

Village Life

The community magazine
for Aston Clinton, Buckland
and Drayton Beauchamp
No.69 April / May 2023

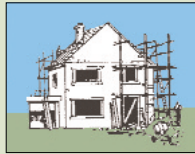


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Tel: 01296 630551 or 01442 732344
Mobile: 07831 712683
Email: cdlane417@btinternet.com**

Website: www.acvillagelife.co.uk

PRODUCTION TEAM

Editor: Barbara Muston

Email: Editor@acvillagelife.co.uk

Tel: 07970 642992

Advertising Manager:

Nigel Brown Tel: 07710 565143

Email: Advertising@acvillagelife.co.uk

Graphic Designer:

Victoria Dicken Tel: 07968 180926

Email: Design@acvillagelife.co.uk

Distribution Organiser:

Louise Rolfe Tel: 07808 172198

Email: Distribution@acvillagelife.co.uk

James Adam, Andrew Andersz, Alison Beck, Jean Kennedy, Helen Sharp & Richard Vincent

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Front cover. Swan and cygnets on the Wendover canal by Alison Beck.

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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

As I sit down at the beginning of March to write this, my first editorial for Village Life, the ice and snow outside are a reminder that winter is still very much with us, but I'm cheered by the thought that by the time this issue starts to drop through your letterboxes, Spring will have officially begun, bringing with it its annual promise of renewal and hope for the future.

That hope is something we all need, as we continue to live in such turbulent times and so many people continue to struggle to make ends meet as a result of the cost of living crisis. And it is, I believe, epitomised by two local projects that are reported on in the following pages: the planting of a new orchard in Aston Clinton Park under the auspices of the Chiltern Society; and the construction of a new apothecary garden at Lindengate. Both projects, realised through the efforts of volunteers, promise to enhance the local environment in the months and years to come, not only for its human inhabitants, but also for the birds, bugs, butterflies and bees for which both the orchard and the garden will provide new homes.

We also carry news in this issue of the various events being organised by the Aston Clinton and Buckland Parish Councils and others to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III on 6 May. These will provide an opportunity for all of us, whether monarchist or not, to come together, forget about the troubles in the world and enjoy time as a community in the company of friends and family. I look forward to meeting some of you there.

What do you think of Village Life? As the new editor, I'm keen to know whether we're giving you what you want. Is there an aspect of life in our three villages that we don't yet cover? Do you have a story to tell? Would you like to get involved by joining our team? If the answer to any of these questions is 'yes', I'd love to hear from you. My phone number and email address are at the top of this page. And if you have a business that you'd like to advertise in these pages, do contact Nigel Brown, our advertising manager, whose details also appear on this page. *Barbara Muston*

Scouts

Lots of fun on offer



Did you know your local Scout Group is looking for some volunteers? We are looking for more volunteers because of the increased demand for children and young people to learn 'skills for life'.

We have a wide range of opportunities available, these include: volunteering with Squirrels (boys and girls aged 4 and 5), and Explorers (boys and girls aged 14 to 17); keeping the Group HQ in good condition; or managing the Group's finances. Some of the activities children take part in range from archery to holding birds of prey, cooking to hiking, science to sleepovers, and first aid to overseas expeditions. There are plenty of roles working with children aged 4 to 17, managing people, looking after the Group's equipment or being a trustee. Whatever skills you have, we can find you a role. However, you might want to try something different, and we can arrange that for you

There is progression for all the children; Squirrels might make a fruit kebab whilst Explorers might make a meal that incorporates an ingredient for every letter of the alphabet; Beavers might visit the fire station whilst Scouts might visit the House of Commons.

Cub Scout Amelia Doyle said, "I'd never been camping before, but the adults ensured we had a brilliant time. We helped to pitch the tents and then we had a game followed by hot chocolate. On Saturday, we did some science experiments, cooked on a real fire, and had a sing-song around the campfire. On Sunday, we had a water fight and did some climbing. The whole weekend was terrific."

Adult volunteer, Samantha Fabbro said, "I began volunteering with Beavers but then decided to go out of my comfort zone, so I volunteered to take 36 Explorer Scouts to a World Scout Jamboree. I had never slept in a tent before and had to get used to it. I wouldn't change any of that experience, it was just brilliant."

For more information about getting involved in Scouts please visit www.scouts.org.uk/join

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Rhubarb Café at St Michael's

Monday 2 – 4.30pm (Closed Bank Holidays)

Communi-tea Friends Group at St Michael's

Wednesday 1.30 – 3pm (Free Session)

Repair Café at St Michael's

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

Coffee & Produce Stall at All Saints'

homemade cakes, bacon rolls & preloved books on the 1st Saturday every month 10am

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

Sunday 9th April 11am	Easter Holy Communion at St Mary's
Sunday 7th May 4.30pm	Evensong for King Charles' Coronation at St Mary's
Sunday 7th May 6pm	Evensong for King Charles' Coronation at St Michael's

EASTER SERVICES

Maundy Thursday <i>6th April</i>	Sung Eucharist for Maundy Thursday at St Michael's, 7.30pm
Good Friday <i>7th April</i>	Walk between the churches – meet at St Michael's, 10am – 12 noon
	Stations of the Cross at St Michael's, 2pm – 3pm
Easter Day <i>Sunday 9th April</i>	Easter Holy Communion at All Saints', 8am
	Easter Fire Family Eucharist at St Michael's, 9.15am
	Easter Fire Holy Communion at St Mary's, 11am

OPENING TIMES

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.

CONTACT DETAILS

Rev Sally Bottomer 01296 632488, Rev Jane Nash 07562 672481

Natalie Fieldhouse, Benefice Administrator 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



**Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
& Oxfordshire**
Wildlife Trust

Forthcoming Events

Spring is a wonderful time to get back out into nature as the birds begin to sing again, wildflowers start to bloom and that glorious pale green flush appears on the trees as the leaf buds emerge. The bumblebees are already out collecting nectar from the early Spring flowers and it won't be long before we start to see that wonderful harbinger of warmer weather, the Brimstone butterfly. This is the moment to shake off winter and get out into one of our reserves to spot the signs of the resurgence of life – and just breathe it all in.

We have lots of events coming up over the next couple of months in our local reserves and would love to see you there.

Discovering BBOWT Nature Reserves – guided walks

Discover Spring Flowers at Dancersend
Guided walk with Warden Mick Jones to explore the variety of wildflowers and some of the insects that live on them.

Saturday 15 April 2023, 10.00 – 12.30

Meet at Dancersend Water Works on Bottom Road, between Tring and Buckland Common. HP23 6LB, Map grid ref. SP904088.

Discover Dancersend Extension

Guided walk with Warden Mick Jones to see the work going on to transform ex-arable fields into an exciting additional space for wildlife.

Sunday 21 May 2023, 14.00 – 16.30

Meet at the car park 400m south of the summit of Aston Hill, between Aston Clinton and St. Leonards. HP23 6LD, Map grid ref. SP891097.



There are also family fun events during the half-term holidays

Moth Madness and Bombing Bats

Discover the wildlife that is active at night at Dancersend.

Tuesday 30 May 2023, 19.30 – 21.30

Meet at Dancersend Water Works on Bottom Road, between Tring and Buckland Common. HP23 6LB, Map grid ref. SP904088.

Moth and Minibeast Madness

Discover the variety of moths and other invertebrates living at Dancersend.

Wednesday 31 May 2023, 9.00 – 11.00 and 13.00 – 15.00

Booking for walks and family fun events essential at bbowt.org.uk/events.

Events at College Lake

King's Coronation Week 2 – 7 May

To celebrate the Coronation of King Charles. Come and enjoy a selection of British inspired sandwiches, snacks and cakes.

Vegetarian and vegan options available.

Why not come dressed in your finest attire, have your picture taken and the best dressed will win a prize.

International Dawn Chorus with Breakfast 7 May

Set your alarm and come and join us on a 2-hour walk listening to the birds with our expert guides. Then to reward your tired legs why not join us for breakfast afterwards?

This global event began in the UK in 1987, when wildlife enthusiast and local broadcaster

Chris Baines decided to celebrate his birthday by inviting friends and family to listen to wildlife wake up with him at Moseley Bog.

The event grew and was promoted by the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country, where Chris Baines was Vice-President. The annual event now takes place on the first Sunday of May and hundreds of events are organised around the world.

£6 for walk only

£12 for walk and a regular English breakfast and a tea/coffee, Vegetarian option available. Please let us know any allergies.

