



# Village Life

The community magazine  
for Aston Clinton, Buckland  
and Drayton Beauchamp

No.82 August / September 2025





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Contributors and advertisers

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Front cover: Lancaster Bomber flying overhead at the Aston Clinton Family Festival by Barbara Muston

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**The Editor is always pleased to receive local news of people, clubs and events.**

# Village Life

The bi-monthly community news magazine for  
Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp

*It's tempting to mention the weather (let's face it, we all do it), but only to reflect on how much easier and enjoyable it is when all those meticulously planned activities can take place under sunnier skies. From garden parties to trips away, bowls try-outs to football kick-about, everyone is making the most of being outdoors, and spending time with family, friends and neighbours.*

The Family Festival was a great example of this. It was a joyous day that delivered on the promise of something for everyone, whatever the age – including the magnificent Lancaster Bomber flying overhead. You can read all about it (page 12), but I think it can best be summed up by a family I spoke to at the Festival. Visiting the area, they intended to just pop in, but stayed for the whole day because it was, “*wonderful, just how you imagine a village day to be*”.

From one festival to another, take a look at the racing achievements of Aston Clinton School's very own motor racing team. The Aston Clinton Arrows not only built, but raced their small, but mighty little car, ‘Green Pea’, at Goodwood! Read their story and enjoy some really great pictures on page 6.

The pupils have also been digging deep to create new flower beds around the school with the help of the Horticultural Society (page 36). However, I doubt their colour could compete with that splashed about with such happy and complete abandon at their fantastic ACSA Rainbow Colours event (page 8). Term and year-end is clearly in sight!

Finally, a thought! Your editorial team enjoyed their day at the Family Festival meeting you, our readers and contributors and handing out “I ♥ Village Life” badges.

To our delight, the badges were well-received and seemed to reflect your view of the magazine! With that in mind, would you like to be part of the team in some way, whether editorial, advertising or distribution? If so, please do get in touch via the email above. We'd love to hear from you! *Lindy Butters*



## Aston Clinton Baptist Church

Mortality swallowed up by life

2 Corinthians 5.4b

A man was taking it easy, lying on the grass and looking up at the clouds. He was identifying shapes when he decided to talk to God.

"God," he said, "*how long is a million years?*"  
God answered, "*In my frame of reference, it's about a minute.*"

The man thought for a moment and then asked, "*God, how much is a million pounds?*"  
God answered, "*Well to ME, it's just a penny.*"  
With this, the man thought a moment longer. Finally, he asked, "*God, can I have a penny?*"  
God answered, "*In a minute.*"

In his letter to Christians in Greece, Paul, facing his own death, writes of 'mortality being swallowed up by life'. This seems odd because we'd normally say 'mortality is swallowed up by death' for to be mortal is to be subject to death. These two very different frames of reference present us with a paradox.

Paul (a tentmaker by trade) compares his life on earth as living in a tent, temporary and insubstantial in nature. He looks forward to an 'eternal house in heaven' built by God. His confident trust in this future dwelling enables Paul to live well in the present day facing various trials and tribulations.

That's true for all Christians. For now, we're in temporary, fading accommodation with all its limitations and frustrations, where decay and death holds sway. But a day will come when the tent is packed away, the homeward journey is completed and we enter our permanent dwelling place. A day when our mortality is completely swallowed by life.

Christianity presents many paradoxes concerning the past, the present and the future, about life and death and much besides, but to have such a certain hope of a secure future is surely worth every penny we possess. *Nick*



## 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.ACBC.church](http://www.ACBC.church)

**Sunday morning worship** 10.45am – 12 noon.  
The Junior Church caters for children dropped off by parents/carers; pick up from the church.

**Monthly afternoon service 'Oasis'** – first Wednesday of each month 2 – 3pm in the hall with familiar older hymns, companionship and a short reflection.

Various **Homegroups** meet regularly for Bible study, fellowship and prayer.

**Lunch** is served in the hall every Wednesday 12.45 – 1.30pm.

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

**All-sorts after school club** with craft, games etc; weekly on Wednesdays during term time 3.30 – 5pm in the hall.

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

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

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

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

**Youth group** meeting weekly on Fridays 7 – 9pm during term time.

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The hall is available for private hire.  
Please see website or call for more details  
[www.ACBC.church](http://www.ACBC.church)  
**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, August 3, 11am	Blessed Virgin Mary Holy Communion at St Mary's
Sunday, September 7, 11am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Drayton Beauchamp

## 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, time the St Mary's church. Please contact *Natalie Fieldhouse*.

## OPENING TIMES

St Michael's and All Saints' are open daily 9am to 4pm 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*)

**St Michael's Little Angels  
Toddler Group**  
every Thursday 9.30 – 11am

**Aston Bridge Club at St Michael's**  
Friday 2 – 4.30pm  
(closing for the summer on 18th July)

**Coffee & Produce Stall  
at All Saints'**  
homemade cakes, bacon rolls &  
preloved books on the  
1st Saturday every month 10 – 11.45am

**Repair Café at St Michael's**  
bring along your broken items on the  
2nd Saturday every month 9 – 12 noon.  
Refreshments available.





# Aston Clinton School

Head Teacher.: Mrs Carol Macdonald



## Aston Arrows Racing

*For those of you fortunate enough to be present in Aston Clinton Park for the start of the Aston Hill 100 Celebration procession on May 17, you may have wondered about the group of children who were flagging the cars off. They were in fact Year Six pupils from Aston Clinton School, who belong to a very special club – Aston Arrows Racing.*



Aston Arrows Racing has been running for three years and is a wonderful partnership between the school and volunteers from our local community. The project is part of the Greenpower Education Trust, a UK-based charity that enthuses young people about science and engineering by challenging them to design, build and race an electric car.

Each year, a new group of children embark on the challenge of putting together a car framework from a kit before designing and adding the bodywork. They learn how to safely use tools and to understand the mechanics of this simple car. Much consideration is given to the theme of the car each year and the materials that will be used to complete it.

This season, we have used our local history and based our car on the 1922 Aston Martin TT1 'Green Pea' which had its racing debut at

the French Grand Prix in 1922 and at Aston Hill in the same year. At the Aston Hill 100 celebrations, the team were delighted to meet the owners of this wonderful car and be allowed to sit in it! The children researched 'Green Pea', designing the bodywork and including elements of it in their car. They were fortunate to form a partnership with the Automotive Engineering department at the University of Hertfordshire and, through this, learned about computer design and 3D printing which they used to recreate the iconic grill of this Aston Martin. Through visiting the university, the children were given the chance to learn more about how cars work and see what higher education looks like. They also had the opportunity to present our project to the heads of the engineering departments!

The children are taught to drive the car and practise throughout the school year, honing their skills ready for our race meets.

Greenpower runs many meetings across the country and Aston Arrows Racing takes part in two race days each year, ending at Goodwood on the last Sunday in June. This is a fun day out for the team and their families. The children race against up to 100 cars from other schools across the country. They enter drag, slalom and sprint races as well as driving a lap of the course and undertaking a pit stop challenge.

Each year, we have improved on our performance, learning from previous seasons. This year, we came away from both our meetings with many wins and trophies. We could not be prouder of our children and all they have achieved!

Aston Arrows Racing is so much more than building and driving a car. It teaches the children teamwork and independence, it builds confidence, it teaches them about fundraising and blogging, and it is an opportunity for children to apply STEM understanding in a practical way. We also encourage past students to come back and volunteer with us, often for



their Duke of Edinburgh awards. This year, it has been wonderful to be part of the Aston Hill events, learning about and celebrating our local racing history as well as the history of Aston Martin.

As we come to the end of our third season, it only remains for us to dismantle the car and say farewell to our current team members as they head off to their new secondary schools. We are very aware that we would not be able to offer such an exciting experience without our local volunteers who come in week after week to support the children. Special thanks need to go to Mike Stark, Andy Graham and Paul Flower, without whom, Aston Arrows would not be so successful.

We are always looking for volunteers and sponsors to support our endeavours and be part of our journey. If this could be you, please contact [office@astonclinton.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@astonclinton.bucks.sch.uk).

## Aston Clinton Ladies Group

**Wednesday, September 17, 8pm:**

Games Night in the Aston Clinton Guide Hall (opposite the Shell Garage).

We are a friendly group of local ladies and always make a point of welcoming new members personally. If you are interested in joining, please contact *Wendy Perkins 07752 100217* or *Jacquie Gardiner 01296 256956*.

## Aston Clinton School Association

*What a year it's been for us! We have raised a huge amount thanks to every volunteer, teacher, student and supporter of ACSA. We are still counting it all up and will share on our socials when we have the totals! We are looking forward to the autumn term with some new members joining us and lots of new exciting events!*

### Aston Clinton School... READY!

Gladiator Steel came to visit some very excited children at school on June 27, sharing his Zactiv workshop to promote healthy eating, hydration, exercise, confidence and mindset.

### Rainbow Colours

On July 4 we had our first ever colour run! The kids (and adults) absolutely loved it and it was a wonderful sight seeing colours everywhere! This event was mainly about the children having fun, but we managed to raise a few pounds too which is always a bonus!



Tanya Aldcroft Photography

### Come and join us for Aston Lights!

Come and join us on Saturday, October 18 from 5pm - 8pm at Aston Clinton School for a fun-filled evening. There will be music, food, drink and a renowned spectacular laser and choreographed music display for all to enjoy.



Tickets are available via the Aston Lights website with an early bird 10% discount for tickets using the code SUMMER10OFF at the checkout. Visit [www.Astonlights.co.uk](http://www.Astonlights.co.uk) or scan the QR code on the poster. If you are able to support this event through business sponsorship please get in touch.

### Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre is back on Saturday, November 29 with a few changes and improvements from last year so it's bound to be a great day! Please send us an email if you'd like a stall.



## Circus

Save the date! The Circus is coming to town on Sunday, May 3, 2026. Get ready for a day filled with laughter, excitement and unforgettable performances! This is a unique opportunity for everyone to experience the magic of the circus right at our school! Bring your friends and family to enjoy a fun-filled afternoon that promotes creativity and joy.

