## Village Life

The community magazine for Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp

No. 14 June-July 2013

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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 Porlsh Magazine)

THE WORD 'political' means different things to different people. The wise advice to avoid religion and politics at dinner parties is sound for obvious reasons. **Village Life** would be denying its purpose if it kept off religion in the broadest sense. Politics for most people means contentious party politics. For a wider definition of politics we have to go back to the Greeks who devised the word. The everuseful Wikipedia tells us that 'politics' comes from *politikos* which means 'of, for, or relating to citizens'. It is in that broader context that we can safely talk of politics.

The Arla article in the previous issue generated sharp reaction from a number of readers, mainly from those most closely affected. I have devoted page 5 to a selection of those comments both for and against the Arla article. The mega-dairy is a contentious issue but, despite the views expressed by some, **Village Life** was not taking sides – merely providing information about what is actually happening and affecting all of us to some degree.

It's always heartening to read the regular articles by Helen Shepherd, the head teacher of Aston Clinton School. She tells us on page 7 how the children are learning through the experience of seeing real things that relate to their lives and the society in which they are growing up. From seeing and learning comes understanding, that most precious gift of education.

On page 8, AgeUK Bucks share with us their thoughts on the benefits of volunteering. In a society where most things seem to be measured in monetary terms, it is refreshing to be reminded that giving some of our time, energy and ability to the service of others can be so rewarding to all those involved.

Finally, allow me to be political in the Greek sense. Might not the billions planned to be spent on HS2 be better spent invested in the education of our children, our most valuable resource?

Editor

Alec Just

### A Message from the Baptist Minister

IN RECENT DAYS a number of people have independently said to me that the 'season' is about a month behind. In other words, crops and plants that should have grown in early April, are only now (early May) just beginning to appear. I witnessed only recently the strenu-

ous activities of some friends of mine working feverishly on their allotment. Naturally I stood to one side and offered encouragement and commentary, rather than any actual physical help! But the ground was dug and readied for the seeds and bulbs, so that in future weeks a harvest will come.

Life can be a little like this. We can easily be a month behind, so

to speak, on many things. We have plans and ideas, but sadly things get in the way of what we are trying to do, or the 'climate' of life is not quite what it should be – often created by external factors that may have little to do with us directly. There is always tomorrow too, which simply supports the procrastination that we do not want to really give in to, but seem to end up supporting.

The Bible teaches that there is a time for

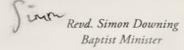
everything (Ecclesiastes 3 v1-10). I honestly do believe that there is time given to us, for all the things we need to do. "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven...," verse 1. How many things do we achieve in life? Lots of people achieve huge

amounts, and do so well – they can sit back and be proud of what they have done. Others may feel that they do not achieve so well, comparatively.

But whatever position we find ourselves in, God has granted us enough time to seek him out, and we will find him when we seek him with all our hearts.

Oddly, by making him at the centre of everything, we find time

for everything else. And because of that, even if we are a 'month' behind, or the 'climate' is wrong, with external factors shaping our lives, hope remains because Jesus Christ is constant and never changing. This means that even in a season of drought, growth can come for those who believe.



### Aston Clinton Baptist Church

#### Church Office Hours

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

#### Activities for the Young

Weekly Totspot

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

#### Activities for Youth

Weekly – in term time Youth Café: 3–6pm Wed Youth Group: 7.30–9.30pm Friday

Monthly

Youth Church: 6pm on

3rd Sunday

Escape: 10.45am on

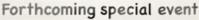
4th Sunday

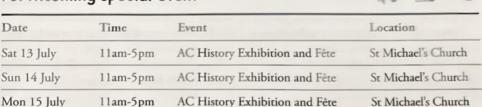


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### St Michael and All Angels

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





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

### Goodbye from your 'extra' Curate

YOU know sometimes you go somewhere and only plan to stay for a hour, but end up staying all day because you're having so much fun. Well I arrived back in January 2012, as the 'extra' Curate planning to stay just six months and ended up staying for eighteen!

In my case, time doesn't just fly past when you're having fun, it goes faster that the speed of light (and with me you just know that those lights will be twinkly ones)!

Sadly, all good things come to an end, and on June 30th I shall be taking my last service as your Assistant Curate and heading off to rural Northamptonshire to become the Rector of the six churches and nine communities that make up the Astwell Benefice.

I know I won't have met everyone during my stay, but huge thanks to everyone I have met for welcoming me so warmly into your community. My time with you has been truly God-given and as parishes and communities go, you will be a very hard act to follow!

Do come and say goodbye, at 10.45am at St Mary's Church in Drayton Beauchamp on the 30th June and pop in if you find yourself Northamptonshire-way. If you end up staying longer than you planned, I hope you never feel you have outstayed your welcome, because I certainly haven't felt that here. So thank you. God Bless and Au Revoir!

Carole Peters (your 'Extra' Curate) xxx

#### WI

Wed 5 June: Dayle Hoyland talks on an ecofriendly lifestyle & 'Keeping Warm in Winter'

Wed 3 July: Sue Benwell talks about her book 'My Life With Sir Norman Wisdom'

Venue: The Anthony Hall at 7.45pm.

Contacts: Linda Mepham on 01442 823562 or Ann Floyd on 01296 434372.

### Ladies Group

Wed 19 June: A surprise cookery evening with Irene and Linda. Guide Hall, 8pm

Wed 17 July: An evening stroll around College Lake. Meet there at 6.30pm.

If you would like to join us please call Sue Sanders on 01296 630740 or Janet Watson on 01296 631014.

#### Church Flowers

EVERY WEEK except during Lent and Advent, the two church altars and the children's corner at St Michael's are decorated with flowers. This is a task done on a rota basis by an army of volunteers to whom the Church is most grateful.

