



# Village Life

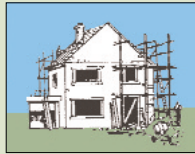
The community magazine  
for Aston Clinton, Buckland  
and Drayton Beauchamp  
No.73 February / March 2024

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#### 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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Quarter page .....£105

One-Tenth page ..... £50

Front cover. Wendover Canal towpath - **see story on page 27**

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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

*Happy New Year from everyone at Village Life, and welcome to your first issue of the year – and my first issue as co-editor.*

I've really enjoyed learning the ropes and getting stuck in editing all the contributions for the magazine. With the wet and windy weather, and the likes of Storm Henk, it's been nice to spend my evenings catching up on the new season of *The Crown* while busily typing away on my laptop, balancing my new editorial role with my equally new full time communications job. It's been a joy to read about all the events and festivities held in the villages back before Christmas; from the pony express delivering cards and the school choir singing at the Christmas Tree light switch on, to a Scout learning Morse Code and a prestigious Guiding Star Award – this issue is bursting with stories and goings-on.

While the Village Life team are pleased to have our new editorial system up and running, in this issue we are once again asking for volunteers – this time for distributors, to make sure the magazine keeps arriving through your letterbox; see Page 7 for more details if you'd like to help.

Do you have a story to tell? In addition to all the wonderful articles we receive from our regular contributors, we do like one-off pieces of local interest to mix things up from time to time. Last issue's story about Ollie Brown was very popular – do you know of other locals living abroad who would like to tell us their story? If so, get in touch with us at [editor@acvillagelife.co.uk](mailto:editor@acvillagelife.co.uk). And don't forget, we love to have photos alongside the stories. Could this be the year you see your name in print in Village Life?

I hope this issue brings you fond memories of festive events from last year as well as anticipation for exciting things to come over the next few months. Let's hope the worst of the stormy weather is over and that we can all get out and enjoy the wonderful Chilterns now that spring is on the horizon – and Creme Eggs are on the shelves! *Until next time, Fiona Skeggs*



## Aston Clinton Baptist Church

*"How much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"*  
– Luke 11.13

How much more than simply a ticket to heaven is the Christian life? Here and now we are promised an experience of the divine.

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus' teaching on prayer concludes with the idea of more. "We earthly parents know how to give good gifts," says Jesus. "You wouldn't give your child a snake if he asked for a fish, so how much more will your heavenly Father give you based on his complete knowledge of you and love for you?" The "more" Jesus refers to is the Holy Spirit.

For this promise to apply to me certain things need to be true:

1. As it is the Father who gives, to receive so much more I need to know God as my heavenly Father.
2. We are encouraged to ask persistently and expectantly; slightly earlier in the chapter the phrase, "ask, seek, knock" is used by Jesus to describe how to pray.
3. The Bible reveals the how and to whom we pray, and so also is the "for what" we are to pray.

The Gift we are to seek above all others is the presence of the Holy Spirit. He is the third person of the trinity sometimes called 'the go-between God'.

If invited, He will enliven us to the reality of the eternal and commence the work of transformation that sees the character of Jesus being formed within us.

As a church family we're passionate about pursuing more of God's presence through deeper encounters with the Holy Spirit. Our dream of becoming more than we are is front and centre of our life together. If you yearn for more why not join us - all are welcome. *Rev'd Nick Harris*

## REGULAR EVENTS AT THE BAPTIST CHURCH

*All services are live-streamed and available for viewing via catch up on the church YouTube channel. Follow the links on the website:*  
[www.astonclintonbaptist.org](http://www.astonclintonbaptist.org)

**Sunday morning worship** (including children's church and crèche) 10.45am – noon

**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 12.45pm – 1.30pm.

**The Craft Club** runs on alternate Wednesday mornings 10.30am – 12.30pm.

**Noah's Ark Baby & Tots** runs Tuesdays during term time 9.30am – 11.00am.

**The Foodbank** prepares parcels on Friday mornings and delivers them on Saturday mornings.

**Men's Full English Breakfast** every first Saturday of the month from 9am - 10am (Booking essential.)

**A bereavement group** meets alternate Wednesday mornings from 11.30am – 12.30pm.

**Youth group** meeting two Fridays per month at 7pm.

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

[www.astonclintonbaptist.org](http://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

<b>St Michael's, Aston Clinton</b>	9.15am, Family Eucharist, every Sunday. 6pm, Evensong, every Sunday.
<b>All Saints', Buckland</b>	10am, Midweek Communion, every Wednesday. 8am, Holy Communion, every Sunday. 11am, Messy Sunday, every 2nd Sunday. 11am, Sung Eucharist, every 3rd Sunday.

## FORTHCOMING SERVICES *(For Easter Services, please see separate article/page 7)*

Sunday, February 4,	11am	Service for Candlemas at St Mary's.
Wednesday, February 14,	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Service at St Michael's.
Sunday, March 3	11am	Holy Communion for Lent 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](mailto:Benefice3@gmail.com)*

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

**Website:** [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) search for:  
St Michael's, Aston Clinton, All Saints' or St Mary's  
**Benefice Website:** [www.ac-buck-db-churches.org](http://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 – 12 noon

**Coffee & Produce Stall  
at All Saints'**

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

**Flicks in the Sticks at All Saints'**  
January 26, February 24  
and March 22 – 7pm



*Community WildBelt volunteers, led by the Chiltern Society, have been busy carrying out pond and hedgerow management on the Estone Grange Estate. Residents of the estate enthusiastically joined WildBelt volunteers to help improve spaces for nature where they live. Volunteers cleared dominant vegetation from the pond to create a more diverse habitat and to encourage different species to thrive. Everyone got very muddy!*

Just before Christmas we all met up again to gap plant a hedge that runs along a wildflower meadow. The hedge was planted by the developers a few years ago but suffered losses in the drought conditions of the summer of 2022. We planted over 300 native hawthorn trees to help thicken the hedge and make it more attractive to wildlife. As the hedge matures it will provide food, nesting habitat and shelter for birds, insects, and mammals; it will also provide a foraging strip for bats.

If you are interested in volunteering on the project, or have some ideas about where you think we could help nature please visit our website: [chilternsociety.org.uk/community-wildbelt/](https://chilternsociety.org.uk/community-wildbelt/).

The Community WildBelt project is made possible by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

## New volunteer distributors needed for Village Life magazine

*Village Life is distributed by a wonderful team of volunteers who deliver the magazine to their own and surrounding roads. We are looking for a few new people to join us, and if you think you would be interested please contact **Richard Vincent** at [vldistribution@outlook.com](mailto:vldistribution@outlook.com).*

We normally receive the magazines from our printers on the last Thursday of the odd numbered months (January, March, May etc). They are then available for collection from St Michael's church, generally by that afternoon or the Friday morning. The distributors then deliver over the next few days. Numbers vary but most people can make all their deliveries within an hour or so and find it quite a pleasant walk once every second month.

## Easter Services across the Benefice

**Maundy Thursday, March 28**  
Sung Eucharist for Maundy Thursday at St Michael's, 7.30pm.

**Good Friday, March 29**  
Stations of the Cross at St Michael's, 2pm to 3pm.

**Easter Day, March 31**  
Easter Fire Holy Communion, All Saints', 8am.  
Easter Fire Family Eucharist, St Michael's, 9.15am.  
Easter Fire Holy Communion, St Mary's, 11am.

Local stories  
by local people

## Buck Pub

*Buck Pub 2024 will run from Friday, May 31 to Sunday, June 2.*

Just for a change, we've not selected a bank holiday weekend. In addition to our well-loved activities, we are also hoping to hold a family fun afternoon/fête on Saturday, June 1.

More details to follow: [www.thebuckpub.co.uk](http://www.thebuckpub.co.uk)  
*Nigel Kippax*



## Aston Clinton Wine Club

*All events are held at Buckland Village Hall, Buckland. Doors open 7.45pm for an 8pm start.*

**February 16** - James Richards of Vin Neuf.  
An independent wine merchant based in Stratford-upon-Avon, Vin Neuf strives to offer a more interesting and carefully selected range of wines from Southern France, Italy, and around the globe.