## Aston Clinton u3a



*Whilst Aston Clinton u3a has remained active, my own participation has been curtailed by a long stint in hospital and continuing recovery. As a result, this missive has been compiled from other members' thoughts and experiences. I have missed some spectacular Science and Technology group events.*

This year, the annual S&T away week in May went to north Wales with a visit to the aviation museum at RAF Cosford en route. I have been to the RAF museum previously and I'm very pleased that it was thought by others to be an excellent place to visit with more exhibits than when I visited before. The north Wales part of the trip was blessed with good weather – fortunately before the heatwave. The Snowdon Mountain Railway

gave spectacular views; the summit was clear, displaying the amazing mountain scenery. Another railway journey was on the Ffestiniog Railway from Porthmadog to Blaenau Ffestiniog which brought back many smoky memories as the group enjoyed the 'push me pull you' steam locomotive pulling the train. Visits were also made to Bodnant Gardens and Portmeirion which were again blessed by good weather.

More recently, S&T has been to the National Grid control centre near Gaydon in Warwickshire. It was fascinating to discover that the centre could control the electricity anywhere in the country. It is one of three control centres that have reciprocal autonomy for all of our electricity supply. This was combined with a visit to the nearby National Motor Museum – another place well worth a visit.

Summertime is S&T's trips out period and in August they will be visiting Oxford Transport Museum and then we will revert to meetings in the Bowls Club in Aston Clinton Park with a talk on modern Medical scanning in September.

Our recent heatwave has slowed the Walking Netball to actual walking but this is another very active group that welcomes new members on Wednesday lunchtime at Aston Park Tennis Club.

Reports on these visits together with all planned future activities are on the website at [astonclinton.u3a.site.uk](http://astonclinton.u3a.site.uk) so do look and see if anything interests you. If you have another interest not listed, let us know – we could be welcoming you to start a new group!

*Tony Attwood*

Village Life is funded with support from  
Aston Clinton Parish Council

## Aston Clinton Society

*Our community spirit has been very much in evidence around Aston Clinton this summer with our wonderful volunteers digging deep, quite literally in one instance, to make the village a better place.*



Using the funds raised from our Jazz Night last year, it was great to see a group of men from the village get together to dig in the flower beds in front of our village gates and then another group take on the job of planting them out with plants recommended by the Aston Clinton Horticultural Society. These same volunteers have kindly offered to continue to maintain and water the flower beds. This is a brilliant example of what can be achieved with the mutual support of people who care for the village.

Likewise, we saw the difference when we had a great turnout of over 20 volunteers for our litter-pick on June 15 which coincided with Father's Day. Between them, they collected 26 bags of rubbish which we're pleased to say was down on the last count. Two of our volunteers opted to weed the pavement/kerb on London Road between Spring Brook and Tompkins Close – a task that's been long overdue by the council. As ever, Café in the Park provided welcome refreshments afterwards and continues to support our efforts.

The Rising Sun wildflower area has provided us with another beautiful canvas of colour this spring and summer despite the lack of rain. However, this would not have been possible without those who have given up their free time to monitor and care for it. Clearly, nature is doing the heavy lifting in creating such a beautiful space for the community, but the area still needs to be cared for and in the coming few weeks our volunteers will be out to cut the meadow, hopefully employing the traditional method of hand-scything. If anyone fancies giving us a hand with the cutting, please let us know as soon as possible by dropping us a line at [info@astonclintonociety.org.uk](mailto:info@astonclintonociety.org.uk).

It's very easy to sit back and think making our village look presentable is someone else's responsibility (i.e. the local authorities'). After all, isn't that what we pay our council taxes for? We couldn't agree more, but unfortunately as we've seen over the past four years, the reality is just how much work is required behind the scenes by the Society and Parish Council to get anything done. We're pleased to say this persistence has paid off and we have seen gradual improvements, but there are still things that are sadly neglected by the authorities. It's in these cases that we turn to our volunteers, so a very big thank you to everyone who has turned out in all weathers and put in a big shift.

## WI

*What a wonderful afternoon members of the WI and their friends spent at our annual Garden Party on Friday, June 20. One of our members, Claire, hosted the event in her beautifully tended garden.*

We enjoyed a delicious two-course buffet lunch prepared by WI members, together with a choice of refreshment including Pimm's (always popular in summer), wine, Buck's Fizz and flavoured cordials. This year we were blessed with fantastic weather and were able to appreciate good food and great company in a relaxed atmosphere.

Our WI meets in the Anthony Hall on the first Wednesday in the month at 7.45pm. We enjoy a range of presentations on varied topics. If you'd like to give us a try, please come along, you will be sure of a warm welcome.

*Lin Mitchell, President of our village WI*  
[b.d.ac.wi@gmail.com](mailto:b.d.ac.wi@gmail.com)



## Vale Dance Academy Launch



We had a brilliant day at the Aston Clinton Family Festival showcasing some of our dancers. With a debut performance by our mini musical theatre group who performed with such excitement and confidence, right up to our seasoned senior performers. Thank you to everyone who came out to support the dance school. It was an exciting day all round, including the announcement of our new name – *Vale Dance Academy*. For more information or to find out how to join us in September, please visit [www.valedanceacademy.co.uk](http://www.valedanceacademy.co.uk).

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

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



## Aston Clinton Parish Council

*Summer has finally arrived, and a large number of visitors to the annual Aston Clinton Family Festival in the park on June 8 enjoyed some wonderful sunny weather at this free community event.*



Michaela Moran,  
MJProductions.ents



The annual Family Festival in the park is the event highlight of the year for the parish council, and a huge amount of planning and work goes into making the day run smoothly. This year was no exception. The weather on June 14 was kind to us again, and a large number of visitors made the most of the day, enjoying dance and Zumba demonstrations, fairground rides, vintage cars, Zorbs and slide, animal petting zoo, a fantastic dog show sponsored and run by Carly of Clips Dog Grooming, plus a larger number of community groups and retail stalls than in previous years. The stalls offered crafts, face painting, homemade cakes, books, jewellery and more. Food and drink was available from a wide range of concessions in the park, although the ice cream vendors appeared to have the longest queues of the afternoon.

The community groups also did well with their fundraising activities, ranging from penalty shoot-outs, crockery smash, cakes and other products on sale, raffles and more.

Our charity partner was again local cancer charity Kirby's Herd, who raised an amazing £1300 from the raffle which was well supported with prizes kindly supplied by local businesses, and an auction for a hot air balloon flight. We've listed them all on our thanks banner below.



**ASTON CLINTON PARISH COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE GENEROSITY OF THE LOCAL BUSINESSES BELOW WHO HAVE KINDLY SUPPORTED, OR DONATED RAFFLE PRIZES FOR THE FAMILY FESTIVAL EVENT IN ASTON CLINTON PARK ON SATURDAY 14th JUNE 2025. ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE RAFFLE WILL BENEFIT LOCAL CHARITY, KIRBY'S HERD.**



Funding thanks also to the Wendover & Villages Community Board





The wonderful Ellesborough Silver Band serenaded visitors again from the Red Kite Pavilion balcony, including a rendition of '633 Squadron' to coincide with the much anticipated flyover by the Lancaster bomber, which was part of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, and for which we thank the RAF for including our park in the flypast.

These events cannot function without volunteers, and apart from the Events Team at the parish council and supporting councillors, we must also thank the following people for their invaluable support. Set-up helpers, Ashley, Chloe, Bryony and Jon who assisted stallholders by unloading cars and setting up gazebos, and managing traffic and car parking until the marshalls arrived. Our park keeper Ken, for keeping the park tidy and helping with setting up. And finally, our grateful thanks to the Wendover & Villages Community Board for a grant to help with the cost of the event.

Once again this year, our very artistic poster competition artists from Aston Clinton School were in action and the prizes for winners, runners-up and a new highly commended category were presented to some of the recipients who were present at the Family Festival. Winners each won an Amazon voucher and a framed copy of their poster.

Photos and thanks to sponsors who supported the event can be found on our website under the Events section.

## Aston Clinton Parish Council continued

*May and June were busy months for the events team at the parish council.*

In May, we welcomed the one-off Aston Hill Centenary event to the park, with an exhibition of the history of Aston Hill during the week running up to The Climb, which saw about 80 pre-1926 vehicles leave the park at timed intervals, recreating the original Hill Climb that was due to take place almost 100 years to the day ago. It was a spectacular sight! The

park was packed with visitors admiring the vintage cars and motorcycles taking part, the roads were lined with spectators catching a glimpse of the vintage parade as it left the park for the climb up to Aston Hill, where they joined the Show at the top. This non-profit event was a great success and has provided two local charities with sizeable donations from the proceeds – the Chilterns Neuro Centre, and local cancer charity Kirby's Herd.

Other events coming up in the next few months include two play sessions in the park on **August 11, from 1.30 – 4.00pm** – a *Messy*



Events will be in separate areas on the same day  
Age limits apply

**ASTON CLINTON SUMMER PLAY EVENTS**

Walk-in spaces Available on the day

VISIT [WWW.MKPA.CO.UK/PLAY](http://WWW.MKPA.CO.UK/PLAY) AND  
CLICK THE LINK OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK YOUR CHILD A SPACE

QR Code

**Teen/Pre-Teen Session**  
Suitable for ages 11 - 16 Years

**11th August**  
**1.30pm - 4.00pm**

**Messy & Imaginative Session**  
Suitable for ages Up To 12 Years

Session run by MKPA and sponsored by Aston Clinton Parish Council  
All children must be accompanied by an adult

MKPA  
Milton Keynes Play Association  
50



*Imaginative play*’ session for younger children up to 12 years, and a teen/pre-teen session for ages 11-16 years – both run at the same time but in different areas of our park. Check out the poster (left) and also our Facebook page and website for further details and a QR code that you’ll need to use to book a place on this free event – book early to avoid disappointment as places are limited on both sessions. Following last year’s very successful weekend, we will be running the Aston Clinton community groups’ *Scarecrow Trail* again. Planned for Saturday/Sunday, **September 27/28**, this will run in conjunction with Aston Clinton Churches and the wonderful Reverend Sally, in support of Aylesbury Foodbank, and celebration of Harvest Festival. Look out for posters and more information on this weekend event on our Facebook page and website.