However, as with all voluntary tasks, there are never enough people to cover the whole year. If you feel able to help either by filling a vase or making an arrangement, we would be most grateful. Don't worry—you do not need

floristry skills; the flowers just have to look bright and cheerful in our lovely church.

You may feel that you have no amateur floristry talents but would still like to see our church decorated. In that case, you may be interested in making a donation for flowers to be placed in church on your behalf in memory of a birthday, anniversary etc., provided it does not conflict with other events.

If you can help in any way at all, please ring me on 01296 631014 or Joan Collins on 01296 632039. Thank you.

Janet Watson

### Easter Sunday at St Michael's

THIS YEAR Easter Sunday was a bright, crisp Sunday morning falling on the last day in March.

Latecomers found the empty church adorned with flowers and the silence filled with the sound of the service, broadcast from the churchyard over the speaker system.

Creeping outside, they joined the congregation standing around a fire. The sun peeked out from a behind a cloud as the group let off their party poppers to celebrate the Resurrection.

Despite the sunshine, the air was chilly so the procession moved indoors giving a genuine Jerusalem-like chaos.

Rector Elizabeth Moxley was resplendent as she delivered the sermon in her golden vestments, while below the pulpit the youngest members of the congregation played enthusiastically with Easter Garden created by Young Church.

After the service the children hunted Easter eggs from under pews as adults drank coffee and ate from the delicious selection of cake to complete the celebrations.

\*\*Rosie McGee\*\*



ASTON CLINTON COMMUNITY GROUP

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### Reactions to the Arla article in last month's issue

NEVITABLY, some readers, particularly those most closely affected by the Arla mega-dairy, regarded the article about the development as offensive and hurtful. My intention was not to re-open a painful wound but to provide impartial information on what is, whatever we may feel about it, a reality and a fait accompli.

These are extracts from some of the messages received, both critical and supportive.

"I am not sure whom you spoke to that said they have now accepted Arla. Unfortunately we have no option as it is there but I really do not believe that you are naive enough to think that people actually want it! It is an absolutely awful blot on the land-scape and from my lounge window I have full view of the whole thing including all the towers and the lights which are on all night! As yet no one knows what the environmental effect will be as the place is not even open!"

"I have just read through the latest edition of Village Life, and want to say how much I appreciate all the thought and effort that you put into the magazine. People are always very ready to criticise and complain, but often don't bother to commend others for a job well done. So here's a genuine 'Thank you!' The Arla Dairy item was especially interesting and informative."

"Each night coming home along Halton Hill I see the blight on the landscape you choose to refer to as 'an impressive sight'. I would argue that most people living locally, whilst having to put up with it now, will not ever describe it as you have. Maybe when it is running 24/7 you should ask most local people for their views."

" I just wanted to say very well done on the April/ May copy of Village Life. From what I have read so far it is an excellent issue; possibly the best ever; with many interesting articles and pictures; including news of so many events going on in the villages at the moment; thanks to the efforts of so many active people who do great work in our local community. A big thank you to all the contributors to Village Life and all those who make this area such a great place to live."

"Interesting copy. Shame [the article] has ignored the 3,000 letters of objection to Arla. Could it be more insensitive to local residents if it tried, I wonder? Aston Clinton and Buckland objected strongly to the building of Arla yet the copy sounds more like an Arla PR stunt which it may well be. It will be interesting if Village Life—assuming it is still around by September—covers the 5,000 lorry movements that will make Aston Clinton a congested rat run damaging the health of the local community. As for the jobs, the majority will NOT come from the local community of Aylesbury Vale!"

AS EDITOR of your community magazine, I see my role as providing information on what is happening in this immediate area. Mostly, good things happen. Occasionally, changes occur which may have negative impacts on those closely affected as well as beneficial effects on others. In the case of the Arla mega-dairy, the sheer scale of the development, so close to a rural population, was bound to provoke opposition on many grounds.

The planning process provides the opportunity for the case on both sides to be fully heard within the context of current legislation before a decision is made. The case opposing the Arla application, although well-made and supported, failed to prevent planning consent. The fact that the opponents did not go appeal does suggest that they were advised that the balance of argument was unlikely to be in their favour.

Provided change is sensitively managed, it has to be accepted, even if not welcomed. Most of us, in this overcrowded island, are likely to have experienced disappointed expectations insofar as our physical surroundings are concerned. Either we come to terms with change or we allow our initial anger and resentment (however well-founded) to become corrosive and risk damaging us as individuals.

Alec Just

#### Questions, questions ...

I break the news to my exasperated husband that I've smashed a light on my car. Yes, I say, the rear sensor warning beepers were on, but no, I couldn't hear them due to the volume of noise in the car.

According to an article I read recently, mums are asked, on average, 208 questions a day by their inquisitive offspring. Yes, I thought, that sounds about right to me. And mine seem to fire their questions at me, often when we're in

the car, all at the same time. It is unbearable. On the one hand, I love that they are still young (or naive?) enough to believe that I know the answer to absolutely EVERYTHING. Then again, the calibre of questions I'm faced with right now is beginning to

do my head in. Not to mention, making me a complete liability behind the wheel.

Here is an example of an average car journey with the junior Cornish crew. In no particular order: How deep is the sea? How long is a mile? Can you turn it up? Where is Madagascar? Can you turn it down? Why do houses have chimneys? What are my nipples for? Why can't cats have a bath? What is 7 x 9? How long has the earth existed? Where is my unicorn?

And the only question I could answer with

any real certainty was the last one, which doesn't say much for my general IQ. It's ironic really that no-one tells you when you have a baby that although it may feel initially that your brain has turned to custard, one day, in the not too distant future, you will be expected to be the font of ALL knowledge.