**March 15** - Michael Boniface of No2 Pound Street, Wendover. No2 Pound Street is an innovative delicatessen selling classical artisan favourites from organic cheeses to biodynamic, quirky wines.

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





**Berkshire  
Buckinghamshire  
& Oxfordshire**  
Wildlife Trust

**Your local Wildlife Trust  
reserves and activities**

*Within walking or cycling distance, or at the most a very short car ride, you have some of the best nature reserves in the Chilterns. Managed by BBOWT, and almost entirely open to the public, the areas conserve special habitats and wildlife, including some plants and animals that are extremely rare elsewhere in the country. I hope you will visit and enjoy them during 2024 and try some of the activities organised by our Trust.*





It's still downtime for most of the resident wildlife at our reserves as species adopt a range of strategies to get through the rest of the winter. But there is still plenty to see, from wildfowl and thrushes enjoying a holiday away from the harsh conditions in Scandinavia and Northern Russia, to some of our own secretive mammals revealing their active nocturnal foraging through tracks left in snow and mud. The reserves are also busy with volunteer work parties, using this time to carry out essential management tasks like scrub control, coppicing, hedge laying, fence repairs, tree safety work and path maintenance. It's a great way to keep fit in beautiful settings with a friendly group of nature enthusiasts, so do come and join us.

There are still two events left in our programme of naturalist-led talks, held at the Memorial Centre in Great Missenden. Doors open at 7pm for refreshments and chat, with the events starting at 7.45pm:

**Tuesday, February 20** – Mosses and Liverworts in the Chilterns: how these small plants tell us about environmental change. Talk by Dr Oli Prescott, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology.

**Tuesday, March 19** – The Rhythm of Nature. An evening of music, song, and poetry celebrating nature with The Wick Trimmers Folk Group and readings by Trust volunteers and staff.

For more information and booking details for all our local events go to [www.bbowl.org.uk](http://www.bbowl.org.uk).

*Mick Jones,*

Chair of BBOWT Chilterns Group

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## Events at College Lake

To book the following events and for more information, go to [www.bbowl.org.uk/events](http://www.bbowl.org.uk/events).

### Ranger Sessions

For children who love nature and wildlife and want to get involved at our fantastic nature reserve. Sessions are fully supervised by trained staff, without the need for parental supervision.

#### Young Rangers

For children aged 8 -11 years.

*February 10 and March 9.*

*10.30am – 12.30pm.*

#### Teen Rangers

For children aged 11-17 years.

*February 10 and March 9.*

*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 Tuesday and Thursday, 10.15am.

*February: Tuesday 13 and Thursday 15.*

*March: Tuesday 12 and Thursday 14.*

#### Pond Explorers (Age 7+)

Become a pond explorer and fall in love with the wonderful creatures who live in our pond.

*Tuesday, February 13. 10.30am – 11.30am.*

#### Winter Wildlife Family Event

Visit us with the whole family to find out what's happening at College Lake during the last of the winter months.

*Wednesday, February 14. 10.30am – 12 noon.*

#### Nature Explorers Day Camp

Wildlife Day Camp for 7 - 12-year-olds.

Sessions are fully supervised by trained staff, without the need for parental supervision.

*Thursday, February 15. Drop off between 9.45am and 10am. Pick up at 3pm.*

## Aston Clinton Society



*We had a very busy and productive conclusion to 2023 with various village projects and activities, including our annual fundraising quiz night – which raised a tidy sum of £1500. We put some of the funds to immediate use by planting more than 2000 spring bulbs on the grass verge on London Road between Dennis Close and Spring Brook. We should see signs of early growth very soon, and look forward to an array of colour come the spring.*

Likewise, we are closely monitoring the Rising Sun wildflower area on London Road, which was sown in the autumn and later planted with an assortment of wildflower bulbs. If you see any signs of bloom when passing by either area, please do send us a photo so we can share on our social media channels.

Meanwhile, our regular village litter pick and tidy ups have been boosted by 30 new, good quality litter pickers, courtesy of a grant from the Aston Clinton Parish Council. Thank you to everyone who participated in 2023 and to our friends at Café in the Park for the complimentary drinks. Please follow us on Instagram and Facebook for details on our next village tidy up.

The Society is now entering its third year in 2024. Although we are proud of all we have achieved in a relatively short space of time and the work we've done to improve the village, we feel it's time to lift the bar and tackle one of the bigger issues that concerns us; the lack of servicing of Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp by Bucks Council.

Even during informal discussions we have been repeatedly told that Bucks Council doesn't have the funds to carry out road maintenance and improvements, which means the state of our roads and pavements

continue to deteriorate to a dangerous and unsafe level. The Society took it upon itself to carry out a detailed review of the conditions of road surfaces, white lining, pavements and the identification of traffic hazards and safety issues in the villages. We shared the extensive findings with both Parish and Bucks councillors, before distributing the report to a wider group of key Bucks councillors and those responsible for the relevant departments.

We are now monitoring all work in the village and sending a monthly update report to the same group of people, acknowledging work that has been successfully completed but also hammering home the issues that have still not been addressed. We are not expecting miracles, but we do expect our constant lobbying to be heard and thus ensure the roads and footways in Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp receive the investment needed and are kept safe and fit for their purpose.

*Sally Holder*

## Aston Clinton Ladies Group 2024 Programme

**January 17, 12 noon**

Lunch at The Oak

(Please place orders before the event).

**February 21, 8pm**

Quiz night at The Guide Hall

(opposite the Shell garage).

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

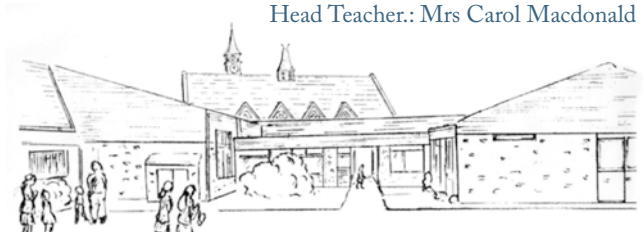
For a digital version of Village Life please visit our website.

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



# Aston Clinton School

Head Teacher.: Mrs Carol Macdonald



*On the behalf of all of us at Aston Clinton school, we would like to start by wishing you all a Happy New Year. We often talk about community, and it's at the forefront of our minds during Christmas time.*

We started off the festive season by holding our annual Christmas Fayre, which was organised by our fantastic parent association (ACSA). Money raised from this Fayre goes directly to supporting the children in school and really does make a huge difference to the opportunities we are able to offer the children. We are incredibly lucky to have such an active parent association.

Our school choir was invited by Councillor Corinne Judge to sing to the community at the Christmas Tree light switch on at Aston Clinton park.

During December, we followed an Advent Calendar of Kindness. Each school day the children did small acts of kindness; one of them was to make a snowman of gratitude. We asked the children to draw three circles in the shape of a snowman and write one thing in each circle that they were grateful for.

Each year, school staff take part in their own Secret Santa, but this year we were conscious that members of our wider community may have been struggling over the festive season. Therefore, we decided that instead of buying each other presents we would donate food to Aston Clinton Baptist



Church, who distribute food boxes over the Christmas week. Miss Francis, a Year 1 teaching assistant, made arrangements for each year group to donate different foods and she was overwhelmed by the generosity of her colleagues. When she delivered the items to the church the lady who took in the donations was overjoyed and extremely grateful.

