



# Village Life

The community magazine  
for Aston Clinton, Buckland  
and Drayton Beauchamp

No. 7 April-May 2012

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Features  
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# Village Life

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

THIS ISSUE of **Village Life** marks the end of the first year of the relaunched Parish Magazine, now designed to have a wider appeal to the whole community, whether regular churchgoers or not.

Achievement is a theme running through this issue. On page 2, David Jackson describes how, after over a century of use, the church organ in St Michael and All Angels has been given a new lease of life following years of fund-raising. And read on page 4 of the latest benefits for Aston Clinton that have come from our local councillors' membership of the Wendover Local Area Forum.

Helen Shepherd tells us on page 5 how inter-house competitions are encouraging the pupils at Aston Clinton School to gain a sense of achievement, itself a spur to further ambition and success.

Ben Reid, an ex-pupil at ACS, is well on his way to realising his dream of representing GB at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Russia. Read more about Ben on page 6.

The unfashionable virtue of thrift is the subject of Tilla Adam's dip into the archives on page 9. Those Victorian villagers must have felt a sense of achievement when they could finally afford to buy something they needed with money saved with the Aston Clinton Penny Bank. No flexible friends in those days!

How glowingly fit we shall all become if the plans to install exercise stations in Aston Park described on page 11 are realised!

Lastly, may I remind you that the second half of **Village Life** is packed with information about local trades and services of all kinds. Their support makes this magazine possible. They deserve yours in return.

*Alec Just*  
Editor



# Restoration of the Organ at St Michael's

AFTER TEN YEARS of fund-raising, we have nearly reached our target of £70,000 to pay for the refurbishment of the organ.

In 1894, the renowned organ-builders, Norman & Beard were commissioned to provide a two-manual organ at a cost of £280 to stand on the site of the present console in the chancel. The action would be pneumatic.

In 1968, at the inspiration of Rev. Dennis Davies, it was decided to move the whole organ to the West end of the church on a gallery built for that purpose. The work was carried out by Messrs Crabbe, a small local organ-builder. Apart from the action, which had to be electric, nothing was changed.

In 1981, in view of the difficulty in accompanying the choir at such a distance, David Jackson proposed that a chancel organ should be situated behind the organist. Roy Bullivant constructed this with three ranks and some extension, and played on the Great manual.

In 2012, the organ being basically 118 years old, things started going wrong: sound boards were cracking; glis-glis (edible dormice) were frequent visitors, chewing away the cork stoppers of some pipes; additional ranks of

Revd Andrew Allen and organist David Jackson examine the organ console at Peter Collins' workshop at Melton Mowbray.



Photo: Roger Powell



Photo: Hilary Weston

The cleaned and restored pipes re-assembled in the organ loft at St Michaels and All Angels.

pipes had been installed in a haphazard layout and there were difficulties in tuning the far side of the organ, as the tuner had to crawl under the swell-box (and above the bellows) for access.

Peter Collins, our organ builder, has come up with a scheme to correct all this by completely rebuilding the organ with new components, all digitally controlled from the console, together with some extension work. In addition, because of a complete lack of space, he has provided a digital 16ft Principal at the West end, and a digital 16ft Bourdon on the Chancel organ. He has also brightened up the whole façade of the organ, now shown off to best advantage by our new lighting system.

The organ and new lights were dedicated by the Bishop of Oxford at the Candlemas service at St Michael's on 2nd February last.

Here's to the next 100 years!

*David Jackson*



# St Michael and All Angels

Regular Services 9.15am and 6pm each Sunday  
and Evening Prayer at 7.40pm each Friday



## Easter Services

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun 1 April	6pm	Choral Evensong for Palm Sunday	St Michael's Church
Mon 2 April	8pm	The Stations of the Cross	St Michael's Church
Maundy Thursday	7pm	Last Supper Service	AC Baptist Church
Good Friday	12 noon	The First Hour	St Michael's Church
Easter Day	9.15am	Easter Communion	St Michael's Church

## Forthcoming Special Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sat 21 April	7pm	Concert, Aylesbury Music Centre with William Harding School	St Michael's Church
Sat 28 April	12 noon	Organ Fund Lunch	'Sorrel'
Sat 12 May	Evening	Barn Dance	Anthony Hall
Tues 15 May	7pm	Coffee Evening	'Pollensa'

## Village Market coming soon!

SPREAD THE WORD, FOLKS, this year's Village Market at Aston Clinton School will be bigger and better than ever.

We want to make the market a great day out for everyone and new for this year will be local musical entertainers to provide the ultimate 'festival' feel as you browse the stalls. When you're shopped out, visit our Clock School Café for a well-deserved cuppa. Or for those fancying something a little stronger, this year's market will include a Pimms Tent ready to quench your thirst!

Many of last year's stall-holders have booked to return alongside some exciting

new stalls selling beautiful vintage furniture, delicious bread and mouth-watering cheese amongst others.

