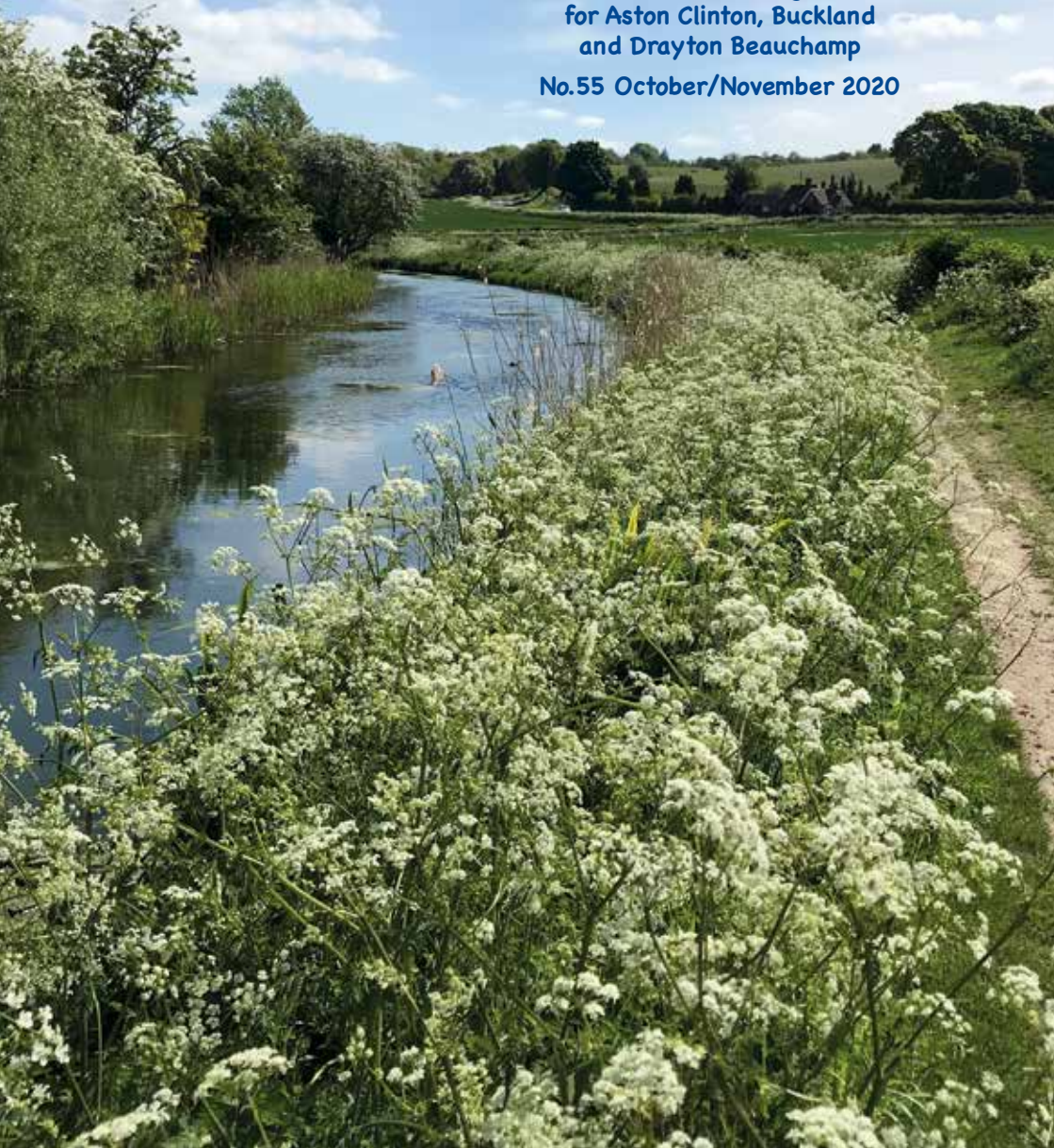


# Village Life

The community magazine  
for Aston Clinton, Buckland  
and Drayton Beauchamp

No.55 October/November 2020





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

# Village Life

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

*Normally, the September earthquake that was felt in our area would probably be the main memory when we looked back on 2020 in future years. This year, though, is different and everything is seen through a coronavirus prism.*

Although we are nowhere near being clear of the pandemic, it is pleasing to see that some facets of life are returning to something like the old ways and it is notable how many of the articles in this issue reflect how local organisations have found a way to cope with the restrictions. In addition, our local companies are working hard to provide the goods and services we all need and we should support them whenever we can.

Since our last issue, the children have gone back to school and parents tell me that Wine o'clock is moving back in the day to its usual time. More seriously, this is a great development and we hope the children will be able to catch up with the time they lost. On page 14, two of them tell us how they have been affected by Covid-19. We should also remember the work put in by the teaching and ancillary staff to make sure the return to school is as safe as it can be. Anyone who has had children at home for months will appreciate the work of teachers more than ever before.

Another welcome return was the Repair Café at St Michael's. On its first day back it was again very well attended and raised £250 for the church from donations. Repair Café will operate at the church every second Saturday from 9am to noon. Masks and all the usual precautions we are getting used to will be in force, and for now there will be no refreshments available.

Also back is the Rhubarb Café, which is at St Michael's every Monday from 2-4.30pm. To ensure that social distancing is respected, it is necessary to book before arrival. You will need to contact [rhubarbcfe1@gmail.com](mailto:rhubarbcfe1@gmail.com) or 01296 632488. And while you are visiting the church please think about donating to the Aylesbury Foodbank. They particularly need non-perishable foods and toiletries. *Richard Vincent*

## 1 John 4.16 – God is Love



*In these difficult times  
I would like to  
communicate something  
simple yet profound.  
God is love.*

I came across these  
letters and thought  
they might illustrate the

fact that whilst we seek to say one thing, with  
a little tweaking of punctuation, something  
entirely different is heard.

### DEAR JOHN LETTER ONE:

*Dear John:*

*I want a man who knows what love is all about.  
You are generous, kind, thoughtful. People who are  
not like you admit to being useless and inferior.  
You have ruined me for other men. I yearn for you.  
I have no feelings whatsoever when we're apart.  
I can be forever happy—will you let me be yours?  
Gloria*

### DEAR JOHN LETTER TWO:

*Dear John:*

*I want a man who knows what love is. All about  
you are generous, kind, thoughtful people, who are  
not like you. Admit to being useless and inferior.  
You have ruined me. For other men, I yearn. For  
you, I have no feelings whatsoever. When we're  
apart, I can be forever happy. Will you let me be?  
Yours, Gloria*

‘God is love’. It’s hard to tweak the  
punctuation here, although past  
disappointments and pain could lead to a  
question mark and realisations and revelations  
could lead to an exclamation mark. What I  
want to communicate is God is love.

*It's not that God loves, but God is love*

Someone put it like this:

Take love from an Angel you get a demon.  
Take love from a human you get a sinner.  
Take love from God and there is nothing left.

God is love. Not the sort of love that sees  
something attractive in another and seeks  
to gain it. But, seeing nothing attractive in  
another, seeks to embrace it.

God is love. Whoever abides in love abides in  
God and God abides in him. 1 John 4.16b

If we can immerse ourselves in the profound  
depth of this sentence it may help our living  
and our loving as we pass through these  
difficult Covid days (hopefully Gloria and  
John's too!)

*Nick, Minister ACBC*

## Aston Clinton Covid-19 Support Group

*When Covid-19 came to this country and  
lockdown was introduced to help control the spread  
of the virus and save lives, our daily routines  
changed overnight. For some, even the thought of  
leaving the house became a challenge.*

It was clear that support was needed to help  
the vulnerable in the community and that  
resulted in the formation of the Aston Clinton  
Covid-19 Support Group. The Reverend Sally  
Bottomer told Village Life how this came about.

