Village Life

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The community magazine for Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp

No.12 Feb-Mar 2013

Useful info Church news School news Local events Features Clubs & societies

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Editorial contributions welcomed subject to availability of space and Editor's decision on suitability for publication.

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Cover photo: Early spring at St Mary's, Drayton Beauchamp © David Lonsdale

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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)

WE TAKE FOR GRANTED our right to drive our cars when and where we want. Few of us can claim that we never drive too fast for the prevailing conditions, whether they be the hazard of fog or, more commonly, the close proximity of other road users and pedestrians. The right to drive is an eagerly anticipated rite of passage for most teenagers. The flip side of the coin for all of us is the responsibility to drive with care and consideration for others at all times. Whatever your age, make a point of reading the writing on the road on page 5.

On the same page you'll find an account of how Aston Clinton School is embracing modern technology in support of the challenging task of educating the drivers of tomorrow in the life skills they'll need both inside and outside the confines of the car.

Coping with the frustrations as well as the joys of family life is again the backdrop to Kelly Cornish's entertaining column on page 6. Isn't biffing a punch bag always to be preferred against bottling things up?

We have, on pages 7 and 9, two more fascinating accounts of long lives, well lived. The first tells how a chance encounter changed a life. In the other, we learn how happy memories of Aston Clinton are alive in the mind of a former local lass, now living in Aberdeenshire.

Tilla Adams has again trawled through the old Parish Magazine archive and come up with an interesting insight into one well-connected Edwardian lady's view of the world as she saw it in 1905. Hers was a prophetic voice at a time of arrogance, largely based on ignorance. Her thoughts still resonate over a century later.

Brace yourself for a full-on attempt by the Parish Council on page 14 to get us to face our responsibilities as dog owners. What is worse than a small child slipping over in the Park on dog mess left by a dog walker who chose to look the other way while Rover was doing what Rover has to do?

Alec Just

Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends

What do you remember of last Christmas? I don't know how it actually was for you but the adverts suggested we should be remembering mountains of food, wonderful carols,

huge family gatherings and heaps of presents and lights. Now six weeks on, we're back to ordinariness and smallness. But that's not so bad! I'd even go so far as to say it's a gift to recognize and accept our own smallness and ordinariness. Then you are free with nothing to live up to, nothing to prove, and nothing to protect.

Has it ever occurred to you that
God seems to hide inside littleness and seeming insignificance? Just think of the baby
Jesus. And God hides inside our little selves
on their seemingly insignificant and ordinary
life journeys too, just as he perfectly and

visibly did in Jesus, as he grew to adulthood. And that's what makes us free. Such freedom is my best description of Christian maturity, because once you know that your inner 'you' is

great and at one with the God who lives in you, you can, ironically, be quite content with your outwardly small and ordinary 'you'. No grandstanding is henceforth necessary. Any question of your own importance or dignity has already been resolved from the inside out—once and for all.

And that makes our everyday lives a cause for celebration all the year round.

With love

Elizabeth

Cllr John Watson writes:

On the Sunday before Christmas, the Parish Council made their traditional tour of the village with their now well-recognised Christmas Float. The Parish Council was assisted by members of the local Scout and Guide groups in collecting money for the Iain Rennie Hospice.

Through the generosity of the people of Aston Clinton, the total raised was £900. Because of the valued help given to the Parish Council by the Scouts and Guides, it was decided that they should each receive a share of the collection to help them with the great work done by both organisations.

The Parish Council has now been touring the village every Christmas for over sixteen years and raising thousands of pounds for local charities.

We believe we are the only Council to do this in the whole of Buckinghamshire.

Once again we thank all those who put in the hard work to make this possible – in particular, we are greatly indebted to Mr Colin Lane of

C D Lane Contractors Ltd who, yet again, generously supplied transport and his time driving around the village. Lastly, we are especially grateful to the people of Aston Clinton who always respond by giving so much at this festive time. *Cllr. John Watson*

St Michael and All Angels

Regular Services: 9.15am and 6pm each Sunday and Evening Prayer at 7.30pm each Friday



Forthcoming Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun 3 Feb	4pm	Christingle	St Michael's Church
Sat 9 Feb	7.30pm	Quiz Evening	The Anthony Hall
Wed 13 Feb	8pm	Ash Wednesday	St Michael's Church
Sun 10 March	9.15am	Mothering Sunday	St Michael's Church
Sun 24 March	9.15am	Palm Sunday	St Michael's Church
Mon 25 March	8pm	Stations of the Cross	St Michael's Church
Fri 29 March	12noon	Good Friday Worship	St Michael's Church 31
Sun 31 March	9.15	Easter Day	St Michael's Church

On each Tuesday from 19 February until 19 March: Taizé Worship at St Michael's Church More details about all these events on the church website www.s-michaels.org.uk

New website for ACPC www.astonclinton.org

ASTON CLINTON Parish Council now has a new and improved website for you to report street lights not working, potholes and other road repairs needed, environmental issues, and so forth.

Forthcoming Parish Council meeting dates and minutes of past meetings will be available on the home page along with other news and items of interest.

Please visit the site and tell us what you think!

Claire Hill

Clerk to Aston Clinton Parish Council

The support of our advertisers makes your magazine possible. They deserve yours in return.

