



Village Life

The community magazine for Aston Clinton,
Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp

No. 9 Aug-Sept 2012

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PRODUCTION TEAM

Editor: Alec Just
Email: alec.just@btinternet.com
Tel: 01296 634955

Assistant Editor: Jennifer Just
Email: jenny.just@btinternet.com

Treasurer: James Adam
Email: james@jamesadam.co.uk
Tel: 01296 623239

Editorial Consultant: Jean Kennedy

Distribution Organiser:
Monika Faranda Bellofiglio

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Bucks HP22 5JD



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**NB: *Village Life* advertising pages are
now full. If you wish to advertise in the
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01296 634955 who will be pleased to
add your name to the waiting list**

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

Village Life

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

THIS is a time when the world's attention is focused on our capital city for both good and not-so-good reasons. As I write these words, the Olympics are still a few short weeks away. We all hope that the Opening Ceremony will be what it has been long planned to be: a showcase of the best of Britain and a celebration of international friendship through competitive sport.

There's something about athletics that separates it from many other areas of sporting achievement. Success has far more to do with personal effort of body and mind than those categories of sport where technology and teamwork as much as the individual's own performance can make the difference between winning and losing. Formula One is the obvious example.

It's true that science and technology play an ever-increasing role in extending the limits of what a human being can achieve but, nevertheless, there's something pure and inspirational in watching an athlete winning, both for themselves and for their country, in international competition.

Most of us will be passively (if excitedly) watching the Olympics on television. When you've had your fill as a couch potato, this issue of **Village Life** has several suggestions to encourage you to get yourself out into the Great Outdoors.

To ease you gently into physical activity, James Adam has thoughtfully provided, on page 18, an undemanding 5½ mile walk through the flatter parts of our locality.

Canals and canal towpaths feature strongly in this issue. The prospect of the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal becoming navigable again is raised on page 21. The Wendover Arm Trust invites you to join a sponsored fund-raising Wendover-Tring walk on 2nd September when you can see the restoration volunteers at work at Drayton Beauchamp.

Alec Just
Editor

Harvest donations for the Whitechapel Mission

After the splendour and pageantry of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee – and as I write in July – London 2012 will provide yet another opportunity to showcase the Best of British when the eyes of the world focus again upon the Olympic torch-bearing capital.

Some of the folk who are less likely to grab the headlines during these glorious (not meteorologically speaking) midsummer weeks are those who sleep rough in the streets of London, approximately half of the entire homeless population of this country. In the context of the Olympics there have been genuine attempts to alleviate the awful scourge of homelessness and, most notably, before being re-elected as Mayor of London, Mr Boris Johnson pledged to root out homelessness by the end of 2012. Only a cynic would question his timing. Reserving judgement on his intentions, chances are there will still be thousands of people left without a home, once the circus has left town.

This should serve as a timely reminder to those who are blessed with a life of comparative plenty – we can all make little, but meaningful, contributions to support the less fortunate on our doorstep.

As in recent years, the Parish of St Michael's will be collecting donations in the run-up to Harvest Festival. These will benefit the Whitechapel Mission, a charity supporting some of the most deprived and destitute

people in our wider community.

Serving and looking after up to 300 homeless people every single morning, the Whitechapel Mission is in constant need of supplies, such as non-perishable foodstuffs, clothing and toiletries. Items most desperately needed at the moment are sugar, plum tomatoes, squash, baked beans, coffee, ketchup, t-shirts, men's underwear, socks, size 28-36 jeans, small rucksacks, men's trainers, razors, hand cream, small soaps, body lotion, carrier bags and 35mm film cans. If you can spare

these or other useful items you can leave them at St Michael's on the pews in the back, any time up to Harvest Festival on 16 September.

Members and friends of our Parish are also becoming a veritable volunteer force, serving breakfasts at the Whitechapel Mission at regular intervals, and we look forward to welcoming more of you to join us for our next visits.

The next breakfast served by St Michael's is on Sunday 19 August and we can still accommodate more volunteers. It is an early start, departing from Aston Clinton at 5am, but it promises to be an eye-opener for first-timers and a most rewarding experience for all.

To find out how you can get involved, have a look at www.whitechapel.org.uk or speak to Angela or myself on **01296 630029**.

Frank Wagner



Aston Clinton Ladies' Group

Meetings held at Guide Hall 8pm unless otherwise stated.

August 15 A garden party to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee with a bring and buy sale at Pollensa, Chiltern Way, Aston Clinton

7.30pm. Cost £4 to include a glass of fizz. Tiaras and frocks to be worn if you wish!

September 19 SURPRISE, SURPRISE!! Cooking demonstration by Irene and Linda with Tasting. Cost £1

You are invited to come along to any of our meetings. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

St Michael and All Angels

Regular Services:

9.15am and 6pm each Sunday

and Evening Prayer at 7.40pm each Friday

Forthcoming Special Events

| Date | Time | Event | Location |
|-------------|--------|------------------|---------------------|
| Sat 15 Sept | 7.30pm | Harvest Supper | Anthony Hall |
| Sun 16 Sept | 9.15am | Harvest Festival | St Michael's Church |
| Sun 30 Sept | 6pm | Choral Evensong | St Michael's Church |
| Sat 20 Oct | 7.30pm | Organ Recital | St Michael's Church |

More details about all these events on the church website www.s-michaels.org.uk

Pause and reflect ... a word from Rev Andrew Allen

AS I'M SURE YOU KNOW, we live in the most landlocked part of the UK: the only water we have is from the canal, and from the rain – of which we've had rather too much so far this summer!

I do miss the sea; I find it relaxing to watch the waves toss and crash over rocks, constantly changing. It is important that we all find places where we can go to relax, to unwind, or to ponder issues we face in our lives. For some of us, this will be a well-earned summer holiday, for others, maybe a quiet spot in the garden or park. Taking a rest is vital in our society: we have the least number of public holidays in Europe. As a society we are among those who work the longest hours. Looking at the economic situation, one dares ask whether or not it is worth it.

