



Village Life

The community magazine
for Aston Clinton, Buckland
and Drayton Beauchamp

No.6 Feb-Mar 2012

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Village Life

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

IT'S ARGUABLE that one of the characteristics of a healthy mind is that of hope: a conviction that things will get better. Hope is one of the foundations of most religions and is part of what it is to be human. It provides the energy and enthusiasm to sustain us as we face the many difficulties we encounter on life's journey. Once lost, hope is hard – but not impossible – to recover.

The positive quality of hope is a theme running through this issue of **Village Life**. We can be hopeful that there's a generation of young would-be entrepreneurs eager to rebuild our nation as we read on page 5 of Enterprise Week at Aston Clinton School.

On pages 14 and 15 is a heart-warming story by Margaret Ross about how hope can be restored to disadvantaged children and adults through contact with horses. Debbie and Dave had been running 'Horses Helping People' on a small scale at Drayton Beauchamp for some years. They've now secured a bigger site near Mentmore which will enable them to expand their activities. They deserve our support.

The theme of hope is continued as we read on page 16 the story of how three women who lost their jobs in a travel firm decided to start one of their own, undaunted by the challenges they face. Their enthusiasm is inspiring to others.

Lastly, some of you will have heard the news that Basharat, our local postmaster for seven years, is leaving us in March. He is returning to Pakistan to marry and start a new life. We send him our thanks for many years of friendly and helpful service from his counter in Aston Clinton Stores. He will also take with him our hopes and best wishes for a happy and fulfilled life back in the land of his birth.

Alec Just
Editor

Letter from the Baptist Minister

Dear Friends

By the time you read this, we will have truly entered 2012, and will be getting on with our lives as normal. As I watch the television and read various articles, I suspect that you, like me, are quite concerned about the future. In the realms of politics, economics, and even ecology, it often seems that the world is somewhat out of control. Many feel a sense of foreboding; waiting for the next crisis to begin.

We are quite sheltered from some of these things in Aston Clinton, and we have much to be grateful for. All of us have food on our plates, money to spend and roofs over our heads—this is quite apposite because it is pouring outside, as I write! Being thankful is so important—it is health for the soul.

We are all given opportunities to help each other, and we will have times this year

to express the better qualities we each possess. No matter what the future holds, we do not have to let it swamp us. At the Baptist Church, we have recognised on a number of levels recently, just how important loving each other is. A number of sad issues have happened, but I believe that they can be used to develop us. As the saying goes: life can either make us bitter or better.

We are also underpinned by an unshakeable confidence that God is everlasting and is sovereign over the affairs of this world. As that is so, we open our doors to you, that you might experience something of this as well.

God bless you in 2012.

Reverend Simon Downing



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



From Aston Clinton Parish Magazine

October 1911 *selected by Tilla Adams*

“A GENERAL ANNUAL MEETING of the football club was held in the Anthony Hall on September 8th. As our readers know, last year's achievements in the football field were brilliant, and our team established an Aston Clinton Record in the way of successful matches played. But, strange as it may sound, precisely because our team was so strong and successful, the financial results were all but fatal to its continued existence. Many of the League matches have to be played far from home. Our eleven were hard to beat, and for that reason, they had to encounter many a team before they were knocked out, so each success meant another long journey and

additional expense. It was, in a sense, fortunate that they were beaten before the final; otherwise their deficit would have been greater still. As it is, they started the year over £4 out of hand. We are happy to say that the deficit was wiped out. Lord Rothschild and Mr Bathurst have kindly agreed for this occasion to cover the deficit. At the General Meeting it was suggested that the parishioners should be invited to support a team which reflects such credit on our village. A team such as ours proved itself to be last season, deserves all encouragement and we are certain that Aston Clinton will back it right heartily.”

In its 120th season, Mark Foster, chairman of Aston Clinton FC, writes:

ASTON CLINTON FC was formed in 1892 and continues to thrive in the village with three adult teams and numerous colts junior sides. We have successfully had our centenary and this has been commemorated by the FA of England with their congratulations and we proudly possess a memento of this achievement.

We currently play football at Aston Clinton Park which is maintained by the Parish Council. We play in the Spartan South Midlands League and the Aylesbury and District League.

We have had numerous successes over

the years winning, among other titles: the Oving Village Cup, the Field Shield, the Marsworth Cup, the Aylesbury and District League and Cup competitions, the Wycombe and District League and Cup competitions and the Spartan South Midlands League and Divisional Cup.

We have had many players and managers during this period and all of them have helped us with our achievements. Our standing, respect and hospitality have all increased during this period, a total of 119 continual years.