Supper Quiz in aid of St Michael and All Angels

Saturday 9 February
The Anthony Hall
7 for 7.30 pm

Tickets £10 (includes supper)

For further information contact Marion Richards on 01296 630577

A short history of Aston Clinton

Aston Clinton village was established at the crossing of the pre-historic track Icknield Way with the Roman road Akeman Street and was originally known as Eston (old English for eastern estate). After the fall of the Roman Empire, it became a Saxon settlement and remains of a Saxon cemetery were found during construction of the Aston Clinton By-Pass.

What is now Green Park was known as Eston Manor. In the Domesday Book of 1086 it is recorded that, before the Norman Conquest, Eston Manor was held by Wlwen, a retainer of King Edward the Confessor. After the Conquest, the manor was held by Edward of Salisbury (standard bearer to Henry I), when it housed 45 families of 'bordars, villeins and serfs', together with a mill meadow sufficient for seventeen ploughs and woodland for feeding 300 swine.

In 1217 Henry III gave the manor to Sir William de Farendon. By 1237 it was owned by the de Clinton family. William de Clinton separated out from Aston Clinton the new manor of Chivery as a dowry for his daughter Alice. Edward I granted the estates to the Montacutes who were ancestors of the Earls of Salisbury. Successive families owned the manor, passing by marriage from the Hastings, Barringtons, Gerards, then later the manor was acquired by the Lake family who, incidentally, claimed descent from Sir Launcelot of the Lake, reputed to be one of King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table. Certainly, several sons of the family were christened Launcelot! The last of the line was General Lake who was a famous soldier and commander-in-chief in India. He later became Viscount and Baron Lake of Delhi, Laswaree and Aston Clinton. When he died in 1808. the title became extinct.

The modern parish of Aston Clinton was created in 1934. Of the medieval manors (Dundridge, Chivery, St Leonards and Vaches) only Chivery and Vaches have remained distinct parts of Aston Clinton. The car maker Aston Martin took part of its name from the village, after great success in the Aston Clinton Hill Climb competition in the early years of the 20th century.

The Maskells



Plum pickers taking a break in the Rodwell orchards, Aston Clinton in the early 1900s. Photo courtesy of Bucks CC.

Editor's note: A short history of Green Park by the Maskells will appear in the next issue of Village Life.

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. Bar open to everyone Thursday and Saturday evening 7.30–11pm.

Forthcoming meetings:

Wed 6 Feb: Social Evening-Quiz Night

Wed 6 March: Branch AGM Wed 3 April: Social Evening

For further information please contact:

Ray Mockford on 07771 591 586 Derf Mockford on 07775 664 064



Aston Clinton School

Head: Mrs Helen Shepherd



Moving into the 21st century

OUR SCHOOL, as readers may remember from previous articles, is being extended with new classrooms and a new entrance and office area. The building work started in March and now we are able to use two new classrooms and four refurbished classrooms. We also now have a new library and a corridor that allows us to walk around the school inside in the warm! The impact for the school is huge. It makes the school environment look modern, clean and inviting. Everyone involved in the school is delighted.

As things are modernised in one area of your life, it is amazing how, as you look around, you notice other areas of your life that now look outdated. This was exactly what happened when I looked at our website! So I set to work. with a highly skilled technical person, redesigning and updating our website. Like the building work, it has been a massive task. Decisions from the shade of colours used to the layout of the pages and what each one should include have taken a lot of time. This was followed with weeks spent populating the pages with information. As I write this article we are almost ready to launch the site to the school community. Our new school website address is: www.astonclintonschool.co.uk . Do please have a look at it, if you can.

While all this work was going on, I had to make a monumental change to move us from the communication dark ages into the 21st century. Until now, I have fiercely resisted

joining any social media sites and yet over the last few weeks I have found myself considering setting an account up for the school! To my huge surprise and delight, today I posted my first 'tweet'! Twitter, for novices like me out there, allows you to put short messages onto a page which others can read using any mobile device or computer. In school there is always something going on, so I cannot imagine I will struggle to find things to post about! What is lovely though is the idea that the school community can find things out very quickly. I am looking forward to seeing how useful my tweets will be in the future.

I look at the new building work, the website and the twitter link on our website with huge pride. Aston Clinton School continues to stride forward positively into the 21st century. Helen Shepherd



Fight Club

HAS your resolve to eat less and exercise more softened somewhat since January? If it has, you are definitely not alone. I used to begin every New Year with a flashy new gym membership, brimming with promises of 6am aerobics before work. It usually lasted no more than a month. In truth, I was never the athletic sort, with a permanent period when it came to PE at school and ALWAYS the last to be picked for rounders. But something in me changed after

I had my children. And not just the elasticity of my pelvic floor.

I started with a spot of powerwalking around the village, progressing to a gentle jog. People would ask how I could muster up the energy to go running with four children under the age of

five at home. "Therein lies the answer to your question," I would reply. The madness at home was exactly the incentive I needed to run, as fast as I could, away from it all. Clearly, I wanted the health benefits of a cardio workout but it didn't take me long to see that the mental benefits were almost equal. Now, my running time is my thinking time and just about the only chance I get to be truly alone. My hips and thighs may be a little more toned but a healthy mind is what I really cherish.

We all need a release in one form or another. For many of us, this means a glass of wine or two when the kids hit the sack. But I don't

like wine, and somehow cracking open a bottle of vodka midweek reeks somewhat of a "problem".