Rest and leisure time is a principle found in the Bible: the commandment to not work on

the Sabbath [seventh] day is as much for our benefit as anything else, and I would encourage all of us to try and follow this principle, regardless of whether you have any belief in God or not. This might take the form of holi-

days, or, if you aren't going away this summer, why not go for a walk along the canal? Or perhaps go and visit the churches in the villages? St Michael's, Aston Clinton and All Saints', Buckland are open all day, every day, and St Mary's, Drayton Beauchamp on Saturdays and Sundays, though you can get the key at any time.

Whatever you do this summer, may you find time to relax and enjoy some rest.

God bless you all.

Andrew Allen
Curate, St Michael and All Angels,
All Saints, and St Mary-the-Virgin



Please mention *Village Life* when responding to advertisers

Party in the Park - 3rd June

damp afternoon did not deter people from attending Aston Clinton

Diamond Jubilee Party in the Park.

Despite the weather, sports races took place and people were entertained by a live group - Band in Hand, Zumba aerobics, and performed by some village youngsters. The Punch and Judy Show was also very popular.

There were bouncy castles, bungee trampolines, carousels, a children's craft corner and senior citizens were treated to an afternoon tea - all this was free. There were also twenty other stalls.

There were free Jubilee mugs for all the children of the village and medals for the race winners, funded by contributions from local businesses of either equipment or cash donations (see panel below).

Thanks also to Caddick Construction Ltd and NG Bailey. These companies paid for the

commemorative 'Aston Clinton' mugs. Both firms are involved in the Arla development.

And finally, huge thanks must go to the Jubilee Committee who gave their time over the last nine months organising and fund raising to make this event possible. They are:

Terri Galloway

Suzanne Howland

Lindy Mooney

Dave Wallis

Jenny Hipson

Teresa Kirtland

Marion Richards

Sara Williams

A collection was made during the afternoon for the Pepper Charity - who support terminally ill children at home.

The Parish Council have planted a Rivers Purple Beech tree in the park to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. This was donated by one of the parish councillors.

Cllr Richard Maskell

The Organising Committee of Aston Clinton

Jubilee Party In The Park



wish to thank everyone for their help and contributions, especially:

3M Property Group

Active Technology

Aston Clinton Feeds

Aston Clinton Total Garage

Aston Clinton Veterinary Centre

Aston Clinton Village Stores

BAS Associates

BTP Environmental Services Ltd

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Media Sport

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The Oak Public House

Time Management Support

Village Life magazine

and all the many helpers

Thanks also to all the Villagers who ignored the rain!



Aston Clinton School

Head: Mrs Helen Shepherd



Diamond memories

IN JUNE we celebrated, as a nation, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. In school, we started the Jubilee weekend off with a massive community event. Every child took part on the stage as we travelled through the last six decades. Our Reception Class told us about who we were celebrating and interesting facts about the Queen. Year Three discussed the 1950s and gave us a wonderful display of jiving and hand-jiving for the less energetic!

The 1960s were celebrated by Year Six who entertained us with some recognisable impressions of famous people. It was topped off with a rousing Beatles medley, where the audience sang enthusiastically along. The disco years of the 1970s were brought to life by Year Five. Who can forget the platform shoes! Year Five concluded their part with the song YMCA in which a growing number of the audience joined in with the arm actions!

The children in Year Two wrote their own part of the show about the 1980s. *ET* seemed to feature highly as did leg warmers and *Doctor Who*! By the time we got to the 1990s there were no adults in the audience who didn't remember everything the children in Year One shared with us. This included a spirited performance by the Spice Girls and Take That amongst other things!

A quiz about the 'Noughties' with Year Four brought the first part of the show nearly to a conclusion. All that was left was for Year Four to sing *Rule the World* by Take That (yes, they featured for a second time!).

After a refreshment break, and time to reflect on all the details the children had shared with us, the whole school community came together to have a 'Last Night of the Proms' sing-a-long. We were joined by the Vintage Brass Band, who really got us all in the mood. Flag-waving and songs from around the British Isles left us all feeling we had been part of something extraordinary.

Events like this take a lot of hard work from the children and teachers, so why do we do them? Well, school memories stay with us for life. Diamond Jubilees are very rare and so our celebration of this one will also remain with us. At Aston Clinton, we want the children to look back on their years with us as a time when they were asked to work hard, challenge themselves to move outside their comfort zone and enjoy special occasions with all of their friends.

We hope they will look back on their time here with fond memories and some pride that they were part of a shared memory with everyone in the whole community. I can guarantee that people will never forget what we did during that weekend and will be heard to say, at some point in the future, "Do you remember the Diamond Jubilee and the show the children at the school put on for us all?" To help the children remember, each one was given a CD of their singing, a DVD of their performance and a Jubilee mug. What can be better than that?

Helen Shepherd

There is the sort of parent who takes time to jump in a puddle with her toddler. The type who relishes building a den in the front room on a miserable day. I am not that parent. But I wish I was.

I am the one you hear screaming at her kids to get OUT of the puddles (wellies are just never high enough up the leg) and hurry up home. I am the one who is far too busy to sit on the floor and make-believe because there is washing to fold, dinner burning and an older sibling trying to practise her times tables.

I recently read an interview with the Italian sexpot actress Monica Bellucci in which she was asked her beauty secrets. Her reply was "My children make me happy. When you are happy, you are immediately prettier". There, I believe, speaks someone with staff. It could certainly explain why most of the time I feel so grey and haggard.

You see, my children don't make me happy. They often amuse me, sometimes even amaze me. But make me happy? No, not yet. Maybe when the hard slog of the early exhausting years is over (when is that exactly?) they will bring me the joy I hear others mention so often. Quite frankly, right now, 7pm brings with it mainly a sense of immense relief that I've scraped through another day. Each week-day, bedtime is one glorious step closer to the weekend but I'm not sure why I look forward to the weekends because then Daddy's home and it's barely 8am on Saturday before we're



on the same hamster wheel of competitive tiredness and differences in parenting opinions.

