

Village Life

The community magazine
for Aston Clinton, Buckland
and Drayton Beauchamp

No.70 June / July 2023

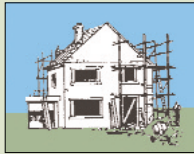


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Contributors and advertisers

PLEASE NOTE

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Editorial contributions are welcomed subject to availability of space and Editor's decision on suitability for publication. The publishers take no responsibility for statements made by contributors or advertisers.

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Front cover. Entertainer at ACPC coronation celebrations by Richard Vincent.

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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

The band played, children's faces were painted and, amazingly, the sun shone! The Aston Clinton coronation event on Sunday, 7 May was a great celebration of our community, with many local organisations represented and the park filled with families relaxing together and enjoying the atmosphere.

For the first time, Village Life had a presence at such an event, and we enjoyed meeting some of our readers, contributors, distributors and advertisers. We wanted to find out your views on Village Life and were encouraged to hear that you enjoy the stories and news of local events - and, importantly for our advertisers, you find the adverts useful.

Those of you who visited our stand may have spotted that we've adopted the slogan, "**Local Stories by Local People**" to reflect the fact that it is, of course, local residents and organisations that provide the content of Village Life and help us to make it representative of and relevant to our community. We are most grateful to you all.

Village Life needs you!

This is issue no 70 of Village Life - quite a milestone - and we hope there will be many more to come. In order to ensure that can happen, we are seeking to expand the magazine's small volunteer production team. Up to now, we have operated with one person as editor, but in order to create a model that will spread the workload to take account of busy lives and to provide Village Life with more security in the future, we are looking for one or two co-editors who could share that role. We'd also like to find someone who could help to keep us organised with some light but essential secretarial tasks. Whatever your age or background, if you value Village Life as a local resource and would like to be involved in providing news to our community, please do get in touch to find out more; I'd love to talk to you. My contact details are at the top of this page.

Barbara Muston

The Baptist Church Vacation

I do hope you enjoy the many events coming up in the village this Summer as well as further afield and possibly a vacation – for those that are I offer this cautionary tale.

It seems there was this couple from Minneapolis, Minnesota who decided to go to Florida for a few days to thaw out during one particularly cold winter. Since both spouses worked, they had difficulty coordinating their schedules, so the decision was made to have the husband leave for Florida on a certain day, with the wife following him one day later. The man made it down to Florida and arrived at his hotel. Upon getting to his room, he decided to open his laptop and send his wife back in Minneapolis an email. However, he left off one letter in typing his wife's email address and sent the email off without realizing his error.

In another part of the country, a widow had just returned from the funeral of her husband, a pastor of many years who had been called to glory just a few days earlier. She decided to check her email because she was expecting to hear from her husband's relatives and friends. Upon reading the first email she let out a loud scream, fainted and fell to the floor.

The woman's son rushed into the room and found his mother on the floor. He glanced up at the computer screen and saw the following email message:

To My Loving Wife:

I've just been checked in. Everything has-been prepared for your arrival here tomorrow. Looking forward to seeing you then.

Your Devoted Husband.

PS: Sure is hot down here

Grace & Peace

Rev'd Nick Harris

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.

Allsorts Holiday Bible club is running again this year week commencing 24th July. Details of bookings will be available on the website.

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

www.astonclintonbaptist.org
01296 631824 or 07972 770361

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 2nd June 11am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
Sunday 18th June 10am	All Saints' 750th Service led by Bishop Alan
Sunday 2nd July 4.30pm	Hymns & Pimms at St Mary's

WEDDINGS & BAPTISMS

You can hold your wedding at any of our wonderful churches. Baptisms every 3rd Sunday 11.30am at St Michael's church and 1.30pm at All Saints' church. Please contact *Natalie Fieldhouse*.

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



COMMUNITY EVENTS

St Michael's Summer Fete

Dog Show & Junior Art Show. Saturday 1st
July, 2pm – 5pm

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

Aston Clinton Parish Council

The past couple of months have been very busy for the parish council, and apart from the normal varied workload, our clerk has been busy finalising the end of year figures and preparing the annual accounts for audit.



Opening of RKP, L to R: Colin Read, Chair ACPC; The Countess Howe, His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire; Councillor Dev Dhillon, Chair of Buckinghamshire Council; and Peter Wyatt, Vice Chair of ACPC.

The events team has also been hard at work, firstly with the official opening of the Red Kite Pavilion at the end of April. After some delays in finalising a long snagging list and the building's final certificate being issued, the RKP was officially opened by His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire, the Countess Howe, and the Chairman of Buckinghamshire Council, Cllr Dev Dhillon, who each unveiled plaques in the foyer.

To mark the King's Coronation weekend, a major free community event was held in the park on Sunday 7th May, (see Pages 8 and 9).

Looking forward, the Gib Lane Solar Fund grant scheme is now open for applications, and the grant amount for 2023-24 is approx. £3,600. Groups in the parish can make an application to Grantscape, the fund managers, for any amount between £250 and the maximum. Please contact the parish council for details on how to apply; the closing date for applications is 20 September 2023, with decisions made by mid-November 2023 approximately.

Two vacancies currently on the Parish Council following resignations.

You could help to keep Aston Clinton a vibrant place to live.

Are you passionate about your local area? Can you volunteer for a few hours a month? Please contact the Parish Clerk, *Samantha Payne* on **01296 631269** or email clerk@astonclinton.org for more information.

Aston Clinton Ladies Group

Wednesday 21 June 8pm

Guide Hall. Talk about Wendover Canal Trust by Clive Johnson and Peter Elwin.

Wednesday 19 July 8pm

Guide Hall. Bingo/dingbats/games night.

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

AC Society

It's been a busy few weeks for the Aston Clinton Society as members and volunteers alike get stuck into various projects now that the better weather (debatable!) has arrived.



As many of you may have seen, our first rewilding project is underway on the piece of land behind the Rising Sun bus-stop on London Road. We have aptly named it the Rising Sun Wildflower Area and have erected a couple of information boards explaining what we're trying to achieve. Our first call to action was to give the area one final, light mow before planting out 150 yellow rattle plug plants which will gradually help to reduce the amount of grass and allow wildflowers to flourish. To help us understand the land we're working with, two members attended a course run by the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust at College Lake recently, to learn how to conduct a site survey and record the number of plant species growing there. We will be doing these surveys regularly on our site and are looking forward to seeing what species are already present there. The plan is to hand-scythe the site in August/September in preparation for sowing wildflower seeds later in the year. If you'd like to get involved in our wildflower project, please contact us at info@astonclintonociety.org.uk.

In other news, we were delighted to see so many people joining us at our latest village tidy-up and litter-pick which coincided with the Big Help Out volunteering day as part of the Coronation celebrations. It's almost 12 months since we began regular litter-picks in the village and although we were shocked by the amounts of historical rubbish we collected, there has been a welcome decline and we are now making a noticeable difference to the village and on the roads approaching it. A bit slower has been the response of Bucks



Council to our repeated requests for more litterbins in the village but we are thankful that one of our local councillors is on the case. We have also been lobbying for the removal of the decommissioned/damaged lampposts at the top of Tring Hill. After establishing which council is responsible for this piece of land (Bucks), we are hoping that these can finally be removed as they have been an eyesore for many years.

Thank you to everyone who visited our stall and supported our cause at the Coronation event in Aston Clinton Park. The money we raised will go towards funding our existing projects. Talking of which, we are hoping that by the next edition of Village Life, we will be able to update you on the installation of the village gates on the entry points to the village. Unfortunately, this has been delayed due to a change of contractors at Bucks Council and the ensuing processes which have frustrated our efforts to have the gates in for spring.

