-line and access 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 the services. *Best wishes, Aston Clinton Surgery*

An Archive for Aston Clinton

A small group of local people have been looking into the possibility of setting up an archive of memorabilia for Aston Clinton. Initially this will be a digital record but perhaps one day there may be a chance for a permanent exhibition.

We already have some documents – old parish records, old photographs etc – but not all of them have been identified. What we want to do is have a small exhibition so that anyone interested can come along and give any historical background or just identify what event is in the pictures or who the subjects are. Rev Sally has very kindly offered the use of St Michael's church on a weekend when there is no service so please come along if you think you could help, or even if you just want to have a look.

The display will be in the church from **2.30 to 5pm** on Saturday to Monday, **26-28 October**. If you have anything you would like to donate to the archive, either permanently or on temporary loan for it to be copied, please feel free to bring it along.

For more information, contact
ac.villagelife@hotmail.com

Valerie Owen

'Aston Clinton has become a village of communities'

It was in November 1958 when Valerie Owen moved from Croydon to New Road in Aston Clinton. New Road wasn't even covered in tarmac, just a rough track, and this was before the building of Putnams Drive, Long Plough, the Wimpey Estate and new social housing. She had a two and a half-year-old daughter and was seven and a half months pregnant. There was no telephone in the house with the nearest public telephone box a 30-minute walk away.

Her husband had just got a new job in Haddenham and the daily commute, although some distance, was pleasant with so little traffic on the roads at that time. With husbands using the car during the week, the bus became the 'transport of choice' for wives and mothers with children who lived in the villages.

"The village was sort of self-sufficient as it had its own bakery, a butcher, a general store, a milkman, a post office and even a library. It also had two ladies' hairdressers." Valerie recalls. "Vegetables were delivered once a week by horse and cart, as was coal but not in the same cart, and there was a weekly visit by the Co-op van. There was no chemist, dentist or doctor although the local district nurse lived and worked out of her house in London Road and villagers could attend the Tring surgery which came to The Anthony Hall two or three times each month."

"In those early days there was a policeman's house on the corner of London Road and Weston Road opposite the petrol station. The 'village bobby' could frequently be seen walking or cycling around the streets. He seemed to know everyone, and everyone knew him. It's all so impersonal these days."

Until she became seriously ill in 2013 Valerie was actively involved in village life. She has been a member of the Baptist Church since 1961 where she has been a Sunday school teacher, Leader of the Children's Fellowship for many years and a Deacon for six years. She continues her involvement as the bookings' secretary. She was also Secretary of the Anthony Hall for nearly 40 years and on the Parish Council in the early 1970s. Valerie also worked as a midday supervisor at the village school for many years (which all her four children attended) and later in the school library as well as being an original member of the PTA. The one involvement in village life of which she is most proud is as a founder of the village pre-school in 1967.