*Carol Macdonald, Headteacher*



## Aston Clinton School Association

*Wow, what an amazing term we had at Aston Clinton School. We raised over £8000 in total through the Christmas Fayre, Quiz Night, Spooky Sparkly Disco, Easy Fundraising, Clothing Bank, Pizza and Cookie Night, Pantomimes, Christmas Carols, and the Photoshoots by Tanya Aldcroft. Thank you to anyone who supported us to make these events successful. The children also enjoyed a visiting panto and school trips paid for by ACSA.*

Our Christmas Fayre was the most successful raising just under £6000 with the help of some amazing parents and teachers, and local businesses Arla, Dayla, Tring Brewery, The Oak, Coffee@108, Zethon, De Soutter, Aston Clinton Dental Clinic, Make Believe Ideas, The Print Lab, The Boiler Blokes, Ben Mason Trees, Tesco, Aldi and Michael Anthony.

We've got some exciting events lined up this term including a Silent Disco on February 1 and a Willy Wonka Golden Ticket Event on March 7.

### School Lottery

We started a school lottery earlier this month, and it's open for anyone to take part. Simply choose six numbers between zero and nine, and if they match the weekly lottery draw, you win a prize. One lucky player will win a cash prize every week, maybe even the £25k jackpot! Tickets cost £1, and the proceeds (40p) are donated to Aston Clinton Combined School.

Winning numbers are drawn every Saturday at 8pm, and the winners are notified by email. To start supporting, visit: [www.yourschoollottery.co.uk](http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk) and search for: Aston Clinton.

Local stories  
by local people



### Fundraising for Opal

This year we are fundraising for a new school project – Opal: Outdoor Play and Learning. [outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/the-opal-primary-programme/](http://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/the-opal-primary-programme/)

Play is vital to children's health, happiness and wellbeing. This project aims to develop our school's outside area to revolutionise the play opportunities for our children.

We've already funded £5000, but we need to raise an additional £15,000 for the programme to start; so please continue to help us by attending our events, donating where you can and supporting our initiatives. Next year the school will be looking for a range of everyday items from old drain pipes, gutters, toys, scooters, pots, pans and dress up items, so please keep things aside if you're having a clear out soon!

Stay updated with what's happening:  
[facebook.com/astonclintonsschoolassociation](https://facebook.com/astonclintonsschoolassociation)  
[instagram.com/aston\\_clinton\\_pta/](https://instagram.com/aston_clinton_pta/)



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LOTTERY

**SUPPORT  
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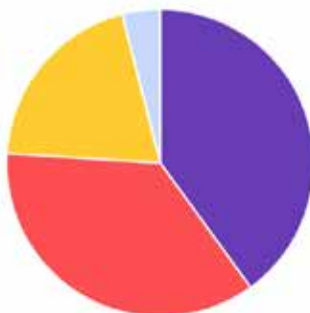
**£1 per  
week**

**Weekly  
cash prizes**

**£25,000  
jackpot**



## Splitting the £1.00



- 40p goes to our school
- 36p goes to cash prizes
- 20p goes to admin costs
- 4p goes to VAT

## How it works...

It's simple—choose 6 numbers between 0-9 and if they match the weekly lottery draw, you win great prizes. One of our players will win a cash prize every week, maybe even the £25k jackpot! Tickets cost just £1 per week and the proceeds are donated to Aston Clinton Combined School

Every Saturday at 8pm the numbers are drawn and posted online. Winners are notified by email and winnings paid into the account of your choice.

The easiest way to join our lottery is online at [YourSchoolLottery.co.uk](http://YourSchoolLottery.co.uk) by direct debit or debit card.

**It's so easy to join and will make a real difference to Aston Clinton Combined School**

**The Maths...** 100 tickets sold a week means

= **£30 weekly cash prize**

= **£2,080 a year for our school**



To start supporting, visit:

**[yourschoollottery.co.uk](http://yourschoollottery.co.uk)**

and search for: **Aston Clinton**

GambleAware



## Buckinghamshire Council



### Buses on Demand – coming soon to an area near you!

*Residents of the Aylesbury area will soon have an exciting new choice of public transport after Buckinghamshire Council is set to partner with WeMove to launch a 'demand responsive' bus service. The three-year trial follows the successful introduction of a similar scheme in Wycombe earlier last year, which has already proved so popular that it has expanded to new areas to meet demand.*

The new service is part of a pilot scheme funded by the Government's Rural Mobility Fund and covers a specific geographical area, enabling passengers to request a pick up from one of the fully accessible minibuses at a convenient nearby 'virtual bus stop' as the buses travel through their area.

The areas covered by the service include Aston Clinton, Weston Turville, Halton, Hartwell, Stoke Mandeville, Bishopstone and Weedon. The service will drop off passengers anywhere within the operational area, which includes Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury town centre and the railway stations at Aylesbury, Aylesbury Vale Parkway, Stoke Mandeville and Wendover.



*"This new service is planned to start during the spring of 2024 and will benefit residents in villages around Aylesbury by providing another travel option to supplement existing public transport services," says Steven Broadbent, Buckinghamshire Council's Cabinet Member for Transport.*

*"The established Wycombe scheme has demonstrated that demand responsive services are convenient and affordable for travellers," he says. "We're looking forward to sharing more details about this new service soon."*

## Council enforces higher penalties for fly-tipping in Bucks

*Those caught fly-tipping in Buckinghamshire face the consequence of paying a higher penalty for their crime following changes to the law which have been adopted by the council.*

Last year, the government increased the maximum Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) for fly-tipping from £400 to £1,000.

The penalty for Failure in Householder Duty of Care, has also been raised from £400 to a maximum of £600. This penalty relates to people who have waste removed by a third-party waste carrier. By law, householders have a duty to check that the carrier they are using is legally authorised to carry out the work and will do so responsibly. If the waste they have given the carrier is found dumped illegally, the householder is deemed to have failed in their Duty of Care regarding their waste and can be liable for prosecution.

FPNs are generally used for smaller scale offences and avoid court proceedings and a criminal record. However where possible the council will always seek to impose the maximum penalty and for larger scale or more serious offences the defendant may be summoned to



court where fines are set by magistrates and can result in custodial sentences and costs totalling thousands of pounds.

*"I would urge all householders to fully check the credentials of any waste carrier they employ to dispose of waste on their behalf," says Gareth Williams, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment.*

*"The best way to do this is to use a traceable method of payment for the service and never, ever pay cash. Make sure you use a waste carrier properly registered with the Environment Agency and pay traceably online – if that isn't an option, find a different waste carrier."*

Buckinghamshire Council's enforcement team uses a variety of methods to catch fly-tippers in the act. In the past year they have dealt with 68 cases, resulting in court prosecution fines and fixed penalties totalling more than £55,000. Since 2003 the team has succeeded in achieving 868 convictions resulting in a total of £1.4m in court fines and fixed penalties.

## Changes to household waste disposal

*Residents in Buckinghamshire can now dispose of small amounts of DIY waste for free at Household Recycling Centres (HRCs).*

The changes, brought in by the government, make it easier for people to freely dispose of small amounts of waste created from at-home DIY projects like re-tiling, renovating a bathroom or digging a pond.

Following this change in law, the council is reintroducing a digital e-permit for DIY waste. From December 31, 2023, any resident wanting to dispose of household DIY waste at a HRC will need to have an e-permit printed out, or on a portable device like a smartphone or tablet, before they visit.

### ***The DIY e-permit will allow residents to dispose of one load of DIY waste each week for free.***

One load of DIY waste is no more than 100 litres of loose DIY waste which must fit into **two 50L bags, or one large item no bigger than 2m x 0.75m x 0.7m**, such as one bath tub, one door or one kitchen unit.



Permits are single-use, but can be renewed after seven days to allow residents to dispose of another load of DIY waste for free. Anyone wishing to dispose of more than one load of DIY waste in a week can do so, but will be charged.

The changes only apply to DIY waste. Residents bringing garden waste, electricals, general and other types of waste commonly brought to HRCs will not be affected and can continue to use the sites in the same way as before.

Commercial traders, landlords and residents disposing of waste produced by traders still need to pay for commercial waste disposal.

For more information on the changes visit the council website.

