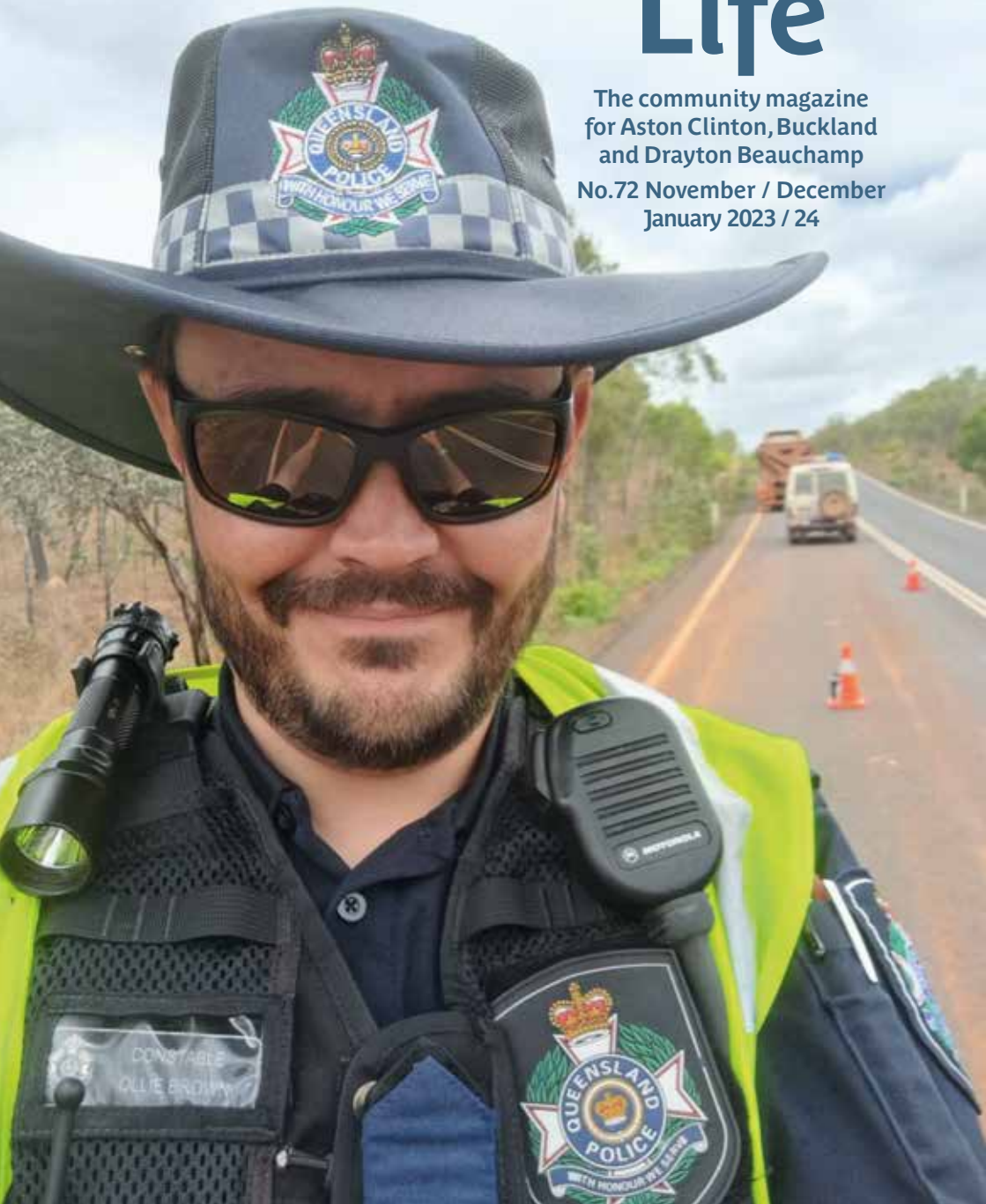


Village Life

The community magazine
for Aston Clinton, Buckland
and Drayton Beauchamp

No.72 November / December
January 2023 / 24

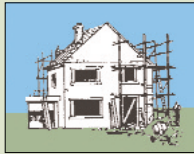


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Front cover. Ollie Brown of Aston Clinton on
his beat in the Australian outback - **see his
story on page 6**

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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

It's that time of year when late autumn sunshine keeps us hanging on to the coat tails of summer, while darker evenings bring a warning that winter is on its way. It's that time too when supermarkets put their Christmas wares on display almost before the school autumn term starts, encouraging us to skip over this beautiful time of year and hurtle headlong towards the festive season. This issue of Village Life is looking in both directions – backwards with reports of summer sporting triumphs, a scout camp and the annual horticultural show and forwards with news of the many events planned in the three villages and surrounding area in the run up to and over Christmas – concerts, craft workshops, talks and much more, including the traditional celebrations.

As I write, it feels a little early for a Christmas message but, with so many stories of worldwide suffering in the news, it's difficult not to reflect on how fortunate we are to live in this beautiful corner of Bucks and to wish that others might experience the peace that we enjoy here. Of course, we have our problems, but at least we don't have to listen for the air-raid warning or shelter from the mortar fire... Let's hope that 2024 brings some easing of the conflicts in Ukraine, the Middle East, Sudan, Armenia and elsewhere.

In the last issue, I said that the future of Village Life was hanging by a thread. That thread became a little stronger when some volunteers responded to our call for help. I'm pleased to welcome Fiona Skeggs and Melanie Hall to the editorial team. Both will bring a younger perspective: Fiona is starting out on a career in communications, after gaining an MSc in journalism in Chicago, while Melanie is a new resident of Aston Clinton, a primary teacher and keen to get involved in the village. I also welcome Rod King, a longer-term resident, who joins the Committee to help with financial affairs. I must also express our thanks to Aston Clinton Parish Council for a grant which will give Village Life some welcome financial security.

And so we stagger on... for now...and we wish you all a mellow autumn, a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. Barbara Muston

Aston Clinton Baptist Church

In the beginning there was Adam...

So God asked him *'What's wrong with you?'*

Adam said he didn't have anyone to talk to.

God said that he was going to make Adam a companion and that it would be a woman.

God said, *'This person will gather food for you, cook for you, and when you discover clothing, she'll wash it for you. She will always agree with every decision you make. She will bear your children and never ask you to get up in the middle of the night to take care of them. She will not nag you and will always be the first to admit she was wrong when you have a disagreement. She will never have a headache and will freely give you love and passion whenever you need it.'*

Adam asked God, *'What will a woman like that cost?'*

God replied, *'An arm and a leg.'*

Then Adam asked, *'What can I get for a rib?'*

The rest is history. *Revd Nick Harris*

REMEMBRANCE SERVICES

Across the Benefice

Sunday 12th November



10.45am Act of Remembrance
at Aston Clinton War Memorial



11.20am RBL Remembrance Service
at St Michael's church

12.30pm Service for Remembrance
at All Saints' church

4.30pm Remembrance Sunday
at St Mary's church

Everyone is welcome to all our Remembrance Services,
and we look forward to seeing you there.

Let Us Forget



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. (See page 38 for Christmas Service times)

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

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

A Ukrainian Pop Up shop runs on certain Wednesday afternoons at the Rugby Club in Weston Turville.

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

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

Remembrance Services *please see page 4*
Christmas Service times *please see page 38*

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

Rhubarb Café at St Michael's
Monday 2 – 4pm (*Closed Bank Holidays*)

**Communi-tea Friends Bingo
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 to the Outback

I'm Ollie Brown; I went to Aston Clinton School along with my three younger brothers and then the John Colet school. After A-levels, I followed my passion for SCUBA diving and in 2008 went to Perth, Western Australia. I spent fifteen years working in the diving and marine industry as a diving instructor and underwater photographer on live-aboard boats on the Great Barrier Reef. Then in 2019, I felt like a change and joined the Queensland Police Service.