I'm slightly ashamed to say that sometimes I envy my divorced friends because at least they get every other weekend off. Now, *that* could make me happy.

A recent visit to the in-laws (three hours' drive, a 'special' birthday, 18 members of the family together in a confined space, lots of china knick-knacks – you get the picture) brought home to me quite how much my

husband is ageing into his father. Don't get me wrong, I like my father-in-law but I don't want to be married to him. So I suggested perhaps we ought to separate before it's too late. Maybe live next door to each other, share custody and enjoy 'benefits',

without the domestic disturbance that goes with trying to raise a family in completely different styles.

Then he happened to mention a friend of his who owns a £2.5 million house (great job, sporty car, expensive foreign holidays – you know the type) who told Hubby he would gladly swap it all for "what you've got...wife, kids, that's what I really want". He looked wistful for a moment, no doubt imagining the sleek white interiors of said house, with no sticky fingerprints or cheerios and raisins in the creases of the sofa. Then he stepped on a piece of Lego just as I replied "But would it REALLY make you happy". I didn't wait for his answer.

Kelly Cornish

ONE-LINERS (anonymous unless attributed)

I haven't spoken to my wife in eighteen months – I don't like to interrupt her.

Just think, if it wasn't for marriage, men would go through life thinking they had no faults at all.

Keep your eyes wide open before marriage, half-shut afterwards – Benjamin Franklin.

Sir, if you were my husband, I'd poison your drink – Lady Astor to Winston Churchill

Madam, if you were my wife, I would drink it – was Winston's reply.

Think on what you have, and not on what you don't have.

The Royal Garter Ceremony at Windsor

THREE members of St Michael's managed to get tickets to watch the Royal Garter Parade from inside Windsor Castle grounds. This meant leaving Aston Clinton early to make sure of a convenient car parking space. Once there, we joined many others with their folding chairs, cameras and picnics to walk up Castle Hill to join the queue that wound itself down from the security entrance back down to the gates of Windsor Great Park.

Queuing is the one thing that we Brits are good at. Some of those at the top of the queue must have waited over two hours. Once the gates opened the queue moved quickly through security and we walked to our allotted section, which was alongside St George's Chapel, where we established ourselves close to the main path (see picture below with Marion and Elizabeth).



Having settled themselves, everyone got out their picnics, some quite elaborate with champagne, etc. As the time approached we watched as the Bands and dismounted members of the Household Cavalry got into position lining the route. The procession was quite long; it was led by the Constable of Windsor Castle, followed by the Military Knights, the



Officers of Arms, before the Companions of the Order walked down the hill from the Castle with the Queen and Prince Philip being the last of the knights. A detachment of the Yeomen of the Guard brought up the rear.

The service in St George's Chapel was broadcast on loudspeakers to all in the grounds. After the service we watched as the Royal Family returned to the castle in open carriages. It was quite an experience and one that I am unlikely to repeat.

Ralph Weston

A volunteer is needed to act as Village Life's advertising manager. At present all advertising space in the magazine is taken, but this will change as the magazine grows. The work is mainly responding to occasional enquiries received by email or telephone. Contact the editor Alec Just on **01296 634955** for more information.

Jack Disbrey – by his son John

Recently Jack Disbrey has been described as an institution, a gentleman and a true original. I think he was all of those things. Yet, while I know he was lucky to enjoy ninety years, there is no escaping the sense of loss, because so much knowledge, skill and experience have gone.

Dad was part of the turbulent twentieth century. Joining the RAF in 1943, he served for five years as ground crew, working on Spitfires, Typhoons, Mosquitoes and other legendary warplanes. In the Fifties he maintained crop-spraying aircraft in the Sudan: in 1980, he flew the Atlantic in Concorde at twice the speed of sound.

In Cyprus, Dr Huseyin Ertunga once named Jack “deli kanli”, Turkish for someone who is young and mercurial. This vitality was apparent when, at the age of 85, Dad took a leading role in the Incinerator protest.

Voluntary work was important to my parents. Dad was secretary of the Royal British Legion for 23 years, served as a parish councillor for four decades, and maintained the war memorial for over 30 years. He inspired the Liberator Memorial, and established Remembrance Sunday as a landmark in the village calendar.

My parents’ generation had tenacity and ingenuity, because while the wartime conflict caused upheaval and destruction, postwar austerity created a vision for the future, and a resolve never to return to the injustices of the past.

Last year there was a proud moment, when Jack’s Triumph 2000 was judged the most original car at the Chiltern Hills Rally. Dad commented that this car had never let him down. The same is true of Jack, because he was totally reliable.

He was a wonderful father, a devoted husband, and a loyal friend. He had dignity and integrity: rare qualities in the modern age. He also had a great sense of humour, and incredible technical skill.

I shall remember him with pride: and he will remind us that time is precious, character is rare, and memories endure. He was a true original, he did things his way, and he never let anyone down. That may be a simple epitaph, but I think it is a worthy one.



John Disbrey

POSTSCRIPT

“I don’t know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve.”

Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965) German theologian, philosopher, and physician.

Aston Clinton, Buckland & Drayton Beauchamp

Horticultural Society

DESPITE THE RAIN, the Horticultural Society put on a good show at the Village Jubilee Celebrations in the Park. We had a double stall close to the musical entertainment that kept us amused and at times we kept them amused. The accompanying picture shows our stall in all its splendour. We were well supported by the general public, who bought our plants and raffle tickets – thank you! The profits will help to support our Summer Show and Fete which is our next event. This takes place on Saturday 18 August at 2pm and is a traditional village fete in the middle of the holidays, making it suitable for whole families. As usual it will be

held on the playground and in the Old Clock School at Aston Clinton School, with sections for children, crafts and domestic entries. The children's and craft classes will be in one of the classrooms abutting the playground.