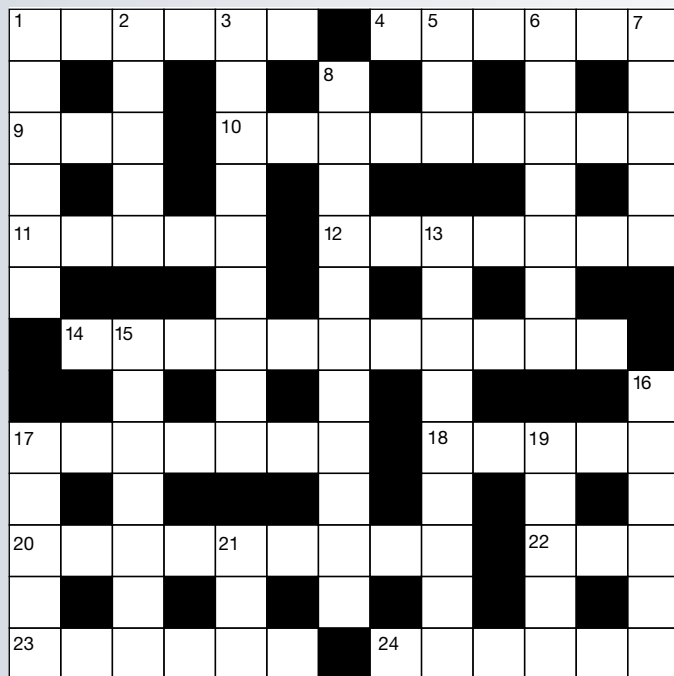


February 1992 - celebrating 25th anniversary of founding of Aston Clinton pre-school. Left to right: Sue Low (chairman), Valerie Owen, Marion Robinson, Judith Idris-Evans, Barbara Rosier

"All these activities have given me much pleasure and enjoyment over the years. That is, all except my time on the Parish Council. Looking back on that time I realise now that I was probably politically naïve. It was also the time of the 'Battle of New Road' as residents, my neighbours, were split over whether or not they were willing to accept the council's proposal that they, the residents should pay for the road to be surfaced. During the public

Village Life crossword no.35

Crossword compiled by **Helen Lonsdale** (SOLUTION ON PAGE 24)



CLUES ACROSS

- 1 Material for T-Shirts (6)
- 4 A tap (6)
- 9 Period of time (3)
- 10 Sweetener (9)
- 11 Belonging to (5)
- 12 Least pretty (7)
- 14 Increased speed (11)
- 17 Confused, Disordered (7)
- 18 Climb (5)
- 20 Zamenhof's made up language (9)
- 22 Emmet (3)
- 23 Bulls eye (6)
- 24 Shone (6)

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Deceives (6)
- 2 Business (5)
- 3 Quick to notice (9)
- 5 Tree (3)
- 6 Funeral procession (7)
- 7 Doctrine (5)
- 8 Complying (11)
- 13 Magnetic iron ore (9)
- 15 The tongue of a bell (7)
- 16 Hollowed (6)
- 17 Casket (5)
- 19 Frighten (5)
- 21 Grain (3)

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hearing the two opposing groups were sat at either side of the room. Not wishing to upset anyone, or to be seen to be taking sides, I sat in the middle of the room!" The memory of that incident still makes her giggle to this day.

Valerie Owen has seen many changes in Aston Clinton during the past 60+ years, the most significant she believes being the culture of the village.

"When we first moved to Aston Clinton it felt like a community with people helping each other when necessary and village life centred on The Anthony Hall, the churches and the pubs. There are now so many activities, groups and organisations within the village doing their own thing that it feels as though Aston Clinton has become a village of communities."

New Community Centre for Aston Clinton

It's exciting times ahead for Aston Clinton, as, by the time this article is published, the build of the new Community Centre will have started, at least with the arrival and building of temporary accommodation before demolition of the old building begins.

Aston Clinton Parish Council (ACPC) has been working on the design and project plans for some time now, and now that Planning Permission has been finally granted, all of the hard work will start to pay off at last!

ACPC raised the money to build the new Community Centre through a combination of Section 106 monies (received from developers building in the village) and a very generous grant of £650,000 from AVDC's new home bonus scheme.

As this article is being written, the Community Centre committee is reviewing a short list of tenders and getting ready for the temporary accommodation to be put in place – this will house the Café in the Park, the football club and public loos, throughout the build process. (the community centre committee is made up of 6 parish councillors and 2 co-opted members)

It is anticipated that demolition of the current building should start around the end of October and then building will begin, hopefully taking no more than 10 -12 months to construct.

We ask all park users to bear with us during the build as the car park next to the Churchill Hall will be closed (the temporary buildings will be housed in that car park) and obviously there will be some disruption around the construction going on in the park, BUT the results will be worth it – with a new modern accessible Community Centre being built for the village.

