

# Village Life

The community magazine  
for Aston Clinton, Buckland  
and Drayton Beauchamp

No. 4 Oct/Nov 2011



Useful info  
Church news  
School news  
Local events  
Clubs & societies

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Haymaking in Stopse Meadow, Buckland  
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# Village Life

The bi-monthly community news magazine for  
Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp  
(formerly The Parish Magazine)

There's nothing like a holiday for restoring a healthy perspective to our lives. Now that the 2011 holiday season has passed for most of us, it is perhaps time to reflect. Not on what we may have lost in terms of income in recent times, but on what we've gained by our good fortune in living here in the United Kingdom.

Despite the recent rioting and looting in our overcrowded cities, we are overwhelmingly a peaceful, tolerant and harmonious society. The exceptions get all the media coverage of course but are confined to those areas where people are denied adequate breathing space. Plants and people cannot flourish if they are overcrowded.

Our communities in this green and pleasant part of England thrive because they have the space denied to others less fortunate. With that space comes contact with nature, an essential factor in human contentment so often missing in our densely populated urban areas.

Instinctive resistance to any threat to the quality of our environment is understandable. Threats come in many forms: too rapid population growth is one; noise pollution and landscape desecration are others. But are these things inescapable if we are to have economic growth for the sake of our children and grandchildren?

The true cost of economic progress is too often underestimated. We tend to measure only what we can see, touch and easily predict. Loss of amenity is more difficult to put a price on.

This autumn will see those with responsibility to balance the competing demands of economic progress and quality of life put to the test. Let us wish them well and hope they have the wisdom and objectivity to make the right decisions.

*Alec Just*  
Editor

# Faith in Politics by David Lidington MP

MY predecessor, Benjamin Disraeli, speaking in Aylesbury in 1861, declared: "The most powerful principle which governs man is the religious principle... A wise government, allying itself with religion, would as it were consecrate society and sanctify the state." It was not, by the standards of the age, an exceptional statement. Wilberforce, Shaftesbury, Gladstone all regarded political action as a manifestation of their religious commitment.

Today, such a statement from a political leader would be greeted with incredulity, even hostility. Religious faith has been pushed to the margins of public debate. Of course there are some good reasons why political language is mostly secular. Politicians (and, for that matter, bishops and other religious leaders) ought to be very cautious before



proclaiming divine approval for a particular policy. I would be hard put to search out some Biblical or doctrinal premise that would lead ineluctably to a particular position on planning law or the level of petrol duty or the best location for the European Parliament.

But I think we're in danger of getting into a position where religion is seen as something that is fine for consenting adults in private but should not be part of public life.

Let me sketch three reasons why this view is wrong. For a start, it misunderstands religion. All three Abrahamic faiths teach that obedience to God has profound implications for how we live our lives in the world. For Christians, loving your neighbour is not an abstract idea but a commitment to be carried out in the time and place where we live.

Second, political debates today are dominated by the immediate. What subject will capture tomorrow's headlines? What can we achieve given the deadlines imposed by the parliamentary year, the budget cycle or the timetable for elections? The Church and other faith groups can help restore the balance by bringing to political debate an understanding of human nature, of social relationships and mankind's relations with the rest of creation.

And this helps explain why many of the longest-established, most successful and innovative voluntary organisations in modern Britain are faith-based. What I see in my constituency surgery is how people at the bottom of the heap in our society need not just help with money but practical love and emotional support. That's something that even the most sympathetic clerk in the Jobcentre or the Benefits Office can't provide but which voluntary and particularly faith-based organisations can and do.

Third, a Christian's awareness of his own sinfulness should make him hesitate before condemning others. In Northern Ireland, individual clergy, both Protestant and Catholic, took the risk to reach out to men of violence in efforts to bring about peace and reconciliation.

A constituency MP is asked for help by constituents who have committed crimes, or misused drugs or alcohol, or otherwise behaved anti-socially. They're not always polite or good at helping themselves. Religion teaches that they are entitled to dignity and respect. God loves them too. I find that's a helpful thought to have in mind.