As always, the children will be entertained with some craft-making, pony rides and, new for this year, an old-fashioned swing boat ride.

So please put the date in your diary now and make sure you come along. Stay for lunch, take home dinner and enjoy a wonderful day out with friends and family!

### ASTON CLINTON VILLAGE MARKET

Aston Clinton School, Sunday 13 May, 11-4pm

For more information, visit our webpage at  
[www.acvillagemarket.co.uk](http://www.acvillagemarket.co.uk)  
or visit our Facebook page.

# Local Area Forum helps AC clubs

Wendover Local Area Forum (including Aston Clinton, Buckland, Drayton Beauchamp, Halton and Weston Turville) is open to anyone who lives, works and learns in this area. You are welcome to come along and take part in discussions about local issues.

By attending your Local Area Forum you will benefit from:

- information on Council services and Council policies affecting the local area;
- the opportunity to give your input on issues that affect your neighbourhood;
- a mechanism to have your say on any issue related to Council business;
- an opportunity to put forward your suggestions to your councillors for allocating their Neighbourhood Funds.

The next Wendover Local Area Forum (LAF) is at 7pm on Wednesday 4th April at Weston Turville Village Hall and will include updates on local council and police services and a review of the events taking place in the local area to celebrate the Olympics and Jubilee.

The 'Wendover Decides' project has finished, a project which gave local people a say in how they would allocate £10,000 to LAF's local priority projects. The projects were decided at a meeting of people of all ages. They were projects of benefit to both old and young by supporting local activities, facilities, and services in the Wendover LAF area.

Twelve projects were put forward; these varied from supporting young carers to play equipment for Weston Turville park.

Aston Clinton Parish Council worked with village clubs and put forward three projects:

- Activities and transport for members of Aston Clinton Luncheon and Old Friends Clubs.
- Transport to activities for Aston Clinton Youth Club.
- Support for the Baptist Chapel Youth Café.

Funds were distributed in accordance with the number of votes cast for each project across the whole area, as follows:

Aston Clinton Luncheon and Old Friends Clubs ... ..	£891.04
Aston Clinton Youth Club ... ..	£529.35
Aston Clinton Baptist Chapel with Wendover Youth ... ..	£2000.50

The Local Area Forum would like to undertake a similar project to Wendover Decides in the new financial year (starting April 2012). This time it would run over a longer time span, be simpler to operate, have wider publicity and, it is to be hoped, greater public participation.

The role of the Local Area Forum is to strengthen local democratic accountability by empowering locally elected councillors to take decisions, shape and influence service delivery and Council priorities in the local community area. Membership includes County, District and Parish Councillors and representatives from the Police, Health Authority and other organisations. Local people are encouraged to participate, and there will be time set aside at each meeting for public questions. *Cllr. Richard Maskell*

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If you are the chairperson or secretary of a local club or society, **Village Life** is your platform to tell the rest of us about what you are doing. 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)





# Aston Clinton School

Head: Mrs Helen Shepherd



As our school grows and it becomes more and more difficult to hold whole school events, we have made a concerted effort to use our house system to ensure there are positive interactions between all the year groups. As children join our school, they are placed into one of four houses. The house names are Birch, Collyer, Griffin and Taylor. They were chosen by the School Council and originate from the war memorials local to our school.

Children earn points for their house within the classroom. They can be for their work, good manners, kindness, perseverance ... in short anything that shows hard work and effort. Just by turning up to school, the children earn house points. The total percentage of children in each house in school each week is converted into bonus house points! This can make all the difference some weeks between first and second place.

This year we expanded the interhouse competitions so that there is a sporting event each half term. The children get points for participation, but also for the final results. Bonus points enable attributes such as sportsmanship to be recognised and celebrated too. We feel the children have benefitted from the opportunity of working with other children from across the school. It was truly delightful to see the year six children running alongside the reception children in the interhouse cross country. They showed themselves to be considerate of the needs of the youngest children and encouraged them all the way around the

course. Recently we had a fitness circuit in the hall where the class order for participation was mixed up so the younger children could watch the older ones before having a go. Once again the older children proved to be fantastic role models.

Last term I was approached by two year-six boys with the idea for an interhouse quiz. This idea was eagerly taken on board as it would allow the children who are less interested in sport to have an opportunity to shine. So after February half term the children in each year group entered a quiz and earned points for their house. The three top scorers for each house were selected to go in to the grand final. Each day for a week in late February the assemblies were taken over by the first Aston Clinton school quiz. Each year group was allocated a day for their Grand Final and the rest of the children sat enthralled as the audience. I saw many children counting the correct answers for their teams as they went along! Each team had a specific time in which to answer questions and the questions covered things from topics they had covered in class to general knowledge. Over the week their scores were added to the accumulating total. On Friday the scores were announced.

These opportunities are so valuable for all children. To be part of a team and develop loyalty, comradeship, perseverance, as well as doing your bit for the team, are important lessons to learn.