We will have the Great Horwood Silver band to entertain us and teas and refreshments will be available. Admission is £1; children are free. Please come and see the work of gardeners, cooks and artists in the village or better still why not enter yourself? There is a range of Novice classes open only to those who live in our three villages and it is all good fun.

Entry night for the Annual Summer Show is Wednesday 15 August in the Anthony Hall, 6–8.30 pm. Don't forget, if your child has been growing a sunflower in a pot from the seed we gave out, they should bring it along to the school on the morning of the show before 10.30 am.

Our next monthly meeting is on Wednesday 12 September in the Anthony Hall at 8pm when we have a talk entitled 'The Pharmacy in your Garden' by Prof. Sandy Primrose. All are welcome and it is free to members. Non-members are charged £2 and new members will be made most welcome. *Ralph Weston*

Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp Horticultural Society

55th Summer Show and Fete

Admission £1 - Children free



Teas



Tombola and Raffle

Cakes



Books



Plants



Saturday 18th August 2pm–4 pm

Great Horwood Silver Band

Our very own Dad's Army

Graham Coulson from Aston Clinton has kindly loaned me his copy of War Illustrated dated 28th February 1941. In it is a two-page spread copied from the News Chronicle and written by William Forrest. This slightly edited version features the Aston Clinton Platoon of the Home Guard.

Tilla Adam

“IT WAS AFTER MIDNIGHT when we left the village to climb the hill. It is a stiff climb and the wind pierced the thickest great-coat. Our purpose had been set for us. I was out with a patrol of the Aston Clinton Home Guard, fulfilling an instruction to go up to “High Point” and see if all was well there.

There were four men in this patrol, including the section leader, who told me he had worn the Queen's – that is, Queen Victoria's – uniform. All four knew the ground well, for this was the platoon's fixed observation post

last summer when parachute-spotting was the chief preoccupation of the LDV [Local Defence Volunteers].

We tramped the windswept hilltop, back and forth, our boots crunching the frozen crust of snow, and, finding nothing untoward, returned to Platoon HQ to report all well. Returning the challenge of the sentry outside HQ, we passed into the warmth and light of the hut. Sausages were sizzling on the stove and the teapot waited for the kettle to boil.

Counting the sentry, eight men were on duty: a sub-section of the platoon. There are eight sub-sections, and all take in rotation a night of 'lying-in' duty. Hours: 8pm to 6am. It doesn't seem much, one night in eight; but there are drills or lectures every Wednesday night and on Sunday morning there is always something on – field operations, musketry practice or a full-dress rehearsal of an invasion

Members of the Aston Clinton Home Guard enjoying a break and a sausage in the Platoon HQ hut early in 1941.



alarm which the Acting Platoon Commander, Captain de L Leach is busy planning for.

A year ago many of these men, although living in the same parish, were strangers to each other. The three neighbouring parishes of Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp responded to the appeal of Mr Eden, the War Minister, and reported at the house of Air Commodore Fellowes. They met in the garden: farmers and farm labourers, grocers, building workers, stockbrokers and solicitors, publicans, insurance agents. With Air Commodore Fellowes as commander, the platoon was formed.

The district was divided into eight sectors, to be patrolled at dawn and dusk. The volunteers had no uniforms. Their weapons were any they could lay hands on. During those anxious days and nights that followed Dunkirk, the patrols were out, morning and evening, always in pairs. Cars were stopped

during Alerts. Suspicious looking strangers were challenged. Mysterious lights were tracked down.

And all this time the work of fortifying Aston Clinton was pressed with feverish haste. The danger that threatened villa and cottage alike was enough to break down all conventional reserve and to found friendships that will long outlive this war. The platoon is now at full strength, with ample reserves of eager youths to fill the gaps as members are called up for the Army; and it is now well equipped.

As I drank my tea, a hefty printing worker, who is in charge of the armoury, fondled an automatic rifle as if it were a pet. A journalist buttoned up his greatcoat and went out to relieve the garage worker who had completed his two hours' sentry duty. One platoon member remarked to me that 'men will fight to the last for their own homes'."

The world's best-paid author (*measured by the word*)

HIS NAME is Ashleigh Brilliant and he lives in Santa Barbara, California, a long way from Aston Clinton. What you may ask is the connection? Merely that he and your editor were in the same class at school in the late 1940s. Ashleigh's father was an official in the Foreign and Colonial Office and was posted to our Embassy in Washington DC in 1939, where Ashleigh spent his early years. The family returned to London in 1947 and came to live in Edgware, NW London. At the age of 14, Ashleigh was sent to Hendon County School where we met and studied together.

He was exceptionally gifted as a poet, writer and artist, even as a young teenager. In the early Fifties, he returned to the USA and began to earn a living writing epigrams, witty sayings of no more than seventeen words. They soon became a regular feature of Readers Digest, between condensed stories. He then began to publish them, illustrated with a drawing, as post-cards, called 'Potshots'. So far he has produced over 10,000 Potshots. Here are some examples:

"I may not be perfect, but parts of me are excellent."

"I'm growing out of some of my problems, but there are others I'm growing into."

"The road to Peace goes through difficult territory called Trust and Forgiveness."

"Just as precious as freedom of speech: the right to remain silent."

"Why am I so often at the mercy of those who don't deserve to control my life?"

"All I want is a warm bed, a kind word and unlimited power."

"Life may have no meaning or, even worse, it may have a meaning of which I disapprove."

"Single-handedly I have fought my way into this hopeless mess."

The Aston Clinton Charitable Foundation

The Aston Clinton Charitable Foundation was recently formed by four local residents of Aston Clinton, Dave Culliton, Lesley and Mike Butcher and me, Kathryn Sykes, to help support our community. It partly came about when I, in my former role as the Chair of the Aston Clinton Pre-School, discussed with the Parish Council funding for a Zebra crossing on London Road to make it safer for the children to get to and from the village School and Pre-School in the morning. Although the Parish Council is interested in projects such as this, the funding just isn't available to them.