Village Life relies on the support of its advertisers. In turn, they need your support to ensure the success of your community magazine.

Vale of Aylesbury Plan

As mentioned in the last issue of Village Life, Aston Clinton Parish Council was asked to identify the views of the residents as to the level of future development and infrastructure in the Parish of Aston Clinton until the end of 2031 for The Vale of Aylesbury Plan. To obtain as wide a view as possible, a questionnaire was circulated with the magazine to all the households in the parish at the end of November. 155 completed questionnaires were returned.

Housing Of the questionnaires returned, 60% were in favour of future housing developments. However, the majority indicated that only between 26-50 new homes should be built in the parish during the next 20 years. Many made the observation that all new houses should be built with off-street parking and there should be no communal parking areas.

More than 75% were in favour of houses being built that were either 'affordable homes' or for rent by local people. A similar number felt that a retirement home or sheltered housing should be available in the parish.

Nearly 80% were against the building of larger houses (3+ bedrooms).

Employment On average, 80% were in favour of future employment being in Aylesbury or

Aylesbury Vale, with far less in favour of more employment opportunities in Aston Clinton. If there were to be any, they should be only small company developments and no large employment units.

General The overwhelming view expressed in the completed questionnaires was that there should be no development outside the curtilages of the village or on green belt land. It was strongly felt by households that the village should remain a village and maintain its own identity and not, through further development, be joined with another area or town.

The majority of requests with regards to local amenities were: an increase in the number of doctors in the village, direct transport to Stoke Mandeville Hospital (and to a lesser degree High Wycombe Hospital), a pedestrian crossing located in London Road near the Anthony Hall and the availability of broadband in the village.

The Parish Council would like to thank those who returned the questionnaire. Also, a big thank you to those who delivered it around the village - your help was very much appreciated.

Cllr. Richard Maskell

Cllr John Watson writes:

The Parish Council Christmas float raised a great total of £725 and, after expenses were deducted, the money was distributed between the Iain Rennie Hospice (£350) and the local Guide and Scout group (£180 each). We could not have raised this money without the generous help of Mr Colin Lane of

C D Lane Builders who supplied transport and his time driving around the village. Also, thanks to the parish councillors and the Guides and Scouts. Thank you to all who helped and to all who generously gave.





Aston Clinton School

Head: Mrs Helen Shepherd



Enterprise Week

At the end of last term we held our very first Enterprise Week across the whole school. We wanted the children to develop their design and technology skills in a practical and relevant context. We also wanted to emphasise the business skills that are necessary when making and selling a product.

In their classes, the children discussed and decided on the products they would like to make and sell; they then organised themselves into small teams to make the products. The classes had been given a £30 loan to buy items or materials from school or shops to make their products. The children were only given the afternoons for this and so learnt a lot about time constraints; having to work together effectively; using materials sparingly and also about quality control, as poorly made products were rejected!

The atmosphere across the school all week was filled with the voices of excited, enthusiastic and engaged children. This was learning for a purpose and a life skill they could really get their teeth into. The week culminated with an Enterprise Fayre when the children set up stalls to sell their class products to the rest of the school. Because we wanted this to be a whole-school event that brought all year groups together, it was decided that the children would go into the hall as sellers or buyers in their houses. So blue house sold to green house, then they swapped over, then yellow and red houses went in to sell and buy.

As Headteacher I had the privilege to

watch children from reception to Year 6 selling their wares and being shoppers for the morning. The buzz in the hall was tangible. The sellers were using every persuasive trick they could think of to sell their products. We learnt we had some natural sales men and women! The buyers were overheard discussing whether they thought an item was worth the price being asked and making decisions about what to buy with the two pounds they had brought in. For many of them, this was the first time they had had complete control over how to spend their money, as there was no adult guiding them, and they thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

During the Fayre there were several competitions running and being judged by visiting governors of the school. There were awards for best-presented stall, best product and best customer service to Key Stages One and Two. There was also an overall prize for the most profit made after the £30 had been paid back. The tension in the room when these were announced made us all realise how competitive we all are – children and staff alike!

The week was hard work, but very worthwhile. The children and staff learnt a lot about what sold well, how to price things competitively so you sell out but still make a good profit! I cannot wait to see what products they come up with next year, now they have some enterprise experience behind them!

Helen Shepherd

Aston Clinton & District Royal British Legion Branch

THE ROYAL British Legion in our village is active throughout the year. In particular, we all look forward to the activities during the run up to Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday, a poignant time of the year when we remember those men and women who sacrificed their lives in the Great War and subsequent wars and conflicts. Their gift to us is the freedom and quality of life we enjoy today.

