



Village Life

The community magazine
for Aston Clinton, Buckland
and Drayton Beauchamp
No.66 October / November 2022



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

Village Life

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

This issue of Village Life sees us say farewell to a couple of our long-standing contributors. Firstly, we have the 50th and last of the crosswords that have been compiled specially for us by Helen Lonsdale. There is a surprising amount of effort that goes into producing crosswords and we cruciverbalists really appreciate it. Thanks, Helen. If anyone would like to compile some new ones, please do get in touch.

Then there is the legend who is Ralph Weston. Although I am sure we will hear more from him, Ralph will no longer be contributing the regular articles for the Horticultural Society. You will see on page 28 that he has passed his pen, if not his trowel, on to Mandy Valentine. His association with local magazines goes back beyond the start of Village Life and I have just been reading one of his contributions to the parish magazine in 2000, where he mentions the society had a new treasurer, Ken Halls, and members of the society will know Ken is still involved today.

Another change that will be happening soon is that I shall be standing down as editor and would be interested to hear from anyone who might be interested in taking over.

Nationally we have some extraordinary changes where we saw a change of Prime Minister and a new Monarch within the space of about 48 hours. Various local groups have been directly affected by the death of the late Queen as she had been Patron of the Royal British Legion and an active member of the Women's Institute. Obviously, many others have been affected on a personal level.

Although these national events have rather overshadowed what's been happening locally, we have had a summer to remember with all the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and Astonbury 2022. The park play area has been refurbished and what with the exceptional weather this year will linger in our memories for longer than most.

Finally, many of you will know about the difficulties there have been at the doctors' surgery and you will be interested to see on page 26 about plans to make the system run more smoothly. *Richard Vincent*



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

We will remember them.

Please support your local branch as we get ready for the next poppy appeal and are looking for volunteers to sell or distribute poppies. The poppy appeal is concentrated over a period of two weeks around Remembrance Sunday. Our service of remembrance at the war memorial will be on Sunday 13th November, followed by a service at St Michael's. We also gather at the war memorial on the 11 November, the anniversary of Armistice Day in the first world war.

If you can help or want to join us, please contact [Robert Letton](#) on [01296 435540](#), thank you.

It was with great sadness that the Aston Clinton Branch of the Royal British Legion learnt of the death of our Sovereign Queen Elizabeth II. She was our Patron from the beginning of her reign. She was not only a supporter but led us and the nation every year at the cenotaph, where we remember the fallen from two world wars and other conflicts since. It was appropriate that the RBL contribution to this year's flower festival was based on the Cenotaph and remembrance.

She did not visit Aston Clinton, but I was at the front of the crowd when she made a "walk-about" in the centre of Aylesbury many years ago. I was also in the audience when she came to RAF Halton to present new colours. I attended the lunch at Halton House and sat on a table on the far side of the room facing her majesty. I cannot claim to have met the Queen but have been quite close.



Photo credit, Queen Elizabeth II, RBL

The Queen was a member of our armed services as was King Charles III and we look forward to the continued leadership and support of the Crown for our servicemen and ex-servicemen. ***God Save the King***

Ralph Weston

Luther Blissett

OBE DL

Aston Clinton resident, the former England international & Watford FC footballing legend Luther Blissett, was recently awarded an OBE for services to football and charity in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Birthday Honours.



Commenting on the award he said: *"To receive an OBE not just for my achievements in football but for using that career for the good of others makes me immeasurably proud. Even more so in this Platinum Jubilee year. That my career as a footballer can be used by the charities to touch the lives, not just of football fans, but their families and the wider community is a great honour."*

He made his Hornets debut in 1976 becoming the club's record goal-scorer and appearance maker. He made history on December 15th, 1982, when he became the first black player to score for England, netting a hat-trick against Luxembourg.

Luther's charity and community work was inspired by the late Graham Taylor OBE, Watford's manager during the club's glory years of the 1980s. Taylor believed that the club was the centre of the community and that its players had a duty to give back to the people of the town.

Along with his partner Lauren Fox, Luther played a leading role in Watford's response to the Coronavirus pandemic working alongside mayor Peter Taylor to raise more than £250,000 for local charities. Recent initiatives include establishing the Sunflower Social Club, to support Ukraine evacuees in the county, the opening of Luther Blissett House, a social housing project in Watford, and the establishment of a peer support group for service men and women and veterans. Luther continues to make daily calls and visits to Hornets fans of all ages in need.

Last year Luther was granted the freedom of the Borough of Watford and granted a Doctorate by the University of Hertfordshire. He was also made a Deputy Lieutenant for Hertfordshire, an assistant to the Lord Lieutenant who is the King's representative in the county. It is believed he is the only former professional footballer to be appointed to this position.

Village Life needs a new volunteer editor

Richard Vincent will shortly be standing down as editor of Village Life. If the magazine is to continue we need to find a new editor so if you or someone you know may be interested in the role or would like more details, please contact him at editor@acvillagelife.co.uk or on 07769 033794.

Ours is the only publication with truly local news and information for the residents and businesses of Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp and gives a voice to so many local groups. The role of editor takes a few hours a month and could easily be shared by a couple rather than just an individual.

The day I met the Queen



There are not that many people who actually met the late Queen in person but one local resident who did is George Brock.

George was born in Plymouth but moved to this area during the war, when he became a telegram boy in Wendover. He later joined the Royal Navy, like his father and grandfather before him, and ended up working for Rivets.

George also had a part-time job as a waiter in The Bell when it was run by Gerard Harris. Among their regular customers were members of the Country Landowner's Association and when they were organising an event at Windsor in 1954, they asked if they could borrow George for the day to serve drinks to their guests, including the Queen and her mother and sister.

Bringing the story right up to date, the day of the Queen's funeral happened to be George's 93rd birthday.

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

acvillagelife.co.uk



Local charity helping to make Buckinghamshire a better place to live

Community Impact Bucks is a local charity which helps people to get involved and make a difference in Buckinghamshire communities. It does this by helping people find volunteering opportunities, and by supporting charities and not-for-profit groups to get started, be effective and grow.

The charity runs the Buckinghamshire Volunteer Matching Service which has mobilised over 1,800 volunteers across the county since March 2020 to wherever they are needed from delivering food to mentoring young people. Since June 2022 it has run an Interpreter Service which provides volunteer interpreters (Russian and Ukrainian speaking) to support hosts and community groups on a task-by-task basis. You can find out about volunteer opportunities, how to access the Interpreter Service, or how to request volunteers for a charity on communityimpactbucks.org.uk/buckinghamshire-volunteer-matching-service.

Through its Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Support Service, funded by Buckinghamshire Council, the charity helps Bucks charities and voluntary groups on all aspects of running their organisation, offering tailored support, guidance and training. If you know of a small charity or voluntary group that would benefit, you can request support via communityimpactbucks.org.uk/charities-groups/request-for-support.