# St Michael and All Angels

## Forthcoming Special Events

Date	Time	Event
Sun 2 Oct	9.15am	Celebration of St Michael after whom the Church is named
Sat 22 Oct	10am-4pm	Quiet Day at St Leonards – a chance for a few hours' reflection
Sat 5 Nov	6.30pm	Bonfire Party at The Rectory
Sun 6 Nov	6pm	All Souls Service - when we remember loved ones who have died
Sun 13 Nov	11.20am	Royal British Legion Service of Remembrance
Sun 27 Nov	6pm	Candlelit Advent Carols and Communion
Sat 3 Dec	11am-3pm	St Michael's Christmas Fayre in the Anthony Hall

### Other News

St Michael's organ will be taken out of the church and refurbished and reconstructed during October and November. We are expecting it to be back with a much improved sound in time for Christmas. While this is being done, we are using a legacy given in memory of Dick, Vera and Pip Stratford to improve the lighting in the main body of the church. (Apparently, our current lights were designed to floodlight a car park!)

### Aston Clinton Baptist Church

#### Church Office Hours

Monday to Thursday 8am-4.30pm  
Simon's contact details are:  
office 01296 631824; home 631823

#### Activities for the Young

*Weekly Totspot*  
For people with babies or very young toddlers: Tues and Thurs 10-12 noon

#### Activities for Youth

*Weekly* – in term time  
*Youth Café* – 3-6pm on Wednesday  
*Youth Group* – 7.30-9.30pm on Friday

#### Monthly

*Youth Church* – 6pm on 3rd Sunday  
*Escape* – 10.45am on 4th Sunday



## Aston Clinton Ladies Group Forthcoming events

On **Wednesday 19 October** we have "Christmas is a-coming" – seasonal tips and recipes by our very own Irene and Linda. An excellent evening in store!  
Venue: the Guide Hall at 8pm

On **Wednesday 16 November** we will hold our Annual General Meeting and Supper at the Anthony Hall starting at 7.30pm. After the formal business there will be a three-course meal followed by coffee and mints.

On **Wednesday 21 December** come to our Carol Service at St Michael and All Angels Church, starting at 8pm. The service will be followed by coffee and mince pies at Janet's.

New members are always welcome and we will make sure one of the committee meet you as soon as you arrive, so there is no need to feel awkward if you come alone. If you are interested, please contact Sue Sanders on 630740 or Monica Ellison on 630559.

If you are the chairperson or secretary of a local club, society or other voluntary group, **Village Life** is your platform to tell the rest of us about what you are doing and about the benefits of membership. Active local voluntary organisations catering for a wide spread of interests are a sure sign of a thriving and healthy community. Don't be shy! Share the good news! – Alec Just, Editor, email: [alec.just@btinternet.com](mailto:alec.just@btinternet.com)

## GP Corner

Carolynne McKee from Aston Clinton Surgery writes ...

Now summer is over I expect you are all beginning to think about planning for the Christmas Season. But here at the surgery we have the 'flu season to contend with before we can think about anything as jolly as Christmas.

We are doing it differently this year. In the past we have organised clinics according to eligibility criteria and patients have received a letter informing them of the date they should attend. This year we are doing it alphabetically and advertising the relevant dates as widely as possible. (If you've received a repeat prescription recently you will have had this information included).

### The Saturday morning walk-in clinics will be as follows:

If your surname begins with **A-K**  
**22** October from 8.30 to 12am

If your surname begins with **L-Z**  
**29** October from 8.30 to 12am

There will also be an evening clinic with bookable appointments at a date to be advised later. Please ring the surgery for details and also if you need to check your eligibility.

*Best wishes for a healthy winter  
from everyone at Aston Clinton Surgery*



In the August issue of **Village Life** you may recall that Mrs Shepherd, headteacher of Aston Clinton School, reminded us that children learn from what they hear and see. This shortened version of a poem by Dorothy Law Nolte is from a book of the same name in which each line is explained and expanded in subsequent chapters.

## Children Learn What They Live

If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.

If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.

If children live with ridicule, they learn to feel shy.

If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.

If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.

If children live with tolerance, they learn patience.

If children live with praise, they learn appreciation.

If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.

If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.

If children live with honesty, they learn truthfulness.

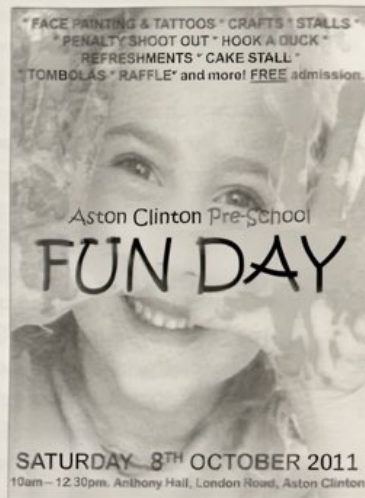
If children live with security, they learn to have faith in themselves and in those about them.