Following the fantastic attendance of villagers at the Remembrance Service on Sunday 13 November, not forgetting the gathering on 11 November at the War Memorial, I felt I must put pen to paper to express the thanks of the Aston Clinton RBL branch for your support at that time. I would also like to thank the Parish Council, in particular Teresa Kirkland, who liaised with the police and local organisations to ensure the day ran smoothly; also a thank you to the Rev. Elizabeth Moxley who led our respects; the Air Training Corps who provided a marching contingent, but most of all THANK YOU.

I now ask for your support in another way, as I would like to encourage you to join our

ranks by becoming a member of our branch. Excepting January, we meet at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of each month in the Aston Clinton Sports and Social Club. The dates for 2012 are:

February 14, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, October 9, November 13 (AGM) and December 11.

We have recently elected a new and enthusiastic chairperson, Mrs Lee Lawson, ex RAF, who is ably assisted by a capable committee and our newly elected president, Squadron Leader Paul Crook, who joined the RAF in 1983 and remains a serving officer, whilst residing in the village.

New members of the Branch do not need any experience of service life, as our unity springs simply from not forgetting those who have sacrificed their lives for us in the past and those who continue to make the ultimate sacrifice today.

At our first meeting of 2012 on Tuesday 14 February, we have a superb speaker: Tony Eaton, who is going to talk about the "The Rudolph Hess Cover-Up" and why he was in Scotland during World War II. Please come and join us.

Janet Tye, Secretary
Aston Clinton & District RBL
Tel: 01296 434866

Ralph Weston writes:

Ken Brooker, the Poppy Appeal organiser, wishes to thank all those who gave their time collecting, plus the generous donations given to the 2011 Poppy Appeal. The branch raised a total of £5499. Thank you all most sincerely.

Proceeds of the appeal go towards the work of the Royal British Legion, providing welfare to the whole Armed Forces family – serving, ex-service and their dependants – and not just those who fought in the two World Wars,

but also those involved in the many conflicts since 1945 and those still fighting today.

Whether funding Personnel Recovery Centres offering the very best in rehabilitation care for the wounded, adapting a home to make it suitable for a disabled young soldier, or providing support such as pension advice or bereavement counselling – their welfare work is a lifeline for thousands of serving and ex-Service people and their families.

RAF Association Aylesbury and Halton Branch

Meetings held in Building 259 at RAF Halton on first Wednesday in every month at 7.30 for 8pm (save for March AGM)

Entertainment Diary

Wednesday 14 March AGM

Meet the officers and committee members. Voice comments and criticisms plus members can vote for a new committee. Finger buffet provided. Non-members welcome to attend.

Wednesday 4 April Social Evening and Presentation. John Bates to talk on the restoration of B17 Flying Fortress, No. 441. Finger buffet provided.

For further information please contact :
Ray Mockford on 07771 591 586 or
Derf Mockford on 07775 664 064

Appeal for RNLI Collectors

Dennis Trebble is a retired school master who lives in the village. For the past two years he has been the sole collector for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution annual door-to-door collection that takes place in April. As a result, he has not really been able to fully cover the village during his excursions with the collecting box.

Dennis would be grateful if you would be willing to help him in the coming year to support this very worthy cause. He would be able to equip you with an official collecting box, ID badge and lapel stickers. The collection usually takes place in the last fortnight of April – the precise dates to be announced.

The RNLI receives no government funding and exists solely on public donations. Please contact him on **01296 630930** if you think you may be able to help. His email address is: d.trebble@btinternet.com

*The Editor is always pleased to
receive news of people and events.
alec.just@btinternet.com*

Celebrate at Aston Clinton's Party In The Park

3rd June 2012 from 1pm



Your Village
Invites You

to participate for free with your local
community, fun for all ages.

If you are a resident, business or organisation and would like to support or take part in this community event, please contact lindy.mooney@tiscali.co.uk
All ideas welcome.

Supper Quiz

St Michael and All Angels
Saturday 11 February
The Anthony Hall
7 for 7.30pm

For further information
please contact
Marion Richards on 630577

A Winter Walk and a Warmer

A five- or five-and-a-half-mile walk from Aston Clinton Church to the Café in Wendover Woods and back.

Approximate time: 2½ hours not including the stop at the top.

Walk to Church Lane or drive there and park outside the Church [1]. Walk on down the lane past the entrance to the Cricket Ground and through the gate. Continue down the track and at the end of the cricket field turn sharp left, keeping the cricket field on your left. After 200 yards turn right through a metal gate and carry straight on through two more kissing gates onto a well mown path then through the hedge at the end and cross the bridge over the stream [2] onto Halton Airfield.