To book for this event, please visit bbowt.org.uk/events.

BBOWT Chilterns Group Plant and Produce Market 14 May

Enjoy a morning at College Lake – first, browse the market and buy a couple of your favourite plants from the huge range on offer at very keen prices, then pick up some delicious homemade goodies at the produce stall and finally replace that broken garden tool with a fantastic refurbished one from the "Workaid" van. After that you can take a leisurely walk around the reserve and end up with a coffee in the Badger Café.

Donations of plants, produce or surplus garden tools in good condition are welcome. Donated plants may be left by the welcome hut at College Lake during reserve opening hours from 8 to 13 May or brought on the day. Please take produce and garden tools to the organisers at the reserve between 9 am and 10am on Sunday 14 May. Collection from your home may also be possible – please email richardbirch60@yahoo.com.

Photo by Mick Jones

Aston Clinton Parish Council

As our thoughts turn towards the arrival of Spring, and we enjoy the appearance of spring flowers and blossom, the Parish Council has been working with the Chiltern Society on the new Chiltern WildBelt project. Under the guidance of Chairman Colin Read and Clerk Samantha, the team of volunteers including members of AC Scouts & Cubs has planted a new community orchard in AC park, along with a new sapling hedgerow which will increase biodiversity and support a wide variety of wildlife in our park.

As part of the renewal process for the Trim Trail equipment in the park, we are undertaking a consultation survey to find out the kind of equipment our residents would like to see as an update to, or replacement for, the current wooden set of equipment. If you would like to take part in the consultation which finishes at the end of April, please check out the poster on the Parish Council website and follow the link or QR code.

Residents will have noticed the new mobile speed sign (MVAS) in the village as part of our ongoing speedwatch and traffic calming measures, and the Parish Council is looking for volunteers to join our community speedwatch team. Thames Valley Police have recently updated the community speedwatch initiative, and are issuing new equipment to teams, including a speed gun for easier operation when checking a vehicle's speed. Online training is available, please contact us for more information.

The events team is busy putting together the final details for the free community event in Aston Clinton Park on Sunday 7 May 2023, in celebration of the King's Coronation. This great event will run from 12-5pm and include rides, zorbs, bouncy slide, Punch & Judy and magic

shows, along with a cake competition, kiddies fancy dress competition, dog show, animal encounters, poster and allotment competitions. There will also be food concessions as well as food & drink on offer from the Café in the Park, music from the Ellesborough Silver Band, and stalls from some of the clubs & associations in the village. Look out for posters throughout the village and check out full timings for the day on our website and Facebook pages.

A review of our Neighbourhood Plan has been started, by the NP working party, to ensure that this important planning document continues to be current with local planning policy and shapes future development within the village. The process will involve traffic surveys, updating statistics within the current Plan, fact-checking, and reviewing policies amongst other tasks.

As always, you can contact the Parish Council by phone on **01296 631269** or email: clerk@astonclinton.org

Our website also has a wealth of useful information: www.astonclinton.org.uk

Aston Clinton Ladies Group

Wednesday 19 April 8pm

Guide Hall. Flower arranging demonstration by Val Truby in aid of Florence Nightingale Hospice.

Wednesday 17 May 8pm

Guide Hall Bell Ringing - A talk by Roger Powell, Tower captain from St Michaels.

New members are always welcome. For more information call **Sue Sanders 01296 630740** or **Janet Watson 01296 631014**

Rising Sun wildflower area



We are delighted to announce that our proposal for a wildflower area in the village has been approved by Aston Clinton Parish Council and Buckinghamshire Council.

The strip of land behind the bus shelter on the London Road, near the junction with Stablebridge Road will be named the 'Rising Sun wildflower area'. The area will be left to grow, and will be managed as naturally as possible, encouraging native species. We hope that this area will encourage wildlife, insects and bees and provide a habitat for them to thrive, as well as providing an area of interest for the village. This will be a longer-term project to encourage the wildflowers and discourage the grass over the next few years. A big thank you to everyone who turned out for our litter pick around the village on 11th February. It was great to see some of our regular volunteers along with some new faces. Thanks also to everyone who tooted, waved and gave us the thumbs up in support, it was really appreciated! We collected another large haul of rubbish, so please, everyone, take your litter home with you or place it in a litter bin. If you

see litter about, please do help us to collect and bin it. The more people that can do their little bit, the better we can look after our village!

If you'd like to join the Aston Clinton Society and become involved in our community projects, we'd love to hear from you.

It's quite social, as well as concentrating on trying to improve the village. Please email us at info@astonclintonociety.org.uk or visit www.astonclintonociety.org.uk



TURPIN'S CHARITY

Turpin's Charity supports those in need, who live in the parishes of Aston Clinton and Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards. The charity began in 1736, when Widow Turpin died, and in her will she bequeathed her estate for the benefit of those in need of support.

Through the awarding of grants, the Turpin's Charity continues to help to alleviate the hardship being experienced by members of the community in a number of ways, including purchasing items of equipment necessary for the home; addressing educational needs; supporting the local foodbank; and assisting the public in their access to medical treatments.

Please do get in touch with us should you require support; all applications are dealt with confidentially and sensitively.

Website: turpinscharity.org.uk, email: info@turpinscharity.org.uk, Tel: 01296 630162

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

acvillagelife.co.uk

Guiding in the 1920s

Our thanks to Helen Sharp for discovering this story from the Girl Guides' history.



Aston Clinton Guides on a camp in Kent - 1920s

On 14 December 1929 Miss Adams, the captain of Aston Clinton guides officially opened the new guide hut headquarters in Aston Clinton. The costs of £300 for the land and building were raised by local fundraising over several years by the guides and other well-wishers. Miss Adams was presented with a gold trefoil badge for all her hard work. After 'loud cheering', in response she thanked everyone and emphasised the large amount of help and support from the village that meant the building could be completed.

Fund raising events included a garden fete, held at The Rookery by kind permission of Mrs Ross Todd. Glorious sunshine and the beautiful gardens saw over 500 people attending. Competitions such a baby show where class 1 (children under 1 year) was won by Jack Messenger. Winners in Class 2 for children over 1 year included Josephine Carlisle and the Cresswell twins. The varied programme also included a 'freak dog show' (not my words) with classes for the ugliest dog, shortest tail and dog with the cleverest tricks. Mrs Lowe won the cake competition and other entertainments

included a treasure hunt, wishing well and bowling for a pig. The day was rounded off with a whist drive and dance held at the Anthony Hall, where Mr H Tompkins was the MC for the evening.

Buckland and Aston Clinton CC

All at BACCC are eagerly looking forward to the start of the 2023 season. Veteran campaigner Mike Parsonage will once again captain the senior 1st XI, which is back in Division 1 of the Four Counties Cricket League for the first time since 2015. The 2nd team has a new skipper in Kris Greig as it tackles Division 5 again. The senior midweek team (again under Liam Smith) won't start until a bit later in the season, but we will see early cup action when we host Ballinger Waggoners on St George's Day in the National Village Cup.

We have Colts league teams at U11, U13 and U15 age groups, and some Sunday friendlies are planned to help bridge the gap to open age cricket for some of our more experienced youngsters. Excitingly we are running the England & Wales Cricket Board All Stars programme for 5 to 8-year-olds this year. Under the guidance of Lead Activator Mark Simpson, we are keen to offer some cricket-based fun to a younger group than we have been able to in the past.

We have a beautiful location at the end of Church Lane and we welcome anyone who wants to sit and watch cricket over the coming months. The bar will be open most match days too so another reason to come and pay us a visit. If you want to know when we are playing all fixtures will be on our play-cricket website: bacc.play-cricket.com.

St Michael's Church Open House Project

St Michael's tries to reach out to everyone in the community by opening the church building for as many activities unrelated to worship as possible:

- Every Monday – Rhubarb Café 2pm – 4.30pm
- Every Wednesday – Communi-tea Friends group 1.30pm – 3pm
- Once a month – Repair Café 9am – 12 noon

We are running out of room for these popular community events and as you may know, two blocks of pews at the back of the church are going to be removed and the floors levelled to create more space.

Our ultimate goal is to have a Dementia Café and in order to do this, the church needs an accessible toilet and a useable kitchen.

Before these plans can be put in place, urgent necessary repairs need to be made to the church; the roof is leaking in various places and the cement render on exterior walls has fallen down and needs to be replaced.