While the build is ongoing, the café will be open as usual and all other facilities in the park will still be accessible, so please do come and visit the park and the café during the build and see the progress! We will also be posting updates on both the Parish Council website www.astonclinton.org.uk and our Facebook page. *Aston Clinton Parish Council.*

Call for local Santas to take to the streets for local Hospice care



Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity is putting out a call for Santas of all ages to take to the streets of Wendover this December. Last year's event, which saw over 320 Santas run, walk and scoot 2km through the town raised over £2,000 for local hospice care. The Santa Dash will take place on Saturday 21st December.

The Santa Dash is suitable for all ages, making this a great Christmas event for all the family. All entrants will be provided with a Santa suit to make a splash of seasonal colour through the streets. A very special visitor will join the ever popular Florrie Bear to set the crowd of Santas on their way, cheer everyone on and say hello to all the children.

You can register for the events online at the Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity website at fnhospice.org.uk/events/santa-dashes/, with Early Bird discounts available until midnight on 31st October or call **01296 429975** for more information.

Astonbury 2019

The 3rd Astonbury was held in Aston Clinton Park on Saturday 17th August. It was again a roaring success with children's play activities starting around noon. The bands played from 2.30 to 11pm. In between we had our local DJs (all providing their services free). There was, as usual, the Dayla beer tent (with a gin and vodka bar!) plus a number of concessions, serving food from burgers and curry to crepes and sweets. They all sold out of food by about 10.30pm!

We were very lucky with the weather as on the Friday it had poured all day – but Saturday stayed dry and on occasions the sun even came out!

The event is underwritten and managed by Aston Clinton Parish Council, with help from many volunteers, and much of the finance comes from local sponsors – unfortunately too many to list here.

Our local charity partner, Kirby's Herd, was there as it has been for the last three years and raised an amazing £1800. They also help us clear up after the event, so the park was back to normal by Sunday midmorning.

Astonbury is now a real community event and luckily the Parish Council has agreed to hold it again next year – *put 15th August 2020 in your diary.*

Thank you to all who came to this fabulous free event, to all our sponsors, our volunteers and of course, Aston Clinton Parish Council – without whom this event would not happen.



Waterways Recovery Group Family Camp on the Wendover Arm

Friday 25th – Sunday 27th October 2019

The idea of the Family Camps is to encourage youngsters to enjoy the outdoor life and get satisfaction by learning new skills through conserving our heritage waterways. The Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal provides a scenic and tranquil route from Bulbourne to Wendover, via Drayton Beauchamp, Buckland and Aston Clinton. It was built as a feeder to provide much needed water to the Tring summit on the Grand Union. The canal was used for the carriage of coal, timber, straw and manure until 1904 when the canal ceased navigation due to leakage. It is currently being restored by the Wendover Arm Trust volunteers.

Through the weekend, families will discover what it is like to manage a treasured stretch of waterway for the local community and wildlife. Activities will include scrub clearance, planting of bulbs and making bird boxes. All these will enhance the proposed pocket park alongside the canal at bridge 4. Evening games and activities will be planned suitable for the family.

The Family Camp will be led by the team from the Inland Waterways Association Head Office which is based in Chesham. The camp is open to any child age 6 – 14 accompanied by an adult. Our weekend accommodation will be in a residential block at Green Park. Food through Saturday and including Sunday lunchtime will be provided. **Cost £15** per person.

For further information – please contact www.waterways.org.uk/wrg family volunteering www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk events team to book a place call **01494 783453** ext **611** or email alex.melson@waterways.org.uk

Village People

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

James Adam has been involved in church and village affairs in Aston Clinton for 50 years.



Q. When did you first start to get actively involved in Aston Clinton?

A. I moved to Putnams Drive in September 1969, joined the Church and was elected to the Parochial Church Council at Easter 1970.

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

A. I think that it was Secretary of the Parochial Church Council in 1971. Then In 1972, the then rector, Terry Lewis, also a Parish Councillor, asked me to become Assistant Clerk to the Parish Council as the Clerk lived near Waddesdon and needed someone locally to do the running around. Terry also got me to be Secretary of

the Anthony Hall, where he was Chairman of the Trustees. Since then I have held several posts. I was the first Chair of the Swimming Club; I've been Churchwarden over three different periods, and was a Trustee of the Anthony Hall for over 20 years until 2018 and Chairman for some of that time.