After tough training and a year's probation, I was posted to Coen, a remote Aboriginal community, far from my home in Cairns. Coen, which is 2300km (1400 miles) from the state capital, Brisbane, sits in the centre of Far North Queensland's Cape York peninsula, the tip of which is the Australian mainland's most northerly point. It has 300-350 residents, but its policing division is roughly the size of Wales and is made up of tropical savannah, rainforest and cattle grazing country. The rivers and waterways are infested with large saltwater crocodiles and the bushland is home to the world's most venomous species of snake. It's only accessible using a four-wheel drive vehicle in the tropical dry season, travelling on dirt roads, or via light aircraft during the monsoon season when the roads are completely flooded for weeks. The distances involved when attending some calls for service are staggering by UK standards; my record is a 550 km (340 mile) round trip to attend a traffic crash.

Coen is usually a two or three-officer station, the surrounding country being part of the Ayapathu, Kaanju and Lama Lama peoples' traditional land. Usually, these clans get along but, during unrest between families, it's easy to forget that you're in Australia.





It's not uncommon for the locals to use bows and arrows, spears and machetes against each other and the police. We are always armed but I've only drawn my firearm twice in three years and some officers never have.

Coen has a courthouse of sorts: basically, a community hall much like the Anthony Hall in Aston Clinton. One of our responsibilities is to prepare the court for the magistrate and prosecutor, then drive out to the airstrip to pick them up. We're happy to do this as they fly in from Cairns (the nearest city) and one of them has already taken our orders for whatever food and goodies we can't buy locally!

There is one pub in Coen called the Exchange Hotel, the word 'Hotel' is very loosely used in this case. It has no air conditioning, a concrete floor, benches covered in red dust and an old, worn wooden bar. The walls are covered with decades-old pictures of sports teams and local heroes. It is the haunt of travellers,

station hands and bull catchers who make the pilgrimage into town for a cold beer.

The Police accommodation in Coen is a house raised on stilts called a 'Queenslander', the stilts provide a buffer from flood waters during the wet season and from snakes and rodents. We're lucky enough to have a mango tree on the station grounds that produces the tastiest mangos I've ever eaten, great for smoothies. There are also banana, mandarin, and lime trees.

When I return home to Aston Clinton, usually a couple of times a year, it's always quite a culture shock. Flying into busy Heathrow after months in the outback, it takes a few minutes to readjust. Sitting at the bar in The Oak enjoying a real beer is a far cry from the Exchange Hotel but is oddly similar with its community feel and regular patrons.

Ollie Brown



Aston Clinton School

Head Teacher.: Mrs Carol Macdonald



A Diverse Community

At Aston Clinton School we are incredibly proud of our diverse community and are committed to promoting the welfare and equality of all our staff, pupils and other members of the school community. The school sees all members of the school community as having equal value, regardless of any protected characteristic. The school's policies, procedures and activities do not discriminate but must nevertheless take account of differences in life experience, outlook and background, and in the kinds of barriers and disadvantages which people may face in relation to any protected characteristic. This was recognised in our Ofsted inspection last year when it was noted that:

"Pupils go beyond being tolerant of differences and instead they understand and celebrate these differences".

Our intention is that when children leave Aston Clinton, they will do so with the knowledge, understanding and emotions to be able to play an active, positive and successful role in today's diverse society. We want our children to have high aspirations, a belief in themselves and realise that anything is possible if they put their mind to it. In an ever-changing world, it is important that they are aware, to an appropriate level, of different factors which will affect their world and that they learn how to deal with these so that they



have good mental health and well-being. This is why we refer to Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) as '*Healthy Body, Healthy Mind*'.

Our PSHE curriculum develops learning, and results in the acquisition of knowledge and skills which will enable children to access the wider curriculum and prepare them to be global citizens now and in their future roles within the international community. It promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils, preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. Our Relationships and Sex Education theme enables our children to learn how to be safe, and understand and develop healthy relationships, both now and in their future lives.

We are constantly reviewing and adapting our practices to take account of our changing world. The Equaliteach programme takes a

whole school approach to diversity, and the changes we have implemented have resulted in a significant decrease in the number of reported prejudice-related incidents.

Another initiative we are about to introduce is the 'No Outsiders' programme which promotes an ethos of inclusion and tolerance and aims to prepare children for life in modern Britain. This will help us to further develop our curriculum response to the Equality Act 2010 and encourage our children to explore identities, focus on diversity and embrace difference.

As a school we also take part in various national awareness programmes. For example, October was Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Awareness month which provided an opportunity for our children and families to learn more about the condition and the way it impacts many members of our school community. Another programme is 'Show Racism the Red Card' which utilises the social power of football and the high-profile status of football players to help tackle racism and other forms of discrimination in society. It aims to raise awareness on diversity, foster social cohesion, and reduce physical and verbal violence linked to racism. We have seen very positive responses from the children when we have held these workshops in previous years and are looking forward to welcoming the organisation again later this month.

I hope that this gives you a sense of our school's ethos and values of *'Aspire, Care, Succeed'* and that, like me, you believe that our children should be supported to challenge prejudice of all types.

Carol Macdonald, Headteacher

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

acvillagelife.co.uk



Tring Choral Society 2023/24 Season

We are a friendly choir and are always keen to welcome new members. We meet every Monday at 7.45pm at the Akeman Street Baptist Church in Tring.

This term we are working on a lovely programme of music: *Charpentier's 'Messe de Minuit'; Vivaldi's 'Dixit Dominus' and JS Bach's 'Magnificat in D'*. This is in preparation for our **Winter Concert on Saturday 16 December** at St Peter and St Paul Church, Tring.

On Monday 15 January, we are holding a free open rehearsal of Mozart's *'Requiem'*. Why not make singing with us one of your New Year's resolutions? Please contact our membership secretary, [Margaret Collier](mailto:Margaret.Collier@tringchoral.org.uk), on **07426 771226** or email membership@tringchoral.org.uk if you would like to come along to the open rehearsal or just to come and see what it is all about on another evening. There is more information on our website at tringchoral.org.uk.

To buy tickets for any of our concerts please go to tringchoral.org.uk/tickets

Do join us to sing or to be in the audience at one of our concerts. We are usually accompanied by a professional orchestra and soloists too.



**Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
& Oxfordshire**
Wildlife Trust

Enjoy your local nature reserves

At the end of September, there was a gathering of environmental charities, local landowners and agents and representatives of Buckinghamshire Council at Dancersend, BBOWT's largest reserve in Buckinghamshire, to mark the end of a two-year project of improvements funded by the Rothschild Foundation.

Estelle Bailey, BBOWT Chief Executive, outlined the work achieved at Dancersend, including projects with neighbouring landowners, and new interpretation signs. She explained the Trust's plans for similar initiatives elsewhere in the three counties and the imminent launch of a major Nature Recovery Fund to tackle the wildlife and climate crisis.

Do visit this flagship nature reserve, which stretches across the southern part of the three parishes. Enjoy the updated Tree Trail and brand-new Audio Trail which will go live in November. Parking is at the ornate Rothschild pumping station at the Water Works on Bottom Road, which leads up through the reserve towards St. Leonards and Buckland Common. Better still, explore the footpaths that lead up into the reserve from the three villages.

Nearby, other BBOWT nature reserves like College Lake, Aston Clinton Ragpits, Bacombe Hill and Weston Turville Reservoir between them offer a complete wildlife experience on your doorstep.

To find more information, directions and details of our events planned in your area, go to: www.bbowl.org.uk.



Mick Jones,
Chair of BBOWT Chilterns Group
jonesmick365@gmail.com

Winter talks at Great Missenden Memorial Centre

Doors open at 7pm for a 7.45 pm start.
Admission £5, including coffee/tea and a free raffle ticket.

November 21: Veritie Turner of North Bucks Bat Group: *The World of Bats*

December 19: John Clarke Tyler: to celebrate fifty years of the Ridgeway Path as an official long-distance trail - an investigation of the wildlife that lives alongside the route from Ivinghoe in Herts to Avebury in Wilts.

Events at College Lake

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. *Fully supervised by trained staff, without the need for parental supervision.*

Saturdays 11 November, 16 December and 13 January, 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! *Fully supervised by trained staff, without the need for parental supervision.*

Saturdays 11 November, 16 December and 13 January, 1.30pm – 3.30pm.