Turn sharp left and continue on until you reach the corner of the airfield. Continue straight on onto a gravelled path through a copse. At the end of this path bear left between high wooden posts and then immediately right onto the track and over Hare Lane Bridge [3].

At the end of the bridge turn immediately right down the embankment for 20 yards and where the path divides go left up the footpath through the woods. It winds until it meets a wide track with large concrete barriers on your left at the junction. Turn right along this yew-lined track until it reaches the metalled road [4] (leading down to Halton House).

Turn left up another yew-lined track until it comes out again onto the same metalled road [5] and then follow the road up a few yards to the Upper Icknield Way. Cross this road with care into Mansion Hill.

Where Mansion Hill turns off into the estate, keep straight on into Wendover Woods and take the left hand wide track (the

bridleway). Continue on this track right up the hill. Where it meets the metalled road bringing cars up from the left, keep straight on to the Café in the Woods [6].

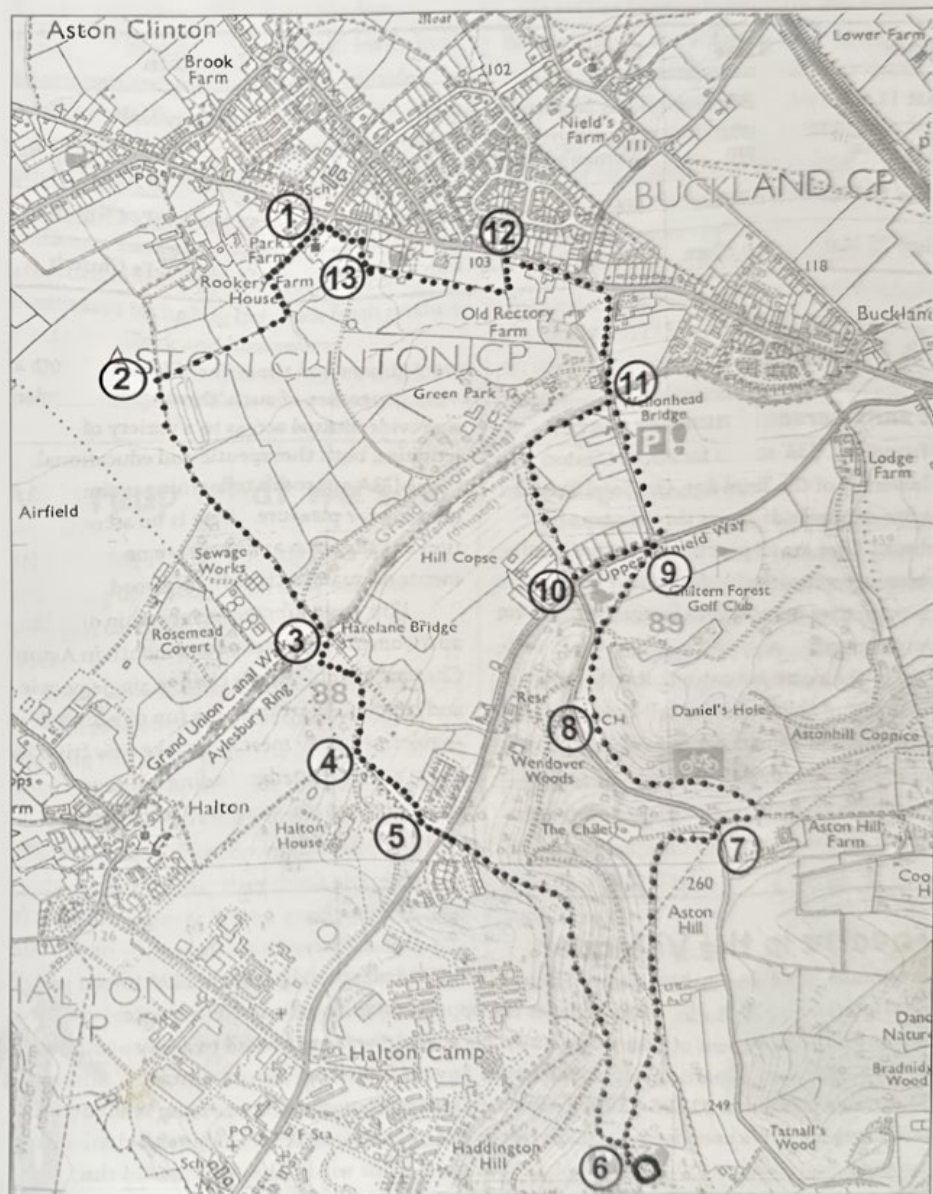
Suitably refreshed, return back down the same metalled road (marked NO ENTRY on the road) past the children's playground on your left, keeping to the right hand side of the road. After 900 yards the metalled road bears off down to the left but carry straight on (on a level track) through a single bar gate. Continue on this track and through a high metal fence with a kissing gate and follow the track with a chain link fence on your left. At 'The Chalet' turn right and right again and you soon come to Aston Hill [7]. Cross the road and turn left down Aston Hill and immediately right onto a footpath with a fence (and the Car Park) on your left. After 350 yards turn left onto a marked footpath. This winds down the hill quite steeply to the golf clubhouse [8]. Follow the white posts which mark the path. At a convenient bench the footpath bears off to the left and takes a long curve to the right before reaching Upper Icknield Way [9].