“As soon as we realised Lockdown was  
inevitable, I contacted Liz Tubb from the  
Parish Council to discuss what we could do  
to help the community. A few days later we  
organised a public meeting in church to discuss  
what help we could offer the community and  
a week later the support group went live. We  
hand delivered leaflets to the 1600 homes in

Aston Clinton, advertising the support we could give from prescription collections to shopping requests, walking dogs to newspaper delivery."

"It was incredibly easy to get volunteers, we were inundated! We have such great communities here in the Benefice, people with really big hearts who just wanted to help those who were most vulnerable. Liz and I would receive the initial phone call for help and we then delegated it to the volunteers. There were over 50 volunteers in our WhatsApp Group who would respond within seconds to the request. In the four months of Lockdown I estimate we received just under 2000 phone calls!"

"We have been asked if these support services will remain in place once our lives return to whatever becomes the new normal and the answer is yes, definitely! Even now we are still receiving requests from those who remain fearful of stepping outside their front door, fewer than before but enough for the group to continue its awesome work. Liz and I have discussed another leaflet drop to the whole village so that anyone who needs help for whatever reason can contact the group.....the community spirit here is one in a million.....so much so Liz and I received a letter of thanks from our local MP, Rob Butler, congratulating the Aston Clinton Covid-19 Support Group for its hard work during Lockdown. Let's keep going!"

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## Buck Pub

The Buck Pub is provisionally booked for the weekend of **December 4th/5th**, but to be realistic we feel there is only a very slim chance that it will go ahead bearing in mind social distancing requirements. A final decision will be taken in October and published on the website: [www.thebuckpub.co.uk](http://www.thebuckpub.co.uk)

## Benefice of Aston Clinton with Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp



*Thankfully we are now in the position to open our wonderful churches although we are still not at full service capacity.*

At the time of going to print, the following regular services will be happening but please check our Facebook page 'Aston Clinton Benefice with Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp'. Alternatively you can look at [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) and search under your postcode.

### REGULAR SERVICES AND EVENTS ACROSS THE BENEFICE

**St Michael's Church** - Sunday 10am

Benefice Communion

**All Saints' Church** - Wednesday 10am

Benefice Celtic Prayer

**St Mary's Church** - Thursday 4pm

Benefice Communion

In addition to these services, St Michael's and All Saints' are open for private prayer every day 10am to 4pm. St Mary's will be open 10am to 4pm on Thursdays and all day on Sundays.

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### RHUBARB CAFE

**Monday 2pm - 4.30pm.** Please come along to St Michael's church for some tea and homemade cake.

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### REPAIR CAFE

**2nd Saturday 9am - noon.** St Michael's church.

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### BEREAVEMENT GROUP

**Thursday 2pm.** Once a month at All Saints'

*The Aston Clinton, Buckland & Drayton Beauchamp Horticultural Society Summer Show was scheduled for August— then Coronavirus hit us! The Society committee decided it would be too difficult to continue with the Summer Show in the usual format in this new Covid world and we took the difficult decision to cancel the Show.*

## LIFE IN THE VILLAGES DURING LOCKDOWN

# PHOTOGRAPHIC *showcase*

**However, we were not to be beaten!** With the lockdown, people in the villages had the time to get out into the local countryside and take notice of the beautiful flora and fauna on our doorsteps. And many people were taking lots of photos! So, the idea of a “*Life in the Villages during Lockdown*” Photographic Exhibition came about. Rev. Sally Bottomer kindly agreed that we could use St Michael’s Church for the event and we also acquired a few new volunteers to help with the project – they were invaluable!

We decided to make the Photo Exhibition open to all ages. We received over 700 photos, the standard was incredible and it was great to get such a wide variety with some brilliant captions.

The Exhibition was held on 29 August at St Michael’s. With a Plant & Produce and Book stall and donations, we raised over £250 towards church funds. Thank you to everyone who sent in photos and to everyone that attended! It would be great to get your feedback on the event & whether this is something we should do again.

Please send any comments to:  
[showcase@astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk](mailto:showcase@astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk)

Thanks to *Kimberley Baillie* who put the photos on flickr and the link for the photos can be found at: [www.flickr.com/photos/189305121@N04/albums/with/72157715130488101](https://www.flickr.com/photos/189305121@N04/albums/with/72157715130488101).

*NB the exhibition may be displayed again in October at St Mary’s Church, Drayton Beauchamp so watch out for news on social media and posters.*

*From top left to bottom right, Photos by:  
David Tuckett, Colin Ruscoe, Ken Halls,  
Luke Tomkins, Barbara Muston, Tom Kenney,  
Kimberley Bailee, Ros Nicholls, Richard Needham,  
Holly Stevens, Liz Smith and Maureen Ridler.*

***Diane Kolonko***







## Parish Council

*As summer draws to a close we reflect upon a busy couple of months in the park, with families returning to the playpark which re-opened under strict Covid-19 rules, a host of exercise activities, the busy café takeaway facility and lots of family picnics.*

Despite the restrictions on large groups, it has been lovely to see so many people enjoying our beautiful park in the sunshine. The Parish Council is now embarking on a programme of repairs to both the Trim Trail and the Playpark, which couldn't be started earlier due to a delay in receiving the S106 funding.

Our exciting new build project, the Community Centre, is heading into the final stages, with completion expected in mid-November. The project suffered some unavoidable delays due to Covid-19, but now the scaffolding is gone, and the building

is really taking shape, with the addition of the windows, interior fittings and services connections. With the initial help of the school children, we are in the process of finding a name for the new building and everyone in the village will be consulted in making the final choice.

The Parish councillors and clerks are working hard with not only the Community Centre project, but also the day-to-day running of our village and continue to meet regularly in our Virtual Meeting Room. Please do keep an eye on our website for news, updates and information, plus all of our meetings, agendas and minutes.

Image by Marion Mason

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

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



## Aston Park Tennis Club

*Covid 19 has had a profound effect on all our lives, but one positive outcome is that many have taken to outdoor activities and, where possible, sport, to bring some relief.*

Aston Park Tennis Club has seen a 50% rise in membership since the end of the lockdown and since play has once again been permitted. When asked, new members state three principle reasons behind their joining Aston Park.

**Firstly,** *'The pandemic has instilled a need to exercise more.'* This can also be substantiated in other sporting pastimes. Sales of bicycles have left many retailers with no stock and long waiting lists.

**Secondly,** *'We want to socialise and make new friends, but in a safe environment'.*

**Finally,** *'Tennis is an outdoor activity that all the family can participate in and enjoy'.* What better place to exercise, meet new friends and ensure the kids are safe and occupied than on a tennis court.

Now, thanks to Section 106 funding facilitated by Aston Clinton Parish Council, Aston Park TC has a fabulous new club house pavilion, along with a toilet/changing room block. In sympathy with the superb new community centre currently under construction in the park, the exterior boasts contemporary timber cladding. The new buildings, which are in the final stages of internal fittings, would not be possible without the support and encouragement of the parish council.

These new facilities are the icing on the cake for a local club that is very family oriented, welcomes players of all standards, has its own (very busy) dedicated coach, has friendly social club sessions and, for those of a competitive nature, numerous mixed, ladies' and men's doubles teams competing in local league matches.