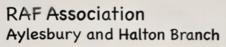
"When I was your age, we didn't even have Google", I tell my fact-mad, search engineloving son. He looks at me incredulously as I explain that when I was a child, back in the

olden days (*ie* the Eighties), you had to wait for the bus, to take you to a library in order to search in actual fact books for the answers to such questions.

Later, while doing some Googling of my own, I notice the browser history on the family

tablet and see that along with his enquiries about the universe etc, he's tapping in questions such as "Who has the longest tongue?" or "Who has the biggest bum?" You can imagine what sort of links they lead to. And I realise I have a long way to go. I vow to put a security code on the tablet and to brush up on my general knowledge or at least learn to sound convincing when I'm winging it. Because I'm not ready for THOSE sort of questions. Not yet, anyway.

Kelly Cornish



Ordinary meetings are held in Building 259 at RAF Halton on the first Wednesday in every month at 7.30 for 8pm. Bar open to everyone Thursday and Saturday evening 7.30–11pm.

Forthcoming meetings:

Wed 5 June: Social evening with entertainment Wed 3 July: Social evening with Vulcan talk Sat 27 July: RAFA 70th Anniversary Dinner For further information please contact: Ray Mockford on 07771 591 586 Derf Mockford on 07775 664 064

If you are the secretary of a local club, Village Life is your platform to tell the rest of us what your club has to offer. Just email a few notes to the Editor and we'll do the rest and send you a proof before publication.



### Aston Clinton School

Head: Mrs Helen Shepherd



#### Bringing the curriculum alive

DURING the last week of April and the first week of May, the school had a fire engine and firemen, a police car and police officer and a paramedic on site. Fortunately, this was nothing to do with a spell of accidents! Rather it was the reception teachers creating real life experiences for their children to bring alive their topic of 'People who help us'.

The children get the opportunity to ask questions, listen carefully, touch and feel the different parts of the uniform and in the case of the police car, go inside the vehicle and set the sirens off!

These experiences are very important as they enable the children to make the links between what they do in school and real life outside the classroom. It is a valuable oppor- tunity for children to develop their speaking and listening skills and, most of all, to have a long-lasting memory of what they have learnt.

Visitors are welcome throughout the school. Recently, in years 4, 5 and 6, PC Graham came in to school to talk to the children about

all types of bullying, including cyber-bullying. He also discussed what the children could do if they were worried about things. His feedback was that the children clearly knew what to do.

Sometimes it is just not possible to bring a visitor in to school such as in year 5's topica study of the painting Tobias and the Angel. The painting they are studying is housed in the National Gallery, so off they went to London to have a guided tour around the gallery with special attention to their focus painting. For many children this was their first time at the National Gallery. Having a guide lead them around enabled the children to ask questions and to understand the hidden messages in the paintings they looked at. They came away with so much more than a good understanding of Tobias and the Angel. They were totally immersed in the art culture of this country and paintings that are considered special.

It is wonderful to see all the imaginative ways the teachers bring learning alive for the children. Helen Shepherd

### Theatre in the Villages

AFTER a very successful and well-attended Promoters' Evening in March, bookings are coming in for the Autumn season of 'Theatre in the Villages' rural touring scheme.

This year promises to be even better than ever, with a variety of shows to suit all tastes. The new season starts on 7 September and

runs to the beginning of December.

Look out for more details of the final programme in the next issue of Village Life. In the meantime, should you wish to host a performance in your village, please get in touch with Jeannette Baxter on 01296 630902.



### The Benefits of Volunteering

Evelyn Daley is the new Fundraising Manager for Age UK Buckinghamshire. For the last five years she has volunteered for a local animal charity and thought she would share with you some of her thoughts on volunteering. These are taken from an article she wrote for that charity three years ago and she still feels as passionate about volunteering, and in particular fundraising, today as she did then.

'Volunteering is one of the most rewarding things I have ever done. I know that sounds like a cliché but all the positive reasons for volunteering, in my experience, are true. It really does feel good to do something for others, you do meet people and make new friends and it can provide the sense of achievement and satisfaction that can sometimes be missing from paid work.'

'Through my volunteer fundraising I have met many interesting people and have made good friends. I laugh more, my confidence has grown and my local geography improved. Who would have thought there could be so many personal benefits to be gained from volunteering?'

Here at Age UK Buckinghamshire we are looking for people to join our team of fundraisers and work with other volunteers and staff to help organise fund-raising events. This could be a regular commitment or help with a one-off project. Events currently being arranged include a treasure hunt, fire walk and charity golf day.

If fundraising is not your thing we have other volunteering opportunities. Perhaps you would like to join our Board of Trustees? We are looking for people with experience in any of the following areas – finance, fundraising, marketing or PR. If you would like a more one-to-one role, we have plenty of options. You could volunteer to be a Befriender and visit an isolated older person for an hour or so a week to provide a bit of company and perhaps help them with activities such as getting to the library, shops or going into town for a coffee.

Our Information and Advice volunteers man our helpline on weekdays from 9.30am to 12.30pm to answer a range of queries relating to being an older person in Buckinghamshire and our Welfare Benefits Advisers give advice to older people on benefit entitlement and complete application forms on their behalf.

For full details of all our many volunteering opportunities and fundraising events please visit our website at www.ageukbucks.org.uk



### A story of courage and hope

EMILY Icke was married on 18th June 2010 at St Michael's Church, Aston Clinton. She is the cherished 23-year-old daughter-in-law of Simon Icke, the well-known local poet and campaigner on many issues.

All her life, she has suffered from the genetic disorder known as Cystic Fibrosis (CF) which prevents the proper functioning of the lungs and other organs. Several times over recent years she has been critically ill in hospital awaiting a lung transplant. Each time, she has bravely come back from the brink, supported by the skills of doctors and nurses and by the prayers of very many people.