Nature Tots

Join us at College Lake for a nature discovery class for parents/caregivers and toddlers walking up to 4 years. Sessions run once a month on a Tues and Thurs, 10:15 arrival. *Tues 7 and Thurs 9 November, Tues 12 and Thurs 14 December, Tues 9 and Thurs 11 January*

Lifelong learning - adult events

Our lifelong learning workshops offer the opportunity to try something new, meet people and spend time on our beautiful nature reserve. We can't wait to see you at our annual wreath making sessions.

Saturday 2 December – morning and afternoon sessions

To book for these and other events and for more information, go to www.bbowt.org.uk/events.

The Buck Pub 2023



A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered and supported the Buck Pub this year.

We welcomed around forty visitors on Friday, eighty on Saturday and two hundred for the family music on Monday afternoon. The atmosphere on Monday was particularly special; a very strong community buzz, which we must surely repeat in future years.

We volunteer to run Buck Pub for our community – organised by the village, for the village. I estimate that well over 80% of those attending lived within the village or close neighbourhoods or were family or friends of local residents. Bringing neighbours together has never been more important, and we need all the support we can get to ensure this annual event continues. As one of our neighbours said at the time, *“We must never forget how vital events such as this are in creating and maintaining a sense of community”*.

Although this is primarily a community event, we were able to raise funds for local charities. *In total, we donated almost £2,500 primarily to Youth Concern and Rennie Grove Peace Hospice.*

We've had so much positive feedback and appreciation from neighbours that we are already planning to do it again in 2024.

Thank you again.

Nigel Kippax and the organising team for Buck Pub 2023 www.thebuckpub.co.uk

Local stories
by local people

A message from Rob Butler MP



With the nights drawing in and Christmas fast approaching, it's again time to reflect on the year gone by and look forward to 2024.

I have been proud to continue to represent Aston Clinton in Parliament, and to be in the village for some of the year's highlights, especially the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III.

It's also been good to visit local businesses and enjoy a wonderful evening at the Red Kite pavilion. I have also been out and about talking to residents about the issues that matter most to you. This is a valuable and vital part of my role as your representative in the House of Commons.

Less happily, throughout the past twelve months, traffic congestion has caused massive disruption to everyone trying to go to work or school or shop in our local area. Much of this has been caused by HS2, and I have been working hard to secure some of the savings from the scrapped Phase 2 of the railway for projects that will benefit Bucks residents. I have also been pushing utility companies to ensure that works are carefully managed to bring the minimum of delays.

In Westminster, there have again been many lively debates, and I was honoured to be asked to participate in the detailed scrutiny of the Victims' Bill, which is designed to ensure victims of crime are properly heard and treated with respect. As well as speaking in debates and talking to ministers, I remain a member of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme, visiting members of our armed forces here in Britain and overseas. Many of them will be on duty throughout Christmas, and I know we are all profoundly grateful for their service at this time of year.

One of the highlights of my own festive season is always St Michael's Christmas fair. It brings seasonal cheer with imaginative stalls and wonderful cakes on offer. I very much look forward to seeing as many readers of Village Life there as possible in December.

All that is left for me to do is wish you and your families a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Aston Clinton Parish Council

As the clocks go back and we move towards winter, visitors to Aston Clinton Park with cars are reminded that the barrier will be closed at 9pm and will remain closed until 7am in the morning. At present, there are no arrangements in place for out-of-hours release, so please keep an eye on the time if you visit the park late in the evening, as our park-keeper closes the barrier promptly.

The Grow to Give initiative which has been operating with our park allotment growers for the second year is now drawing to a close for 2023, and we thank everyone who has generously donated their excess fresh produce to the Aylesbury Vineyard foodbank

this year. Any resident who wishes to take on an allotment for 2024 can apply via the parish office.

The events team has been busy putting together the final projects for 2023, starting with the annual Remembrance Sunday service at the War Memorial on Sunday 12th November 2023, from about 10.50am. Everyone is welcome to attend, and we remind residents that road closures will be in place on London Road at the Weston Road roundabout, junction with Brook Street and the junction with Twitchell/Church Lane between 10.30am and approximately 11.25am. Once again, our thanks go to Mr John Disbrey for his excellent work in keeping the memorial looking its best.

Heading towards Christmas, we have exciting news from the North Pole that Santa will be visiting Aston Clinton over two days again this year, so that he can meet as many residents as possible! Santa will be cruising through the village on his float, spreading Christmas cheer (and sweets) to residents young and old on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th December 2023, starting at 4pm on both days. Full details of the route will be published on our website and Facebook page, and the village noticeboards.

For 2024, plans are underway for our first annual free Family Festival event in the park on Saturday 8th June 2024 - save the date! More information can be found on our website as activities are confirmed.

The AC Community Speedwatch team has been out and about in the village recently with the new 'speed gun' and we have successfully zapped a number of speeding drivers, whose details have been passed to Thames Valley Police. To be a more effective deterrent to speeding on our village roads, we do need more volunteers so that we can increase the number of teams carrying out the speedwatch sessions - so if you can spare some time to help out, please contact the Clerk at the Parish office.

Training is available, and open to any resident who wishes to be involved.

Our thanks also go to the volunteers of the Aston Clinton Society who have worked hard in 2023 to make our village a better place to live through their litter-picking operations, creation of a rewilded area near Stablebridge Road, and significant amounts of weeding, along with future projects including bulb planting and further improvements to our environment.

Finally, the Parish Councillors and staff wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy 2024.

Aston Clinton Parish Council:
www.astonclinton.org.uk

You can contact us by phone on *01296 631269*
or email: *clerk@astonclinton.org*



**SANTA CLAUS IS COMING
TO ASTON CLINTON**
**Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th
December 2023**

Saturday 16/12 - Starts 16.00 at Shell Garage/Weston Road
Come & meet Santa at the Red Kite Pavilion at approx 18.30, festive fare available from Your Cafe in the Park

Sunday 17/12 - Starts 16.00 at Brook St/London Rd.
Finishing at the Oak PH, at approx 19.00. Full route details on ACPC website & Facebook page, with live updates on both days. Donations to Santa will go to Rennie Grove Hospice, Chilterns Neuro Centre and AC Scouts.

www.astonclinton.org.uk

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acvillagelife.co.uk

Aston Clinton Society



Eagle-eyed readers may have seen some of the Society's volunteers hard at work recently on the Rising Sun Wildflower area on London Road as we prepared the site for next year. We started the project in the spring by giving the area an early mow and planted some yellow rattle plug plants in an attempt to tackle the vigorous grasses that dominated the site. We also planted other wildflower species donated by BBOWT. During the summer, we undertook regular surveys to see if the plants had established themselves but unfortunately the grasses, particularly wall barley, and other invasive species such as dock, thistle and ragwort had won the battle.



After consultation with BBOWT, we decided that the best way forward was to hand-scythe the grasses and remove the invasive plants and our tireless volunteers, Clive and Stuart, clocked up forty hours of back-breaking work doing this. Once that was complete, a farmer friend of the Society gave the site a light plough in September which was followed by the sowing of native wildflower seeds. Even the weather gods played their part as we had a timely heavy downpour just after we sowed. So, the site is now prepped for next spring,

and we are delighted that we can already see some early growth. A list of the seeds sown is in the bus shelter to help people identify the wildflowers while waiting for a bus or just walking by.

More planting is underway with our next project – spring bulbs. Funds from our recent annual quiz night have helped us to purchase daffodil and crocus bulbs which will be planted out at the end of October. Bucks Council has kindly given its permission for us to plant these on the grass verge on London Road between Dennis Close and Spring Brook.

A new and much longer term project for the Society concerns the state of the roads and pavements through Aston Clinton, which most residents will agree are in a bad state of disrepair. One of our volunteers carried out a detailed survey and we have shared this with Aston Clinton and Buckland Parish Councils, although responsibility for highways maintenance sits with Bucks Council. We're not expecting any immediate fixes as some of the problems require a major re-think on traffic management in the village. However, we feel such matters need to be on Bucks Council's radar, so we have invited its highways team to visit the village to meet us. Some of the smaller issues are in the process of being uploaded to FixMyStreet so we hope these will be addressed in due course.