So aside from running, my weekly release now comes in the form of Fight Club. A bunch of fellow mums, boxing gloves in hand and a whole lot of frustration to punch out. During the summer months, should you take a late evening stroll around Aston Clinton Park, look out for us. We'll be looking slightly embarrassed doing burpees and tricep dips against the

bench in preparation for a vigorous punch up. The rest of the time, our wonderful trainer Adam (who owns 'On the Limit' in Tring) lets us use his facilities. It's a pretty good deal. He helps tone up our bums, tums and bingo wings and throws in the

odd flash of his six-pack. In return we educate him in the wonders of the female body and mind ("can I not do star jumps, please? I'll wet myself" or, while punching hard "this one's for you, [insert your chosen currently offensive celebrity] – you smug, perfect cow").

The only drawback to outdoor Boxercise is returning home with grass stains on your knees and foliage in your hair. But as I said to my husband, when he eyed me suspiciously, everyone knows the first rule of Fight Club, is you don't talk about Fight Club...

Kelly Cornish

Royal British Legion - Aston Clinton and District Branch

On behalf of The Aston Clinton and District Branch Royal British Legion, I would like to thank all those who gave their time collecting for the Annual Poppy Appeal, and to inform you that the total raised by the Branch for 2012 was £5,090. This is only £5 down on the 2011 total. Very well done. Together with the Aylesbury Branch, in 2011/12 we raised a total of £61,000. Thank you one and all. KABrooker, Treasurer

Life can turn on a chance encounter!

AY Hatcliffe's father ran a wood and timber business next to The Bull's Head, a pub which stood at Willowdean near Weston Road. The property has since been demolished and buildings now stand where there were once an orchard of fruit trees and a paddock.

On leaving school, May took a job at the grocer's shop, Nicholls Store, where she was taught to drive the firm's van. She was a quick learner and this was to stand her in good stead when, at the age of 23, she decided to join the wartime Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS). May didn't find it difficult to choose

Mrs May Hatcliffe (née Hawkins) in 1943

between working in a factory and joining the ATS, which was the wartime expectation for a young girl in those days. Everyone had to do their bit towards the war effort and May reminded us that even the Queen (then Princess Elizabeth) was an

ATS driver and mechanic during World War II.

May was stationed in Leicester, where she chose to be a military driver rather than serve her time as a typist, telegraphist or in the cookhouse, jobs which most of the women did. She had to go to Edinburgh to be trained and to take her test on an ambulance. During this time she made friends with a fellow ATS driver named Marjorie and they still keep in touch to this day, although Marjorie is a year older than 92-year-old May. She remembers that the driving test was quite rigorous, requiring them to wear heavy gas masks during the whole procedure. They were expected to

know how to maintain their vehicle and to have a knowledge of first aid.

Following her test, which of course she passed with flying colours, May was stationed in various parts of southern England. She ended up at North Foreland in Kent at just about the time when the first flying bombs (doodlebugs) or V1s were dropping on us. As a driver she was always attached to anti-aircraft batteries and remembers quite vividly the later V2 bombs falling on Margate and Broadstairs. Despite all this danger she recalls her war service as a wonderful time in her life.

While May was serving in the ATS she met

Bob, her husbandto-be. It was 1943
and May and her
ATS friend Marjorie
were shopping in
Uxbridge when they
bumped into two
RAF lads. They all
chatted for a bit and
then went on their
way. May and her
friend decided to go
into a teashop for a



Mrs May Hatcliffe today

bun and a cuppa. As she queued with her tray to pay, who should be standing behind her in the queue but Bob! What a coincidence some may say!

Suffice it to say that in 1944 Bob and May were married. Bob got three days' wedding leave from the army and hitch-hiked from Gloucester to Aston Clinton, arriving on the day of the wedding. After a long, happy and productive marriage, sadly Bob died five years ago but May remains vigorous and independent. It was a real pleasure to meet this lively and alert lady for whom a chance encounter during wartime service in the ATS changed the course of her life.

Jenny Just

Aston Clinton, Buckland & Drayton Beauchamp Horticultural Society

YOUR local Horticultural Society wishes you a happy and successful 2013 gardening year. Our December meeting was very enjoyable and our speaker, Russell Bowes, who talked about the A-Z of garden history, proved not only very interesting and knowledgeable but amusing too. Our Christmas Buffet, thanks to John Seaton, was enjoyed by all and the competition for home-made Christmas tree decorations produced some fierce competition.

May I remind you that our Spring Show and Plant Sale is on **Saturday 6 April**. Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 13 February** and is a talk with slides: 'Butterflies in Bucks' by Roger Kemp. This is followed on **Saturday 9 March** by our Annual Social Supper (7 for 7.30pm). Hilary Weston will be our after supper speaker talking about her 'Guider Adventures in Mexico'. Visitors are always welcome to attend our meetings.

The weather this year has been turbulent. The early spring began to look promising but then we had a cold, dry spell when nothing much grew, followed by drought when hosepipe bans were declared. Then the heavens opened and within the month the ban was lifted. It hardly stopped raining until the end of last year. I reported the effects of this in the last issue of Village Life. Since then I have obtained some local rain data. During the month of December the total rainfall was 92.8mm or 3.7" and for the whole year we had 951.8 mm or 37"! This is over 3ft of rain and since the early part of last year was in drought conditions, this depth of water fell in the last six or seven months of 2012. No wonder our gardens were soggy and the water table high. It makes me wonder what effect this will have on our forthcoming growing season. Many perennials will have had their

roots in water and so may suffer. Only time will tell which plants in your garden are capable of surviving these harsh conditions.