If children live with friendliness, they learn that the world is a nice place in which to live.

*From the book CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE ©1998 Dorothy Law Nolte & Rachel Harris.*

*The poem "Children Learn What They Live" ©1972 Dorothy Law Nolte.*

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## Soul Survivor 2011

THIS SUMMER I went to a youth camp called Soul Survivor, for young people age 12 (school year 8) and over. It's organised and run by Christians, but you don't have to be a Christian to go. There are three weeks to choose from – Week A is held at the Stafford Showground, and Weeks B and C are at the Bath & West Showground in Somerset.

This year, a group of twenty from Aston Clinton Baptist Church went on Week B and joined another 12,000 attending! We were there for five days and, no exaggeration, they were possibly the best five days of my life so far. There were two main meetings every day in the Big Top, a HUGE tent which could fit pretty much everyone in it. The seminars were about both Christian things and also just general problems and issues most young people experience and we got loads of advice on how to deal with them. There were a number of places to hang out and meet new people and just enjoy ourselves. The camp had a brilliant atmosphere with everyone joining in with things that were going on.

A definite benefit from Soul Survivor was that the whole camp was a safe place to be and while we were out enjoying all the activities, we didn't need to worry about our stuff being stolen or damaged.

One of the things that caused great hilarity in our group during the week was 'pegging' people. We were all given some clothes pegs, which we wrote things on like names of our favourite songs or where to find our favourite Bible verses, and we went around trying to clip the pegs on to other people's clothes without them noticing. By the end of the week, because a lot of other campers did it too, I came away with around the same number of pegs that I started off with!

I thoroughly enjoyed my whole experience at Soul Survivor and am really looking forward to going next year. If you would like to know more about Soul Survivor and other similar youth activities going on, please contact Susanna Lampert, the Baptist Church Youth Co-ordinator, on 631356 or 07772 760158.

*Jenny Robertson, aged 14*

*Below: Joy at Soul Survivor camp*



Theatre in the Villages presents

## JOSH'S MONSTERS

A play about parental love that starts with tea and cakes in North Devon and ends on lofty mountaintops and a dusty Afghan desert. Professional actors travelling specially from Devon are to give this performance on

**Friday 7 October in The Anthony Hall.** Doors open 7.30pm.

**Tickets £10** (£8 for under-18s and Passport-to-Leisure holders)

Available from Jeannette Baxter on **01296 630902** or **07966 473379**.



# From Aston Clinton Parish Magazine

## November 1911

**S**carlet fever caused devastating epidemics during the 19th and early 20th centuries and killed nearly 5% of those infected in 1914. Scarlet fever is caused by a bacterium, Group A streptococcus which is the most common cause of bacterial sore throats. Symptoms usually include a sore throat, fever and swollen glands. Scarlet fever has made a comeback in recent years but is now treated successfully with antibiotics.

Typhoid is caught by consuming food or drinks that have been handled by someone with the bacterium or if contaminated sewage gets into water used for drinking or washing food. As with scarlet fever it was very common in Britain during the time of the Industrial Revolution particularly in the ever-growing and overcrowded cities. With chronic lack of hygiene, little knowledge of sanitary care and no knowledge of their causes, their effects were devastating. Nowadays vaccinations are available to protect anyone travelling to a country where typhoid is a problem. The following is an extract from the Parish Magazine of November 1911:

"The outbreak of four cases of typhoid and three of scarlet fever last month gives scope for serious reflection. Time was when Aston Clinton was never free from either. Thanks to sanitary measures within the last 30 years, these terrible visitations have been rare occurrences of late years. Hitherto the Medical Officer of Health has apparently been unable to account for the recent outbreak, though he points out that grave danger lurks in the use of well water after such a drought as we have recently experienced.\* We are glad to hear there are no fresh cases, but extreme care should be taken that the scarlet fever patients, during the convalescing stage, do not infect others.

"The most frequent causes of typhoid are polluted water or milk, and it is a well known fact that well water is easily polluted by the filtering into the well springs of decaying vegetable matter from the adjoining soil, especially when there are open ditches near at hand. In spite of the verdict of the Medical Officer of Health, we are still of the opinion that no sewage matter should be spread on the soil in the neighbourhood of dwelling houses. On this point we feel very strongly."