To join the Aston Clinton Society, visit our website at www.astonclintonociety.org.uk or email us at info@astonclintonociety.org.uk

ACPC Celebrates the Coronation Weekend

To mark the King's Coronation weekend, a major free community event was held in the park on Sunday 7th May, with rides and attractions for children and adults, cake, poster and children's fancy dress competitions and a highly competitive dog show on the MUGA.



There was music from Soul City and the Ellesborough Silver Band, and attendance by many of the Village Clubs and associations who took stalls or offered try-out sessions. Food and drink were readily available for the large number of people who attended, enjoying the sunny afternoon in the park. The event was spearheaded by Cllr Corrine Judge, supported by the events team, councillors and public volunteers who did an amazing job. Corrine's considerable efforts in securing raffle prizes from local businesses to support our local charity partner for the event, Kirby's Herd (for Cancer Research UK) and booking attractions and food concessions, ensured that everything went well on the day. In addition, some very welcome funding was received from the Lottery Community Fund and the



Wendover & Villages Community Board, which covered some of the costs. Our thanks go to all who volunteered to make this event a great success, and the many businesses who contributed so generously to the raffle prizes.

A complete list, along with other details and photos can be found on our website events page.

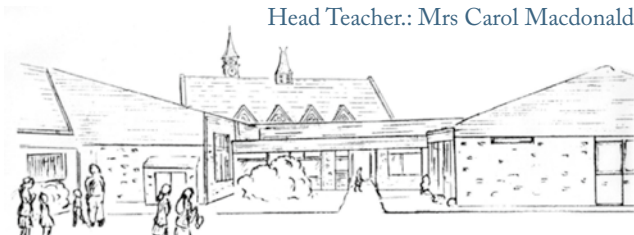






Aston Clinton School

Head Teacher.: Mrs Carol Macdonald



What is Community?

The word community is well used in society today. It is taken as a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common; however, the actual sense of community and togetherness varies widely from place to place. So, what does it mean to us?



Our vision at Aston Clinton is: 'Aspire, Care and Succeed' and, as such, we ensure that we lay strong foundations for our children to sense what it feels like to be part of a happy, diverse community. A community is home to people of different backgrounds and perspectives. Being willing and open to understanding people from different walks of life is extremely important, as it creates a healthy dialogue and encourages learning about new and exciting ideas or cultures. We have built our curriculum around these principles.

As we evolve from the impact of the pandemic it is crucial that we continue to build on the foundations of a healthy, happy and strong community. Being part of a community creates a sense of belonging which is part of our human nature and helps develop a sense of self. It also gives a boost to our self-esteem and to our willingness to take on the world and make our dreams happen.

During the summer, the Aston Clinton Beer Festival is held on our grounds, as are the Spring and Summer Horticultural Shows. These events bring our wider community together, ensuring that children have a sense of belonging with their local community. Some of our staff also help run the local Cub and Scout groups in the Clock school and it is lovely seeing them in their uniform on Remembrance Day.

We like to introduce the children to other communities that make up the fabric of the United Kingdom and this is part of the national curriculum. This term, our Year 2 children have visited the Mosque in Aylesbury to learn more about why a mosque is so important within the Islamic religion and what the different elements within the Mosque mean and represent. Our Year 3 children are visiting the Sikh temple in Milton Keynes next week. Having an understanding of different religions and faiths has been vital as this year we have welcomed new families whose first language is not English.

This year for the first time, we were able to alleviate those first day jitters and help these children instantly feel part of our family and community with the help of Pocketalk, which was loaned to us. Pocketalk is a Pocket Translator and it revolutionised our ability to instantly create a common language and understanding of each other. The look of excitement and relief on the children's faces when they realise that we can fully understand them has been priceless. This device has brought friendship and smiles to what could have easily been alienation.

School community events this year have included a cake sale to help raise money to support the relief efforts after the earthquake in Turkey & Syria. Our parent association (ACSA) have also held a Christmas Fayre and more recently a Coronation Tea Party.

Knowing that Aston Clinton doesn't have a library, we have also been working with Aston Clinton Pre-school, who have been making use of our new Reading Tree in the school office foyer, and our recently refurbished library by bringing their children over for weekly reading visits.

The quality of a community is often dictated by the degree of engagement and happiness individuals can draw from community interactions. When communities come together, they create real strength and resilience. As Headteacher, I see part of my role as supporting the community to thrive. In a community like this, the possibilities are endless, and the dreams of our children are supported so they can flourish. This is our community. This is our place.

Carol Macdonald, Headteacher

Local stories
by local people

Aston Clinton School Association

On Friday 5th May, Aston Clinton School celebrated the King's Coronation with a garden party. It was touch and go with the weather, but it all worked out with the downpour at 5pm signalling the end of the celebrations perfectly!



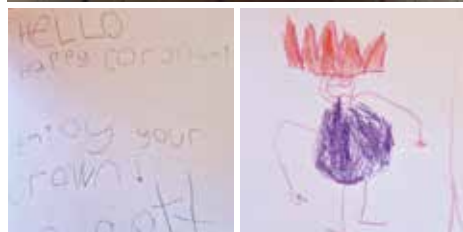
Pupils, families and staff all came together to listen to the choir perform beautifully at the start. Picnics were enjoyed with prosecco and tea. Scrumptious scones, cupcakes and traybakes were provided by Coffee@108 and prosecco was donated by Signature Estates and Dayla in the village. As always, ice cream went down well, no matter the weather!

Children took part in a royal themed scavenger hunt for all ages and many other coronation activities kept the children engaged and happy which in turn seemed to keep the parents happy too. We had a fabulous visit from Optimus Prime who you may have seen recently entertaining children in the park. It was also the first outing for our new gazebos that were printed on by SignFirm - a printing business in the village so thank you very much, everyone agreed they looked amazing.

This event was all about bringing everyone together to celebrate this momentous occasion and I think we achieved it perfectly. ACSA is looking forward to its next event in June for all the family to enjoy.

Aston Clinton Pre-school

We have children attend aged 2-4 and we had a fabulous time marking the coronation.



The children learned about King Charles III and we learned a special song called 'If you're a King and you know it, put on your crown'.

We decorated pre-school with balloons and flags and had a decadent 'street party', eating cucumber sandwiches and scones with jam, cream and strawberries. The children wrote a letter to the king that said 'Hello, Happy coronation, enjoy your crown.'

They drew pictures of King Charles with balloons and love hearts. We had a wonderful time celebrating and wish His Majesty King Charles III our congratulations on his coronation.

Father's Day Remembrance at Chilterns Crematorium

Buckinghamshire Council, working with Cruse Bereavement Support is holding a commemorative event for Father's Day on Sunday 18th June at the Hampden Chapel at Chilterns Crematorium. This will be a non-formal open-door event between the hours of 10am and 1pm. This is a free event for the local community.



Join us if you wish to commemorate your father or would just like to spend some time in quiet reflection.

- Gentle reflective music.
- Bereavement volunteers from Cruse will be on hand for a chat, advice and signposting.
- We will be creating a wildflower garden using seeded paper that will be available for loved ones who would like to write letters to commemorate on this special day.
- Refreshments and memorial information will be available.

For more information, please contact the crematorium: Phone **01494 724263** or email: chilternscrem.cs@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Twentieth century coronations

With the recent celebrations of King Charles's coronation in mind, Helen Sharp, well-known for her knowledge and interest in local history, has been delving into old press articles and has found out more about how previous coronations were celebrated locally.