So far, there is no cure for CF. The condition is now managed better than ever before but tends to be a progressive disorder for which the only effective treatment, in Emily's case, is a double lung transplant.

Emily's family got a call just after Christmas but when she arrived at Harefield Hospital ready for the transplant, she was told that the donor lungs could not be used, as they had been bruised. So her hopes were raised, then dropped.

There is a serious shortage of organ donors because too few people carry a donor card or register on the NHS Organ Donor site. It is so important to take the few minutes needed to register at www.organdonation.nhs.uk

Emily's husband David, along with his two brothers and a friend, last year raised over £2000 in sponsorship for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, the charity supporting research into greater understanding of this life-threatening condition. David and his team completed 'Tough Mudder', a gruelling 12-mile SAS 22-obstacle training course. Alec Just

Radiant, brave and beautiful Emily on her wedding day in 2010. She deserves to live.



noto: Paul Adam

### Aston Clinton, Buckland & Drayton Beauchamp Horticultural Society

SINCE the last issue, the development of our website has continued. Type into your browser www.astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk and explore for yourself. Among many new features you will find a 'Hints and Tips' advice page. If you have a question on any gardening topic, you can contact the Society by sending an email to: info@astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk

We will get in touch with you and may even publish the advice online.

The Society held its annual supper in March with food cooked and presented by John Seaton. This was followed by Hilary Weston giving us a talk and showing us pictures of her Guider Adventures in Mexico. She was there over their feast day, 'The Day of the Dead', when all those who have passed away are remembered in a colourful and joyous way.

Easter holidays are the time for our Spring Show and Plant Sale. This year was our 17th show and the most difficult yet. With the cold winter, hardly anybody had any daffodils to show. Speaking personally, with about a week to go, I wondered if I would have enough blooms to enter any classes. In the end, despite less than half my pots flowering, by a minor miracle just enough pots bloomed for me to make a reasonable entry. One cup winner I must mention is our centenarian Bill Pennery. He won the Pink Daffodil Trophy and the Society Bloom. For this, Bill had to grow and present a single 'pink' daffodil bloom and also a single bloom of the daffodil cultivar 'High Society'. Congratulations Bill!

The entries for the show were about 100 down on last year. However, the show is not only about daffodils but also has sections for

Bill Pennery, at 101, the Society's oldest member and still going strong! He won the Pink Daffodil Trophy and Society Bloom at the Spring Show

floral art, spring flowers, domestic, handicrafts and children's classes. The prize in the Floral Art section was awarded to Teresa Kirkland. Elizabeth Weston won the Domestic Section and Joan Allen the Handicrafts. The trophies in the children's classes were awarded to Ben Collins (5 and under), Lottie Dickinson-Lomas (6 to 8 years) and Abigail Whitworth (9-13).

The trophies and awards for the show were presented by Doreen Graves, a very long-standing member of our Society. The Show Secretary would like to thank all those people who helped to organise, set up and run the Show, and to all the exhibitors and general public who supported us.

Attention now turns to our Summer Show and Fete on Saturday 17th August. This is during the long summer holiday period but makes for a relaxing family afternoon at minimal cost. As well as admiring the efforts of local gardeners, there are classes for children, handicrafts, photography and floral art. There is one Dahlia class open to all who live in the three villages. The dahlia plant(s) for this class are obtained from the Society but the class calls for only one bloom to be presented.

Continued opposite



noto: Richard Needhan

#### Horticultural Society contd.

Contact the Society by email (address opposite) or go to the website.

Slugs and snails are likely to be a big problem this year and already there are plenty of small ones about. They like the wet conditions and have not been killed off by the cold weather. These days, many people have small gardens, too small, to grow any veg in the ground. Have you tried growing in pots? I am trying to gather evidence of the success or otherwise of people

growing vegetables in pots. The media always mentions potatoes but these are more difficult because they don't collect enough rain so need extensive watering to get potatoes of any reasonable size.

However, there are plenty of other vegetables that should succeed, especially root crops such as radish, parsnips, turnips and beetroot to mention a few. If you are growing vegetables in pots, please let me know—through the Society's website—how you get on and, if you can, include a photo.

Ralph Weston

### Aylesbury Open Garden in aid of the Red Cross

Thursday 27 June

The Bunch, Wotton Underwood, Aylesbury, HP18 0RZ Open 12 – 4 Admission £3

Hampton Court Gold Medal winner Susan Williams offers two tours, the first at 12 midday to include a glass of wine and a sandwich at £6.50 and at 2pm to include afternoon tea at £6. Tours need to be booked in advance, call 01296 739309 for tickets.

The Bunch was originally five cottages built for the Wotton Estate in 1700. The owners have created a beautiful garden in a delightful setting with unspoiled views of the surrounding countryside. *Directions* – Turn off A41 at Kingswood cross roads signed Wotton Underwood, at T-junction at railway bridge turn left, next left where sign says Wotton Only. First house on the right. Park in field next to garden or in the road if wer.

### National Vegetable Society

Bucks District Assocn. are holding an informal evening in the Branhams' garden at Chiltern Place, Nup End Lane, Wingrave HP22 4PX on 18 June from 6pm. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the views over the Aylesbury Vale with wine, tea or coffee. No charge. Free to all.

### Bucks Open Studios 8-23 June

MORE artists and craftspeople than ever before will be participating in the 2013 Bucks Open Studios, the largest visual arts event in Bucks. Now in its 28th year, Bucks Open Studios will take place across the county from the 8th to 23rd June 2013.

Hundreds of painters, glass workers, basket weavers, metal workers, wood turners, jewellery makers, book makers, print makers and silk makers will be opening their studios at 199 venues to the public for free and showcasing their talent through demonstrations, exhibitions and workshops.