Here either continue straight down Stable Bridge Road to London Road or turn left up the road for 400 yards to Cobblers Pits [10]. Turn right and join the footpath into the wood and carry on down to the canal. Turn right along the towpath and under Stable Bridge. Then turn immediately right up the steps to Stable Bridge Road [11]. Turn right again and follow the pavement to London Road. Turn left and follow the pavement until you are opposite No. 114 when you can turn left [12] into a footpath in the woods or carry on on the pavement and, opposite No. 108, turn left onto the same footpath. At this point enter an arm of Aston Clinton Park on a footpath. When you reach the park

itself turn right along the worn track past the pavilion and through the car park. At the end of the car park turn right into Park View [13]. Pass two detached houses on your left and

then turn left along the footpath back to the start in Church Lane. *James Adam*

Map reproduced with acknowledgement to the Ordnance Survey



The Winter Walk (published in December on non-facing pages in error) is repeated for the benefit of those who were deterred from healthy exercise by the inconvenience caused.

St Michael and All Angels

Regular Services 9.15am and 6pm each Sunday

Forthcoming Special Events



Date	Time	Event	Location
Sat 11 Feb	7.30pm	Quiz Night with Supper	Anthony Hall
Fri 2 Mar	2pm	Women's World Day of Prayer	St Michael's Church
Sun 18 Mar	9.15am	Mothering Sunday Service	St Michael's Church
Sun 25 Mar	10.30am	Annual Parochial Church Meeting	St Michael's Church

ACU3A

A zany personal number plate?

Wrong! 'ACU3A' stands for Aston Clinton University of the Third Age. Our local branch is one of hundreds across the country and abroad. They are all part of an international voluntary network of independent learning co-operatives for people no longer in full-time employment.

The U3A name indicates that, after the 'first age' of childhood and full-time education, and the 'second age' of work and raising a family, there comes a 'third age' of retirement when people are free to get together to follow interests for which they previously

may not have had time. The U3A represents a coming together of such 'third agers' in order to provide mutual access to a variety of activities, both therapeutic and educational.

The U3A approach to learning is simply learning for pleasure. There is no accreditation or validation and there are no assessments or qualifications to be gained.

ACU3A has a vibrant membership of men and women who meet once a month in Aston Clinton. Membership is open to single people and couples. Apart from the fun of learning, it enables people to meet and make new friends. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the secretary, **John Bullard** on **01296 436403**.

Theatre in the Villages

The annual 'Theatre in the Villages' programme brings professional performances to rural locations across Bucks, giving villages the opportunity to host and co-promote events for the enjoyment of their community. Local organisers are invited to apply for an opportunity to participate in the scheme. Anyone interested should contact **Jeannette Baxter** on **01296 630902**. The menu for promoters to choose from will be ready very soon. We need decisions made by the end of June so that we can put all the promotion and publicity in place ready for the autumn. This will be the 14th year of the scheme, which is supported by Aylesbury Vale District Council in partnership with Wycombe and South Bucks District Councils. As it is also the year of the Olympics and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, it is hoped that some really good shows will be on offer in 2012.



Book your Village Market stall

For the fourth year running, Aston Clinton School Association will be holding its hugely successful Village Market on Sunday 13 May and would like to invite local businesses and organisations to consider booking a stall.

Taking place on the school grounds, stall pitches start at just £20 and are a great way to advertise your business to a very captive audience. Last year, over 1000 visitors attended and supported over 60 local businesses including hot food, fresh produce, crafts, jewellery and homewares.

In this economic climate, supporting local business has never been more relevant and

we are extremely proud of our past efforts to promote the diversity of industry in our area.

As well as helping to raise valuable funds for the school, our Village Market now has a reputation for being an enjoyable day out for the whole family with pony rides and a selection of arts and crafts for children to do. This year we would like to invite local musicians to consider coming along and 'busking' for a short period too.