Community Impact Bucks also supports communities directly: its Pub Lunch Clubs, Gardening and Handy Helpers services help people to stay connected

and living independently. Other specialist services include advice for Village Halls and Community Buildings and support for Community Transport Schemes to help ensure people can access vital services. For more information on its community services, visit communityimpactbucks.org.uk/community/

You can find out more on www.communityimpactbucks.org.uk, or get in touch with the one of the team on [info@communityimpactbucks.org.uk/](mailto:info@communityimpactbucks.org.uk) tel 0300 111 1250.

Simply Walk celebrates 20 years of walking and well-being



Simply Walk, Buckinghamshire Council's walking for health and wellbeing scheme celebrated its 20th anniversary this year.

The scheme has developed into a popular, ever-growing programme, attracting thousands of walkers on dozens of routes every week.

The idea behind the scheme developed from the Walking for Health initiative pioneered by GP, Richard Bird. Simply Walk is the name given to the Buckinghamshire version of the scheme. The premise is simple, hence the name. Walkers of any age and ability are invited to join one of the many walks across the county. Most take place weekly and are graded for their level of difficulty. All walks are guided by a team of enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers who lead and back-mark the walks.

The aim is to give participants the opportunity to walk for fitness in a relaxed environment. The walks have additional benefits for mental health and wellbeing, giving those who take part access to a social and friendly group of like-minded people, helping to tackle social isolation and loneliness.

Simply Walk currently runs 72 walks a week with just over 2,000 people regularly taking part. The scheme is supported by a team of 237 active volunteers. Over the years the scheme has had numerous highlights including several couples who met on walks going on to marry, charity events and even animal rescues!

To find out more visit: www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/simply-walk

What's on at Discover Bucks Museum

There's lots to look forward to in the coming Autumn months at Discover Bucks Museum. There's still time to see the rare Roman stone heads uncovered during HS2's archaeological excavation of St Mary's Church in Stoke Mandeville.

Two of the heads are on display in our new Discover Bucks Galleries until the end of October 2022.

Running until 5 November we have a new art exhibition called Beautiful Bucks which features landscapes by artist Brian Bennett who celebrates his 95th year together with scenes from the museum's art collections. Brian Bennett has devoted much of his life to painting the Chilterns and his paintings capture his love of our local landscape. His work is for sale.

Discover Bucks Museum, Church Street,
Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 2QP

Tel: 01296 331 441

www.discoverbucksmuseum.org

News From The Benefice

Flicks in the Sticks

Back on Friday 28th October at All Saints' church. Please email *Toby* at bucklandvillagefits@gmail.com to book your ticket. £10 per person including a supper. The Holy Orders Bar will also be open for drinks.

St Michael and All Angel's Christmas Fair.

This will be held in the Church on Saturday 3rd December, from 11am until 3pm. For more information contact *Marion Richards* on [01296 630577](tel:01296 630577).

St Michael's 100 Club

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

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

Aylesbury Foodbank

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

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

acvillagelife.co.uk

Hygiene bank

If you are able to buy any toiletries, household cleaning items, hygiene & personal care items (deodorant, shower gel, shampoo, make-up, nappies, loo roll, laundry detergent or surface cleaner), please leave them at St Michael's church. Many thanks.

Rhubarb Café

This community café is open every Monday 2pm – 4.30pm (apart from bank holidays).

We offer homemade cakes, savoury items and hot drinks at £1.50 each as well as gluten free alternatives. The café takes contactless payments so you don't even need to have cash on you.

Everyone is welcome; we have a children's corner which is always open and full of stickers, colouring books and toys.

If you have a few hours spare on a Monday once a month or you would like to bake for us, then please get in contact with *Natalie* on [01296 632488](tel:01296 632488) or email Rhubarbcafe1@gmail.com.

OPENING TIMES & CONTACT DETAILS

St Michael's and **All Saints'** are open daily 9am to 5pm and **St Mary's** is open every Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm for private prayer.

Rev Sally Bottomer [01296 632488](tel:01296 632488)

Rev Jane Nash [07562 672481](tel:07562 672481)

Natalie Fieldhouse, Benefice Administrator
[01296 632488](tel:01296 632488) email all on: Benefice3@gmail.com

Facebook: *Aston Clinton Benefice with Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp*

Website: www.achurchnearyou.com search for: St Michael's, Aston Clinton, All Saints' or St Mary's

Benefice Website: www.ac-buck-db-churches.org

St Michael and All Angels Aston Clinton, All Saints' Buckland and St Mary's Drayton Beauchamp

On this page you will find the regular church services and community events that happen within our three churches.

REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Communion	All Saints'	Sunday at 8am
Midweek Communion	All Saints'	Wednesday at 10am
Messy Sunday	All Saints'	2nd Sunday every month at 11am
Sung Eucharist	All Saints'	3rd Sunday every month at 11am
Family Eucharist	St Michael's	Sunday at 9.15am
Evensong	St Michael's	Sunday at 6pm

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Harvest Service (Chiltern Society)	St Mary's	Sunday 2nd October at 4.30pm
Classical Concert	St Mary's	Saturday 8th October at 6.30pm
Pumpkin Festival	St Michael's	Sunday 30th October at 4.00pm
All Souls Service	St Michael's	Wednesday 2nd November at 7.30pm
RBL Remembrance Service	St Michael's	Sunday 13th November at 11.20am
Service for Remembrance	All Saints'	Sunday 13th November at 12.30pm
Evensong for Remembrance	St Mary's	Sunday 13th November at 4.30pm
Advent Carols	St Michael's	Sunday 27th November at 6.00pm

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Flicks in the Sticks at All Saints'

Friday 28th October at 7pm

St Michael and All Angels Christmas Fair

Saturday 3rd December at 11 – 3pm

Rhubarb Café at St Michael's

Monday 2 – 4.30pm (Closed Bank Holidays)

Communi-tea Friends Group at St Michael's

Wednesday 2 – 4pm (Free Session)

Repair Café at St Michael's

bring along your broken items on the 2nd Saturday every month 9 – 12pm

Produce Stall at All Saints'

refreshments & bacon rolls on the 1st Saturday every month 10am

The Baptist Church

Jesus said to them, "But who do you say I am?" Matthew 16.15

A radio four "Thought for the day" addressed this question of the existence of God terming it a "dry land question" speaking as news of refugees drowning in the Mediterranean was making headlines. He said a dry land question is one made from the comfort and security of... you've guessed it!

If you are drowning at sea or caught in the midst of a war, struggling with mental, physical or financial distress – the question you most desperately need answering isn't "Does God exist?"

It is "Can he save me?" that, said the speaker, is the question those who are in peril cry out to be answered.

There is an answer to that question, which is most certainly 'yes he can' and it's best not to wait until the 11th hour to discover that answer for Jesus taught that the destination of your resurrected self depends very much on your response to him, to who you say he is, in the here and now.

What is on offer is fullness of life which means far more than avoidance of an eternity separated from all that is good by way of a divine 'get out of jail card', it means living with the security, peace and presence of Almighty God here and now come what may – living not existing.

Many have reasons to doubt or disbelieve in the existence of God and in an attempt to explore some of these I offer an hour of my time to listen and share my understanding of God as revealed in the person of Jesus. Message me and I will do my best to respond.