For more information and membership details, please contact **Barbara** on **07757 690392** or [www.astonparktennis.co.uk](http://www.astonparktennis.co.uk)

*Adrian Bowen*

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## Live Well- Stay Well

*Buckinghamshire Council is proud to support Live Well – Stay Well, a major new adult health campaign to seize this unique moment in time for a “national reset of health”.*

To support people to live healthier lives, the campaign will provide a variety of tools and apps to help residents make healthier food choices, become more active and prevent future weight gain. One of these tools is a free Weight Loss Plan app, which provides 12 weeks' worth of engaging content that can be personalised to fit your goals. You can also find free local services to help you lose weight, stop smoking and get more active at Buckinghamshire's Live Well Stay Well. These local services are being delivered by phone or online, so that we can enact social distancing.

Visit [nhs.uk/BetterHealth](https://nhs.uk/BetterHealth) for more information.

## Aston Clinton Surgery

*Its flu vaccination time again. We will be offering a vaccination to all our eligible patients this year, albeit in a slightly different way due to COVID 19 guidelines. The vaccines will be delivered in batches from the end of September to mid-November, although the dates may change. Clinics will be held on Saturdays, with the first one being on Saturday 3rd October. Further dates will be available once our delivery dates are confirmed.*

We will text our eligible patients, put up posters in our windows, update our website and Facebook page as soon as appointments are available to be booked. All patients will be booked into a 5-minute appointment slot and must be prepared to wait outside as there will be limited room in the waiting room due to a two metre distanced queueing, one way system. There will be limited parking so please walk, use public transport or park in local roads if possible. Please wear a face mask and wash your hands before and after your appointment. Please DO NOT attend if you or a close contact have symptoms of COVID-19 or have had contact with a suspected or confirmed case.

The delivery of the flu jab to patients who are not at-risk, but who are aged 50 – 64, is due to be rolled out in November and December subject to vaccine supply. You will not be able to book before then at the surgery. Again, we will publicise when you can book once we have received guidance from NHS England. There is further, more detailed, information on our website [www.westongrove.com](http://www.westongrove.com)

These are strange and difficult times and we are all struggling with the restrictions we are living under, however we are here to help with all the “usual” medical issues and queries so please feel free to contact us. We have to try to do our best to make ourselves as safe as possible by looking after ourselves and

our friends, families and neighbours; albeit from a further distance than usual!

*Best wishes from all the team at Aston Clinton Surgery.*



## Simply Walk

*Our village's Simply Walk Group was given permission to restart walks from 4 September. However, things aren't the same as they were before lockdown and so there are some changes to the way things operate. Due to the need for 'Track & Trace', it is now necessary for all walkers to register on-line beforehand. However, if you are not an 'on-line' person then you can either ask someone else to do it for you (see below), or you can still turn up on the day but you will need to register, so please arrive 15 minutes early to allow the extra time.*

Each walker will be provided with a COVID-19 handout from Bucks Council which explains the current restrictions governing the walks and provides information on COVID-19 precautions to be taken by walkers. Your acceptance of them will be a pre-requisite to joining a walk.

The Simply Walk Booking website now provides information on which walks are likely to be available but these may be limited because a number of our Leaders still fall in the 'medically vulnerable' category and are not yet available to return to leading. For the Autumn, our aim is to offer as many of our normal 'Short' and 'Medium' walks as possible. To join an Aston Clinton Walk on-line simply go to: <https://bookwhen.com/simplywalk#focus=ev-scky-20200904103000> ; Click on the walk you wish to attend; click on SELECT to book (or MORE DETAILS then click SELECT);

view SELECTIONS; click on BOOK and then fill in the details as prompted. You will then receive a confirmation e-mail with all the details. If you are booking on behalf of other walkers (up to four) who do not have email, leave the email address space blank but you MUST insert a telephone number for them. If you need to cancel a booking then simply go into your confirmation email; Click on the VIEW BOOKING; then TICKET OPTIONS; then CANCEL.

We walk **every Thursday from Aston Clinton Park at 10.30 sharp** (prevailing Government restrictions permitting) but please arrive early so that the start doesn't get delayed.

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## Snakes Alive!

*It's not often you see a three-foot long corn snake slithering its way along Brook Street but that's what happened a few weeks ago. No one was sure how to catch it or what to do with it until local resident Sean Battista appeared on the scene. Sean takes up the story: "it's a young snake, probably under two years old. These are extremely common as pets. They are like the snake equivalent of hamsters. They grow to about five or six feet and are completely harmless to humans."*

Sean had an interest in reptiles from a young age, but only started to keep snakes about four years ago when he acquired a royal python. He now has 13 snakes – as well as two scorpions, some millipedes and cockroaches, a tortoise, two cats and dogs and some goldfish!

Sean explains how it all started. "As a family we have always had lots of pets which is my mum's fault as she likes having pets of the more furry and cuddly variety. However I went down the route of reptiles and exotics. Keeping them in a large bio active enclosure creates a small eco system with plants and bugs so you learn about them. I would like to share my

enthusiasm and knowledge with children of all ages, but I believe I would need a special licence and insurance before I could take my pets to school. Maybe one day."



Sean with his blood python

There is a lot to learn when it comes to reptiles. You need to know how to design and assemble an enclosure, basic electrics and, importantly, understand what your snake needs and being able to 'read' and interpret its body language and behaviour. Although there are so called easy to manage species, I would recommend doing proper research and learning from others before you decide which is the right pet for you and your circumstances."

Most commonly kept species of snakes are completely harmless and don't grow to more than five feet long. If provoked, they can inflict some slight damage as they have very sharp needle-like teeth. Larger species can cause more severe injuries with their bites and their strength as they wrap themselves around a victim's body. Despite all that they are not naturally aggressive towards humans and are more likely to disappear in fear than attack. However, if you're an animal and look like lunch, *be careful!*





## Royal British Legion AC



*The Covid-19 lockdown has particularly affected our members who are generally in the older, at-risk group.*

The Covid 19 virus has severely affected the work of the Royal British Legion. There will be no Poppy collection in our villages this year. Instead, the national association has arranged for supermarkets to have collecting tins available.

It seems unlikely that there will be any commemoration either at our war memorial or the church in November, although Emma has ordered some wreaths in case there is an opportunity to lay them. If you wish to make a donation to the poppy appeal please send it to [Emma](mailto:emma@googlemail.com) 07597 944223, email: [ejjenko@googlemail.com](mailto:ejjenko@googlemail.com).

The photograph shows the names that would normally be read out on Remembrance Day. During the commemoration the following exhortation is read:

*'They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them'.*

Later in the service the famous Kohima Epitaph is read out. Everybody quotes it, but few know the exact origin. It has been wrongly attributed to Leonidas, King of Sparta who

fought to the death against Xerxes and the Persians at the battle of Thermopylae (480 B.C.).

In fact, it was the poet Simonides of Ceos (Kios) (586 – 468 B.C.), who immortalised it as: *"O stranger, go home and tell the Spartans that we lie here in obedience to their orders"*.

The sentiment in the epitaphs is certainly Spartan in tone and later writers were influenced by their classical education. The first modern version was written by J. M. Edmonds for a graveyard in France, during the first World War: *'When you go home tell them of us, and say "For your tomorrows these gave their today"'*

The actual epitaph is inscribed on the monument unveiled at Kohima in India in 1944. The author was Major John Etry-Leal. He was a classical scholar and had imperfectly remembered what J.M. Edmonds had written. His version reads:

*'When you go home Tell them of us and say  
'For your tomorrow We gave our today'.*

This is the version we read out each November and it is so true. If we had not won the war how would we be enjoying life today, Corona virus or not? So, wherever you are in November, let us remember them. *Ralph Weston.*

## WANTED! Volunteers to help run Aston Clinton Youth Club.

The Youth Club has a Junior section at present for ages 7-11. It meets every Friday during term time and is an opportunity for young people to enjoy arts and crafts activities, tabletop games, table tennis and much more in a sociable environment. We really need more help.