In addition we, the founders, have children at the local Pre-School and/or School and are involved with other village organisations and we appreciated that sometimes they also need some help to raise the funds they need to continue the good they do.

The aims of the Foundation are to support community projects as well as the charitable, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations operating in Aston Clinton and the surrounding villages.

At the time I stood down as Chair of the Aston Clinton Pre-School, they had to make the difficult decision to pull out of a fund-raising activity they had been working towards

for the last few months – the first Aston Clinton Beer Festival.

The Foundation therefore stepped in and succeeded the Pre-School in the organisation of this exciting event. The Festival really seemed to catch the imagination of the community. We are already starting to look ahead to ACBF II and would like to say a huge thank you to all our volunteers, sponsors, advertisers and punters for making our first festival a success. The beneficiaries of the first Aston Clinton Beer Festival will be the Pre-School, the School, the Guides & Scouts and starting the pot for Community Projects.

Our next fundraising event will be the Foundation Free Will Fortnight in September. During this event I will make you a Will free of charge, through my firm Pickup & Scott Solicitors. All I ask in return is that you make a donation to the Foundation and consider leaving us a legacy. Up to twenty individuals or couples will be offered free Wills during the Fortnight, on a first-come, first-served basis. So, if you are interested, give me a ring on **01296 397794** or drop me a line on kathryn@pickupandscott.co.uk.

Kathryn Sykes

Chair and Co-Founder

Aston Clinton Charitable Foundation

Age UK Bucks new services support people in later life

AGE UK BUCKS, formerly Age Concern, are continuing to develop services in support of older people living in Buckinghamshire.

Along with expert information and advice, and help with welfare benefits, they now also have services that help in the home which include handyperson, domestic cleaning

and gardening. For more personal services their 'Just for You' support covers toe-nail cutting, hairdressing, therapeutic massage and computer training.

They now have over 100 agents working with older people throughout the county and say that all their agents are CRB-checked and carry public liability insurance.



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



Forthcoming Special Events

| Date | Time | Event | Location |
|------------|------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Sun 2 Sept | 11am | Harvest Festival Family Service | All Saints' Church |
| Sun 2 Sept | 6pm | Harvest Festival Choral Evensong | All Saints' Church |

More details about all these events on the church website www.allsaintsbuckland.org.uk

Parish Council Meetings

The next planned meetings at Buckland Hall will be held on Mondays 10 September, 8 October and 12 November.

Meetings commence 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.

Arla site

Whatever the merits or otherwise of the development, the rate of progress on the site is impressive. The main structure is virtually complete and the scale of the project can now be clearly seen. The photograph below is from the Waste Disposal site. Arla has promised that the view of the new buildings will be screened at ground level.

Photo: courtesy The Bucks Herald



St Mary's Church, Drayton Beauchamp

Regular Services:

10.45am each Sunday

6pm Evening Worship each Monday



Forthcoming Special Event

| Date | Time | Event | Location |
|-------------|------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Sun 23 Sept | 4pm | Harvest Festival Choral Evensong | St Mary's Church |

More details about this event on the church website www.s-marys.org.uk

Why Drayton Beauchamp?

THE origin of place names is a constant source of fascination and curiosity. The name Beauchamp is obviously French, but did you know that the name Drayton is similarly derived? Those who haven't yet researched the origin of the name of the village may be interested to know that, according to the website British History Online (www.british-history.ac.uk), the name Drayton is also Norman French. In 1225, Roger de Drayton contested William de Beauchamp's right of possession but lost his claim. It is not clear why, despite his failed claim, the name of the manor remained Drayton Beauchamp thereafter.

A heartwarming story

One day in mid-June I was driving my little pony from Puttenham towards Drayton Beauchamp. She went rather fast up and over the canal bridge. Soon afterwards we realised that a canvas bag containing my friend's handbag and wild flower book had fallen off. We went back to look but it had gone so we continued on our way home wondering how my friend could get home.

I want to say a very big thank you to the kind man who found the bag, picked it up and returned it to us.

Erica Godman

Music in June

St Mary's Church was filled with music in June. On the 23rd, a spectacular concert was given by the Artesian String Quartet from the Royal Academy of Music; and on the 30th we had a visit from the Chiltern West Gallery Quire.

A group of thirty enthusiasts dressed in 18th century garb met in the church to sing traditional music, such as that in Thomas Hardy's *Under the Green Wood Tree*. It was fascinating to hear music that hasn't been heard in church for almost 200 years. For more info. please see their website:

www.cwgq.co.uk

Rosemary Brooke

The Chiltern West Gallery Quire



photo: Rosemary Brooke

Charity Fiddle Concert

THE MOVE from the Anthony Hall to the larger Victoria Hall in Tring proved a wise one, as it was packed on Sunday 17 June for a concert performed by the impressive **Oxford Fiddle Group**.

A lively and varied programme was enjoyed by nearly 200 people and included accomplished solo pianist, Clare Lonsdale and clog dancing by Lynn Swain. The Group played a selection of foot-tapping jigs and reels, as well as beautiful slow airs and laments from England, Scotland, Ireland and the USA.

With the patter as fast and as furious as their music, they had the audience singing, clapping and tapping away from start to finish. Even the diners next door at The Akeman were joining in the applause.

Although unknown to the majority of the audience, any future events by The Oxford Fiddle Group in the Herts/Bucks area are likely to be well supported, judging from the large and appreciative audience on 17 June.

The Oxford Fiddle Group in action!

Julie Cartlidge and Jamie Shuttle generously donated a Hamper and prompted generous donations of a 'Meal for Two', at Olive Limes in Tring, Pilates lessons from Patricia Hutchins, a singing lesson with Tessa Suggett and a French or piano lesson with Clare Lonsdale, which all helped to raise £456.