Revd Nick Harris

Minister, Aston Clinton Baptist Church
email minister@astonclintonbaptist.org

REGULAR EVENTS AT THE BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Morning Worship (including children's church and creche) 10.45 – noon

Various Homegroups meet regularly for Bible study, fellowship & prayer.

Lunch is served in the hall every Wednesday 12.45-1.30

Craft Club Alternate Wednesday mornings 10.30 – 12.30

Noah's Ark Baby & Tots runs Thursday in term time 9.30 – 11.30.

The Foodbank is most active on Friday morning (preparing parcels) & Saturday morning (delivering parcels).

Men's full English Breakfast The first Saturday of the month 9am-10am (numbers are currently limited to 20. Booking is required.)

A Summertime Walking Group meets on the second Sunday of the month in the afternoon.

Allsorts Holiday Bible Club runs first week of the summer holiday in the mornings.



The hall is available for private hire.
Please see website or call for more details.

www.astonclintonbaptist.org
0296 631824 or 07972 770361

Aston Wine Club

The Aston Wine Club has grown from a few friends getting together to enjoy and learn about wine to a Club of over 70 Members. We meet monthly at Buckland Village Hall to socialize, sip and enjoy finding out about wines from all over the world.



We now employ professional presenters – generally either in the wine trade or professionally qualified – but the emphasis is still on enjoyment. Wine bores are banned!

The evening begins with a welcome glass of wine and moves on to the tasting, starting with four white wines, possibly with a glass of something sparkling. We take a break for a light supper of cheese & biscuits accompanied by another glass of wine and then on with tasting four red wines.

The joy of being a member is that there is the opportunity to taste wines from different regions which might not normally be on the radar such as Lebanon and Brazil. We recently had a tasting of British winemakers abroad featuring Brits now making fantastic wines in far flung places.

Having at last been released from Covid restrictions, we've enjoyed tastings of Rhone, Sicilian, Portuguese, South African wines, not to mention local wines from a vineyard in Watlington. All our tastings are fun, lively interactive affairs, and we're looking forward to the following tastings:

21st October, Grand St Emilion tasting

18th November, Favourite French

wines of Guy Boursot.

9th December, Christmas gala evening
with a scrumptious supper and a tasting of Brazilian wines.

If you are interested in coming along to a tasting, then please contact us on info@astonwineclub.co.uk and we will be delighted to welcome you.

The WI

Along with many other village organisations, we took part in the Platinum Jubilee Flower Festival at St. Michael's. This is a photo of our display together with the rationale behind it. The display was designed and executed by Christine, assisted by Nicky.

The late Queen was Patron of The Women's Institute and President of Sandringham's Women's Institute, after her Mother and Grandmother before her. Every year she attended at least one meeting and had two vice presidents.

The Women's Institute traditionally has gold and green as their colours and thus these colours were used in our arrangement for the Platinum Jubilee Flower Festival.

Please contact us if you would like details of our meetings. b.d.ac.wi@gmail.com



Aston Clinton Parish Council

Summer was very busy in the park this year. Following the long-awaited refurbishment of the children's' playpark equipment which was eagerly tested out by some enthusiastic children at the start of the school holidays.



The Parish Council also hosted two well-attended sessions of the Bucks Council Play around the Parishes scheme and is now working on a programme of updates to the Trim Trail in the park.

To further deter vandalism and prevent crime in the park, an extension to the existing CCTV system is currently underway, which will cover wider areas of the park, with part of the cost funded by a Grantscape grant from the Gib Lane Solar fund. Our allotment holders have been supporting the Grow to Give charity, by donating excess veggies and fruit each week in the growing season, to the Aylesbury Grapevine foodbank.

At the end of August, a public event was hosted by Transport for Bucks, as part of the consultation process for the traffic calming measures proposed in the Aston Clinton Neighbourhood Plan, and planned for five zones in the village. Following the end of the

consultation, TfB will consider the response and then hopefully implement measures for zones 2 and 3 in the centre of the village. The traffic calming for the remaining zones are dependent upon Bucks Council funding, to be obtained from planned large developments outside the village and will be some time away. Anyone wishing to view the plans can arrange this through the parish office, or visit our website.

As Autumn progresses, we look forward to our annual **Remembrance Sunday** event at the War Memorial, on **Sunday 13th November starting just before 11am**. Surrounding roads will be closed from 10.30am to 11.30am and all are welcome to join us at the memorial.

We are also currently planning for the annual outing of Santa's float in December, which is being structured slightly differently this year to allow Santa to visit more of our expanding village. Details of both these events will be posted on the ACPC website www.astonclinton.org, our Facebook page, local AC group Facebook pages, and the next edition of Village Life.

Aston Clinton Ladies Group

Wednesday 19th October 8pm

Christmas Craft Demonstration by Linda

Wednesday 16th November 8pm

AGM and Cheese and Wine

Meetings take place at the Guide Hall

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

Gemma Collis



Aston Clinton Wheelchair Fencer and Paralympian Gemma Collis has been adding more silverware to her collection in recent months, as she continues her preparations for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

Only a few weeks ago, the former Aston Clinton School pupil made history at the Commonwealth Fencing Championships – taking home gold for Wales on Para Fencing's debut at the event.

Gemma dusted off her Foils in a bid to win her maiden global Championship and got off to a flying start dropping just three points on her way to a full set of victories.

That left her seeded top and saw her face GB teammate and close friend Emily Holder in the semi-finals. Experience on her side, Gemma soon pulled ahead – eventually winning 15-5 to secure a place in the final against India's Malti Panaure.

With a loud Welsh contingent behind, Gemma was not to be denied – storming to a 15-4 victory to secure Wales first and only gold of the Commonwealth Fencing Championships, and only their third senior individual gold ever. Of the experience, Gemma said:

"Having just spent three weeks in bed with Covid, I was a bit worried about my fitness but having incredible support from my Welsh teammates really made the difference! I've never been part of an integrated able-bodied/para fencing team before and they honestly couldn't have made the experience any more special! Having a wall of noise from the start to finish really pushed me on, so I am absolutely thrilled to have made history by winning Wales' first ever Para Fencing Commonwealth Gold!"

Gemma's recent successes don't stop there though... back in July she picked up two Silvers at the Para Fencing World Cup in Warsaw, making the final in both the Sabre and Epee at one World Cup event for the first time in her career.

Since the Tokyo Paralympics the former Aylesbury High School pupil has won six out of a possible eight individual World Cup medals – an achievement which has seen her rise up the rankings. The 11x World Cup medallist is up to a career-high second in the world in the Women's Epee, and sixth in the Sabre.

As we go to press, Gemma is in Italy for the next World Cup, before Paris 2024 Paralympic qualification begins in November with a World Cup in Hungary and finally the European Championships in Poland in December.