*Helen Shepherd*



## Aston Clinton's 2014 Winter Olympics hot prospect

BEN REID from Aston Clinton is 19 years old. He's also an extraordinarily good skier; so good, in fact, that he was picked to open the Men's Senior FIS Tour Slalom at Westendorf, Austria in January. He's on course for his target of representing Great Britain at the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Russia.

Ben first started skiing at four years old at Hemel Hempstead Dry Ski Slope, and also went on annual skiing holidays with his family. At the age of 12, he decided he wanted to become a professional Alpine FIS Ski Racer.

His family has set up 'Team Reid', a support organisation to mobilise sponsorship for Ben. With that support, he's already spent three years' full-time training with the best ski coaches in Austria with two years to go before 2014.

Ben is a great role model and an inspiration to the young people of Buckinghamshire to excel in their chosen sport. To complete his final period of training and challenge the

world's best in competition, he needs as much support as possible.

Ben has come to a milestone within his initial 7-year ski racing plan. This season sees the third anniversary of him living in Austria full-time. He has also recently moved from living at the Hotel Kramerwirt into his own apartment giving him more independence and closer access to SportMed and his training slopes. Over the past three years he has received a huge amount of support (these



Ben Reid in action on the slopes

supporters can be seen on Ben's website: [www.benreidski.blogspot.com](http://www.benreidski.blogspot.com)). If you would like to find out how to support Ben, go to [www.teamreid.co.uk](http://www.teamreid.co.uk)

## Why make the trip to the tip?

AYLESBURY VALE District Council is introducing a new garden waste collection service. Aston Clinton residents will be one of the first to be given the opportunity to sign up to the service before it's made available to the rest of the Vale later in the year.

For an annual subscription of £36 you'll receive a 240-litre brown bin, which will be collected fortnightly until November. You can

join the garden waste collection service at any time.

The Council is withdrawing its garden waste bag collection service in September 2012, so sign up for a brown bin if you'd like the council to take away your garden waste.

For any queries, please contact Aylesbury Vale District Council on 01296 585510, or email [gardenwaste@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](mailto:gardenwaste@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk) or, for more information, visit our website at [www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/gardenwaste)

# Aston Park Tennis Club

**Volunteer: Somebody who works without being paid.**

IN 1992 a group of dedicated individuals did exactly that to make possible the formation of Aston Park Tennis Club situated in Aston Clinton Park. Raising the money to construct three courts, obtaining the necessary planning permission, recruiting the support of the Parish Council and the local community may have seemed like a daunting task. Nevertheless, they tackled the problems and overcame all the obstacles to achieve their goal. Twenty years later they would, and should, be proud of their achievement, not only as a result of being able to play tennis themselves but for the many since then who are able to enjoy the game of tennis locally.

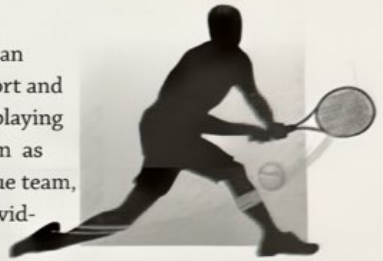
The club is still going strong with tennis beginners, and teams in the local leagues. And today, the current team of volunteers face the daunting task of reconstructing the playing surfaces, and updating the facilities to meet demanding modern standards. A lot has already been done. Planning permission is in place, the club is supplying plenty of opportunities for both adult and junior players in coaching and competition. In recognition of these achievements the LTA has recently awarded Clubmark accreditation to the APTC. If you are not aware of Clubmark, it was introduced by Sport England in 2002 and is currently being implemented across thirty-four sports. To obtain Clubmark we have been required to meet core standards in management, policies and procedures, programme and planning. Currently, there are over 900 Clubmark LTA accredited places to play in the UK, with a further 600 working towards the best practice accreditation.

When watching Wimbledon, Olympic tennis this year, or any of the other Grand Slams, one could be forgiven for assuming

that tennis is an individual sport and it's true that playing the game, even as part of a league team, is a fairly individual activity.

However, when it comes to administering the sport, a very different picture emerges. Those early volunteers and the current team that runs Aston Park Tennis Club could never have succeeded without an extraordinarily high degree of outstanding teamwork.

Although the club plays all year round, the new season begins on 1st April with the AGM on 18th April. The new committee will follow the example of those volunteers who started it all off in 1992, and continue to provide a warm welcome for anyone who wants to play tennis. Contact Luanda Bury on **630169**.



## The wisdom of crowds

IN 1906 Francis Galton made his discovery of what is known as the wisdom of crowds. He attended a farmers' fair in Plymouth where he was intrigued by a weight-guessing contest. The goal was to guess the weight of an ox when it was butchered and dressed. Around 800 people entered the contest and wrote their guesses on tickets. The person who guessed closest to the butchered weight of the ox won a prize.

After the contest Galton took the tickets away and analysed them. He discovered that the average guess of all the entrants was remarkably close to the actual weight of the butchered ox. In fact it was under by only 1lb for an ox that weighed 1,198 lbs. This collective guess was not only better than the actual winner of the contest but also better than the guesses made by cattle experts at the fair!





