



Village Life

The community magazine
for Aston Clinton, Buckland
and Drayton Beauchamp

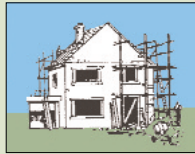
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by contributors or advertisers.

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Aston Clinton Parish Council.

**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

All I know is pouring rain seems a fitting way to describe the last couple of months, but it's finally starting to feel like spring has arrived in the Chilterns now that we've seen some blue skies and sunshine. The tulips, daffodils and bluebells have waned, and the irises, alliums and cirsiums have started to bloom. It's finally dried up enough to sit outside, soak up some sun and enjoy the vibrant spring flowers. If you're looking for gardening tips and planting ideas, the Horticultural Society has some pollinator-friendly flower suggestions on page 34.

In recent weeks, the Village Life team has expanded once more. Lindy Butters joins us as a co-editor and will make her editorial debut in the August/September issue later this year. We're thrilled to have her on board and extend to her the warmest of welcomes. You can put some names to faces and meet the people behind the scenes of Village Life by reading our magazine update on page 6.

This issue of Village Life is bursting with upcoming summer events. The Family Festival is taking place in the park on June 8, and you can celebrate the lives of loved ones and support Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity by joining the Midnight Walk on June 22. You can enjoy the festivities and stroll along the newly resurfaced towpath as part of the Wendover Canal Trust's ribbon cutting ceremony on June 28, and a number of gardens in Buckland are opening their gates to visitors on June 30 for this year's Buckland Open Gardens; there truly is something for everyone over the next few months!

I hope everyone finds the time to get out into the beautiful Chilterns National Landscape (the new name for the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty/ AONB) over the coming months as clover blooms in the fields and spring breaks loose...finally!

Fiona Skeggs

Aston Clinton Baptist Church

People brought their small children to Jesus: Mark 10



Noah's Ark toddler group

Noah's Ark is a Christian run toddler group at Aston Clinton Baptist Church.

Our sessions are on Tuesday mornings from 9.15am to 10.45am in term times.

We start the morning with free play for one hour which includes: cars, climbing frames, sensory play, crafts, puzzles, building blocks, kitchen, shop, dolls, ride-on toys and more. We also have a dedicated area for babies.

Tidy-up time is called, and everyone helps put the toys away and set up the snack tables. If someone has a birthday we celebrate with a birthday hat and sing good wishes. We have a prayer song before enjoying healthy drinks and snacks.

While the grown-ups are finishing their drinks, we have "bubble fun", then everyone joins in with a few songs. We sing about how wonderful Jesus is and there are lots of actions – it becomes a bit of a workout for us all! We occasionally have the "play cute" and musical instruments out at this time too.

We then have a story from the Bible – the children love puppet Woolly who tells them all about Jesus. The session ends with a prayer song.

At the end of each term we hold a special session where we will go into the church for more fun.

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

acvillagelife.co.uk

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

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

Various homegroups meet regularly for Bible study, fellowship and prayer

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 – 11am.

The Foodbank is most active on Friday mornings (preparing parcels) and Saturday mornings (delivering parcels).

Men's Full English Breakfast every first Saturday of the month from 9am - 10am
Numbers are currently limited to 20.
Booking is required.

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

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

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

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Sunday, 2 June	11am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
Sunday, 7 July	4.30pm	Hymns and Pimms at St Mary's

WEDDINGS & BAPTISMS

You can hold your wedding at any of our wonderful churches. Baptisms every 3rd Sunday 11.30am at St Michael's church, 1.30pm at All Saints' church and time tbc at St Mary's 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*)

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 – 11.45am

News about Village Life

The Editorial Team

Many of you will have read over the last year of my efforts to restructure the editorial team at Village Life in order to give it a sustainable future – the highs and lows to the almost-closing-down moments...



I'm pleased to report that, following our advertisement in the last issue, I have recruited another co-editor, bringing the team to full complement. Lindy Butters joins me, as the editor overall, and my other co-editor, Fiona Skeggs. Lindy has lived in Aston Clinton with husband David for just over 30 years, moving over the border from Herts to Bucks in 1993. Two children, two rescue dogs and a full-time career as a corporate account director later, she says there's now time for gardening, walking – and Village Life. We welcome Lindy to the team.

While I will retain a general oversight of the whole magazine, we three will be taking it in turns to edit individual issues. As you'll see, Fiona has edited this June/July issue, and Lindy will launch her editorial career with the one for August/September.

Having a team of three gives us stability and security, so that we can cover for holidays and other unexpected absences, thus ensuring continuity of production, while enabling the editors, who, along with the rest of the production team, are all volunteers, to fit their editorial roles into busy lives.

Funding Village Life

The other factor to ensuring Village Life has a sustainable future is funding. We have struggled in the past few years with rising costs alongside reducing income from advertising, and so we are extremely grateful to Aston Clinton Parish Council for the recent grant they have provided for 2024/25, which will ensure that we are able to stay in production for the coming year.

Village Life Distributors

Our volunteer distributors, who deliver Village Life to your door, are the essential final link in its production chain. To express our gratitude for their contribution, on Monday, 29 April, Richard Vincent and I hosted 28 distributors for afternoon tea at the Rhubarb Café. We were delighted to be able to thank so many of you in person.

Barbara Muston

Wendover Canal Towpath

TV personality to open upgraded towpath

Robbie Cumming – presenter of “*Canal Boat Diaries*” – is to officially open the upgraded canal towpath from Wendover to Halton.

The ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at 1pm on Friday, June 28 at the entrance from the towpath to Walnut Tree Meadow, and a host of other activities are planned to take place from 10am to 3pm.



The footpath upgrade took six months to complete, cost £750,000 and is 1.7 miles long. It is part of the Wendover Canal Trust's and Canal & River Trust's wider ambition to see the entire seven-mile Wendover to Grand Union canal towpath upgraded.

"It will be an incredibly useful route for everyone who wants to enjoy the ambience of a canal side whether it's people out for a gentle stroll, ramblers, joggers, cyclists or birdwatchers," said Wendover Canal Trust Chairman Clive Johnson. "We want the day to be a community celebration and everyone is invited."

On opening day, there will be a series of events and activities for people to enjoy, including Morris dancing by Cracklewick Morris, a performance by Wendover u3a's Ukulele Band and talks on the various heritage sites along the towpath.

Kayakers and paddle boarders from Chiltern Canoe Club will be on the water during the day along the stretch of the canal.

For more information contact:

Richard Peel, rppr@hotmail.co.uk

Local stories
by local people

Did you hear about our photo competition?

We love to illustrate our stories with pictures and are always looking for eye-catching photographs for the magazine's front cover.

We want to give more people the opportunity to showcase their photography skills and are inviting submissions for potential future cover shots.

Your photo must:

- Be in portrait format.
- Have an area in one corner, top or bottom, where we can print the title of the magazine without spoiling the overall effect.
- Show any event or scene from anywhere in Aston Clinton, Buckland or Drayton Beauchamp, or the immediate surrounding areas.

We will consider photos from any time of year, so if you have a snap of a picturesque winter wonderland, send it our way; we'll save it for a winter issue! And please remember that any photos that include people will need permission from those featured before they can be published.

If you have a great shot that you'd like us to consider, please send a high-resolution version to editor@acvillagelife.co.uk.