Gemma is largely self-funded currently looking for sponsors (*large and small!*) as she bids to become Great Britain's first female Wheelchair Fencer to medal at the Paralympics since 1988. Should you wish to support her on her journey to the Paris 2024 Games, please get in touch on gemma.l.collis@gmail.com. Alternatively, should you wish to donate to her crowd funding efforts please go to [gofund.me/f/gemma-collis-road-to-paris-2024](https://www.gofund.me/f/gemma-collis-road-to-paris-2024). *Every single penny raised will go towards funding qualification events on the road to Paris – and really will make all the difference!* You can follow Gemma's progress on *Instagram @gemma.collisgb* & on *Twitter @GemmaCollis*

Cricket club

In the last part of the season the club became a quieter place as the Colts activity stopped for the summer holidays – although not before a keenly contested Colts vs Coaches match which the youngsters won on the final ball. However, the Senior sides carried on to early September with varying degrees of success.



The 1st XI outperformed expectations in their first season back in Division 2. 13 wins and only four defeats saw us come third and only narrowly miss out on consecutive promotions. Highlights included posting the club record score of 373 vs New City then nearly beating it again with 372 vs Old Bradwell, plus achieving the largest winning margin (bowling New City out for just 23 for a win by 350 runs). The strength in depth of the batting line up was illustrated by 10 players making half centuries, with Shah Bukhari leading the way with 444 at an average of 34 (and scoring the only century), closely followed by Talib Hussain with 421 at 32. Despite missing the final five games, Adnan Zaib topped the wicket takers with 22 at a cost of 11 apiece, with skipper Mike Parsonage next with 18 at 19 runs each. Wicket keeper Phil Samuels claimed 18 victims (15 caught and 3 stumped) and Shah Bukhari hit a purple patch of five direct hit run outs in a handful of games to go with his seven outfield catches.

The 2nd team came 8th out of 10 in Division 5, although never in danger of relegation. Their haul of just four wins reflected problems with availability and the deserved promotion to the 1st team of a couple of key personnel. The silver lining to these issues is that we were able to give senior match experience to seven of our Colts, including our first ever female player in the adult teams. Batting was the biggest problem and if it were not for Neil Roberts (458 runs in just 7 matches including two centuries) then relegation would have been much more likely. Liam Smith was the only other player to pass 200 runs. Casey Dawson topped the bowling again with 20 at an average of 17. Excitingly, 16 year olds Kyan Dawson and Owen Ford contributed well with 13 and 12 wickets respectively.

With the growth of the Colts and the some excellent performances from the Senior Midweek T20 (with a 100% record in the group stages) it has been another very busy season and there have been lots of highlights. We will now start to plan for how we can make 2023 even better, and are actively looking into the possibility of introducing the All Star Programme for 5 to 8 Year Olds.

Aston Clinton Bowls Club – the season draws to a close



Lawn bowls was given a heightened profile during the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham and one of our members, Club President Cathy Clark, was lucky enough to be selected as a volunteer at Victoria Park, getting a rink-side view of the action – and even making a couple of TV appearances!

Club Finals Weekend was held on 17th/18th September with a full two days of competitions in different formats – singles, pairs and triples. Bowls has so many proven health benefits, being considered a “gentle” sport, even those with arthritic knees and dodgy hips find that the moderate exercise does them good. Thanks to a grant from the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee fund, we have a range of equipment to help older people enjoy our sport for longer.

Although the green was closed at the end of September, work on the playing surface, the surrounds and the premises continues throughout the winter. The green still has to be mown on a regular basis (weather permitting!) and other precautions taken to ensure that the grass is in tip-top condition, ready for the resumption of play in April.

Throughout the winter, there are a number of social activities in the clubhouse – *a Grand Christmas Raffle (with carols) in mid-December, and a Winter luncheon in January.* We now have the benefit of more efficient heating, thanks to a grant from Aston Clinton Parish Council.

We also have a *Quiz Night in February* – so why not get a team together and come along and join us? There is a fish and chips supper included in the ticket price and all are welcome. Please contact [Rose Stratfull](mailto:Rose.Stratfull@acvillagelife.co.uk) on **01296 631339** for further details and to book tickets.

New members are always welcome. A course of instruction can be arranged for beginners when the season re-starts in April – please contact our secretary [Brian Clark](mailto:brianp.clark29@gmail.com) on **01844 351461** or by email brianp.clark29@gmail.com for further information.

Happiness is... Scottish country dancing!

We continue to spread happiness at “Lucy Clark” and have been joined by many new dancers during the past year. We’ve enjoyed large events, a Jubilee Party and more live music than ever before.



This term’s classes are now “in full swing” and we’re looking forward to welcoming a band from Scotland for our popular Christmas Dance. Another New Dancers’ Class will start in the New Year so if you’re looking for a new fitness activity, why not join us? You don’t need to be Scottish, wear a kilt or have a partner – and your first visit is FREE. Our enthusiastic teachers will help you to master the basic steps, formations and terminology so that you can participate more fully in the social dancing – something which gives your brain a workout too. Studies have shown that, as well as having great physical benefits, remembering the new formations and different dance tempos is also particularly good for our mental health.

If you’d like to start a new activity which keeps you physically and mentally fit, Scottish Country Dancing could be for you! Please see our website or contact me for further information.

Liz Mitchell, Lucy Clark SCD Club

lucyclarkscottish@gmail.com

01296 631695 or 07947 000368

www.lucyclarkscottish.org

Aston Clinton Society

In the summer issue of Village Life we mentioned our first fundraising event was in the planning and so we're pleased to announce that this will be an autumn quiz night.



Sharpen up on your general knowledge and specialist subjects and go head-to-head with the brightest brains in Aston Clinton at 7.30pm on Friday, October 14 at the Anthony Hall.

Tickets are £20pp and include a fish and chip supper (*there are three meal options to pre-order from when purchasing tickets, including vegetarian*). 10 tables of 8 are available (*one team per table*) and the winning team will take home a prize. Please email us at info@astonclintonociety.org.uk to book your place and for further details.

Money from the quiz night will go towards one of the society's first projects - the installation of white village gates and signs at the entrances to Aston Clinton. The fundraising target is £10,000 which will cover the purchase and installation of the gates at the five main entrances to the village. Some of the current signage is either broken or obscured and only one of the entrances has the sign on white gates.

First impressions are important and having a tidy welcome instils a sense of pride, so we

feel it's fitting we're starting with what the village presents to its returning residents and visitors on arrival. The addition of gates will give visitors the feeling of entering a residential area, highlighting care should be taken and speed should be reduced.

We are working closely with Aston Clinton Parish Council and Transport for Bucks to deliver this project.

On the subject of tidying up what we present to our residents and visitors, a special thanks to Eric Porter who has kindly restored the school noticeboard that was badly in need of some TLC.

Visit our website www.astonclintonociety.org.uk for more information on upcoming events and our next litter pick date, and email info@astonclintonociety.org.uk if you'd like to be added to our mailing list.

Update on village benches

The first two benches have now been installed, one near Mela and the other by the War Memorial, and Helen has now had the third delivered. This will be put in place very soon. Let's hope as many people as possible will use and enjoy them as they walk round the village.



And the beat goes on, the beat goes on...