Ambassador for the Hospice, Christina Burrows, explained to the audience the considerable work carried out by The Hospice of St Francis, Berkhamsted and the evening provided £1,760 of much needed funds for the Hospice.

David Lonsdale

Pianist Clare Lonsdale entertaining the audience prior to the concert.



photos: David Lonsdale

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 |

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

Local Councillors:

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| * 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.

A Lowland Walk for High Summer

A walk of approximately 5½ miles (2½ hours) over fields in Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp.

tarting from Buckland Church gate, walk up Peggs Lane and turn left and then right onto the footpath at the Parish Council Burial Ground. Climb over the first stile only and turn quarter-left into the grave area. Follow the path for a few yards and go through the Golden Jubilee Kissing Gate.

Cross the field to a stile in the left hand corner. Cross the next field to another stile almost in the left hand corner and across a bridge over a stream. Turn left along the hedge to the corner of the field and then follow the path to the right, round the edge of the field. Climb over the stile, cross the meadow to a kissing gate and a large metal five-bar gate

After admiring the views across the Vale to Wingrave ...

in the left hand corner. At this point you are only feet away from the Bypass which you will hear but not see. The footpath, which used to carry on straight ahead, has been diverted, adding about half-a-mile to our walk.

Turn left along the footpath fenced on both sides. In June, when I walked this path, it was full of wild flowers. Climb the steps to Buckland Road and turn right over the bypass and on down the road for 100 yards. After admiring the views across the Vale to Wingrave, turn right onto a concrete track which curves round a drainage pond and down and back to the bypass. Follow the concrete track to the

end and then turn left through a gate and go straight ahead down the left hand side of the field to a stile and, having crossed it, turn right to follow a well-marked path across the next field to a bridge and stile in the corner. In the next field, follow the right hand hedge for 100 yards then turn half-right across the field corner to a gateway onto Puttenham Road.

Turn left up the road to the canal and then left again onto the towpath and double back under the bridge to the lock. Follow the towpath and, immediately past the next lock, turn right down some steps and over a stile and follow the left hand hedge through four fields to the Lower Icknield Way.

Cross the road with care and go straight ahead toward the tall trees. Keeping the trees on your left for only ten yards you'll find a path through to the reservoir embankment. Turn right and follow the path for 300 yards to a corner.

Ignore the paths at 90° both to left ("To the hide") and right (into a field), and take the narrow path at 45° to the right, down and across a stream. This path immediately divides again, so take the right-hand path up over tree roots into a field where it divides yet again!

Take the right hand path beneath a power line to a new metal kissing gate. Cross the field diagonally with the houses of Drayton Beauchamp on your right, through two more kissing gates to the road at Drayton Beauchamp. Turn left and follow the road to the canal bridge. Turn right onto the towpath and follow that to Buckland Road. Turn right onto Buckland and follow the road back to Buckland Church.

James Adam

This is the third in the series of local walks selected and trialed by our Treasurer. Not only is walking one of the healthiest of activities, but because we are fortunate to live in a beautiful part of England, local walking is especially enjoyable. Double your enjoyment by equipping yourself with the Ordnance Survey Explorer Map No. 181, "Chiltern Hills North".

Green Deal on the horizon

I want to take the opportunity to introduce you to the Green Deal which comes in this Autumn and more importantly, actions to take in the final few weeks before this new scheme starts.

THE GREEN DEAL is a government scheme created under the Energy Act 2011. It enables householders to access energy saving measures at no up-front cost. So, what does this mean?

You get an assessment to look at what you would most benefit from, and that fits within the 'Golden Rule' – more on this later. You may wish, for example, to have solid wall insulation and a new high efficiency boiler. If approved, then you'd get a low-interest loan for the costs involved.

The Golden Rule is that pay-back of this loan should come from savings that the householder makes as a result of the improvements. Full payback must be made within a 25-year time period (or earlier in the case of some technologies). The loan is attached to the electricity meter at the house, so wouldn't need to be paid off

when you sold your home, unless you chose to. Repayments of the loan are collected by your electricity supplier.

However, in the case of loft and cavity wall insulation, current funding which makes this available for free, professionally installed, will end when the Green Deal comes in. This means that there are only a few weeks left **(likely to be until the end of September)** to

Does the thought
of your next
winter heating bill
leave you
c  **ld?**

make this energy efficiency improvement. The 'Buckinghamshire Affordable Warmth Network' can help, and is supported by your local council. To get your free, no obligation survey for insulation, or for more advice on heating, keeping warm, saving money on energy bills, grants, switching supplier, and a whole host of other

helpful ways to cut your bills, call us on free-phone **0800 107 0044**. Lines are open Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm.

Dale Hoyland
Project Manager
Bucks Affordable Warmth Project

You are needed!

Helen Smith from Aylesbury, has been a foster carer for four years and has two children of her own. She said: "I used to be a veterinary nurse; after having my first son I decided not to return to work and that I wanted a new challenge. As we had a spare room I thought I'd find out about fostering.

"Being a foster carer is outstanding – it's been beyond my expectations. You can make a huge difference to not only a child's life, but also to their family, giving them the space

they need to help them stay together. I have watched children I've cared for excel at school, socially and in self-confidence. I really would recommend being a foster carer. My advice would be to speak to others first to find out more. Being a foster carer isn't what you expect it to be, in fact it's so much better."

Foster carers receive a comprehensive support package from the County Council. Find out more by calling **01296 382555**.

Please mention *Village Life* when responding to advertisers

Theatre in the Villages

Michael Lunts is performing "Coward at Sea" at the Anthony Hall, Aston Clinton on 10 November. This is a very little known revue which the estate of Noel Coward has permitted Michael Lunts to perform.



"The Incredible Dr Guttman" is being performed at Stoke Mandeville Methodist Church Hall on 25/26

October. This tells the story of the man who staged the first Paralympics at Stoke Mandeville Hospital in 1948.