Looking further forward, we’re pleased to announce that we will be bringing two Punch and Judy shows to the Red Kite Pavilion during October half-term week. Please check the parish council website for further details and information on how to register for this free event.

Turning away now from events, the parish council has been actively engaging with Buckinghamshire council to conclude the current phase of traffic calming within the village. Additional measures have been added to the original design at no further cost, including the new islands to prevent vehicles driving through the centre of the speed cushions. Residents’ feedback has been listened to, including reducing the slope of some of the raised tables to better accommodate wheelchair users. There will be a period of defect remediation, as well as gathering speed data from the highway data strips in place currently, which we’re positive will show a much-wanted reduction in speeding.

Future schemes at other locations in the village are reliant on the Woodlands development progressing and will hopefully

see preliminary design start in the next 12 months – the parish council aims to be involved from the outset to ensure the budget is used effectively.

In other news, the remainder of London Road (between Weston Road and Lower Icknield Way) and the entirety of both Green End Street and Brook Street, are all scheduled for a full resurface, with London Road anticipated to commence in late July, the latter two being done in October.

We continue to work well with enthusiastic residents, including the Aston Clinton Society, as well as our new Buckinghamshire county councillors to devise an ‘idealistic’ five-year plan for future capital projects (anything other than small patching and planing) – this is all governed by the Buckinghamshire Highways budget, but we are all keen to see improvements to our infrastructure and will continue to keep pushing for worthwhile projects within Aston Clinton.

As always, we thank residents for their continued patience whilst work is completed and look forward to the positive outcome that the various schemes will bring to the village.

*Finally, a word about security* – as we write this article, we have been made aware of a spate of thefts from houses and vehicles in various locations around the village. Please make sure that your property is made as secure as possible. Work together with neighbours, perhaps setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, and report all incidents to the Police, supplying any doorbell or camera footage to help make Aston Clinton as uninviting to potential thieves as possible!

[www.astonclinton-pc.gov.uk](http://www.astonclinton-pc.gov.uk)  
**01296 631269**

Local stories  
by local people

## A message from Laura Kyrke-Smith MP

*I'm delighted to write for the latest issue of Village Life. This July marks one year since I was elected to serve you as your Member of Parliament for Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp.*



Laura Kyrke-Smith outside Aston Clinton Stores

You may or may not have voted for me, but I aim to represent you all. I promised to be an accessible and active MP, and I've been out and about across the villages that are part of the constituency, meeting residents and supporting local organisations.

Most recently, I have met with Mr Choudhary, the owner of Aston Clinton Stores and Post Office. He has had issues with unexpected road maintenance works taking place outside the shop and deterring business. The works have also been delayed and ineffective. I am on the case with Buckinghamshire Council.

I have also met with Buckland Parish Council to talk about the speeding and road safety issues on Tring Hill and Buckland

Wharf. I'm worried about the risk to residents – I was caught in the aftermath of an accident there not so long ago. Again, I am following up on this with Buckinghamshire Council.

The issues raised by Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp residents have helped inform my work in Parliament, where I've spoken more than 100 times in the last year to raise the issues that matter to you.

For example, I met Jess and Hannah from Aston Clinton, who are doing brilliant work to encourage parents to delay giving their children smartphones. I know from my own kids how hard it is to navigate smartphones and how important these parent-led initiatives are. Off the back of my meeting, I raised this issue in a parliamentary question to the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, Peter Kyle MP, who assured me the Government is actively looking at how we can act to keep children safe and benefit their welfare. I will pay close attention to this.

Bus provision is another issue I have acted on. Earlier, this year I launched my Aylesbury constituency bus survey. I wanted to understand your experiences of local bus services, so I could push as your MP for better, more accessible public transport for everyone in our community. A recurring theme among respondents from Aston Clinton was the disappointment felt by many regarding Arriva's decision to cut yet another bus service, the X5.

I wrote to, and subsequently met with, the Red Eagle bus company to see if they could adjust the timetable of their 500 bus service. I'm grateful that they did, boosting the number of services for Aston Clinton. I know there are some ongoing teething issues with the new timetable which Red Eagle are working on and I'm in touch with Aston Clinton residents about this.



Alongside being out and about in the constituency and in Parliament, the bread-and-butter work of an MP is answering correspondence from residents and helping them solve issues they're having. Since being elected, I have set up my small and dedicated team from scratch. They help me to reply to the large volume of letters and emails that come my way. We have processed over 7000 enquiries since the election, and I have corresponded with constituents on a wide range of subjects from animal welfare to potholes, HS2 to fly tipping. We have also held five village 'Meet and Greet' in Ivinghoe, Edlesborough, Cheddington, Wing and Birtton, and a 'Meet Your MP' village hall event in Slapton, which provide an informal opportunity to meet with me and discuss issues both local and national.

These are just some of the things I've prioritised in year one. I am always open to feedback and ideas. Let me know what you'd like me to focus on in year two.

*Laura Kyrke-Smith MP*

## Quiz Night

We're holding our next Quiz night in support of St Michael's restoration work on Saturday, October 25 in The Anthony Hall. Phil Storr and I have already devised some great rounds to challenge and entertain you. We're going for 'Bring your own snacks and drink' this time – glasses will be provided. The price is £10 per head.

So, are you up for the challenge? Can your table wrestle the cup away from the current holders, the Bellringers? Book your place or table now by emailing me at [james@jamesadam.co.uk](mailto:james@jamesadam.co.uk) or text me on 07860 236904. More details in the next issue of Village Life.

*James Adam*

## Happy 100th Birthday, June!



June Lewis, the wife of Revd Terry Lewis who was Rector of the United Benefice for 32 years from 1953 to 1985, celebrated her 100th birthday on June 30. Marion Richards and Tilla and James Adam were invited to the party at the Buckingham Rugby Club where they joined June, two of her three sons and about 14 grandchildren and great grandchildren. June is very fit and still has 20/20 vision! June received a card signed by old friends from St Michael's congregation, and her special card from the King and Queen which was proudly on display.





**Berkshire  
Buckinghamshire  
& Oxfordshire**  
Wildlife Trust

## News from your local nature reserves

*After last year's very wet spring, the reserve at Aston Clinton Ragpits had a considerable amount of lush vegetation, but that has been tempered by this year's exceptionally hot and dry spell. Despite these extreme weather challenges, the wildflowers, including the orchids, have fared very well. White Helleborines and Greater Butterfly orchids were both impressive and persisted well into June, allowing many visitors to enjoy them growing alongside the mid-summer peaking orchids which include Common Spotted, Chalk Fragrant and Common Twayblade.*

As usual, a group of willing volunteers came along in June to help count the orchids. Always a challenging task, but the weather was kind, and we managed to count a total of just under 20,000 flowering orchids (19,045 to be precise). A very good figure, considering the lack of rain, and one which compares very favourably to previous years. We will add more to this number when we count the two species that peak slightly later in the year – the Pyramidal Orchids and the Broad-leaved Helleborines.

A huge thank you to all those who helped with the count. Shortly after BBOWT took on the management of the Ragpits in the early 1980s, there were approximately 1000 orchids counted. It reflects the many hours of hard work by BBOWT staff and countless volunteers that we can trace such an increase in the wealth of biodiversity at this small reserve.

Guided walks so far this year have been well-attended. Participants have been able to see good numbers of early-summer butterflies on

the wing – lots of Marbled Whites, Meadow Browns and Ringlets eagerly nectaring on the abundant Knapweed and Scabious. It remains to be seen how well the late-summer flowers will look. Hopefully if we get some much-needed rain, we should see a burst of colour from plants such as Marjoram, Wild Basil, Wild Carrot and Wild Thyme.

Please come along and visit your local reserves at the Ragpits and Dancersend, or any of the other wonderful BBOWT reserves in our area. There are further guided visits you can enjoy. On **Sunday, August 31**, join Mick Jones to explore the amazing variety of wildlife sharing space with the industrial heritage of Dancersend Waterworks. Then on **Sunday, October 5**, join Phil Townsend at the Ragpits where he hopes to point out some of the special grassland fungi such as waxcaps and pinkgills, as well as a coral fungus or two. You can book for both events on the BBOWT website at [www.bbowl.org.uk/events](http://www.bbowl.org.uk/events).

There are plenty of other events coming up for both children and family groups at our flagship College Lake Reserve – details on the website. You can also look forward to a fresh season of wildlife-themed illustrated talks organised by the local BBOWT Chilterns Group taking place through the autumn and winter at Great Missenden Memorial Centre. These begin with Jon Mason talking about 'Creating a Wildlife Garden' on **Tuesday, September 16**, followed by Sarah Hooper from the Environment Agency unpacking the issues around 'Biodiversity Net Gain' on **Tuesday, October 21**. All are welcome.

*Mick Jones, Volunteer Warden at Dancersend  
Phil Townsend, Volunteer Warden at Aston Clinton Ragpits.*

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

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



Hybrid Common Spotted x Chalk Fragrant Orchids at Aston Clinton Ragpits. Greater Butterfly Orchid at the Ragpits. Unusual Adder's-tongue Fern with three 'tongues' found at the Ragpits – Phil Townsend.

Flower-rich grassland at Dancersend. Marbled White butterflies and bumblebee at Dancersend. – Mick Jones.



## A Gift That Keeps on Giving: The Legacy of Widow Mary Turpin

*If you've ever wandered into St Michael and All Angels Church in Aston Clinton, you may have noticed a framed document on the south wall. It's the will of Mary Turpin, a widow who, in 1736, made a remarkable bequest that continues to support the parish nearly 300 years later.*

In her will, Mary Turpin left all her freehold and leasehold land within Aston Clinton to Mary Hockley for life, with provision that, should Mary have children, they would inherit the land. However, in the absence of heirs, Mary decreed that the estate should pass to *"the poor of Aston Clinton forever,"* to be managed by the parish's overseers of the poor.