*Tilla Adam*

*\* Summer 1911 had been the hottest and driest for many years*

### Parish Council vacancy

Following the article in the August edition of Village Life, four residents applied for the vacancy on Aston Clinton Parish Council. At the September meeting of the Council, the ten present councillors voted in Paul Crook in a confidential ballot.

Paul was brought up in the village and

has followed a career in the RAF. Three years ago he and his wife bought a house in the village. He feels that he has a vested interest in the village, not only as his family home, but also because four generations of his family have lived in the village or nearby. He hopes by serving on the Council he can put something back into the community.

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# Age shall not weary them ...

FOR THE LAST 41 YEARS I have stood with all the residents of Aston Clinton at the Village War Memorial and heard the list of those men who laid down their lives for our freedom. In the 1970s my friend and fellow Churchwarden was George White who survived Dunkirk and then went back to France later in the war only to find himself in the selfsame Flanders fields where his father, Harry White, had fought and died whilst George's mother was still pregnant with him. I later visited Harry's grave.

As I get older, the words of the valediction – "They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old; age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them." – are more and more meaningful.

As a boy I used to stand alone at my village war memorial in the churchyard in Stanmore because my father, who served in the 1914-1918 war, found those words so emotional that he had to sit inside the church. It was only as I grew a little older that I realised why. Those men and women who are still alive and served in the Second World War knew only too well what they were up against. Yet they volunteered and went off to fight. Many of them failed to return and one of them was Robert Winter.

He was a former Aylesbury Grammar School boy and his sister, Betty Evett, is still very much alive and living in College Road with her husband Don and recently they celebrated their Diamond Wedding.

Betty was only 14 and a pupil, as her brother had been, at Aylesbury Grammar School. She recalls:

*My parents ran what was then the village shop (now the Post Office) in London Road. We all lived in the cottage next door, me, my parents and my brother Robert. He was a mischievous lad who loved cycling and would go off for hours on his bike. He left the Grammar School at 15 and worked in the shop with our parents whilst attending what we then called 'night school' to learn engineering, which he loved. One of his first projects was to build his own bicycle. He was always the life and soul of the party and all his friends used to gather in the shop late on a Saturday evening and have a party.*

*Robert joined the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry in 1942 and trained as an infantryman. He went over to France soon*



*after D-day in June 1944 and was badly wounded near Caen. He was sent back to a hospital in Wales. My mother was*

*with him when he died. He was 21½. I had been confirmed at St Michael's Church in the February of 1944 and this picture of us both was taken that day. I miss him still."*

\* \* \*

So as we all gather at our war memorial on Sunday 13th November let us remember not only those who died, but also those like Betty, who live on with only the memory of her brother frozen in time as a 21-year-old. Had he lived, he could have been amongst us still, aged 88, at the war memorial with his old comrades.

*James Adam*



# All Saints Church, Buckland

## Forthcoming Special Events

Date	Time	Event
Sun 2 Oct	9.15am	Murder Mystery Evening – provided by The Thame Players
Sat 22 Oct	10am-4pm	Quiet Day at St Leonards – a chance for a few hours' reflection
Fri 28 Oct	7.30pm	Film Night – first of the autumn
Sun 30 Oct	6pm	Choral Evensong for All Saints
Sat 5 Nov	6.30pm	Bonfire Party at The Rectory
Fri 25 Nov	7.30pm	Film Night

### Arla

Amended plans have been received for the proposed dairy applications:

**11/00962/APP; 11/00963/AOP;**  
**11/00964/AOP; 11/00965/AOP** – Land to east of College Road North, Aston Clinton. The Parish Council objects to this application.

### Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

There is still a vacancy for a parish councillor; if you would like to become a member of the Parish Council, please contact the Parish Clerk, Christine Jensen who will provide you with further information. Please telephone 01296 626073 or you can email [clerk@bucklandpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@bucklandpc.org.uk) or write to: The Parish Clerk, The Village Hall, Halton Village, Bucks HP22 5NG.

### Future Parish Council Meetings

The next planned meetings will be held on 10 October, 14 November and 12 December. Meetings are held at Buckland Village Hall and commence at 7.45pm sharp. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

### Buckland Photographic Competition

Congratulations to the winners of the photographic competition.