So we gardeners look forward to the new growing year. You should have by now bought your seeds. Some of the early sowings in the greenhouse and on the kitchen windowsill should be started soon. My tomato seed, which is one of the easiest, will have germinated and started to grow by the time you receive this magazine. However if you do not go in for growing from seed then come along to our Spring Show and Plant sale in April. We will have for sale a range of annuals, including tomato plants, ivy-leaved geraniums and fuchsias. We will also stock a range of perennial plants to fill your flower beds. This is easier than trying to grow all your plants from seed.

At the same time we hope that you will join in our Spring Show. There are classes for everyone, whatever your experience and skills, including children and the cooks amongst you.



Those of you who are novices will also find classes to enter and there is always a floral art section that is well supported, as the accompanying picture shows. Details of the Show schedule can be found on the new website at www.astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk or alternatively, you can email the Society at info@astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk We look forward to seeing you at Aston Clinton School at 2pm on Saturday 6 April.

Ralph Weston

Doreen Wilkinson's wartime memories

T THE START of the war in 1939 I was attending Aston Clinton Girls' School in Mill Lane. The headmistress was a Miss Cox, strict but fair and a little on the lines of Queen Victoria. It was a happy time in my life but of course everything soon began to change dramatically. The arrival of evacuees began and, looking back now, it must have been mayhem for all the teachers from both girls' and boys' schools.

Some were sent to a hurriedly started school at the Baptist Chapel as I believe some

teachers did come down from London as well to be with the children. Also we started to have just half-days at school so they could also use our classrooms. The memory of those days is a bit vague now as I was only nine or ten years old at the time. However, things soon seemed to have sorted themselves out into a normal pattern of life.

We eventually had a new headmistress, Mrs Taylor, who soon got us all organised in getting up various concerts in aid of the troops. I remember being in one for Spitfire Week! We were also kept busy knitting comforts, sea-boot stockings and sweaters all in oiled wool, not very easy

on small hands! Another task was pegging and making huge nets in The Anthony Hall, to cover over tanks.

Everyone was 'doing their bit'. My father joined the Home Guard until he was called up and my mother was on firewatching duties. I was left in charge of my grandmother who was living with us at the time. We were very lucky in Aston, as we didn't suffer any bombing apart from one night when a landmine exploded in Aylesbury.

At the age of eleven, the time of the 11-plus

exams, I was successful in getting a place in Aylesbury Grammar School, so sadly I had to leave my Aston school life behind me. However, there were a few of us going and starting a new way of life. We either caught the bus to school or cycled if the weather was fine.

Living quite close to the American bomber base at Long Marston (Cheddington), we had an idea of all the bombing raids that were going on and it became 'the thing to do' to count out the bombers in the evening and then to count them back in the morning to

see how many were missing, quite a macabre thing really, although we did respect more the job the crews were doing and losing their lives in the process. It was certainly a time for growing up quickly!

My father, who was in the army, was driving one of those big tank carriers taking new tanks to various ports and picking up old ones to be re-paired. If he was in the vicinity of Aston



Doreen Wilkinson in 1940

in the evening there would often be a couple of big lorries parked in Twitchell Lane overnight. We had to hurriedly make up beds for the drivers but I was lucky to be able to see my father for a short while.

I can't remember much about the evacuees returning to their homes but there were quite a lot of friends made over that period and friendships were kept up over the following years and maybe they kept a little bit of Aston in their hearts.

Doreen Wilkinson

Editor's note: Doreen now lives in Scotland near her daughter. This article came about as a result of Doreen noticing the misspelling of 'Twitchell' in an article on page 14 in the Oct/Nov issue of Village Life.

Surprising insight revealed in ...

Aston Clinton Parish Magazine of March 1905

**COME OF US, who know the game of word-making, will recall how the little blocks of letters, like a child's alphabet, have to be joined together in order to make a word, and how these words grow and change as one letter after another is added to the original number. Thus, the word 'our', which means so much to us, by the addition of the letter 'y' becomes an equally important word, although one of very different meaning.

It has been said, and not without some truth, that we English people often think too much of 'our' and too little of 'your'. We have become masters of a very large part of the world. Our flag is to be found in widely different places: right away under our feet, as the children would say, in Australia, then waving over the cold snows of Newfoundland and over the scorchingly hot plains of India. The sun never sets on our King's Dominions. We cannot help being proud of this. When we land thousands of miles away from home, it makes our hearts beat all the faster to see our colours flying, to hear English spoken, and to feel that we must be safe, for we are under British rule.

But there is just such a possibility as forgetting 'your' in 'our'. Perhaps we do not always care whether we understand people of different habits, different language, different creeds, even different colour to our own. We are apt to think that all should be as we are, and that if they are not, they must be inferior creatures.

How foolish are people who do not care for our favourite games or sports! How extraordinary or weak-minded are those who abstain from eating flesh or drinking strong drinks! How can any people take their night's rest by lying curled up on a mat! And what a strange religion that teaches men to cover their heads and uncover their feet when they go into a place of worship! It is only our ignorance and

want of thought which prevent us from finding good reasons for many strange ways and customs, and allow us to ridicule that which we might learn to respect.