This enduring legacy is still very much alive today. For many years, the rental income from Mary's land helped provide bread for the poor of the parish, traditionally on the Feast of St Michael and the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary. The estate originally included seven and a half acres of land in College Road North – now the site of the Land Rover Jaguar dealership – and allotments in London Road, still owned by the Turpin's Charity.

At the time, Aston Clinton was administered by the Vestry Committee, which appointed the overseers responsible for supporting the village's most vulnerable residents. Interestingly, an identical version of Mary's will – differing only in the name of the village – is displayed in the church at Weston Turville. There, her bequest provided for the poor of that parish under the same conditions, with land including a ten-acre field off New Road, which is still rented out for grazing. It's a rare example of a double legacy written with clear foresight and generosity for both communities.

Mary Turpin, née Mary (surname unknown), was the wife of Thomas Turpin Senior, a Yeoman (landowner) of Halton. They had a son, Thomas, baptised in 1682. This younger Thomas and his wife Deborah had five children between 1708 and 1716.

Thomas Turpin Senior's own will, dated 1702, left all his land in Aston Clinton and Weston Turville to his wife Mary, and then to his kinsman Joseph. He died the following year and was buried in Halton. Curiously, although described as a substantial Yeoman farmer, his will makes no mention of a house. It's possible he was renting a local Palladian-style house owned by an absentee landlord, which stood near Halton church until its sale to Francis Dashwood in 1720. That year Thomas Turpin Junior and Deborah were living in Amersham and arranging for the sale of their crops in Halton.

Mary Turpin died in 1712 and is also buried in Halton. Her husband's will wasn't proven until 1734, two years before it formalised her charitable legacy. One of the signatories on the will was Thomas Turpin, a nephew.

The story takes an unexpected international twist. In 1951, The Cincinnati Enquirer ran a story on Mary Turpin's will, mistakenly implying that there were no longer any poor people in Weston Turville. This prompted a letter to the Weston Turville Parish Council from a director of a charity in Cincinnati, requesting funds to provide bread for their own poor! Quite how the story reached the United States is unclear, but records show that by 1788 a Philip Turpin owned a homestead in that area of Ohio, and there is even a 'Turpin's Wood' on the map, suggesting a possible family connection across the Atlantic.

Today, the Turpin Charity is still active. The Aston Clinton land was sold in 2016, and the proceeds were invested to support those in hardship – whether physical, financial,



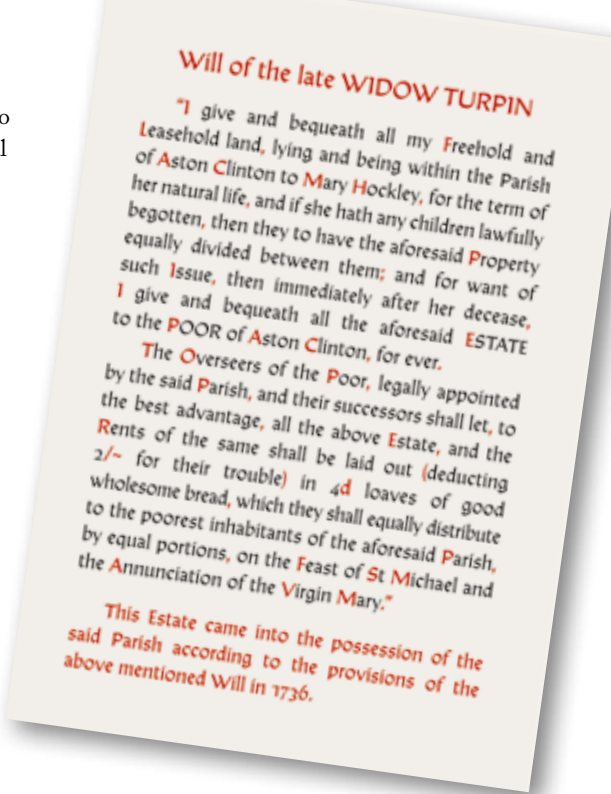
or mental – within the parish. The charity also helps fund education, training, and residential accommodation. It also supports village organisations with similar aims.

The trustees of the Turpin Charity include the Rector of St Michael and All Angels, a nominated trustee from the Parish of Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards (in 1736 St. Leonards was part of the parish of Aston Clinton), and three co-opted Aston Clinton residents.

Nearly three centuries later, Mary Turpin's thoughtful bequest continues to enrich not one, but two communities—a legacy of generosity and compassion that still bears fruit today.

*Richard Maskell*  
*Trustee of the Turpin Charity*

If you are in emotional or financial need and live in the village of Aston Clinton or Cholesbury cum St Leonards please get in touch through [info@turpinscharity.org.uk](mailto:info@turpinscharity.org.uk) or [www.turpinscharity.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant](http://www.turpinscharity.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant).



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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 Business

*This is a series about the businesses that operate locally and which advertise in Village Life: what they do, what services they provide and the people behind the business names.*

**Nigel Roach and Martin Routley**, owners and directors of Smashing Windows.



**Q. How long have you been involved with Smashing Windows?**

A. We started the company now called Smashing Windows as a partnership back in 2003, following an idea that Martin had to replace double glazed window units without changing the frames. Back then, and for the first few years, we were changing around 2000 window units a year, as well as carrying out repairs to dropped doors, broken handles, basically anything that could go wrong with a door or window, we were there.

**Q. Who are the people behind the business and what services do you provide?**

A. Our original strap line was 'Don't change the frames, just change the glass!' However, over the years since, we have expanded into the installation of new doors and windows, as our customers wanted not only to replace ageing systems, but also to create a new look for their property.

Our team has evolved and survived through a global financial meltdown, plus Brexit and also the exceptional period during Covid lockdowns, resulting in our being in better shape going forward. As with all companies, big or small, that success is predominantly down to our team. Charlie Nash is our highly experienced genius of a senior fitter,

who has been with us from almost the beginning and is responsible for the installation side of the business, and Alison Kennie who keeps us all in line, and the administrative wheels turning. Currently our core business is split 60% new windows and doors and 40% replacing misted-up double glazed units. On the repairs side of the business, if it's something we're unable to help with, we always recommend MAK Window and Door Repairs, which is run by Mark, who just happens to be Alison's husband.

**Q. Have you always worked in this industry, where did you start?**

A. Nigel trained as an accountant and spent over 20 years in the hotel sector, whilst Martin trained as a specialist motorbike mechanic, balancing that career with his love of professional motorbike racing and taking part in racing himself.

**Q. What are the rewards and challenges of running a local business?**

A. We both agree that building something like Smashing Windows has been incredibly satisfying, giving us not only the freedom to be our own bosses and manage our own time, but also to build a company that we are proud of. The challenges are varied and not helped by the complexity of the various compliance issues faced by all companies, such as IT through to legal and employee issues.

**Q. Do you live in Aston Clinton?**

A. We both used to live in Aston Clinton, which is where Smashing Windows was created, but now Martin lives in Bedgrove and Nigel over in Wingrave.

**Q. When you're not busy at work, what do you do for fun?**

A. We both enjoy taking time out to be with our families, grandkids included. Also meeting up with friends over a beer or eating out.

Success is predominantly down to our team.

“

**Q. What is your favourite food?**

Martin reckons a good Sunday lunch, whereas Nigel is happy with whatever the Oak in Aston Clinton or Wingrave's Rose and Crown have on the menu.

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*If you advertise in Village Life and would like to be featured in this column, please contact the editor at [editor@acvillagelife.co.uk](mailto:editor@acvillagelife.co.uk)*

*We will still be running the Village People column from time to time and if you would like to recommend anyone whose contribution to village life should be featured in a forthcoming issue of Village Life, please send details to the editor at the address above.*

*Interview: Nigel Brown*

*Photo: : Alison, Martin and Charlie.*

## St Michael's Tower Outing – 'The Reminiscence Tour'

*Saturday, May 31 dawned warm and sunny for our annual bellringers' outing. This is when we spend the day touring the countryside and ringing the bells at local towers. This year, the day was dubbed 'The Reminiscence Tour', as we were due to visit several places where various band members had previously lived and rung in the past.*

Our first tower was Chalfont St Giles, a ground-floor ring of eight bells and not too heavy. It was early enough to be cool, with everyone still concentrating fully, so we sounded pretty good! It was a lovely way to start. Next, on to Chalfont St Peter, a nice light six where, with Jeanette in charge, we rang an accomplished touch of Cambridge Minor with an all-female band.

Our third tower of the morning was Denham, set in a pretty village, with old houses full of character and a little stream running through the middle. This was a challenging, slightly heavier ring of eight bells, and some members of the band found their energy levels waning. Luckily we were offered tea and

chocolate digestives to perk us up, served in the ringing room, which was a first for many of us! Janet Stiles took charge as she used to ring here between 1974 and 1979, when these bells were a ground-floor ring (another floor has been added since, and the shorter draft makes things much easier for the ringers). She told a slightly terrifying story of when access to the internal ladder up the tower was accessible from the back of the church, and a couple of youngsters decided to climb up to the bells one day. They somehow dislodged the tenor from its stay, and quite how no one was hurt, or even killed, was a minor miracle!

Next we headed to Hughenden for a picnic in the park. Long-time Aston Clinton ringer Roger Hazell rang here for many years and his ashes are now buried in the churchyard. His partner Liz Mitchell, friend of the band, was able to join us for lunch and it was great to see her. Everyone could quite happily have sat in the sun all afternoon and not bothered with the ringing. We were glad we did, because this eight are an absolutely lovely ring of bells – probably the highlight of the day for me. Roger Powell took charge, as he and Sue used to ring





here when they lived locally. The Aston Clinton band also used to ring here relatively frequently when our own augmentation from eight to ten was being completed and the St Michael's bells were out of action. A happy return for those who remembered that time.