Ben Boswell, Joint Chair of Bucks Open Studios and Photographer said "We are thrilled to announce that the event will have more participants than ever before. Last year, 38,000 visits were made to studios and exhibitions by around 12,000 visitors during the fortnight in June. This is a testament to the growing popularity of the event as well as an increase in the urge not only to be more creative ourselves but also to enjoy the art and craftsmanship of others."

For more on Bucks Open Studios 2013, visit their website at www.bucksopenstudios.org.uk

### The Family Game

hen Mark Webber, Red Bull's F1 driver, came to open the new tennis courts in Aston Park on 27th April, the weather could not have been worse. Nevertheless his easy Aussie charm lit up a very grey day for all of us and ignoring the rain, he played tennis with our men's team for twenty minutes, extolled the virtues of community effort and told us how he had grown up learning the game with his family at a small club not unlike Aston Park.

It was the mention of tennis and family that struck a chord with me. I tried hard to think of any other sport that a family can actually PLAY TOGETHER.

Soccer? We see parents standing on the touchline encouraging the players involved in the game on the pitch but the discrepancy in size, build etc. precludes the possibility of a football game that includes all members of a family.

A group of young men arrive in the park regularly on a summer evening to enjoy a game of cricket but there are no children involved.

Rugby? Impossible. Squash? Don't think so unless the parent 'plays down'. Badminton? Possibly.

But a family of four can have a game of doubles tennis that is extremely satisfying and competitive for all participants and parent/child tournaments are becoming so popular that a league to promote the format has recently been launched. Most tennis clubs offer family membership and the sight of a family group enjoying the game together on a warm summer evening is now very common.

Our new coloured courts were ready for use on the early May Bank Holiday and members came down to enjoy a mix-in on the most beautiful day we've had all year. Three families had brought



Red Bull's Formula One driver Mark Webber braved the weather to open the new tennis courts in Aston Park on 27th May.

their children with them and they were mixed in with the adults very successfully and to the satisfaction and enjoyment of all concerned.

So if you're looking for an enjoyable, healthy family sport, give tennis a try. It's a sport the kids can play for the rest of their lives. And with you, even when you're in your dotage!

Remember too: 'families that play together stay together'. Barbara Wilkinson

Chairman, Aston Park Tennis Club



### Aston Clinton Village Market 12 May



THE FIFTH annual Aston Clinton Village Market was once again a HUGE fundraising success, raising approximately £5000 for our village school.

Thankfully, the rain held off until the last hour and the sun mostly shone, bringing over 1500 people through the gates to eat, drink and shop with us.

The organisers wish to thank all the stall-holders for taking part and the residents around the school for their patience and understanding on the day with so many extra cars and vans outside.

Thanks also to our generous sponsors:
MJ Electrical Engineering Ltd, Caremark,
La Vita Hair Design, NR Green Builders,
Merryweather Mowers, RB Punching Services
and MD Marriot. Thanks to POP Design Inc
and MediaPort Solutions Ltd for the fantastic
design and printing. We would also like to
thank Hafiz the Ice-Cream Man, Aston Clinton

Childminders, Hyatt Studios and Sweet Memories Swing Boats for kindly donating a share if not all of their profits; and Taylor Francis Insurance Brokers for donating the £200 raffle cash prize.

We'd like to thank David Young and Dreamchasers for providing such fantastic musical entertainment on the day.

The organisers would also like to thank their husbands and parents for helping to move tables, direct traffic and look after the kids — we couldn't have done it without you!

And finally, our biggest thanks go to everyone who came along to support not only our school but the incredible array of businesses, services and organisations we are privileged enough to call local.

We would welcome any feedback you may have via the Village Market website which you'll find at www.acvillagemarket.co.uk

Kelly Cornish

### News from Aston Clinton Surgery

#### Measles and MMR

Due to the recent outbreak of measles in Wales we have received some enquiries about MMR vaccination. We hold a supply of the vaccine and will be receiving more very soon. If you are patients at our surgery, aged between 10 and 25 years old and you know that you or your child have not previously had a course of MMR injections, or have only had one dose (a complete course consists of two injections), please contact the surgery to book an appointment for vaccination.

#### Patient Survey and Feedback

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete our patient questionnaires. The feedback we received was overall very good; however some patients felt that communication was an area to be improved. To this end we have implemented a free text-messaging service. This enables us to send appointment reminders and other useful information to our patients.

We currently have around one-third of our patients' mobile numbers on record, but would like to have as many as possible so the majority of our patients can benefit from this service. It would be really helpful if you could check that we have your current mobile number on record

when you next visit the surgery. If you share a mobile number with someone else, a child or partner, please be aware that they may receive your messages. You can let us know if you are happy for your mobile to be recorded on other patient records. If you do not wish to receive texts, please let us know in writing. There are forms available at the surgery or a letter is acceptable. The first messages have been sent to patients with appointments booked, so you may already have received one.

In June, an information television screen will be fitted in the patient waiting room. This will enable us to communicate helpful information to patients, including upcoming dates for flu clinics, vaccination information etc.

We have recently started a process called Productive General Practice which looks at how we run our practice, processes and planning. Productive General Practice will be ongoing for the foreseeable future so we will keep you updated.

Looking out of the surgery window, the sun is shining and it looks as though summer may finally be on its way! We wish you all a warm and healthy summer.

Christina Moran, Site Manager Westongrove Partnership

### Could you find time to Share the Care?

COULD YOU spare a few hours a week to spend time with a child who has special needs? The Shared Care Network organises short breaks which allow disabled children to have enjoyable experiences, and help their families to recoup and relax. The County Council's 'Take a Break' team is hoping to recruit at least 15 new households to provide Shared Care this year. They particularly need

people who can provide overnight care.