If you would like more information on booking a stall, please contact Mrs S Winfield on 01296 631115 or Mrs S Hewson on 01296 631890 or, alternatively, email info@acvillagemarket.co.uk.

We reap what we sow

IN BYGONE TIMES, a young man was trundling up a steep road between two villages, carrying his belongings on his back.

The road was long and, as he reached the church just outside the second village, looking tired and glum, he encountered the wise old village priest. He told the priest:

"I'm coming to your village because I don't like the village down the road. Nobody speaks to me; they don't share anything. They never have a good word to say about me – it's really not very pleasant living there. What's your village like?"

The priest replied: "You'll find it pretty much the same, my friend; pretty much the same."

A couple of days later another young man with a sad face approached the church from the opposite direction.

The priest asked him: "Where are you going?" He told the priest that he had been laid off and was forced to go to the

next village to find work.

"I'm so sad to be leaving this village. The people are so friendly and helpful. I give them eggs from my chickens and they give me vegetables from their gardens. I ask after their children and they always remember my birthday. It's like a big happy family."

Then he asked the priest:

"And the village down the road. What's it like? Do you know?"

The priest replied: "I think you'll find it pretty much the same, my friend; pretty much the same."



Please mention Village Life when responding to advertisers

All Saints' Church, Buckland

Regular Services:

11am Morning Worship – First and Third Sundays

6pm Choral Evensong – Fourth Sunday each month



Forthcoming Special Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Tue 21 Feb	12-4.30pm	Pancakes for Shrove Tuesday	All Saints' Church
Fri 24 Feb	7 for 7.30pm	"Flicks in the Sticks"	All Saints' Church
Sun 18 Mar	4pm	Mothering Sunday Service	All Saints' Church
Sun 25 Mar	7pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting	All Saints' Church
29-31 Mar	7.30pm nightly	Film Festival	All Saints' Church

Buckland Bridge Club

We meet at Buckland Village Hall every Friday 9.45am -12 midday. The club is suited to players who can play the game but need practice before going to EBU affiliated clubs or just want a fun game of bridge. The format is a short instruction, coffee and biscuits, followed by a friendly duplicate competition. The cost is £5 per session. You do not require a partner. I am a professional bridge instructor with the EBU and a qualified club director. Do come along and meet us all and make new friends –for more information call 01296 630776. A new course for absolute beginners will start in September 2012. *Viv Barton*

Next Parish Council Meetings

Next scheduled meetings are as follows:

13 February, 12 March and 12 April.

Meetings are held in Buckland Village Hall and begin at 7.45pm sharp. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Buckland Village Hall

To make Buckland Village Hall bookings, contact Paula Graves on 01296 630310.

Flicks in the Sticks

- 24 Feb **Life is Beautiful**
Roberti Beligni's wonderful film; bring hankies!
- 29 Mar **Silent Movies**
- 30 Mar **The Italian Job**
The original version
- 31 Mar **Sound of Music**
Sing-along!

Showings at All Saints' Church at 7 for 7.30pm. Tickets £10 each to include supper and a glass of wine or soft drink. Special Offer: come to all three March showings for only £25. To book, or for more information contact Alison Roberts on **01296 630256**.

Arla

It appears that the development has been put on hold because evidence of Roman settlement has been found on the site of the proposed mega-dairy. The report of the archaeological survey will be published shortly. Arla themselves say that they will issue a press release in February with information on current progress. Read more in the April issue of **Village Life**.

Night of Quirkish Delight in Buckland

A PACKED AUDIENCE at the Village Hall on 28 November enjoyed a highly polished and witty performance by Michael Lunts, with his production of 'Quirkish Delight'. After many years' absence, I was pleased to re-introduce 'Theatre in the Villages' to Buckland.

Drawing on the very finest comedy songs in the English language, from both sides of the Atlantic, Michael provided much laughter and applause. He combined his skill on the keyboard, whilst regularly switching characters during his faultless renditions. He included a wide range of musical offerings, from Noel Coward, Gilbert and Sullivan, Flanders and Swann and many more.

Hopefully the news of this highly successful performance will spread and encourage those 'stop-aways' in the village, to attend some of the performances in this year's

forthcoming season (the 14th) which runs between September and December.

To continue seeing professional actors and musicians perform in our local community, we need to show our support of the worthwhile 'Theatre in the Villages' scheme.

Anyone interested in helping to organise further performances, should contact Jeannette Baxter (see foot of page 10). She will furnish them with the programme for next autumn, so they can choose from a list of shows which cover all age groups and which they consider suitable for their village.

My next event is a return of The Oxford Fiddle Group for a Charity Concert at Victoria Hall, Tring on Monday 17 June 7.30pm.