When the huge Indian Continent became a part of our late beloved Oueen Victoria's possessions, she instructed her minister to write a letter in her name to the Indian princes and rulers announcing the fact. This letter did not fully please her, so she re-wrote it herself in a gracious and generous spirit, intent upon conciliating her new subjects and promising that her Government should respect their habits and customs. The spirit in which that letter was written should be ours. In bringing it to our daily lives we shall find many opportunities for carrying out the golden rule: 'Do unto others as you would be done by'. If each one of us could really so live and so act, we should all unknowingly be adding to our country's renown, and in fully recognising the claims of 'your' as well as 'our', we should cause our Nation to be loved as well as feared; our rule honoured as well as obeyed."

Constance Battersea (daughter of Sir Anthony de Rothschild)

WE COULD still learn much today from this surprisingly liberal view of 1905. Should we still be telling other societies how and why they could change to be more like us? Is it not ironic that, in over 100 years since Constance Battersea wrote this article, we still sometimes fail to understand and respect the rights of other people to run their own societies in a way of their own choosing. Whilst we may find their way of life odd or even barbaric, they may also see our society as equally so. Let's hope that mutual understanding and trust between different cultures can blossom more in 2013.

Tilla Adam

The Aston Wine Club

THIS year the Aston Wine Club will be 17 years old, and what a fine vintage it has become! It meets regularly at Buckland Village Hall. usually on the third Friday of every month. Over the years it has provided a most enjoyable evening where friends and like-minded people who want to expand their knowledge of wine can sample a wide range of wines which they might like to purchase or just enjoy tasting.

To each meeting we invite a highly professional presenter of wine, independent or from wine societies, importers and distributors from all over the country. We have sampled wine from all over the world and one of the many highlights last year was a

presentation of wines from Uruguay which included a sweet, dessert wine which tasted just like chocolate!

We meet at 7.30pm for a prompt start at 8pm. There are usually eight wines to taste and we break in the middle for a finger buffet supper.

If I have whetted your palate, have a look at our website: www.astonwineclub.org.uk where there are details of future events, tasting notes from past presentations. and also some photographs taken at our very merry December meeting.

New members are always made welcome so if you would like to come along, or want some more information, you can send an email via the website, or call me on 01296 630124 Pat Rozental

Women's Institute

Forthcoming meetings:

Wed 6 Feb: Dr Tony Maisey 'Spare Part Surgery'. Bring a photo entitled 'Seen better days'.

Wed 6 March: Beryl Hulbert on 'The Beautiful Island of Jersey'.

Aston Clinton Ladies' Group

Wed 20 Feb: We meet at the Guide Hall at 8pm. Ros Needham talks on 'Helping yourself to a better back as you get on in years'.

Wed 20 Mar: Lenten Service at St Michael & All Angels Church at 8pm, followed by coffee at Janet Leech's home

Like to join our friendly group? Please contact Sue Sanders on 01296 630740 or Janet Watson on 01296 631014.

The Aston Clinton **Badminton Club**

THE CLUB was formed about and I took over running it when I moved to the village about 29 vears ago.

We play mainly for fun and exercise and, although we say we are not serious, we do have some very good players and therefore have some very tough games.

30 years ago

We meet at Green Park Sports Hall on Thursday evenings between 7.30pm and 9pm. The cost is only £5 per session and we operate on a 'No play, no pay' basis, so you only pay when you come along. It would be good to see a few more players so please feel free to come along at your leisure. For more information, contact Maureen Davison on 07958 479690.

If you are the chairperson or secretary of a local club or society, Village Life is your platform to tell the rest of us 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. Share the good news! To get something in the April/May issue, email the Editor at: alec.just@btinternet.com

Aston Clinton Park Trim Trail

N ADDITION to the plethora of activities associated with Parish Council business, Aston Clinton Parish Council has been working to provide the village with a fitness Trim Trail in the Park. You may recall the Parish Council asked for your opinion to go ahead with the Trim Trail and after a significant positive response from the village it was decided to proceed.

visitors around the activities. The whole project was financed through development money available to the village for the improvement of recreational activities.

The Park already had an excellent fenced facility for families with younger children and a skateboard area which has also been developed further over the last few months. The addition of a Trim Trail will build on these

facilities and will encourage all age groups to undertake exercise while exploring the majority of our 30-acre Park.

The Trim Trail can 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. Nevertheless, as with any exercise equipment, it is important to read the data board adjacent to the main entrance of the Hub prior to using the equipment. Also, do observe the indicator signs for information



The equipment was supplied by Sportsequip, a reputable manufacturer, who installed each piece with a station indicator explaining the activity. Sportsequip was the Council's preferred manufacturer. They have an attractive portfolio and are renowned for the quality of their equipment and after-sales service. The company also supplied data boards to direct Park







on how to enjoy each station safely. If you have not exercised recently it might be advisable to consult your GP first.

The Parish Council is always happy to explore innovative ideas that will enhance the quality of our village. Consequently, we would like to invite village residents to recommend proposals that you think would improve village life. If you have a suggestion please telephone Claire Hill, the Parish Council Clerk: Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 2.30pm on 01296 631269 or, alternatively, you can email: parishcouncil@astonclinton.org

The photographs illustrate some of Trim
Trail equipment that has been erected around
the Park. They include: run-and-jump, low
climbing wall, monkey run, pull up and sit-up
stations.

Cllr Paul Crook





Dog mess is a health hazard. It stinks, it's messy and it's dangerous.

It can cause stomach upsets, headaches, asthma and epilepsy.

It can also lead to permanent blindness.

THE PARISH COUNCIL urges dog owners to pick up their dog mess from Aston Park and around the village.

AVDC provides a dog waste bin service; this costs the Parish Council and subsequently the residents of Aston Clinton a sizeable part of its annual budget.