If you feel able to volunteer please contact [Teresa](mailto:Teresa.01296.298682) 01296 298682. *Many thanks*

# Phone Box Library

*The new community library has been a great success, with a regular stream of readers visiting every day!*

We had a few problems during the first weeks, with people misunderstanding its remit and dumping bags and boxes full of old books inside it; many of which could not be used because they were in such poor condition. The main problem is that it means that other people can't get inside to peruse the books, negating the whole point of the library. Also, we don't have the room to store that much excess stock, nor the time to keep taking the rejects to the tip.

However, things have settled down now and the system of 'read'n return or read'n replace' is working well. Our thanks to The Partridge for putting the light on and off for us each evening. We have two other telephone box libraries in the area: one in Long Marston and the other in Hunton Bridge, neither of which is equipped with such a luxury. Our thanks too to the various authors and publishers who have donated the many new, often signed books to the collection; some of which you will not find in any other library, but a BARDAID box! And finally, a big hand to the people of the village for helping to keep the box tidy and well stocked with the kind of books that people want to read.

Paul's new Steampunk book, *'The Giant Step'* will be launched on 26th November and published by Caffeine Nights publishing. For eBooks and paperback versions go to [caffeinenightsbooks.com](http://caffeinenightsbooks.com)

*Paul & Donna Eccentric*





## Aston Clinton School

Head: Mrs Helen Shepherd



### School Life in the New Normal...

*We are Year 6 pupils at Aston Clinton School and we wanted to tell you what school was like during lockdown and what our return to school has been like this term. First, we will tell you a bit about what school was like in lockdown.*



After May half term, we were put into our bubbles of fifteen or less people and seated

at our own tables two metres apart to practise social distancing in class. On the playground, it was weird because we were given half the playground to play on so that we didn't mix between bubbles. All the home learning was taught by a teacher at school. It was good because it was nice having a teacher, however, it's much better now because we have our actual teachers and we get to see all of our friends.

Being back at school this term is odd after not being at school for ages, but we are getting used to it. It is awesome to see our friends again as many of us haven't seen each other since the 23rd of March! Such a long time! In our classrooms, children have to sit in long rows (like Hogwarts). It's really hard to see the teacher on the back row. Before lunch, the teacher has to spray the tables with a smelly spray (at least it kills Covid-19!). We have to wash and sanitize our hands tonnes! Having the right equipment is hard because we are not allowed to share resources. Assemblies are going to be delivered via a video link into our classrooms! The start and end of the day and break times are staggered to avoid bubbles mixing. However, we are looking forward to having some sense of normality such as doing proper lessons again. We are not looking forward to early wake-ups and bed times again though!

*By Emily D and Charlie G*



## Aston Clinton Girlguiding – looking forward to meeting face-to-face again.

*In the last few months, on your walks around the village, you may have seen some of these posters displayed in windows. In March, all our Girlguiding members were issued with a poster to colour in, to keep their Guiding Light shining.*

Some of our Units have been meeting on Zoom and many of our girls took part in our own District “Stay In Sleep In” challenge, camping out in their living rooms, conservatories or gardens. Great though the technology is, a lot of girls are not overly comfortable with virtual meetings and some simply don’t have the facility to join us.

We are pleased that from this term we are able to hold face-to-face meetings outdoors in small groups and are hoping that once schools are back and more settled we will be able to meet indoors again. Each Unit is currently planning the best way forward under Girlguiding guidelines suitable for their leadership team and the girls they are working with. Our five village units span the age range of 5 to 18 and we are trying to provide the best possible solution that we can offer for each age-group.

We understand that this term is going to be a challenging time for parents. Obviously the priority for everyone is getting the children back to school and we know some people are considering cutting down on the number of after school clubs their children can attend.

Recruiting and training volunteers during lockdown has been particularly difficult. Despite this I am pleased to say that people have volunteered and we are going to be able to keep all five of our Aston Clinton Guiding Units open.



If you have enjoyed volunteering during lockdown and are looking to volunteer somewhere on a regular basis, we are always looking for more adult help. Or maybe your child is looking to join in the great adventure of Guiding. Please go to the Girlguiding website ([www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)) where there are links to register your interest as a helper or to register a place for your child. We may currently not be visible in the community, but the Guiding Light is still very much burning behind closed doors. *Sue Wall*

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A few clips from genuine church bulletins found by *James Adam*:

*The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.*

*The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'*

more to follow...

## Rob Butler MP



Rob enjoying a meal at The Bell

*I am delighted to be writing my first article for Village Life and look forward to sharing updates with the Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp community in the future. In my first nine months as your new MP, I have been taking every opportunity to represent you in Parliament, whether in the House of Commons chamber or presenting cases to Ministers via video link during the national lockdown. I aim to raise points that matter most to local residents and businesses, and so am always keen to hear about your concerns, whether local or national – you can email me at [rob.butler.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:rob.butler.mp@parliament.uk).*

The coronavirus crisis has made the past few months an extremely challenging time for many local people and I am grateful to every constituent who has followed the government's guidance, no doubt saving countless lives. It is with this diligence that we have seen high streets and village hubs start to come alive again. Pubs, restaurants, hairdressers, gyms and beauty salons have reopened, which represents a significant step in the right direction. As I saw when visiting The Bell in August, Eat Out to Help Out was a great way to bring customers back to the hospitality sector, and

I have been very impressed to see a wide range of local businesses adapting the way they work to enable staff to return whilst ensuring that their safety remains paramount.

I would like to thank residents for the unwavering community spirit you have shown throughout the crisis. I would like to pay particular tribute to the Aston Clinton COVID-19 Support Group, who aided many in the community over the last few months through food deliveries, providing important local information and ensuring that residents were not alone during the height of the crisis. I am pleased to see that it has maintained its resolute efforts to help the local community.

With the gradual return of our normal routine, whether that is welcoming pupils back to school, visiting friends and family or going out for a meal, we can begin to look ahead to happier times. This is a great community and I very much look forward to visiting more residents and businesses soon.

## Buckland and Aston Clinton Cricket Club

*For many the summer of 2020 has been atypical to say the least. For the cricket club this was certainly the case. Although we managed to maintain the ground, we were unable to take advantage of the late spring sunshine as we desperately awaited the go ahead to return to action. Net practice was permitted from early June and by mid July we could start playing matches again. Things were a bit different, but a sense of normality had returned.*

Our league seasons had been cancelled but we still managed regular friendly matches. We had the opportunity to play some local sides that we had not met in recent times as well as others who are part of our regular league structure. We played some good cricket at



times, and after the prolonged lockdown it felt like everyone was just pleased to be out on the field enjoying our traditional summer game again.

Traditionally we run the Colts section during the school summer term but due to the unique circumstances we began in June and ran through the school holidays instead. We did suffer from the loss of a number of regulars, and without any certainty as to when we could hold sessions we did not actively recruit for new players either. Although reduced numbers meant we were unable to get a team together at any one age group we were able to play four mixed age friendly matches to give the colts much needed match experience. A further highlight was provided when two of our Under-14s made their debuts for our senior team, and fitted in so well they were selected for another game shortly afterwards.

As we head into the off season there are a number of positives to reflect on but challenges remain over the coming months. Our pavilion refurbishment is largely complete and we look forward to its being open for business as usual in 2021. Financially we suffered this year with greatly reduced income and higher than usual machinery costs and insurance premiums. Finding new sponsorship for next season is an even firmer objective for us now. To complete the jigsaw we need to get our Colts section back on track, with more coaches recruited and more kids throughout the age groups in order to allow us to enter teams in the various competitions. If anyone reading this is able to help with any of these objectives please do get in touch.