There were four coronations in the twentieth century, starting with King Edward VII, who was crowned in 1902, a year after the death of his mother, Queen Victoria. Rather like the 2023 coronation, it had been several decades since the previous similar event and Aston Clinton wanted to celebrate in style.

A committee of 18 was formed to raise funds and, largely thanks to a £30 donation from Lady Rothschild, a total of £95 19s 6d was raised. As well as her financial donation, she also made the Anthony Hall and Model Farm available for festivities. An afternoon tea was arranged for all local residents under the age of 15 and everyone else was invited to a meat tea. Parcels were distributed to the “aged and infirm”.

Several entertainments were organised including a cricket match, a concert and sports competitions, plus a hat-trimming competition, a bicycle carnival and a potato-peeling competition. There was no potato-peeling competition for the 2023 coronation for some reason.

The next coronation was in 1911, following Edward's death in 1910. He reigned until January, 1936, when his oldest son, Edward VIII succeeded him. His coronation date was set for May 1937 but he abdicated in December, 1936, after just 11 months, and the crown passed to his brother, George VI. This meant that for the second time in our history, England had three kings in one calendar year. The previous time was in 1066, with Edward

the Confessor, Harold and then William the Conqueror. As the arrangements were in place, the coronation went ahead in May 1937; it was just the King who had changed.

On that occasion, local residents had a full day of activities, starting with a procession, with prizes for the best decorated motor or horse vehicle, cycle or perambulator and fancy-dress for pedestrians. During the afternoon there was a programme of sports events for children and adults. Tea was served to local residents at the Anthony Hall and the children were presented with commemorative mugs. The evening concluded with a whist drive and dance, also at the Anthony Hall.

The 1953 coronation of the present King's mother, Elizabeth II, was the first time many British people had seen a television broadcast. Friends and neighbours were invited to the TV owners' homes to sit around screens not much bigger than a modern tablet. We don't know about what local events took place, but we do know that local housewives got together to collect 3d (about 1.5p) per week from each village family to help finance the celebrations. We read that “it was thought that mothers who took their children for walks would be ideal collectors.” We must hope that their efforts were rewarded.

Richard Vincent

Tring Choral Society's Summer Concert

Saturday 1st July 2023, 7.30pm
St Peter & St Paul Church, Tring

Antonin Dvorak's Mass in D
John Rutter's Psalmfest

Tickets £17.50, under 18s free:
www.tringchoral.org.uk/tickets

Aston Clinton Scouts

In March, 66 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers took 11 lucky leaders for a 'sleepover' at Rush Trampoline Park in High Wycombe. They enjoyed several hours of bouncing with the whole venue to themselves, had a pizza supper and watched a film. At least three hours sleep was had before they were up again for a pre-breakfast bounce.



We offer many nights away experiences for our group, from indoor camping in pop-up tents with Beavers (6–8-year-olds) to two nights sleeping in bivvy bags in the snow in Explorers (14–17-year-olds).

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

acvillagelife.co.uk

There has been much talk of the Big Help Out where we have been encouraged to bring communities together through volunteering. Both adults and young people from 1st Aston Clinton Scout Group regularly get involved in voluntary events that benefit our village. As well as our annual Christmas tree collection (this year raising £2,644 for local charities), we can be found litter picking, tree planting and running tombola at various village events.

We have a thriving team of adult volunteers but are always keen to welcome new faces to our group. If you've been thinking about it but aren't sure whether it's for you, why not try the Scouts' four-week challenge. Come and help out for just four weeks whilst finding out more about what we do. *Are you ready to take on the challenge?*

www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/growing-scouts/ready-to-recruit/four-week-challenge/try-the-four-step-challenge/

The WI

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

On **7 June** Kathryn Coulston will speak to us about Stroke Prevention and the Recovery Service, followed on **5 July** by Daphne Preece with her presentation entitled *'The North Bucks Way by Feet and Stitches'*.

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



Girlguiding

New Beginnings...

On 7th March 2023, Girlguiding updated its branding.

"Our brand is much more than a logo. It's how we look. It's how we sound. It's what we do. It reflects what we believe in. It's the shortcut to everything we stand for".

Our brand purpose is at the heart of everything we do - we help all girls know they can do anything.

'We help all girls know'

shows that we offer girls a world of possibilities and that we're helping to shape a future where all girls can be happy, safe, and fulfilled.

'Can do anything'

works on 2 levels. It's the huge variety of activities girls can do with us week in and week out. And it's the attitude we encourage in each girl – a way of thinking about themselves and the world they live in.

1st Aston Clinton Guides

We also have new beginnings on a local level. Twenty-one years ago I moved to Aston Clinton and re-opened the then closed Aston Clinton Guide Unit. Over the subsequent years, I have worked with some great teams of adults, and we have offered a varied range of activities to a lot of fantastic young people. I have accumulated a lot of amazing stories and memories and it has been great fun. During lockdown, I got involved with running 2nd Aston Clinton Brownies and have found it a struggle to run two units effectively. I have therefore decided to finish volunteering with 1st Aston Clinton Guides at the end of the Summer Term and focus on my role with 2nd Aston Clinton Brownies.

So, what will happen to 1st Aston Clinton Guides?

Previously a Brownie leader, Jo Johnson transferred to Guides about three years ago and is now enjoying the challenge of working with the older age group. She wants to keep the Guide Unit open but is unable to do this alone. We desperately need a new group of enthusiastic people to come forward and assist in running the unit. You do not need any specific skills; a sense of fun is helpful as is an enjoyment of working with young people.

Perhaps the Coronation "*Big Help Out*" has inspired you to take up volunteering. You can volunteer at www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/ or if you would like some more information, please get in touch with us at astonguides@gmail.com.

Sue Wall





**Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
& Oxfordshire**
Wildlife Trust

Celebrating Dancersend Nature Reserve

We are in the final stages of a programme of Rothschild Foundation funded enhancements at BBOWT's Dancersend Nature Reserve. You should notice some changes over the next few months.

Last year we carried out a lot of re-fencing, bought new kit for managing the grassland and scrub areas, wrote up the history of the reserve (see www.bbowl.org.uk/dancersend-nature-reserve-history), held special events to mark the 80th birthday of the reserve being established in memory of Charles Rothschild and ran extra fun events for children in the school holidays.

We also carried out extra wildlife surveying – for invertebrates on the restored chalk grassland of the Extension and for fungi, with a series of special visits by the Bucks Fungus Group – revealing a number of new species, including one small cup fungus *Humaria solissequia* that is new to the UK!

We are currently refreshing the Tree Trail, working on a new Audio Trail and designing new welcome and interpretation boards, all of which should make a visit more enjoyable and informative. There will be new trail signage using recycled plastic posts and some path improvements.

Some of the work will not be so apparent to visitors, like the improvements to our volunteers' base in The Forge at the Water Works and habitat improvements carried out with neighbouring landowners which will benefit wildlife generally in the valley.



The final phase of the project includes completing a new pond and planting up an area of around 600 mixed trees and shrubs on the reserve extension below Aston Hill. The pond has filled nicely with all the recent rain, and we have started to landscape and seed the banks with butterfly food plants and other wildflowers. All the work will be completed for a celebration event in September.

Visiting Dancersend by car is not so easy as I write this, due to major pipe laying operations by Thames Water closing our car park at the Water Works, but we expect that work to be completed in mid-June, when the appearance of many of our special wildflowers and butterflies will make it a wonderful time for a leisurely walk.