- 1st prize** – Emily Barker  
**2nd prize** – Hugh Rowland  
**3rd prize** – Lucy Birkett

The entries can be viewed on <http://bucklandvillage.com>

The front cover of this magazine is the entry submitted by Hugh Rowland.

## Dog litter in Buckland

For the safety of the children in the parish, please ensure that dog litter is collected and removed from the village.

## Planning decisions awaited

**11/00813/APP** – Manor Farm, Main Road, Buckland. Erection of agricultural storage building.

**11/01670/APP** – Hatchways, Buckland Wharf, Buckland. Alterations to existing dwelling comprising demolition of side boiler room, single storey and first floor extensions, single storey rear infill extension and raising of roofline to provide second floor living accommodation.

Theatre in the Villages presents

# QUIRKISH DELIGHTS

Actor, singer and pianist Michael Lunts takes a light-hearted look at the English. Michael includes a sprinkling of comic verse as well as musical offerings from Noel Coward, Gilbert & Sullivan and others, including some of his own creations.

**Buckland Village Hall  
Monday 28 November**

Doors open at 7.30pm

Tickets £10

(£8 for under-18s and  
Passport-to-Leisure holders)  
available from David Lonsdale  
Tel: 01296 631791

## Thames Valley Police

PC Andy Smith attended the Parish Council meeting on 12 September and reported an overall decrease in reported crime of 17% for the Aston Clinton constituency.

Members of the Council reported current concerns in the village, including speeding, particularly at the village cross-roads.

## Ditches

Riparian\* owners of ditches – please ensure you have fulfilled your obligation to maintain ditches and keep them clear of debris before the onset of autumn and winter.

\* *Riparian* = relating to watercourse duties

*Below:* Buckland Town Hall – not Bucks but Buckland, Massachusetts, first settled in 1742.



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# St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp

## Forthcoming Special Events

Date	Time	Event
Sat 22 Oct	10am-4pm	Quiet Day at St Leonards – a chance for a few hours' reflection
Sun 23 Oct	4pm	Choral Evensong for Bible Sunday
Sat 5 Nov	6.30pm	Bonfire Party at The Rectory

### Village Archive Project

Thank you to all who have checked their 'chapter' and who have signed and returned the slip giving permission for the information they have provided about themselves to be included in the book.

At the time of writing (5 September), eighteen replies are still awaited. It would be wonderful to have all of these as soon as possible so that work can then commence on the layout of the book and selection of photographs. I have written the preface and acknowledgements, and am now moving on to the introduction and bibliography so there *is* progress, even if slow.

If there are any contributors to the book who have mislaid the permission slip or even their chapter, do let me know and I will send replacements straightaway.

*Margaret Ross*

### Next Parish Meeting

There will be a Parish Meeting on Thursday 17 November at 8pm at Beauchamp Barn. Please contact the Clerk, Meryl Nodes on 01296 630396 nearer the date for more information. The usual good attendance of villagers is required as the Meeting has been requested by AVDC to prepare a Community-led Plan for the future of the village. Questions on Future Development and infrastructure are to be discussed and other comments will be noted.

*Meryl Nodes*

### Beekeeping project at Painesend Farm

We hope to report progress of this ongoing project in the next issue of **Village Life**.

The Editor ([alec.just@btinternet.com](mailto:alec.just@btinternet.com)) welcomes news of local events in both Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp. As a non-commercial community magazine, **Village Life** cannot afford to employ reporters to scour the area for news. Instead, we rely on you to let us have news you feel will be of interest to other members of the community. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and subject to the availability of space.

# Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp Horticultural Society

THE Society's 54th Show and Fete was held at Aston Clinton School on Saturday 20th August. Despite showery weather, visitors enjoyed all the fun of a village fete, organised very ably by Maureen Ridler, and also enjoyed looking at the splendid show entries. Our band, Vintage Brass, provided music throughout the afternoon.

Exhibitors began arriving soon after 7.30am to arrange their entries in the old Victorian Clock School. Dahlias in particular need to be selected with care and arranged with great precision if they are to win prizes.

This year we had fewer entries than normal, probably due to a particularly difficult growing season. David Elkins was once again highly successful in the vegetable section and received a total of six cups and the Bankside Medal for the competitor gaining most points in the Horticultural Sections of the Show (the winners of this medal in the previous three years are always excluded from winning).