# Party In The Park

**3rd June from 1pm**

Dear Resident,

**You are Invited**  
to celebrate the  
**Queen's Diamond Jubilee**  
in Aston Clinton Park.

Bring a picnic or sample the goodies on offer.

Enjoy the central arena and participate  
in sporting activities or sit back, relax and let  
the various groups and bands entertain you.

There will be an  
afternoon tea marquee,  
bouncy castles, candy floss, stalls,  
popcorn, ice-cream, punch & judy,  
and children's craft corner.

Tug of war for all ages.  
Enter the adults cake competition,  
children's royal theme  
fancy dress and talent show.

**Prizes for winners!**

Yours faithfully  
**Aston Clinton Parish Council**

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# Aston Clinton Penny Bank

(from Aston Clinton Parish Magazine April 1884)

Selected by Tilla Adam

*Tilla writes: There was an article in the February 1882 Parish Magazine about a Penny Bank which was started in Aston Clinton in November 1881. The Penny Bank was a philanthropic organisation aimed at providing a means of saving for the poor, embodying the Victorian self-help ethos at a time of extreme poverty in industrial Britain. Each depositor was given a bank book in which every penny paid in was entered and acknowledged by one of three Trustees. These Trustees were then the depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank and were jointly and severally answerable to the small investors. The extract below is from the April 1884 magazine.*

“THE completion of the first cash book in which are recorded all the transactions of the Penny Bank seems a fitting occasion for briefly reviewing the course of business. It is to be understood that the Penny Bank is nothing else than a collecting agency for the Post Office. It receives pennies where the Post Office will not receive less than a shilling, and the Penny Bank agents take the trouble of calling upon the depositors, where the Post Office must of course require them to bring their deposits themselves. In Aston the agents who give their services with ready kindness are the District Visitors, and they render for nothing a service which any Insurance Office would charge as much for as the deposit itself amounts to.

Thus, for instance, for every sixpence put into an Insurance Office which sends agents to collect the premiums, at least five pence must be paid for management and agency. In the Penny Bank the management and agency cost nothing at all. But there is a farther recommendation for the Penny Bank. The

money is quite safe; directly it is received it is paid into the Post Office, and a receipt for it is given by the Rector in the bank book of each depositor. That the money is so invested is vouched for by the Trustees, Lady de Rothschild, Mrs Cyril Flower and the Rector. Of course, except these Trustees and in particular the District Visitor receiving the payments, no one is allowed to know anything of the amount standing in each person's name. The interest is not large (2½% per annum or six pence in each pound) but is guaranteed by Government and is perfectly safe. The Government does not allow interest on any sum under a pound but the Penny Bank allows it on all sums over ten shillings.”

*In 1884 the total number of depositors had reached 129. Unfortunately, I have been unable to find any further references to the Penny Bank in Aston Clinton. How long it lasted and what happened to the scheme, I do not know. If anyone does know it would be interesting to hear. – T.A.*

## Reputedly heard in church (not in St Michael's of course)

The Low Self Esteem Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

The sermon this morning is 'Jesus Walks on Water'. Tonight's sermon is 'Looking for Jesus'.

The Rector will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing 'Break Forth Into Joy'.

Back in the days when I worked in an office for a living (weekends off/money into my account at the end of each month/lobster for lunch at the Pont de la Tour – that sort of thing) I harboured fantasies of giving up the Big Smoke for a life more ordinary. I imagined myself with a handsome husband in a chocolate-box cottage in a pretty rural village, wearing a floral tea dress, smiling children playing happily at my feet.

Fast-forward seven years – the husband scrubs up alright. The chocolate-box cottage is a chilly and somewhat damp three-bed semi. The pretty rural village is indeed both pretty and 'sort-of' rural (at least it will be until Europe's largest Bottling Plant is built at the bottom of the garden). There are a few floral tea dresses in my wardrobe although the ones that get worn are obviously those with a pattern to hide the shiny smears of snot or flying splashes of spaghetti sauce (ergo those that can go in on a 40 degree wash and, if hung up to dry properly, don't need ironing). As for the smiling children? Well, there are four of them now. Oh, and I forgot – the playing happily at my feet



part. Well, they do play. It's just more often than not at the expense of each other's happiness. And my sanity, of course.

As a born-and-bred Londoner, I firmly considered myself to be a city girl through and through. However I recently found myself stranded on Park Lane, on a Sunday morning, unable to get on a bus because I didn't have the exact fare. I balked at the cost of a single journey and it hit me. I'm now a tourist in the city. My parents go to casinos and nightclubs. I go to Book Club. My friends take the night bus. I drive one. I used to have a mind, but then I had children.