By entering your photograph, you will be giving your permission for us to publish it, although we will contact you before it actually appears and the photographer will be credited in the magazine.



News from your local nature reserves

After some wonderful volunteer effort and livestock grazing through the early months of the year, we hoped our local BBOWT reserves would be in perfect condition to welcome the arrival of spring and new visitors this year. However, spring let us down and we experienced the most miserable, cold and soggy April for many years.



As I write this, right at the end of the month, hope has returned, and I think the delayed spring is finally with us, with sheets of bluebells and a handful of butterflies to greet visitors. I dare to predict that June and July will be wonderful and invite you all to get out and discover the wildlife thriving not too far from home.

To help you, we have an exciting new programme of guided walks led by the volunteer reserve wardens, who know the reserves intimately. They will not just help you spot some of the special plants and animals, but many of the walks will also outline the history of the sites and explain the management that has made them so rich in wildlife. Further details and booking arrangements can be found on our website at www.bbowl.org.uk/events.

Our management work continues through the summer, albeit normally at a rather reduced intensity. There are opportunities to join our volunteer work sessions at some reserves, allowing you to get to know them better and get some good physical exercise in spectacular surroundings. If you are interested contact volunteering@bbowl.org.uk.

I hope to bump into some of you enjoying nature on your doorsteps during the summer.

Mick Jones MBE

Chair of BBOWT Chilterns Group



Events at College Lake

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. *Saturday, June 22 and July 20, 10.30am – 12.30pm*

Teen Rangers

For children aged 11 – 17 years. *Saturday, June 22 and July 20, 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.

Tuesdays, June 4 to July 9.

Thursdays, June 6 to July 11.

Community events

Free day workshops for community groups in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

Running your own event' workshop

Saturday, June 8, 10.30am – 3.30pm

Managing greenspaces workshop

Saturday, July 6, 10.30am – 2.30pm

Leadership skills workshop

Sunday, July 21, 10.30am – 3.30pm

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 *Tuesday, August 6 and August 13, and Thursday, August 29, drop off/sign in between 9.45am and 10am. Pick up at 3pm.*

To book any of these events and for more information, go to www.bbwt.org.uk/events.

Afternoon Tea at College Lake Café

Enjoy a delicious afternoon tea with a selection of homemade sandwiches and cake. Available every Wednesday and Friday. Vegan and gluten-free options. £18. Call to book on **01442 826774 (ext. 5411)**.



Aston Clinton School

Head Teacher.: Mrs Carol Macdonald



STEM at Aston Clinton School

At Aston Clinton School, we strongly believe in giving children opportunities to explore the world around them and think for themselves. So much of what they do is structured and prescriptive, meaning that by the time they leave school, they have lost the ability to explore, ask questions and find their own solutions. These skills are vital for their future careers and life in general. In the school, we are addressing this through the way we teach science and the enhancement opportunities we offer.

We also recognise that 10% of the British workforce are employed in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) related occupations but only 29% of this workforce is female. When looking at university degrees, only 35% of STEM degrees are obtained by women, with engineering and computing having the lowest representation (women are obtaining 19% of these degrees). We already address science and computing through our lessons and trips, making our lessons more child-led and exploratory. However, engineering is not something that is on the National Curriculum. This is the area that we have focused on in our enhancement opportunities over the last couple of years, with great success.



Aston Clinton School has formed a partnership with Safran, a global engineering company with an engineering and manufacturing site in Pitstone. STEM ambassadors from Safran, with the support of the school, have planned and run sessions for each year group and their parents to participate in. Each session involves an engineering

problem that has to be solved through designing and building a product, with plenty of healthy competition between teams! The children have an opportunity to work not only with their relatives but also real engineers, who are also mostly female. The sessions have been a great success and have helped children, and their female relatives, see that engineering is for all and is exciting!

We are also in our second year of running Aston Arrows – our racing team. We are part of Greenpower Educational Trust, who aim to inspire young people around the world to excel in STEM through a unique challenge: to design, build and race an electric car. The children learn design and construction skills as well as how to drive and run a business. This club is supported heavily by members of our village community who guide our children through the project with real passion.

As well as these two new projects, the school has been part of the Primary Engineering Competition for many years. This is a national competition that encourages children to think like engineers by answering the question “If you were an engineer, what would you do?”

Over the years, we have had many entries to the competition, with great success. Last year, we had two regional winners, Lottie Ford and Seyi Akintayo. Both girls impressed the judges with their solutions to a problem that they saw in their lives. Seyi went on to win the top award, having had the most votes from the judges (who are all engineers) in the competition. And her success has continued. Over Easter, we were informed that her invention is going to be made into a prototype by a company in Belfast. This is an amazing achievement as only 18 out of 48,000 entries are being made! Seyi’s invention is simple but very well thought out. She knew that there is a worldwide shortage of fresh water and noticed how we were having droughts more often. She

also realised that people were not aware of the amount of water they are using and designed a tap that measures the amount of water we use as we are using it and calculates the cost straight away. In this way, people would be more mindful of every drop they used. As a school, we are extremely proud of all Seyi has achieved and hope she will inspire others to consider STEM subjects as fun and a possible career path for them. We look forward to seeing where Seyi’s inquisitive and creative mind takes her.

Carol Macdonald, Headteacher

The WI

Our meetings take place on the first Wednesday of every month in the Anthony Hall at 7.45pm. On June 5, we will welcome Mike Dewey for a talk on “The Lesser Known Houses of South Bucks” and on July 3, Evan Willison will entertain us with his “Tales from the Auction Room”. Finally on August 7, Cally Foster will explain “The Origins of Phrases and Sayings”.

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 it – you will be most welcome. For more information please contact me by email b.d.ac.wi@gmail.com

Lin Mitchell, Secretary

Please mention Village Life
when responding to our advertisers.

acvillagelife.co.uk

Aston Clinton School Association

We're now into our summer term, which is hard to believe due to the recent weather we've been having (we're writing this in April so fingers crossed it really has improved by the time this goes to print!). However, we won't let a touch of torrential rain slow us down. Why does the rain always start at school pick-up time? We've been as busy as bees, and are absolutely buzzing to show you what we've achieved so far and what events are coming up.

Here's a recap of what has happened so far, and what's yet to come.

ASCA events this term so far

April 26: We were glazy in love with Donut Day, where we sold 348 Krispy Kreme donuts and raised over £300.



April 26: The children got a little bit naughty, but a whole lot nice on "Break the Rules Day" where the kids had a few school rules they were allowed to break. There were some crazy hair styles, painted nails, flower crowns, a giant pokemon and a lot of kids eating pudding first at lunchtime! We raised £265.



April 30: Parents and children attended a valuable and vital first aid course run by Mini First Aid, which raised £152. The kids loved learning about CPR and what to do in an emergency.

May 10: We all felt lucky with our very own bingo night. Some random bingo calls were made and some fabulous prizes were won. At the time of writing, we haven't got a fundraising total yet, but we hope to raise around £500.

May 25: Our bootiful and boosting car boot sale was as bootiful and boosting as we could have hoped for. We hope you found a bargain or joined us in selling and made a small fortune. It has raised over £200 at the time of writing.

ACSA events coming up

We're bouncing with excitement for our legendary Bouncy BBQ on June 28 for all the kids, parents and even the new reception children starting in September.

If you're in Year 6, get your dancing shoes and disco fever on for the Year 6 Disco, which we fund every year at the end of their primary school journey. It's always a fun yet emotional event.