The following were notable winners who received cups, trophies and medals:

**Vegetable Section** – David Elkins, Ralph Weston, Ann Elkins and Chris Oxley

**Flower Section** – Andrew Barrow, G&C Hollingshead, Joan Allen, Frank Pulling, Chris Oxley, David Ridgway and Ann Elkins

**RHYS Bankside Medal** – David Elkins

**Novice Sections** – J. Caldwell and Russell Potton

**Floral Art Section** – Frances Farley

**Domestic Section** – Elizabeth Weston, Rebecca Potton and Rosalinde Nicholls

**Children's Sections** – Felicity Nicholls and Bryn Rolfe

**Children's Fancy Dress** – Benjamin Potton

**Handicraft Section** – Ros Needham and Ann Elkins.

Our Autumn programme of Wednesday illustrated talks and events includes:

**12 October:** 'Swifts: Why are we losing them' by Peter Gulling.

**26 October:** AGM followed by wine.

**9 November:** 'Springtime in Crete' by Beryl Hulbert.

All are welcome to our monthly meetings; visitors are charged for entry, but new members are welcome. Membership costs £5 per year for which you get regular talks; visits and two shows per year plus regular newsletters.

For more information: Please contact Maureen Ridler (secretary) on 633376 or Ralph Weston on 630456


Email: [muchpottering@btinternet.com](mailto:muchpottering@btinternet.com)

*Photo: By kind permission of The Bucks Herald*



*Right: Horticultural Society member Bill Penney inspects the prize dahlias. Bill will celebrate his 100th birthday this autumn.*





# The Arla issue

ARLA Foods is a multinational cooperative dairy company incorporated in Denmark and owned by Danish, Swedish and German dairy farmers. As most of us are aware by now, their proposal to build on agricultural land, close to Buckland and Aston Clinton, what is expected to become the largest raw milk processing and distribution plant in the world has aroused very strong local opposition. **ACRID** (Aylesbury Chiltern Resistance to Inappropriate Development) is the residents' lobbying group co-ordinating that opposition.

On their website **ACRID** say this:

"Arla are planning to build an industrial complex, including a giant milk processing factory, on 150 acres adjacent to the A41 Aston Clinton bypass, on land supposedly protected by planning rules and meant for agricultural use. This enormous factory – on a site bigger than the Brent Cross shopping centre – will include 32 massive milk silos, a 100,000 square foot energy power plant plus land that will be leased to build enormous warehouses, the kind usually located next to motorways or railway stations. The proposal is contrary to the Local District Plan."

**ACRID** go on to warn us:

"Roads will become thoroughly congested with 5000 extra daily vehicle journeys. Arla HGV routes will include: Aylesbury to the M25, Aylesbury to Oxford, Aylesbury to Milton Keynes, Aylesbury to the M40. All roads in between will be affected. The factory will operate 24/7, creating noise, distraction, oppression and pollution, made even worse by the volume of traffic. Arla alone will add 1000 extra daily lorry

journeys. There'll be 40 lorries per hour, every hour, day and night 24/7."

**ACRID** also wants us to be aware that:

"A massive car park will hold 1200 cars. The area will be an industrial site, ruining the landscape and destroying the countryside. Within six years the site may well be a European mega dairy processing milk only from non-UK countries."

.....

The Arla proposal is controversial on many levels. The proponents say that the project will bring much needed jobs to the area and will act as a catalyst in the economic regeneration of Aylesbury Vale as a whole. The opponents say that even if the economic benefits actually happen, the cost would be too high in terms of landscape desecration, noise pollution and traffic congestion.

Ultimately every big project has to withstand a cost/benefit analysis in order to justify the commitment of scarce resources. The difficulty lies in defining first, what is meant by cost – and secondly, who is to benefit. Historically, proponents of large public sector projects have tended to overestimate the benefits and underestimate the costs (often grossly so). For obvious reasons private sector projects are usually more rigorously costed; however the loss of amenity for those affected by a large capital project is often under-compensated.

On economic grounds, the argument for the Arla proposal is difficult to deny. Unless new industrial activity comes to Aylesbury Vale, employment prospects for a growing population will continue to decline. On the other hand, the true costs of the project must fairly include the necessary infrastructure changes needed to avoid the dangers so clearly identified by **ACRID**.

*Continued overleaf*

## Arla (continued)

If planning permission is granted to the Arla proposal (and AVDC are already signifying their support), approval would be contrary to the current District Plan under which the site is designated for agricultural use only.