Existing Take-a-Break Carers, Sue and Paul Bussey have been providing respite care to Elliott and his family for over six-and-a-half years. Sue said: "When we look at how he has changed since he first came to our home, we feel proud that we have been part of his life."

You can find out more about Take a Break on www.buckscc.gov.uk/takeabreak

### Dangerous deposits



This photo was taken in Aston Park which has one of the best children's playgrounds in the area. The round sign on the photo is a clue to the identity of the large dark deposit in the foreground. Owners of dogs should NOT allow their dogs inside the enclosed play area. Parents should take care NOT to leave the gate open. Dog mess is very unpleasant and dangerous.

#### Beer Festival

The second Aston Clinton Beer Festival, is to be held this year at The Hub from 12th to 14th July. There will be live entertainment and over 30 local beers and ciders to choose from. The entrance charge is £5 per adult to cover the entire weekend. Children are free. The Beer Festival is organised by the Aston Clinton Charitable Foundation. More information at: www.astonclintonbeerfestival.co.uk

### Photographic challenge!

ASTON CLINTON Parish Council has set a challenge for local photographers. As part of continuing improvements to their website: www.astonclinton.org the Council is inviting you to send in photos of Aston Clinton and its surroundings. There will be small prizes for the best three submitted and all entries will be eligible for publication on the Council website.

Entry forms can be obtained from the Parish Council Office, Aston Park, HP22 5HL (next to The Hub).

Closing date: 30 September 2013. Digital images are preferred. There is no entry fee.

Claire Hill

Clerk, Aston Clinton Parish Council

### **Blighted views**

Residents of Aston Clinton whose homes overlook the Arla site have been asking why no trees are being planted to screen the site from Aston Clinton. This is the sort of question you are entitled to raise at the monthly meetings of Aston Clinton Parish Council.

No ACPC councillor has attended either of the two most recent quarterly meetings of the Arla Liaison Group. One or more representatives of all other local parish councils as well as AVDC and BCC have attended at least one of the two most recent meetings. The ACPC Parish Clerk has informed Village Life that two councillors did attend earlier meetings.

The next two meetings of ACPC are on Wednesdays 6 June and 3 July both at 7.30 pm at the Council Office in Aston Park. The next quarterly meeting of the Arla Liaison Group is on Tues 4 June at 6.30 pm at the Holiday Inn.

Minutes of all meetings can be read online at www.astonclinton.org

Alec Just

Please mention Village Life when responding to our advertisers

### All Saints' Church, Buckland

Regular Services:

8am Holy Communion each Sunday except First 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
Sat 1 June	10am	Produce Stall and Coffee Morning	All Saints' Church
Sat 22 June	All Day	Buckland Flower Festival	All Saints' Church
Sun 23 June	All Day	Buckland Flower Festival	All Saints' Church
Sun 23 June	6pm	Choral Evensong	All Saints' Church
Sat 6 July	10am	Produce Stall and Coffee Morning	All Saints' Church
Sun 7 July	2-5pm	Open Gardens and Cream Teas	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: 10th June and 8th July 2013. Members of the public are always welcome to attend.

#### Vacancy for Parish Clerk

Christine Jensen is handing in her quill on 30th June 2013, after 14 years' service. If anyone is interested in applying for the position, please contact Cllr Hayward, the Chairman of the Parish Council, who will be pleased to provide you with the job description and person specification.

#### Fund Raising Lunch

Despite the freezing cold and wet day, supporters arrived for their lunch on Saturday 25th April. My little home was bursting at the sides as we all had to be indoors but everyone was in good spirits and enjoyed the day. About 40

lunches were served by my very capable helpers. Maureen Ridler, bravely manned the bring & buy stall under an awning in the garden. We ran a raffle and 'guess-the-weight' of a cake that Andrew, our curate, had kindly made.

I am thrilled to announce that we made the wonderful sum of £340.44p. This is a magnificant start for our Festival in June. I thank everyone who braved the cold and came to support me. Also huge thanks go to my super team of helpers without whom it would not have been posible. My love and thanks.

Frances Farley

#### Flower Festival 2013

All Saints' Buckland are Celebrating in Flowers on Sat 22nd & Sun 23rd June to thank our Curate Andrew, for all his work in the parish over the last three years. His enthusiasm with the choir, flower arranging, cooking and pastoral care are a few of his many talents besides preaching. We will truly miss him when

when finally leaves and wish him every success in the future. All churches and many groups with whom he has been involved will be taking part. The weekend will open at 10 am on the Saturday and there will be stalls, raffle and refreshments. We will end the event with a special Choral Evensong on the Sunday at 6pm. Anyone wishing to donate a prize for the raffle or something for a stall, i.e. books, cakes, plants etc. please contact Frances on **630072**.

#### Open Gardens

DON'T MISS the Buckland Open Gardens on Sunday 7th July, 2-5pm. Six gardens will be opening in the village with cream teas in the church from 3pm.

The following gardens will be open: The Old Rectory, Church Farm, Church Leas, The Old Dukes Head, Yew Tree Cottage and 15 Blackmore Gate.

Entry £3 to all the gardens with proceeds going to All Saints' Church.

#### **Buckland Lock**

THE LATEST news following the collapse of the Buckland Lock wall over Easter is that repair work has begun and it is hoped to have the lock back in normal operation by the August Bank Holiday.

The Canal and River Trust took over the functions of the old British Waterways Board in July 2012. The new Trust is a registered charity and has said that the bulk of its 2013 repair budget will be spent on meeting the six-figure estimated cost of the repairs.

The Trust has begun a technical investigation into the likely cause of the collapse. They say that, although the lock is almost 200-years-old, it is a very rare event for a lock wall to collapse.

There has been local speculation that the nearby Arla construction work could have been a factor. Arla are making no statement pending the result of the investigation into the likely

cause(s), save to say that "we are cooperating fully to allow full access to the lock from our site so that work can be carried out". Alec Just



This dramatic and shocking sight met walkers over the Easter weekend.