Those of you who frequent the public footpath along RAF Halton airfield will be aware of the recent work felling the large trees lining the adjacent farmland. This has dramatically changed the landscape, but we understand the work was necessary as the trees had grown too tall for the flight path and runway. The good news is that we've been told the wood-chippings from the logging will be used on the footpath to prevent it from becoming a quagmire and virtually impassable during the winter months. *Sally Holder*



Aston Clinton School Association (ACSA)

In this world, it's the little things that make a big difference, which is why, through fabulous fundraising, events, teamwork and a lot of hard work, we ended our 22/23 fundraising year with an amazing £12,027! We are so proud of this achievement, and so thankful to all the teachers, parents, children and members of the community who, with all their love and support, helped make this possible.

With this fantastic sum, we were able to provide our children with glossy new gadgets for school, such as iPads, along with iPad covers and a trolley to store them. And we funded a modern PA system, fresh classroom equipment, excursions, theatre workshops and a pantomime visit to help our school stay inspired, educated and progressive.

We have a very busy calendar ahead this year, with superb events from bouncy barbecues to donut days, movie nights and dazzling discos. Just in our first month we've had a 'Frozen Friday' lolly sale and pizza'n cookie evening which alone raised an incredible £483.25.

This term, we're eagerly gearing up for our spook-tacular Halloween disco, our legendary parents' quiz night which includes a delicious Thai meal from The George and Dragon in Wendover, and our fabulously festive Christmas fair, which is on 25 November. If you work for, or own a business and would like to offer a raffle prize or sponsor a stall, then we'd absolutely love you to hear from you, so please get in touch: astonclintonschoolassociation@gmail.com.

Thank you once again from all of us in ACSA for your ongoing support. We hope to see you very soon at one of our worthwhile and wondrous events!

Aston Clinton Scouts Family camp

On 15th September, 140 young people, parents and volunteers headed to PACCAR scout campsite near Chalfont St Peter for a weekend of fun and camping.

We had all sorts of activities from axe throwing to rifle shooting, climbing to tunnel adventures – something for everyone to enjoy, and on Saturday night, we had a huge sing-along around the campfire.



Everyone was kept very well fed by Sally (a former RAF chef) and a great deal of cake was eaten.

We want everyone to have a blast in scouting and try out new adventures together. Huge thanks go to our amazing volunteers from 1st Aston Clinton Scout Group for making this awesome weekend happen! *Claire Walker*



Scouts

Christmas Tree Collection

We hope to bring back our much-loved Christmas tree recycling service in January. Keep an eye out for a leaflet through your door with details of how to book, or on the village Facebook pages.

- Hassle-free: we come to your doorstep to collect your Christmas tree (just remember to remove the sparkly decorations first).
- Eco-friendly: give your tree a second life as mulch for local gardens.
- Support local charities: all donations go towards helping local charities.

Aston Clinton Guides Autumn Term



It's all change at Aston Clinton Guides with a new leadership team taking over from Sue Wall, who previously gave over twenty years of adventures, residentials, fun and Guiding skills to hundreds of girls. We thank Sue for all her time and dedication.

The new team is led by me, Jo Johnson, Izzie and our new unit helper Sabrina. We have been fortunate to gain some much-needed admin help from one of our parents, Libby.

We have planned some exciting activities this term, the focus of which is to try and get out of our Guide Hall as much as possible, regardless of weather or dark evenings. These activities have included tennis with AC Tennis Club, penny hikes, wool trails, and a litter pick. *(This got quite competitive!)*

Girl Guiding follows a programme which encourages girls to learn about themselves, gain skills and confidence, try new and different things, challenge themselves and be adventurous. This term we have focused on our Take Action theme, where the girls in their patrols became political parties, and had to make a mini-manifesto of what they thought



would make our Guide Hall/ Unit better - bean bags and a greenhouse got the winning vote.

The girls are a big factor in what we decide to do each term, and we get them to write down all their ideas, which we'll be able to carry out in the New Year, including geocaching, trampolining, and swimming.

Meanwhile we have a pamper sleepover planned for later this term, community events such as Remembrance parade, Division campfire, and Christingle, so lots going at Guides. *Jo Johnson*

The WI

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

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

Buckland & Aston Clinton Cricket Club. A nail-biting finish to the season.

In a season with more rain than any in recent history, there was still lots of cricket played and ultimately a nervous wait for other results before we could celebrate a double reprieve from relegation.

Our Senior 1st XI had been promoted twice in a row and were competing in Division 1 of the Four Counties Cricket League for the first time since 2015. Initially we struggled, because of wet weather cancellations and the unavailability of some of our strongest players. But we were generally competitive for the remainder of the year. Typically, our final match was abandoned due to heavy rain and we had to keep our fingers crossed that other results would go our way. Fortunately, they did, and we finished eighth out ten, safe from a quick return to Division 2.

Throughout the season run-scoring was our biggest concern, but the efforts of Talib Hussain (408 runs at an average of 34), Shah Bukhari (330 at 27.5) and Mohammed Shah (304 at 38) were enough to keep our heads above water. The bowling was less of a concern; our wily veteran skipper Mike Parsonage led the way (16 wickets), with Adnan Zaib and Asrar Muhammad (both 13 wickets) running him close.

While the 1st team had been eighth for most of the season and had flirted with relegation, the 2nd XI had been rock bottom for most of the campaign but pulled off a great escape on the final day. Going into the final weekend we needed to win, and in the end, we edged over the line with just a single wicket remaining - last man Marcus Painton hitting the winning run. Over the course of 2023, the 2nds also struggled with the bat and were heavily reliant



on Casey Dawson (220 runs at an average of 24) and 16-year-old Lakindu Gunaratne (173 at 17). Jasper Wright (13 wickets) topped the bowling, just ahead of James Wood (11 wickets in just 4 matches) and captain Kris Greig (also 11). There were also significant contributions from 17-year-olds, Owen Ford (9 victims as he earned the right to open the bowling) and Kyan Dawson (top scoring in that vital last match).

The Midweek Senior side coasted through the group stages of the Village T20 competition, topping our group to earn top seeding in the knockout rounds. We emphatically dispatched Leighton Buzzard Town in the Quarter Final to reach Finals Day for the first time. In the Semi-Final we beat Eaton Bray in a tense finish, before facing hosts Tring Park in the Final. We had beaten them twice in the earlier group stage, but ultimately they proved too strong for us. We were missing our top run-scorers in the destructive Mark Ludlow (245 at an average of 35) and Cypriot International Jimi Chialoufas (156 at 31) and couldn't get close to the Tring total in their absence. Casey Dawson had been wicket-keeping in Saturday games but finished top wicket-taker in the entire competition with sixteen victims at a cost of just eight apiece.

Although the Colts season finished six weeks before the Seniors, it was another enjoyable year, with the introduction of All Stars (5- to 8-year-olds) for the first time under the

guidance of Mark Simpson, and over sixty youngsters were regularly training or playing with our Under-11, Under-13 and Under-15 squads. End of season awards were made to Freddie and Dylan in the youngest age group, Ollie and Oscar in the Under-13s and Rohan and Tom in the older group.

As always there remains lots to do over the close season, but planning has already begun for 2024 and we hope that it will provide as many highlights as 2023. *Phil Samuels*

Aston Clinton Bowls Club



It has been quite a season for Aston Clinton Bowls Club. We have welcomed a number of new members to our ranks, who have taken to our sport with great enthusiasm and dedication, playing not only in friendly matches but also competitive games and club competitions.