There is a programme of guided walks through the summer at BBOWT nature reserves in the area, including Dancersend, Aston Clinton Ragpits and Bacombe Hill. For more details and to book a place go to www.bbowl.org.uk/events. *Mick Jones*



Events at College Lake

Our popular classes for toddlers, children and teens continue as follows:

Tuesday Nature Tots:

Nature discovery classes for parents / caregivers & toddlers walking up to 4 years.

Every Tuesday, 6 June – 18 July, arrival 10.15am

Young Rangers:

A wildlife club for children aged 8 - 11 yrs who love nature and wildlife and want to get involved at our fantastic nature reserve.

Saturdays 10 June and 8 July, 10.30am – 12.30pm

Teen Rangers:

Wildlife club for children aged 11 – 17 yrs who love wildlife and nature and helping to look after our amazing nature reserve.

Saturdays 10 June and 8 July, 1.30pm – 3.30pm.

To book for these classes and to discover other events running at College Lake, please see our events page which is continuously updated www.bbwt.org.uk/events.

Bucks Art Weeks is back at St. Michael's in June 2023

Enjoy the surroundings of our beautiful, tranquil and ancient church as you browse a display of work by seven diverse Aston Clinton artists: Sue Bailey, Paula Daddow, Terry Gardiner, Sonia Lyon, Di Oldfield, Jane Nash and Patricia Rozental. They work in a variety of media including glass, mixed media, pastels, printmaking, photography and painting in oils, acrylic and watercolour. Subjects range from portraiture, both human and animals, through landscape to still life – abstract to photo realism.



We are open 20th – 24th June, 10am-5pm daily and Sunday 25th, 11am-4pm with additional late opening on Thursday 22nd 7pm-9pm.

We'll be serving tea and coffee with delicious home-made cakes throughout the week, raising much needed funds for St. Michael's.

We hope to see you there.

Aston Clinton u3a

The last few months have been busy for your local u3a with very enjoyable trips to Snowhill Manor in Gloucestershire and Waterperry Gardens near Oxford.

Members of the Science and Technology group went on a 5-day residential trip to Northumberland which included visits to Craggside, a fascinating National Trust property once owned by the Armstrong family, a day at Beamish Open Air Museum, a visit to Bamburgh castle where the TV series *'The Last Kingdom'* was filmed, and an unforgettable boat trip around the Farne Islands to see the puffins and seals. Seventy-four members attended the hog roast on 8 May to celebrate the King's coronation. And a walking netball group has been set up, with 17 brave souls attending an inaugural session in April despite its being a very cold and wet day. This new group is proving very popular with currently over 20 members; it meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month in Aston Clinton Park. Below is a small sample of some of the events and activities planned for the next few months.

Monday 5 June, Art in Buckland Village Hall

Tuesday 6 June, Music for All, Anthony Hall

Weds 7 June, Walking netball in the park (tennis courts)

Tuesday 13 June, Digital Photography visit to Swanbourne Village

Weds 21 June, Music making, Bowls Club

Weds 28 June, Science & Technology day trip to the Bluebell Line

Friday 30 June, Birdwatching group outing

Monday 3 July, Video photography in the Baptist Church Hall

Friday 14 July, Thames river cruise, from Maidenhead to Windsor

Tuesday 18 July, Main meeting talk on 'Where do novelists get their ideas'

Thursday 20 July, Garden visiting trip to Denton House

Monday 24 July, Pond dipping with the Wildlife group

Tuesday 25 July, History group visit to Thame museum

The majority of these groups meet regularly; 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.



St Michael & All Angels' Summer Fete Saturday 1st July 2 - 5pm

Come and join us for tea, coffee and cake, Rev'd Sally's dog show, young artists' exhibition, produce, book and craft stalls, a prize draw and many more activities.

For information about booking a craft stall, entering art into the exhibition (under 18 only) or coming to help out at this wonderful local event, please contact

Louise on maa_fete@yahoo.com

Superpower Netball in Aston Clinton

Superpower Netball was founded earlier this year by Lucy Prestedge, based in Aston Clinton and covering Bucks and Herts.



Lucy is a qualified netball coach and umpire, who has been coaching community clubs and groups for many years, and has worked for England Netball for the past 10 years.

Superpower Netball aims to welcome and empower people to get active, improve their health and well-being and play netball in a fun, friendly and relaxed environment.

Lucy has been working closely with Aston Clinton u3a, introducing them to Walking Netball and also with local Netball clubs and organisations. New Walking Netball and Social Netball groups will be starting soon in Aston Clinton and surrounding areas, and you can find more information on social media or email superpowernetball@outlook.com.

Please mention Village Life
when responding to our advertisers.

acvillagelife.co.uk



Defibrillators and CPR

Sadly, many of us will, at some time in our lives, witness a cardiac arrest. The British Heart Foundation (BHF) wants to encourage all of us to be prepared if we are ever faced with that situation.

A cardiac arrest is an emergency that usually happens without warning. If someone is in cardiac arrest, they collapse suddenly and:

- *will be unresponsive, unconscious and may or may not be breathing normally*

If you see someone having a cardiac arrest, phone 999 immediately and start CPR.

BHF has excellent advice and there is a free course where you can learn in just 15 minutes on your mobile phone or tablet how to do CPR and use a defibrillator with their RevivR™ CPR Training. Don't delay in learning this life saving skill, you never know when you'll need it.

Many shops and other public places have defibrillators and more are being added to the list. Locally you can find defibrillators outside Aston Clinton school, outside the Aston Clinton council office in the park and outside the Buckland parish council office.

www.bhf.org.uk

80@80 and St Michael's Open House Project



As you may have read in the last edition of Village Life, I'm celebrating my 80th birthday and the fact that I'm still reasonably fit, by walking 80 sponsored miles to raise funds for St Michael's Open House Project.

The aim is to provide an accessible toilet with access from inside the church and a proper kitchen so that we can really say the church is open to all, and so that we can hold a desperately needed Dementia Café.

Phase one of the Open House Project is to remove two blocks of pews at the back of the church and level the floors in those areas and also in other parts of the church where they constitute a trip hazard. This will provide a flexible, more open space to allow us to expand the Rhubarb Café and Repair Café, and for other community activities such as Bucks Art Week and the Christmas Fair. The Turpin Charity has undertaken to fund this part of the project and we hope to commence the removal of the pews very soon. Gib Lane Charity has given us a grant towards the extra tables and chairs that we will need.

However, the outside fabric of the church is in need of considerable repair, and we have to

undertake these renovations before we can fully proceed with the Open House Project. The east wall needs replastering, there is a buttress that must be rebuilt, the south aisle roof must be replaced and some of the stonework needs urgent attention. All in all, we're looking at a cost of over £500,000. We have engaged a professional fundraiser who will advise us on larger grant-making bodies, but those bodies need to be able to see that we're 'doing our bit' and have raised a large proportion of the total ourselves before giving us any money.

So far, we've raised over £60,000 but every penny counts and, at the time of going to press, my little 80@80 contribution has raised £1,800.



JustGiving™

If you would like to add to that please visit, www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stmichaelsopenhouseproject

I will be doing my 80 miles over a couple of weeks in early June, so if you would like to join me, I would be very pleased to hear from you. I have been doing a lot of practising and I'm grateful to my walking partners who've kept me going. Top photo shows me with Linda Rothera on a gruelling 7-mile walk! I may have already exceeded 80 miles, just in warm-ups! *James Adam*

Florence Nightingale Hospice seeks volunteers for busy summer holidays

Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity is seeking short-term temporary volunteers to help in its shops across Buckinghamshire over the busy summer holiday period.