Details available from **01296 631791**.

David Lonsdale



Photo: David Lonsdale

St Mary's Church, Drayton Beauchamp

Regular Services:

10.45am each Sunday

Forthcoming Special Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Wed 7 Mar	8pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting	St Mary's Church
Sun 18 Mar	10.45am	Mothering Sunday Service	St Mary's Church



Horses Helping People

"HORSES HELPING PEOPLE" are moving. Debbie La-Haye and Dave Johnson now have planning permission to move their Therapeutic Horsemanship and Western Riding Centre at a new site near Mentmore. After an 18-month search for suitable land, they have secured 22 acres with the potential to purchase further acres in the future. After three years in their present location on the Puttenham Road in Drayton Beauchamp, Debbie and Dave have become only too aware of the frustrating constraints which limited space imposes on their work. The extra space in their new setting will allow them to develop their work along lines they have long dreamed about. There will be an indoor as well as an outdoor arena, safe riding tracks around the fields, an orchard and vegetable garden, and the space to use horses to work the land.

The philosophy behind Horses Helping People is that horses can be partners in therapeutic work with disadvantaged people, both children and adults.

Those coming to the stables include children diagnosed as being on the autistic spectrum, children with cerebral palsy, adults with addiction issues, depression and other mental health problems, and carers for others. Some come for training before working in similar Centres, and there are Open Days and sponsored weekends. Mature volunteers able to work alongside the clients are carefully chosen by Debbie and Dave.

There are ten horses at the stables, all hand-picked for particular traits and qualities. Horses, Debbie and Dave believe, quickly pick up on a person's emotional mood and energy level. Actually riding the horses is only one part of what happens at the stables. Observing how horses behave and communicate, how they maintain boundaries, how assertive or submissive they are, and so on, teaches valuable lessons to vulnerable individuals who are wrestling with similar issues. Mental well-being can be enhanced by the calming effect of stroking a horse and by realising that one

can communicate with and manoeuvre such a large animal. The move itself will teach valuable lessons to clients, encouraging them to think about this major change from the horses' point of view – how unsettling it may be for the animals, what they need to help them feel safe, etc.

Clients are referred by clinical psychologists, Social Services Departments, schools, general practitioners, and so on. Some refer themselves or a family member. Goals may be set in advance by a client, and compared with the goals which the referrer may hope the client will achieve. What happens in each session is tailored to the needs of the individuals attending. Some clients are funded by their local authority, so a 12-week course consisting of 2-3 hours each week is a useful guide, although open-ended work is also offered. Sessions can be run for individuals or small groups – a group of four is ideal, but some larger groups can be accommodated.

Horses Helping People is not a charitable organisation, but rather a not-for-profit

'Community Interest Company' which is required to run as a sustainable business, re-investing any surpluses in the business. Some external funding is, however, available, and help has been given by Buckinghamshire Community Foundation and the European Social Fund, among others. Special mention should be given to the Aylesbury Vale Community Chest, which has been very supportive of Horses Helping People, currently providing three years' revenue funding.

Fortunately, Horses Helping People will still be located in Aylesbury Vale so will be as easily accessible as it is at present for both referrers and clients. Mentmore Parish Council have already been supportive of Horses Helping People during the planning process and Debbie and Dave are looking forward to being part of their new community. If anyone would like more information, or to help with fundraising for the new facilities, please call **01296 632680** or visit their informative website www.horseshelpingpeople.co.uk

Margaret Ross

"Drayton Beauchamp: The Village That Time Passed By"

AT LAST, and after four years of hard work, the book about our parish has just been published. Margaret Ross has researched the history of the parish to build up a picture of it over the centuries. She has also looked at the history of each house, farm and other property, and has talked to many current and previous residents. David Lonsdale, meanwhile, has compiled a photographic record of the parish, past and present.

This unique record of the village, which consists of 168 A4 pages with 20 additional pages of photographs, is available for the modest sum of £10 per copy. Postage, where

required, will be £3.95 extra because of the size and weight of the book. Collection or delivery locally can be arranged at no cost.

To order a copy (or several), contact either: Margaret Ross, Beauchamp Barn, Drayton Beauchamp (**01296 630098**) or e-mail margaret@margaretross.co.uk or David Lonsdale, The Old School House, Drayton Beauchamp (**01296 631791**) or e-mail lonsdales@hotmail.co.uk

There will be a celebration of the book's publication on Sunday 22 April from 2 to 5pm at Beauchamp Barn. All who live in the parish (or who have lived here in the past), and all who have contributed to the book, are welcome. It would be helpful if you would confirm with Margaret in advance if you plan to attend.