The club plays in several inter-club county competitions – the Mid Bucks League, Bucks Plate, and Burnham Plate, with varying success, but our biggest triumph this year was winning Central Division 3 of the Ray Keen Association League (RKAL), coming out on top in all but one of the ten matches and drawing the remaining fixture. As a result, Aston Clinton Diamonds have been promoted to Division 2 next season and we hope to enter a second team in 2024. The RKAL was set up to introduce players to competitive bowls without the pressure of some of the higher-level competitions. Games, involving four players at a time on a Wednesday evening, are limited to eighteen ends and take no longer than two hours. It's a great way to relax in an informal and fun way, whilst at the same time trying to secure a win and gain valuable points!

Our finals weekend was held in mid-September; luckily the weather held for us,

and we enjoyed two days of excellent bowls. Congratulations to all the winners and finalists.

The green officially closed at the end of September, but work on the playing surface, the surrounds and the premises continues throughout the winter. The green still has to be mown on a regular basis (weather permitting) by our team of “mowers” led by Neil Dixon and other treatments undertaken to ensure that the grass is in tip-top condition, ready for the resumption of play in April 2024. Our Monday Club – a group of volunteers which regularly assists with jobs at the club all year round – continues to do sterling work, led by Andy Milne.

New members are always welcome. We will again be taking part in Bowls Big Weekend at the end of May and the green will be open as part of Aston Park's event in June. The club is also registered for Bowls Bash, and we welcomed several groups of complete novices who wanted to try the sport for the first time. Why not come along and give it a go? If you enjoy it and want to learn to play, a course of instruction can be arranged for beginners when the season re-starts in April.

Winter social events

Although we are no longer playing outdoors, our social activities continue during the winter in the clubhouse. We have a **Quiz Night on 10 November** – so why not get a team together and come along? A fish and chip supper is included in the ticket price and all are welcome. There is also a **Grand Christmas Raffle** (with live music and carols) on 8 December, and a **winter luncheon on 14 January**. The **Race Night** returns on 8 March.

For further details about membership or any of our winter social events, please contact our secretary **Brian Clark** on **01844 351461** or email secretary@astonclintonbowlsclub.co.uk



The Florence Nightingale Hospice's FNH@Home team wins CARE Award

The Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity is delighted that the FNH@Home team has received a CARE award from the Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust.

FNH@Home is a dedicated team of nurses and healthcare assistants which cares for patients at home in their final weeks and days. They support both patients and their families with the same high level of care and medical attention as they would receive in the In-Patient Unit at the Hospice. FNH@Home works alongside professional colleagues from Adult Community Healthcare Teams, FNH Community Clinical Nurse Specialists, GPs and other Specialist Clinical Nurse Specialists.

The team was nominated by a relative of a patient who had been cared for by the team earlier this year. The relative said, "The nurses worked so well as a team, but I was made to

feel that we were all a team together, toiling towards Mum's comfort and peace. The work that the FNH@Home nurses do is vital for a good ending of someone's life – I cannot praise this team highly enough!"

The award is given to individuals and teams who provide exceptional care and support, by living and breathing the Trust's values of collaboration, aspiring to be the best, respecting everyone and enabling people to take responsibility. The FNH@Home team and Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity were delighted to attend the presentation of the award, along with the CEO of Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, and see the hard work of the team recognised.

Congratulations to the FNH@Home team! They do exceptional work in the community across Buckinghamshire and its borders and truly are fantastic representatives of the Hospice.

For further information about the Hospice or FNHC, please visit fnhospice.org.uk

Aston Clinton Ladies Group

Wednesday 15 November, 8pm

AGM with cheese/wine at Buckland Village Hall.

Wednesday 14th December, 7pm

Christmas Carols at St Michael's church with coffee, mince pies and raffle in the church after the service.

Wednesday 17th January 2024, 12pm

Lunch at The Oak Pub, Aston Clinton. All food selections to be made before the event.

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

Wasters Whack Baggies

Buckland Baggies suffered another defeat against Wilstone Wasters in their charity cricket match staged at Long Marston Cricket Ground, after losing a close fought match last year.



Richard Peel, one of the organisers (left) and Jon Sainsbury, Buckland Baggies captain (right)

The Wasters secured victory with a six from Tom Folley, their Skipper, in the twelfth over of the fifteen-over match, to take them past the Baggies total of 81, after valiant batting contributions from Jon Sainsbury and his brother-in-law, Digby, for Buckland.

Wilstone retained the Landstone Trophy but the evening, on 1st September, was also a great success for our chosen charity, with £521 (including gift aid) raised for the Aylesbury Homeless Action Group, which was very grateful for the contribution.

The money was raised on the gate, through a raffle and the sale of burgers organised by Guy and Abi from the Half Moon pub in Wilstone.

Needless to say, we need to strengthen the Baggies team for the game in 2024, so anyone – it's a mixed team - who would like to volunteer to play, please contact Jon Sainsbury email: jsain_s@yahoo.co.uk or Richard Peel: email: rppr@hotmail.co.uk, who are pictured discussing pre-match tactics - or was it who was buying the post-match beers?

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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 28)

Village People



Pat Rozental was, until very recently, a church warden of St Michael's and she is well-known as a local artist. She and her husband Steve have just moved to Sussex to be closer to family.

Q. When and why did you and Steve first move to Aston Clinton?

A. We moved to Aston Clinton in 2004 from Belgium where we'd been living for the previous five years. Steve was working for Duracell Batteries and was relocated to the Hemel Hempstead Office but, after a few years, he decided to retrain as an electrician and I think he was quite well known in Aston Clinton through Circuit Fix, his electrical business.

Q. Can you tell us a little about your involvement with St Michael's Church?

A. We started attending St. Michael's soon after moving to Aston Clinton, when Alan Bennett was still Rector. Then, during Elizabeth Moxley's time as Rector, I joined the PCC, and was on the founding committee of the Rhubarb Café.

Rev'd. Sally's arrival brought a real breath of fresh air to the benefice and a good friend to me, and in 2019, I agreed to become a church warden. I was just beginning to find my feet when Covid struck; it was a very strange and stressful time.

Church wardens are responsible for the maintenance of the fabric of the church building, among other things, and St. Michael's faces many

challenges. I am sad to be leaving at this time of uncertainty, but hopefully enough funds can be raised so that the much-needed repairs to the roof, east wall, tower and southeast buttress can be carried out very soon.

Q. Many of us know you as an accomplished artist. What is your favourite style of painting and what professional association do you belong to?

A. My favourite painting medium is watercolour; I've tried others, but I'm always drawn back to it.

I'm predominantly a figurative, still life artist - I paint common, everyday objects, old tools, oil cans etc. and I've recently found a love of depicting vintage silver cutlery... and bees!

I also enjoy printing and have enjoyed making landscape works based on much loved walks around Aston Clinton.

I have been a member of Bucks Art Society for many years and have frequently exhibited locally with them. I have been shortlisted in the Sunday Times Watercolour Competition, won Wildlife Artist of the year in original print and I regularly show with the Royal Institute (RI) of Painters in Watercolour, the Society of Graphic Fine Art and the Society of Women Artists. It is my absolute dream to become an RI one day.

Q. Through your involvement in art, you have become a key member of the local group that exhibits each year as part of Bucks Art Weeks. How did that start and what does it entail?

A. I had exhibited in Bucks Art Weeks a couple of times and I realised that there were several artists living in Aston Clinton who had a connection to St. Michael's. Luckily, they were all keen to take part, so I volunteered to organise an event at the church. Everyone joined the Bucks Visual Group and Art at St. Michael & All Angels Church was put on the map. Our first exhibition was staged just as we were

all emerging from lockdown and we couldn't believe how many visitors came. Attendance has increased every year since, and the week is now a firm fixture on the church calendar.

Q. Were you involved in any other activities or groups in Aston Clinton?

A. We were members of Aston Wine Club for many years; both of us served on the committee and both of us were chairman.

Q. What's your favourite music?

A. I have adored Bruce Springsteen since I was sixteen and have lost count of how many times I've seen him live, but I have quite eclectic tastes - Bowie to Beethoven, Eagles to Elgar, Lloyd Webber to Puccini and I love Gregorian Chant... depends what mood I'm in really.