Forever living for that Friday feeling with Frozen Fridays. Every Friday after school after the May half term we sell 50p and £1 lollies outside the school office.

ASCA School Lottery

Our school lottery not only supports our school but allows others, like the teachers, our community and parents, to win weekly prizes! It's a win-win in our book. So far, the school lottery has raised over £450 for the school, and given £350 to the winners. To start supporting and getting your name in the winning mix, visit: www.yourschoollottery.co.uk and search for Aston Clinton.

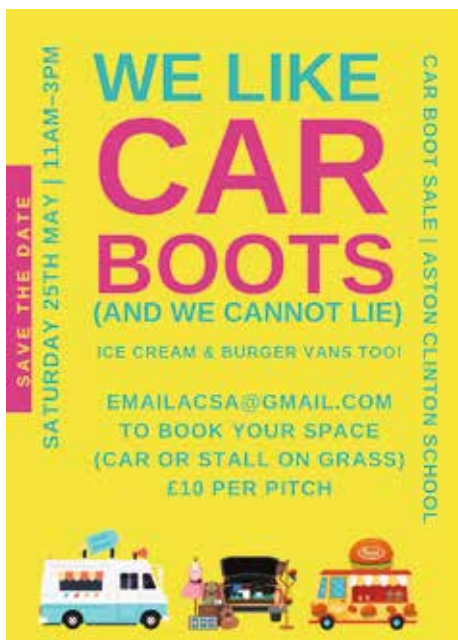
OPAL

We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has donated toys, activities, tyres, games and outdoor materials so far. It's amazing to see the community get together and help us with donations. Also, thank you to ASDA and Dayla Drinks who have been wonderfully generous. For those of you who don't know, OPAL stands for 'outdoor play and learning' and is a brand new project we're participating in at school to encourage children in play, mental health, social development and so much more. To enable this project we've purchased three shipping containers to store all the equipment needed to give the children everything they need to thrive and enjoy the great outdoors and let their imaginations run wild.

We'd be extremely grateful for donations of the following:

- Den building materials e.g. tarps, tyres, pallets and scrap wood (in good condition and various sizes).
- Good condition outdoor paint, fence paint, garden paint, teak oil, danish oil, brushes, rollers and paint trays.
- People available to help build mud kitchens!

Stay updated and follow the coolest kids in town: facebook.com/astonclintonchoolassociation
instagram.com/aston_clinton_pta/





ASTON CLINTON FAMILY FESTIVAL

FREE EVENT*

Aston Clinton Park

Saturday 8th June, 2024
12.00 -6.00pm



Keira & The Reckerz band
12.30-2pm

Ellesborough Silver Band
3-5pm

Zorbs & bouncy slide *

Chairplanes, teacup rides
& Twister *

Food & drink vans and **
Your Cafe in the Park

Side stalls

Family fun in the park

Animal encounters
12-2pm

Stilt walker from 12.45pm

Punch & Judy /Magic shows
1.30-3pm

Circus skills/balloon modelling
3 -3.30pm

Tennis court fun

Bowls Bash

COMPETITIONS & DISPLAYS

Aston Clinton School Poster comp 3.45pm
(MUGA)

Zumba @Rox display 12-12.30

JoAnn Latus dance display 12.45-1.00

Salsa display 4.00pm (MUGA)

Scottish Country Dance
Club 4.00pm (Hall)



FUN DOG SHOW

1.30pm start on MUGA

Charity raffle 5.15pm



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

* Rides/Zorbs free until 4pm
** Food available to purchase

OUR CHARITY PARTNER:
KIRBY'S HERD



Aston
Clinton
PARISH COUNCIL

Aston Clinton Parish Council

The events team has been busily finalising our action-packed Family Festival event on Saturday, June 8. This free community event, which runs from noon until 6pm, will feature music from the Ellesborough Silver Band, and local band Keira and The Reckerz will serenade us with performances from the balcony of the Red Kite Pavilion. There will be attractions and rides, including Zorbs, bouncy slides, chairplanes, teacups, and a twister ride (rides are free until 4pm), as well as Punch & Judy, balloon modelling and magic shows for the children, a mini petting zoo, vintage car display, and a fun dog show.

We also welcome side stalls this year, featuring the community and charity groups in the village, along with some craft retailers. There will be dance and fitness displays with Zumba Rox, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, Salsa group, and Lucy Clark Scottish Country Dance Club, along with try-out sessions at the Tennis and Bowls Clubs.

Our charity partner for the festival will be local cancer charity Kirby's Herd, and a raffle supported by local businesses will be held at the end of the afternoon – all proceeds go directly to the charity, so please do support them.

Ample food and drink will be on offer, both from Your Café in the Park and other concessions near the all-weather pitch. There will be parking restrictions in place from mid-morning, and marshalls will be controlling traffic entering the car parks. Overflow parking will be available at Aston Clinton School.

We look forward to welcoming as many residents as possible to enjoy this wonderful event, which could not run without the hard work and dedication of our events team councillors, volunteers, and office staff. We are also very fortunate and grateful to have received funding from the Wendover and

Villages Community Board to help with the cost of the festival.

In other news, the unaudited year end accounts have been finalised and were presented at the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday, May 23. This meeting offers the opportunity for residents to engage with Council projects and share their views, and for local groups and organisations to report on their activities throughout the past year.

A new defibrillator has been installed at the Guide Hut on Aylesbury Road, which was part funded by London Hearts. Returning to the park, a new zipwire is planned and due to be installed adjacent to the playpark in time for the summer holidays. This exciting piece of equipment has been donated to the children of Aston Clinton by Jessica Mitchell in memory of her son Dylan. She has generously provided this from the remaining charitable donations collected for Dylan's care. Also planned are new outdoor gym workstations to replace our ageing trim trail. We are also working on the installation of an information board at the Lady Louisa de Rothschild fountain area which was recently rebuilt and renovated.

Traffic calming measures have started in the village by Buckinghamshire Council, and it is forecast that these will run until late summer – updates on these can be found on our website.

Our community speedwatch team continues to deter speeding drivers and are actively seeking new members, so please contact us if you have some time to spare.

The Council meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, and residents are always welcome to come along to raise any issues with us – our committees also meet regularly and the public are welcome to join us at those. Details of all meetings for 2024 are published in advance on our website, along with news, past meeting minutes and events: www.astonclinton.org.uk.



Community WildBelt update



WildBelt volunteers have been busy working in Aston Clinton over the colder months, when there's less chance of disturbing local flora and fauna. The project, which is helping people achieve nature recovery in their local communities, is really starting to gain momentum thanks to the National Lottery Heritage Funding and support from local people.

We have been helping residents of the Estone Grange Estate improve a pond they have to increase its benefits for nature. We were joined by families who came out and got wonderfully muddy! The children particularly enjoyed helping; it's great to get them out helping nature on their doorstep. We also did some hedge planting along a wildflower meadow which, in time, will act as a refuge for birds, mammals, insects and foraging bats.

Over in Aston Clinton Park, we did some "gapping up" on a hedge we planted last winter. As in all newly planted hedges you will get some losses in the first year or two but through WildBelt project funding we were able to replace those. We are really pleased with the progress of the hedge, and it will be due for its first trim next winter to encourage thick bushy growth.