"The Hungry Heart" – Cat Weatherill will be performing grown-up story-telling with an Italian theme at St Anne's Hall,

Wendover (date to be confirmed).

Across the county during October and November we have other fantastic performances of opera, comedy, children's theatre, and family shows – the full programme will be available July/August. Information available as usual from me on **01296 630902**.

Jeannette Baxter

Rogue traders

A recent case in which an arrested man was suspected of persuading a victim that her bungalow and driveway needed grossly over-priced and unnecessary repairs has highlighted the need for extreme caution in dealing with door-to-door traders.

If you are told that your house needs work done by an unknown door-to-door trader, the sensible thing to do is to ask for a second opinion and a price from one or more of our established local firms, many of whom advertise in **Village Life**. They rely on their good reputation for honest dealing.

Mark Webber wins!

To say that Mark Webber is an Aston Clinton resident is technically true but as a Red Bull Formula 1 driver, he rarely sees much of his adopted village. However, the weekend of the British Grand Prix on 7/8 July was different. Not only did he win the race, but as he said on the day he arrived for the practice session:

"I love racing at Silverstone. It's the only race of the year where I get to sleep in my own bed, which is beneficial. I was able to take the dogs for a run this morning, which is always a great way to start the day."

Despite heavy rain on the Saturday, the sun shone on his brilliant winning performance the next day, coming so soon after his success at Monte Carlo in May.

Born in Australia in 1976 in Queanbeyan, a few miles SE of Canberra, New South Wales, Mark is always happy when the Australian Grand Prix comes around. It allows him to revisit the land of his birth and see old friends.

The second half of Village Life

is packed with information

about local trades & services.

Their support makes this

community magazine

possible.

They deserve yours in return.

Can you Walk an Arm's Length from Wendover to Tring on Sunday 2nd September?

THE WENDOVER ARM TRUST invites you to bring your friends and family to our 6 ¾ mile sponsored walk along the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal, from Wharf Road, Wendover to Bulbourne Junction, near Tring. See our volunteers in action restoring the canal at Drayton Beauchamp, take in stunning Chilterns landscapes, watch the wildlife and enjoy a fantastic day out in the countryside.

This will be the third *Walk an Arm's Length* walk to be organised by the Trust, the last one being back in 2007.

David Suchet CBE, actor, canal enthusiast and the Trust's patron who completed the first Walk in 2004 says:

"Although I cannot be with you this year due to other commitments I send you my best wishes for a very successful *Walk an Arm's Length*. I know how important this event is to the Wendover Arm Trust, having taken part with you several years ago. I also recognise that this is a special time for the Waterways and for volunteering with the creation of the groundbreaking charitable Canal & River Trust. I am sure your sponsored walk will be a huge success, and my thoughts and best wishes will be with you on the day!"

Formed in 1989, the Wendover Arm Trust (a registered charity) is dedicated to raising funds for our restoration volunteers to do the actual job of restoring this historic Chilterns waterway. It costs £400 to restore one metre of canal bed using volunteer labour and modern engineering solutions.

Their unpaid volunteers will be hard at work on the day – you can come and watch them in action and find out how the canal is restored. See the heavy machinery and materials needed to make the canal a navigable waterway once again.

Would you like to become a fundraiser and ask your friends, family and colleagues to sponsor your walk? The Wendover Arm Trust has teamed up with 'BTMyDonate' to offer an online fundraising tool, where you can set up your own personal fundraising page, or one of their volunteers can set this up on your behalf. Visit Johanna's fundraising page to see how easy it is to raise funds for canal restoration: www.mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/johannaswalk

THE WALK is open to all, is over flat terrain and marshes from RAF Halton and the Air Training Corps will be stationed every mile and at key road crossing points.

You are welcome to walk as an individual, family or team.

Refreshments and toilets will be available along the route and at the finish in Bulbourne with hot food and bar at The Grand Junction Arms. There will be an opportunity to take a free trip aboard a canal boat along the canal from Bulbourne.

Registration is £10 per adult, which includes:

- Free car parking
- Shuttle bus service throughout the day
- Walker's information pack
- Goody bag

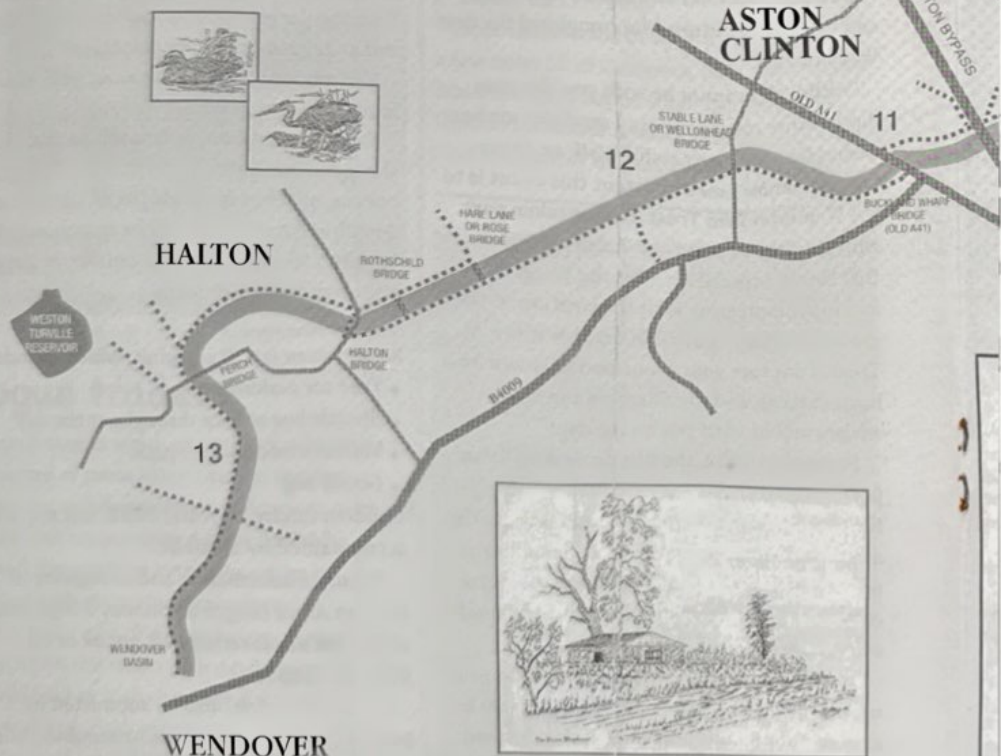
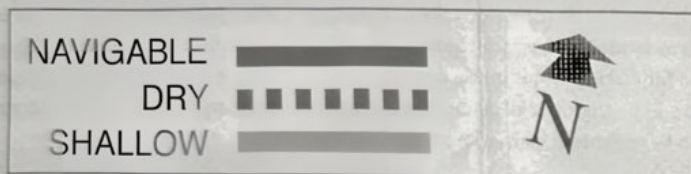
Children (under 16 years) FREE, but must be accompanied by an adult.

