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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)

YOUR bi-monthly magazine is coming to the end of its third year of publication. That's a good time to ask you if we are getting it right. The purpose of the magazine is to provide a vehicle through which local news, views and events plus useful information on trades and services can be made known across our three villages.

Village Life is published by St Michael's Parochial Church Council as a successor publication to the old parish magazine in an attempt to provide a community periodical with relevance to the whole population rather than specifically the church-going minority. We aim to include a variety of topics in the editorial pages, not excluding, from time to time, more serious subjects of general concern. Monika's thoughtful article on pages 4 and 5 on educational standards is a good example.

Jane Preskett describes on pages 18 and 19 how her son Matthew and three friends teamed up to achieve a feat few of us would consider. They cycled from one end of Britain to the other to raise money in memory of Matthew's father and for the benefit of the Alzheimer's Society. Uncomfortable the experience may have been, but it's also a shared adventure they'll remember for ever.

The old adage 'Life is What You Make It' is the title of a book by Peter Buffett (the son of billionaire Warren Buffett) in which he suggests that if we seek fulfillment by creative activity, rather than by making material gain our objective, we'd all be much happier. The truth of that is exemplified on pages 10 and 11 and on page 15.

This issue covers the season of Christmas Good Cheer and Hopeful Expectation as the New Year brings with it a clean sheet on which we can all write the next chapter of our lives. For Christians and others, the story of the life of Jesus offers a renewal of trust and hope in the ultimate triumph of goodness over evil.

A Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Successful 2014 to you all!

Editor

## The Rector's Christmas message

#### Dear Friends

Here we are at the beginning of December. Will this be another year when this month just slides away from us in the busyness of Christmas preparations? I hope not. But in case it

threatens to, let's just spend a moment where we are now.

In church terms we are not 'pre-Christmas' but in Advent. It is a season which prepares us for the dramatic notion that the divine 'tore open the heavens' and 'came down'—that the boundary between God and human beings was, through the birth of Christ, transgressed. The world was never the same again, humanity was never the same again and — arguably—God was never the judge, to the same again and season which prepares us for the dramatic notion that the divine 'V A R I E T Y E M B R A C E N O W Surprised, et ime to wake the judge, to the judge, to the same again and season which prepares us for the dramatic notion that the divine 'tore open the heavens' and 'came down'—that the boundary between God and human beings was, through the birth of Christ, transgressed. The world was never the same again and — arguably—God was never the judge, to the propagation of the propagation of

The Advent season, if we make time to observe it, provides an opportunity for thinking, feeling and praying through the implications of this. If 'God is with us', what does this mean for the complex realities of our personal lives: our doubts and fears, our joys and pleasures, our yearnings and our visions? If God is in others,

what does that mean for the way we engage with the people around us, and the complex social and political world we inhabit?

Advent is the chance to ask these questions and open our hearts to the images and symbols and poetry of this season. We can wake and open the door—aroused,

surprised, engaged, fully alive. And it is high time to wake out of sleep, for the bridegroom, the judge, the needy friend are at the door!



## Aston Clinton Ladies Group

Forthcoming meetings:

the same again ...

Wed 18 December at 8pm: Carols at St Michael's and All Angels, followed by coffee and mince pies at Janet Watson's home, 14 Putnams Drive. Tel: 01296 631014

Wed 15 January at 7pm: Meal at The Oak, Aston Clinton. Arrive at 7pm to order meal for 7.30 start. We would like to know in advance please if you are able to come.

If you would like to join us please call Sue Sanders on **01296 630740** or Janet Watson on **01296 631014**. New members are very welcome.

### A Christmas quote

Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.

Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933), 30th President of the United States, 1923-29

Please mention Village Life when responding to our advertisers

## St Michael and All Angels

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



### Forthcoming Christmas events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun 1 Dec	6pm	Carols and Communion for Advent	St Michael's Church
Sat 7 Dec	11am-3pm	Christmas Fair	The Anthony Hall
Sun 15 Dec	6pm	Nine Lessons and Carols	St Michael's Church
Wed 18 Dec	8pm	AC Ladies' Carol Service	St Michael's Church
Sun 22 Dec	9.15am	Nativity with AC Baptist Church	St Michael's Church
Christmas Eve	5.30pm	Crib Service	St Michael's Church
Christmas Eve	7.30pm	Carols by Candlelight	St Michael's Church
Christmas Eve	11.30pm	Midnight Mass	St Michael's Church
Christmas Day	9.15am	Christmas Communion	St Michael's Church
Sun 29 Dec	11am	Benefice Service	St Michael's Church

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

## ACPC photo competition winner 2013

Ralph Weston submitted "Church Gates", the winning entry in the Aston Clinton Parish Council website photographic competition inaugurated this year.
Rosalinde Nicholls took both second and and third places. The Council wishes to congratulate the winners and thank all those who took part in the competition.