*We will get through this season, hopefully enjoying any cricket we can squeeze in before regrouping ready to come back bigger and stronger in 2021.*



## Growing Your Own



*I have enjoyed observing the increasing interest in gardening and vegetable growing as a result of lockdown. When I grew up in Aylesbury in the 1950s, everyone had an allotment. We had big back gardens, and many families had allotments too, as growing your own vegetables and fruit was something our parents' generation had inherited.*

I loved my Dad's allotment. We lived in Walton Way, and the allotment was just behind the houses, backing right up to Hazell, Watson and Viney's factory where my Dad worked. The real entrance was over by Tring Road, but there was a stile we could climb over to save walking all the way round. I have wonderful memories of my childhood there, and all the things I was taught: how to chit and plant potatoes, how to plant onion sets, how to prick out the tiny ferny carrot seedlings. Growing peas was very labour intensive: first you made your drill, then carefully positioned the dried peas in fives, covered them gently and firmed them down. Twigs were arranged over the row, otherwise pigeons would eat the lot as soon as the tiny seedlings appeared. As they got bigger, the sticks were exchanged for larger ones to support and protect the growing plants. First the white flowers appeared, then the tiny pods. We watched anxiously as they filled until the

wonderful moment when you could eat the first fat podful – a little pop as the pod opened, and a neat row of beautiful peas. There never seemed to be very many, and Dad continued to grow them because we all loved them so much rather than because they were 'worth it.'

I also remember trips there with my friend Mary (we are still friends 65+ years on) when we picked things like under-ripe gooseberries and apples, never daring to complain of tummy ache later lest questioning revealed what we'd been up to.

Children then had to do their bit too. The plots were quite stony, and one of my earliest memories is being given a bucket to fill with stones, for which I was given a penny. And the bucket had to be full or there was no payment.

I hope today's children who are lucky enough to share in such tasks will learn and enjoy that special time as much as I did. If they do, that will prove to be one of the unexpected benefits of a tough summer. *Alison Beck*

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## Baptist Chapel history

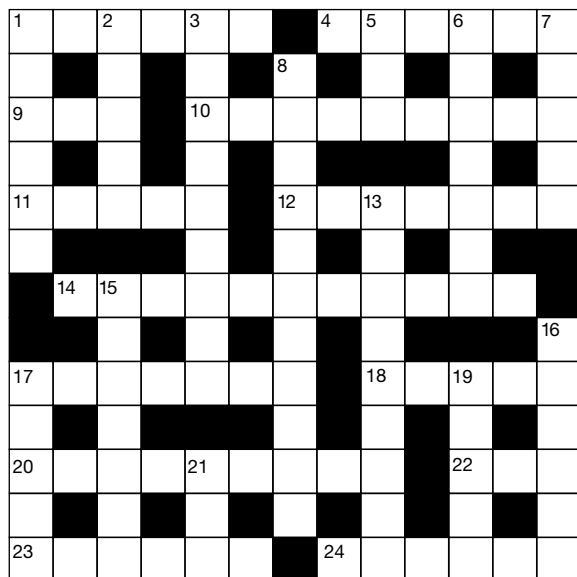
Alan Cookson has been compiling a history of the Aston Clinton Baptist Chapel, which celebrates its 200th anniversary this year.

The booklet is nearly finished but he would still like any information about Green End Street in 1820 and especially the farm of Henry Wells. When the land was sold there was a barn on the piece of ground which was originally used as the first place of worship and there was a pond, so any pictures, maps etc. which people might have on the Wells family would be most welcome.

If you think you may be able to help please contact *Alan* on [cooksonacbc@gmail.com](mailto:cooksonacbc@gmail.com)

# Village Life crossword no.39

Crossword compiled by **Helen Lonsdale** (SOLUTION ON PAGE 26)



## CLUES ACROSS

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Essentials (6)     | 17 Crowded (7)     |
| 4 Turned into (6)    | 18 Wooden Shoe (5) |
| 9 Drink gingerly (3) | 20 Control (9)     |
| 10 Broadcasts (9)    | 22 Edge(3)         |
| 11 Small person (5)  | 23 Finishing (6)   |
| 12 Fled (7)          | 24 Backwards (6)   |
| 14 Intoxication (11) |                    |

## CLUES DOWN

- |                             |                                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Adjacent (6)              | 13 Containers for storing food (9) |
| 2 Reddish-Brown pigment (5) | 15 Retile (7)                      |
| 3 Garden Bird (9)           | 16 Male Part of flower (6)         |
| 5 Flightless Bird (3)       | 17 Emblem (5)                      |
| 6 Receives (7)              | 19 Ballet rail (5)                 |
| 7 Assuaged (5)              | 21 Women living in convent (3)     |
| 8 Liberated (11)            |                                    |

## NEED TO ADVERTISE?

Many companies and self-employed people have suffered hardship during this pandemic.

However, the lockdown has encouraged creative time and energy in pursuing new hobbies and other ways of generating an income.

If you or any friends need to publicise a new venture, you could consider promoting it through Village Life. The competitive rates are shown on page 3 and our Advertising Manager, David Lonsdale, will be pleased to help.

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# Village People

*A series about people who are a part of the daily life of the villages.*

***The Reverend Sally Bottomer*** is the Rector of Aston Clinton Benefice with Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp.



**Q. What does a typical week in the life of a Rector involve?**

A. Despite the standing joke that a vicar only works one day of the week, the work is varied. It can be very 'full on' with weekly duties like leading midweek and Sunday worship, attending community events such as Rhubarb Café and the Luncheon Club, charity meetings, clergy and church council meetings and a ton of emails and other admin tasks.

Other duties can be completely random and make each week different. Mainly wedding, baptism and funeral preparation with visits to schools or preschools during term time. There are highs and lows in ministry, but I wouldn't change it for the world!

**Q. You were ordained in 2014. How long was your period of training and what did it involve?**

A. After the initial selection process, I began training at Ripon College in Cuddesdon, Oxfordshire in 2011. With many training paths to priesthood, I chose to do it part-time as my family were still very young, and I was working full-time as a registered childminder. The course, involving lectures every Tuesday evening and some residential weekends, took three years to complete.

The most satisfying role would be any that gives me the opportunity to hang out with the community.

“

**Q. A Rector has many roles within a community, which gives you the most satisfaction?**

A. Ooh tough question! The most satisfying role would be any that gives me the opportunity to hang out with the community. I love being with people, whether at Rhubarb or Repair Café, at school serving homemade cake and coffee to staff, at church showing what we do there, with a wedding couple-to-be, or with a bereft family having lost a loved one. It is such a privilege. I treasure it all.

**Q. What is the biggest challenge facing the Church today?**

A. People generally feel the Church no longer has any relevance to their lives. "Out of touch" is the expression I hear regularly when people refer to the Church, and this saddens me greatly. We need to re-imagine church; remember the 'church' that was left to us by Jesus, based on authentic community and genuine fellowship, both inside and outside the church building.... something that our ministry team here in the Benefice is very passionate about.

**Q. Did you have ambitions /a career before the Church became your life?**

A. As a 13-year old my ambition was to live in Spain and become bilingual in Spanish, which I achieved when I moved to Tenerife in 1986, became an English teacher, and lived there till 1997.

**Q. How long have you lived in Aston Clinton?**

A. We moved here in June 2014 - I'm still very much a newbie!

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

A. Ministry is fun! My hobbies include Zumba dance classes three times a week if I can. I love travelling, going to the cinema, walking my dogs and being with family.