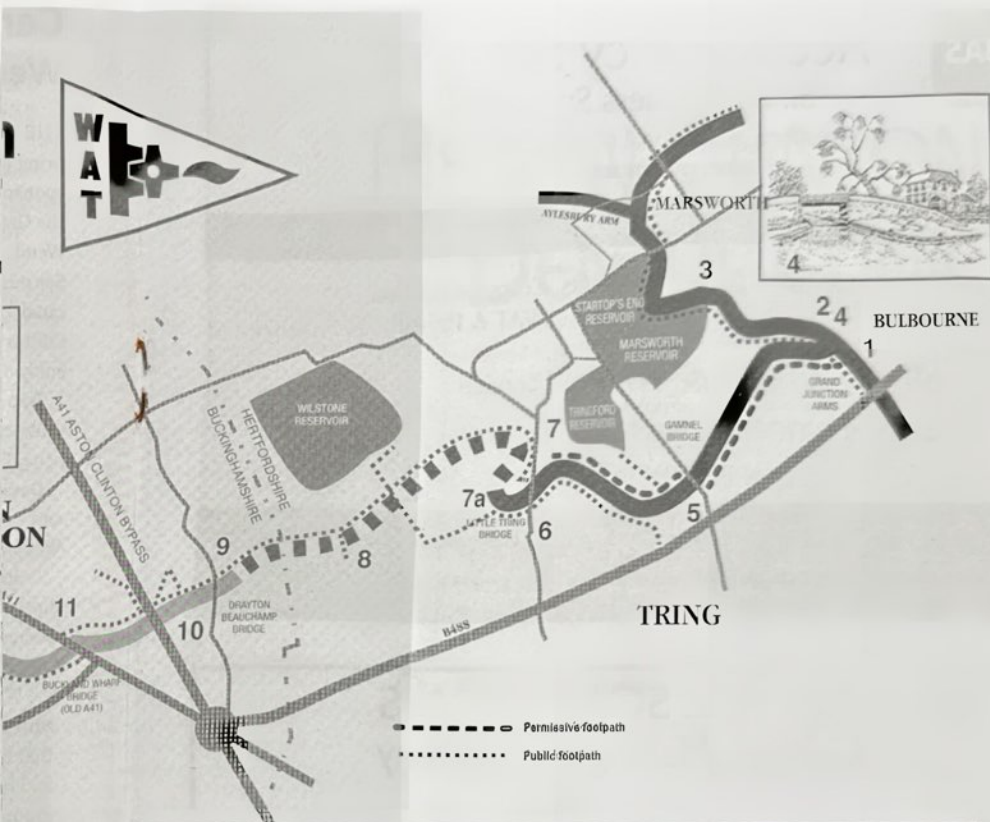
For more information and to register to *Walk an Arm's Length* on Sunday 2 September, visit: www.wendoverarmwalk.org.uk or call **07547 181857**.

Registrations can also be submitted in person (cash or cheque) at Christopher Pallet Estate Agents, High Street, Wendover and at Beechwood Fine Foods, Frogmore St., Tring.

See map overleaf →

The Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal





KEY TO MAIN FEATURES

1. Former British Waterways Works, Bulbourne
2. Dry dock
3. Marsworth flight. 7 locks 42ft 3in
4. Bulbourne Junction
5. Heygates Mill
6. Stop lock
7. Tringford Pumping Station
- 7a. Newly restored winding hole, limit of navigation from 2005.
8. Site of Whitehouses Pumping Station
9. The Sump. Moved east of Drayton Beauchamp Bridge in 2003
10. Aston Clinton By-pass Bridge and canal diversion completed in 2003
11. Buckland Wharf
12. The Narrows
13. The Wides

Opened to navigation: March 1797. Length 6 miles, 6 furlongs, 32 yards.

The Wendover Arm is now navigable as far as the new winding hole, west of Little Tring Bridge. The entire length is accessible on foot and makes a pleasant walk through beautiful countryside.



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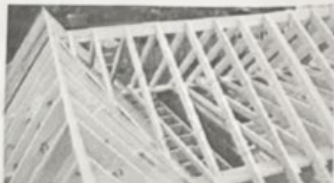
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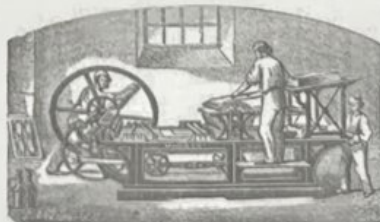
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
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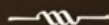
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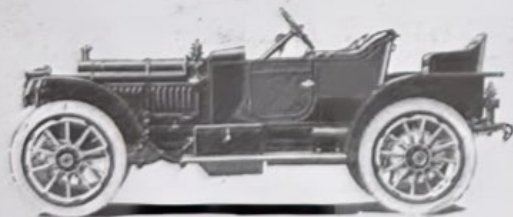
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