The community orchard planted in the park in the winter of 2022 by the Aston Clinton Scouts and Cubs is showing great success – all the trees are looking healthy and currently supporting beautiful blossoms. We are looking for a local volunteer with experience to look after the orchard trees and prune them when needed. Please get in touch if you would like to help.

We are always on the lookout for new volunteers and opportunities for nature recovery projects in the area. Check out our website to find out how to get involved and help Chilterns nature thrive.

www.chilternsociety.org.uk/community-wildbelt/

Rob Butler MP



With the summer months approaching, we can start to look forward to some of the excellent fairs and festivals that come with the sunnier weather, including Aston Clinton's own Beer Festival and Family Festival. I am always struck by the popularity of events in Aston Clinton, when so many members of the community come together.

I know, too, that villagers take great pride in local civic celebrations, and I'm delighted to have taken part in two recently. The St George's Day parade saw many members of local scout and guiding groups in Aylesbury's Market Square, led by St George and the dragon. It brought back wonderful memories of my own time as a cub and scout, and I was thrilled to have the opportunity to retake my scout promise.

The following week, personnel from all ranks at RAF Halton exercised their right to the Freedom of Aylesbury, marching through the town with bayonets fixed, King's Colour flying, bands playing and drums beating. The parade has been a tradition for many years, but was especially timely as a reminder of the debt we all owe to our armed forces in an ever more dangerous world. I was in Parliament to hear the important announcement from the Prime Minister of an increase in our defence spending to 2.5% of GDP by 2030 – an extra £75 billion.

This money is vital to ensure our Army, Navy and RAF have the resources they need to take on our adversaries from all quarters – land, sea, air, cyber and space.

I've also asked many other ministers questions in the House of Commons about the topics that matter most to people from our area, ranging from access to GPs to better roads and help for small businesses.

Please do feel free to let me know your priorities by taking part in my survey on www.robbutler.org.uk.



St Michael and All Angels' summer fête will take place on Saturday, July 6 from 2pm to 5pm.

In addition to the usual selection of stalls, including produce, plants, books, refreshments and Rev'd Sally's dog show, for the first time we plan to have a 60/40 stall – eBay without the internet!

If you are a local trader or crafter and would like a stall in our church or you want to know more about the 60/40 stall, please email [Louise at smaa_fete@yahoo.com](mailto:Louise@smaa_fete@yahoo.com) for more details.

Please mention Village Life when responding to our advertisers.

acvillagelife.co.uk



Aston Clinton Youth Club

We have had a busy year since last September. We have 40 members registered and can accept 28 members on a weekly basis. Once registered a member can be booked in on a weekly basis or just turn up at the door (space permitting).



Members enjoy a wide range of activities like table tennis, air hockey, miniature pool, table top games – like Uno and Connect 4 – plus games consoles and our arts and crafts table, which has a weekly theme, plus it is a good place to socialise and chat.

Last year, we successfully applied to Wendover Community Board and received a grant for which we are very grateful, as it enabled us to replace our air hockey table with a larger model, much better suited to a youth club environment. We were also able to purchase additional arts and crafts materials so the members have been able to enjoy painting, model making, cooking and sewing. We always try to incorporate special events and dates into our calendar. One of the favourites is Chinese New Year when we cook and taste Chinese food.

As we are based at the Churchill Hall on the park, we are able to make good use of the play facilities and MUGA. The daffodils you see in the spring along the driveway to the park were planted by members as part of the village planting scheme after Covid-19.

As a non-profit making community group, we are always looking at ways to try and raise money so we can continue to offer our members a happy, safe, and fun place to socialise and make new friends. By the time you read this article, we hope some of you will have supported our stall at the Aston Clinton Family Festival and had a chance to chat to our volunteers.

Due to our successful bid for further grants, we have recently had an audio loop system fitted in the Churchill Hall, so it is now accessible to all. The hall is available for hire on a regular basis or as a one-off. If interested, please get in touch.

As always, we welcome new volunteers. If you would like to volunteer or you have a child who would like to join the youth club please contact: astonclintonyouthclub@yahoo.com.

Jacky Rice, Secretary

Local stories
by local people

1st Aston Clinton Brownies



Brownies

Come and volunteer with us!

Are you...

- Looking for a voluntary role?
- Looking to fill an hour and a half on a Monday evening?
- Willing to encourage girls age 7-10 be their best selves?
- Looking to learn new skills?
- 18 years of age or over?

Girlguiding is the UK's leading charity for girls and young women. Our events, adventures and meetings empower girls to be their best and gain confidence. Girlguiding is totally flexible, and there is no level of commitment too small. You have the power to change the lives of girls and young women. You don't need Guiding experience.

The current leaders at 1st Aston Clinton Brownies are retiring soon. Our Brownies (all 24 of them) are looking for one or two leaders to take over the unit in Aston Clinton from September this year. Ideally we're looking for people to start immediately to enable a smooth handover. Meetings are held in the Guide Hall on Aylesbury Road. Training is available in leadership, first response and safe space, and there are lots of opportunities for travel, qualifications and new challenges.

Here are a few words from the girls at 1st AC Brownies, when asked at our recent 100th Birthday Celebrations "*what do you love about Brownies?*"



Girlguiding



*Fun – Chip Shop Walk
– Memories – Friends –
Games – Campfire Songs
– Everything –*

*Crazy – Yellow Tops – Teamwork –
Adventure – Circle Time –*

Pantomime – Cinema –

Playing Together – Activities

– Girls – Remembrance Day –

*Together – A United Group of Strong
Women and Girls.*



Don't hesitate to get in touch and register your interest at: www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

Jo Marsh, 1st Aston Clinton Brownies

Tring Choral Society's Summer Concert

Tring Choral Society is celebrating 50 years with conductor Colin Stevens. On Saturday, July 6 at St Peter and St Paul Church in Tring, the choir will perform a selection of Colin's favourite choral classics, including excerpts from "Elijah" by Mendelssohn and "Requiem" by Brahms. There will also be music by Rachmaninov, Puccini, Verdi and more. As usual we will be accompanied by our professional soloists and our regular orchestra comprising a mix of professional and local musicians.

The concert starts at 7.30pm; tickets are £17.50, with under 18s free: www.tringchoral.org.uk/tickets. *Do come and join us if you can.*

Aston Clinton u3a



Your local u3a continues to provide a range of varied talks, outings and events. The St George's day lunch at Chiltern Forest Golf club was well attended and a very nice Sunday roast was enjoyed by all. The Science and Technology group recently visited the Aston Martin Heritage Trust near Wallingford, followed by a lovely lunch at the Wandering Kitchen café overlooking Queenford Lakes. Needless to say, the weather was not our friend, but we were able to enjoy the beautiful scenery from inside the warm café.

By the time you read this, we will have enjoyed a trip in early May to Covent Garden with a backstage tour of the Royal Opera House, and there are plans for an outing to Brighton in early July. The Theatre group has trips to The Syndicate in Milton Keynes and Lord of the Dance in Aylesbury planned. A hog roast for

all members is taking place on June 30 at Aston Clinton School.