Many of us are aware that the government is in the process of changing planning rules in favour of development in certain areas currently zoned for agricultural use, provided a compelling case is made. Whilst this may be good news for some owners of agricultural land, it does come as a shock to those of us facing the prospect of cherished landscape lost forever to industrial development, not forgetting the possible consequent impact on house prices!

However, there is a possibility that Arla's planning application may be referred to the Secretary of State since it raises some very serious public issues in weighing the benefits of economic development against the costs of environmental desecration, noise and light pollution, and traffic congestion.

Arla themselves are naturally keen that you are aware of the care and thought they claim to have put into the planning of the project and have supplied **Village Life** with the following statement.

## Key facts— according to Arla

### Why Aylesbury?

"Although many sites were assessed, this is the only site in Aylesbury Vale which meets Arla's requirements.

*Aylesbury offers the best logistical and sustainable solution, situated between the farmers who will supply the milk and the customer base."*

### The dairy

"The dairy would process and package up to one billion litres of milk a year from British farms.

*The dairy would be one of the most environmentally advanced in the world and Arla would seek to deliver a zero carbon facility with zero waste to landfill using advanced construction techniques, process technologies and cutting edge renewable energy solutions.*

The building could be a beacon for inward investment and a showcase of sustainable development helping to reinforce a budding environmental cluster in the county."

### The local economy

"There is a need to create jobs and invest in Aylesbury. The Buckinghamshire Economic and Learning Partnership's research shows that total employment in Aylesbury Vale fell by 4,500 jobs in 2009. Lloyds Banking Group announced in the media it will relocate more than 700 jobs out of Aylesbury in 2011.

*Subject to planning, the dairy would create almost 700 new jobs which will be advertised locally. If typical of other Arla dairies, the vast majority of the employees (including drivers) would live within a 20-mile radius of the site.*

Arla would invest £150 million with no grant funded support.

*The dairy would deliver a £20 million annual wages bill, much of which would benefit local shops, businesses and leisure facilities.*

Up to 1,000 construction jobs created."

### Transport

"It would take some time for the dairy to reach capacity, but when it did it would result in an average of 20 lorries accessing the site each hour.

A



*A number of mitigation measures would be instigated to ensure there is capacity on the routes they would use.*

A transport routing plan for Arla vehicles would be agreed with the authorities and Arla vehicles would be fitted with trackers to enforce this.

*Arla lorries would use the strategic road network only and not local village roads or B roads. Arla lorries would not be routed through village roads in Buckland, Aston Clinton or Weston Turville.*

The dairy would increase traffic on the A41 towards Aylesbury by approximately 3.2% and on the A41 towards London by approximately 3.5% (based on traffic counts on Aston Clinton Road undertaken in 2010 and the data provided by Bucks

**ARLA:** "The dairy would increase traffic on the A41 towards Aylesbury by about 3.2% and on the A41 towards London by about 3.5% ..."

County Council). Arla would route as many of its vehicles as possible onto the A41 towards London. This bypass has a two way daily capacity of approximately 75,000 vehicles and it currently has a two-way flow of around 23,000.

*Significant improvements are proposed to install signals and widen the A41 at the Oakfield Road/King Edward Avenue and Bedgrove/Broughton Lane junctions in order to reduce current congestion in the area. Currently these junctions do not have sufficient capacity and are a major cause of congestion into and out of Aylesbury.*

A new shuttle bus service, pedestrian and cycleway improvements would provide colleagues with sustainable options to reach the site.

Shift patterns would be designed to avoid peak hours to minimise road impact and a car sharing scheme would be created.

### **The community**

"Arla encourages community involvement at all of its sites and is committed to doing so at Aylesbury.

*The proposal includes a visitor centre to which local schools, community groups and businesses would be invited.*

Arla supports training and apprenticeship opportunities.

*Mitigation measures have been sought to minimise or eliminate the effects of building the dairy in Aylesbury and Arla has made many changes to the master plan following consultation, in order to seek to be a good neighbour.*

A Community Liaison Group would be created to enable local people to interact with the Arla team on a regular basis."

.....

There you have it. Arla Foods UK plc, the UK subsidiary of a Danish co-operative, intends to build the largest milk processing factory in the world on our doorstep. For those living in Buckland and in parts of Aston Clinton close to the proposed site, the prospect of an industrial plant where there are now fields is profoundly disagreeable.