So, I've decided there must be more to me than wiping bums and bogies. I want to expand my repertoire and dip a toe back into the figurative waters of my life before children. Not, that is by, going back to my old job at a now-defunct tabloid newspaper (yes, THAT one) but here, in **Village Life**, with this column. I will attempt to entertain you with my often ridiculous experiences of motherhood, my village life and quite how different it all used to be. See you next time ...

*Kelly Cornish*

## BCC Committee meetings now webcast

BUCKS County Council have decided to webcast their Council Committee meetings on a 12-months' trial basis.

They will be available both as live transmissions and to watch afterwards on the webcast portal. Webcasting of Council meetings is aimed at increasing public awareness and transparency of Council decision-making. The twelve-month trial started in January and will cost £18,628, including the installation of dedicated cameras in the meeting

rooms. You can find out about future webcasts at: [www.buckscouncil.gov.uk/public-i.tv/core/portal](http://www.buckscouncil.gov.uk/public-i.tv/core/portal)

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

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# Aston Clinton Park Trim Trail

THE PARISH COUNCIL has investigated options for a 'Trim Trail' in Aston Clinton Park. Currently the Park has an excellent fenced facility for families with younger children and a skateboard area which is also being developed further. The addition of a Trim Trail would build on these facilities with the intention of encouraging all age groups to undertake exercise while exploring the whole Park. A Trim Trail could be used by the occasional visitor and by the serious exercise enthusiast; but most importantly it should be viewed as a recreational activity that can be used by all age groups to have fun while visiting the Park. If this proposal is supported, the exercise stations will be placed around the perimeter of the Park with a cluster of stations around the existing play facilities to cater for the whole family.

The equipment would be provided by an experienced manufacturer who would install each piece with a station indicator sign showing an explanation of the activity; the Council's preferred manufacturer has an attractive portfolio and a good reputation for the quality of their equipment and after sales service.

Additionally, the company supplies a data board to direct Park visitors around the activities. It is proposed to finance the project through development money available to the village for the improvement of recreation activities.

Having explored the type of equipment available and where it should be erected the Council considered it was appropriate to consult the village community to assess the Trim Trail's viability before committing significant funds to the project and building up to eighteen individual Trim Trail equipment stations. Consequently, the Council would like to invite comment on this proposal to inform a decision on the erection of a Trim Trail in our Park. If you have a view either way please telephone your comments to Claire Hill, the Parish Council Clerk; Monday to Thursday 0930 to 1430 on **01296 631269** or email: [parishcouncil@astonclinton.org](mailto:parishcouncil@astonclinton.org)

Please see the photos below for an idea of the type of Trim Trail equipment that would be erected around the Park. They include: rope bridge, run & jump, low climbing wall, and sit-up station.

*Paul Crook*



◀ Rope Bridge



Run & Jump ▶



◀ Low Wall



Sit-up Station ▶



## All Saints' Church, Buckland

Regular Services:

11am Morning Worship – First and Third Sundays

6pm Choral Evensong – Fourth Sunday each month

10am Midweek Communion each Wednesday



### Easter Services

Date	Time	Event	Location
Tue 3 April	8pm	Holy Week Communion	All Saints' Church
Maundy Thursday	7pm	Last Supper Service	AC Baptist Church
Good Friday	1.20pm	Watching and Waiting	All Saints' Church
Easter Day	11am	Easter Fire Family Service	All Saints' Church

### Forthcoming Special Event

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sat 5 May	9.15am	Produce Stall	Buckland Hall Lych Gate

### Springtime WI Meetings

Spring meetings of the Buckland, Drayton Beauchamp and Aston Clinton WI are as follows:

*Wednesday 4 April*

"Singer on The Road" – Malcolm Singer will be talking about his career as a singer.

*Wednesday 6 June*

"Fabric, Fashion and Furniture" – Dru Ellis will be showing us the changes in the use of fabrics from Elizabethan times to the present day.

We meet in the Anthony Hall at 7.45 pm. If you are interested, please contact Linda Mephram on **01442 823562** or Anne Floyd on **01296 434372**.

### Buckland Village Hall

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

### Good neighbours

It was agreed at the Parish Council meeting held in February that efforts should be made for the Parish Council and residents to work in partnership with Arla to ensure that Buckland Village becomes a "Good Neighbour". It was considered that this would be in the interest of all parties.

### Street lighting

The Parish Council will ask Bucks County Council if it can review the decision to remove street lighting.

### Parish Council Meetings

The next planned meetings at Buckland Hall will be held on Tuesday 10th April, Monday 14th May and Monday 11th June. Meetings commence at 7.45pm sharp. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

## Arla site excavation findings

ARCHAEOLOGISTS have now finished a twelve-week investigation on part of the site of a large milk-processing facility at Aston Clinton being constructed by Arla Foods (UK). When the project is complete, Yorkshire-based Arla Foods will produce one billion litres of milk from British farms every year, creating 700 jobs.