Then on to Penn, where Alison Bayley took charge. She and her husband Michael know the bells well having lived in Winchmore Hill and rung here from 1970 to 2022. Alison was tower captain here for over forty years! A ground floor six, we were able to open the door from the ringing room to the sunshine outside, and ringing some challenging London Minor (one of our special methods for the day) was made easier by the promise of tea and flapjack.

A final push for the last tower of the day at Beaconsfield. These bells are a nice eight, and Richard White was in charge. Setting the bells for the final time, he commented, "I've been coming on Aston Clinton ringing outings for decades and I've never been asked to run a tower before. Which goes to show that if you hold on to your dreams for long enough, they just might come true!"

We finished the day with a hearty meal at the Harrow Pub in the Hughenden Valley. Howard Collings joined us for dinner and it was lovely to see him, he's not ringing much at the moment due to a couple of health problems (well, he is in his nineties!). On the way home, driving round Chequers, Alan Frost regaled his car with a story of driving his old traction engine along that road and berries from the overhanging trees dropped onto the engine – apparently by the time he reached the end of his journey the berries had got so hot they had turned to jam!

It was a beautiful, warm and sunny day, full of laughter and reminiscing. We had two dogs and several visitors along for the day, including Richard White (whose family rang, sang and worshipped at Aston Clinton for many years, and who recently paid for the return of the

restored weather vane to our church roof), and Kath Bentley (an ex-member of the band who now lives and rings down in Dorset).

Roll on 2026, when we are planning a walking and ringing tour of Oxford for June 27. *Linda Rothera*

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## Little Angels Baby and Toddler Group

*This FREE stay and play Baby and Toddler Group is held every Thursday from 9.30 – 11am at St Michael's church.*



We have been running since January this year, and have a small regular bunch of parents, children and relatives who come each week.

Led by Rev'd Sally Bottomer, it is an informal and friendly group with lots of toys to play with and some wonderful singing and musical instruments at the end of the session. There is free tea/coffee for parents.

We must thank Aston Clinton Parish Council for the grant which has enabled us to buy some brand new toys, books and cushions for the group plus the donations we have received from the community.

For more information about the group, please contact *Natalie* on 01296 632488 or email *Benefice3@gmail.com*.

## Buckland and Aston Clinton Cricket Club

*The first half of the 2025 season has been a busy and largely successful time for the cricket club. It is a very different story from the start of 2024 when we lost much of the first month completely to bad weather. This year to the end of June has been remarkably dry, with only a single weekend of Senior cricket and one Junior match lost to rain. The lack of rain and the recent heatwaves have caused a very different set of issues for our volunteer groundsmen and have made preparation of good quality pitches quite tricky.*

On the pitch, the Senior 1st team have been inconsistent and currently sit mid-table in Division 1 of the Four Counties Cricket League, with our batting not really firing (with the notable exception of the perfectly timed run chase at Newport Pagnell), and the bowlers doing their best to compensate for this. After a difficult 2024 when we had to withdraw our 2nd XI from the league, we have happily bounced back so far. Although results again are not quite where we would like them to be (batting again being the weak point), we have had good availability, a great team spirit, and have managed to get a number of current and former members of our Junior teams playing in open age cricket. The Senior midweek team has again reached the T20 Finals Day, and will be looking to finally break our duck in this competition after a series of near misses.

The Junior section has been a hive of activity, with weekly training sessions bringing large numbers of young people to practise and equally large numbers of parents to socialise on a Friday evening while enjoying the bar and BBQ. Our U15s have had fewer games than the others due to drop outs in their division but have so far won two and lost two.



The U13s (an increasing number of whom are stepping up and contributing well to U15 matches) are challenging for their league with a crunch match away to Waddesdon likely to determine the winners. Our U11 team has mainly been filled by Year 5s who are gaining in experience and confidence and will see the benefits of their efforts when they come back as Year 6s to play in the same age group next season.

The All Stars for five to eight year olds has expanded slightly this year, with new Lead Activator Jack getting great support from other new Activators Nic and Shah. Getting kids involved in cricket at a younger age than we used to be able to do has been really important to us and the majority of the Year 5s playing in our U11 team are graduates from our first cohort of All Stars in 2023. Hopefully this pathway will continue strongly in the future too. *Phil Samuels*

**Village Life advertising rates are to remain the same through 2025.**

We are proud to support local businesses and will only raise rates when financially necessary.

## Aston Clinton Bowls Club: Experience the joy of Bowls



Everyone enjoying the Family Festival in June

*It's very early in July, we are now about half way through the summer bowling season – and the weather is very hot. However, the bowling green always seems to attract a gentle breeze, lying as it does, framed between Aston Hill and the chestnut trees in our beautiful park. Even on the hottest of summer days it can feel like an oasis of tranquility.*

The Family Festival in June was great fun. We had lots of people visiting our stall then trying their skill on the green; we recruited quite a few new members as a result. So thank you and well done to the Parish Council.

Bowls is a gentle and therapeutic sport played outdoors in the fresh air, and it's good for both mind and body. Our club aspires to be a community asset for Aston Clinton and its surrounding villages. We are always inclusive and welcoming to all new members. We help to provide a sense of belonging and friendship to everyone who joins. One retired member, who lives on his own, told me recently that he joined because he wanted to meet more local people and to make new friends. He says that joining the bowls club was the best decision he's made in years!

If you are considering trying bowls then you can enrol at the club for a six-week trial period for free, and then decide if you would like to join – there is no obligation and no pressure, it's entirely up to you. We also offer significantly reduced membership fees for anyone joining our club in July or August. We hold roll-up evenings on Tuesdays from 5.30pm onwards. All you need is a pair of flat soled shoes or trainers and reasonably smart attire. We will provide the bowls, and tuition too if you would like it. The most important thing is that you enjoy the experience and feel better for it.

The club also welcomes people to drop in and watch any of our matches against other clubs from Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire. There is a match schedule attached to the gate showing dates and times of all our home fixtures, and you are very welcome to just walk in and take a seat on any of these occasions.

If you do choose to join the club, you will be able to practice or play most days in the afternoons or evenings, followed by a welcome beer or G&T afterwards in our very reasonably priced bar. We also hold social events throughout the year, including quiz nights and themed evenings and meals.

Our green is in great condition this summer thanks to the hard work of our volunteer greenkeeper and his helpers. We have had many compliments from visiting clubs about the quality of our green and it is a source of pride for members. We also enjoy the benefit of a small number of willing volunteers who come along every Monday morning to maintain the green borders and gardens. Our volunteers are the heart and soul of the club.

So why not drop in and take a look, or have a try-out at a roll-up evening – you've got nothing to lose! Or, if you would like to find out more, just give me a call on **07885 595447**.  
*We would love to see you. Robert Morrison*



## Scouts

### 1st Aston Clinton

*This year, our village Scout Group has taken adventure to new heights – from soggy kindling in the woods to sleeping under fighter jets – our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers have tested their limits, lit their fires (literally!), and come away with stories they'll remember for life.*



For many of our youngest members, the journey started in January with their very first sleepover at Braid Wood Scout Site. Excitement was sky-high as our Beavers lit their first campfires, navigated woodland trails on a geocaching mission, and got creative with hands-on crafts.

Fast forward to February, and at the other end of the age spectrum, our Explorer Scouts braved a sleepover of a very different kind. No tents here – just tarps, rope, and some serious resilience.

With every meal cooked over a campfire (including breakfast), Explorers tested their skills – and their patience – keeping fires going through rain and wet firewood. Mealtimes, too, were a step beyond the usual sausages and beans – they prepared and cooked pheasant and venison over the open flames, learning how

to prepare, handle, and cook wild game as part of their survival skills.

In March, the Beavers and Cubs joined hundreds of young adventurers at the RAF Museum in Hendon, where 350 children took part in a one-of-a-kind 'Pillows and Pilots' sleepover. After exploring the aircraft halls and getting hands-on with aviation-themed activities, everyone rolled out their sleeping bags ... under the wings of historic warplanes!

Meanwhile, our Scouts took on the challenge of Gilwell Park for a full-on weekend of outdoor adventure. They cooked on their own fires, slept in tents, and faced their fears on the Gauntlet vertical assault course and the infamous Leap of Faith. For something completely different, they even built their own coracles (yes, floating boats) and took to the water to test them. We didn't think they would float, but they did – until they didn't!



Across every age group, these experiences show what Scouting is all about: progression, persistence, and practical skills learned in real-life settings.

From Beavers learning to strike a match, to Explorers battling soggy firewood. It's all part of the adventure, building confidence, resilience and lifelong skills that last long after the mud's been washed out of their socks.

*Claire Walker*



# Aston Clinton Colts celebrate a fantastic season

*As another successful season draws to a close, Aston Clinton Colts are proud to reflect on a fantastic year that saw over 250 children take to the pitch to enjoy football, build friendships, and grow as players and teammates. From our youngest kickers to our most seasoned players, the spirit of community and sport has been stronger than ever.*



We celebrated the end of the season with our much-loved annual BBQ, a joyful day filled with bouncy castles, great food, and even better company. This event was made possible thanks to the generous support of our local sponsors, with special thanks to our Gold Sponsors — KMS Motor Services and Bucks College Group — whose contributions continue to make a real difference in supporting grassroots football.

This year, we bid a fond farewell to our Under-18s as they move on to new challenges and at the same time, we warmly welcome our newest additions, the Under-6s, to the Colts family. The future is bright, and we are proud to be nurturing the next generation of local talent.



Mark Waller's Fundraiser for the Club raised more than £6K! A massive thank you to everyone who supported him and the Colts. This will pay for brand new goals next year.

If any local company would like to support and Sponsor the Colts, please get in touch at [di@acolts.com](mailto:di@acolts.com).