As life was getting back to some normality earlier this year, I decided to add to my list of activities in retirement. Not sure that activities is the right word as bridge, grandparenting duties and the u3a discussion group don't actually require too much physical activity on my part. Bowls does, as you do have to walk quite a distance during a match even if the pace is described best as pedestrian.

Believing that I have a sense of rhythm, I've started learning to play the drums. So far, the belief in my sense of rhythm is well founded as my teacher seems reassured by my ability not only to get back on the beat when I make a mistake but also my awareness that I've made a mistake in the first place. Some of his students seem oblivious to any mistakes and just carry on regardless. I will stop, curse and try to get back on beat.

How is drumming a physical activity you may ask? Drummers are usually positioned at the back of bands and at times there seems very little movement. Even facial expressions rarely change – the recently deceased drummer of the Rolling Stones, Charlie Watts was a perfect example of not even looking as though he cared what was going on around him.

But drumming does require both arms and legs to be constantly on the move but not necessarily in synch with each other. The base drum and hi-hat are operated by the legs while snare drum, tom-toms and cymbals with the arms.

For one beat your legs may move just like when walking. Then you start hopping on the right leg while still walking with the left and then hopping with the left and so on. Meanwhile with the arms you may be hitting the snare drum with the left while the right is alternating between cymbals and tom-toms. And all these independent of each other.

When it does all come together it is very satisfying, even if the process to get there can be frustrating and tiring at times. The good thing is that drummers can do no wrong – if a mistake is made, it's called jazz!

Andrew Andersz



This new website, launched in September, brings together a vast range of insightful and in-depth information and data on Buckinghamshire, its people and places, all in one handy location.

The website is open for anyone to access but it will provide unprecedented opportunity for the voluntary and community sector to access robust data on the needs of local people in order to help them make strategic decisions and target resources.

From population figures to broadband speeds and life expectancy to crime rates, the website will continue to develop and will be regularly updated as more data becomes available.

Charities, community organisations and anyone with an interest in Buckinghamshire can visit the website and sign up for updates.

Steve Bowles, Cabinet Member for Communities said: "I am very excited to see the culmination of many, many months of hard work across all the different partner organisations, manifest itself into this one-of-a-kind website. It is a one-stop-shop for anything you ever wanted to know about Buckinghamshire and I'm sure it will become invaluable to many people but most significantly, to our local charities and community organisations in terms of planning their work and targeting their efforts where they are needed most."

Mark Ormerod, Chair of Buckinghamshire VCSE Partnership Board and CEO of Leap added: "I believe partnership and collaboration is critical to address the most stubborn inequalities and challenges facing society today. The Buckinghamshire Data Exchange will enable key organisations across Buckinghamshire to distribute and share their

intelligence, and collectively we can work on new solutions to address perennial problems."

To access the website visit: www.bucksdataexchange.org

Save money, enjoy the weather, and walk, scoot or cycle to school!

Buckinghamshire Council is encouraging parents to consider more sustainable ways to travel to and from school. Leaving the car at home can allow children to enjoy the outdoors and lets them practice crossing roads – meanwhile benefitting from some healthy exercise before the school day starts.

For those who prefer not to walk, travelling by scooting and cycling are great sustainable alternatives to driving.

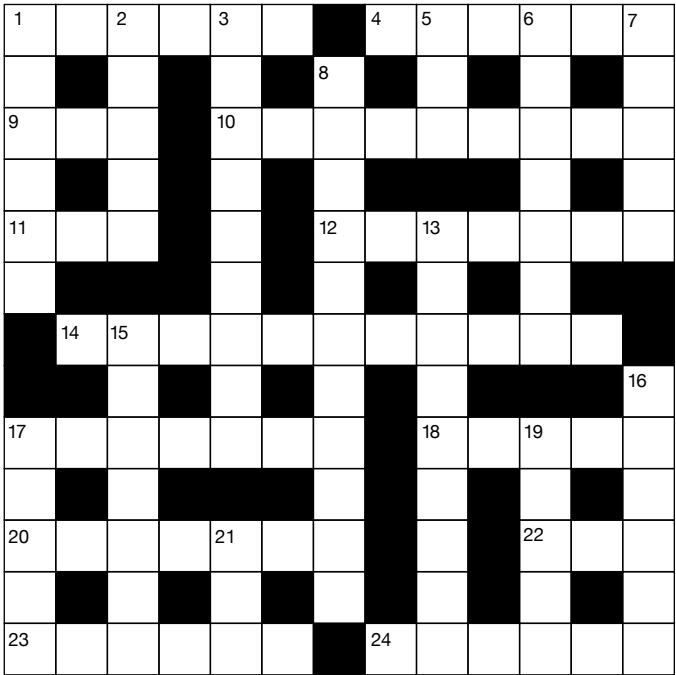
If scooting or cycling from home seems inaccessible, then parking at least five minutes away from your destination and using a form of active transport to travel the rest of the way can also be a great way to get moving while saving money. This can also lessen congestion around schools, ease parking issues and have a positive impact on local residents – all while getting a little bit of fresh air. Many schools across Buckinghamshire also have bike racks – you just need to remember to bring your own lock.

Buckinghamshire Council encourages and supports residents of all ages to take part in active travel as its part of its ambitious Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy – which aims for the county to be carbon neutral or net-zero in terms of carbon emissions by 2050.



Village Life crossword no.50

Crossword compiled by **Helen Lonsdale** (SOLUTION ON PAGE 30)

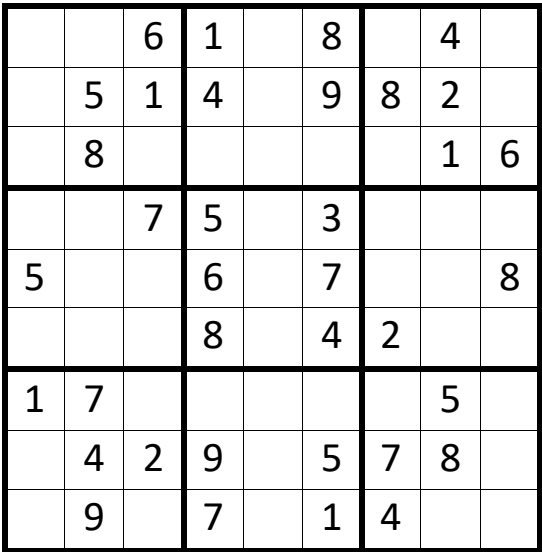


CLUES ACROSS

- 1 Home for a Horse (6)
- 4 Fearful (6)
- 9 Colour (3)
- 10 Wild Spring Flowers (9)
- 11 Collection (3)
- 12 Beholden (9)
- 14 Rural District (11)
- 17 Dirigible Balloon (7)
- 18 Ground (5)
- 20 Large cabinet (7)
- 22 Garland (3)
- 23 Prances (6)
- 24 Human Soul, Mind or Spirit (6)

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Seat on a Horse (6)
- 2 Skilled (5)
- 3 Maze (9)
- 5 Lie (3)
- 6 Said without Proof (7)
- 7 Drugged (5)
- 8 Signed a Book (11)
- 13 The ... by Walter de la Mare (9)
- 15 Rower (7)
- 16 Option (6)
- 17 Gift (5)
- 19 Artefact (5)
- 21 Frozen Water (3)



Sudoku

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

(SOLUTION ON PAGE 27)

Village People

This is a series about people who contribute to the daily life of Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp. Some live in the villages while others live locally.