Q. Which role(s) has given you the most satisfaction and why?

A. Two roles, Clerk to the Parish Council in the 1970s and Churchwarden.

As Clerk to the Parish Council I was actively involved in helping determine the site of the school. Bucks County Council wanted to build a new school on what is

now the Rothschild Estate behind New Road. The Parish Council opposed this and wanted it to be in the centre of the village. I went to see the Education Department with the Chair of the Parish Council, Margaret Lowe. Bucks CC said that the site on the old recreation ground was too small to have a playing field. I knew that there was a small field off Putnams Drive almost adjacent to what is now the school site. As a result, Bucks CC bought the field and a bit of the telephone exchange's land and made it all one site and built the new school on it. The astronomical sum paid to the Parish Council for the school site enabled it to purchase the 35 acres which is now Aston

Clinton Park and build the Sports and Social Club building which is now the Café in the Park.

I have been elected Churchwarden now on three different occasions and have served a total of 19 years. Even when not in that post, I have headed up the committee overseeing the upkeep of the church building which is in a far better state than when I first encountered it. When I first took over, I found four hatchments in what is now the toilet at the church! A hatchment is a large tablet, typically diamond-shaped, bearing the coat of arms of someone who has died. They were restored and now hang high up in the nave.

As Churchwarden, I represented the Parochial Church Council in appealing to the Church Commissioners against the decision of the Diocese to sell the Glebe in College Road to AVDC for use both as a waste recycling centre and for an anaerobic digester. The Village was up in arms about the anaerobic digester and I was able to persuade the Commissioners to order the Diocese to insert a covenant prohibiting the anaerobic digester with its 200-foot chimney.

Q. What advice would you give to anyone wanting to get involved locally?

A. Join any of the amazing village organisations like the Church; the Horticultural Society; U3A; the football, cricket, bowls or tennis club and support it with your time and money.

Q. Do you live in Aston Clinton?

A. Unfortunately, not anymore. When we wanted a bigger house, we couldn't afford the ones in the village that we liked and moved to Aylesbury, but our hearts were then and are now deeply rooted in Aston Clinton.

Q. How long have you lived in the area?

A. 50 years.

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

A. Gardening at home and at our children's gardens in London and Sussex. Walking, reading, travelling and skiing when I can afford it!

Q. What's your favourite music?

A. I have a very broad taste. Buddy Holly, the Beatles and Beethoven as well as church choral music.

Q. What's your favourite film?

A. Lawrence of Arabia.

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

A. It was a cream 1955 Morris Minor with a split windscreen. I later had a black one which I ran for over 20 years. I now drive an Audi A3, but its number plate is from my Morris Minor.

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

A. **Bad:** The destruction of green fields on the periphery of the village for excessive development.

Good: An increase in the friendly atmosphere of the village with more people knowing their neighbours and the support of organisations such as the Rhubarb Café and the Tuesday Lunches and U3A, which have large groups of people from the village all going on holiday together!

*Interview **Andrew Andersz**
Photo **Tilla Adam***

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

All Saints' Buckland

Regular Services:

8am Holy Communion, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Sundays

11am Family Communion, 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays

11am Messy Sunday each 2nd Sunday

10am Midweek Communion each Wednesday



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Fri 4 Oct	7.30pm	Flicks in the Sticks	All Saints' Church
Sat 5 Oct	10am	Produce Stall	All Saints' Church
Sat 5 Oct	4pm	Junior Flicks	All Saints' Church
Sun 6 Oct	11am	Family Communion for Harvest	All Saints' Church
Sun 27 Oct	11am	BENEFICE SERVICE	All Saints' Church
Fri 1 Nov	7.30pm	Service for All Souls	St Michael's Church
Sat 2 Nov	10am	Produce Stall	All Saints' Church
Fri 8 Nov	7.30pm	Flicks in the Sticks	All Saints' Church
Sat 9 Nov	4pm	Junior Flicks in the Sticks	All Saints Church
Sun 10 Nov	12.30pm	Act of Remembrance	All Saints' Church
Sun 24 Nov	9.15am	BENEFICE SERVICE	St Michael's Church