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

A. I like most kinds of music, it depends on my mood and who I'm with. I spend quite a bit of time in the car, either for work or for taxi duties for my girls, so end up listening to all the current tunes thanks to the radio or their favourite playlist!

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

A. Anything with Will Smith! Big fan! All-time favourite would have to be Independence Day.

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

A. An automatic Nissan Micra and I think most people in the villages know what I drive now. It's a Land Rover Discovery with REV on the number plate!

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

A. Most noticeable recent change has been the increase in residents. Although some struggle with this, mainly because of issues with infrastructure, I think it's inevitable and therefore we ought to embrace the opportunities and gifts these changes may bring.

*Interview **Andrew Andersz***

*Photo **Marion Mason***

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





## 2020 – the bowls season that never was...

*All through the winter, we counted down the weeks until the start of the outdoor bowls season with eager anticipation. The fixtures were arranged, the booklets printed – and then everything ground to a stop. Like everyone else, we stayed at home and took care of ourselves. Throughout the bowls community the entire diary was postponed and everything set to resume in April 2021. Entries in diaries for matches were scrubbed out and we remained patient that, at some point, we might be allowed to return to bowls.*

The call to “return to bowls” came in May, with strong guidance about the measures required to ensure the safety of our members whilst on the premises. So, at the start of June, we re-opened for roll-ups, with a strict rink booking system online to ensure that numbers were limited, the hand and equipment sanitisers were in place and advice issued to all members.

With a lack of practice, we were all a little rusty to begin with – it wasn’t just the players observing social distancing from each other – it was also the bowls in relation to the jack! It has been lovely to get out on the green and enjoy the fresh air whilst seeing our friends again. Our clubhouse remained out of bounds, except for access to the toilets and the area set aside for access to the permitted equipment.

With the news that our older members would be able to join in, we decided to salvage what was left of the season and launched a fun pairs challenge competition to run from mid-July until mid-September. The competition was very successful, with ten pairs entering the round-robin format. Despite extreme heat and then torrential rain we managed to complete all 90+ matches!

New members are always welcome and instruction can be arranged for beginners. Four villagers took advantage of the chance to begin their bowls careers with ACBC, and we warmly welcome Jim and Jean, and Carol and Andrew to our ranks.

Please contact our secretary **Brian Clark** on **01844 351461** or by email **brianp.clark29@gmail.com** for further information. Our website is **[www.astonclintonbowlsclub.org](http://www.astonclintonbowlsclub.org)** or you can follow us on Facebook **[www.facebook.com/Aston-Clinton-Bowls-Club-1587338421538006/](https://www.facebook.com/Aston-Clinton-Bowls-Club-1587338421538006/)**

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## Memories from Mary Brooks

*Recently we were delighted to receive a letter from Mary Brooks, who lived in Aston Clinton for many years before moving to Cambridgeshire. Her notes will bring back memories for some of our older residents and will be fascinating for newcomers.*

The site now occupied by the doctors’ surgery and the chemist was once the Oriole Record company, which pressed records under its own label and for Woolworths and others.

Just along the road towards Aylesbury is the Old Rectory which was the home of Guthrie Moir, for many years a Bucks CC councillor and a member of the general Synod of the Church of England. During the war he had been a prisoner of the Japanese on the Burma railway and was later the head of education and

religious programmes for Thames Television. Sadly, he was badly injured when he fell under a train at Tring Station, an accident which ultimately led to his death some years later. He is buried in Buckland church yard.

When the post office was at 102 London Road it was run by Sidney Sharp and his two daughters, Cath and Muriel, who worked the telephone exchange. Cath later became supervisor at Aylesbury exchange and also gave piano lessons at one shilling an hour. At that time there was a tiny sweet shop next door, run by Miss Hoare and Miss Matthews.

Mary remembers the Anthony Hall being used on Friday nights for a 'Tanner (2 ½ pence) Hop', a very popular night out for young adults run by a dance teacher called Mrs Gutteridge.

On the corner of London Road and Brook Street was a grocers and haberdashers called Humphreys Stores, later Bignells, and further into Brook Street, the long low bungalow was known as the 'Reading Room'.

As you travelled towards the Oak there was Mungers the butcher, Bonhams the baker and Watsons the grocer. Mr. Gates had a yard where he sold fish and chips on Friday nights before the second world war. Later his sons, Fred and Charlie, had a coal business.

Near the corner of Brook Street and College Road was a field where, in the days before mains drainage, the contents of the village's toilets were emptied. The night soil, as it was called, was collected in a big metal container and taken to the field by a donkey cart. Apparently, the tomatoes from that field were much sought after.

Green End Street was the scene of a murder in 1825, just down from the Old Bell Inn. The story made the national press and the two murderers were transported to Australia. The same road was also home to Old Ceeley, an elderly lady reputed to be a witch and still living there in the 1920's.

Mary recalls how her mother's geese would walk down Green End Street to the pond that was in Brook Street.

Also remembered were the two Adams sisters, who gave many years' service to local youth groups like the Guides and Brownies.

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## Remembering Peggy

*We were sad to hear that Peggy Batchelor-Clegg had died in July in her care home in her 103rd year.*



She was a talented actor and drama teacher and her life and many exciting exploits are recorded in her book '*Never a dull moment*'. This includes her account of a horrific attack by a tiger in India.

She became a much-loved member of our congregation at St. Mary's, Drayton Beauchamp from the early 80's; always welcoming newcomers with her lovely smile and was ready to help out at all events.

She gave many popular fund-raising poetry and play readings at social evenings in the village and the local area, and we so enjoyed hearing the stories about her encounters with well-known actors and other famous people.

Some of us recall celebrating her 100th birthday with her in her flat in Wendover and sharing her delight with her telegram from the Queen. *We will miss her.*



*Well, 2020 has been quite the year! We threw ourselves headlong into 2020 with more players and in more age-groups than ever before. We are incredibly proud of our fantastic players, their families and all of our volunteers who give so much of their own time to enable the young people of Aston Clinton and the surrounding area to enjoy grassroots football. But then March brought lockdown and, later, the very difficult decision to cancel our summer football tournament. While it was heart-breaking not to see our wonderful park full of players and visitors during the last week of June, we have all learned this year more than ever that safety and our health are the main priorities.*

July brought better news with the reintroduction of some small-scale socially distanced training sessions followed by expanded capacity and updated FA guidelines in August. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank both Aston Clinton and Weston Turville Parish Councils for their support in accommodating training during what would usually have been the close-season. It brought some much-needed fresh air, exercise and social interaction to children and young people who told us that they were so glad to be back doing what they love. A big thanks also to all our volunteers who helped to make this happen.

September has brought the new football season with matches resuming, with many safety measures still in place. We will continue to follow FA Guidelines and Track and Trace protocols.

With the loss of our tournament income, the 2020/21 season will bring financial challenges that we have never faced before. If your company would be interested in sponsoring an

event or a team at the Colts, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact [committee@acolts.com](mailto:committee@acolts.com) Onwards and upwards, here's to some great grassroots football and a new season!

*Jo Davis Vice-Chair, Aston Clinton Colts*

## Aston Clinton U3A

*In common with many other groups our activities have been severely disrupted by the Covid-19 regulations. Whilst we are a long way from getting back to normal we have recently been able to restart some activities in one form or another.*

Our first groups to get underway were those whose activities are mainly outdoors and where social distancing could be achieved relatively easily. Angling, Bird Watching, Walking and Wildlife groups have all benefitted from the good weather enjoyed during the earlier part of lockdown and they continue to meet as we move into Autumn. The Digital Photography group has also been able to get out and about with their cameras at the ready looking for inspiration. They are also finalising their 2021 photographic calendar of local interest, following the success of this year's edition.