Approximate estimates of cost are around £500,000 and currently we have raised £62,000 through community events and local grants.

This is where you come in! We need your help and donations to help keep our wonderful church open and functioning.

To donate directly to St Michael's please go to Aston Clinton PCC – Open House A/C, Sort code 20-03-18, A/C No.73003892 and keep an eye out on social media for other forms of donating.

St Michael's also has 2 fundraising pages - www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmichaelsastonclinton/ and www.giveasyoulive.com/join/stmichaelsastonclintonbucks



Colts News

The Colts boys and girls had a great experience on Saturday 4 March; they were invited by our friends at Street2Pro to attend a 'Train like a Pro' session in the morning, at The Dome, Watford's Training Ground in London Colney.

Then in the afternoon, they went to Vicarage Road and watched Watford play Preston North End. They all said they had a fantastic day and so much fun.

In May, at the King's Coronation celebrations at the park, the Club will be running a Penalty Shoot Out stall, so please come along and see us.

On 1 and 2 July, our very successful Summer Football Tournament is taking place at Aston Clinton Park. This event is very popular and attracts over 1200 players and their families. We will have age groups Under6 to Under16s and this year for the first time we are running a girls' section.

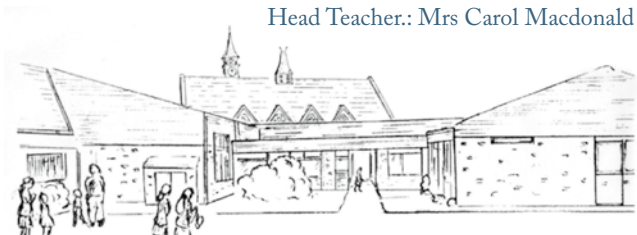
Please visit us for a whole weekend of football, family fun, BBQ, stalls, inflatables, and games and support the Colts. We will be very happy to see you.

If there any companies who would like to sponsor the tournament, please contact: tournament@accolts.com



Aston Clinton School

Head Teacher.: Mrs Carol Macdonald



Music at Aston Clinton School

Music is all around us in shops, restaurants and in the car and is an important part of our world for both young and old. As Ray Charles once said: "Music is powerful. As people listen to it, they can be affected. They respond."

This was absolutely the case when children from the Aston Clinton School Choir took part in the Young Voices Concert at Wembley Arena in February. It is the 7th year that the school has taken part in this event, and it is always a moving and humbling trip witnessing the power that music has over 6000 children, singing together and having fun. Hearing the wall of incredible music that this number of children produced is something that still gives me goosebumps! Months of rehearsing and preparation led up to our performance and what a performance it was! The children sang pop songs, tunes from Disney, more traditional tunes from across the four countries in the UK as well as our most popular medley based on the poems by Spike Milligan. They even got to accompany Heather Small from M People!

Following the success of the trip, we now have an incredible 70 children in our choir, and it is going from strength to strength. The choir is fortunate to have three wonderful parent volunteers who give up their time to support our children. With new repertoire building,



including songs from Matilda and other popular shows, the children are rising to each challenge presented to them and they are looking forward to performing to their parents in the future.

Not content with just the school choir, Aston Clinton School has ensured that our children have the opportunity to learn three different instruments when they are in KS2. Children in year 3 will learn djembe drums and ukulele and children in year 6 learn to play the trumpet over the course of the year. All our children learn to play a glockenspiel and read musical notation to give them good grounding for their musical education at secondary school. As Beethoven said, 'Music can change the world'. We certainly can't wait to see what the future holds for music at Aston Clinton School.

Wycombe Museum Exhibition: 'Hidden Hands: Women and Work in the Chilterns'



Historically, women's paid work has often been belittled and forgotten. This exhibition hunts down the hidden women's work in Chilterns villages that formed a crucial part of the local economy during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Discover how the luxury goods made by these highly skilled workers contrast with the harsh reality of working long and poorly paid hours from their homes.

Hear stories of straw plaiting in Buckland; caning and rushing chair seats in West Wycombe; lace making in Great Hampden; and braiding and beading in Holmer Green. Come to learn more about the crafts, women's lives and their impact on the Chilterns.

The six-month long exhibition at Wycombe Museum, which opened on 7 March and runs until 7 September, has been curated by the Woodlanders' Lives and Landscapes project team in partnership with Wycombe Museum & Buckinghamshire New University, and forms the museum's Summer Exhibition.

- See opening times and more details at wycombemuseum.org.uk/visit
- Free entry, all welcome, no need to book
- A series of events will run alongside the exhibition

What's on at Discover Bucks Museum

With the days getting longer there's plenty to look forward to at Discover Bucks Museum in Aylesbury. There's still time to find out how your brain works in the mind-boggling 'Your Amazing Brain' exhibition before it closes on 15 April.

During the Easter holidays we are running **Easter Craft Activities** in the first week and **'Your Amazing Brain'** themed activities in the second.

A new venture for families will be our monthly **Discover Ducks Pre-school Sessions**, which include a story, song, games, play, craft activity and trail. Next sessions are 27 April and 25 May.



Just opened is a new embroidery exhibition, **'Blooming Threads'**, displaying 400 years of embroidered flowers from around the world and, opening on 29 April, is the **Bucks Open Art exhibition** which will feature a wonderful variety of art created by Bucks artists. Come and vote for your favourite in the People's Choice Award.

For times, charges and to book please visit our website.

Discover Bucks Museum, Church Street,
Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 2QP
Tel: 01296 331 441
www.discoverbucksmuseum.org

The Baptist Church Finished

No dictionary definition has ever been able to satisfactorily define the difference between 'complete' and 'finished'. However, during a recent linguistic conference in London, attended by some of the greatest linguists in the world, the chairman was asked to make that very distinction.

The question put to him by a colleague in the erudite audience was this:

"Some say there is no difference between 'complete' and 'finished'; please explain the difference in a way that is easy to understand".

The chairman's response was thus:

"When you marry the right woman, you are 'complete'. If you marry the wrong woman, you are 'finished'.

And, if the right one catches you with the wrong one, you are 'completely finished'!"

His answer received a five-minute standing ovation.

Jesus' last word from the cross is "Telestia", which we have in the English translation as "It is finished".

One word that changed the world.

And it was the one word he uttered, as John's gospel records, because Jesus knew all was now completed.

Everything that God wanted to complete was completed at the Cross of Calvary.

*Sin was punished – sinners set free,
Evil was defeated – humanity liberated,
Death destroyed – life eternal once again available,
Enemies reconciled – both to God and to each other.
The whole of creation restored and renewed.*

Jesus says "It is finished" because all this had been completed. The healing work of the cross was done, the reconciling power of the cross was released onto a broken world.

All of this we begin to see and celebrate at Easter: new life, new hope, new possibilities. because everything necessary for our salvation from the captivity of Satan, the entrapment of a world gone bad and our own sinful disposition has been dealt with.

Surely that deserves more than a standing ovation. Happy Easter – *Rev'd Nick Harris*

Easter services at ACBC

Maundy Thursday – 7.30pm
Communion service.

Good Friday Walk of Witness – 11am
Walk of witness to the Icknield Way layby.

Easter Saturday – 9am
A short service of reflection remembering loved ones lost.

Easter Sunday – 10.45am

The WI

Our meetings take place on the first Wednesday of every month in the Anthony Hall at 7.45pm

On **5 April** we will welcome Rikki Hamilton whose talk is entitled '2020: A Verse to the News' and on **7 June** Kathryn Coulston will speak to us about Stroke Prevention and the Recovery Service.

In addition to our monthly meetings, we arrange theatre trips and have several thriving groups including a walking group, lunch club and craft club.

We look forward to welcoming new members at any of our meetings – Come along and try us – You will be most welcome. Or for more information please contact me by email b.d.ac.wi@gmail.com

Lin Mitchell, Secretary

REGULAR EVENTS AT THE BAPTIST CHURCH

All services are both live streamed and available for viewing via catch up on the church YouTube channel. Follow the links on our website.

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

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

A Ukrainian Pop Up shop runs on certain Wednesday afternoons in the hall.

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 Tuesday in term time 9.30 – 11.00

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 bereavement group meets alternate Wednesday mornings from 11.30 – 12.30

Youth group meeting two Fridays per month at 7pm.