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

Flicks in the Sticks

The new season of Flicks in the Sticks opened on Friday 4th October – with the endlessly popular *Life of Brian*. It seemed an appropriate film for not only the first of the new Flicks season, but also the launch of the full audio/visual system at All Saints, the second (visual) half of which is now being installed i.e. a new screen, projector and DVD.

The dates for other *Flicks* and *Junior Flicks* showings up to Christmas are as follows:

8th November: *Flicks in the Sticks*

9th November: *Junior Flicks*

6th December: *Flicks in the Sticks*

7th December: *Junior Flicks*

We'll let you know New Year dates in the coming weeks.

As always, tickets for Flicks evenings are available at **£10 each** (including a light meal in the interval) from *Alison* at alisonroberts999@btinternet.com

CROSSWORD No.35 SOLUTION

Across 1. Cotton 4. Faucet 9. Era 10. Saccharin 11. Their 12. Ugly 13. Chaotic 14. Accelerated 17. Scale 20. Esperanto 22. Ant 23. Target 24. Beamed

Down 1. Cheats 2. Trade 3. Observant 5. Ash 6. Corrage 7. Tenet 8. Acquiescent 13. Loadstone 15. Clapper 16. Dented 17. Chest 19. Alarm 21. Rye

Fiddle Concert at St Marys Church 30th Nov 2019



The Oxford Fiddle Group has accepted an invitation to return to our area, after three successful concerts at Anthony Hall, Buckland Village Hall and Victoria Hall, Tring. The venue this year will be the delightful **St Marys Church in Drayton Beauchamp at 2pm on Saturday 30th November.**

Those who have enjoyed the music in the past will know they are in for a lively performance with tunes and songs from the UK, Ireland and the USA.

OFG's tunes can be foot-tapping jigs and reels, or catchy hornpipes and marches, or beautiful slow airs and laments. Their performances are always light and fun, yet played with passion.

There is ample parking, wine and soft drinks (available by donation) and a very appealing raffle, so please bring plenty of change. All the proceeds are in aid of St Marys Church.

This event should be well attended so pre-booking of the **£10 tickets** is essential from *David Lonsdale*, preferably by email lonsdales@hotmail.co.uk or on **01296 631791**.

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

acvillagelife.co.uk

The season's over for Aston Clinton Bowls Club

Aston Clinton Bowls Club had an enjoyable time in 2019. The club has had moderate success and hosted a number of games for bowls teams that do not have their own premises. Unfortunately, several games were lost to inclement weather or curtailed owing to extreme temperatures!

The finals weekend, which is the culmination of the clubs' various internal competitions, was held at the start of September. Seven finals were held over the two days, with several members playing more than once.

In mid-August, the annual Dave Rymer Trophy was won by Ian Watson, who narrowly lost in the final last year to wife Carol, and whose opponent this year was John Denny. The competition is named in memory of the club's long-standing greenkeeper and is presented by his widow Pat. It has a unique scoring system of unknown origin – the bowlers play with four bowls, the nearest the jack gets 4 points, the next 3, then 2 and 1. Each game is played over 12 ends and each player plays two games; the finalists are the two who accumulate the most points over the two matches.

The green is now closed until next April, although work continues throughout the winter, so don't be surprised if you go past and see work being carried out.

Throughout the winter, there are a number of social activities – a Race Night at the end of November, a Grand Christmas Raffle (with carols) in mid-December, and a post-Christmas luncheon in January. We also have a Quiz Night in February – so why not get a team together and come along and join us? Please contact our secretary *Brian Clark* on **01844 351461** or by email brianp.clark29@gmail.com for further information about any of our winter social events.