Others, such as the two Book groups, French, Italian and Science and Technology have successfully held online meetings, mostly using Zoom, which was, in itself, a very interesting exercise for most of us. We have at least learnt one new skill during lockdown!

We have even been able to hold our Monthly General Meeting via Zoom starting with our August meeting when we heard about "Unexplained Mysteries and Cover-ups". Unfortunately we could not replicate the social interaction that we all usually enjoy so much, and we also had to provide our own tea, coffee and biscuits! All being well, there will be further Zoom talks on 20th October and 17th November when the subjects will be *'Music in*

*London (Purcell to the Proms)' and 'Victoria and Albert – Art and Love'.*

As we move forward our programme of events and meetings will continue to evolve so please keep checking our website:- [u3asites.org.uk/aston-clinton](http://u3asites.org.uk/aston-clinton)

If you are interested in joining Aston Clinton U3A, you can check details of all 32 of our interest groups on our website. For further information, go to the Contact page and click on Membership Secretary to send me a message. *Jeff Meek, Membership Secretary*

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## The Drayton Beauchamp Croquet Tournament 2020



*Without question, the inaugural 2019 Village Croquet Tournament re-ignited interest in the game in the village; holidays and weddings were postponed to 2021, such was the eagerness to join in! New players soon discovered the game to be a test of stamina, strategy, risk-taking, self-control – and frequent forgiveness of a partner's bad strokes...*

As last year, teams comprising domestic couples took huge risks that their relationship would still be intact after the game. Practice games multiplied when it was realised that Prosecco was the preferred accompaniment,

and there was intense study, challenge, and customising of rules.

On Sunday 2nd August eight teams entered a challenging day-long Grand Knockout Tournament. Unfortunately, anti-Covid rules prevented uncontrolled ball-handling and the anticipated huge crowds of spectators. Trained umpires adjudicated instantly on challenging game-changing decisions: should a roqueting ball be permitted a croquet stroke if it runs a hoop in order? Can a roving ball kill a non-roving partner's ball by pegging it out?

The Final was an epic two-hour contest of classic croquet. At Hoop 3, Team Kibble had an apparently unassailable lead. But this changed dramatically at the last hoops! A gruelling half-hour battle, which had spectators out of their seats, finally resulted in a Team Dunbar win.

Following emotional and physical recovery, contestants and supporters received a wonderful welcome from the Reverends Sally Bottomer and Alison Roberts at St Mary's Churchyard. A stirring speech and a generous supply of locally sourced vino espumoso, both provided by Simon Brown, Chair of the Drayton Beauchamp Parochial Charities, were appreciated in equal measure. "A magnificent start to a succession of exciting events at the Church, aimed at transforming it into a go-to centre for entertainment, exhibitions, food 'n' drink, sporting and other social activities, alongside its religious role" said Simon.

Team Dunbar then received the magnificent winners' shield (donated by Gary and Lucy Kibble), bearing a beautifully-inscribed, albeit arcane, Latin inscription. The much-coveted Wooden Spoon trophy went to the Godman/Horne partnership – one to watch in future! This was followed by a sumptuous hog roast barbeque, a grand finale to what is now an established event in Drayton Beauchamp's social and sporting calendar. *Colin Ruscoe*



# Horticultural Society

*Though the Horticultural Society has cancelled all its regular meetings until the end of the year, we have still been busy. You can read about the Photographic Showcase on pages 6 and 7.*



The society is also involved in Joanna Brown's scheme to plant thousands of daffodil bulbs in the park and around the village. About 9000 bulbs are on order through the Society from Walkers Bulbs, which has kindly donated the cost of postage and packing. Joanna said 'This is bulb planting year one and we can add to it next year'.

## CROSSWORD No.39 SOLUTION

**Across** 1. Basics 4. Became 9. Slip 10. Announces 11. Dwarf 12. Escaped 14. Drunkenness 17. Bunched 18. Sabot 20. Dominance 22. Rim 23. Ending 24. Astern

**Down** 1. Beside 2. Sepia 3. Chaffinch 5. Emu 6. Accepts 7. Eased 8. Independent 13. Canisters 15. Renamed 16. Stamen 17. Badge 19. Barre 21. Nun

The Society has acquired five Ulmus New Horizon trees. These are specially bred, resistant elm trees which I am hoping to reintroduce into the village. All the original elm trees were killed by disease. These trees are guaranteed to be Dutch Elm disease free.

I have been watching the development of these virus resistant trees for some years now following a visit to a garden display in Holland.

They are medium to large, fast-growing trees and in maturity form an attractive rounded canopy with fresh green leaves, which continue to look fresh even in drought conditions.

This exciting elm shares the same phenology as the native elm and so hosts the extremely rare and endangered, native white-letter hairstreak butterfly.

The particular qualities of interest are native wildlife habitat; fully hardy in extreme cold; drought resistance; tolerance of periodic waterlogging; yellow autumn colour; and thrives in poor soils.

These elms trees will be a useful addition to those we already have in the park. The Society has permission to plant one as a commemorative tree to thank the NHS for its contribution during the corona virus pandemic. Two trees will be planted in front of the new community centre, whilst the remaining two will replace trees we have lost since our original plantings.

It is planned to plant the trees supported by stakes, as shown in the picture. We need five pairs of stakes with crossbars and are looking for donations to pay for them. In November, when the trees arrive, we will be looking for volunteers to plant the trees and stakes. If you can help in any way, please contact the Society and let us know. *Ralph Weston*

## WI - a brief history

*We were looking forward to celebrating the 90th Birthday of our WI with a special lunch in December, but because of the current situation we have had to postpone it until 2021.*

All records prior to November 1953 were destroyed but from notes prepared by a previous President we know that Buckland, Drayton Beauchamp and Aston Clinton WI was formed in 1930, initially as Buckland WI. Its inaugural meeting was held in Buckland Schoolroom (now the Village Hall) on 20th November with Mrs. V McDougall presiding. Drayton Beauchamp joined sometime later. Meetings were held mostly in Buckland, also in Drayton Beauchamp and even Aston Clinton. Times of meetings were not consistent as they were either in the afternoon or the evening.

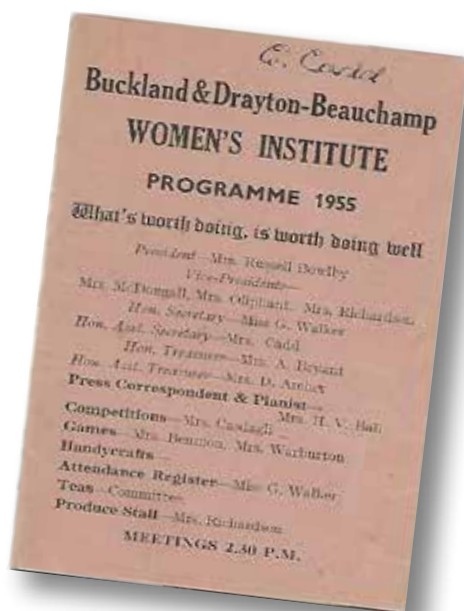
In 1956 Aston Clinton was officially added when the WI became known as Buckland, Drayton Beauchamp and Aston Clinton WI, but still moved around between the three parishes

Because of a drop in membership and difficulty in forming a committee, a special open evening was organised in 1978 with visitors expressing interest in joining if meetings were held in the evening. By 1979 approval was given by Buckinghamshire Federation of Women's Institutes and we became an evening institute, meeting on the first Wednesday in the month, which we still do. In 1981 the WI moved permanently to the Anthony Hall as membership had increased and more space was needed.