Archaeological works undertaken revealed part of the long history of this part of Aylesbury Vale. The excavation finished at the end of February 2012 and followed archaeological desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and trial trenching to identify areas of activity. Despite terrible weather and ground conditions for most of the excavation, and illegal metal detecting by unknown individuals when the team weren't on site, a fascinating picture of past occupation was identified and painstakingly recorded.



A late Roman burial, c. 250-350AD. The wet conditions from the time of burial onwards have meant much of the body has slumped into the ditch fill into which the grave was cut, whilst his feet sit on the undisturbed natural soils above.

In modern times the two-hectare area of excavation is known as a boggy field. The excavations suggested that it was just as wet 2,000 years ago as it is now, with considerable effort exerted in managing and using the area. Occupation on site started in the late Iron Age and continued into the Roman period. Ditches were the principal means of managing and draining the site and defined enclosed paddocks for livestock. Also present was evidence for cultivation in the late iron Age. A Roman timber post-built structure was also found and investigated.

The main focus of the Iron Age and Roman enclosure ditches occupied a slight ridge of ground between two naturally silted old river channels, clustered around a large pond. The enclosures were repeatedly rebuilt over two or three centuries, as each set of ditches silted up. Quantities of pottery, including high status Samian ware, and animal bone were recovered from the ditch fills. After the site was abandoned, the ridge was further emphasised by the accumulation of rich organic material. This must have been a very visible feature in the landscape as it later defined the medieval parish boundary between Buckland and Aston Clinton. Some of the last occupants of the Roman settlement were buried on the edges of the site and their remains will be reinterred in the Buckland Burial Ground once analysis is complete.

The archaeological investigations were managed on behalf of Arla Foods by Prospect Archaeology Ltd, a consultancy based in Leeds and Lincoln. The works were undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology for Buckinghamshire County Council as part of the planning process.

*This report was kindly provided by Carol Simmonds (Northamptonshire Archaeology) and Nansi Rosenberg (Prospect Archaeology)*

# St Mary's Church, Drayton Beauchamp

Regular Services:

10.45am each Sunday

6pm Evening Worship each Monday



## Easter Services

Date	Time	Event	Location
Wed 4 April	8pm	Tenebrae Service	St Mary's Church
Maundy Thursday	7pm	Last Supper Service	AC Baptist Church
Good Friday	2.30pm	At the foot of the Cross	St Mary's Church
Easter Day	10.45am	Easter Communion	St Mary's Church

## The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebration

ON SUNDAY 3RD JUNE there will be the Big Picnic Lunch in the garden of The Old Rectory commencing at noon. Everyone is welcome, especially children. Bring your picnic, rugs, tables and chairs and join in the games, races and entertainment for all ages.

1950s' costume would be welcome with a

prize for the most authentic.

There will be a short family service in St Mary's Church at 10.45am finishing in plenty of time to stroll over to The Old Rectory garden.

Please contact **Meryl Nodes** for more details on **01296 630396**. *Meryl Nodes*

## Reputedly heard in church (not in St Mary's of course)

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community.

Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.

Potluck Supper is on Sunday at 5pm, followed by prayer and medication.

Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not come this way again", giving obvious pleasure to many in the congregation.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on 24th October in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their schooldays.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?". Come early and listen to our choir practice.

The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.

Ladies, don't forget the Rummage Sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.



# "Drayton Beauchamp: The Village That Time Passed By"

WE ARE DELIGHTED with the encouraging sales of this book so far, and at the positive feedback we have had from those who have read it.

Both the Bucks Herald and BBC Three Counties Radio have interviewed and photographed us for features about it – unexpected but welcome publicity given that the book has been available only since the end of January.

Copies of this A4-size book are still available for only £10 (£13.95 if postage is required).



The celebration of the launch of the book is on Sunday 22nd April. Limited space dictates that the event is open only to current and previous residents of the parish of Drayton Beauchamp and to all who contributed photographs, interviews and other material during the process of compiling the book.

To buy a book or to discuss attendance at the launch, please contact either **Margaret Ross** on **01296 630098** or **David Lonsdale** on **01296 631791**.

*Margaret Ross*

## Pony Express 2011

I MADE three journeys delivering cards this year. The first was around Drayton Beauchamp. The second was to Buckland where I had only very few cards to deliver as no one in Buckland had left any cards with Janet and Peter, the third was a final trip round Drayton Beauchamp. In all I delivered about 200 cards from about fifteen different households.

I have had a couple of other activities with the ponies over Christmas this year, one was to take Father Christmas around the Tring triangle while Iain Rennie made their Christmas collection (they can't get their sleigh round the narrow streets). The other was to take the same gentleman to hand out sweets at the carol singing in Tring in the evening of Christmas Eve. The ponies didn't seem to think it at all unusual to have to go out in the dark and stood quietly in front of the band in

spite of all the people close to them. While most of the children were saying: "Look, there's Father Christmas!", I am told that my little grandson was saying: "Look, there's my Granny!".

I would like to thank you all for your donations. I received a total of £120 and I have sent cheques to the Iain Rennie Hospice and the International League for the Protection of Horses.