“With summer fast approaching, we are on the lookout for short-term ‘Summer Temp’ volunteers to help us run our shops during the busy summer period and to help cover when our existing volunteers go away themselves.” says Charmain Behan, Volunteer Manager at the charity. “It’s a great opportunity for those that might be back from university, in-between jobs or retired to learn new skills and to give volunteering a try, whilst helping their local community. So, if you can spare a few hours a week between June and September, please get in touch to find out more.”

The Charity has shops based in Aylesbury, Beaconsfield, Buckingham, Chinnor, Haddenham, Hazlemere, Marlow, Thame, Wendover, and Winslow as well as an online

retail team based at its Furniture Showroom in Aylesbury.



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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 26)

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.

Diane Kolonko is the Chair of the Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp Horticultural Society.



Q. How long have you been a member of the Horticultural Society?

A. I've been a member of the Horticultural Society for about 10 - 12 years. I've enjoyed my garden and visiting other gardens for some time and it's been a great way to meet other people with similar interests.

Q. What does the role of the Chair involve?

A. I became the Chairperson of the Aston Clinton, Buckland & Drayton Beauchamp Horticultural Society in 2020. It was a challenging time for us all and I was certainly thrown in at the deep end! In the first year or so it was all about trying to keep the Society active during the Covid lock-downs – we moved on-line with committee meetings and monthly talks

on Zoom and we started plant sales as soon as it was safe to do so. We're now back into the usual routine and I chair the committee meetings and the monthly meetings at the Anthony Hall.

Q. What other positions have you held since you joined?

A. Before I became Chair, I was on the committee, did the regular email newsletters and helped with the website. I've also been organising an annual garden visit by coach for the last few years (although I think it's more than a few now!)

Q. Do you have to know anything about horticulture to join the Society?

A. No, you don't need to know anything about horticulture to join – but an interest in gardening helps. We also

have talks on nature and wildlife, local gardens as well as gardening. Everyone is welcome to come to our regular meetings – you don't have to be a member. You can find out what's happening on the website - Society Diary of Events 2023 www.astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk/diary-of-events/

Q. What will be the Society's challenges in the years to come?

A. The challenge for the Horticultural Society going forward is to ensure that it continues to encourage people to engage with horticultural and gardening activities and provide events that are relevant to its members and the wider community. We'll be trying out different kinds of activities and events, as well as

We have talks
on nature &
wildlife, as well
as gardening!

“

looking at how best to adapt the traditional Spring and Summer Shows to maintain the interest in the community. *Watch this space!*

Q. How long have you lived in Aston Clinton?

A. I've lived in Aston Clinton for over 25 years, moving from Berkhamsted, as houses were cheaper. I moved into the village before the A41 bypass was built – the main road was busier but there was much less going on in the village.

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

A. I do pilates classes in the village – great just having a five-minute walk to the Red Kite Pavilion. I do enjoy keeping active – netball was my sport and I played multiple times a week. However, now it's Walking Netball at Stoke Mandeville stadium.

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

A. I enjoy pottering about in the garden – a great way to relax after a busy day working. Enjoy catching up with friends, for a walk, garden visit or evening at the cinema.

Aston Clinton is a great location and there's lots to do on our doorstep.

Q. What's your favourite music?

A. My music taste is pretty eclectic. Can't beat a bit of 80's music and I do enjoy Soul and Motown.

Q. What's your favourite film?

A. I do like an old film and have always loved Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon films, with *Some Like it Hot* being one of my favourite films. My taste in films is also eclectic and I regularly go to the Rex cinema in Berkhamsted where I enjoy the foreign and art house films as well as the blockbusters.

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

A. I must admit, I'm not particularly into cars – for me it's a practicality and something to get me from A to B. My first car was a black Mini Metro which seemed to have all sorts of issues and was forever breaking down. I now have a Honda Jazz, a very practical car, that you can get lots in – perfect for

transporting plants and other random stuff.

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

A. The village has changed a lot in the 25 years since I've been here. The increasing population in the area is causing challenges for us all, as the supporting infrastructure is not growing at the same rate – unfortunately this is not just an Aston Clinton problem. However, the growth of the village has brought lots of positives and there's a lot more going on in the village for everyone, from the Rhubarb Café, Repair Café, phone box library to the Beer Festival and Astonbury, as well as the café and pubs.

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***

Support local hospice care this summer at the new Walk of Light

Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity returns with a brand-new fundraising event this summer on Saturday 24th June.



The inaugural Walk of Light will give the charity's supporters the opportunity to come together to remember loved ones, show their support and raise funds for local hospice care. The event will see walkers complete 5 or 10-mile circular routes around Watermead Lake and through the green Meadowcroft Open Space, before returning to Watermead to cheer fellow walkers over the line and watch the event's closing ceremony at 9.30pm as the sun goes down.

Walkers will be able to dedicate a 'Light of Love' to a loved one or add a message of thanks and support to the hospice team – the lights will be lit to illuminate the lake as part of the closing ceremony, followed by a low noise firework display.

"We are excited to launch this new event and hope that our local community will turn out to support us," says Steve Butcher, Events Manager at the charity.

"We believe it's going to be a really enjoyable and memorable event for everyone, whatever their reason for walking."

Registration costs £20. Walkers can choose their start time and route on Saturday 24th June and stay to enjoy refreshments and entertainment at the finish.

Walkers will receive a free commemorative Walk of Light 2023 T-shirt and Finisher's Medal as well as the opportunity to add a message to the charity's Lights of Love.

For more information and to sign up, please visit www.fnhospice.org.uk/walkoflight or call 01296 429975.

Bowls Bash comes to Aston Clinton Bowls Club

Aston Clinton Bowls Club is delighted to announce that it is currently only one of three clubs in Buckinghamshire to offer Bowls Bash sessions.

What is Bowls Bash?

Bowls Bash is a new and exciting short-form of lawn bowls for all ages and abilities – think of it like T20 cricket – fast and furious! Boosted by Sport England's Birmingham 2022 funding, it is providing greater opportunity for people to give bowls a go.

Retaining its core premise and authentic qualities, whilst complementing modern lifestyles, Bowls Bash is an action-packed form of the game played in pairs and lasting just an hour. A two-set match, with a deciding tie-break, coupled with a 3-2-1 system, provides greater opportunity for players to enjoy success and more potential for drama throughout the game.

Jon Cockcroft, Chief Executive of Bowls England said,



"Bowls Bash delivers all that is inherently enjoyable about bowls, but in a manner which is more accessible and digestible to a broader range of people. We are passionate about everybody realising the joy and benefit of playing sport, and we believe Bowls Bash has the ability to inspire more people to be active through our doable, sociable sport."

How can I get involved?

Accessing Bowls Bash has been made easy through the introduction of a new Play Bowls website where people wanting to play the new format can book onto a session at www.play-bowls.com

Aston Clinton Bowls Club is offering Bowls Bash sessions on the first Tuesday of the month, from 6-8pm. Members of the club have been trained to deliver this exciting opportunity and very much look forward to joining you on the green. Everything is provided, but we do ask that you wear flat shoes (trainers or slippers are ideal). The clubhouse facilities will be open for you to enjoy and have a chat with other players and members.

Thinking of a different sort of social evening?

Whether you are a family/friends group looking for a night out with a competitive edge or a local company or organisation seeking something different, Aston Clinton Bowls Club would like to hear from you.