## Aston Clinton Guides Girls can do anything...

*We have had a very busy Autumn term at Aston Clinton Guides and were lucky to welcome a new leader, Karen, who recently moved to the area.*

Our pamper and home remedy sleepover was a success, and the Guides made their own hand scrubs, lip balms and scented rice bags. This helped the girls achieve their Natural Remedy interest badge.



Our trash fashion for Children In Need was also a hit and raised £50 with some fantastic, imaginative and creative designs achieved.



We had some great Christmas activities towards the end of last year. The card making with professional materials and cutters was probably the most fun and well received.

This term we are focussing on the theme: Skills for My Future, and activities will include running patrol "banks", nutrition and cooking. We are working towards an exciting badge this term which looks at careers and getting the girls to try their hand at civil engineering, and other exciting STEM activities.

We once again have a full packed term to look forward to with games in the dark, Mothers Day crafts, and designing aspirational vision boards all on the agenda.

*Jo Johnson, 1st Aston Clinton Guides*

## Guiding Star Award



*As a youth leader, when you receive an email from the police it is usually opened with trepidation, however, I was delighted to receive the following report from PC Dawn Seston back in July:*

Sophie was on the footpath after school in Aylesbury when a young school girl the same age as her walked through a line of stationary cars and then across a bus lane. Unfortunately, although the cars were stopped they actually had a green light to go and were just held by a roundabout and the weight of traffic. The bus lane however, was still free running.

The young girl was hit by the bus. Poor Sophie and others were alerted by the noise of the impact. As a car blocked the bus lane protecting the girl, Sophie ran to her aid shouting at people to get an ambulance. She then bent down and supported the girl's neck and head, and tried to stop the bleeding while reassuring the girl she would be ok and that help was coming.

It was after Sophie had run to help that she realised she knew the girl. Even from the CCTV footage, Sophie controlled the scene and there was nothing else she could have done. Others walked away while Sophie continued to reassure the girl.

Afterwards, I was speaking with Sophie, who was clearly upset and shaken by the whole thing, when she gave me her account of what happened and what she had done. I told her there was nothing else she could have done and that everything she had done, she had done perfectly. Sophie, through the tears with a big smile, told me she had learnt what to do in the Guides.

## ★ Guides



We leaders were very moved by Dawn's report and it was forwarded to the National Girlguiding awards committee. The awards committee was also most impressed with Sophie's actions and awarded her the Guiding Star, which is given to exceptional young members of Girlguiding.

The whole process was confidential, and Sophie, of 1st Aston Clinton Rangers, was very surprised to receive her Guiding Star award at the Aston Clinton Christingle Service in December. PC Seston joined us for the presentation, and we were all very pleased to learn that the young lady involved in the accident has subsequently made a full recovery.

*Sue Wall*



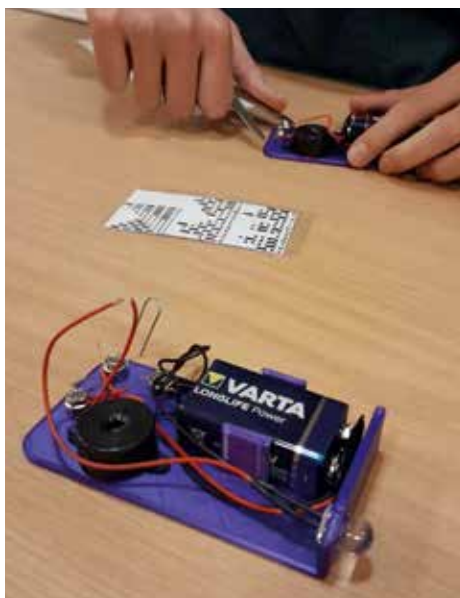
## Aston Clinton Scouts



### *Why you should join Scouts*

*Scouts is a very good and fun organisation. You make new friends and do a lot of activities such as the leap of faith and white water rafting, and sometimes we go to trampoline parks!*

We always have a fun time and have something to work towards, like badges. These include doing things like first aid and going on hikes. An activity that we all look forward to is a game when we go into Wendover Woods and the leaders are on bikes. We get a few minutes' head start, and then we have to orienteer ourselves through the woods and meet at a car park before being caught.



### Camps

I have experienced many camps, and one of my favourite camps was in the countryside. We camped for a week and had to make our own fires and cook our own food! These camps always include lots of fun activities, and sometimes we go swimming as well. We are also allowed to use axes to chop wood, go on long hikes and make new friends.

### Morse Code

In Scouts we learn all about Morse code. We made these little devices, which you can see in the photo, by connecting a buzzer to electric wires and wrapping them around electric conductors. When we tap the conductors together, the device buzzes and beeps. This links to morse code by doing the dash dot method, or a long buzz or short buzz, to resemble letters.

*Frank Johnson, Age 13.*

# Simply Walk celebrates seven years

*Back in November, Simply Walk celebrated its seventh birthday with its annual “cake-fest” at the café (many thanks to Nick and his staff). We had over 35 walkers on the day – bringing us back to pre-Covid levels.*

Looking back over the hundred or so walks completed last year, and with the number of walkers participating now averaging 25 per week, the group continues to go from strength to strength. We’re also pleased to welcome Liz, an additional new leader, to the team.

Now, as we look forward to another year and anticipate the coming of spring, walking still continues every week, come rain or shine. An easy excuse for not venturing out during the colder months is, of course, the weather. It’s all too easy to see the threat of a few raindrops and think “I’ll give it a miss this week”.

It’s often said that “there’s no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate clothing”, which is very true; it just depends on how comfortable you want to be.

Whatever nature decides to throw at you during the colder months, it’s undeniable that once you’re back in the warm and dry with a hot cup of something in your hands, the lovely glow you get from having successfully prevailed more than makes up for it.

Walking on your own in less than perfect weather can seem a bit of a miserable prospect, but when you’re with a group of friendly people like we have here at Simply Walk, it’s a much jollier affair.

Walks take place every Thursday at 10.30am sharp from the car park by the Red Kite Pavilion - just look for the folks in the hi-viz jackets. If it’s your first time, then please come about 15 minutes early so we can make sure you’re put on the right walk.



For more information on Simply Walk and other similar walks available in Bucks, visit the website at [buckinghamshire.gov.uk/simply-walk](http://buckinghamshire.gov.uk/simply-walk) or contact *Fiona Broadbent* at Bucks Council on **07802 260812**.

*Edward Kempton*

## Aston Clinton Surgery Westongrove Patient Newsletter



*Scan the QR code or visit our website and subscribe to our monthly patient newsletter.*

The newsletter aims to inform patients on current news and advice as well as introduce members of our team at Westongrove. Our website also has lots of information about ordering a prescription, booking an appointment, support groups, and a link to Ask First - which has a symptom checker feature, can give advice or book you an appointment with a clinician if necessary.

For a digital version of Village Life please visit our website.  
[acvillagelife.co.uk](http://acvillagelife.co.uk)

## Aston Clinton u3a

*As many of you will, I'm sure, agree, it's been a busy time of year in the run up to Christmas and New Year. The Anthony Hall was full on October 27 for the free members' afternoon tea; copious amounts of tea, coffee and freshly baked homemade cakes were consumed. Also in October, the Wildlife group found a myriad of fungi, like this amazing and rather beautiful ink cap mushroom, at Asbridge.*



The Charity Race night in November raised just short of £750, which was donated to two charities – the RNLI and Macmillan Cancer Support. Thanks to everyone who attended, and, of course, to the organisers Geoff and Maggie Evans; a great night was had by all. A coach-full of members had a lovely day out in South Kensington towards the end of last year, with some people visiting museums and others perusing the shops and viewing the Christmas lights. The December trip to the Winchester Christmas Markets was enjoyed by all in spite of the rather dreary weather!