People regularly visit our office with witness accounts of dog fouling and dog control issues within the park. Many of the bins are half-empty and we have been advised that the increase in dog foul found on footpaths and within the park signifies that the bins are not being used by many dog owners. We would like to thank those responsible dog owners who do pick up and use the bins.

Responsible dog walkers are very much welcome in the park. However, for all to enjoy the park we have now erected signs on posts along the edge of the car park requiring dogs to be kept on leads on and around the football pitches.

Public behaviour will be reviewed after a while and, if found necessary, fencing around the pitches may be erected with notices stating that dogs are to be walked in designated areas only. If you have your own suggestion on how to deal with this issue, please visit our website and make a comment on the 'contact us' page.

Claire Hill Clerk to Aston Clinton Parish Council

Secret Dealers is back for a new series on ITV and they are looking for people in Aston Clinton and surrounding villages to take part. You could have some of your possessions expertly valued with the opportunity of selling them commission-free to one of their dealers.

You can apply now by calling **0117 970 7674** or email: secretdealers@rdftelevision.com Standard network charges apply from a BT landline. Calls from mobiles will cost considerably more.

Guides and Brownies

WITHIN THE VILLAGE we have two Brownie packs (one recently expanded due to demand), a thriving Guide unit, and a Senior Section unit that provides many Young Leaders to units in the District. To give as many girls as possible the opportunity of Guiding, we always welcome new adult volunteers, either to help at existing units, or open new ones (there is no Rainbow unit in the village for example).

Girlguiding UK is the UK's largest voluntary organisation for girls and young women, with 538,247 members and recognised volunteers.

Girls and young women are offered the chance to have fun and grow in confidence in a safe, girl-only space. Members are challenged by a girl-led programme that extends beyond badges, and enjoy a spectrum of activities from international travel and outdoor adventure to pop-concerts and community action.

Since December, all Guiding units (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Senior Section) have changed the way they receive information about girls wishing to join. Instead of contacting units directly, you will be asked to enter your details in the 'Join Us' website.

'Join Us' is Girlguiding UK's new online enquiry system accessed via the Girlguiding UK website. The system allows parents of girls to register their interest in Guiding by choosing up to three units to be contacted. These can be selected by name, meeting day or distance.

This information is then sent to the leaders of the chosen units who will then contact the parents regarding spaces, or more likely, waiting lists.

The same system can be used for anyone wishing to volunteer as an adult.

To get started, please visit Girlguiding UK at www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

Hilary Weston

Hot tips for cold weather from Thames Water

THERE ARE simple ways to keep your home snug and your pipes from freezing which could save you a lot of hassle, damage and expense.

- 1 Wrap up your pipes: When water freezes it expands which can cause pipes to crack. Make sure you protect any pipes that are exposed to the cold including in the loft and garage, and taps on external walls, by wrapping them in foam lagging.
- **2 Plan ahead:** Make sure you know where your inside stop tap is in case you need to turn it off quickly in an emergency (usually located under the kitchen sink). Have the details of a good plumber to hand.
- **3 Keep your home snug:** Minimise draughts from outside and, when it's very cold, leave your loft hatch open so warm air can circulate. Leave your heating on low when you are away.

What to do if your pipes freeze

- 1 Gently warm up your pipes: Turn off your inside stop tap and check all visible pipes for any evidence of damage. If you can identify which pipe is frozen you can gently warm it up using a hairdryer at its lowest setting or a hot water bottle wrapped in a tea towel. Be very careful not to warm a pipe too quickly as it may burst.
- 2 Call a plumber if you need help or your pipe bursts: Once your pipes have thawed, double check to make sure there are no leaks before turning the stop tap back on and turning on heating appliances. If you find a leak, call a certified plumber.

You'll find more info at: www.thameswater.co.uk Click on the Help and Advice section.

All Saints' Church, Buckland

Regular Services:

8am Holy Communion each Sunday 11am Morning Worship – First and Third Sundays 6pm Choral Evensong – Fourth Sunday each month 10am Midweek Communion each Wednesday



Forthcoming Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Fri 8 Feb	7.30pm	Film Night – The Intouchables	All Saints' Church
Tues 12 Feb	12-4.30pm	Pancake Party	All Saints' Church
Fri 8 March	7.30pm	Film Festival – Ayrton Senna	All Saints' Church
Sat 9 March	7.30pm	Film Festival – Buster Keaton	All Saints' Church
Sun 10 March	4pm	Mothering Sunday and tea	All Saints' Church
Sun 24 March	6.30pm	Choral Evensong for Palm Sunday	All Saints' Church
Tues 26 March	8pm	Taizé Worship for Holy Week	All Saints' Church
Fri 29 March	1.20pm	Good Friday worship	All Saints' Church
Sun 31 March	11.00	Easter Fire Family Service	All Saints' Church

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

Parish Council Meetings

The next meetings of Buckland PC will be held in the Committee Room at Buckland Hall at 7.45pm sharp on the following Mondays: 11 February, 11 March and 8 April 2013. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** is to be held at 8pm on 8 April 2013, following on from the Parish Council meeting and will be held in the main hall. Please put the date in you diary.

Ditches

Please remember that, if you own a ditch, it is your responsibility to keep it clear from blockages. Throwing rubbish into ditches exacerbates flooding problems.

Church flowers

Frances writes: Thanks to all for your help at Christmas, at such a busy time, in making our church look so beautiful.