Sessions can be arranged at your convenience by contacting [Brian Clark](mailto:brian.clark@astonclintonbowlsclub.co.uk) on **01844 351461** or secretary@astonclintonbowlsclub.co.uk

Aston Clinton & Buckland Cricket Club



Following the almost unprecedented hot and dry summer last year, at the time of writing, we are seeing the opposite at the start of our 2023 season. Seemingly non-stop rain, after an already unusually wet March and April, has meant we have had to cancel many of our planned activities so far.

We had to call off the first two Colts training sessions, three out of four Senior league games, both planned Village Cup home fixtures and quite a few Colts matches. On the positive front, we did manage to beat the rain on the first Friday of May to hold the opening session of All Stars for 5-8 year olds. This is the first time we have run this England & Wales Cricket Board scheme and we quickly reached capacity. We will need to look to recruit and train more Activators to potentially allow us to expand our offering in 2024.

Hopefully by the time you are reading this, warmer and, more importantly, drier weather may have finally arrived and there will be more action to report back on in the next issue of Village Life.

All Saints' 750th Anniversary 15th - 18th June 2023



In June 2023 we will celebrate the 750th Anniversary of our beautiful village church, All Saints, Buckland. Celebrations will take place from Thursday 15th June to Sunday 18th June. The church, which is mentioned in the Domesday Book, will be open daily from 10am to 4pm from Thursday to Saturday and will include an exhibition of Buckland Historic Memorabilia, an historical display by Aston Clinton schoolchildren, a Flower Festival, a 'Book of Presence' and refreshments. There will then be a 7pm Saturday evening reception with live piano-playing and a cash bar. The celebrations will culminate in a Benefice Sung Eucharist service led by Bishop Alan at 11am on Sunday 18th June, followed by music and refreshments in the churchyard. Everyone is welcome to all the events over the four days.

Since 1273, All Saints has had 55 rectors and seen 33 monarchs – including our new King Charles III. Some 3,000 people have been buried in our lovely churchyard since 1273, and we feel we owe it to the generations who have gone before to keep the church in good order for the next 750 years.

Our fund-raising drive to pay for two essential repairs to the fabric of the church was launched in April and is progressing well. The two projects are the replacement of the louvres on the South side of the tower and the repair and refurbishment of the clock, which has stopped working, and its face. The total cost of these has risen by £1,000 since March, due to the need to replace the oak support behind the clock face and is now £6,870. Would you please participate in these two essential projects and keep watch on the march of time, beyond 750 years?

WOULD YOU BE PREPARED TO DONATE ? ONE PENNY PER YEAR OF THE CHURCH'S HISTORY (£7.50) - OR 10 PENCE PER YEAR (£75.00) - OR EVEN ONE POUND FOR EACH YEAR (£750.00)

Any and every single donation will be very much appreciated, and we shall be holding a thank-you reception for donors at 7pm on Friday 21st July in the church.

Please contact our Treasurer *Kate Eckett* at kaeckett@icloud.com, 01296 630461 or 07900 828621 to register and pledge your donation.

Thank you for your help!
All Saints PCC

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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Buckland Parish Council update

On Monday 8th May, Buckland Parish Council (BPC) hosted a Coronation celebration in the village hall. Villagers and friends were greeted with bubbles and lots of freshly homemade cakes. There were around 60 people in attendance, both new and old to the parish. It was great to see so many join in the celebration and a formal toast to the new King.



Buckland residents cannot have failed to notice the road disruption recently in the village. This has been due to a number of factors: Gigaclear has been laying new superfast fibre optic broadband, Thames Water has been laying new water pipes, and builders from Puttenham have been given access to the village via the bridleway at the end of the village. BPC is continually monitoring road work plans via the OneNetwork site. Unfortunately, the Parish Council is given no notice of the planned works and has no control over Bucks Council issuing licences to companies to close the road. We repeatedly contact our Bucks Councillors and BC officers to remind them that Buckland

village road cannot be closed because there is no possible legal diversion. New Road, Buckland, is not an adopted road.

Residents may have heard rumours of a Thames Water pumping station development being built in Buckland Road next to Hope Cottages. BPC has met with Thames Water to discuss these plans, which are very much in the early stages. The Parish Council has asked Thames Water to hold a public meeting as soon as more details are available.

Finally, several residents at Buckland Wharf have had cars damaged on a regular basis due to drivers speeding down Tring Hill. BPC arranged for Truvelo strips to be placed on the road to monitor the traffic flow and speeds. The data has just been received and is currently being analysed. More on this next time.

Music under the Stars, Lower Farm, Buckland

24th June, from 4.30pm

This charity evening, hosted as ever by Richard and Di Peel at Lower Farm, Buckland, will have the usual line up of acts, including a family céilidh and a feast of folk, blues and rock.

Proceeds, along with money raised from the raffle, will be going to a local charity and guests are requested to bring one or two toiletry items for the Aylesbury Food Bank.

Gates will open at 4.30pm and tickets, on the gate only, will be £10 for adults, with children under 16 having free admission. No dogs, sorry!

Guests are asked to bring a bottle, a chair and a picnic, although there will be a communal barbecue on the go for those who wish to bring a burger or two.

For more information, contact Richard on 07805 083595 or rppr@hotmail.co.uk

A message from Rob Butler MP



The momentous events of the Coronation weekend are fresh in my mind as I write. It was a time when the country came together to celebrate the crowning of our new King and when we could reflect with pride on our great British traditions. The solemnity and pomp of the service and parade were followed by tremendous events across the country, and, as ever, Aston Clinton put on a tremendous show. I thoroughly enjoyed spending time trying my hand at activities with the scouts, chatting to the Rector, viewing the vintage vehicles and watching the dog show. With local musicians playing and the sun shining, it's hard to think how the day could have been bettered. The Parish Council deserves great credit for its superb organisation.

It is always a pleasure to write for Aston Clinton Village Life, and all the more so after meeting Barbara and other members of the team at the village's Coronation celebrations. They all work incredibly hard to put together and distribute the magazine, which I think is extremely important in these days when so much of our media is remote and impersonal. Long gone are the days when local newspapers had staffs of qualified and experienced local journalists who cared about the area they

reported on. Parish magazines like this one fill a significant gap in the market and really do play an important part in the local community.

Back in Westminster, I have been spending a lot of time talking to ministers and speaking in Parliament about ways to do more for our local area. It is absolutely vital that as more houses are built, there are the roads, the schools and the GP surgeries to support not just new residents, but also those who have already made this wonderful part of Buckinghamshire their home. I am determined to continue to be a strong voice for you in the months and years ahead.

Local author

Alison Allard, who has lived in Aston Clinton since 2016, after moving from Hemel Hempstead, has recently written her first children's book.

The book, entitled '*Big Life for a Little Leaf*', is about being brave, listening to wise teachings and starting new adventures – all by themselves.

Alison says, "I love living in such a welcoming village. The jewel in Aston Clinton's crown is its fabulous green, healthy park, such a little gem which everyone can enjoy.

I believe reading stories to children is vital for their development, growth and inspiration. The pleasure of reading to my children and now grandchildren is immense. As a nurse, I know that stories are a powerful tool to assist patients and families understand any situation and together shape safe outcomes. People have told stories since the beginning of time and the magic of a new book with glorious illustrations sparks a special bond with reader and listener. Wendy Manly has captured Little Leaf's adventure with her stunning illustrations."

www.barnesandnoble.com/w/big-life-for-a-little-leaf-alison-allard/1143225063

What's on at Discover Bucks Museum



Don't miss our magnificent show of art by local artists and craftspeople in the Museum's first Open Art Exhibition, which showcases the great creative talent in the county and includes paintings, prints, ceramics, photography, sculpture and glass. One hundred and forty artists have taken part and with almost 200 pieces of work on display, there's plenty to enjoy and most pieces are for sale. Many artists on show are taking part in Bucks Art Weeks so a visit to the exhibition is a great opportunity to get a taste of a variety of artists' work before visiting them in their studios. The exhibition is on now and runs until Saturday 8 July in the Museum's beautiful art gallery.