*Please see the list below for a selection of activities and trips planned over the next few months:*

### Future Events

#### January

**Wednesday, 31.** Science and Technology talk: Raising Money for Scientific Research Projects.

#### February

**Thursday, 8.** Flowers in art.

**Tuesday, 13.** Digital photography: using photo editing software.

**Monday, 19.** Line dancing.

**Tuesday, 20.** Main meeting talk: Chenies Manor and the Russells.

**Thursday, 22.** Coach trip to Coventry.

**Monday, 26.** Wildlife group talk: reptiles.

#### March

**Tuesday, 5.** Family history.

**Friday, 8.** Theatre trip: The Kite Runner at Aylesbury Waterside.

**Thursday, 14.** Table tennis.

**Friday, 22.** Bridge.

**Tuesday, 26.** Film Night: The Duchess.

#### April

**Wednesday, 3.** Knit and natter.

**Tuesday, 16.** Main meeting talk: The 60s: A Decade of Change.

**Tuesday, 23.** History group visit: Great Kimble church.

**Wednesday, 24.** Science and Technology visit: Aston Martin Museum.



Many of the special interest groups meet regularly. Please see the website [u3asites.org.uk/aston-clinton](http://u3asites.org.uk/aston-clinton) for further details.

We welcome applications from local people of all ages who are no longer in full-time employment. Membership is currently £17 per annum. If you are interested in joining please contact the membership secretary through the link on the website, or email [acu3amembership@gmail.com](mailto:acu3amembership@gmail.com). We look forward to welcoming you to our friendly group.

## u3a Bridge at St Michael's Church Friday afternoons for beginners and improvers

*Do you want to learn how to play bridge in an informal and friendly environment?*

*Do you already play but want to improve your game?*

If yes, then join us at St Michael's Church on Friday afternoons from 2pm to 4.30pm.

For further information please contact Janet, the u3a Bridge Group coordinator via our website: [u3asites.org.uk/aston-clinton](http://u3asites.org.uk/aston-clinton)



Barbshire  
Buckinghamshire  
& Oxfordshire  
Wildlife Trust

# The Rhythm of Nature in Words and Music

Featuring  
The Wick Trimmers  
Folk Group

BOOK NOW on [events@bbowl.org.uk](mailto:events@bbowl.org.uk)  
Admission £7.50 inc. Refreshments

Tuesday  
19<sup>th</sup> March  
7.45pm  
Memorial Centre  
Great Missenden  
HP16 9AE

Registered Charity No 264286  
Design by Marion Carter

CHILTERN'S CHALK  
EVENTS, WALKS & TALKS

A FESTIVAL BY THE  
CHALK, CHERRIES AND  
CHAIRS PROJECT

COME ALONG TO  
AN EVENT!

January-April 2024

CHILTERN'S  
LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

To find out more about the  
*Chilterns Chalk Festival*  
please see the full article  
on page 27



## Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity

*As for most people, the festive period is a very busy time for Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity. Throughout the month of December, we ran or attended several community and fundraising events. The highlights of this period were our schools, Haddenham and Buckingham Santa Dashes, our annual Christmas wrapping station, and our Tree of Light dedication service honouring loved ones.*

Across Buckinghamshire, hundreds of people took part in a Santa Dash fun run to raise money for Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity. An incredible 18 primary schools partnered with us and led their own Santa Dashes. Members of the Charity visited each school and hosted assemblies to raise awareness of the Charity, explain the Santa Dash, and help to sensitively describe what hospices are and why they are important. As well as these school events, we also hosted two Santa Dashes in Buckingham and Haddenham. These were festive fun events for the whole family and were both greatly supported by the communities. Haddenham Community Support Group, and Buckingham and Stowe Running Club were both crucial in the delivery and promotion of the events. Collectively, our 2023 Santa Dashes raised about £16,500 – which is fantastic news for the Florence Nightingale Hospice and could fund over 20 Day Hospice Sessions.



One of our seasonal traditions is our Christmas wrapping station in Friars Square Shopping Centre, Aylesbury. For a donation amount of their choice, shoppers can leave their Christmas gifts in the capable hands of our talented volunteer wrappers and pick them up later. The stall was open from December 15 to December 24 and raised about £600 – which could fully run the Day Hospice for four hours. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who gave up their time over the Christmas period to help make our wrapping station possible.



During December, we also held a lovely Tree of Light service. Christmas can be an emotional time of year when we remember loved ones who are no longer with us. The service was designed as a way for people to honour, cherish and reflect on those who have passed on. Visitors could dedicate lights and write

messages about their loved ones. The tree, located outside the Hospice itself, shone brightly throughout the festive period as a symbol of light to those whom we have loved and lost, and who brought joy to our lives. It was an emotional and rewarding service, and we hope it brought comfort to those in attendance.

2023 was a great success for the Charity, and we look forward to delivering many more events in 2024. Please visit our website or social media to keep up to date with our activities and events in the community.

Website: [fnhospice.org.uk/](http://fnhospice.org.uk/)  
 Facebook: [www.facebook.com/fnhcofficial](https://www.facebook.com/fnhcofficial)  
 Instagram: [www.instagram.com/fnhcofficial/](https://www.instagram.com/fnhcofficial/)  
 Donations can be made at:  
[fnhospice.org.uk/donate/](http://fnhospice.org.uk/donate/)

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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 29)

## Village People

*This is a series about the people of Aston Clinton, Buckland, and Drayton Beauchamp. It's not just about the people who live in these villages, but it's also about those who are an integral part of village daily life.*



*From the Parish Council to the Horticultural Society, **Marion Richards** has been involved in a variety of village matters for nearly 50 years and has three children and nine grandchildren.*

**Q. When did you first come to Aston Clinton and what brought you here?**

A. My husband, Peter, and I moved here in 1973. We'd been living in Reading but wanted to move somewhere more rural and more convenient for his commute to London. We found a house in Putnams Drive, which was convenient for the school, and loved it there. In 1980 we moved up to Chiltern Way, where we had more land and could fulfil our dream of keeping chickens, ducks and geese!

**Q. How did you first get involved in village affairs?**

A. First of all, I helped at the playgroup in Anthony Hall. Then I joined St Michael's church and helped with Sunday School. As time went on I became a member of the Parochial Church Council and a churchwarden, and I got involved in fundraising for the upkeep of the church. Then, as there is today, there were problems with the roof, and I still help with fundraising now.

**Q. What other roles have you held?**

A. I helped with the Luncheon Club in Anthony Hall, providing lunches for some of the older members of the community. When Win Thomson, who established the club, retired, a group of helpers

took over the organisation, and we carried on until 2016 when the club stopped due to lack of demand. I also became a member of the Parish Council and was there when the bypass was completed; I remember the excitement of being one of the first people to travel along it and realising what a difference it would make to the village. Then for the Millennium it was decided that we'd make a historic parish map, and a group of Parish Councillors persuaded the Council to provide a loan to get this project going. It was a huge amount of work, but well worth it, and it was successfully completed in time for a launch during the Millennium celebrations. It proved to be such a success that we were able to pay back



the loan in a very short time, and we recently donated over £1000 of the proceeds to the Florence Nightingale Hospice. The original of the map is in the church, and there are still copies available for sale.

I also helped start the Wine Club. Nearly 30 years ago I attended a concert at Mentmore Towers with a group of friends from the village, and over a number of glasses we decided we'd like to take our shared love of wine to others in the villages. From those small beginnings grew the Wine Club – which is still going strong today!

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

A. I'm a member of the u3a and the Horticultural Society, and I enjoy entering my flowers in the shows. I was a stockwatcher for BBOWT for many years too. I've also been involved in raising funds for the Chilterns MS Centre (now the Chilterns Neuro Centre), and I hope to continue with this in the spring. I also enjoy attending the Ladies Group meetings.

**Q. When you have some spare time, what do you do for fun?**

A. I enjoyed playing badminton until three years ago when hip and knee surgery stopped me. I love my garden and can while away many hours there, and I love a good book and going to the theatre. One of the most important things though is spending time with my friends – many of whom I've known since I moved to the village 50 years ago.