Horticultural Society

Our programme of meetings has recommenced following the summer break and our next meeting is our AGM on 9th October. This is followed by a talk by Roger Kemp on Butterflies of the British Isles. The AGM is an important meeting to elect our officers and to discuss our future activities. All members are urged to attend. It is also the time when membership is renewed and to welcome new members. We are one of the oldest societies in the village and have monthly meetings, two shows a year, an annual plant stall and summer outings to gardens and places of interest as well as advice and guidance through newsletters to members and articles in Village Life. Do come and join us, it costs £5 per year. If you cannot come to the AGM contact our treasurer, *Ken Halls* on 01296 631636. It is at this meeting that we sell a range of daffodil bulbs at reasonable prices and these are aimed at encouraging you to grow for our Spring Show in 2020.

At our **November** meeting, on **Wednesday 13th**, we have Tim Miles giving us a talk on the 'Gardens of the Cotswold Wildlife Park'. Our Christmas meeting is on **12th December** Steve Owen will be talking about Snowdrops.

Last time, I reported that some of my trees and bushes were suffering from stress and die back. I now have another tree (see Picture) that after about 10 to 15 years looks as if it is not going to survive. It is an evergreen that is common in the Mediterranean region so should be used to drought conditions. The big pine, that has been an architectural tree in my back garden since before I came here has now lost all but a few of its leaves and sadly I shall have to cut it this autumn. Whether it is



climate change or the erratic weather patterns – this year we had rain between the heatwaves – I don't know, but as a gardener I have not given up yet and will plant again.

Society Trip to Hidcote gardens 10th July

During the Summer we visited the gardens at Hidcote Manor. The weather was kind and enabled a leisurely walk around the gardens with time for lunch and tea in one of the cafes. If you have any ideas for our 2020 coach trip please let us know.

Hidcote Gardens is situated in the North Cotswolds. The gardens themselves were created by Lawrence Johnston, a plantsman and plant collector. Acting on behalf of his mother, Gertrude, Lawrence agreed to purchase the estate from John Tucker for £7,200 in 1907. Gertrude was an American heiress with houses in London, Paris, Rome and New York. As there was little existing garden, Lawrence effectively had a blank canvas to work with. He began to put into practice what he had learnt from studying gardening books. The period 1907 – 1914 saw the creation of intimate garden rooms around the house: the Circle to the south; the Fuchsia garden and the Bathing Pool Garden and to the west; the Red Borders and the steps up to the two gazebos.

The outbreak of the Great War (1914 – 1918) in which Lawrence fought, suspended progress but in 1919, Gertrude bought the farm at the end of the village road, enabling the garden to be extended to the current boundaries. This period saw the extension of the Long Walk and the creation of the Wilderness, Mrs Winthrop's Garden, the Pillar Garden and the Rock Bank. By the early 1920s the garden design was largely complete. Lawrence's interests then moved on to plant hunting, both for Hidcote and the new garden he was developing in the south of France (Serre de la Madone).



Whilst some of the garden rooms are enclosed, the long walk and other gardens lead to large vistas over the Cotswold hills. On the death of his mother Lawrence was bequeathed the income from her fortune (about £1 million per annum) but not the capital, unless he got married and had children. Laurence never married so there was no legacy to go with the gift of Hidcote to the National Trust but the RHS and the National Trust got together to ensure that these important gardens were preserved and opened to the public.