I would also like to thank my helpers, Jenny Chalk and Alex, Anna and Lottie Dickinson-Lomas. Poor Lottie got very cold and to cap it all when we came in to have a hot drink and warm up, her loose tooth fell out and she had to hold it very tightly to keep it for the tooth fairy. I don't think she will forget delivering cards in a hurry.

*Erica Godman*



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

# Spring into action!

AS the days become longer and the daffodils flower, the sun shines brightly into our rooms and, oh dear, just look at that dust! Although Quentin Crisp the author is reputed to have said that dust gets no thicker after three years, most of us prefer not to test that theory.

We all have standards we like to maintain but sometimes we just can't physically manage the house and garden like we used to when we were younger. For anyone who wants a bit of extra help at home, you can ring Age UK Bucks and ask about the Help at Home service.



There are cleaners, shopping help, gardeners, handymen, and even hairdressers, computer tutors, therapeutic massage ladies, and the toe nail cutting team. All will visit at home, at a reasonable price, and at a day and time to suit.

Age UK Bucks will also help with welfare benefits advice, befriending visits, any information and advice needed by an older person, and rural day care.

Ring 01296 431911 Mon - Fri, 9 - 4pm  
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## 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 and every Thursday and Saturday evening. Normal bar hours: 7.30-11pm

### Spring Entertainment Diary

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

**Wednesday 2 May:** Social Evening and Presentation. Diane and Paul Weir will be presenting us with a demonstration of the production of willow baskets and their history. Samples will be for sale with 10% discount.

For further information please contact :

**Ray Mockford** on 07771 591 586 or

**Derf Mockford** on 07775 664 064

### Overheard in Baker Street

Dr Watson: I say Holmes, why have you painted your front door yellow?

Holmes, S: It's a lemon entry, my dear Watson!

(Overheard by Dr Neale)

## St Michael & All Angels Flower Festival 14/15 July 2012

This July, St Michael's Church is planning to hold a Flower Festival entitled 'A Year of Celebration'. As part of this festival we would like to decorate pews in memory of people or to commemorate certain occasions in people's lives. Flower arrangements will be provided for a minimum donation of £10.

If you would like to take part in this venture would you please contact Mrs Joan Collins on **01296 632039** and your requirements can be discussed.

All monies raised will go towards the upkeep of this beautiful church.

### Thought for Springtime

You have it easily in your power to increase the sum total of this world's happiness now. How? By giving a few words of sincere appreciation to someone who is lonely or discouraged. Perhaps you will forget tomorrow the kind words you say today, but the recipient may cherish them over a lifetime.

Dale Carnegie, 1888-1955



I am wondering whether you have ever tried growing your own vegetables. Do you perhaps grow flowers in your garden to pick for the house? Are you sharing the fun of growing seeds with your children or grandchildren? Do you ever feel you want to talk to others who share in your interest of gardening? If your answer to any of these questions is 'yes' then we might just be the organisation you are looking for.

We meet in the Anthony Hall at 8pm on every second Wednesday of the month and our talks this year have such varied titles as 'David Austin Roses', 'The Pharmacy in your Garden' and 'The A-Z of Garden History'.

We have organised several evening visits to local gardens and we run two Shows annually. The Spring Show begins at 2pm on Saturday 31st March and is held in Aston Clinton School. As well as a lovely spectacle of spring flowers, handicrafts, cookery and children's entries you will also find delicious refresh-

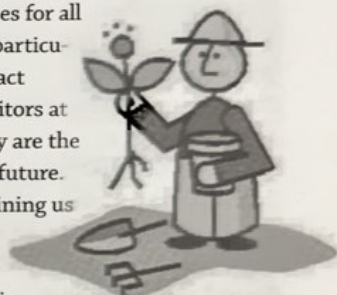
ments and a plant sale which is always a very popular feature.

During the afternoon we shall be giving away sunflower seeds to all children who visit. We are hoping that the sunflowers that they grow, which are an ideal size for growing in a pot, might be brought to the Summer Show in August and entered in a competition there. There will be prizes for all entries! We are particularly keen to attract children as exhibitors at our shows as they are the gardeners of the future.

Do consider joining us at one of our Shows or at our Wednesday meetings

(look out for the yellow posters in the villages advertising these.) Non-members pay a contribution of £2 to attend a meeting, but it only costs £5 to join us for a year. Please do consider doing so. If you have any questions please contact **Maureen Ridler** on **633376**.

*Sue Lipscomb, Chairman*



## Unsung heroes

YOU MAY NEVER have seen them, or perhaps you may know them very well. They may be your next door neighbour or someone you meet at the school gate. They come to your home six times each year, in all weathers, even braving the cold and snow in the early part of this year.

They are members of the doughty team of **Village Life** volunteer deliverers, who bring to your door your copy of the magazine, with its news of local activities and a multitude of other useful information.