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

A. I love jazz and choral music, but I don't sleep well so I often find myself listening to the shipping forecast and Sailing By by Ronald Binge, which is my favourite piece.

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

A. It used to be Breakfast at Tiffany's, but recently my grandchildren persuaded me to watch Top Gun, which I thought was fantastic.

**Q. What would you say is the best thing about living in Aston Clinton?**

A. The sense of community, its location in the Chilterns, and the easy access to London – it has everything..

involved in  
village matters for  
nearly 50 years

“

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

A. One of the biggest changes was the bypass, which instantly relieved the pressure of traffic through the village. More recently there have been housing developments, which have expanded the size of the village considerably. But, I think the sense of community that I felt when I first arrived here is as strong as ever.

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

*Interview **Barbara Muston***

## Happiness is... Scottish country dancing!



*It's always a pleasure to participate in local events when we can. Back in November, St Michael's Church quiz appealed to so many of our dancers that we managed to field two teams, which generated some healthy rivalry within our club. We also sponsored a tree at the Christmas Tree Festival, which added to the beauty of the church during the Christmas period.*

We ended last term with a capacity crowd for our popular Christmas Dance, an evening full of good cheer and great music from local musician Ian Robertson and his band. Ian entered into the festive spirit by weaving Christmas carols and songs into the dance music, making us work doubly hard – dancing and singing at the same time! A few days later, this was mentioned in the Letters Page of The Times when one of the dancers who had attended our dance commented on an article by English Heritage about the history of combining carol singing with dancing!

This year, at the end of March, we'll hold our Anniversary Spring Dance to celebrate 70 years since Lucy Clark started her dance class in Amersham; we're planning a fitting tribute to a special lady.

If you're thinking of taking up a new activity which will give your brain and body a workout, why not come and sample the happiness that is Scottish Country Dancing? You'll have a warm welcome and your first visit is free. 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](mailto:lucyclarkscottish@gmail.com)

01296 631695/07947 000368

[www.lucyclarkscottish.org](http://www.lucyclarkscottish.org)

## A Happy New Year to all from the WI.

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

In November, members visited the Milton Keynes Theatre to see The King and I, and at our December meeting we hosted a party, complete with entertainment. Both events were very much enjoyed by all.

On **February 7**, we welcome Jeremy Holmes, who will present Mad, Bad and Dangerous to Know: Lord Byron and his Women!

On **March 6** there is a Beetle Drive, where members can enjoy a catch up in between games.

We look forward to welcoming new members at any of our meetings. Come along – you will be most welcome. In addition to our monthly meetings, we arrange theatre trips and have several thriving groups including a walking group, lunch club and craft club.

For more information please email

[b.d.ac.wi@gmail.com](mailto:b.d.ac.wi@gmail.com)

*Lin Mitchell, Secretary*

# Chilterns Chalk Festival

*From January to April 2024 the Chalk, Cherries and Chairs Landscape Partnership is celebrating the special chalk bedrock of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural beauty (AONB) with a festival of events. From wildlife talks and practical habitat management to river dipping and geology walks, there's something for everyone!*

The landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Chilterns has been shaped by its underlying chalk bedrock – formed millions of years ago, but still having an impact today. Our Chilterns Chalk Festival celebrates this connection to our landscape, both ancient and modern.

## **February 9, *A Wild Walk on the Chalk!***

Join our Landscape Connections project team for a short walk from Buckmoorend Farm to Kimble Warren Site of Special Scientific Interest – a very special habitat for nature. Tour the site before returning to Buckmoorend Farm for a hot drink and light lunch at the farm shop cafe. £5. Booking essential.

## **February 24, *Lend a Hand to Chalk***

*Grassland.* Join the Chiltern Society on the chalk slope at Whiteleaf Cross and get involved in some chalk grassland restoration!

Learn about the importance of managing chalk grassland by clearing scrub material on the chalky slope of this iconic Chilterns landmark. Enjoy the stunning views while getting physical and meeting new people.

All your hard work will help to reduce soil enrichment and shading on the grassland, benefiting special chalk grassland flowers and the animals associated with them. Booking essential.

## **March 24, *Guided Walk around College Lake.***

Join the BBOWT team and local geologist Nick Pierpont, for a guided geology and wildlife walk around College Lake, near Tring.

Once a chalk quarry, College Lake has been restored for the benefit of wildlife and people. Come along to find out about the site's geological past – from Jurassic seas to woolly mammoths! Discover how the chalk, landscape and farming have shaped the wildlife found on the reserve today. Bring your binoculars and walking boots! Booking essential.

**April 4, *Get Dipping!*** Bring the whole family to Old Amersham and learn about the minibeasts and fish that live in the clear waters of the River Misbourne – a globally rare chalk stream!

Come along and enjoy a chance to go chalk stream dipping; you might get a bit wet, so wear wellies or water shoes and suitable clothing. We'll supply the nets and any other equipment you need. Booking essential.

For more details, or to book, please contact Fran at [ccc@chilternsaonb.org](mailto:ccc@chilternsaonb.org)

*Image: Livi Gosling*



# Buckland Parish Council



## Community Orchard

*A further 50 plum and pear trees have been planted in the community orchard in addition to the 25 apple trees planted two years ago. This completes the planting of fruit trees, the cost of which has come from grants.*

With the help of further funding from the Gib Lane Community Fund, the Parish Council will be installing disabled-friendly pedestrian access and benches. This will allow members of the public to enjoy the wildflower meadow when it's in bloom. The Parish Council has received a generous donation from the Horticultural Society and plans to use this for further planting within the copse area later this year.



## Thames Water Pumping Station

In December, a public meeting was held with Thames Water to discuss the proposal to locate a large booster station on land next to Hope Cottages on Buckland Road. The large buildings will be as tall as the cottages, and will run the length of their gardens – a mere 5m from their boundary. The Parish Council asked Thames Water to use a site on Lower Icknield Way next to the A41 bypass and away from houses, but Thames Water is unwilling to consider this. We have arranged meetings with our MP, and also with the Local Planning Authority, to explore options prior to a planning application for the booster station being submitted in the spring.

If you would like to receive regular email updates on this issue please email [clerk@buckland-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@buckland-pc.gov.uk).

## Speedwatch Volunteers

With the approach of better weather, Buckland Speedwatch will once again be in action to deter speeding on roads within the Parish. The group, which was set up last autumn, has been successful in moderating speeds and passing details of drivers exceeding safe limits on to Thames Valley Police. For more information, or to join the Speedwatch group, please contact Jane Lewis at [clerk@buckland-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@buckland-pc.gov.uk).



Updates

To keep up to date with goings on in Buckland Parish visit our website: Buckland Parish Council, Aylesbury (buckland-pc.gov.uk), or follow us on Facebook: Clerk Buckland Parish Council. All information from this page is also shared to Everything Buckland and a new Facebook page: Buckland Notice Board – this page is for residents of Buckland and surrounding areas to advertise local businesses.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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Discover Bucks Museum

What’s on at Discover Bucks Museum!

*If you’re nostalgic for those pre-internet years, there’s still time to catch our I Grew Up 80s exhibit, which runs until March 17 and is proving a fantastic hit with visitors as they relive their childhoods through the toys, technology, film posters and even confectionery on display. Younger visitors can see the toys that their parents played with, dress up and play games.*



During February half term, we’re running a special family 80s game show day on Saturday, February 10. On weekdays there’ll be lots of family crafts including making a dragon puppet, moveable Super Mario game, troll-doll planter and more.