Groups continue to meet regularly and, with a few exceptions, are open to welcoming new members. The Bird Watching group has been busy; the photographs of a nuthatch and coal tit were taken on a recent field trip to Stockgrove Park, near Leighton Buzzard. The group visits various local sites, such as College Lake, Tring Reservoirs and Ivinghoe Beacon, and occasionally goes further afield, to places like the Wetland and Wildlife Centre at Barnes. There are usually about 12 people of varying birding abilities, from beginner to experienced, and the group leader sends a report of what has been spotted after each trip. The list in February included 20 different species such as the great spotted woodpecker, dunnoek, robin, great tit, blue tit, and coal tit, and many more.

Here's a sample of activities and trips planned over the next two months:

- June 3** Video photography
- June 5** Walking netball
- June 12** Knit and natter
- June 18** Main meeting talk on "Nelson, a pillar of society?"
- June 24** Wildlife visit to Dancersend to look for orchids
- June 25** History group talk by Keith Murass on the KGB
- June 30** Hog roast
- July 2** Music for all
- July 4** Coach trip to Brighton
- July 11** Garden trip to Eastmoor Lodge, Harpenden
- July 23** Film night: Four Weddings and a Funeral

Please see the website u3asites.org.uk/aston-clinton for further details on these and the many other groups and events.

We welcome applications from local people no longer in full-time employment. Membership is £17 per year. If you are interested in joining, please contact the membership secretary through the link on the website or email acu3amembership@gmail.com. We look forward to welcoming you to our friendly group.

At last! The season starts for Aston Clinton Bowls Club.



Bowlers from Aston Clinton Bowls Club, based in Aston Park, have finally been able to get on the bowls green, starting their season at the beginning of May and continuing through until the end of September. Thanks to the hard work of the members throughout the winter, our green is looking good despite much of the work being delayed by the somewhat inclement weather.

In late April, we welcomed the Potters Shop Roadshow to our club. There were many visitors wanting to “top up” on essentials before the start of the season. It seemed like new sets

of bowls and shoes were the main purchases for many, as well as clothing for those whose trousers, shorts and waterproofs seemed to have mysteriously shrunk over the winter...

In mid-May, the club entertained a group of scouts from the village with a short-form of the game called Bowls Bash. After learning the basics of delivering a bowl and how to stand on the mat, it was straight into a competitive game lasting about an hour against their friends. We will be welcoming another group in June/July.

The club took part in Bowls England’s “Bowls’ Big Weekend” at the end of May and will also be supporting the park event on June 8. Last year’s event was very successful and many came along to try their hand and see what goes on “behind the hedge”.

If you missed either event, new and experienced bowlers are always welcome at any time during the season. Why not come and have a taster session to see if you would like to take up the sport? If you do, a course of instruction can be arranged at a time convenient to you – please contact our secretary **Brian Clark** on 01844 351461 or by email secretary@astonclintonbowlsclub.co.uk for further information.

Families are particularly welcome – we can accommodate anyone from 8 to 80 who wishes to have a go, and all equipment can be provided. We are also listed as a Disability Bowls England accessible club, with a disabled toilet, and aids to help those who are less mobile enjoy our lovely sport.

You will find us most welcoming and, if you time it right and we have a match on, you’ll probably find a cup of tea or coffee thrust into your hand. **Cathy Clark, President**

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

acvillagelife.co.uk

Lucy Clark SCD still flourishing after 70 years!

Our club's annual spring dance in March was a special one, when we celebrated 70 years since Lucy Clark started her first class in Amersham. Tickets sold out well ahead of the event, which ensured that Wendover Memorial Hall was filled to capacity with very happy dancers who enjoyed the exhilarating music of the Craigellachie Band.



During the evening, we paid tribute to Lucy Clark herself – a trail blazer who brought the arts to her local community. Lucy used her skills as a musician, teacher and dance doyenne, setting up classes in village halls. Her zest for Scottish country dancing was infectious; indeed, she played her accordion while demonstrating dance steps! Following Lucy's death, at a relatively young age, the group was renamed in her honour.

Today, the club is thriving with a growing membership, qualified teachers, and two tuition classes. Weekly social dancing is done to recorded music, but we have live bands at five special events during the year.

This term, our two classes combine giving our newer dancers the chance to dance in a larger group. Two guest teachers have visited to lead some classes, which were much enjoyed.

We have two demonstrations in the calendar – one in Prestwood in May and the other here in the village at the Family Festival in June. We're delighted to have been asked to participate and hope to show a wider audience that "Happiness is (really is) Scottish Country Dancing".

Looking ahead, we're also planning to run a village cèilidh in aid of funds for St Michael's Church later in the year. Cèilidh dancing is easy to do and tremendous fun, and we hope many villagers will be tempted to come along and try it. There will be a caller to guide everyone and a wonderful local musician, Ian Robertson, will provide the music.

Watch out for more details when they are available. For more information about our club and classes, please contact lucyclarkscottish@gmail.com

Liz Mitchell

FosteringReady with Buckinghamshire Council

Have you ever considered opening your home to a child in need?

Foster carers play a vital role in looking after children in care, by providing them with a loving and safe home and supporting them in their everyday lives. In return, Buckinghamshire Council provides foster carers with 24/7 support, extensive training and highly competitive financial allowances, in recognition of the invaluable role they play in caring for foster children.

Buckinghamshire Council holds regular online information sessions for those wanting to learn more about fostering and the support that is available. Current foster carers talk about their experience and are there to answer any questions you may have.



Upcoming sessions

Wednesday, June 12, 7pm – 8.30pm, online

Wednesday, July 10, 7pm – 8.30pm, online

For more information on fostering services and events, visit: fostering.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/

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

Sudoku

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

(SOLUTION ON PAGE 33)

Village People

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

Peter Elwin lives in Buckland and has been closely involved with many local activities, including the church and the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union canal.



Q. How long have you been a director of the Wendover Canal Trust, and when and why did you first become interested in their work?

A. For about four years, in particular because I wanted to see the beautiful seven-mile towpath be made accessible to the whole community all year round. In general, I believe in public investment for public good.

Q. This is a special year for the Wendover Arm. What will you be celebrating?

A. On June 28 we shall be celebrating the formal opening of the upgraded 1.7 mile canal towpath between Wharf Road, Wendover and Halton Village, with our celebrity patron Robbie Cumming cutting the ribbon. The upgrading of this

length cost £750,000, and I must admit that it has been extremely satisfying to have managed to raise this sum.

Q. How long have you lived in Buckland, and where did you live previously?

A. We've lived here across the road from the church since 1985 and moved from near Sevenoaks in Kent, where I grew up. Our children were two and four when we moved here.

Q. Can you also tell us about your involvement with the church?

A. I was PCC Secretary at All Saints for 20 years until March and have been churchwarden for four years, with responsibility for capital projects and maintenance.

I believe in
public investment
for public good.

“

Last year's 750th anniversary reminded us that the building has seen daily life under an amazing 33 monarchs since Edward I in 1273.

Q. If you have any time left after these activities, what are your hobbies - what do you do for fun?

A. I try to cycle up into the Chilterns every day, with a bit of electrical assistance, and recently returned from a five week trip to New Zealand to visit my sister – from the first time my mother married my father! Janet and I often go to the Oxford Playhouse and occasionally to the opera. We also now have three grandchildren, which is wonderful, and love going on holidays with them in this country or the continent. I enjoy playing chess, but at best I am about average.

Q. What's your favourite music?

A. A wide range from folk through pop to classical, including some opera such as Handel or Britten. Music has always played a big part in our life with Janet being a singer, teaching the piano and playing the organ across the road, and my brother being a pianist.