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

www.astonclintonbaptist.org
01296 631824 or 07972 770361

80@80



James Adam is 80! To celebrate his recent big birthday and also the fact that he's relatively fit, he's going to walk 80 miles over 9 or 10 days and, with the help of sponsors, raise funds for St Michael's Church Open House Project.

During March, April and May, he'll be working on his fitness by going on one or two long walks per week and if you would like to accompany him please get in touch at james@jamesadam.co.uk or phone him on **01296 623239** or **07860 236904**. He would be delighted to hear from you.

The sponsored walks will take place in the last few days of May and the first two weeks of June. If you would like to join him on those walks or offer sponsorship, please contact him as above.

So far, plans include plenty of canal footpaths (*which are flat!*) and if you don't want to do the full walk, there will be pick-up points along the way.

Please mention Village Life
when responding to our advertisers.

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FREE EVENT

FREE EVENT

CELEBRATE THE KING'S CORONATION

Aston Clinton Park

Sunday 7th May, 2023

12.00 -5.00pm




- 👑 Family fun in the park
- 👑 Ellesborough Silver Band 2-4pm
- 👑 Zorbs & bouncy slide
- 👑 Food & drink vans and Your Cafe in the Park*
- 👑 Animal encounters 12-2pm

- 👑 Side stalls
- 👑 Punch & Judy /Magic shows 1.30-3pm
- 👑 Circus skills/balloon modelling 3 -3.30pm
- 👑 Stilt walker from 12.15pm
- 👑 Swingboats & teacup rides
- 👑 Tennis court fun



COMPETITIONS with Prizes!

- 👑 Bake a Coronation Cake (children & adults) - Judging 12.30pm
- 👑 Children's Royal fancy dress 3.15pm on MUGA
- 👑 Aston Clinton School Poster comp
- 👑 Allotment competition



- 👑 Fun Dog Show 1.30pm start on MUGA
- 👑 Charity raffle 4.30pm

MORE INFORMATION:
www.astonclinton.org.uk
 or email:
assistantclerk@astonclinton.org
 01296 631269

* food available to purchase

OUR CHARITY PARTNER:
KIRBY'S HERD



Aston Clinton Community Orchard

Community WildBelt, a new project set up by the Chiltern Society, made possible the planting of a new orchard in Aston Clinton Park on 17 February.

The trees were planted by volunteers from the Chiltern Society and by the Aston Clinton Cubs and Scouts. The Cubs and Scouts were absolutely brilliant and despite the ground being really hard to dig, they didn't give up. They had a great time and hopefully they will come back for many years to see the trees they planted.

The fruit trees planted were from a specialist fruit tree grower in Oxfordshire. Varieties of apple, pear and plum were selected with a heritage that originates from Buckinghamshire. Orchards are a fantastic habitat for wildlife, providing food and shelter for a number of species including bees, bats, birds and an array of insects. We hope visitors to the park will enjoy the fruits they provide too.

The team at Aston Clinton Parish Council was great in helping with the preparation of the site and organisation on the day; I extend a big thank you to Colin and Sam. Community WildBelt is a pilot project that is looking to increase biodiversity and Nature Recovery on a local level, working with Parish councils, community groups, farmers and private landowners. We want to connect people with nature and help them take ownership of where they live. I'm a great believer in the power of nature and how it can improve people's wellbeing.

If you have a project you would like to do or know of a patch of land that you think could be improved for nature, no matter how small, then we would like to hear from you. We are currently working in the Wendover area and surrounding parishes.



If you are interested in volunteering on the WildBelt project, then have a look at our website or email me. We hope everyone will enjoy the orchard in years to come.

Amanda Barnicoat, Community WildBelt Project Manager chilternsociety.org.uk/community-wildbelt/amandabarnicoat@chilternsociety.org.uk



Aston Clinton u3a

The u3a is a local group of retired and semi-retired people coming together to learn new skills and/or revive old ones, enjoy activities and trips out, socialise, make new friends and have fun.

We have regular monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of each month in the Anthony Hall.

These include a wide range of interesting speakers; for example, in January and February this year: 'Passports, Assassins, Traitors & Spies'; and 'Guerrillas in the Mist'.

Below is a small sample of some of the events and activities planned for the next few months.

Thursday 23 March, Daytrip to Snowhill Manor (National Trust)

Tuesday 4 April, Family History group visit to the Records Office

Thursday 6 April, Table tennis in the Churchill Hall (weekly)

Tuesday 11 April, Digital Photography group visit to Waterperry Gardens, Oxford

Monday 17 April, Line dancing in the Churchill Hall

Tuesday 18 April, Main meeting talk on 'Fire Safety in the Home'

Thursday 20 April, Garden visiting group trip to Orchard House, Coleshill

Friday 21 April, Wildlife group walk around College Lake (monthly)

Sunday 23 April, St George's Day lunch at the Chiltern Forest golf club

Mon 1 to Fri 5 May, Science & Technology Residential Trip to Northumberland



Monday 8 May, King's Coronation Hog Roast in the Old Clock Tower building at Aston Clinton school

Tuesday 16 May, Main meeting talk on 'Too young to be old'

Tuesday 23 May, Film night - Catch Me If You Can, in the Anthony Hall

Although some of these events and trips are already fully booked, most activity groups are open to new members. Please see our website: u3asites.org.uk/aston-clinton for further details.

If you are interested in joining our vibrant friendly u3a, please contact the membership secretary through the link on the website or email acu3amembership@gmail.com. We look forward to welcoming you.

Aston Clinton Beer Festival – 28th to 30th July 2023

The 11th Aston Clinton Beer Festival (ACBF 11) is the latest outing for this annual event that takes place at the village school in Aston Clinton. The festival is a celebration of music, beer, street food, and family-friendly activities. The festival attracts visitors from far and wide, who come to enjoy the festival atmosphere and the wide range of entertainment on offer.

The festival features a **line-up of talented local musicians** performing throughout the weekend. From acoustic sets to full-blown bands, there is something for everyone. The festival also boasts a wide selection of local brews, which sit alongside the best beer and cider available from around the rest of the country.

In addition to the music and beer, ACBF offers a diverse range of street food to suit all tastes. From delicious burgers, hot dogs, curries and BBQ to vegan and vegetarian dishes, there is plenty of choice for everyone. The festival also features a variety of activities for children, including face painting, bouncy castles, and craft workshops. Animal Antiks provide an unorthodox petting zoo, with Alpacas, Ponies and Creepy Crawlies which is hugely popular.

The atmosphere at ACBF is always electric, with people of all ages coming together to enjoy good music, tasty food, and good company. The combination of live music, beer, street food, and family-friendly activities make for an unforgettable summer experience. Whether you are a music lover, a beer enthusiast, or simply looking for a fun day out with the family, ACBF 11 is a must-visit event.

Entry this year will be by ticket only and tickets are on sale now at www.astonclintonbeerfestival.com. Further ticket sales options from face-to-face outlets, for those not wanting to shop online, will be announced soon.

Follow the festival on Facebook – [AstonClintonBeerFestival](https://www.facebook.com/AstonClintonBeerFestival) or Instagram – [astonclintonbeerfestival](https://www.instagram.com/astonclintonbeerfestival)



Forever Flowers 2023

Celebrate and remember loved ones with Forever Forget-Me-Nots at Waddesdon Manor



Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity has partnered with Waddesdon Manor to launch a very special Forever Flowers event to celebrate and remember loved ones this spring.

A stunning, temporary display of 1,000 bespoke metal Forget-Me-Not flowers will be installed in the Aviary Gardens at Waddesdon Manor, near Aylesbury in April. Each flower will represent the life, love and memories of a loved one.

The charity is offering you the opportunity to be a part of this event by dedicating one of these limited Forever Forget-Me-Nots, which also includes an invitation to a private viewing of the display on Monday 17 April whilst the grounds are closed to the public. The Forever Forget-Me-Nots installation will then remain on display to the public for two weeks. Once the installation is removed, those who have dedicated a flower will be able to take it home to display as a forever keepsake.

By dedicating a Forever Forget-Me-Not you will be helping the charity to provide excellent local hospice care and be there for more patients and families across Buckinghamshire and its borders.

To dedicate a Forever Forget-Me-Not visit www.fnhospice.org.uk/foreverflowers or call **01296 429975** for more information.

Aston Wine Club



Forthcoming events at Buckland Village Hall, Buckland

Doors open 7.45pm for an 8pm start.