*One such person is local businessman **Tim Cooper**, managing director of Dayla and James Pettit, the family-owned drinks distributor and wine merchant.*



Q. When did you first get involved with local charity activities/events and why?

A. It has been a fundamental part of our principles ever since I have been in the family business... so 40+ years. My late parents taught me this from a very early age as well as a strong work ethic. Being so local and with a family history going back two centuries in the area, we have always been keen to give something back to the community that supports us.

Q. Which local charity activities/events do you support?

A. Within the villages we're involved with Astonbury, the Aston Clinton Beer Festival and The Buck Pub. We also provide the Santa Float vehicle at Christmas together with a driver who gives up his time for free... we have now done this for a number of years.

Further afield, but still considered as local, we provide support for Florence Nightingale and Rennie Grove, MS Centre and Wendover Celebrates.

In addition, we support Chilfest and the Bucks County Show and are sponsors of Aylesbury RFC and Tring RFC. Although a sponsorship is a commercial arrangement it does enable the clubs to organise charity events that we also support.

Q. Which charity activity/event gives you the most satisfaction and why?

A. I wouldn't wish to single out one as they are all equally important to us and as we have grown, so too has our support.

Q. How long have you lived in the area?

A. Born and bred in Wendover, so 65 years.

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

A. Not too much time for hobbies though gardening (and an allotment) is my great escape. I also just like organising events and running them, from the St. George's Day Lunch at Aylesbury RFC to all the company events that are not really part of the day job.

Q. What's your favourite music?

A. Very eclectic is the only way I can describe my musical tastes with huge collections of both vinyl and CD as well at home and a 'man cave' that displays and plays it all in full.

Q. What's your favourite film?

A. The one where I can stay awake all the way through!!

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

A. A 1978 Austin 'All Aggro' ... now a Land Rover Discovery Sport.

Q. What advice would you give to anyone wanting to get involved in charity activities/events?

A. Always do it for the right reasons in wishing to give something back and be sure to throw your heart and soul into it as the rewards from the pleasure that you give are second to none. And always remind yourself that you are making a genuine difference.

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

*Interview **Andrew Andersz***



I just
like organising
& running
events!

The Squirrels' Tale

How do you feel about squirrels? Not the cute and rare red ones, but the grey ones who visit our gardens? My partner buys peanuts just for the pleasure of watching our squirrels come and collect them. Then we discovered that when they had eaten enough, the squirrels were burying the surplus in our neighbour's garden and causing havoc in his veg plot, so now they only get as much as they can eat at one sitting. They sit up and eat them quite close by – deft, efficient, and endearing. They shake each nut first to check that it's worth the effort of opening it. Once they ate all our sunflower hearts and peanuts, so we had to buy expensive 'squirrel proof' bird feeders to enable our avian visitors get a look in, and these work perfectly. But are grey squirrels really so bad?



They have certainly had a very bad press. They were first brought here from America in 1876, and over the next few years many more were introduced, including by the Duke of Bedford at Woburn. Woburn squirrels were sent to sites all over the country. They adapted well, and the popular belief that they have 'driven out' their red cousins is not entirely true: the real answer is more complicated. The two species thrive in different habitats: reds live high up in conifers, whereas greys are more adventurous and forage on the ground. Although they are not very different in size, greys carry more body fat, and

can weigh twice as much as the reds, which helps them survive hard winters.

In the Chilterns, grey squirrels damage many trees, including beech, oak, birch and maples. They cause great damage to the timber industry, and thus considerable cost to the British taxpayer. But the reds have a long history of human persecution too: in the late 1800s they were slaughtered in their thousands because of the damage they caused to trees, nesting birds and gardens. By the early 1900s they had disappeared from most of England.

In 1931 an Anti Grey Squirrel campaign was launched by The Field magazine, encouraged by The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. But by then, much of Britain had been colonised, and over the next six years the greys' range doubled despite the cull. The Wildlife Trusts have supported culling in some areas, and in 2017 a petition of 100,000 signatures was handed in to their Headquarters calling for an end to the practice. It became apparent that the culling of grey squirrels was not an effective approach to conserving the reds.

There are also many reports in defence of the greys. The naturalist Chris Packham describes them as 'Britain's most unpopular non-native invader', although he feels that those seeking to eradicate the greys are misguided. Their introduction was undoubtedly a mistake, but many non-native species are now an integral part of our flora and fauna.

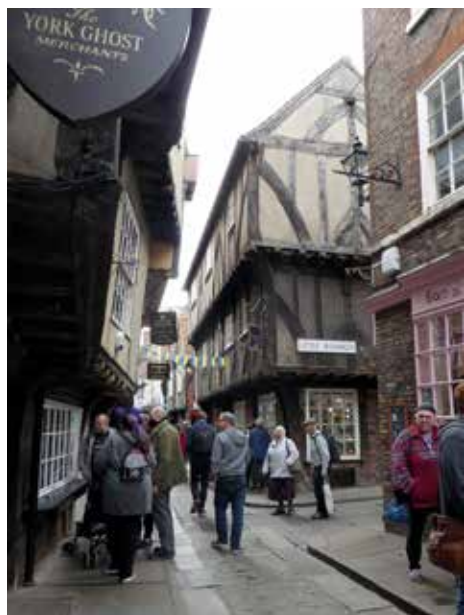
The latest initiative is a government-sponsored scheme involving a hazelnut paste spiked with a contraceptive which makes both sexes infertile. This may reduce local populations, but how will fertile individuals moving in be stopped?

I don't have any answers: I just hope that after so many generations of persecution, we can find a way of living alongside our squirrels of either hue. I'd be very sorry not to share our garden with ours. *Alison Beck*

Aston Clinton U3A Science and Technology Trip

This Science and Technology trip to Yorkshire was planned two years ago and finally went ahead earlier this year.

We travelled north of Leeds stopping in Derby on the way to visit the Museum of Making. This museum was packed with machinery and artefacts from the industrial area. Hollins Hall was our hotel and they looked after us and fed us well.



We had two full days in Yorkshire, the first in Whitby and the second in York. We enjoyed the quintessentially British seaside fishing town of Whitby with its excellent fish and chips, Captain Cook's ship and Dracula's castle. We drove across the North York Moors on the way there and returned via a steam train to Pickering, climbing up over the high, bleak moors and down into the low riversides dotted with beautiful flowers. *Very much, views to remember.*

York needs no description, we all loved it: the cobbled streets, museums, shops, the Shambles, the Minster and the river. Some of the group visited the Railway Museum, others the Jorvik Viking Centre and several of us walked the city walls.