Q. What's your favourite film?

A. The hardest question, because I have so many favourites – most of them emotional. For sheer easy enjoyment I'll choose a Richard Curtis rom-com such as Notting Hill.

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

A. When I was 17 I had a Ford Popular, which became particularly tricky to drive when the steering wheel came off on a trip down to Cornwall; you could either drive up a steep hill or have windscreen wipers – but not both! We now have a Passat Estate but want to move to electric when bi-directional charging comes so that its battery can power the house. We'll then have 100% renewable energy.

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

A. The Buckland Society may have gone, but we still have a good sense of community, with the Buck Pub, Music Under the Stars, church, local WhatsApp groups, Flicks and coffee / produce mornings in the church all thriving.

Q. What changes would you like to see locally?

A. Buckinghamshire Council is currently giving a good impression of wanting to merge Aston Clinton and Buckland with Aylesbury; I'd like to see this trend halted. Buckinghamshire Council should also fulfil its obligation to once again give the bypass a porous, sound-deadening surface, which Carole Paternoster worked so hard to try to achieve.

Q. Do you have a favourite place or building to visit in the village?

A. It has to be Dancersend, from which the views across to Ivinghoe Beacon are outstanding.

*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*

Aston Clinton Society



We are delighted to see the first signs of spring in the Rising Sun wildflower meadow. So far, we have spotted cornflowers, bluebells, wild geraniums and bird's eye speedwell. There is a list of native wildflowers to look out for in the bus shelter by the meadow, so keep your eyes peeled when you are passing by, and feel free to send us any photos. We have also seen an increase in insects, butterflies, and birds – who have hopefully made homes in our new bird boxes.

After many months, we are very pleased to announce that our funding application for white village gates has been approved by the Wendover and Villages Community Board. They will contribute 50% towards the cost of the gates and their installation. The society will fund the rest, along with a generous contribution from Laxton Properties. We want to thank everyone who attended our fundraising quizzes. We also want to say a big thank you to the Aston Clinton Parish Clerk for her continued support to deliver this project. We hope to have confirmation of an installation date soon.

We are pleased to see the traffic calming and road repairs being carried out in the village. Members of the society have been regularly meeting with Aston Clinton Parish Council to get updates on highways issues and put pressure on Buckinghamshire Council to complete outstanding works. Buckland Parish Council has approved our request for a litter bin in the bus layby opposite the Crow's Nest. It is in touch with Buckinghamshire Council about the installation, and we hope to see it in place soon.



Events

Come and see us at our stall at the Family Festival in Aston Clinton Park on June 8.

Join us on our litter pick and village tidy-up event on Sunday, June 9, 8.30am – 10.30am at the Red Kite Pavilion. We will provide everything you need including litter pickers, bags and high vis vests. There will be refreshments afterwards!

If you would like to get involved in Aston Clinton Society, or would like more details on our projects, please contact us at info@astonclintonsociety.org.uk www.astonclintonsociety.org.uk

Sally Holder

Aston Clinton Ladies Group

June and July meetings will both be held at 8pm in the Guide Hut in Aston Clinton.

Wednesday, June 19

Catherine Wiseman, jewellery maker.

Wednesday, July 17

Beetle Drive and games night.

All are welcome to attend; we are a small group of ladies who meet on the third Wednesday of every month.

Matilda Florence

Local Singer Songwriter

At just 18 years old, Matilda Florence has recently released her fourth single 'Wonderland' and is already a well established live artist on the local music scene.



Photo: © Helen Victoria Photography

With an obvious passion to perform from a very young age Matilda gained invaluable training as a young chorister at St. Michael and All Angels. This influence is ever-present; in her music, through her understanding of harmonies, her confidence, and her ability to be a truly captivating performer.

Matilda Florence can often be seen at The Drawingroom, Chesham and has played the last three years at Standon Calling Festival, Hertfordshire. This year, local festivals include: TringFest, Thame Music in the Park, Real Magic Weekend and Chesham Fringe Festival.

Her original music has a timeless pop-folk sound combining powerful yet vulnerable vocals, belying her young years, with influences from Fleetwood Mac to Taylor Swift via

Pheobe Bridgers and Lana Del Rey. She crafts her songs with a heartfelt poetry creating melodies that instantly get you hooked then reel you in.

Matilda Florence has previously released three singles 'Red Lights', 'Remember' and 'Fools Break Hearts Too' available to stream or download across all music platforms. She is currently back in the studio recording and arranging her debut album, before heading off to The University of Salford to study BA (Hons) in Popular Music and Recording.

To follow her journey and keep updated scan the QR code.
www.matildaflorence.co.uk



A Pensioner's Poem

by Eric Phelps

*I'm Eric Phelps,
I have little to do,
So I'll write a Pensioner's poem for you.
Each day with dedication,
I take my medication.
It stops all the inflammation,
And other irritation.
My knees need lubrication.
I don't go on vacation,
Or visit a relation.
If you are over eighty-three,
And have the same symptoms as me,
I'll give you a consultation,
Then we can have a conversation,
And pass on all my information.
So keep going with determination,
Taking all your medication.
When end of year is getting near,
To its termination,
Go into the surgery for a vaccination.
As you are in this location,
Ask the Doctor for... EXAMINATION!*



Midnight Walk: back by popular demand

Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity is thrilled to bring back its Midnight Walk as part of the Hospice's 35th anniversary celebrations. Set to take place at Roman Park Hall in Aylesbury on Saturday, June 22, this year's Midnight Walk will be accompanied by two new sister events, turning the occasion into a full weekend celebration.

All of the events are designed for friends and family to get together, dress in colourful, bright clothing, and celebrate the lives of loved ones while showing appreciation for the hospice which has supported the local community over the past 35 years.

The Twilight Walk is the first of the events to take place at 7.30pm on June 22. It's designed for under 15s and is a 2-mile route starting at Roman Park Hall.

The Midnight Walk is Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity's traditional event and has taken place numerous times since its inception in 2010. Taking place at Midnight on Saturday, June 22, participants will receive free t-shirts and don bright lights and colours to light up the night as they walk either the 5 or 10-mile route through the streets of Aylesbury.

"Not the Midnight Walk" is an event for people who cannot attend on June 22 but still want to support the hospice and walk to show their appreciation and to remember loved ones. This event can take place anywhere, and it is up to the participants to decide the location, time and duration of their walk. "Not the Midnight Walk" can take place at any time on Sunday, June 23.



Tickets for all the Midnight Walk Weekend events are available on the Florence Nightingale website.

For more information, sponsorship forms and to purchase tickets, please visit: www.fnhospice.org.uk/midnightwalk



Royal British Legion D-day commemoration Lest We Forget

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION

On Thursday, June 6, there will be events to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-day landings:

12.30pm for 1pm at Chiltern View Garden Centre; and 6.30pm for 7pm at Weston Turville Village Hall.

Our thanks to Chiltern View Nursery and the Weston Turville Parish Council for sponsoring the day's events, which will be free of charge and open to all.

At each event, there will be a brief act of remembrance, followed by a talk from Lt Col Derek Plews (retired) Irish Regiment about the contribution made by Buckinghamshire military personnel on D-day. The event will continue with news footage of the D-day landings and the Normandy Campaign which was the beginning of the end of Nazism and World War II. There will be light refreshments and a display of memorabilia from the Buckinghamshire Military Archive.