*The Colts Committee*

## SUDOKU SOLUTION

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## Drinking Songs – A Musical Evening with Vache Baroque

*The Chiltern Heritage and Culture Festival in collaboration with Vache Baroque, an award winning arts charity based at Vache House in the Chilterns, comes to St Mary's Drayton Beauchamp to present a lively evening of Drinking Songs.*

Without electricity or central heating, Baroque-era Europe must have been rather cold for half the year. So what better (or cheaper) way for people to warm up than to gather together for a tipple – and for entertainment ... music!

From gods to lowly humans, royalty to sailors, there'll be a cellar-full of drink-inspired songs

## DRINKING SONGS

A Musical Evening with Vache Baroque



04 SATURDAY  
St Mary the Virgin Church  
Drayton Beauchamp  
HP22 5LT

BOOK TICKETS

FEATURING  
TRISTAN HAMBLETON



[www.chilternsociety.org.uk/heritage-festival/](http://www.chilternsociety.org.uk/heritage-festival/)

for you to enjoy. From opera arias and solo songs, to alehouse jigs and pieces for everyone to sing along to, we're very happy to be raising a glass to this squiffy musical output.

Join us on Saturday, October 4 from 7.30 – 9.30pm. Tickets are £25 per person; under 18s free. To book scan the QR code below; phone **01949 490746** or Email: [coordinator@chilternsociety.org.uk](mailto:coordinator@chilternsociety.org.uk).

## Buckland look to wallop Wasters



*Buckland Baggies will be fighting hard to retain the Landstone Cup after beating Wilstone Wasters in their annual charity match at Long Marston last year, following two successive defeats.*

The match this year will start at 6pm on Friday, August 15 at Long Marston Cricket Ground, where the bar will be open and there'll be a barbecue on the go. Money raised will, as ever, go to local charities.

Last year, Buckland's openers provided a solid foundation for an innings that finished with a formidable total of 111-7 in 20 overs and the Wasters folded, finishing on 78-8. We can expect a tighter contest this year, so please support your local team.

If anyone would like to join the Buckland squad, then please contact Jon Sainsbury by email at [jsain\\_s@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jsain_s@yahoo.co.uk) or *Richard Peel* at [rppr@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rppr@hotmail.co.uk).

## Discover Bucks Museum

### *A Summer of Intergalactic Fun That's Out of This World!*

Lift-off this summer as Discover Bucks Museum launches **Cosmic Adventures** – an exciting summer programme bursting with science, space and sci-fi fun for the whole family!

A galaxy of activities, cosmic crafts and interactive exhibits awaits to engage and entertain young minds throughout the summer holidays from July 23 to September 3.

In addition to the Main Museum Galleries – including the magical Roald Dahl Children's Gallery – take a journey of discovery **Beyond the Stars** and see original sci-fi props and models from iconic British TV shows including Doctor Who.

Through the magic of a new **Space VR Experience**, join astronaut Tim Peake in a thrilling high-speed spaceflight, or set off on the Cosmic Adventures Trail through the museum (free with admission). Slow the pace



down in the **Space-Themed Sensory Room** – a calming space inspired by the wonders of the universe, then enjoy fresh air and lawn games outside in the Victoria Garden.

Themed craft activities run every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from July 28 – August 29, 10am–3pm. Drop in, they're perfect for ages 3–11.

For opening times, tickets and booking, visit [discoverbucksmuseum.org](https://discoverbucksmuseum.org)

## Aston Hill Climb 100 Exhibition moves to Discover Bucks Museum

*If the sight and sounds of the recent Aston Hill Centenary sparked an interest in vintage motors, or a dip into the exhibition in the Red Kite Pavilion left you wanting more, you'll be pleased to know you can now immerse yourself in the history all over again – at Discover Bucks Museum.*

Now open within Discover Bucks Museum, the Aston Hill Climb 100 Exhibition features content from our own exhibition that Steve Akers and Marion Mason produced, as well as artefacts from the museum's archives, several

private loan items, work by children from Aston Clinton School, and a wonderful Triumph motorcycle kindly loaned by Bryan Marsh.

Amongst other loan items are two trophies from Neil Tuckett – one is the Class 1 winner's trophy from the HCAAC Open Hillclimb in 1912 (won by E.V. Fielder in a 6hp De Dion Bouton) and the other is the trophy that Alan Robins presented to Neil last month, when his Golden Ford received the most votes at the Aston Hill Climb 100 Show to win the best car award. Two trophies, presented at Aston Hill 113 years apart, are now on display together!

*Mike Stark*

Discover Bucks Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 2QP

## Buckland Parish Council

*Following local elections, Buckland Parish Council co-opted Rachel Critchell to the council at the May 2025 meeting. We now have one vacancy for a parish councillor and are particularly keen to hear from anyone who lives in the Dancers End area who may be interested in joining the council as there is no representation from this area of the Parish. If you would like more information, please contact our clerk Jane Lewis. A full list of councillors and their responsibilities can be found on the website: [www.buckland-pc.gov.uk](http://www.buckland-pc.gov.uk).*

### Grass Cutting in the Parish

Buckland Parish Council went out to tender in Autumn 2024 to find new grass cutting contractors. Prices varied greatly. Councillors have joined forces with the team at Amersham Town Council who we believe offer best value for money.

### Grass Cutting in All Saints Church Buckland and Buckland Parish Council Burial Ground

Buckland Parish Council currently cuts the grass for All Saints churchyard as a gesture of goodwill. Rev Bottomer and the PCC have expressed their gratitude and thanks for this. However, due to financial constraints, BPC are unable to cut the grass every week of the year. Presently we cut the grass for eight cuts over the grass-cutting season (April – September); we will not be cutting the grass in July and August. In the meantime, we are working closely with a community group for the churchyard that has been set up by Rev Bottomer. The group is working on several areas within the churchyard and creating a plan of action which includes creating wildflower areas, bug hotels and other areas of interest.

If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Rev Bottomer on [01296 632488](tel:01296632488). Last year, volunteers from Buckland Parish and the Chiltern Society worked on Green Lane (access to the Burial Ground) and the BPC burial ground itself. At present there is a large area within the burial ground that is being developed for a wildflower area. Yellow rattle was sown in the autumn, and we are now waiting to sow some wildflower seeds later in the year.

### Reminder to landowners

A gentle reminder that all landowners are responsible for ditches and hedges on their land and ensuring that the ditches are kept clear to prevent blockages and possible flood damage.

### Thames Water Update

Members of Buckland Parish Council met with Thames Water representatives in December 2024 and were promised an update at the end of March 2025. As none was received, BPC continued to chase Thames Water regarding this matter, but to no avail. MP for Aylesbury, Laura Kyrke-Smith, kindly chased them up for us a couple of weeks ago. The response received was: As discussed at our meeting during December, there have been some delays to the Hawridge Alleviation of Low Flows project due to challenges associated with the wider scope of the project, including the pipe crossing under HS2. We have now appointed a design partner to progress the feasibility assessment of relocating the water booster station and we are currently waiting for confirmed timescales for the exercise. It is anticipated the assessment will take a few months to complete and there will be some on-site investigations to be undertaken, which will need to be agreed with the landowner. We can provide a further update once a programme for the feasibility



study is confirmed with our design partner. Unfortunately, this does not give us any further insight into timescales or plans etc. Laura has kindly asked Thames Water to provide this information to help keep local stakeholders updated on progress.

[Clerk@buckland-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@buckland-pc.gov.uk)  
01296 630962.

## Something for everyone at Buckland Blast

*Award winning entertainer and magician 'Simon Says' with his magical illusions, story telling, and comedy, will be at Buckland Village Hall for the 'Buckland Blast' on Saturday, September 13. Tickets are now on sale for this all day family event.*

Opening at 10am, the family fiesta will feature Simon who will be enthralling 3–8-year-olds from 11.30am to 12.30pm, when seniors will gather for their sandwich lunch. We want 'Buckland Blast' to be as inclusive as possible, so we're inviting children aged 5 to 11 years old to tell us a story about their favourite holiday in words with colourful pictures and paintings. Entries should be emailed to [hallmanager@bucklandvillagehall.com](mailto:hallmanager@bucklandvillagehall.com) and will be judged by local teachers. Entries are still open for the photo competition of your favourite Buckland scene or view to be sent as a jpeg with email and phone details to the same address.

For the family, the Buckland Quiz has been launched on the village hall website with 18 questions to test your knowledge about your village. The winner will be presented with their prize at the 'Buckland Blast'. Please send your answers to [hallmanager@bucklandvillagehall.com](mailto:hallmanager@bucklandvillagehall.com) and include your name, address and telephone number. If more than one person gets all the questions right then the winning name will be drawn from a hat. You can find the

quiz here 25th Anniversary Event | Buckland Village Hall.

Dog lovers can bring their canine companions to a Dog Show at 2pm on the day. The show will feature four classes - Best child dog handler, Prettiest bitch, Handsomest dog and the dog the judge would most like to take home. There'll be prizes for the top three in each class with prizes donated by Animal Support Angels. A £2 entry fee for each class will enable us to donate back to the charity.

After the dog show, there will be an afternoon of music and dancing with a Ceilidh at 3pm followed by two local bands. Two sets from North London soul band Soulfools will round the evening off. There'll be food vans on site with Penny's Vintage Coffee Shop selling refreshments, Souvlaki House with a range of appetising Greek food, and, thanks to Dayla, a bar in the Hall, which will be open from 1pm to 9.15pm.

We are grateful to Cesare Estate Agents, who have provided a generous donation and join our list of local sponsors which already features ARLA, Olleco, Chiltern Archery, Ross Holkham Photography, Dayla and Your Café in the Park.



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

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

## A Milestone for Aston Clinton Simply Walk

*Our Simply Walk Group passed an impressive milestone on May 29 by welcoming its 10,000th Walker! With a current average of around 30 walkers every week throughout the year, the numbers have soon added up and we were both surprised and delighted to have reached this milestone in what is only our 9th year.*



Since the group was first formed on November 10, 2016 under Buckinghamshire council's Walking for Health scheme, it has regularly provided gentle weekly health walks around the villages of Aston Clinton, Buckland, Drayton Beauchamp and Halton, not to mention our monthly excursions to the Reservoirs and Wendover Woods.