Q. What's your favourite film?

A. A Room with A View

Q. You are obviously now busy with your new granddaughter. If that leaves you any time, how do you like to spend it?

A. Walking! We both love to walk, and we will miss our routes in and around Aston Clinton - on the canal tow paths, in Wendover Woods

I'm
predominantly
a figurative,
still life artist

“

and up on the Chilterns. We're now swapping them for the South Downs and the sea; we're looking forward to exploring our new surroundings.

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

A. I think the biggest change has been the number of new houses built in Aston Clinton. I wonder whether, in the not-too-distant future, Aston Clinton will have joined up with Buckland and both will be amalgamated into the urban sprawl of Aylesbury... However, people must live somewhere...

The Red Kite Pavilion has proved to be a fabulous amenity for the community.

*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 **Richard Vincent***

Community WildBelt Project Update



Community WildBelt, a project set up by the Chiltern Society in June 2022, has made great progress in engaging with communities in the local area. The project is looking to increase biodiversity and Nature Recovery on a local level working with Parish councils, community groups, farmers and private landowners. Creating the right habitat for nature, even on a small scale, can make a big difference. All those little places for wildlife to hang out in, do add up. 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.

Chiltern
Society



We have recently been active in Aston Clinton, helping to improve a pond in the Estone Grange Estate and were delighted to have residents of all ages come out and get muddy with us. Getting people involved and enthused about the nature around them is key to the project.

Ponds are a fantastic habitat for wildlife, supporting a number of species. One of the reasons for this is that they have been commonly and continuously around for millions of years, during which many plants and animals have become well-adapted to the conditions they provide. Fortunately, ponds, although now mostly man-made, are still common. This is just as well, because many freshwater species depend on ponds for survival.

Ponds can provide different habitats, including dense reeds, diverse plant communities and muddy banks. Our aim is to create a varied habitat for different species. Build it and they will come!

If you have a project you would like to pursue or know of a patch of land that you think could be improved for nature, no matter how small (or big!) then we would like to hear from you.

If you are interested in volunteering on the WildBelt project, then have a look at our website or email me.

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

Chiltern Society Winter Events

Watercolour Workshop with Jay Nolan-Latchford

Whether you haven't picked up a paint brush recently or are a beginner, Jay, a professional artist, illustrator and award-winning tutor, will show you step by step how to create a beautiful painting. With demonstrations and one-to-one time, everyone will leave with a finished piece ready to frame. Price includes all materials and refreshments. **Price £30pp**

*Wednesday 6 December, 11-1.15pm
Chesham Town Hall, Chesham HP5 1EP*

Growing Bright Workshop

Join Lisa from Growing Bright at the Chiltern Society to make handmade packaging for your special Christmas gifts. You will decorate three sheets of eco wrapping paper and six gift tags using stunning Christmas stamps and locally foraged foliage as well as making three mini-wreaths to hang on the Christmas tree, or use with a candle as a table decoration. Lisa works hard to try and source materials and equipment that are either locally made, locally sourced or eco-friendly. **Price £40pp**

*Thursday 7 December 10-12.30pm
White Hill Centre, White Hill, Chesham
HP5 1AG*

Making Space for Wildlife – a talk by John Tyler

With so many ancient habitats disappearing from our countryside each year, even the smallest garden can provide a vital sanctuary for wild plants and animals. We look at a range of simple ways to make a garden more attractive to wildlife (and more interesting for us). **Price £5pp**

*Thursday 11 January 2024 TIME TBC White
Hill Centre, White Hill, Chesham HP5 1AG*

HS2 Across the Chilterns – 7th update (online presentation and discussion)

Using a mixture of maps, pictures, visualisations and, most importantly, aerial photographs, this talk will show the impact at several locations across the Colne Valley Regional Park and the Chilterns. This is the 7th in a highly successful series of updates which will regularly show the impact as construction continues. **Free**

Saturday 20 January – 10.30-12pm

To book or for more information, go to
chilternsociety.org.uk/events/



A visit to Halton House

On Saturday 1 July, members of a local history group enjoyed a fascinating tour of Halton House.



We were met by Trixie Brabner, the Archivist and Tour Co-ordinator. Most of us knew that the house was originally built by Alfred de Rothschild in the early 1880s, but personally, I had no idea about the lavish lifestyle there which preceded the Great War, and the great number of famous people who had been guests – the Visitors' Book is a veritable 'Who's Who' of the times.

The House has been owned by the Ministry of Defence since 1919, when the House and estate changed hands for £112,000. Thus in 1919, Halton became RAF Halton and the House became the Officers' Mess.

The tour took us through the ground floor, from the salon with its electric chandelier, the dining room, which is now a mess bar, the cleverly symmetrical billiard room with an amazingly intricate ceiling, to the elegant and imposing grand staircase. Alfred was clearly very keen on symmetry, and the north and south drawing rooms mirror each other, one being used for the gentlemen and one for the ladies. We also visited the smoking room, which featured in the film 'The King's Speech'; its gilded ceiling is reputed to have



cost £25,000 in the 1880s. The tour finished with Alfred's room (his private office), the ante room, and the boudoir, reputed to contain a fireplace from le Petit Trianon in Versailles.

The rooms contain a range of paintings (including a Reynolds and a Gainsborough) and some excellent framed photographs: it was particularly interesting to see those of the gardens as they were at their height in Victorian times. I can recall my father telling me that once the estate contained a tree of every species growing the British Isles, and no doubt many survive.

It was a most enjoyable and enlightening visit, and most years there are open days when you can tour the House and the Trenchard Museum – all free and on our doorstep!

Alison Beck

Happiness is... Scottish country dancing!



Two of the local dancers enjoying the summer school in Glasgow.

Once again, we welcomed more new dancers to our class this term and we hope to help them master the basics required to join in our informal All-comers' Evening in November. As usual, we'll have live music to accompany us – which always helps us to dance better!

At the end of September, we participated in another Royal Scottish Country Dancing Society (RSCDS) Centenary Event “Dance Through the Decades”, a programme of dances – one published in each decade of the Society’s 100 years. This was a worldwide event so, from Aberdeen to Adelaide, The Hague to Hawaii, Washington to Wendover, we were all dancing the same dances together at around the same time.

In November, three club representatives will attend the RSCDS Centenary Autumn Gathering in Glasgow – back where the Society was formed 100 years ago. It will be a weekend of dancing, discussion, networking and more celebrations.

We hope to return revitalised and with new ideas to share with our dancers.

Our next large event is our Christmas Dance and this year, the band will be led by Ian Robertson, who also happens to be an Aston Clinton resident. How lucky we are to have this talented musician nearby. There’s been a waiting list for tickets for this popular dance in previous years; naturally, we hope for the same this year!

If you’re thinking of taking up a new activity in the New Year, why not come and sample the happiness that is Scottish Country Dancing? Your first visit is free. Another New Dancers’ Class will start on 11 January at 6.45pm in Wendover Memorial Hall. It’s easy to contact us via our website or you can call me for further information.

Liz Mitchell

Lucy Clark SCD Club

lucyclarkscottish@gmail.com

01296 631695/07947 000368

www.lucyclarkscottish.org

St Michael’s Race Night Friday 3 November 7pm



St Michael’s is holding a Race Night at the Red Kite Pavilion to raise funds for the church. Come along to this fun evening with friends and family and see if your horses win.

Tickets at £10 per person, including a cheeseboard, can be bought through [Natalie](#) on 01296 632488 or email Benefice3@gmail.com.

St Michael and All Angels Christmas Fair

Saturday 2 December 2023

11am – 3pm, at St Michael's church.



Father Christmas is coming!

Look out for Father Christmas at St. Michael's Church, Aston Clinton on Saturday 2 December. He'll be there to open the ever-popular Christmas Fair where you'll find much on offer to tempt you, from scrumptious home-made cakes to seasonal plants and super gift ideas, books, toys, games, jewellery and much more. Have a go on the Ladies Group's huge tombola and get some tickets for the top-quality raffle. It's all good fun, so make a note in your diary and drop in for coffee or a glass of warming mulled wine and a mince pie between 11am and 3pm.

You'll be pleased you came.