Dates for your diaries:

Sat 27 April: **Fund-Raising Lunch** for the Flower Festival, to be held at The Pink House, 25 Beaconsfield Road, 12-2pm.

Weekend 22/23 June: Flower Festival 2013

Buckland Village Hall

Buckland Village Hall is available to hire. For bookings, please contact Paula Graves on **01296 630310**.

Planning news New applications

12/02302/APP-ARLA - Land to east of College Road North, Aston Clinton. Vehicle Maintenance Unit with associated chassis wash unit, waste recycling area, cycle and smoking shelters (amendment to scheme approved under planning reference 11/00962/APP).

12/02302/APP – 24 Lower Icknield Way, Buckland. Rear conservatory. No objections.

12/02424/ATC - The Old Dukes Head, Peggs Lane, Buckland, HP22 5HX. Reduce one Lawson Cypress tree by five feet and two Lawson Cypress trees by 25 feet and top line of Conifers by half and trim sides.

12/02650/APP – Woodside Lodge, Dancers End Lane, Buckland. Two-storey rear extension.

12/02651/ACL – Woodside Lodge. Dancers End Lane. Two single storey flat roofed extensions to rear of building.

12/02652/ACL – Woodside Lodge. Dancers End Lane. Single storey detached ancillary leisure outbuilding.

Decisions

12/01511/APP - 61 Buckland Road, Buckland.

Two-storey and first floor side extension, single storey front porch extension and detached garage/workshop to rear. *Permitted*

12/01598/APP – 41 Buckland Road, Buckland. Two storey extension. *Permitted*

Flooding

At the time of writing, the exceptionally wet weather of late 2012 is still fresh in our minds. Should it recur, you are advised to bear this County Council advice in mind.

If you have areas which are prone to flooding, please drive through puddles very slowly, particularly if there are pedestrians about; remember not all areas have pavements. In the 2012 downpours, Bucks CC sent out Local Area Technicians who were often drenched while trying to clear blockages. Please be considerate when people are there to help solve a problem.

Please remember that, if you are the riparian owner of a ditch, it is your responsibility to keep it clear from blockages. Throwing grass cuttings and other rubbish into ditches also exacerbates flooding problems.

Contact details for Buckland Parish Council

Mr Nigel Hayward (Chairman)	632094	Parish Clerk :
Mr Phil Hedges (Vice-Chairman)	631550	Mrs Christine Jensen
Mrs Carol Paternoster	630710	The Village Hall, Old School Close
Mr Geoff Plowman	632255	Halton Village
Mr Anthony Penn	631204	Aylesbury HP22 5NG
Mr Clive Carlile	632257	Tel: 01296 626073
Mr Colin Tufnell	631315	Email:clerk@bucklandpc.org.uk

Lying almost five miles from All Saints' Church, why is **Buckland Common** so-called, a newcomer may ask. Until 1934, the hamlet was indeed a remote outpost of Buckland parish. According to Wikipedia, for centuries Buckland Common had been scrubland. During the 16th century it was cleared and transformed to use as summer pasture and eventually became a permanent settlement, now part of the parish of Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards.

St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp

Regular Services: 10.45 am each Sunday 6pm Evening Worship each Monday

Forthcoming Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun 10 March	10.45am	Mothering Sunday	St Mary's Church
Sun 24 March	9.15am	Palm Sunday	St Mary's Church
Wed 27 March	8pm	A service of Tenebrae	St Mary's Church
Fri 29 March	2.30pm	Good Friday Worship	St Mary's Church
Sun 31 March	10.45am	Easter Day	St Mary's Church

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

Pony Express 2012

I WAS only able to make one journey delivering cards last Christmas. That was around Drayton

Beauchamp. Due to unforseen circumstances I couldn't go out again but I did

cheat and delivered the Buckland cards by car, the first time I have had to do it in that way.

I have had a couple of other activities with the

ponies over Christmas this year, one was to

take Father Christmas to the church fair at the Anthony Hall in Aston Clinton, the other was to take the same gentleman (but in a different guise) around Dagnall, this was in the dark but the ponies behaved as if they were quite used to driving at night.

I would like to thank you all for your donations. Including some money from Father Christmas, I collected just over £150. I have sent cheques to the Iain Rennie Hospice and World Horse Welfare. I would like to thank my helper Jenny Chalk for actually putting the envelopes through the doors. Erica Godman

The Bucks District Association of the National Vegetable Society meet at Pitstone Memorial Hall, not a million miles from DB. Its primary aim is to encourage the growing and eating of vegetables. The quality and health-giving properties of home-grown vegetables as food are well-known. The pleasure and enjoyment of actually growing them deserve to be more widely known. Talks are free to members. Guests are very welcome at

just £3 per person. Upcoming events are:

Tuesday 5 March at 7pm: John Smiles will talk on the Highs & Lows of growing and showing throughout the year. A short AGM will precede John's talk.

Tuesday, 7 May at 7.30 pm: "Composting my way". Mick Poultney will share with us the secrets of making usable compost, that sweetsmelling ingredient behind all successful gardening. Contact David Elkins on **630659**.