21st April, Wines of Northern Italy

Presented by Lindsay Oram

As a hedonist, Lindsay believes that life is too short to drink bad wine. In her view, wine is very much part of life, particularly when enjoyed with food. her style is informative and relaxed.

Lindsay has appeared on Wine Hunt on Channel 4 and The Food Programme. She is also a member of The Circle of Wine Writers

19th May, Wines of New Zealand

Presented by Neil Phillips – The Wine Tipster

Neil is a professional wine, bubbles and horseracing expert. He is the UK Prosecco DOC Ambassador and combines his successful career to include wine and food presentations with top clients and chefs including Raymond Blanc OBE, Michel Roux Jr and Danilo Cortellini.

Neil is a regular presenter for the Aston Wine Club and his presentations are always enormous fun and very entertaining.

Contact us at info@astonwineclub.co.uk www.astonwineclub.co.uk/ We now have a facebook page too: [Aston Wine Club](#)

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

acvillagelife.co.uk

Happiness is...

Scottish country dancing!

Thanks to our dedicated teachers, all our dancers continue to learn new formations and improve their dancing technique. These will be put to the test at our forthcoming Spring Dance and another two informal dances on the calendar. In addition to our weekly social dancing, plans for the rest of the year include a Coronation Celebration, two further collections for the Chiltern Foodbank (our Charity of the Year) and some tuition from a visiting teacher.

It's been good to participate in two community events in the village where some of our dancers live. In January, we spent an energetic evening with Aston Clinton Beavers for their Burns' Celebration and taught them a few Scottish dances. It was fun and noisy! In February, we gathered a team together for the Quiz & Chips Evening in aid of St Michael's Open House Project and, happily, we didn't disgrace ourselves.

I mentioned before that in this centenary year of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, it's an ideal time to raise awareness



of the physical and mental benefits of Scottish Country Dancing. Having spent many evenings watching us, our Secretary has penned this poem which illustrates perfectly our enjoyment of dancing:

*Smiles all round in greeting
Convivial company meeting
Decidedly stress beating
Scottish Country Dancing!*

If you're thinking of taking up a new activity and would like to join our class, please contact us via our website or call me for further information. [Liz Mitchell, 01296 631695](#) or [07947 000368, lucyclarkscottish@gmail.com](mailto:lucyclarkscottish@gmail.com) www.lucyclarkscottish.org

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

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 31)

Village People

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

Richard Vincent is the recently 'retired' editor of *Village Life*.



Q. How long were you editor of *Village Life*?

A. I took over from the original editor, Alec Just, in February 2018.

Q. How did you first get involved with the publication?

A. I had always had an interest in writing and asked if Alec would like an article about the 1915 Brides in the Bath murder case. There was a local connection as one of the victims, Alice Burnham, was from Aston Clinton. Around the same time Alec was looking to stand down and I offered to take over.

Q. How has the magazine evolved during your time as editor?

A. *Village Life* has always tried to reflect as many aspects of the local area as possible. My focus has been to encourage people to make the most of what is available locally and also to find ways they can contribute to their community.

Q. There are other publications that claim to be 'local' – how is *Village Life* different?

A. *Village Life* is run by volunteers who have an interest in what is happening in and around our three villages. Obviously, we need

to fund the printing costs so rely on our splendid advertisers for funding. The other publications are run as commercial organisations so they start from the advertising and then add articles. From what I have seen, these appear to be syndicated articles with almost no local content and may well have counterparts all over the country that look exactly the same, just with different advertisers. Obviously, there is a place for that sort of publication, but we chose a different route.

Q. How long have you lived in Aston Clinton?

We moved here from Epsom in May 1983.

Q. Are you involved in any other activities or groups in the area?

A. Like many retired people, I have some free time and like to do voluntary work with some local organisations. My wife, Pam, and I are members of u3a and have joined some of their activity groups.

Q. What are your hobbies, what do you do to relax?

A. Apart from the above, I do a little walking, jogging and photography and during lockdown we discovered an unexpected liking for Scrabble. When I was younger I played and coached football for many years and still retain an interest. I have always supported Tottenham so that explains my usual worried expression.

Q. What's your favourite music?

A. I grew up as a fan of Tamla Motown but have broadened my range to include many genres of music, including almost anything apart from Country.

Q. What's your favourite film?

A. Until recently I would always have said The Third Man but then I saw 1917 and so I am now a bit undecided.

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

A. The first car I drove was a bright red Triang pedal car I inherited from my brother when I was about four. Later I drove a black and yellow Ford Consul, which would now be something of a classic. Currently I drive a Skoda Fabia.

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

A. I think one of the most significant changes was the opening of the by-pass in 2003. Another is that the population has increased, and I am saddened that some people only see the negative side of that. Like many people, we moved here as it suited the life we wanted for our family, and it would be selfish for us to think no one else should have the same opportunity. There are pressures on local resources but that is probably the same in almost every village and town in the country.

Make the most of what is available locally

“

We should remember what John Kennedy (almost) said *“Ask not what your village can do for you – ask what you can do for your village?”*

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***

Aston Clinton Bowls Club



Aston Clinton Bowls Club is again getting ready to start the new season at the end of April and we'll be open until the end of September. Planning for the 2023 season is complete – fixtures have been confirmed and you'd be very welcome to drop in anytime – if you see us on the green as you walk past, why not pop in and watch?

Our hard-working band of volunteers has continued to maintain the green and its surrounds during the winter and the playing surface is looking good due to the care and attention it has had lavished on it.

Thanks to a grant from the Wendover and Villages Community Board, the club has been able to purchase a pair of metal steps with a handrail to ensure that our members and visiting players are able to access and egress our green safely.

The club will be holding an Open Afternoon for anyone interested in taking part in a bowls taster session on Monday May 1 and, in conjunction with the Coronation celebrations in the Park on Sunday May 7, the club facilities will be open for all to come and have some fun on the green. All equipment is provided – all we ask is that you wear flat-soled shoes (trainers or slippers are ideal).

Don't worry if you can't make these dates, as we will also be offering other sessions as part of the Bowls England's Big Bowls Weekend at the end of May. The club is fortunate to have been donated eight new sets of coaching bowls, which will help those with smaller or arthritic hands.

If these times are not convenient, we can arrange a taster session at any time –

please contact our secretary Brian Clark on 01844 351461 or by email brianp.clark29@gmail.com or drop in while we're playing.

If you do decide you would like to learn, a full course of instruction can be organised with one of our qualified coaches – usually four sessions arranged at your convenience.

We are a fully-inclusive club and two of our coaches have undertaken special inclusion training, run by Disability Bowls England, to enable the club to offer bowls to the wider community. We have a range of aids available to help less mobile and disabled people partake in our sport. We already have ramp access throughout our facilities, a disabled toilet and a green-friendly wheelchair is available.



All are welcome to come along – young, middle-aged and those of more advanced years, whether you are a family looking to take up a new sport together, wanting to do something different after participating in a more energetic activity or just want to get more active. Lawn bowls truly is a sport of all ages and abilities. Playing bowls is a simple skill which takes a minute to learn, but a lifetime to master.

Celebrating local art at the Chilterns MS Centre



Rob Butler MP with Richard Parkin, CEO of the Chilterns MS Centre and Liz Tubby, trustee.

A record amount was raised at this year's Pop-Up Art Weekend as over a thousand art enthusiasts descended on the Chilterns MS Centre in Wendover for its annual exhibition and sale which featured over eighty incredibly talented local artists covering a wide range of artistic styles, from the more traditional landscapes to graffiti art.

The exhibition began with a special preview evening on the Friday night, attended by many high-profile figures including Rob Butler MP; Cllr Christopher Townsend, Mayor of Aylesbury; Cllr Tim Dixon, Mayor of Tring; Cllr Josephine Biss, Deputy Mayor of Princes Risborough; and Chris Williams, Trustee at the Clare Foundation, which sponsored the event.

In total, the charity raised almost £21,000, which will be used to support its work enabling people living with neurological conditions to live life to the full.

"The Pop-Up Art Weekend is our biggest fundraising event of the year and we are thrilled with how it went," said Hannah Prentice, Community and Events Manager at the Chilterns MS Centre. "There was a real

buzz around the Centre for the whole weekend, with people of all ages enjoying the amazing art on display and the equally impressive cake that our café was selling. I would just like to thank the incredible team of volunteers that helped make it all happen."