We expect that many who will attend will be descendants of those who served on D-day, and the events will provide an opportunity to share stories of family members who landed on Sword Beach and took part in the Normandy landings.

To reserve tickets, email office@westonturville-pc.gov.uk stating your name, email address, contact telephone number and the number of places you would like to reserve at which event. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me. [Cllr. Mike Collins](mailto:Cllr.MikeCollins@mike.collins@buckscc.gov.uk) mike.collins@buckscc.gov.uk

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

acvillagelife.co.uk



Wreath laying at the death railway in Thailand

Earlier this year Peter Sharp, then chair of the Aston Clinton u3a, and Robert Letton, chair of the Aston Clinton Royal British Legion, visited Thailand. During their tour they stayed in Kanchanaburi on the River Kwai, close to "the death railway". Here at the war graves cemetery many thousands of prisoners of war were laid to rest.

These POWs perished under terrible conditions while being forced by the Japanese to construct the Thailand to Burma railway. Robert brought a poppy wreath with him, which was laid at the cenotaph in the cemetery on behalf of the Royal British Legion and u3a. It was a very poignant moment, shared by their fellow travellers, while standing among so many young lives lost.

Buckland Parish Council

Parish Councillors

Sue Gillingham has been a Buckland Parish Councillor for many years, and we thank Sue for all she has done for our parish during that time. She has brought us a wealth of experience, knowledge and support. We send Sue our very best wishes for the future.

We would like to welcome Heather McKenna to the parish council. She was co-opted at the April meeting. Heather has lived in Buckland Village for over 20 years. She is a great believer in supporting village life and preserving the things that make Buckland a real community, as well as having robust views on external threats such as inappropriate building proposals and other unwanted encroachments on our village.

Thames Water update

Buckland Parish Council presented its petition to Rob Butler MP with 298 signatures in March. This was then delivered to the Houses of Parliament on April 24. The issue can now be looked into by the Business Secretary Penny Mordaunt. To date, Buckland Parish Council has not heard anything back from Thames Water about moving the location of the pumping station.

Precept

Every year, Buckland Parish Council carefully reviews its finances and plans for the forthcoming year. Our parish precept is a tax that is shown in your annual council tax bill and covers any spending the parish council makes, including areas such as street lighting, graveyard maintenance, grass cutting, land etc. Buckland Parish Council has been very

prudent over recent years and continually reviews contracts for services with the aim of trying to deliver services that residents expect within reasonable means. Buckland Parish Council's costs have increased 150% since 2018, 42% in the last 12 months, and our precept has not kept pace with this. With increasing costs, difficult decisions had to be made. In the past we have cut the grass verges through the parish every month. However, due to increased costs this has been reduced to four times throughout the spring/summer months. We will be putting more pressure on Buckinghamshire Council to ensure they carry out their regular cuts.

New Road

Reminder to all residents: New Road is not a public highway. It should only be used by those accessing the village hall or homes on New Road. There has been an increasing number of vehicles using the road as a cut through, particularly at school times, and travelling at speed. This is causing more damage to the road. Buckland Parish Council is looking at ways to prevent use by non-residents.

Parish newsletter

Buckland Parish Council delivered its first newsletter to residents over Easter. We aim to produce this newsletter on a quarterly basis to help keep residents up-to-date with what is happening within the parish. Thank you to everyone who has given us positive feedback on the first copy. Our aim is to send this out as a digital copy and we would ask residents to email clerk@buckland-pc.gov.uk to be added to the mailing list. If you do not have access to email, please get in contact with the clerk on **01296 630962** and we can ensure you receive a paper version.

Discover Bucks Museum

Spring into summer at Discover Bucks Museum

As the weather gets warmer, did you know the museum in the centre of Aylesbury Old Town has a peaceful walled garden where you can relax and enjoy a coffee and light snack from the café? During your visit you can also see our current exhibition, This Fractured Land, which features wonderful work by five artists who have interpreted the museum collections in exciting new ways.

With themes of history and storytelling, and references to the woodlands of the Chilterns, this is an intriguing, vibrant and thought-provoking show.

During May the portrait artist Cara Gordon was this year's Muir Trust Artist in Residence and set up her studio in the museum capturing the faces of Aylesbury residents. Come and see her wonderful and engaging portraits in her residency exhibition which runs until June 30.

The Force will be strong this summer as opening on July 20 is May The Toys Be With You, one of the UK's finest collections of vintage Star Wars toys and original cinema posters, and is a must for all Star Wars fans, movie buffs and 'kids' of all ages.

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

Please mention Village Life when responding to our advertisers.

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Portrait by Cara Gordon



Star Wars, photo by Matt Fox

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

Fundraising for St Michael's essential repairs

Last year, over a hundred generous donors sponsored me in my 80@80 walks and raised just over £3000 for the much-needed repairs at St Michael's and All Angels church. The photograph shows me with Steve and Pat Rozental before one of those walks.



This year, I'm walking again but in a much simpler way. On Saturday, September 7, I'm going to walk across Bucks from Tring, in Hertfordshire, to Chinnor, in Oxfordshire. I would like you to sponsor me again, or join me and collect sponsorship from your family and friends. You won't have to walk all the way if you don't feel able, as there will be lots of stopping-off and picking-up points on route.

The restoration project has three phases. The first was to remove the two blocks of pews at the back of the church and level the floors where they had been in order to eliminate trip hazards, as we aim to establish a Dementia Café and a Mother and Toddler group. This phase has been completed with funds from the sale of the 11 pews and a generous donation from the Turpin Charity.

Phase two is to carry out essential repairs to the fabric of the church. This includes repairing a buttress, which is holding up the south aisle roof, replacing the worn out lead on the roof with terne-coated steel, which isn't worth stealing, repairing the stonework on the outside of the south aisle, which is crumbling, and re-rendering the east wall with lime mortar where the Victorian cement render fell off in 2022. All this is likely to cost about £300,000.

Once this is completed, we can then go onto Phase three, which is to build an extension containing a disabled-friendly toilet accessible from inside the church and a catering kitchen. As St Michael's is a Grade II* listed building, the extension must be to very exacting standards and it is estimated to cost a further £300,000.

I aim to make my walk family friendly, and if you would like to come and bring the children, there will be certificates and prizes for the children. *James Adam*

Buck Pub

A huge thank you to everyone who supported Buck Pub 2024. It was a wonderful community event, precisely because so many local residents supported it.

You can read a lot more about the weekend on the website: www.thebuckpub.co.uk

We all look forward to Buck Pub 2025.

Nigel Kippax, On behalf of all those who enjoyed the weekend





The Anthony Hall

The Anthony Hall is a Grade II listed building that was built as a memorial to Sir Anthony Nathan de Rothschild Bt. by his widow Louisa, who gifted it to the village. The hall is one of a few reminders of Sir Anthony's Aston Clinton estate, the substantial country house that formed its heart having been demolished in 1956 – the only one of the six Rothschild mansions in the area to have suffered that fate.

The Anthony Hall is available to hire for birthday parties, regular classes, family celebrations, meetings and much more. It is a superb space which can seat up to 80 people at tables and a closely seated audience of up to 180.

Hire costs £25.00 per hour, which includes use of the fully equipped kitchen, a small meeting room, toilets, including a disabled toilet, and ample free parking. The hall must be hired for a minimum of four hours for a one-off party, and we do not accept teenage parties or bookings on New Years Eve. We do have a music licence, but we are not licensed to sell alcohol.