# Education, education, education ...

The future of a country

N THE Village Life 2013 Easter issue we looked at the epidemic of family breakdown and in the last issue a young parishioner related some of her personal responses to her educational experience. Both form a background to the following reflections on three vital aspects in this important area of national life.

Education: Where are we? What are the consequences of the present state of affairs? What can we do about it?

The recent OECD Survey of Adult Skills 2013 highlighted the current state of achievement by 16 to 24-year-olds in comparison with our global competitors. It concluded that "young adults in England have scored among the lowest results in the industrialised world in international literacy and numeracy tests — despite decades of rising exam results — and are falling behind their Asian and European counterparts." In addition, "unlike other developed countries, the study also showed that young people in England are no better at these tests

"Young adults in England have scored among the lowest results in the industrialised world in international literacy and numeracy tests ..."

than older people, in the 55 to 65 age range, with results thus going backwards" (BBC report). A similar trend was shown in the last two reports of the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), the most recent, PISA 2012, is to be published on 3 December this year.

There are serious implications if this tendency continues as "there are direct economic consequences" for our survival "in a globalised, skills-based economy", e.g. it has been found that "spelling mistakes 'cost millions' in lost

online sales". Government efforts in driving up standards by introducing the English Baccalaureate (known as the EBacc), bringing the best graduates into teaching, restoring order to classrooms and a new, far more rigorous examination system will go some way in addressing this unsatisfactory state of affairs. In fact, it appears that this year's GCSE top grades showed a significant fall as some of these measures take effect. A welcome side-effect of a positive public debate on the desirability of increased rigour and higher standards would also be a change in social attitudes where the 'studious' pupil is often still ridiculed and a laissez-faire attitude towards learning is considered 'cool'. Also, cultural expectations in our 'instant' world, unhelpful celebrity culture, significant moral decline, a 'get rich quick' attitude and often in our materialistic West a sense of entitlement nurtured by narcissism ('we are entitled to enjoy ourselves') are further reducing a spirit of learning characterised by resilience in the face of adversity and sustained effort in defiance of ridicule.

However, there is only so much that the state can do and we need to look to an earlier stage for one of the root problems in low educational achievement if the vicious cycle is to be interrupted and we are to get onto the ascent again.

There have been interesting discoveries in the area of neuroscience over the last couple of decades which have significantly illuminated our understanding of the processes in the first three years of a human being's life and the profound influence of early experiences on the infant's brain (born with 50 trillion synapses (connections between brain cells) – increasing to about 1000 trillion after three years depending on input from a loving primary caregiver). Brain scans of children in Romanian orphanages

for example, have shown striking differences in brain substance to children brought up in a normal loving family context. I wonder how many of these vital facts are known by new parents and policy makers alike. Here we lay the very foundation of a successful education later on in the mere physical make-up of the child's brain but also in the secure 'attachment' that comes with the loving interaction between the mother and her baby. (See the writings of Penelope Leach and John Bowlby; see also www.wavetrust.org/global-good-practice.) This is the best way of enabling a child to become emotionally secure and independent in its own time with an ability to relate generously to others. For every other profession we study for at least three years, yet for this most important

of all human tasks (bringing up another human being) there is often no preparation at all.

So it seems to me that knowledgeable parenting together with a change in social attitudes and a culture of excellence in educational provision will go a long way in reversing the present trend. The truth is often painful and we prefer to ignore it, but it is the only way to true progress.

May God bless you and keep you this Christmas and throughout the New Year.

Monika Faranda Bellofiglio

I invite anyone who has views on this topic to share them with us in the next issue of Village Life. – Ed.

#### Food for thought:

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing. Edmund Burke (1729-1797), Irish statesman and philosopher



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The course is designed to help you acquire budgeting skills using a cash based system that works. We can also enable you to gain control over your finances should you be in debt, or you simply need to manage your finances more effectively.



For further details call: Keith Loxley on 01296 630005 or e-mail: keith.loxley@btinternet.com

CAP is a national charity, working across the UK to lift people out of debt and to aid financial management

WHEN I sat down to write this column I was feeling very sorry for myself having been struck down by a bug. I was going to complain about how hard it is to be ill when you are a mum because as we all know, you can't exactly call in sick.

But instead of moaning about still having to do everything (which I did obviously), I am instead going to publicly acknowledge the utter brilliance of all the friends and neighbours who step in to help when things go belly-up.

Living in London, I knew what the people next door looked like. We might nod or mumble 'hello' if we hap-

pened to see each other outside. But we didn't know each other's names and we certainly wouldn't dream of popping round.

So when I moved out here, and strangers would offer a cheery

greeting as they walked past, I would look behind me, assuming they must be talking to someone else and I found myself aghast when someone knocked on the door without phoning to arrange it first.