The Chilterns MS Centre provides treatments and services to people with multiple sclerosis, empowering them to live healthier and happier lives. Last year the Centre began a pilot programme to open their services to people with other neurological conditions, starting with Parkinson's and stroke survivors.

To find out more about the work of the Chilterns MS Centre, visit chilternsmcentre.org

Westongrove Surgery

Dr Craig White leaves Aston Clinton Surgery on 30 March. It certainly feels like the end of a long era!

Dr Craig Stephen White (Craig) joined Aston Clinton Surgery around 1993, under the eminent wing of Professor Peile, who had started the surgery in his front room ten years earlier. The surgery moved to the current premises a few years later and Craig became Senior Partner in 2000. He has remained the life and soul of the surgery from that point.

We invited patients to send anecdotes so we could create a memory book for him and were offered many amusing and touching stories. Those who know Craig will not be surprised to hear that some anecdotes that have been offered were not suitable for this publication, as you can imagine! But suffice to say, he has had a phenomenally positive impact on hundreds of Aston Clinton residents and his care has shown no boundaries. Gosh we will miss him.

We wish him all the very best for any future ventures.

News from Bucks Council



New food waste toolkit for Bucks residents

Buckinghamshire Council has introduced a new '*food waste toolkit*' to help local households get the best value for money out of their food shopping.

The new toolkit is part of a package of wide-ranging support the council has put in place to help counter the impact of high costs, high inflation and high energy prices that are affecting everyone.

For those facing hardship, targeted help is available through the council's Helping Hand service – measures like the new food waste toolkit are designed to help everyone to make their money go further.

Estimates show the average family of four could save £60 each month by reducing food waste, as well as lowering the negative impact that food waste has on the planet. Buckinghamshire homes produce at least 30,000 tonnes of food waste every year, enough to fill 250,000 wheelie bins, and two thirds of that is edible!

The food waste toolkit gives some simple facts and advice about food waste and how to reduce it in your home, ultimately to help more local people save money and make their food shop go further. The new toolkit is now live on the council's website within the dedicated 'cost of living' section, which gives full information on what help, advice and support is available around the cost of living, and how to access it.

Importantly too, the toolkit includes information on where residents can find their nearest community fridge – a space with fridges and freezers where local people and businesses can donate fresh, good quality

surplus food that would otherwise be wasted; the donated food is then made freely available for local people to collect.

The toolkit also tells people how to set up a community fridge in their area, including how to access food to fill it, for free.

New photo ID requirements for local and national elections

From 4 May 2023, voters in England will need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections. This will apply to:

- Local elections
- Police and Crime Commissioner elections
- UK parliamentary by-elections
- Recall petitions

From October 2023 it will also apply to UK General elections.

The Electoral Commission's website lists the accepted forms of photo ID.

People who do not have an accepted photo ID can apply for a free voter ID document, which is known as a Voter Authority Certificate. Applicants will need to provide their name, address, date of birth, national insurance number and a recent digital photo of themselves.

For people registered to vote by post, no photo ID will be required. This is because postal voting requires other identification checks, such as signature and date of birth verification.

Find out more about accepted forms of photo ID, how to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate, and what to expect on polling day by visiting the Electoral Commission website electoralcommission.org.uk.

Riding For The Disabled Motto "It's what you can do that counts"

Aston Clinton resident, Phillip Palmer, has qualified to take part in the Special Olympics World Summer Games taking place in Berlin from 17 – 25 June. These Games will see thousands of athletes compete in 26 summer sports. It will bring together people from across the world to celebrate and promote recognition and inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities.



Phillip is aged 38 and has moderate learning difficulties. Through taking part in Regional and National Championships, he has qualified to compete in the Dressage competition at the World Games. For the uninitiated, dressage is the foundation of all riding because it depends on the horse obeying weight shifts as well as leg and rein aids. Equestrian sports have been part of the Special Olympics since 1987 and it is estimated that over 140 athletes will take part in these sports at the games.

Phillip started riding when he was at junior school and now rides once or twice a week at the Riding for the Disabled Centre, Digswell Place, Welwyn Garden City, a purpose-built

voluntarily run riding stables for adults and children with most kinds of disability. In the past, Phillip spent a year at Moulton College in Northamptonshire, where he gained a Level 1 Diploma in Horse Management. He has also taken part in English Equitation classes, where the ability and style of the rider and overall horsemanship is judged rather than how well the horse moves.

On a day-to-day basis, Phillip works as a Farm Park Assistant at Willows Activity Farm in London Colney where he enjoys working outside, and particularly tractor driving.

Taking part in the Games will involve riding horses Phillip hasn't ridden before but he isn't daunted by that prospect, as it "makes you ride properly".

Training has already started with a weekend at Sparsholt College where Phillip was introduced to his team mates and learned more about the trip to Germany. He also rode two different horses and a mechanical horse during the weekend.

JustGiving™

If you are able to make a small donation to support Team GB, please visit Phillip's Just Giving page <https://www.justgiving.com/page/phillip-palmer>.

We all wish Phillip the very best of luck.

Would you like to help local young people with physical and intellectual disabilities to learn how to ride? Aylesbury and Wendover Riding for the Disabled Group meets every Friday afternoon during term time at a specialist Riding for the Disabled stables in Chesham. Each child requires a leader and 2 side walkers; whilst experience with horses is helpful, it is not essential as full training will be given. If you are interested in joining our friendly group, please contact mikemunday2k@gmail.com for further information.

Milk Pudding and beyond...

Some readers will remember that in the last edition of Village Life I wrote about my late Mum's hand-written cookery book, started in 1931. It has prompted so many memories, and I'd like to share some of them with readers.

My Mum was quite a keen cook, and in the immediate post-war years of my childhood, food was pretty basic, and much of it was grown in the back garden or on the allotment. We had chickens at the top of the garden who ate all the kitchen scraps, and produced eggs, somewhat erratically. The hens subsequently ended up roasted, although my Dad had to get a neighbour to wring their necks, and I was always told they were rabbits so that I didn't get upset. I remember being served things like stuffed lambs' hearts and also stuffed peppers, which at the time was very unusual, and made a change from the stuffed marrow. The absence of spices must have been felt by my Dad, as he was occasionally treated to a Vesta curry, a dreadful dried concoction which bore very little relation to a proper curry, but Mum always complained the house smelled for days afterwards.

Some of the recipes brought back stories I'd been told. I remember my Dad relating the tale of 'Star Gazy Pie' which my Mum had produced in the early days of their marriage. He took one look at the protruding fish heads and dashed out of the room to be sick – a reaction which he never heard the last of. Lots of rabbit recipes too – very common in my childhood before the devastation of myxomatosis. And the things we had every week – shepherd's pie, rissoles, liver and bacon, bacon clanger. No meals without meat then. Mum always struggled with her weight, so there were lots of miracle diets and slimming recipes too, and lots of cakes and biscuits!



My Mum has been dead for over forty years now, so I can't imagine what she'd make of cookery today. About the only 'convenience food' I can recall having was fish fingers – there were no 'ready meals' that I can recall. There were no microwaves, deep fat fryers (we had a chip pan), air fryers, slow cookers or any of the gadgets we take for granted now. She loved her pressure cooker though, and I still use one. Looking back, she devoted far more of her day to producing meals (she worked part time at Hazell, Watson and Viney) than most of us do now, but I'm not sure we ate much better for all that effort – more healthily probably, but a far cry from the varied international cuisine most of us now eat, influenced by our foreign holidays and imaginative TV chefs.

Like her, I also keep a book of favourite recipes. Mine was started in 1968 when I got married, and like hers, you can trace the increasing confidence in what we cooked, see the dietary fads we went through, and in mine a slow progression towards far less consumption of meat and puddings. And the ingredients I use would probably have meant nothing to her – *Harissa paste? Halloumi cheese? Sweet chilli jam?* Maybe in another ninety years someone will find mine and be amazed at what we ate! *Alison Beck*

Buckland Parish Council

Buckland Parish Council is currently busy preparing for its annual financial audit in June.

In January Buckland Parish Council refreshed its website to make it more accessible to all and to provide useful information about the work of the Parish Council and life in the Parish. You can find out when the next Parish Council meetings are, what projects the Parish Council is working on and who your Councillors are. You can also find information about the facilities within the village, how to book the village hall and lots about the history of the village, its public areas, footpaths and listed buildings. You can also keep up to date with the latest planning applications and view the Buckland Neighbourhood Plan via our planning pages. We hope you will visit our website at: buckland-pc.gov.uk



One of Buckland Parish Council's ongoing projects, which Councillors continue to work hard on, is traffic calming for Buckland Wharf and Tring Hill. A meeting is due to take place on 6 March with Parish Councillors and representatives from Bucks Council to discuss the matter further.