Homebound we stopped at Saltaire. This whole community, built around Salt's Mill, comprises a factory and town, railway, river, canal and park. When the mill was built in 1853; it was the largest factory in the world and now houses exhibition spaces, restaurants and shops. We were lucky enough to see the David Hockney iPad drawing exhibition on the top floor and several of his famous oil paintings of Yorkshire in the permanent exhibition space on the ground floor.

There was science, technology and lashings of general interest and fun on this trip to Yorkshire. *Thank you to Colin and Dawn for your excellent organisation.* **Victoria P**

Buckland Parish Council

Buckland Neighbourhood Plan

The Buckland Neighbourhood Plan, part of the planning policy for our Parish, has been revised and updated. A planning inspector held an examination of the proposals earlier this year. His report asked for some amendments to be made, which have been done. The next stage is for a referendum to be held, and this will take place on 3rd November. All electors in Buckland Parish will receive their poll cards very soon. The referendum will be on whether the revised Plan should be adopted as planning policy for our Parish. Buckland Parish Council would be grateful for your support for this revised plan at the referendum.

The revisions made include a new policy setting out a Settlement Boundary for future development within the Parish, as well as revised and updated policies on heritage and on the environment.

The Inspector's report states: *'The output is a Plan which should help guide the area's development over that period (i.e. up to 2033), making a positive contribution to informing decision-making on planning applications by Buckinghamshire Council.'*

The referendum version of the Plan, the Examiner's Report and the referendum timetable are available on the Parish Council's website: www.bucklandpc.org.uk

Nature Reserve & Community Orchard

This summer's drought has made it difficult to ensure that the trees planted last winter have sufficient water. Therefore, the Parish Council has decided to postpone new planting until 2023.

We apologise for the delay this causes for residents who wish to 'plant a tree for the Jubilee'.

Sign up to Community Speedwatch

The Police and Crime Commissioner,

Matthew Barber, is calling on communities to help in the fight against speeding. To help improve road safety in the Thames Valley, he is encouraging people to sign up to Community Speedwatch. Groups across the Thames Valley are being encouraged to join the scheme where they can apply to receive a starter kit, including a speed detection device, to help their volunteers monitor and tackle speeding within their communities.

Community Speedwatch has an online platform that allows group-related activities to be self-regulated via an online calendar. Volunteers receive online training, including vehicle make recognition training. Risk assessments are also completed by police to ensure safety at the roadside. For further information and to register your interest in the Thames Valley Community Speedwatch scheme, please email SpeedWatch@thamesvalley.police.uk.



Keep in Touch

Would you like to find out more about the work Buckland Parish Council is doing or do you have an issue to raise? Please visit: bucklandpc.org.uk/issue or bucklandpc.org.uk/contact to get in touch or sign up for our email newsletter. Alternatively contact our Clerk, [Fiona Richardson](mailto:fiona.richardson@buckland-pc.gov.uk).

email: clerk@buckland-pc.gov.uk,
Telephone **01296 630962**

Password security



The explosion in popularity of online apps and services means we have to remember an increasingly long list of passwords.

Unfortunately, some of us cope with this by using the same password across multiple accounts, or with simple passwords that could easily be guessed. Bad password practice is more prevalent than you might think - more than 23 million users worldwide used 123456 as a password.

Make your accounts more secure by:

1: Creating memorable passwords

A good way to create passwords is by using three random words. You can include numbers and symbols if you need to. For example, "RedPantsTree4!"

2: Saving passwords in your browser

Saving your password in your browser means letting your web browser (such as Chrome, Safari or Edge) remember your password for you. It is safer than using weak passwords or using the same password in more than one place.

3: Email account passwords

If a hacker gets into your email account, they could reset your other passwords and access personal information. Your email password should be strong and different from all your other passwords. This will make it harder to crack or guess.

Contact your browser or the government's latest advice on how to stay secure online at the Cyber Aware website: www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware

Buck Pub 2022



To all those who supported the 2022 Buck Pub, a huge thank you. We could not have done this without you all.

A special thanks to Tim Cooper at Dayla who not only provided all the drinks and glasses, but also installed and removed the bar.

I'm sure you will have your own favourite moments but for me there were three stand-outs:

- The packed house for the Buck Quiz on Saturday evening. What a great atmosphere!
- The peace and tranquillity of Sunday afternoon with a full garden eating pizza from the excellent Wesley's Artisan Pizza Van.
- The music festival on Monday afternoon which attracted 150 visitors. A really great range of acts and a lovely community atmosphere.

In total the weekend raised just under £3,000 for our chosen charities: Rennie Grove Hospice, the Ukraine appeal and All Saints Church.

The Buck Pub will return over August Bank Holiday weekend 2023. More details to follow!

Nigel Kippax

Please mention Village Life when responding to our advertisers.

acvillagelife.co.uk

Westongrove Partnership



Thank you to everyone who completed our patient survey. We had 3150 responses which was amazing, and 450 people who have shown an interest in joining our PPG (Patient Participation Group). We are currently working on the PPG membership so please keep an eye out for an email soon. We are using the survey responses to plan for the Enhanced Access that all GP Practices have to offer from October. We are required to offer additional access to our team between 6.30 – 8.00pm Monday to Friday and are working hard to be ready with that by launch date – more news to follow.

We have had lots of feedback about difficulty getting through to the practice on the telephone so are working hard on how we can help this. It is very challenging as we are currently 50 hours short on receptionist time at Aston Clinton, and despite a very active recruitment campaign it is proving very difficult to find new team members. This means there are days when the reception team consists of one or two people and we are having to manage that safely by diverting some calls to our other sites, and on occasion with only one member of our reception team, closing the doors for queries other than clinical appointments.

We understand that this isn't ideal but thank everyone for their support and kindness to our team members who are holding the fort and working extra hours to try and cover.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in working within our team, all of our vacancies can be found at www.westongrove.com/practice-information/vacancies/ We'd love to hear from you.

We have also been looking at how we can reduce the number of calls coming into the surgery and are pleased that having worked very closely with AskFirst, cervical smear appointments can now be booked by eligible patients directly through the AskFirst app, so no need to call the practice. We are now working on making other appointments available to be booked via the app.

Flu season is nearly here, and we plan to start our flu clinics on Saturday 8th October. Once our supplier has confirmed our delivery date we will post on Facebook and our website, send text messages, and advertise within the surgery. The appointments will also be available to book via the AskFirst app which we hope will be a convenient and quick way for many patients, but of course you will still be able to make an appointment by telephoning or popping into reception. Information about who is eligible this year can be found here -www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/

The Autumn COVID Vaccinations will be delivered once again by our local GP led vaccination hub, and eligible patients will be contacted once vaccine delivery dates have been confirmed.

For more info please visit:
www.westongrove.com/covid-19-vaccine-update/

Astonbury, 2022

A sunny day in August saw another successful and very well attended Astonbury festival in the park.

Promoter Liz Blake and her team would like to thank all the sponsors and concessions, plus the bands and all who attended. More details can be found at www.astonbury.biz

Charity partners, Kirby's Herd were there and raised over £2500 for Cancer Research.

All being well, it will be happening again on 12 August next year so save the date.