St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp

Regular Services: 8am on the first Sunday 10.45am each Sunday 6pm Evening Worship each Monday

# mp

### Forthcoming Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun 2 June	12.30-4pm	Canal Restoration Day	St Mary's Church
Sat 15 June	7pm	Summer Music Concert	St Mary's Church
Thurs 28 June	7.30pm	Benefice Service & farewell to Carole Peters	St Mary's Church

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

### Drayton Beauchamp Summer Concert

Saturday 15th June at 7pm

A welcome return visit by the

### Artesian String Quartet

MOZART String Quartet in G 'Spring', K387

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Three Divertimenti

RAVEL String Quartet in F major

Tickets £18 including supper and a glass of wine following the concert.

Tickets available from
Anne Eardley 01296 434357
Rosemary Brooke 01296 630446 or
Guy Moores 01442 826341

A treat to look forward to!

Please encourage your friends to join us for a summer evening at St Mary's.

### Tragedy in the woods

DURING THE EVENING of 21st October 1839, 66-year-old Painesend farmer John Choules and his best friend and neighbour, Thomas Pattison had spent several hours in the New Inn at Buckland Wharf.

Thomas, 45, a native of Northumberland, was the father of eight children aged between one and fifteen years, a fellow Guardian of the Poor and a fellow farmer. He lived at Dancersend within half-a-mile of John. The two men had been drinking heavily for many hours and set off unsteadily at around 10pm on the one-and-a-half mile walk home, arm in arm.

John seems to have taken a slightly different footpath from Thomas at one stage—perhaps in order to surprise and tease his friend who was known to be afraid of the dark woods alongside this isolated lane. When John then re-appeared at a spot called Putnam's Gap where the footpath and Dancersend Lane met, Thomas did not recognise him in the darkness and in his befuddled state believed he was an assassin sent by Humphrey Bull the ReceivingOfficer (also, ironically, a good friend of the two men) to kill him. He beat John about

Continued opposite

#### Tragedy in the woods, contd.

the head so severely that the older man died at the scene. Thomas, however, still did not realise who his victim was until after he had tried unsuccessfully to persuade Eliza White, cook at Drayton Manor, to awaken her master, William Christopher/Jenney and had finally managed to summon help in Tring from the local policeman. When John's identity was confirmed Thomas's remorse and grief were apparently painful to witness. Although found guilty of manslaughter, a

recommendation for mercy was made by the jury and he was imprisoned for only seven months.

This poignant story is taken from the book by

Margaret Ross (with photographs by David Lonsdale) "Drayton
Beauchamp: The Village That Time Passed By". A few copies are still available, price £10, either from Margaret Ross on 01296 630098 or David Lonsdale on 01296 631791.





### **OPEN DAY**

3 July 2013, 2-7pm
Clare Charity Centre, Wycombe Road, Saunderton near Princes Risborough, Bucks HP14 4BF

The charity has been working in Bucks, and at various locations across the country, for nearly 20 years, supporting families and educating professionals when a baby or child of any age dies or is dying, or when a child is facing bereavement. It made headlines recently when its Royal patron HRH The Duke of Cambridge visited with the Duchess and met bereaved families participating in the charity's support groups for children, parents and young people.

During the Open Day, you will be able to learn more about the bereavement services provided for families, and the broad range of training courses the charity offers professionals whose work brings them into contact with bereaved families. You will also be able to find out more about volunteering and fundraising, and chat to staff and volunteers, who will be on hand to provide information and advice – as well as offering refreshments.

### Ron Miller 1935-2013

Ron Miller wrote the article in the last issue of Village Life entitled "What we can do when we work together". He died suddenly a few weeks ago. That article is a testament to the sort of man he was. The words below are written in fond remembrance of Ron and are part of the eulogy given at his funeral by his friend and colleague, Neil Richardson.

Ask any of the older adult residents of
Aylesbury who Ron Miller was and
most would say "he was the Milkman."
But he he was much more than that.

Born in Oxhey, Watford in 1935, he was the son of a professional footballer – Ron's father played for Chelsea and twice for England. You may have thought that he would follow in his father's sporting footsteps, but no. As a young lad he worked at the nearby Braziers Dairies, delivering milk from his horse and cart before school, although on several occasions when running late, he had to tie the horse up to the school gates and take it back at lunchtime. He later moved on to motor driven delivery wagons going out in the early hours before he had officially passed his driving test.

Ron attended Watford Grammar School and excelled in most subjects particularly history. He had qualified to go up to Cambridge and become a teacher in the subject he loved. However the draw of the dairy business had already begun and he remained with Braziers Dairies after leaving school and stayed with them until leaving to set up his own business, "Ron Miller Dairies" in 1961, at the age of 26. This is when he came to Aylesbury.

He rapidly became a household name. In around 1970 he teamed up with members of the Brazier family to form B & M Dairies which expanded successfully over the ensuing years with business extending into several other towns locally. In 1978, he married Ann, a London girl but, according to Ron, it was

OK as she was from the right side of the river!

After selling the business in 1999, Ron retired ... or did he? Retirement for Ron was about living life to the full and it was during this period of his life that I got to know him well and began to realise just what an incredible character he was.

Quite how he managed his business as well as the plethora of other organisations, institutions, clubs, societies etc that he belonged to, and was actively involved in, is remarkable. For example:

First, he was a farmer. He was also a founder member of the DeBohun Masonic Lodge and its secretary for a number of years. He was chairman of the Historic Commercial Vehicle Society. He founded the Game Club which organises the Chiltern Hills Vintage Vehicle Rally. He was past-chairman of Winslow Fatstock Show and he was a liveryman and freeman of the City of London— to name just a few.