If you would like to help, or have any items for these stalls, please contact **Marion Richards** on **01296 630577**.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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Buckinghamshire Council household recycling centres change to regular winter opening hours.



All ten of Buckinghamshire's Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) have now switched over to the usual winter opening hours of 9am to 4pm.

The days each centre is open will remain unchanged but the change in hours reflects the fact that after the clocks go back and over the winter months, the number of visitors to the sites decreases rapidly once it starts to get darker earlier.

To find out which days your local HRC is open and also further details of what can and cannot be taken to a centre, visit: buckinghamshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/

Did you know you can also view live webcam footage via the council website, to check if the site is busy and avoid having to wait in a queue? If you are unsure about the best time to visit, take a look at the cameras and plan your trip accordingly.

Don't forget, any items such as furniture, garden equipment, bicycles and household equipment in good condition that you are looking to get rid of, can be taken to any HRC where they are collected for re-use. Items donated are sold on by the South Bucks Hospice which runs the re-use shops in High Wycombe and Aston Clinton HRCs.

Items for resale can be taken to any of the 10 sites and will be transported to the re-use shops.

Discover Bucks Museum

We're going back to the 80s at Discover Bucks Museum!



Pull up your leg warmers and scramble your Rubik's Cubes and take a nostalgic trip back to 80s childhood in our new family-friendly exhibition I Grew Up 80s.

A fascinating time capsule of over two hundred objects from this much-loved decade will be on display, including toys, technology, fashion, films, music, food and even a vintage Donkey Kong arcade machine to play. There's plenty for all ages to see, enjoy, share and remember the last decade before the digital revolution. From BMX to Betamax, Dirty Dancing to Donkey Kong, Thompson Twins to Transformers. If you were a child, teenager or adult and experienced the 80s, get ready to exclaim "I remember that!" I Grew Up 80s opens on 21 October 2023 and runs until 16 March 2024. Full programme of special 80s events including 80s Quiz and Disco Night with DJ Dan Blaze on 25 November.

Please mention Village Life
when responding to our advertisers.
acvillagelife.co.uk



December is the start of our Christmas programme with our popular Family Christmas Activity Day on 2 December with crafts, stories, games, a trail and Santa. For pre-schoolers our Discover Ducks sessions will take on a Christmas theme and run on 30 November, 7, 14 and 21 December. We also have a special Christmas Cream Tea in the Georgian Room on 14 December.

Please check times, charges and booking information at discoverbucksmuseum.org

Discover Bucks Museum, Church Street,
Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 2QP
www.discoverbucksmuseum.org

Buckland Parish Council

Buckland Parish Council has received notification from Thames Water of its intention to build a pumping station within Buckland Parish. Proposals received by the council show a location beside Hope Cottages in Buckland Road near the former Rothschild Arms pub. Buckland Parish Council is working with residents and proposes to invite Thames Water to a public meeting to explain its plans. A planning application is expected in the New Year. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for more up to date information – www.buckland-pc.gov.uk/

We have received a number of complaints from residents regarding the removal of the dog waste bin at Buckland Wharf. This bin was not owned by the Parish Council, it belonged to the Canals and Rivers Trust which has removed all dog waste bins owing to the cost of maintenance. Buckland Parish Council is in the

process of ordering a replacement bin which will be its responsibility.

Residents will remember that in 2022, the Parish Council shared plans for a Community Orchard in Lower Buckland. The Parish Council planted some trees and wildflower seeds but had to wait for the heatwave to pass. Photos were shared of the beautiful wildflower meadow earlier this year. This year we have installed an irrigation system to aid with watering. In November we will be planting fifty more fruit trees. These have all been funded by local community grants. The Parish Council will provide public access to the area in Spring 2024. Keep an eye out for more information.

The Parish Council has a small number of allotments available for use by local residents. The allotments are on the London Road – Tring Hill, behind Buckland Wharf cottages. If you are interested in renting an allotment, please get in touch with the clerk.

Speed watch volunteers have been busy monitoring traffic speeds with the Community



Speed watch group. All volunteers have now been trained in the use of equipment and have been out on the roads monitoring traffic. Surveys have taken place in both directions on Tring Hill and also on the Lower Icknield Way. Speeds have been recorded well in excess of the recommended speed limits with some drivers recorded travelling at 48mph in a 30mph area. All data is forwarded to Thames Valley Police.

If you are interested in volunteering and joining our community group, please contact clerk@buckland-pc.gov.uk. The Parish Council has a stock of 30mph stickers for refuse bins. If you would like some to put on your bins, please drop into the office to collect them on either a Monday or Thursday 9-3pm or call the clerk on 01296 630962.

Celebration of 800th anniversary of the founding of St Mary's

On Sunday 3rd September, a service led by the Rt. Revd. Dr Alan Wilson, Bishop of Buckingham, took place to celebrate the 800-year anniversary of the church at Drayton Beauchamp. The congregation, from across the benefice and beyond, filled the church and enjoyed an uplifting service well supported by the nine-piece Village Brass band and The Ridgeway Chorale.

Bishop Alan, in his sermon, outlined the history of the church and the significance of the local community of the parish coming together over the centuries to use the building, and the changes to both community and building over that period. He noted that in all likelihood, the church would have existed before 1220, when the parish fell within the diocese of Lincoln and the first rector was recorded. Church records were poor prior



to then and it was thanks to Hugh of Wells, Bishop of Lincoln from 1209, that a register of ordinations was introduced which still survives today.

At the end of the service Bishop Alan cut a celebratory cake and all present were able to enjoy sparkling wine and a piece of cake.

Music at St Mary's Drayton Beauchamp



On Saturday 7 October, the big moment finally came for St Mary's Church, Drayton Beauchamp, when the Stradivarius Piano Trio arrived. The Trio comprised Andrew Bernardi, playing the famous 1696 Stradivarius violin, Maria Marchant whose fingers flew across a beautiful baby grand piano, and Jonathan Few, playing a wonderfully resonant cello. The violin has quite a history; it was stolen from a café at Euston station in 2010 and was missing for three years before being found at a house in the Midlands and bought at auction by a consortium headed by Andrew Bernardi.

A sell-out audience enjoyed a repertoire ranging from Beethoven, Rachmaninov, Dvorák, Schubert and Delibes to a modern piece by Roderick Williams OBE, the British baritone who was one of three soloists who sang at the King's Coronation. The fantastic acoustics of the church really added to the occasion. Our local village saxophonist, Alistair Dunbar, treated the audience to more music during the interval whilst they enjoyed their wine and homemade canapés. All the musicians were so friendly and chatted about their instruments with the audience at the interval and after the concert.

A huge thank you to everyone involved - musicians, audience and organisers - for making the evening such a memorable one and raising much-needed funds for St Mary's Church. *Lucy Kibble*

Drayton Beauchamp Pony Express 2023



The pony express will deliver Christmas cards in Drayton Beauchamp again this year. I will aim to make a final delivery on Friday 22 December and, if I have enough cards, I will probably make a first delivery earlier in the week (weather and helpers permitting). I don't plan to go to Buckland unless several people ask me to do so.

Please drop cards at The Dray House by 9am on Friday 22 December at the very latest. Sorting the cards is quite time consuming, so earlier would be better.

If you wish to give me something for charity, I will divide the proceeds between one of the local hospices and an equine charity.

Erica Godman 01296 630066

Drayton Beauchamp Parish Meeting

A Parish Meeting will take place on Thursday November 16 at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church.

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

For information, contact the Clerk, *Meryl Nodes*: phone 01296 630396 or Email: merylnodes2018@gmail.com

Aston Clinton u3a

Your local u3a has been busy this summer with many visits and events taking place in spite of the rather gloomy weather. Many members participated in a very wet and windy Thames River boat trip from Maidenhead to Windsor, followed by a hot cup of coffee and lunch in one of Windsor's many eateries and some of us took the opportunity to visit the castle and pay our respects to the late Queen Elizabeth II in St George's Chapel. On a much warmer sunny day in September, a coach load of people enjoyed a trip to Ham House in West London, visiting the house and gardens on the banks of the river Thames.