When misfortune can be an opportunity

THE YEAR 2012 looks like being yet another when, through no fault of their own, more people will suffer the anxiety and trauma of becoming unemployed. The solution for many of those brave enough to have a go is to set up their own business. I was curious to know more about a local example of enterprise in the face of misfortune. So I visited the offices of the recently-formed Travel Expressions Ltd in Tring for a chat with its three inspirational directors.

Sue, Sarah and Michelle had worked together for many years in a medium-sized travel agency. Following a re-organisation of the company, Sue and Sarah found themselves without a job. On the day in November 2010 that Sue learnt that they were to be made

she got back in January 2011 (by which time Sarah had also left), she and Sarah spoke again to Sue's friend and asked lots more questions. They also spoke to a number of tour operators who were all very positive and supportive so, with current prospects of employment in the travel industry being far from rosy, it seemed to be 'now or never' with a business venture of their own.

So it was that, about a year ago, Travel Expressions Ltd was born. Michelle joined Sue and Sarah at the beginning of May. From offices in Tring, they set about letting the world know they were open for business. First, they created a website describing how they were different from high street travel agencies. Between them, Sue, Sarah and



Sue, Sarah and Michelle

Michelle have a lot of experience in the travel business. They each specialise in particular parts of the world: Sue is passionate about Europe, Australia and Africa – especially beautiful Botswana; Sarah has extensive knowledge of New Zealand, Canada and the USA; and Michelle specialises in the Caribbean and Middle East in

addition to Europe. With 2011 exceeding their cautious expectations, their belief that the world is a wonderful place, full of discoveries to be made and enjoyed, looks like being shared in 2012 by many new friends and clients.

Although it's early days, with many uncertainties ahead, these three women have the greatest possible motivation to create a successful new business. Their story is an example to others that, given personal qualities of courage and conviction, losing your job can be as much an opportunity as a misfortune.

Alec Just

redundant, she went to a travel company brochure launch dinner in London. She sat with a friend with whom she had shared a room on a Botswana familiarisation trip the year before. When Sue told her about being made redundant, the friend explained how she had set up her own travel agency and said that Sue should seriously consider doing the same. Sue then floated the idea to Sarah and Michelle but, as they were both still working, it was difficult to discuss and there was a lot to think about.

Sue left the company in December and went on a family holiday to Australia. When

Aston Clinton, Buckland & Drayton Beauchamp

Horticultural Society

WE have an interesting and varied programme of events for the coming year. Among the upcoming highlights are our 16th Annual Spring Show on **Saturday 31 March**. Not to be missed! A few weeks later on

Wednesday 9 May Margaret Deakin will give an illustrated talk on 'Highlights of China'.

On **Wednesday 13 June** Edwin Rye will return to talk on one of his favourite subjects: 'David Austin Roses' and then also in June we have a visit to



his garden in Wendover, always a delight. Personally, I'm looking forward to the advice we'll get at Waterperry Gardens in February (date to be confirmed) when hopefully I will learn how to prune my fruit trees.

Our Society will again take part in the Flower Festival in St Michael's Church and have a stall at the Village Market in Aston

Clinton School on Sunday 13 May.

Our meetings are held in the Anthony Hall and start at 8pm. They are free to members but £2 to non-members who are warmly invited to come along.

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Sue Lipscomb
Chairman

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2nd Aston Clinton Brownies	Cheryl Muirhead	01296 630827
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Anthony Hall (Bookings Sec)	Valerie Owen	01296 630303
Aston Clinton Baptist Church	Simon Downing	01296 631824
Aston Clinton Parish Council	Claire Hill	01296 631269
Aston Clinton School	Helen Shepherd	01296 630276
Aston Clinton Sports & Social Club		01296 631818
Aston Clinton U3A	John Bullard	01296 436403
Aston Clinton Youth Club	Brian Churchill	01296 630142
Aston Park Tennis Club	Luanda Bury	01296 630169
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Baptist Church Hall	Jo Drury	07813 106205
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Bowls Club	Rosemary Stratfull	01296 631339
Buckland Bridge Club	Viv Barton	01296 630776
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Environmental Health	Helpline	01296 585605
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Football: Aston Park FC	Ken Workman	01296 631504
Football: AC Colts	Ray Lucas	01296 630076
Gas emergency		0800 111 999

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Highways on Call	Out of hours	01296 486630
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Trading Standards		0845 4040506
Veterinary Centre		01296 630600
Women's Institute	Anne Floyd	01296 434372

Any error or omission in this list should 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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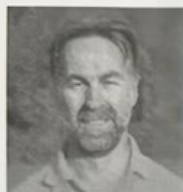
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