The Parish council is also in the process of organising a simple Coronation Celebration get together for Buckland Village on the

afternoon of 8 May.

If anyone is interested in volunteering to help, please get in touch with our Clerk, Fiona.



Buckland Parish Clerk Vacancy:

12 hours a week - (within school hours if required)

Based at Buckland Parish Council Office, Village Hall, Buckland, Bucks, HP22 5JB

For further information please contact:

Clerk@buckland-pc.gov.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 [visit https://buckland-pc.gov.uk](https://buckland-pc.gov.uk). Alternatively contact our Clerk, *Fiona Richardson* email: clerk@buckland-pc.gov.uk Telephone: 01296 630962

Drayton Beauchamp Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on **Thursday May 18** in St Mary's Church Drayton Beauchamp at 7.30pm

All parishioners are welcome to attend and to stay for a drink and a chat after the meeting.

For information contact the Clerk, phone 01296 630396 email merylnodes2018@gmail.com

Lindengate Mental Health Charity celebrating its 10th Anniversary

Garden Transformations, Programmes and Events



In 2013, hoping to operate a pilot scheme that would provide horticultural therapy for local adults with mental-health issues, Lindengate's founders asked for a small plot on an underused allotment adjoining Wyervale Garden Centre near their homes in Wendover, Buckinghamshire. Instead, the garden centre offered them the entire five-acre site. The site was waist-high in thistles and brambles, broken greenhouses and sheds. 10 years on, the weeds have gone, the sheds are repaired and painted and two huge polytunnels have been constructed and we have a yurt (which you can hire). Our secret garden is now a stunning six-acre wildlife garden with a Heritage Orchard, Nature Reserve, Kitchen Gardens and two RHS Chelsea Gold Award Winning Exhibits based next to Dobbie's Garden Centre.

Every year we support over 2000 people through our nature-based wellbeing programmes, sessions and Open Garden visitors. We provide adult wellbeing sessions, programmes for schools, young people, anyone needing support with low to moderate mental health, as well as those living with dementia and memory loss and their carers. Alongside this we now have a dedicated staff team and over 200 volunteers from horticultural experts to people who just want to get their hands dirty and meet new people.



The gardens continue to undergo transformations....

To celebrate our 10th anniversary, volunteers and staff are currently transforming part of the gardens into a brand-new Apothecary Garden. Yew Trees are now in place, with landscaping and planting due to commence shortly.

The Apothecary Garden will contain herbs and flowers grown for their natural healing properties. The new garden will create a new space for visitors and participants to learn, work and relax. Next to the Heritage Orchard, we are creating a swale. Swales are a type of sustainable drainage system which slows run-off, intercepts and filters pollutants as well as helping natural infiltration into soil. We will enhance the swale habitat by planting and sowing wildflowers and other native wetland species. It will also provide shelter and food for invertebrates, birds and mammals. Both gardens should be completed by the end of April.

With Spring in the air at Lindengate, new life is appearing across the site on a daily basis. Our team, volunteers and programme participants have also been busy weeding & planting across the whole site, in preparation for the summer months. Our gardens are open to the public on Wednesdays 1.30 - 3.30pm and Saturdays 12.30 - 2.30pm (but see forthcoming change to summer timetable opposite).

Spring / Early Summer Events

We are running a series of events to celebrate our 10th Anniversary which includes fundraising dinners and lunches at Chequers. More details can be found here www.lindengate.org.uk/events/category/events/ Three upcoming events for the public at our site include:



- *Spring Open Gardens & Cream Teas:*
Saturday 21st May (2-4pm)

On Sunday 21st May 2023, we will be having our Spring open gardens and cream teas event. Free parking, a selection of fabulous handcrafted items, jams & chutneys, wildflowers & plants for sale and of course, tea & cake (and scones!).

- *Sour Cherry Soup Play:*
Thursday 8th June (7pm start)

Chalk, Cherries & Chairs is an ambitious five-year scheme which aims to connect local people to the wildlife and cultural heritage of the Central Chilterns. The scheme operates under three themes – wildlife, heritage and people – but the projects which fall under these three themes are all designed with the Chilterns landscape in mind. As part of this project, Lindengate is hosting the play ‘Sour Cherry Soup’ by Sarah Clifford. This one-person play will be performed in the Heritage Orchard. Venue opens at 5.30pm to allow you to enjoy the gardens, have a picnic or sit back and relax in our heritage orchard. Play lasts for around 45 minutes.

- *Mikron Theatre Company:*
Wednesday 21st June (7pm start)

Mikron Theatre Company will be returning to Lindengate again on Wednesday 21st June. The company will be performing ‘Twitchers’ on the main lawn, with audience members bringing their own picnics (& chairs). You’ll need your binoculars and camouflage coats! Doors will open at 5.30 for everyone to come in with their own picnic and enjoy a walk round the garden. Performance starts at 7pm. £13 for children / £15 for adults.

Open Gardens – New Times

Visit our winning unique secret garden with your friends and family. All are welcome. From Wednesday 19th April we revert to our summer opening times of:

- Wednesday to Fridays 11am - 4pm
- Saturdays 11am - 2.30pm

There is no admission charge, but we ask for a suggested £5 donation upon entry, thank you. For more information on our programmes, events, volunteer opportunities & opening times, go to: www.lindengate.org.uk

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

Horticultural Society

Hoping you are all looking forward to the new gardening year? The snow took its toll on many regions, I lost quite a few mature plants, but am hopeful they might recover.

There's lots to do now, with the explosion of new growth, so here are some tips that I do every year, which you may find useful.

I cleaned the greenhouse, and washed the old pots etc, and had a good tidy up, in readiness for sowing and planting etc. You know it makes sense!!

Assuming you have tidied up the flower beds, weeded around and mulched, that's a good start, I always check my pot plants for growth, and pot on if necessary. The weather will warm up, but we still need to keep bedding plants frost free. But you can sow tender annuals and vegetables under glass. Now's a good time to sow sweet peas and other hardy annuals. In April the weather remains unpredictable, and we can have anything from a heatwave to ground frosts and sleet; be prepared. The best protection for tender vegetables and bedding plants if frost strikes is cloches or a horticultural fleece. Cover the tender plants until the frost or cold weather has passed.

Once your potatoes have chitted, plant your early spuds and keep adding and mounding up as the leaves appear. Check the variety as planting is dependent on the variety etc.

As the weather warms up, the pesky sneaky snails and slugs start arriving; this year I am trying a solution of garlic (1 bulb) - steep in water for a day, drain and transfer it to a sprayer, hoping this works, as I am running out of beer!

If you enjoy sowing seeds they can be grown on a windowsill with all round light or in porches etc if you have the room. For some,

seed sowing can be timely and frustrating; if you prefer buy bedding plants, keep them covered until the frosts are over. If you buy plug plants, pot them on in the next pot size as soon as you can. Pinch out the tips to encourage growth. Wait until there's no chance of frosts before planting them out, usually at the end of May. Most bedding plants are not hardy.



Pruning

In April, prune Hydrangeas, Buddleia, Lavender, and Cornus; don't go mad though, there are certain plants that are very fussy, and may not flower, if incorrectly pruned.

As the flowers fade on tulips and daffodils, dead head the actual flower, but leave the foliage to die back naturally and do not tie it up, as the foliage aids feeding the bulb for flowering next year.

If you have had baskets of indoor bulbs, these can be planted out after flowering for display in the garden next year, except for tulips which are best treated as annuals. Always plant bulbs 3 x depth of the bulb.

Give your plants a treat, don't forget to feed your shrubs and plants etc.

Plant a Wildflower Patch

I'm going to plant a wildflower patch, and hoping to create a splash of colour, and you don't need lots of room and time. There is a

simple way to create a wildflower patch, by using a pre-seeded roll or matting, which is quick, easy, and fool proof. I have seen seed mats in most garden centres and supermarkets.

Enjoy the new season. Don't forget the Spring Show & Plant sale on 1st April at Aston Clinton School - more information below:

Sat 1 April

Spring Show & Plant sale,
Aston Clinton School.