These volunteers are the vital final link in the production chain. Now at the start of our

second year, we would like to express our gratitude for their continuing support in delivering to almost 2,000 homes in Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp.

Thank you to all our many deliverers and their families, particularly in some cases, the younger members too, who often help.

Most of the year, of course, the weather is kind and it's good healthy exercise doing the rounds, sometimes chatting with friends and neighbours on the way.

If you would like to become a volunteer **Village Life** deliverer, please contact Monika, our Distribution Organiser, at [mknfar@ntlworld.com](mailto:mknfar@ntlworld.com) or you can contact her direct on **01296 432148**.

# Home Security Service for the needy

AYLESBURY VALE DISTRICT COUNCIL are always looking for new ways to promote their services. A particular service, very relevant at times of high redundancy and unemployment is the Home Security Service or 'Home Service'. The project was initially set up 12 years ago with Help the Aged. It is now fully funded by the Council. It provides an excellent crime preventative service to residents living in the Vale that are either registered disabled or over 60 years of age.

Despite its popularity and extraordinarily high satisfaction ratings, with costs for promotion and Council cuts, there is some perception that this service no longer exists. The Council wishes to dispel this myth.

The Council offering in summary is:

- Access to free police trained advice on security
- Free supply of 'Secure by Design' (Police recommended) locks, chains bolts and 10-year lifetime smoke alarms

- Free installations where appropriate are carried out by our own (Council employed) CRB-checked carpenter with 40 years' carpentry experience.\*

There are no means tests, provided you are a resident of Aylesbury Vale, are over 60 or registered disabled. The advice is free and the hardware is provided and installed for free with absolutely no obligation should you, for any reason, decide that this is not for you.

For more information or to arrange a visit, please contact **01296 585100** or email [envhealth@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](mailto:envhealth@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk)

Our customer services team will agree a time that is suitable for you and confirm our attendance time with you.

This is your Council and these services are provided for you.

**\* Note:** On those occasions when the service is extremely busy, we may use our selected CRB-checked sub-contractors.

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## Last chance to book your Village Market stall

For the fourth year running, Aston Clinton School Association will be holding its hugely successful Village Market on Sunday 13th 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](mailto:info@acvillagemarket.co.uk).





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## Useful telephone numbers

<i>Name</i>	<i>Contact/Line status</i>	<i>Telephone no.</i>
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 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
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 Village Hall (Bookings Sec)	Paula Graves	01296 630310
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



<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact/Line status</b>	<b>Telephone no.</b>
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 Ridler	01296 633376
John Radcliffe Hospital		01865 741166
Ladies Group	Irene Wharton	01296 630195
<i>Local Councillors:</i>		
Bucks County	Bill Chapple OBE	01296 426814/382095
Aylesbury Vale District	Carole Paternoster	01296 630710/585717
Aylesbury Vale District	David Thompson	01296 425656
Aylesbury Vale District	Phil Yerby	07769 621507
Luncheon Club	Marion Richards	01296 630577
Marsworth Pre-School Group		07506 179658
MP for Aylesbury	David Lidington	020 7219 3432
Neighbourhood 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 Association (local branch)	Selly Clarke	01296 630207
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	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.

# La Vita

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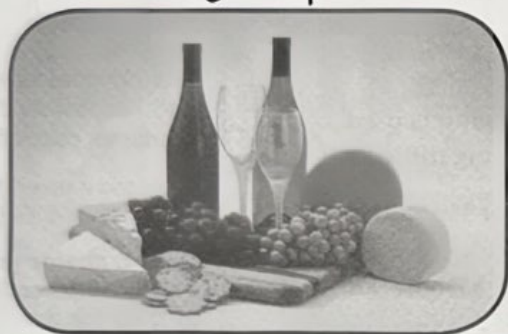
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*A full menu will be available on our website soon.*

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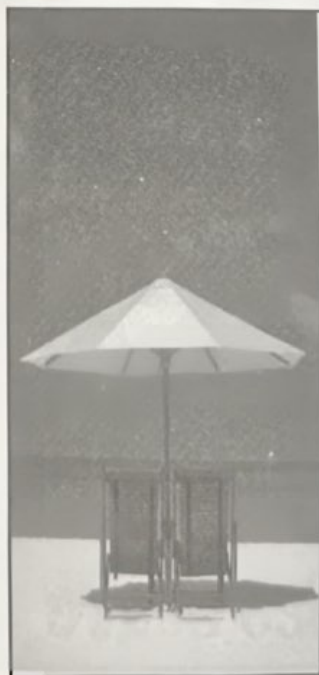
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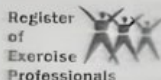
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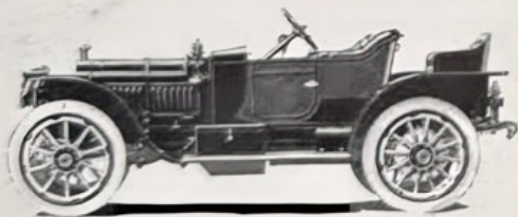
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