We have managed to find the names of Presidents from 1950 onwards. It is interesting that the first President, Mrs McDougall was still involved as an Honorary Vice President in the 1960s. Also, a Miss Walker, a founder member, was still involved. It would be nice to hear from anybody who had a relative who

went to the WI in the 1930s and 1940s as we have no information for this period.

The first programme we have is for 1955 and looking through the years it is amazing the number of different subjects we have covered. Hopefully, when meetings are back to normal we can continue the tradition of giving members varied subjects and experiences. Looking into our history has been fascinating and we would like to continue to delve into our past. We hope that more ladies will enjoy our WI for many more years to come.



If you wish to contact us please email  
[b.d.ac.wi@gmail.com](mailto:b.d.ac.wi@gmail.com)

We look forward to hearing from you.  
*Brenda Wheeler*

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## Canal restoration

*Coronavirus prevented the Wendover Arm Trust (WAT) from continuing with restoration activity for over three months but following authorisation from the Canal & River Trust (the owners of the canal) work parties re-started in July.*

One of the first jobs was to transport and erect the new welfare hut, purchased by WAT to provide improved facilities for the volunteers.

In order to start to overcome the backlog of work resulting from the shutdown, both the August and September working parties were extended to two weeks and we have been fortunate in finding enough volunteers to assist. A small number of volunteers have decided against returning until a vaccine is available, but several new volunteers have come forward to offer their services in order to maintain progress.

One continuing problem relates to the old tip at Little Tring and a specialist company has been employed to investigate whether any hazardous materials exist. This is going to cost the Trust around £10,000 and huge further expenditure in dealing with the tip is anticipated. The Trust is therefore exploring possible funding opportunities and all donations are most welcome.



*Nigel Williams, Publicity Director,  
Wendover Arm Trust.*

## Coffee & Walnut Sponge Cake

*Inspired by Hilary Weston's photograph in the Lockdown Photographic Showcase. Hilary, in turn, had been inspired by Mary Berry.*



### Ingredients:

100g butter  
100g caster sugar  
2 large eggs  
100g self-raising flour  
1 level tsp baking powder  
50g chopped walnuts  
1 tbs coffee essence

### Filling/Topping:

75g butter  
225g icing sugar, sifted  
2 tsp milk  
2 tsp coffee essence  
8 walnut halves,  
to decorate

### Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4. Grease two loose-bottomed 18cm/7in sandwich tins and line the bases with baking parchment.
2. Put all the cake ingredients in a large mixing bowl and beat together (electric whisk if you have one) until well mixed and smooth.
3. Divide the mixture evenly between the tins. Level the surface using a spatula or the back of a spoon.
4. Bake for 20–25 minutes, or until well risen and the top of the cake springs back when lightly pressed with a finger. Leave the cakes to cool in the tins for a few minutes, then turn the cakes out onto a wire rack. Peel off the paper and leave to cool completely.
5. For the filling and topping, beat the butter and gradually add the icing sugar. Add the milk and coffee essence and beat until smooth. Spread half in the middle of the cakes and half on top. Decorate with the walnut halves.

If you don't have coffee essence, use 2 teaspoons instant coffee granules mixed with 1 tablespoon hot water. Use a little more in the cake mixture than in the icing.

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## Emergency

### HEALTH

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

### ENERGY SUPPLIERS

Electricity Emergency	0800 7838 838	
Gas Emergency	0800 111 999	
Water Emergency	0800 3169 800	

### CRIME

Police Emergency	999	
Police non-emergency and Neighbourhood watch	101	<a href="http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk">www.thamesvalley.police.uk</a>
Childline	0800 111	

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

### EDUCATION

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

### SPORT AND LEISURE

Aston Clinton Badminton Club	07958 479690	
Aston Clinton Bowls Club	01296 630403	<a href="http://www.astonclintonbowlsclub.org">www.astonclintonbowlsclub.org</a>
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Aston Clinton F.C.	07930 925840	<a href="http://www.astonclintonfc.co.uk">www.astonclintonfc.co.uk</a>
Aston Park Tennis Club	01296 630826	<a href="http://www.astonparktennis.co.uk">www.astonparktennis.co.uk</a>
Aston Wine Club	01296 630531	<a href="http://www.astonwineclub.co.uk">www.astonwineclub.co.uk</a>
Aylesbury Green Park Sub Aqua Club	07092 075004	<a href="http://www.aylesburydivers.org.uk">www.aylesburydivers.org.uk</a>
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Buckland & Aston Clinton Cricket Club	01296 631788	<a href="http://www.baccc.play-cricket.com">www.baccc.play-cricket.com</a>
Buckland Book Group	01296 630531	<a href="mailto:brfletcher@hotmail.co.uk">brfletcher@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Buckland Bridge Club	01296 630552	<a href="mailto:Buckland.bridge@gmail.com">Buckland.bridge@gmail.com</a>
Dolphin Swim School	07966 450458	<a href="mailto:dolphinswimschool2017@gmail.com">dolphinswimschool2017@gmail.com</a>
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Aston Clinton Guides, Brownies and Rainbows		<a href="http://www.girlguiding.org.uk">www.girlguiding.org.uk</a>
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Aston Clinton Cubs	01296 708158	<a href="mailto:ac.cubs@Yahoo.co.uk">ac.cubs@Yahoo.co.uk</a>
Aston Clinton Beavers	01296 708158	<a href="mailto:ac.beavers@yahoo.co.uk">ac.beavers@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Aston Clinton Youth Club	01296 298682	

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

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

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aston Clinton Parish Council	01296 631269	<a href="http://www.astonclinton.org.uk">www.astonclinton.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:parishcouncil@astonclinton.org.uk">parishcouncil@astonclinton.org.uk</a>
Buckland Parish Council	01296 626073	<a href="mailto:bucklandpc@googlemail.com">bucklandpc@googlemail.com</a>
Drayton Beauchamp. Parish Meeting	01296 630396	
Buckinghamshire Council	0300 131 6000	<a href="http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk">www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk</a>
BC Councillors	Bill Chapple OBE	<a href="mailto:Bill.Chapple@buckinghamshire.gov.uk">Bill.Chapple@buckinghamshire.gov.uk</a>
	Mike Collins	<a href="mailto:Mike.Collins@buckinghamshire.gov.uk">Mike.Collins@buckinghamshire.gov.uk</a>
	Carole Paternoster	<a href="mailto:Carole.Paternoster@buckinghamshire.gov.uk">Carole.Paternoster@buckinghamshire.gov.uk</a>
Environmental Health (fly tipping)	01296 585605	
Highways	01296 486630	<a href="http://www.buckscc.go.uk">www.buckscc.go.uk</a>
M.P. for Aylesbury	Rob Butler	<a href="mailto:rob.butler.mp@parliament.uk">rob.butler.mp@parliament.uk</a>

## MISCELLANEOUS

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



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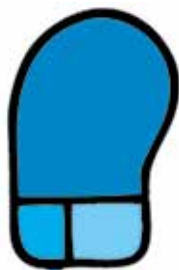


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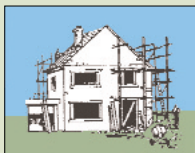
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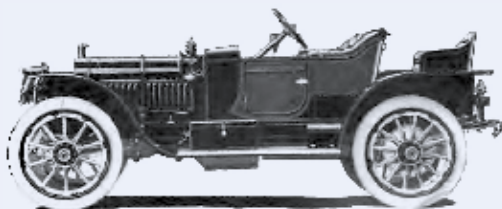




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