Parish Rat Runners and Litterbugs

Drayton Beauchamp, the village time passed by Where beauty is found in the simple life; In the time to stop, the time to care, The time to breathe in the country air. This humble gem we call our home, Where many kindnesses are shown, Where we take the time to stand and stare As long as the sheep seen grazing there. Time is as cherished as our gardens grown, From the loving seeds that we have sown, And when life beckons us to leave, Most of us drive at a sensible speed; So village toddlers can ride their bikes And families can enjoy the countryside. (Not suddenly be scrambling up the verge, Recoiling from the crescendo they've just heard). Heavy lorry, 'tis you! With your cumbersome roar, Heart in my mouth, I've seen you before. Pony and Trap, nearly pushed in the ditch. Within yards a child I pray you won't hit. Here come the Rat Runners to save 'precious time', It could cost someone's life. But they don't seem to mind. And even on Sunday, a day of rest, It seems these Speedy Gonzales aren't finished yet ... Such panache to get to the Church on time, But I'm sure if you're late God won't really mind. No need to hoot over Drayton Bridge, Just slow down going over it. The grass verge by the stream is giving way, From the barrage of careless driving each day: McDonalds & drink cans thrown in the lane. Still our villagers clean up again, and again. Searching through hedgerows. on hands and knees, Navigating the undergrowth to clean up your disease. Car tyres and furniture destined for the dump, You just leave in piles for someone else to pick up. As you've sped through our village and disposed of your waste,

Your indifference is visible along our landscape. When we've finished the blitz clearing up your debris, We go back to a neighbour's for a bacon butty. Because in spite of all this, our village is Still beautiful, unspoilt, and a great place to live. To the Rat Runners and Litterbugs all we ask, Is that you respect this place so close to our hearts. One of the few villages left that time Has Passed By, Let its dignity remain and resist the speed of time. A charming, peaceful backwater so hard to leave, It amazes us you'd want to drive through at such speed. As the seasons pass, yet so much remains, Try to enjoy the beauty of our country lanes. Clare Lonsdale



Just KILL your SPEED!

Drayton Beauchamp Summer ConcertThe acclaimed Artesian String Quartet will return on **Sat 15 June at 7pm**. Not to be missed! Programme and ticket details will be published in the next issue of **Village Life**.

Useful telephone numbers

Name	Contact/Line status	Telephone no. / Email
1st Aston Clinton Brownies	See below*	-
2nd Aston Clinton Brownies	See below*	-
Amersham Hospital	mond III de la bisoni	01494 434411
Anthony Hall (Bookings Sec)	Valerie Owen	01296 630303
Aston Clinton Badminton Club	Maureen Davison	07958 479690
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 U3A	John Bullard	01296 436403
Aston Clinton Youth Club	Brian Churchill	01296 630142
Aston Park Tennis Club	Luanda Bury	01296 630169
Aston Wine Club	Penny Ginger	01296 630383
Ballet, Tap and Jazz Classes	JoAnn Latus	07800 518654
Ballroom Dancing	Yvonne Domican	01296 630467
Baptist Church Hall	Valerie Owen	01296 630303
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	Kelly Cornish	01296 632119
Childline		0800 1111
Citizens Advice Bureau		0870 126 4056
Cricket Club	Mike Parsonage	01296 631788
Crimestoppers		0800 555 111
Dentists' Surgery	Bon .	08443 756336
Dial-a-Ride	100	01296 330088
Doctors' Surgery		01296 630241
Drayton Beauchamp 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
Green Park Life Saving Assocn	John Lessingham	01296 622613
Guides	See below*	

Name	Contact/Line status	Telephone no. / Email
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
Neighbourh'd 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	101
Pre-School	Anna Fryer	01296 632369
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	G THE STATE OF THE	01296 315000
Tot Spot (Baptist Church)	Nicky Downing	01296 631824
Trading Standards		0845 4040506
Veterinary Centre		01296 630600
Women's Institute	Linda Mepham	linda_mepham@hotmail.com

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 new non-emergency number is 101.

^{*} To register an interest in joining the Brownies or Guides, visit www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested



The Hub Aston Clinton, a new venture in Aston Park, delivering a broad lifestyle facility to the community, clubs and businesses in the local area.

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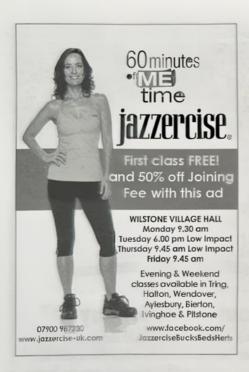














This second half of Village Life is packed with information about local trades and services.

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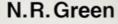
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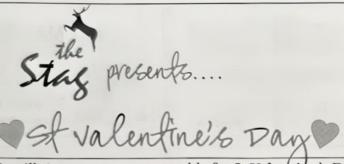
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There is still time to reserve your table for St Valentine's Day!

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Our decadent St Val's specials menu is available to view on our website now and will be available alongside our usual main menu.

WELSH NIGHT - MARCH IST

Our next instalment in our **Celebration of British Foods** evenings falls on **St David's Day** - and you guessed it, will be a showcase of traditional Welsh fare! So be sure to mark **Friday**, **March 1** in your diary as our resident Welshman, restaurant manager Nigel Bradshaw, will be working closely with our head chef to ensure that the menu is authentic and fun, and fit for St David himself!

Bookings are being taken now - full menu available soon on our website.

Don't Forget ...

Mothering Sunday falls on March 10 this year and The Stag will be releasing a specials menu designed with spoiling your mother in mind! Advance bookings are being taken now (phone us on: 01296 668 423).

The Stag Inn, The Green, Mentimore www.thestagmentmore.com

Call us on 01296 668 423 to reserve your table at our next event now!





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