Many groups will, of course, be having a Christmas celebration in December in place of, or in addition to, their usual scheduled meetings. Please see the website u3asites.org.uk/aston-clinton for information on these and all the other activities and interest group meetings taking place.

We welcome applications from local people of all ages who are no longer in full-time employment. Membership is £17 per annum,

but if you join after 1 November, there is no fee to pay for the remainder of the year with the full membership fee due in January. So why not try us for free for a couple of months and see what you think? Please contact the membership secretary through the link on the website or email acu3amembership@gmail.com for further information. We look forward to welcoming you to our friendly group.

Future Events

November

Fri 3, Bridge group, St Michael's Church

Mon 6, Video Photography, Baptist Church Hall

Mon 6, Art group, Buckland Village Hall

Thurs 16, Coffee morning, Five Bells, Weston Turville

Thurs 16, Garden visiting group: talk by Woburn Abbey's head gardener

Sat 18, Charity Race Night, Antony Hall

Tues 21, Main meeting with a talk on 'Prosthetics Perils'

Fri 24, Bird watching group

Mon 27, Trip: South Kensington, London

Tues 28, Film Night – The Sting

Wed 29, Science and Technology talk: *Data and Cyber Security*

December

Tues 5, Music for All, Aston Clinton Youth Club

Thurs 14, Coach trip: Winchester Christmas Markets

Tues 19, Main meeting talk: 'Hooray for Hollywood', an afternoon of fun and music with Fiona Harrison

Horticultural Society



An extremely successful Summer Show was held at Aston Clinton School on Saturday 19th August. Many thanks to all the exhibitors who provided an outstanding display of flowers, vegetables, domestic produce, photographs and handicrafts. The prizes and trophies were presented by Richard Vincent, a former editor of Village Life. This year, the Repair Café kindly supported the show and was busy sharpening tools and offering sewing and mending.

Our new initiative with Weston Turville Primary School proved very popular with the children there. They created around eighty entries including miniature gardens, painted pebbles and artwork portraying a flower. We would like to thank the children and staff for supporting our event.

In September, members of the Horticultural Society visited Barnowls Nursery in Aston Clinton to help with some planting in the

garden. A small herb garden was planted, with lavender, mint, lemon balm, marjoram and chives, as well as year-round bee-friendly plants and some bulbs for spring. The children had a go at sowing some flower seeds to come up next spring too. We're looking forward to going back in the spring with some vegetable seeds and plants and to see the garden flourishing!

If there are any other community groups that need some help with their garden or growing vegetables, please get in touch.

Our email address is:

info@astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk

In your garden

Autumn is a beautiful season to be in the garden, with its warm hues and crisp air. While it may be tempting to retreat indoors as the weather cools down, there are still plenty of things you can do to keep your garden thriving and looking its best. Here are some tips and ideas for things to do in the autumn to get your garden winter-ready, so grab your gardening gloves and let's get started!

Prepping Your Garden for Winter

- Clean up garden beds - begin by removing dead plants and debris from your garden beds. Clearing out the old growth will help prevent pests and diseases from overwintering and causing problems in the spring.
- Mulch - after cleaning up your garden beds, apply a layer of mulch, which acts as insulation, protecting plants' roots from freezing temperatures. It also helps retain moisture, which is especially important during dry winter months.
- Trim back perennial plants to promote healthy growth in the spring. Cut back any dead or damaged foliage but be careful not

to cut into the live stems. This will encourage strong regrowth when the warmer weather returns.

- Plant your tulip bulbs in November, either straight in the ground, at a depth two to three times the height of the bulb, or in pots.
- Before the ground freezes, take the opportunity to improve the soil quality. Turn the soil and incorporate compost or organic matter to enrich it for the next growing season.

Protecting Your Plants from Frost

It's important to take steps to protect your plants from frost and freezing temperatures.

- Cover delicate plants: Use frost blankets or cloths to cover delicate plants, such as tree ferns or more delicate perennials. This will help insulate them and prevent freezing.
- Move potted plants indoors. If you have potted plants in your garden, bring them indoors or move them to a sheltered area, such as a garage or porch, to protect them from frost damage.
- Water deeply before a frost: this can help insulate roots and provide additional protection for plants against freezing temperatures.
- For added protection, you can use plant covers or cloches to create a mini greenhouse effect. These structures trap heat and shield plants from frost. And... mulch!

Sort out your garden tools and equipment

Before putting your gardening tools away for the season, take time to clean and give them a bit of TLC. Remove any dirt or debris, sharpen blades, and oil moving parts. Proper maintenance will ensure that your tools are in good condition and

ready to use when spring arrives. Or you can always take them to the Repair Café at St Michael's Church.

Nature Friendly Autumn Gardening

If you want to attract more wildlife to your garden, then don't worry too much about tidying your garden and consider the following:

- Don't cut back perennials – birds will often feed off seed heads.
- Leave piles of fallen leaves and garden waste as shelters for wildlife.
- Plant native trees and shrubs to provide food and shelter for birds and wildlife.
- Install bird feeders and bird baths to support local bird populations.

Meetings at the Anthony Hall for winter 2023/24:

Wed 8 November, 8pm A talk which should appeal to us all *"Performance Plants: The Art of Low Maintenance Gardening"* by Dr Sandy Primrose.

Wed 13 December, 8pm Christmas social evening. We will be providing a glass of wine and mince pies and a Christmas competition, which will be communicated to members and advertised on our website/Facebook Group.

Wed 8 January, 8pm AGM followed by a glass of wine and a general chat.

Our full programme for 2024 can be found at astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk

The committee wish members and non-members a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous growing New Year.

The Horticultural Committee

Emergency

HEALTH

Aston Clinton Surgery	01296 630241	www.westongrove.com
Aston Clinton Dental Clinic	01296 323090	www.astonclintondentalclinic.co.uk
Amersham Hospital	01494 434411	www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk
John Radcliffe Hospital	01865 741166	www.ouh.nhs.uk/hospitals/jr/
Stoke Mandeville Hospital	01296 315000	www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk
Wycombe Hospital	01494 526161	www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk
NHS Direct	111	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
Colts Kickers	Liam Hickey	07585 119066
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	
Churchill Hall		astonclintonyouthclub@yahoo.com
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@buckland-pc.gov.uk www.buckland-pc.gov.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

Christmas Church Services

St Michael & All Angels

Sun 3 Dec	4pm	Christingle Service
Sun 3 Dec	6.30pm	Advent Carols
Wed 13 Dec	7.30pm	Aston Clinton Ladies Carol Service
Sun 17 Dec	6pm	Nine Lessons & Carols
Sun 24 Dec	5.30pm	Crib Service
Sun 24 Dec	8pm	Carol Service
Sun 24 Dec	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Mon 25 Dec	9.15am	Christmas Day Eucharist
Sun 31 Dec	10am	Family Sung Eucharist

All Saints'

Sun 10 Dec	11am	Messy Christingle
Sun 24 Dec	8am	Holy Communion
Sun 24 Dec	4pm	Crib Service
Mon 25 Dec	8am	Christmas Day Holy Communion
Sun 31 Dec	8am	Holy Communion

St Mary the Virgin

Sun 10 Dec	4.30pm	Celebration of Christmas with Icknield Sixteen
Mon 25 Dec	11am	Christmas Day Holy Communion

Baptist Church

Sun 24 Dec	5pm	Christmas Eve Carol Service
Mon 25 Dec	10am	Christmas Day Short service
Sun 31 Dec	10.45am	New Year's Eve Service

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SJP Approved 13/04/23

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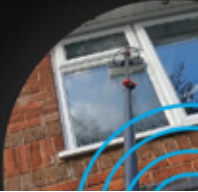
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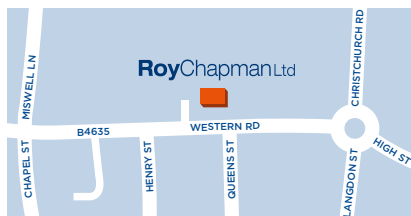
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