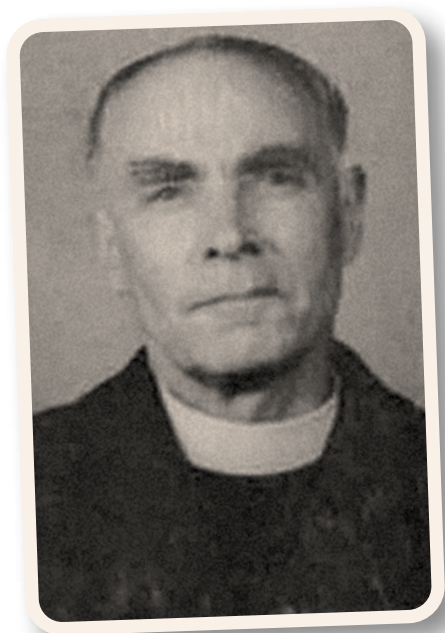
For our very youngest visitors, come along and try one of our Discover Ducks sessions for under 5s. These fun, themed, play sessions include a story, game, craft and trail around the museum. Upcoming sessions include Books, Always, Everywhere on February 29, and Hippo has a Hat on March 21.

As of this year, the museum will now be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, but open on Sunday afternoons from 12 noon to 4pm.

Please check times, charges and booking information at [discoverbucksmuseum.org](http://discoverbucksmuseum.org)

Discover Bucks Museum, Church Street,  
Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 2QP  
[www.discoverbucksmuseum.org](http://www.discoverbucksmuseum.org)

## The Rev'd JR Cohu and Canon Clifford Cohu



*Jean Rougier Cohu was Rector of Aston Clinton from 1904 to 1930. Previously, he had been a Fellow of Jesus College Oxford (the Patrons of St Michael's both then and now), a master at Dulwich College, the Headmaster of Plymouth College – then of Richmond School – and finally Rector of Aston Clinton. He was a deeply spiritual man and the author of a number of books; I have a copy of one of them entitled Oremus (Latin for let us pray).*

On a holiday in Jersey back in 2021, I noticed that a Canon Clifford Cohu was one of the 17 Jersey men and women who were killed by the Germans. Subsequent research showed that Canon Clifford was the son of our former rector.

Clifford John Cohu was born in Guernsey in 1883. He was, therefore, 20 or 21 when his father became our Rector and while a student at Oxford, he would have lived with his parents in what is now The Old Rectory on London Road. Following his priesting in 1908, he moved to India in 1912 to serve as a minister in several communities until 1935. He then retired to Jersey in 1937 with his wife, Harriette, and became acting rector of St Saviour's Church in 1940. He was an eccentric but popular man. His particular act of defiance during the occupation was to spread the BBC news, both in the General Hospital in St Helier, where he was chaplain, and (on at least one occasion) while riding down the parade in St Helier on his bicycle.

Canon Cohu's source of news was the parish cemetery worker who, in turn, got it from a friend who still had a radio. Newsheets were produced, then taken to Cohu, who distributed them. He was arrested in March 1943 by the GFP, the German Secret Police. In total, 18 people in the network were tried and even more were interrogated. He was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment for "failing to surrender leaflets and disseminating anti-German news". He was locked up in Jersey prison for three months and then deported to occupied France in July 1943.

His first destination was St Lô, then Fort d'Hauteville, near Dijon. He stayed there until December 1943 and was joined by others from Jersey who had been sentenced with him. They were then transferred via Saarbrücken to the prison at Frankfurt-am-Main. Conditions in Frankfurt were severe, but up until the D-Day

landings, the inmates could communicate with their relatives in Jersey once a month. Canon Cohu was put in solitary confinement, spending 10 and a half hours each day inserting hooks into cardboard frames. His wife sent him food parcels, but these were confiscated on arrival and his weight dropped from 64.9kg (10st 3lbs) when he left the island to 44.5kg (7st) by May 1944. The prison diet was wholly insufficient and consisted of a weekly bread ration of 2kg (4.5lbs). In his letters to his wife, Cohu often referred to the gruelling conditions in prison. Prisoners frequently had to join work parties, clearing rubble or removing unexploded bombs from the streets of Frankfurt. Some were also executed by guillotine at the prison, although this was not the fate of any of the Channel Islanders.

In July 1944, the Channel Islanders were moved to Naumburg, where dysentery and dropsy were rampant and no medication was made available to British prisoners. Prisoners “were not allowed to smoke, talk, sing, hum, or smile”. Canon Cohu was not even allowed to bury the Channel Islanders who died in prison.

Cohu's sentence officially ended on September 24, 1944, but on August 30, 1944, he was released from Naumburg into the hands of the Gestapo and taken to Zöschen Forced Labour Re-education Camp – which was run by the SS. Up to 30 men were crammed into small round paper tents, with nothing but soil on the bare ground. Canon Cohu attracted attention as the only British prisoner and as a priest. He was too weak and thin to lift a shovel when on a work party and was given continual beatings and subjected to streams of abuse from the guards.

Canon Cohu died at the hands of a sadistic guard who beat many prisoners to death for no reason. He was so badly beaten that he died two days later. He was just 60 years old.

*James Adam*

## Chilterns Neuro Centre

*Our charity art sale and exhibition returns to the Chilterns Neuro Centre for the first weekend in March 2024. Showcasing a variety of paintings, sculptures, jewellery, drawings, ceramic and other forms of art from local artists, we think it's the best charity art sale in the area.*

Even better, at least 33% from every sale goes directly towards the Centre and will help us provide treatments and services to people with MS, Parkinson's and stroke survivors so they can live life to the full. If that's not enough, our café will also be serving delicious cakes, as well as hot and cold drinks.

*The Pop-Up Art Weekend is free to enter for visitors so please do come and join us.*

**Saturday, March 2, 10am to 5pm**

**Sunday, March 3, 10.30am to 4pm**

*Chilterns Neuro Centre, Oakwood Close, Wendover. HP22 5LX*



**POP-UP ART Weekend**

**ART EXHIBITION & SALE**

**Saturday 2 March 10am - 5pm**

**Sunday 3 March 10.30am - 4pm**

**popupartweekend.org.uk**

**CHILTERNS NEURO CENTRE**  
TREATING, SUPPORTING & EMPLOYING

**Chilterns Neuro Centre**  
Wendover, HP22 5LX

In partnership with  
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## St Mary's Church, Drayton Beauchamp



*On December 10, the Icknield Sixteen came to St Mary's, Drayton Beauchamp, to lead the annual Nine Lessons and Carols service. The large congregation was treated to a feast of sound in the beautifully decorated church. The congregation nearly raised the roof when it combined with the choir for the hymns between the reflective readings.*

A huge thank you to Colin and Anna Stevens for playing the organ and conducting the choir – which was in such fantastic voice. Thank you, also, to the PCC who provided hot mulled wine and mince pies for everyone after the service.

## Tring Choral Society

Tring Choral Society, accompanied by professional soloists and an orchestra, will be performing Mozart's Requiem in D Minor and Vespers Solennes de Confessore on **Saturday, March 23, 7.30pm**, at St Peter's and St Paul's Church in Tring.

Tickets on sale at: [tringchoral.org.uk/tickets](http://tringchoral.org.uk/tickets).

## Drayton Beauchamp Pony Express 2023



I delivered Christmas cards in Drayton Beauchamp again in 2023, and my neighbour Chris helped me. The weather was kind to us; it wasn't warm but, more importantly, it wasn't wet. I delivered 35 cards to about 20 houses and raised nearly £100 – I donated £50 each to Rennie Grove Hospice and World Horse Welfare (ILPH).



If anyone out there would like to come out with me sometime, please do contact me.

*Erica Godman 01296 630066*

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## Wendover Canal towpath upgrade: Wendover to Halton now open!

*We are delighted to announce that work on the upgrade of the 1.7mile (2.7km) canal towpath between Wendover and Halton is now complete.*

This high-specification upgrade was supervised by the Canal & River Trust and the work carried out by its contractors Kier plc and The Rothen Group.

The new all-weather, 1.5m-wide, path now has bank reinforcing, a strong membrane, a solid 100mm foundation and a 50mm surface of limestone-based Centrack - which is highly durable, widely used and particularly suited to this rural environment.