Currently our diary of weekly bookings is:

Monday to Friday – Aston Clinton Preschool (contact manager@astonclintonpreschool.co.uk for more information)

Monday evenings – Slimming World

Tuesday evenings – Tai Chi / Zumba

Wednesday evenings – Aston Clinton Horticultural Society / WI / NCT classes

Thursday evenings – JoAnn Latus School of Dance

Saturday mornings – Tot Bop classes

Sunday mornings – Faith Alive Church

As a charity organisation, we are looking to expand the management committee and would warmly welcome new members.

If you would like more details on any of the above classes, please check our Facebook page (The Anthony Hall – Aston Clinton) for contact information. If you would like to hire the hall for a regular class or a family celebration, please email theanthonyhallac@gmail.com.

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

Horticultural Society

Hello fellow gardeners. Hopefully the weather has now warmed up, the constant rain has dissipated, and we are all out in the garden enjoying the summer. Although there is still plenty to do in the garden, don't forget to sit down and enjoy your handiwork with a cup of tea or something stronger; the weeds can wait a few more hours!



Bee and pollinator-friendly flowers



Our gardens are really important for bees and other pollinating insects, providing them with nectar and pollen as well as nesting habitats. It's good to grow a variety of flowering plants and shrubs to support bees and insects throughout the year – even if it's just a small patch.

Here are some suggestions of the types of flowers that are particularly good for bees and other pollinators:

Single flowers (those with a single row of petals) where you can see the central part of the flower are easy for bees to access the nectar and pollen. For example hardy geraniums, hollyhocks and dahlias.

Purple flowers – apparently bees can see the colour purple more clearly than any other colour: for example, lavender, alliums, buddleja.

Tubular-shaped flowers such as foxgloves, honeysuckle and penstemons are an important food source for long-tongued bees like the bumblebee.

It is also important to have a variety of plants and shrubs that flower at different times of the year, providing flowers all year round if possible to give bees and other insects the best chance. Some bees emerge from hibernation as early as February, while others are still flying in November.

Here are a few examples of early summer perennial plants that are bee-friendly: campanula, hollyhocks, snapdragons, geraniums, thyme, oregano, honesty, potentilla, comfrey.

Decline in the wild and hope for restoration

In our gardens, essential buglife is dwindling. This spring was so cold and followed one of the wettest winters on record. The odd bumble bee ventured out to feast on the winter-flowering honeysuckle and coltsfoot, but spring brought little of the insect activity normally seen and heard in our orchards and gardens. Rosemary particularly hums with bees. This year though, the flowers are numerous, but no bees. I have seen plenty of ladybirds, and there are aphids on some plants and greenfly on roses providing food for birds. But the buzz once heard coming through the garden gate has decreased year on year, so that, at the time of writing, there is silence where there was once life. And life that matters.

When I was a child, we would drive to Cornwall or Wales for our summer holidays. A feature would be the bugs of all shapes and sizes that splattered on the windscreen and front bumper of the car. These trips now take half the time at twice the speed and yet hardly a midge will be caught while driving. Pesticides and mono-culture have achieved their intended industrialised removal of the very means of



© 'Bug splats' by Tamsin Slater, Wikimedia commons

natural pollination. The soil itself is poisoned so that the organisms that sustain growth are no longer present. Chemicals that kill, that promote growth, that deter wildlife are heaped on fields and gardens.

Whole areas of garden centres are devoted to products to apply to lawns, paths and plants. I wasn't sure at first if our wild garden would work on a new estate – it has, but all is not well.

It is not just because of the exceptionally wet and cold spring; the diminishing insect population year on year is worrying. I used a paintbrush to pollinate some fruit blossoms this year. And in the sky above, the insect-eating swifts no longer arrive in screaming squadrons, a further indication that wildlife is in decline.

It is marvellous to watch the Rising Sun wildflower meadow come into life, and it is projects like this with kinder manual management in gardens, roadsides, parks, and towns and villages that bring hope that nature will be restored. *Katy Todd*

Horticultural Society Show

The 26th spring show and plant sale was held on Saturday, April 6 at Aston Clinton School. The warm and wet weather conditions over winter did lead to a challenge for daffodils and spring bulbs, but despite that we had a fantastic display from exhibitors. A great number of entries in the floral art section added to the colour in the hall, and we hope this has encouraged some of the newcomers to exhibit again at our next show in the summer.



New to the spring show was the participation from the children who attend Barnowls nursery and Weston Turville school. There were a fantastic number of entries in the picture colouring section, the storybook gardens, recycled planters and other classes; the youngest entrants being under two years. We would like to thank the staff of both the nursery and school for their support. Finally, a thank you to all the helpers and volunteers who worked hard on the day to make this show a great event.



The Horticultural Society has plant sales throughout the spring and summer, including plants that thrive well in the local soil types at affordable prices. You will find details of all events on the Horticultural website – www.astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk/.

Here are our forthcoming events and meetings:

Wednesday, June 5, 6.45pm – Evening visit to Sandy Primroses Garden, High Wycombe.

Saturday, June 8 – Plant Stall, Aston Clinton Family Festival, Aston Clinton Park.

Wednesday, June 12, 8pm – Talk, “Great Linford Manor Park”, Parks Trust, Anthony Hall.

Thursday, July 4 – Garden Visit by Coach, RHS Wisley.

Wednesday, July 17, 6pm - 9pm – Social Evening, Buckland Hall.

Thursday, September 5, 6pm - 7.45pm – Summer Show Entry Night, Anthony Hall.

Saturday, September 7, 2pm – Summer Show and Plant Sale, Aston Clinton School.

Please note the date change for our summer show; we have had to move it to the first Saturday in September.

The Horticultural Society meetings and events are open to all. Meetings are free for members, £2 for non-members, and members receive discounts on garden visits and other events. Membership is £5 per year, per person.

Please get in touch by email to join info@astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk.

The Horticultural Committee



Buckland Open Gardens

Come and enjoy an afternoon at Buckland Open Gardens on Sunday, June 30, 1pm - 5pm.

Entry to all six gardens is just £5, simply pay at the first one you visit. All proceeds will go to All Saints' church in Buckland.

Teas and home-made cakes will be available in All Saints' church from 2pm, with a plant stall in the grounds of the Old Rectory in aid of the Horticultural Society.

Gardens opening include:

- Canal Cottage, 11 Wharf Row
- 14 Blackmore Gate, off Buckland Road
- The Old Plough, opposite the church
- Church Leys, next to the church
- The Old Rectory
- 8 Model Row

Enquiries to *Kate Eckett - 01296 630461*

Emergency

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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

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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		www.girlguiding.org.uk
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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.ac-buck-db-churches.org
All Saints, Buckland	01296 632488	www.ac-buck-db-churches.org
St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp	01296 632488	www.ac-buck-db-churches.org
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	clerk@astonclinton.org www.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
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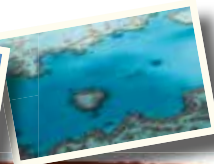
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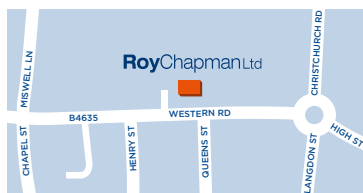
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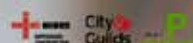
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