As always, we're hoping the weather is kind leading up to the event as it plays a big part in the success of the Spring Show. With very cold weather, it is a real challenge to bring the daffodil flowers to exhibition quality, and when the weather is mild it is difficult to hold them back!! Thank goodness there are other enjoyable aspects of the Show such as the popular plant sale, refreshments and of course the domestic, handicraft, floral art, and children's sections to enjoy.

Wed 12 April Talk

"Luton Hoo Walled Garden", Ron Basciano.

The garden at Luton Hoo was designed by Capability Brown and established by the 3rd Earl of Bute in 1760. It fell into decline in 1980s but is now being restored.

Wed 10 May, 8pm Talk

"Carnivorous Plants", Theo Gardiner,
Anthony Hall

Sat 13 May, 10am – 1pm

Plant Sale, Aston Clinton Park

Wed 7 June, 6pm – 8pm

Visit to Home Farm Plants, Delphinium
Specialists

Wed 14 June, 8pm Talk

"Millhoppers Pasture", Butterfly Conservation,
Anthony Hall

Mandy Valentine

Leek and Potato soup

Leek and potato soup is a delicious all-year-round favourite and very easy to make. Once you know how to make a basic soup recipe you can adapt it as much as you want. Make it more substantial by adding pasta, rice or pulses or add your favourite herbs and spices, the possibilities are endless!



Ingredients (serves 4):

1 leek
1 onion – any colour
500g potatoes (you can use leftover cooked potatoes)
Vegetable stock cube
1 litre boiling water
25g butter
Salt and pepper

Optional extras: Use whatever vegetables you have in your cupboards such as broccoli or peas, fresh or tinned, all will taste good. You can also add meat, meat substitutes, grains or pasta to soups; chorizo works particularly well. Add some cheese, too or grate some on top, or add extra herbs and spices.

Method:

1. Wash and chop the leek, chop the onion.
2. Peel potatoes and chop them into small cubes.
3. Melt the butter in a large saucepan, add the onion and leek and cook on a gentle heat until soft (approx. 5 mins).
4. Add the potatoes and stir.
5. Make the stock by dissolving the cube in the boiling water.
6. Pour the stock into the pan and simmer until the vegetables are cooked (approx. 20mins).
7. You can blend the ingredients to make a smooth soup. Alternatively leave it chunky.
8. Taste and season with salt and pepper.

Watch this recipe being made at growtogive.co.uk



WENDOVER CANAL TRUST

In January, the Wendover Canal Trust (WCT) announced the winners of its photography competition, chosen by Robbie Cumming, TV personality, vlogger and patron of the WCT. The competition was launched to entice people to the Wendover Canal during the autumn and winter, with entrants being invited to submit pictures that captured different scenes of the canal, whether wildlife, landscapes or people using the canal and towpath.

The winning photos (anticlockwise from below) were first, Alun Morgan from Princes Risborough, with a £100 prize; second was Charlotte Borrill from Linslade, who won £50; and third place with a £25 prize went to Stephen Smith of Watford.

For further information contact *Richard Peel*, email rp@hotmail.co.uk or 0780 508 3595



Other WCT news

On Saturday 18 February, the Wendover Canal Trust held an event at the headquarters of the Dunstable & District Boat Club at Cheddington to thank its volunteers for the continuing hard work in restoring the canal. The DDBC has been very supportive of the Trust and has raised over £7000 towards the restoration costs.

Various Trust Officers gave a progress report on the restoration, including Clive Johnson,

Chairman, Mikk Bradley, Site Manager and Peter Elwin, Partnerships Director, who has been very successful in securing £762,500 of funding for the towpath upgrade, starting at Wendover, together with £155,000 towards removal of the Old Tip at Little Tring.

In recent weeks the Canal & River Trust, owner of the canal, has been clearing weed growth, starting at Wendover, to improve water flow.

Further applications for funding are in the process of being submitted, including to the Heritage Lottery Fund. There are concerns that work may have to be suspended after 2024 if further funding is not obtained.

Wendover Community Car celebrates 25 Years of Service

It was 25 years ago that a group of community activists decided that Wendover and its adjoining parishes, including Aston Clinton, needed to have locally based transport to help those members of the community who were less physically able to travel. The plan was for them to use a car adapted for their needs so that they could live as normal a life as possible. That vision from 25 years ago has stood the test of time and the community car is still helping lots of people to get about. The car takes folk to Aylesbury for shopping, to social events and to church events such as Christenings; the list is endless.



Roy Coates, the acting Chair of the management committee, says *"I am in awe of the foresight of those who saw the need for a community car and turned it into reality. It is amazing how many dedicated volunteers in Wendover and surrounding areas have made the community car such a success. Many have made their contribution and retired; others are still supporting the bus today. So many people have used the bus over the years and been grateful that it is there. This photo demonstrates how folk continue to use the car today. I just want to say thank you to all the volunteers, present and past, and our supporters, such as the Parish Council and the Lionel Abel-Smith Trust. We couldn't do it without you"*.

There may be some of you who might either have a need for transport or know someone who needs help. It is really very simple to use the bus. We have a co-ordinator called Joanne who arranges journeys – just call on **01296 317769** – and she will book in the time and date for the journey together with the return. The bus will come to your home to pick you up, find a convenient place to drop you off at your destination and then pick you up later and return you to your home.

It's a great local service. Its future depends on you using it. We are eager to meet the needs of those less able to use public transport; that is our purpose. It is for you so don't hesitate to use it. So, if you, or someone you know, needs help with transport needs, give us a call on **01296 317769**.

Emergency

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

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	www.thamesvalley.police.uk
Childline	0800 111	

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

EDUCATION

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

SPORT AND LEISURE

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

YOUTH GROUPS

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

CHURCHES

St Michael and All Angels, Aston Clinton	01296 632488	www.s-michaels.org.uk
All Saints, Buckland	01296 632488	www.allsaintsbuckland.org.uk
St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp	01296 632488	www.s-marys.org.uk
Aston Clinton Baptist Church	01296 631824	www.astonclintonbaptist.org
Our Lady of Lourdes RC Church	01296 290545	www.ourladyoflourdes.uk

HALLS FOR HIRE

Anthony Hall	07443 976639	hallbookingonline.com/anthonyhall/
Baptist Church	07834 772937	lettings@astonclintonbaptist.org
Buckland Village Hall	01296 630310	
Red Kite Pavilion	01296 630270	nick@yourcafeinthepark.co.uk

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aston Clinton Parish Council	01296 631269	www.astonclinton.org.uk parishcouncil@astonclinton.org.uk
Buckland Parish Council	01296 630962	clerk@bucklandpc.org.uk
Drayton Beauchamp. Parish Meeting	01296 630396	
Buckinghamshire Council	0300 131 6000	www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk
BC Councillors	Bill Chapple OBE	Bill.Chapple@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
	Mike Collins	Mike.Collins@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
	Julie Ward	Julie.ward@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Environmental Health (fly tipping)	01296 585605	
Highways	01296 486630	www.buckscc.go.uk
M.P. for Aylesbury	Rob Butler	rob.butler.mp@parliament.uk

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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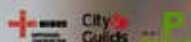
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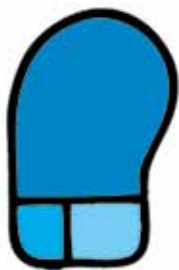


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Tax Year End is Looming!



Tax Year End is looming and it's as important as ever to make use of any allowances the government makes available. Here are a few points to be aware of:

- There is a little known tax trap where earnings between £100,000 and £125,140 are effectively taxed at 60%
- The higher earnings 40% tax threshold will begin at £125,000 rather than £150,000 from the start of the next year
 - Subject to your personal circumstances, pension contributions will provide tax relief – something to consider if you have a tax bill accruing
- The Capital Gains Allowance will reduce from £12,300 to £6,000 from the start of the new tax year, and to £3,000 the tax year after that
- The Dividend Tax Free Allowance is reducing from £2,000 to £1,000 from the start of the new tax year, and reducing again the following tax year

The levels and bases of taxation, can change at any time. The value of any tax relief is dependent on individual circumstances.

If any of these points strike a chord, please get in touch for a no obligation chat. Proper financial planning can really make a difference

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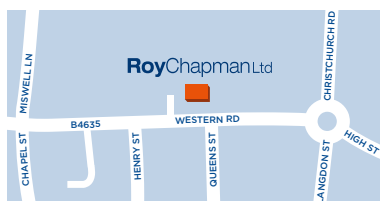
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