The improvement enables people of all ages and abilities to use the towpath year-round; families, schoolchildren, walkers, runners, cyclists and those with reduced mobility can now enjoy the towpath whatever the weather.

This project was made possible through funding from the HS2 Chilterns AONB

Review Group (with the substantial support of Chilterns Conservation Board), Wendover

Parish Council, Wendover Community Board, Lionel Abel-Smith Trust and Halton Parish Council. We are grateful to all of these organisations for their support, which is much appreciated.

Over the coming months, Wendover Canal Trust will be replacing the railings at Wharf Road and erecting signage along the entire route from Wendover to Halton. This is largely being funded by the EKFB joint venture (Eiffage, Kier, Ferrovia Construction and BAM Nuttall).

The upgrading of the towpath will be celebrated with an event in the spring - more information to follow.

*Peter Elwin*, Partnerships Director  
Wendover Canal Trust

## Horticultural Society

*The Horticultural Society ended 2023 on a high with a festive Christmas Social and an inaugural Christmas wreath workshop. Society members had a joyful afternoon at the volunteer-run workshop, and enjoyed prosecco and mulled wine while they used greenery from local gardens to make their wreaths. An incredible £400 was donated to Brain Tumour Research, and it was such a success that we're making it an annual event; it's booked for Saturday, November 30, 2024!*



## In your garden

There are plenty of things to do in the garden during winter. If the weather is bright and dry, head out into the garden for a bit of pruning. If it's not, there are still things you can do indoors: organise your seeds for sowing, research new plants and shrubs to include in your garden, and plan gardens to visit during the year.

### Prune your roses

Most types of roses should be pruned in January or February before the leaves start to emerge. Modern roses can be cut back hard while older types should be pruned more gently. Always remove any dead, damaged or diseased stems.

### Planting and pruning fruit trees and bushes

Bare-root trees and bushes can be planted between November and March if the soil isn't frozen. You can also prune apple and pear trees, gooseberries and currant bushes. Remove dead or rubbing branches, shorten new growth a little and try to keep an open centre to the tree or bush.

### Herbaceous perennials

Don't be tempted to be too tidy; leaving some growth on your perennials will provide a winter habitat for the wildlife in your garden. Some dry stems to hide in will make the winter months easier for many insects and also give the plants some protection against frost.

### General maintenance

Winter is a good time to do those general maintenance jobs around the garden like cutting back hedges, shrubs, and trees, and repairing fences, cleaning patios and weeding.

## Gardens to visit

Winter can be a great time to visit gardens to see early spring flowers with February being the best time to see snowdrops. Nearby gardens renowned for their snowdrop collections include:



### Thenford, near Banbury

Snowdrops have grown in Thenford's woodlands and churchyard for decades, carpeting the ground with a wash of white flowers each February. The collection of snowdrops has been expanded over the years, and there are now over 600 species and cultivars. The garden is owned by the Heseltine family and is open on limited dates during the year, with four open days in February 2024.

Visit the website [www.thenfordarboretum.com](http://www.thenfordarboretum.com) for further information.



### Benington Lordship, near Stevenage

Benington Lordship's grounds come alive in February with winter-flowering shrubs, hellebores, and naturalised snowdrops.

The Norman keep and moat create a lovely background with acer, cornus, and willow stems in various colours. A century-old planting, the snowdrop path presents a striking show of common and double snowdrop species.

The centrepiece of the exhibit is an assortment of both common and unusual snowdrops.

For further information and open days see [www.beningtonlordship.co.uk](http://www.beningtonlordship.co.uk).

There are also more local gardens open during winter and early spring, and the National Garden Scheme website is a good place to find more information: [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk).



## Meetings at the Anthony Hall for winter/spring 2024

By the time you read this, we will have had our AGM and it's now full steam ahead for another packed year of talks, garden visits, shows and plant sales.

Please check out our website for all 2024 events at [www.astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk](http://www.astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk).

### Programme of events:

**Wednesday, February 14, 8pm, Talk:**  
Showing at Chelsea / Gardeners World,  
Graham Austin, at Anthony Hall.

**Wednesday, March 13, 8pm, Talk:**  
Helsthorpe Farm Flowers, Jane  
Knatchbull, at Anthony Hall.

**Saturday, March 16, 7pm, Social Evening:**  
Quiz night with fish and chip supper,  
at Anthony Hall.

**Thursday, April 4, 6pm, Spring Show**  
Entry Night, at Anthony Hall.

**Saturday, April 6, 2pm, Spring Show and**  
Plant Sale, at Aston Clinton School.

**Wednesday, April 10, 8pm, Talk: Sowing**  
Vegetable Seeds Late Spring / Early  
Summer, Paolo Arrigo of Franchi Seeds,  
at Anthony Hall.

Do come along to our annual Spring Show on April 6, and why not enter? There are lots of classes for budding photographers, cooks, handcrafters, floral art specialists and spring flower enthusiasts. Not forgetting the children's sections for all children up to the age of 14.

There are other enjoyable aspects to the show including our popular plant sales, refreshments, raffle and other stalls. By the time you read this our schedule should be available on our website. As a taster, the photography themes include "Local Landscape", "British Weather" and specifically for mobile phone photographers "Spring Spectacular".

For the daffodil section we have added specific classes for novices and the casual grower, so there is no excuse for not having a go and entering; there is plenty of expert advice on hand to help you stage your favourite blooms.

The Horticultural Society meetings and events are open to all. Meetings are free for members and £2 for non-members. Members receive discounts on garden visits and other events. Membership is £5 per year, per person. For more information and to join, please email: [info@astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk](mailto:info@astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk).

Looking forward to meeting you all in 2024.

*The Horticultural Committee*



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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

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Gas Emergency	0800 111 999	
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## 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	clubsecretary@accolts.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		<a href="http://www.girlguiding.org.uk">www.girlguiding.org.uk</a>
Aston Clinton Scouts	01296 708158	<a href="mailto:ac.scouts@Yahoo.com">ac.scouts@Yahoo.com</a>
Aston Clinton Cubs	01296 708158	<a href="mailto:ac.cubs@Yahoo.co.uk">ac.cubs@Yahoo.co.uk</a>
Aston Clinton Beavers	01296 708158	<a href="mailto:ac.beavers@yahoo.co.uk">ac.beavers@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Aston Clinton Youth Club		<a href="mailto:astonclintonyouthclub@yahoo.com">astonclintonyouthclub@yahoo.com</a>

## CHURCHES

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

## HALLS FOR HIRE

Anthony Hall	07443 976639	<a href="http://hallbookingonline.com/anthonyhall/">hallbookingonline.com/anthonyhall/</a>
Baptist Church	07834 772937	<a href="mailto:lettings@astonclintonbaptist.org">lettings@astonclintonbaptist.org</a>
Buckland Village Hall	01296 630310	
Churchill Hall		<a href="mailto:astonclintonyouthclub@yahoo.com">astonclintonyouthclub@yahoo.com</a>
Red Kite Pavilion	01296 630270	<a href="mailto:nick@yourcafeinthepark.co.uk">nick@yourcafeinthepark.co.uk</a>

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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

## MISCELLANEOUS

All Saints Friends, Buckland	01296 630454	<a href="mailto:peter.elwin@elwins.net">peter.elwin@elwins.net</a>
Aston Clinton Ladies Group	01296 630740	
Aston Clinton U3A	01296 436403	<a href="http://www.u3asites.org.uk/aston-clinton/home">www.u3asites.org.uk/aston-clinton/home</a>
Horticultural Society	01296 633376	<a href="http://www.astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk">www.astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk</a>
Royal British Legion	01296 632039	
SSAFA Forces Help	01296 631030	
Churchill Lunch Club	07921 172642	
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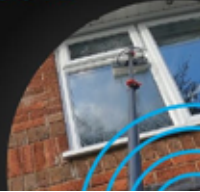
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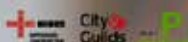
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