Ralph Weston muchpottering@btinternet.com

Date and Rhubarb Cake



Ingredients:

- 6 oz self-raising flour
- 3 oz margarine
- 4 oz caster sugar
- 8 oz rhubarb
- 4 oz chopped dates
- 1 large egg
- 4 tablespoons milk

Method:

1. Sift flour into bowl, add margarine and rub in
2. Stir in sugar
3. Wipe rhubarb and cut into small cubes
4. Stir in rhubarb and dates and bind with beaten egg and enough milk to give a fairly soft consistency.
5. Bake on centre shelf at reg 5, 190°C for 75-90 minutes.
6. Leave to cool in tin for 10 mins

Note: use an 8" deep tin and line the base with baking parchment

If you do not have caster sugar use granulated

St Mary the Virgin Drayton Beauchamp

Regular Services:

10.45am 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Sundays



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sun 27 Oct	11am	BENEFICE SERVICE	All Saints' Church
Sun 1 Nov	7.30pm	Service for All Souls	St Michael's Church
Sun 10 Nov	4pm	Evensong for Remembrance	St Mary's Church
Sun 24 Nov	9.15am	BENEFICE SERVICE	St Michael's Church
Sat 30 Nov	2pm	Oxford Fiddlers Group	St Mary's Church

Licensing of the Reverend Alison Roberts

On the same day that Britain got its new Prime Minister, Drayton Beauchamp welcomed its new Associate Vicar and Focal Minister, Alison Roberts



Rev Alison Robert with Rev Alan Bennett

At a Licensing Service led by The Right Reverend Alan Wilson, Bishop of Buckingham, and in front of around 100 friends, colleagues and well-wishers, Alison officially became an Associate Priest, after eight years of training and study.

In her opening remarks, Alison said

Dear Friends, I would like to say thank you for coming to my Licensing Service. So many of you have supported me in different ways. There was the cajoling when I was weary of it all and commiseration in response to my complaints about the endless essays I've had to complete. Some of you even accompanied me on various training courses and of course many of you joined in with the various celebrations en route – ordination and priesting to name but two!

For the last eight years you've been there throughout the ups and downs of my discernment and training. The fact that my age has never seemed to be a hindrance to you or to the church stands loud and proud to your inclusive nature.

Being called by God is huge, but in truth being supported by one's community who really know me, is also humbling and awesome and I thank you all for your faith and support in me.

I look forward to serving you all.

With love, Alison.

Drayton Beauchamp Parish Meeting

There will be a Parish Meeting at St.Mary's Church, Drayton Beauchamp on Thursday **November 14th at 8pm.** All parishioners are welcome.

Emergency

HEALTH

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

ENERGY SUPPLIERS

Electricity Emergency	0800 7838 838	
Gas Emergency	0800 111 999	
Water Emergency	0845 9200 800	

CRIME

Police Emergency	999	
Police non-emergency and Neighbourhood watch	101	www.thamesvalley.police.uk
Childline	0800 111	

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

EDUCATION

Aston Clinton School	01296 630276	www.astonclintonschool.co.uk
Aston Clinton Pre School	07928 309321	pre-school.acpsmanagement@gmail.com
Totspot (AC Baptist Church)	01296 631824	www.astonclintonbaptist.org

SPORT AND LEISURE

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

YOUTH GROUPS

Aston Clinton Guides, Brownies and Rainbows		www.girlguiding.org.uk
Aston Clinton Scouts	01296 708158	ac.scouts@Yahoo.com
Aston Clinton Cubs	01296 708158	ac.cubs@Yahoo.co.uk
Aston Clinton Beavers	01296 708158	ac.beavers@yahoo.co.uk
Aston Clinton Youth Club	01296 298682	

CHURCHES

St Michael and All Angels, Aston Clinton	01296 632488	www.s-michaels.org.uk
All Saints, Buckland	01296 632488	www.allsaintsbuckland.org.uk
St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp	01296 632488	www.s-marys.org.uk
Aston Clinton Baptist Church	01296 631824	www.astonclintonbaptist.org

HALLS FOR HIRE

Anthony Hall	01296 630229	Theanthonyhallac@gmail.com
Baptist Church	01296 630303	www.astonclintonbaptist.org
Buckland Village Hall	01296 630310	
Green Park / Adventure Learning Charity	03303 030101	alfvillages.org.uk

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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