Polish Layered Salad

In our last issue we featured a recipe from one of our new Ukrainian friends in the village. This time we have moved a little to the west for this recipe from Christine Johnson, whose family was from Poland.



Ingredients:

- 4 slices tinned ham
- 4 gherkins
- 2 sticks of celery
- 2 apples peeled and cored
- 1 tin of sweetcorn
- 4 pineapple rings
- 4 hard-boiled eggs
- 2 white leeks

Method:

1. In a large glass bowl add chopped layers of the above ingredients.
2. Mix 3/4 jar mayonnaise with 1/3 small carton single cream and cover salad with this mixture.
3. Refrigerate overnight for the flavours to develop.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

Horticultural Society

The Horticultural Society Summer show in August was very well attended and a lovely way to spend a summer afternoon browsing through all the fabulous entries, and enabling people to meet, talk, swap ideas and learn some horticultural skills. There was a friendly atmosphere, and it was great to see all ages taking part.

The children's art table was amazing, a couple of pieces jumped out at me, two Weetabix Minions were particularly inventive. Let's keep encouraging the children to take part; some of their entries were wonderful and, after all, they may become the gardeners of the future.



There were some beautiful vegetables looking so pristine, I admit I had a closer inspection of some carrots which were magnificent, and I have never seen such blemish free potatoes before. Mine are rough and ready to look at, but still delicious.

The floral table was outstanding, with many large, beautiful blooms. I must try harder with my Dahlias next year! There were some beautiful flower arrangements on show, some very artistic displays.

There was a good range of stunning photographs of flora and fauna on display. The book stall was popular as always with a good selection of books available.

The plant sale had a varied and interesting selection as usual. I am particularly looking forward to nurturing the new paint brush plant which I bought.

It was lovely to see so many people chatting and enjoying the outstanding refreshments on offer in the refreshment room. I enjoyed a gluten free brownie, and a cuppa. Overall, it was a good event, so next year, enter our Spring and Summer shows or bake a cake, encourage the children to take part. If these events are not supported, they will eventually disappear from our local communities, and that would be a real shame.

Our monthly talks take place in the Anthony Hall on the **second Wednesday of the month at 8pm**

On **12th October** we have an interesting talk entitled “*The Gardeners that made Stowe*”, given by Sophie Thomas, Head Gardener.

On **9th November**, our talk is “*Italy from seed to plate*”, by Paolo Arrigo

Our full diary can be found on our website www.astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk

A few tips for the rest of the season

1. Collect seeds.
2. Divide herbaceous perennials.
3. Harvest vegetable and plant out autumn /winter varieties.
4. Good time to plant evergreen trees and shrubs.
5. Dig up remaining potatoes, before the slugs get them.
6. Plant spring bulbs and seeds.
7. Harvest apples.
8. Don't worry about yellow lawns, they will bounce back.
9. Make your own compost.
10. Water house plants less frequently.

Lastly, a massive thank you to Ralph Weston who has been writing our society articles since the first edition but has now decided to hang up his pen. I am sure Ralph will continue to contribute to Village Life in the future.

Mandy Valentine

Lindengate Charity



As we head into Winter, many of us will start to think of Christmas, hoping we may be more organised than in previous years!

We have fabulous Christmas Wreath workshops that would make a great gift or get together with some friends and come and have some fun in our Yurt this December, with our expert florists guiding you to make a unique wreath to hang in your home this Christmas. Full details and dates can be found here www.lindengate.org.uk/event/christmas-wreath-workshops/

We are all experiencing the effects of the rising cost of living in our everyday lives, but you can still support Lindengate, by doing your Christmas shopping through websites such as AmazonSmile, GiveAsYouLive and EasyFundraising. All these sites donate a small percentage to Lindengate, at no extra cost to you! Take a look at our website for details: www.lindengate.org.uk/how-to-donate/

Why not send digital cards this Christmas to friends and family? With a wide selection to choose from, take a look at www.dontsendmeacard.com/ecards/charities/lindengate-mental-health-charity and help raise much needed funds for Lindengate to enable us to continue to support our community.

Our multi-award winning 6 acre unique wildlife gardens are open to all, so come and see us soon, taking time to wander through our gardens, relaxing by our ponds and taking time to notice our biodiverse environment. *Our Winter opening times are: Wednesdays 1.30 – 3.30pm and Saturdays 1 – 4pm.*

For full details on our programmes, events & how you can support us, please go to: www.lindengate.org.uk

Classical Concert at St Mary's, Drayton Beauchamp

Saturday 8th October

The annual classical concert at St Mary's, Drayton Beauchamp, is returning after three years of Covid disruption. Moira Warr-King has kindly offered to organise what promises to be an outstanding evening of beautiful music. This will include pieces by Brahms, Bernstein, Haydn, Strauss, Schumann and Verdi and other composers, performed by first-class soprano, piano and cello soloists. A small grand piano is even being installed for the occasion. We hope you will join us for a memorable evening.

Tickets are £25 each and include welcome drinks and canapés at 6.30pm, with the concert starting at 7.15pm. To buy your tickets contact [Natalie Fieldhouse](mailto:Natalie.Fieldhouse@01296632488) on 01296 632488 or benefice3@gmail.com



WENDOVER CANAL TRUST

Wendover Canal Trust volunteers recently removed no less than 1400 tonnes of old domestic rubbish in five days! The waste had been tipped in the disused canal by the local council between 1919 and 1928.

This was part of a project which will later enable the Wendover Arm to be re-lined and re-watered.

The tip waste consisted mainly of ash and stretched for 270 metres. It was one of the final barriers to rewatering the Wendover Canal, and its removal is a significant milestone. It will also allow the re-opening of the towpath through the area, avoiding the need for walkers, runners and cyclists to divert down the busy Little Tring Road. For the first time in 100 years, there will be a continuous towpath from the Grand Union Canal to Wendover.

Drayton Beauchamp Parish Meeting

There will be a parish meeting in St Mary's Church on **Thursday November 17, 7.30pm**

All parishioners are welcome and urged to stay for a drink and a chat afterwards.

Meryl Nodes, Clerk to the Parish Meeting

email: merylnodes2018@gmail.com

tel: 01296 630396

CROSSWORD No.50 SOLUTION

Across
1. Stable 4. Afraid 9. Dye 10. Bluebells 11. Lot
12. Obligated 14. Countryside 17. Airship 18. Earth
20. Armoire 22. Lei 23. Dances 24. Psyche

Down
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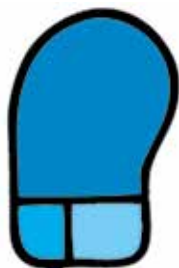




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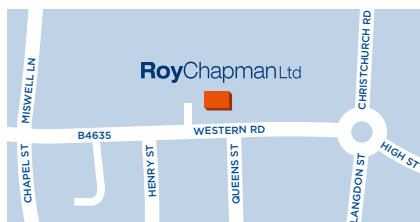
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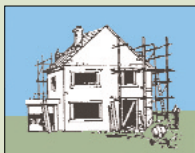


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