Our popular family exhibition this summer is a treat for both children and adults. It is called *'Mechanics Alive!'* and brings together beautifully hand-crafted automata by Cabaret Mechanical Theatre displaying them alongside hands-on exhibits by Science Projects that show the basic mechanics of how the automata work. *'Mechanics Alive!'* opens on 22 July and runs until 2 September.

Thursday 29 June at 10am:
The Dinosaur who Lost his Roar

A Discover Ducks fun play session for under-5s based on the book *'The Dinosaur who Lost his Roar'*. Meet the (inflatable) dinosaurs, get to hold some rocks and fossils from our collections, dig for mini dinosaurs, watch mini volcanoes erupt, make your own dinosaur foot fossils using play dough. Plus find the dinosaur footprints all around the museum.

Saturday 8 July at 11am:
*Wind in the Willows –
a one-man show*

Join us in our walled garden for a whirlwind ride through the seasons as Ratty, Mole and Badger follow the impulsive Toad on his hapless misadventures.

For times, charges, to book and to sign up to our e-newsletter, visit us at our website.

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

Lindengate Mental Health Charity

launches
new 12-week
Wellbeing and
Nature course



Learn new skills, meet new people,
be outside and improve your
wellbeing!

Since January we have supported over 500 people through our nature-based wellbeing programmes, day workshops and Open Garden sessions. Lindengate is excited to launch a new 12-week Wellbeing and Nature Course starting on Wednesday 7th June. The course will explore the 5 Ways to Wellbeing (Connect, Take Notice, Learn, Keep Active and Give) whilst giving people the opportunity to learn conservation and gardening skills, try out heritage crafts or undertake team building activities through bushcraft and fire pit sessions.

This 12-week course is designed for adults aged 18+ who are feeling socially isolated and/or are experiencing mild to moderate depression, low mood, anxiety or stress or are struggling to return to work after a period of sick leave.

The course will run every Wednesday 9:30am-12:30pm from 7th June to 23rd August and is based at Lindengate Gardens & Nature Reserve, Wendover, HP22 6BD. The course costs £28 per session. Assisted places are available which enables Lindengate to cover the full cost of the course.

Find out more by contacting the Lindengate Team on referrals@lindengate.org.uk or call 01296 622443 or visit our website www.lindengate.org.uk/programmes/



Get Involved – Volunteering

Whilst the weather has been rather unpredictable this Spring, our team of volunteers have been helping to transform the site for the summer supporting the creation of two areas of the garden into a new Apothecary Garden and new Swale. We have over 150 volunteers supporting the site, aged from 13 to over 80. If you would like to join a warm and friendly community, meet new friends working together to support the wellbeing of people and the environment and help us maintain the beautiful 6-acre Lindengate gardens, then get in touch. We have a variety of volunteering opportunities and would love to hear from you. In April, Lindengate also welcomed several teams of corporate volunteers from Huel,

based in Tring and Barnett Waddingham based in Amersham. Volunteers created a brand-new nature trail and prepared an area of land ready for us to create a chalk wildflower meadow. Find out more www.lindengate.org.uk/volunteering/

Events at Lindengate

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:

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. The venue opens at 5.30pm to allow you to enjoy the gardens, have a picnic or sit back and relax in our heritage orchard. The play starts at 7pm and 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. They will be performing ‘*Twitchers*’ on the main lawn, with the audience bringing their own picnics (and chairs). You’ll need your binoculars and camouflage coats! Doors will open at 5.30pm for everyone to come in with their own picnic and enjoy a walk round the

garden. The performance starts at 7pm. £13 for children/ £15 for adults.

Open Gardens – Summer visiting hours

Visit our winning unique secret garden with your friends and family. All are welcome. There is no admission charge, but we ask for a suggested £5 donation upon entry, thank you

Summer opening times are:

- Wednesday to Fridays 11am-4pm
- Saturdays 1-4pm

For more information on our programmes, events, volunteer opportunities & opening times, go to: www.lindengate.org.uk

The Buck Pub 2023

This year's Buck Pub will be held over August Bank Holiday weekend. The format will be similar to last year's including:

- Saturday night quiz.
A light-hearted fun evening
- Sunday pizza day for all the family
- Monday music festival with BBQ
- Proceeds to charity

All the details for the weekend will be posted at: www.thebuckpub.co.uk

If you are able to volunteer your help over the weekend, then do please contact Nigel at nigel@kippax.org.uk. We always need people to help set up; pack away; serve drinks and prepare food.



Horticultural Society

Hello Gardeners. Yes, the recent UK weather as I write this at the end of April, has been quite variable, with some cold, wet and windy days as well as some sunny and mild ones. Fortunately, we are gardeners and love getting wet and muddy! ("Pardon", I hear you say.) Having written that, we are probably now in the middle of a drought.

I went mad planting bulbs last year, but what a show. It was so worth it. I love taking little bunches when I visit friends and family.

I expect many of you now have a greenhouse filled with pots and trays full of anticipation of the beautiful flowers and vegetables. I have had some success with the Italian tomato seeds I brought at one of the talks, I must say they are looking pretty good. If I can grow from seed anyone can do it. Do have a go, any surplus can be swapped with friends and family etc, after all there is a limit to how much of the same variety you can eat.



Our 25th Spring Show and plant sale was held on Saturday 1st April at Aston Clinton School. Despite the weather conditions, this year being a challenge for flowers and spring bulbs, we had a fantastic and colourful display from exhibitors. It was lovely to welcome new



Top: Chris Dunbar receiving tuition from Graham Thirkettle on staging daffodils. **Left:** Winner of the floral art class "A celebration of the life of Queen Elizabeth II" by Jacqui Pearson.

exhibitors, some of whom were successful in winning a trophy and will hopefully be encouraged to enter again at the next show.

As always, it was a spectacular event with thanks to our trusty band of willing helpers and the show was well attended with people travelling long distances to get to the venue. The ever-popular teas and plant sales did a brisk business; all the plants sold out very early. Trophies and awards were presented by our society President, Professor Ed Peile and his wife Linda Peile, who very much enjoyed the village show atmosphere. The Show Secretary, Graham Thirkettle, in his final year as secretary, would like to thank all those people who

helped to organise, set up and run the show, and to all the exhibitors and general public who supported us.

Here are some gardening tips for June and July.

June

- Summer has arrived so now is the time to position your hanging baskets and containers; don't forget to water and feed them.
- Plant out your summer bedding now that the frosts have disappeared.
- Sow poppies straight into the ground.
- Harvest lettuce, radish and other salads and early potatoes.
- Support tall growing perennials such as hollyhocks and delphiniums.
- Leave your lawn a little longer in length during dry spells.
- Keep weeding...

July

- Deadhead bedding plants and repeat-flowering perennials.
- Cut lavender for drying.
- Give dahlias a liquid feed.
- Feed sweet peas regularly, pick the flowers every few days, and remove seed pods to prolong flowering.
- Take softwood cuttings.
- Resist the temptation to water established lawns, even in dry spells – grass should cope well with drought and although it may die back, it will soon recover once rain returns.
- Keep weeding...