We have also recently been able to welcome another new Leader – Clive – who we hope will enjoy many years helping us to provide walks for our local folk.

For those who aren't familiar with the group, Simply Walk provides up to three regular weekly walks in our beautiful countryside for people of all abilities, which promote health and help combat against the negative effects of our increasingly sedentary lifestyles.

- Our 'Short Walk' is ideal for beginners or those recovering from an injury or illness. It lasts up to 60 minutes and is free from stiles, gradients or other obstacles.

- Our 'Long Walk' lasts up to 90 minutes and is ideal for those who have walked before and wish to maintain their current level of fitness.
- Our 'Progression Walks' are slightly more challenging, lasting from 1½ - 2½ hours. They take place on the first Thursday of each month and normally take us up into Wendover Woods. They are primarily designed to help walkers who are looking to progress to one of the shorter walks offered by other walking groups, such as the Ramblers or Chiltern Society. We suggest if you can successfully complete each of our 3 Progression Walks then you should be fine to join one of their shorter walks – and enjoy it!

All our walks are led by qualified Leaders and Backmarkers, so nobody needs fear getting lost or left behind. Membership is free (although voluntary contributions are welcome) and registered members can also enjoy automatic access to around 70 other walks run by similar Simply Walk groups in other towns and villages throughout Buckinghamshire.

Our walks start at 10.30 sharp from the Car Park in Aston Clinton Park (by the Pavilion), just look for the person in the hi-viz jacket. All we ask is that, if it's your first time, please turn up 15 minutes early so we can ensure you end up on the right walk and also please ensure you wear clothing and footwear appropriate to the prevailing weather conditions.

For further info on Simply Walk in Buckinghamshire: [www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/health-wellbeing-and-sports/simply-walk/](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/health-wellbeing-and-sports/simply-walk/) or contact **Fiona Broadbent** on 01494 475367 or email [simplywalks@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:simplywalks@buckinghamshire.gov.uk).

*Edward Kempton*

Local stories  
by local people

## Wild Estone Grange

*Nature continually produces surprises. No more so, than to find three pyramidal orchids beside the big pond for the first time. This special habitat is now subject to minimum interference, the growth cut back in late summer being the only management necessary to allow wildflowers to thrive. Nature was given a small helping hand early on, together with a little selective “weeding” of uninvited species.*

Previously, the area was machine mowed very close to the ground, but seeds were harvested first to ensure wildflowers, including some that had been planted by the developer, survived. Last year, due to the long wet summer and autumn, many of the seeds perished in-situ. They either didn't set (lack of insect activity may have contributed) or if they did set, they became mouldy and useless, evident this summer with far less of the stunning purple vetch. Other species have arrived and taken hold. Last November yellow rattle seed was sown across much of the area and this year it has taken. Known as a “meadow-maker”, it is a notoriously tricky plant to establish, along with red bartsia, which is naturally present. These semi-parasitic flower-species help control the more vigorous grasses.

How different the displays are this year. The wet conditions in 2024 led to enormous growth whilst this summer, the flowers are shorter and thrived in the drought. Their seed has set which bodes well for the future. It has been scythed and the arisings raked up and removed. Organic matter, like grass cuttings, enriches the soil. Wildflowers definitely enjoy poorer conditions. It is also much kinder to the frogs and other creatures that the pond and its environs are home to. It has taken around seven years to achieve the conditions suitable for a natural meadow where species will come and go, where each year yields surprises that will attract birds, butterflies, moths and dragonflies. All to be celebrated.



Making a start on scything and our first pyramidal orchid.

Estone Grange can't compete on the orchid count with the 80+ that Alison Beck has in her marvellous wild garden in Aston Clinton. However, action to put nature first, rewild, biodiversity net gain, or whatever it is called, is a global movement to create space for all wildlife to have a chance to survive. Space we humans share and enjoy. Increasingly more of us are doing our bit to leave our parks, gardens and verges not just rough around the edges, but at the centre too.

Wild Estone Grange is an informal group of residents supported by the Chiltern Society WildBelt project. Amanda Barnicoat, project manager, and her team of volunteers from across the Chilterns advise and lead working parties. You can follow us on Facebook: [WILD ESTONE GRANGE](#) or if you'd like to be involved, contact me, on [07398 700977](tel:07398700977).

## Horticultural Society

*Summer is here – a time for cool drinks, ice cream and sitting in the garden enjoying the results of our hard work earlier in the year. The wet spring followed by the hot dry spell certainly meant our gardens needed some TLC, but so far it has been a very good year for roses, peonies, clematis and strawberries.*

The residents of our villages have certainly not been deterred from adding to their gardens – the Society has had four very successful plant sales – our annual Society stall in May in Aston Clinton Park and stalls at the Family Fun Day and Open Gardens in Drayton Beauchamp and Buckland. A special thank you to those who opened up their gardens. Seeing what grows well elsewhere in the area is a great way to pick up ideas for your own garden.

Coming up, we have our SUPER SUMMER SHOW on Saturday, September 6 at Aston Clinton School. There is something for everyone with entry classes for fruit, vegetables and flowers, novice growers, children, flower arrangers, bakers and craftspeople. Do have a think about what you could enter and of course, come along on the day to admire all on display, visit the plant stall and enjoy the refreshments. Full details will be on our website soon at [www.astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk/](http://www.astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk/).

Our upcoming monthly talks on the second Wednesday of the month, starting at 7.30pm, at the Anthony Hall are:

**Wednesday, September 10:** *“Otmoor, a wetland restored”* by Peter Barker. Otmoor is an RSPB reserve in Oxfordshire which is primarily wetland providing a wintering ground for thousands of wildfowl and waders.

**Wednesday October 8:** *“Bulbs in the Garden Border”* by Kerrie Lloyd-Dawson, a seasonally topical talk with recommendations on how to add an extra layer of planting bulbs and corms that remain in the border year after year. Kerrie is a regular writer for horticultural publications.







1 & 2: Planting a welcome at Aston Clinton School.  
3 & 4: New memorial garden. 5: The hard work begins.

Encouraging gardeners of the future is important to the Society and our environment and we have been supporting youngsters to develop their skills. For Barn Owls Nursery, we have provided plants, bulbs and seeds for growing and some basic equipment and gardening advice. The staff have now started gardening activities with the very enthusiastic children. Aston Clinton School has Forest School and Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) teaching staff. Committee members have engaged with the staff and supported the school with donations of plants, the development of a memorial garden, new flower bed by the entrance, and clearing other areas for planting. We hear that the children have noticed the changes and are excited to care for the plants and see the visiting insects.

Of course, whatever the weather, there are always tasks to be done in the garden.

## Top Tips for August and September:

- Continue to deadhead plants to encourage new flowers, leaving those that produce decorative or bird-friendly seeds and fruits, and those you want to collect seed from.
- Continue to feed tomato, cucumber, pepper and sweetcorn plants.
- Cut out old fruited canes on summer fruiting raspberries and lift and pot up rooted strawberry runners.
- Sow hardy annual seeds like calendula, Californian poppy and forget-me-not directly in their flowering positions for early blooms next year.
- Keep ponds and water features topped up, remove debris and clean out, if very overgrown and/or silted up. Net ponds in September to prevent leaves entering.
- Summer prune fruit trees.
- In September, plant out and transplant biennials such as wallflowers and lift, divide and replant congested clumps of perennials, such as achilleas, once they finish flowering
- In September, raise the height of your mower blades as grass growth slows down, and feed your lawn with an autumn fertiliser.
- Gradually reduce houseplant watering in September and consider moving to a lighter position.
- Start planning your Autumn bulb planting – and remember to come to our October talk!

*Happy gardening!*

*The Horticultural Committee*

## Take a Break and Recharge at the Rest & Refresh Pop-Up Café – A Summer Series of Tea, Cake, and Culture.



*This summer, visitors are invited to slow down and soak up the season at the Rest & Refresh Pop-Up Café at Lindengate Gardens, a monthly community event set in the heart of a tranquil six-acre garden and nature reserve in Wendover (next to the new Blue Diamond Garden Centre).*

Hosted in the peaceful setting of Lindengate Gardens (a local mental health charity) in Wendover, the café is open once a month through to September. It offers a warm welcome, delicious homemade refreshments, and a taste of local culture – each date features a unique performance or activity from 12.30-3.30pm – all with free garden entry. It's a perfect outing for families, friends, or anyone looking to unwind and enjoy the outdoors.

2025 Rest & Refresh Pop-Up Café Dates:

- **Saturday, August 16** – Enjoy the energy and tradition of the Cracklewick Morris Dancers.
- **Saturday, September 20** – Relax with beautiful melodies from flute quartet, the Star Fluters.

Admission is free and all ages are welcome. Visitors can explore the expansive gardens and nature reserve at their leisure, before enjoying the pop-up café – all served with a generous side of local entertainment.

For more information or directions, visit [www.lindengate.org.uk/events](http://www.lindengate.org.uk/events).



## Get Ready to Rock

*Tickets are now on sale for the high-energy, laugh-out-loud spectacular School of Rock The Musical, brought to the big stage by Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity. This electrifying fundraising production takes over Aylesbury Waterside Theatre on Saturday, August 9, and it's guaranteed to blow the roof off!*

Based on the smash-hit movie, School of Rock follows the hilarious and heartwarming journey of Dewey Finn – a wannabe rock star who fakes his way into a job at a snooty prep school, only to turn a group of straight-A students into the ultimate rock band. Packed



with guitar riffs, belly laughs, and big heart, this musical celebration of music, mischief and self-discovery will leave you on your feet and singing along.

Supported by William Harding's Charity and Media Partner Bucks Radio, and sponsored by ASM Metal Recycling, APS Accountancy Ltd, Fairhive, George David Estate Agents, and Widmer End & District Funeral Directors, this amateur community production aims to raise vital funds for Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity – proving that rock and roll really can make a difference.

Get ready to laugh, sing and rock out for a cause that matters. Visit [fnhospice.org.uk/schoolofrock](http://fnhospice.org.uk/schoolofrock) to grab your tickets now!