Arla may succeed in their planning argument that a huge milk processing and distribution plant is a justifiable use of land zoned for agriculture. It may be more difficult to argue that the additional traffic will not displace existing traffic onto local roads and so nullify or reduce the public benefit provided by the A41 bypass.

You've seen the arguments for and against and perhaps you now know a little more about this highly contentious issue.

*Alec Just*

# Useful telephone numbers

for Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp

Name	Contact/Line status	Telephone no.
1st Aston Clinton Brownies	Tracey Howe	01296 630099
2nd Aston Clinton Brownies	Cheryl Muirhead	01296 630827
Amersham Hospital		01494 434411
Anthony Hall (Bookings Sec)	Valerie Owen	01296 630303
Aston Clinton Baptist Church	Simon Downing	01296 631824
Aston Clinton Parish Council	Claire Hill	01296 631014
Aston Clinton School	Helen Shepherd	01296 630276
Aston Clinton Sports & Social Club		01296 631818
Aston Clinton U3A	John Bullard	01296 436403
Aston Park Tennis Club	Luanda Bury	01296 630169
Ballet, Tap and Jazz Classes	JoAnn Latus	07800 518654
Ballroom Dancing	Yvonne Domican	01296 630467
Baptist Church Hall	Jo Drury	07813 106205
Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Hilda Higenbottom	01296 632586
Bowls Club	Rosemary Stratfull	01296 631339
Buckland Bridge Club	Viv Barton	01296 630776
Buckland Parish Council	Christine Jensen	01296 626073
Buckland Society	Nigel Hayward	01296 632094
Childline		0800 1111
Citizens Advice Bureau		0870 126 4056
Cricket Club	Mike Parsonage	01296 631788
Crimestoppers		0800 555 111
Dentists' Surgery		08443 756336
Dial-a-Ride		01296 330088
Doctors' Surgery		01296 630241
DB Parish Meeting	Meryl Nodes	01296 630396
Electricity Emergency		0800 7838 838
Environmental Health	Out of hours	01296 585093
Environmental Health	Helpline	01296 585605
Fly tipping	Hotline	0845 330 1856
Football: Aston Clinton FC	Mark Foster	07831 765738
Football: Aston Park FC	Ken Workman	01296 631504
Football: AC Colts	Ray Lucas	01296 630076
Gas emergency		0800 111 999



Name	Contact/Line status	Telephone no.
Green Park Life Saving Assocn	John Lessingham	01296 622613
Guides	Sue Wall	01296 632142
High Wycombe Hospital		01494 526161
Highways on Call	9am – 5pm	0845 230 2882
Highways on Call	Out of hours	01296 486630
Horticultural Society	Maureen rifler	01296 633376
John Radcliffe Hospital		01865 741166
Ladies Group	Irene Wharton	01296 630195

#### **Local Councillors:**

Bucks County / AVDC	Bill Chapple OBE	01296 426814/382095
Aylesbury Vale	Carole Paternoster	01296 630710/585717
Aylesbury Vale	David Thompson	01296 425656
Aylesbury Vale	Phil Yerby	07769 621507
Luncheon Club	Marion Richards	01296 630577
MP for Aylesbury	David Lidington	020 7219 3432
Neighbourhd Watch Administrator	Helen Thomas	01296 396262
Neighbourhood Watch, Buckland	Edwin Domican	01296 630467
NHS Direct		0845 4647
Old Friends	Selly Clarke	01296 630207
Police	Non emergency	0845 8505505
Pre-School	Kathryn Sykes	01296 630518
RAF Halton (Mon-Fri )	0800–1700hrs	01296 656367
RAF Halton	At all other times	01296 656211
Rector	Revd Elizabeth Moxley	01296 632488
Royal British Legion	Janet Tye	01296 434866
SSAFA Forces Help	Ann Smith	01296 631030
Stoke Mandeville Hospital		01296 315000
Tot Spot (Baptist Church)	Nicky Downing	01296 631824
Trading Standards		0845 4040506
Veterinary Centre		01296 630600
Women's Institute	Sylvia Darling	01296 631574

*Any errors or omissions in the above lists should please be notified to the Editor.*

## **Police information**

The Police Community Support Officers who have been assigned to the area are Mandy Aplin and Christina Pringle. Wendover Police Station is open to the public: Monday to Friday, 9am–1pm. The non-emergency number is 0845 8505505.

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