Forthcoming events and meetings

Wed 7 June, 6pm – 8pm, Visit to Home Farm Plants, Delphinium Specialists (there might still be some places available – we are limited to 30 people).

Wed 14 June, 8pm, Talk “*Millhoppers Pasture*”, Butterfly Conservation, Anthony Hall.

Thurs 29th June, Garden visit by coach to *Nyman's (National Trust)*.

Wed 16th August, 6pm - 7.45pm
Summer Show Entry Night, Anthony Hall

Sat 19th August, 2pm *Summer Show & Plant Sale*, Aston Clinton School

Our Summer Show is a great community event with exhibits that include flowers, floral art, vegetables, children's classes, and handicrafts. There will be a plant sale, stalls, raffle and homemade teas. More information including the full schedule and entry form, will be made available on our website nearer the time.

Let's hope the forthcoming months bring us great weather so we can spend longer in our gardens nurturing our plants and admiring our hard work.

If you are interested in finding out more about any of our events or joining the Society, please get in contact via email:

info.astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk

Mandy Valentine

Coronation celebrations: Drayton Beauchamp Village Walk

At 10am on a damp bank holiday Monday, the intrepid villagers of Drayton Beauchamp set off from St Mary's Church on a walk of the parish to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III.



Participants were able to choose from 2, 4 and 6.5-mile circular routes within the parish boundaries. All were reunited for a sandwich and cake lunch at 1pm. Amazingly, the much-forecast rain held off and the walking conditions were good - not too hot on the steep climbs. It was good to remind ourselves that surprisingly wild and remote corners are right on our doorstep.

The quality of the walk was only matched by the quality of the catering. A champagne reception at the first stop set a high standard and the quality of the lunch, from official coronation quiche to magnificently decorated cakes, rose to the challenge. A stirring rendition of 'God Save the King' rounded off the event.

Over 30 villagers took part in one way or another and a great day was had by all and funds were raised for St Mary's.

The church also benefitted from freshly painted gates, thanks to the Hunt family who put in a long day's volunteering for the King's Big Help Out. The result is fantastic and sets the church up for the 800th Centenary in the autumn.



Fix My Street

Remember, if you need to report a problem on a street/road in Buckinghamshire or track the progress of reported issues, please use the Fix My Street service:

fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk

St Mary's Drayton Beauchamp Save the date

Sunday 3rd September at 11am

*St Mary's Drayton Beauchamp
800th Centenary Service*

Please join us to celebrate this historic event. The Bishop of Buckingham, Bishop Alan, will be leading the service.

Ridgeway Chorale and Aylesbury Brass Band will be accompanying the congregation in hymns and fanfare.

There will be prosecco and nibbles afterwards.

Saturday 7th October

St Mary's Drayton Beauchamp Concert

*Doors open at 6.30pm,
concert to start at 7.15pm*

The musical trio from the Bernardi Music Group comprises professional musicians playing piano, cello and violin. The violin is a Stradivarius, made in Cremona, Italy, in 1696 and is listed as one of the most important violins ever made by Antonio Stradivarius. The violin has now been named 'the Amici Bernardi violin' in honour of the great friendship within the group.

They will be playing a wonderful repertoire, including Beethoven, Rachmaninov, Schubert, Dvorák, Delibes Lakmé 'Flower Duet', Nigel Hess 'Ladies in Lavender' and more.

Tickets are £30 each to include a welcome drink and canapés. Proceeds to help maintain St Mary's Church.

Please contact [Natalie Fieldhouse](mailto:Natalie.Fieldhouse@benefice3@gmail.com) on benefice3@gmail.com to register your interest.

Drayton Beauchamp Annual Litter Blitz 2023



On Saturday March 25, a party of thirteen veteran Drayton Beauchamp litter blitzers set out to clear litter and fly-tipping from the verges and ditches of the village from the Upper Icknield Way to Puttenham Bridge.

They started at the top of The Holloway, picking up countless cans, bottles and ready-meal cartons. A little detour at the Wendover Arm Canal bridge and some waders were needed to remove eight car tyres from the canal. Working their way down the Puttenham Road, they pulled two bicycles, an office chair and a pallet and filled many more bags with cans etc.

The customary (and all important) bacon rolls and coffee were served at Lower Farm to revive the valiant volunteers after picking up the largest haul of litter yet.

A great time was had by all.

Meryl Nodes, Clerk to the Parish Meeting

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

Estone Grange Pond

At Estone Grange we have a large attenuation pond (SUDs Sustainable Urban Drainage Scheme) created to slow the flow from the run-off from the estate. There is considerably more run-off than before the houses were built. SUDs are created on most newbuild estates.



The pond serves not only as a safe and efficient means for surface water to enter the local watercourse but also as a habitat for wildlife. The thick reeds and other plants have made a haven for birds, insects, frogs and more. It has become a special place where birdsong fills the air at dusk and dawn and dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies flit about in the sun.

The pond has performed well but there had been a considerable amount of silt and debris, much of it from the construction phase, that had accumulated at the point of entry. A Sunday morning volunteer working party led by the Chiltern Society removed vegetation and mud from the area to allow the water to flow. This has also opened up some water for ducks, heron and other species. Further areas will be cleared later, though the major part of the pond will be left as habitat. It will be interesting to see new wild visitors on the pond, which retains water all year round even in the driest of times.

We are blessed that we have such a large pond that provides plenty of interest. Once the water has cleared and the muddy mess

from the working party has dried and greened up, the pond should continue to give pleasure to visitors and residents, human and wild. We are enormously grateful to the Chiltern Society's Community Wildbelt Project Manager, Amanda Barnicote and her team for undertaking the very hard and muddy job and working around the many frogs present.

The open spaces on the estate are managed by Estone Grange Management Company Limited, a not-for-profit company. This is a considerable responsibility but the directors are getting to grips with it and a new local managing agent, Neil Douglas Management Limited has been appointed. Not all new estates include public rights of way but there are definitive routes through Estone Grange that connect Aston Clinton to Buckland, Putnam and beyond. *Katy Todd*

Aston Wine Club



Forthcoming events at Buckland Village Hall, Buckland

Doors open 7.45pm for an 8pm start.

16th June, Summer Party (outside weather permitting) Lebanese evening with buffet and wines provided by Tarboush.

21st July, Jane Dooley will present wines from South Africa.

Jane started her wine career in South Africa. She studied at the Cape Wine Academy and on moving to the UK obtained her WSET diploma.

If you would like to attend or would like more information, please contact us at info@astonwineclub.co.uk or www.astonwineclub.co.uk/ or take a look at our Facebook page: [Aston Wine Club](#)

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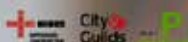
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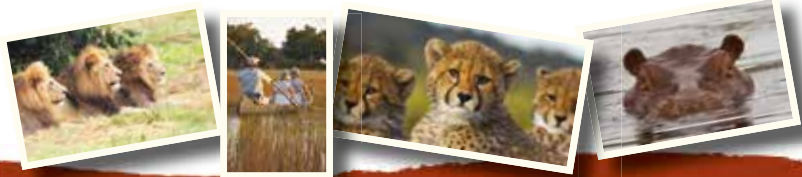
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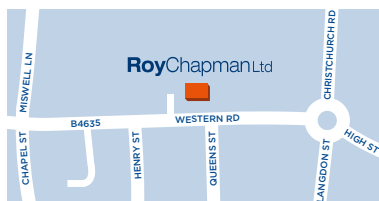
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