## Those were the days!

On holiday in Cornwall recently, I spotted the note on this old petrol pump apologising for having sold out at two shillings and three old pence per gallon!



For those not familiar with gallons rather than litres and pre-decimal currency, I calculate that to be the equivalent of 2.97p per litre – *such a shame they had sold out!*

*James Adam*



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## Defibrillator locations

Unless otherwise stated, these defibrillators are available 24/7. The postcode is required by emergency services.

**AC Parish Council Office**  
(in the park) HP22 5HL

**Buckland Parish Council Office**  
(Village Hall) HP22 5JB

**Baptist Church**  
(Green End Street) HP22 5EX

**Guide Hut**  
(Aylesbury Road) HP22 5AJ

**Pilates House**  
(35 Brook Street) HP22 5ET

**Aston Clinton School**  
(8am-5pm, Mon-Fri) HP22 5JJ

## ASTON BRIDGE CLUB



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For more information, contact: 07814 108162  
or [astonbridgeclub@gmail.com](mailto:astonbridgeclub@gmail.com)

## A Blast from the Past

*The early bird catches the worm, so when I made the effort to arrive at Aston Clinton Park at 8am on Saturday, May 17 in my 1938 Brooklands bodied MG (note the pointed tail), I was hoping for a slice of the action. It was the Aston Hill Centenary with over 60 pre-war cars taking part and several hundred others awaiting their arrival at the top of the hill.*



I was lucky enough to be the first to set the ball rolling at 10am up the London Road with the Clerk of the Course as passenger. There was a big crowd, much waving and cheering as the MG's racing engine cleared its plugs and gave a roar but of course, there are speed limits and speed bumps, and, as number one control car, we had to behave. Up the London Road to the Tring roundabout, back down to the first left hand turn-off, up the road past Stablebridge Road and then sharp left - we were on Aston Hill. Now we could go - quickly into second, take the revs to nearly 5,000, quick change across the gate into third, corner coming up, keep it in third all the way, symphonic exhaust. Were we doing 100mph? It felt like it, but I think the speedo hit 55 mph.

We proudly parked in the roped off area in Home Farm waving to friends and so the day went on, full of great machinery. Thank God for mechanical devices, not an electric car in sight!

*Richard Harwood*

## The Bell in 1961

I was recently given a copy of a 1961 edition of Egon Ronay's recommended eating places by my friend Brian Atthews to be placed in the Aston Clinton Village Archive. It contains recommendations covering the whole of Britain.

Brian drew my attention to this particular one, especially the last line!

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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE,  
ASTON CLINTON Nr. Tring

### The Bell

A refreshing deviation from the usual country inn routine. Though proprietor - and very much the patron - Mr Harris, a solicitor, likes to refer to it as a 'pub', it is deservedly famous for its restaurant.

Instead of imitating some plushy inns with beams, oak, copper and candelabra, and charging their sky-high prices, he has established rather a unique type of eating house with Anglo-French bourgeois cooking. I have heard and read writers on food go into raptures over it, thereby doing it an injustice, for it could not - and does not wish to - be compared with French multi-star country restaurants. Do not aim too highly by expecting ambitiously delicate sauces, but you can rely on tasty cooking.

Mr Harris is a charming and active host and his staff exceptionally well trained and courteous.

The wine list is one of the best in Britain and really modestly priced.

*Average bill for two, about £3 - £3-10s.*

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Ah! Nostalgia isn't what it used to be!

*James Adam*



## Why switch to full fibre broadband?

*Do you bank or shop online? Have useful apps on your phone or keep in touch with loved ones on social media?*

Perhaps you regularly stream entertainment such as Netflix or Disney+ on your TV, use digital technology to secure your home or make the most of money-saving smart gadgets?

Whichever way you currently use your broadband in Aston Clinton, the chances are your need for faster and more reliable broadband is only set to increase. That's because as the digital world expands, the less likely it is that your existing part fibre broadband will cope with the demands on it.

You see, the part fibre that you're likely on, is inherently slower and less reliable because fibre optic cables only go as far as a cabinet in your community, after which your broadband travels to your home along out-dated Victorian-era copper telephone wires. In contrast, Gigaclear's 100% full fibre is up to 15 times faster and five

times more reliable because our fibre optic cables go direct to your property.

And for many of you reading this in Aston Clinton, you'll be pleased to learn our full fibre cables are already outside your property - so all you have to do is call our friendly Oxfordshire-based team to arrange an installation.

As for the reason you may want to switch? Well, it's likely you'll find you can enjoy your rocket-fast broadband for less money than you are currently paying!

And for anyone\* with a landline telephone, Gigaclear offers Home Phone, its digital phone service, with packages starting at only £5 per month - and no monthly line rental charges. And you can keep your existing telephone number!

### Want to find out more?

**Visit [gigaclear.com](https://gigaclear.com) or call 0370 774 0514**

\*Please note: we do not recommend you purchase home phone if you are reliant on your landline due to disability or accessibility requirements and do not have alternative means to contact emergency services in the event of a power outage.

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# Emergency

## HEALTH

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

## ENERGY SUPPLIERS

Electricity Emergency	0800 7838 838	
Gas Emergency	0800 111 999	
Water Emergency	0800 3169 800	

## CRIME

Police Emergency	999	
Police non-emergency and Neighbourhood watch	101	www.thamesvalley.police.uk
Childline	0800 111	

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

## EDUCATION

Aston Clinton School	01296 630276	www.astonclintonschool.co.uk
Aston Clinton Pre School	07928 309321	pre-school.acpsmanagement@gmail.com
Noah's Ark (AC Baptist Church)	01296 631824	www.acbc.church

## SPORT AND LEISURE

Aston Bridge Club	01296 630552	astonbridgeclub@gmail.com
Aston Clinton Badminton Club	07958 479690	
Aston Clinton Bowls Club	07885 595447	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	net4alluk@hotmail.com
Buckland & Aston Clinton Cricket Club	01296 631788	www.bacc.play-cricket.com
Colts Kickers      Liam Hickey	07585 119066	
Buckland Book Group	01296 631111	brfletcher@hotmail.co.uk
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 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers	01296 708158	
– Waiting Lists		<a href="mailto:ac.secretary@yahoo.com">ac.secretary@yahoo.com</a>
– Other enquiries		<a href="mailto:ac.gsl@yahoo.com">ac.gsl@yahoo.com</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.ac-buck-db-churches.org">www.ac-buck-db-churches.org</a>
All Saints, Buckland	01296 632488	<a href="http://www.ac-buck-db-churches.org">www.ac-buck-db-churches.org</a>
St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp	01296 632488	<a href="http://www.ac-buck-db-churches.org">www.ac-buck-db-churches.org</a>
Aston Clinton Baptist Church	01296 631824	<a href="http://www.acbc.church">www.acbc.church</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	07749 041434	<a href="mailto:hallandbookingsmanager@bucklandvillagehall.com">hallandbookingsmanager@bucklandvillagehall.com</a>
Churchill Hall		<a href="mailto:astonclintonyouthclub@yahoo.com">astonclintonyouthclub@yahoo.com</a>
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Drayton Beauchamp. Parish Meeting	01296 630396	<a href="mailto:merylnodes2018@gmail.com">merylnodes2018@gmail.com</a>
Buckinghamshire Council	0300 131 6000	<a href="http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk">www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk</a>
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Wendover Heights Veterinary Centre	01296 623439	<a href="http://www.whvc.co.uk">www.whvc.co.uk</a>
Women's Institute	01296 706908	<a href="mailto:b.d.ac.wi@gmail.com">b.d.ac.wi@gmail.com</a>

# How Equity Release is Being Used.



Research from Equity Release lenders suggests more people are using the value within their property to meet their aspirational needs with 20% of new customers are now listing either holidays (11%) or cars (9%) as the primary reason for borrowing. These levels are the highest seen with holidays now the third most popular reason behind home improvements (24%) and paying off debts and mortgages (21%). It has long been forecast that low pension and saving levels coupled with longer life expectancy would result in some turning to their highest value asset to help them meet their essential and/or aspirational needs. Slowly but surely the desire to enjoy retirement is leading some to spend some of the equity they have gained in the last 30+ years on themselves.

Equity release products have come a long way since the 1990's when they had a justifiable reputation of being stacked in the lenders favour. They are very different today. If required, they can now allow full or partial, regular or ad hoc payments to be made to service the interest, they include no negative equity guarantee and offer inheritance protection for beneficiaries. They also can be tailored to provide a lump sum only or a lower initial lump sum with an agreed reserve amount available to 'Drawdown' for future use should an applicant prefer to access more tax-free cash at later points of their life.

Paying off debts/mortgages has remained the most common reason for those taking lump sums in isolation with 26% of applicants doing this. Home improvements remains the second most popular reason, with 11% gifting equity to family members so they can meet their aspirational needs making it the third placed reason followed by the car buyers. Just providing a contingency fund is fifth at 8%.

Drawdown customers favour even more aspirational and lifestyle-oriented uses, with only 16% of applicants primarily using released funds for repaying debts and mortgages – 10% less than lump sum customers and only marginally above the 14% taking out a lifetime mortgage primarily for holidays. My experience is that drawdown customers tend keep a higher percentage in reserve to meet their future, potential, aspirational needs but this can't be measured until they actually take it!

Research suggests homeowners across England have accumulated over £2.547trn worth of equity within their homes with 8.8m people owning their home mortgage free. This equates to about £288,000 of equity per property. At a local level, Buckinghamshire is home to the most valuable property market when it comes to total housing equity. The average home had a value of £447,579 during 2023 and that gives the housing equity estimate £40.6bn across 90,175 mortgage free homes. However, millions more people in England will be approaching or entering retirement with either mortgage or other debt and this might severely affect their ability to live as they would want or even retire at all. So, for some, Equity Release will be an option worthy of consideration. Professional advice is always a necessity to ensure you have considered all the options and help fully understand the illustration you must obtain.

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