He was also a vexilollogist (flag collector) and displayed a flag at home pretty much every day for the past 27-or-so years to mark a national day somewhere in the world, often nipping across the lawn in slippers and dressing gown at daybreak to put the flag up.

He was also a keen collector of railway memorabilia and had a wide knowledge of railway history. The nice thing was that he used his collection of items day-to-day. We would often share a whisky with water poured from a silver railway jug or a brandy out of an LNER or Great Western glass. He was probably the only man in the Aylesbury area with a bus stop in his back garden and a working gas lamp in the house.

In addition to all of that, what gave him an enormous amount of pleasure were his vintage vehicles.

A regular attendee at vehicle rallies up and down the country and in France, his vehicles were well known and always immaculately presented. Every year we attended the annual cartmarking ceremony at the Guildhall and we had intended to go this year to continue this tradition. It was at this event a few years ago that Ron and I were the first to arrive in the Guildhall for the official Cartmarking Ceremony dinner and on our entrance we were met by a waitress with a large tray of champagne. "I've got several guests about to come in", said Ron to the young lady, "just leave that tray here and we'll sort ourselves out". "Thank you" she replied and promptly left the tray with us. "Right", said Ron, "let's get stuck in". Typical.

He thoroughly enjoyed his annual visit to the Locomotion en Fête in France where he and his friends would travel in convoy with transporters, trailers, caravan and vintage vehicles for a weekend of fun. In 2011 whilst driving around the show ground in the "Mickey Mouse", Ron's 1953 Series 1 Land Rover. we met a Frenchman who engaged Ron in conversation about the history of the vehicle. Incidentally, Ron was a great French speaker. After

a lot of gesturing Ron turned to me and said, "This Frenchman reckons I've got the wrong seats in the Land Rover, he says they should be rounded backs, not square – damned cheek!". Once we got home and Ron checked it out, he said to me, "that b\*\*\*\*y Frenchman was right, you know!".

The French organisers of the Locomotion en Fête are arranging for a Ron Miller Cup to be presented at this year's event in his memory – such was the impact he had there over the years.

Ron enjoyed the odd drink with a fondness for wine; red, white or rosé – but "no pond water". One occasion worth mentioning is the

time he went to the Chequers Inn on a lovely summer's day in the Mickey Mouse Land Rover, roof and doors off, windscreen laid down, DJ the dog on board, and spent a nice afternnoon enjoying a drink in the sunshine. Unfortunately, as Ron was about to leave, it began to rain so he borrowed one of the large table umbrellas, wedged it in the footwell of the Land Rover and promptly drove back home, along Weston Road and the A41.

We spent many carefree hours sitting by the fire or in the observatory at Woodlands chatting about anything and everything. I think his

wife Ann wondered what we ever found to talk about. We'd often nip into the Rugby Club at midday on a weekend to "test the brakes" as he'd call it and spend many an afternoon with the lads there just having a laugh, often leaving early evening after a couple of G&Ts. In fact, we'd test the brakes wherever we were, particularly if the sun was over the yardarm!

The thing that regularly brought a smile to my face

though was his quick wit. He loved life, enjoyed the other people's company and took an interest in everything he did. He was a great companion, the 30-year age gap between us was irrelevant.

For me, he was a man of the utmost integrity and, to use a Masonic reference, he was a just and upright man with sound judgement and strict morals. A man with a staggering intellect who used it wisely both in business and personally. He was a great companion, mentor and friend who will be sorely missed but fondly remembered.

Neil Richardson



### Useful telephone numbers

Name	Contact/Line status	Telephone no.
1st Aston Clinton Brownies	See below*	_
2nd Aston Clinton Brownies	See below*	-
Amersham Hospital		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
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	TBA	01296 626073
Buckland Society	Kelly Cornish	01296 632119
Childline		0800 1111
Cirizens 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
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.
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
Neighbourhood Watch, DB	Elizabeth Dutton	01296 631613
NHS Direct		0845 4647
Old Friends	Selly Clarke	01296 630207
Police	Non emergency	101
Pre-School	Jo Johnson	01296 632672
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
Scouts, Cubs and Beavers	David Wall	01296 632142
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

<sup>\*</sup> To register an interest in joining the Brownies or Guides, visit www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

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. For real emergencies the number is 999.

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### The Oak

Aston Clinton

... are pleased to announce some great upcoming events to put in your social calendar...



An evening of Tapas, Paella and all things Spanish for just £15 per head! Friday 31st May

#### The Oak Golf Society

Fancy a monthly Saturday morning golf outing during the summer months with the other folks that frequent The Oak?





#### Wild Hogz Cricket Team

A fun tournament for those with limited ability but lots of enthusiasm!

First game, Saturday 1st June, 1pm

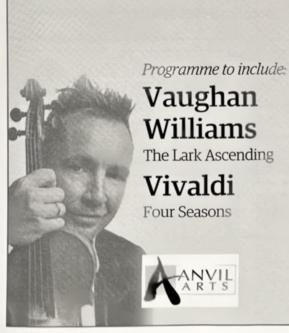
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## Oxford op

Friday 14 June 2013, 7.30pm Aylesbury Waterside Theatre

### Nigel Kennedy

violin

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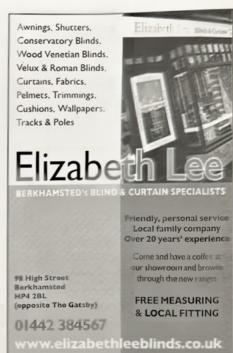










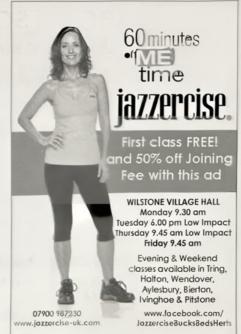




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