But sometimes friendliness can be contagious and it didn't take long for me to embrace living in a small village where minimal effort (tea, cake, occasionally something stronger) can create a wonderful network of support and friendship. When the children started at pre-school and then 'big' school, my circle widened and now there are so many fantastic people whom I can call on to help with the school run, activity pick-ups and drop-offs, grocery supplies and even the ironing (I was REALLY ill that day!). When I go into London now, I'm the crazy lady beaming at strangers, saying Hi and wondering why no one will make eye contact on the tube. They don't know what they're missing.

When drama happens here (which it does a lot) such as locking myself out—leaving a baby alone inside, burst pipes and water pouring thought the kitchen ceiling, a much loved pet found run-over outside, the car breaking down, rushing a child

to hospital— usually when my husband is working away—there is always someone nearby whom I can call on to stop what they are doing to help in some way. And to all of you (you know who you are), I am truly thankful.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a drama-free 2014!

Kelly Cornish

The Oxford Fiddle Group's Charity Concert at the Victoria Hall, Tring on Sunday 29 September again attracted an enthusiastic audience. Following Clare Lonsdale's introductory piano pieces, William Nodes introduced the Group to the audience. Julie Cartilidge, Jamie Shuttle and the Olive Limes Restaurant in Tring donated raffle prizes and John and Evelyn Seaton donated the proceeds from refreshment sales. With everyone's generous support, organiser David Lonsdale was pleased to present a contribution to the Hospice of St Francis of £1,628 (incl Gift Aid)



VILLAGE LIFE DECEMBER/JANUARY 2013/14



## Aston Clinton School



#### **Backwards Planning**

IN MY LAST ARTICLE, I mentioned the ways we are moving forward as a school. One of these ways was backwards planning and I thought it might be useful to explain what that means.

As a staff, we have concentrated our efforts on planning in literacy so we can have a positive impact on writing outcomes for the children. The teachers in each year group looked at the next genre in literacy they were going to cover, for example, instruction writing. Then they decided what the outcome would be of the work the children would be doing. So for instruction writing in year 4, it could be a recipe book for the new sweets designed by the children for Willy Wonka in their Roald Dahl topic which they would be selling during Enterprise week.

Once the outcome was known, the teachers then identified the skills the children would need to be able to achieve that outcome. For instructions this could include the use of imperative (sometimes called 'bossy') verbs; time connectives or numbers for each instruction; clear step-by-step information; a title that tells you what you will achieve if you follow the instructions; use of the second person, and with only the most relevant information included.

With the skills identified, the teachers then could plan, from the beginning of the unit, a sequence of lessons that develop these skills and allow the children time to practise, applying the skills to a piece of writing each week. Most units are between two and four weeks in

length so children have plenty of time to reinforce their writing skills within the unit.

To support the learning, the skills are clearly displayed on a learning wall in the classroom so the children can remind themselves of what to include should they have a 'fuzzy' moment, when their mind goes blank! For the staff, we use the term WILF in school. This is an abbreviation for 'What I am Looking For' and it refers to the skills the teacher needs to ensure are present to make a piece of work successful.

Why did we spend last half term looking at backwards planning? I hear you ask. Well, we want to improve our writing results and so it was not enough to focus on developing writing skills in isolation. This has to be done in a stimulating and engaging way to get the children participating actively in writing lessons. To get this balance right can be a challenge. Sometimes the fun writing task does not have clarity in its skill development; sometimes the skills are there, but the task is too dry and unappealing to the children, so the work is lacklustre. We firmly believe that backwards planning will help us get the balance right.

Helen Shepherd

A child's mind is a candle to be lit, not a vessel to be filled

Old Hebrew proverb

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

IT WAS WITH SADNESS that we heard, on Monday 14th October, of the death of Bill Pennery, aged 102. Bill had been a member for many years, coming regularly to our meetings with his daughter, Sue. He also entered both our Summer and Spring Shows. At our last Spring Show earlier this year, Bill entered four classes, getting two firsts and two seconds and winning the 'Pink daffodil' trophy and the 'Society Bloom' Shield. He loved his garden and until recently spent most of his time working in it. He grew both flowers and vegetables to perfection. Bill will be missed.

In September, John Cornwall came and gave us another of his pictorial lectures, this time on Stowe Gardens. Over 50 members and visitors came to the Anthony Hall to be shown his wonderful photographs taken during all four seasons, starting with the snow and ice of winter. John's pictures of trees and shrubs are beautiful, as is his use of light and reflections on the buildings and lakes. Somehow he always manages to catch the setting sun amongst the trees.

About 50 members attended our Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd October, Mrs Lorna Price was re-elected our President and Chairman Sue Lipscomb was also re-elected. There were no changes to the elected officers and committee and Treasurer Ken Halls reported that our finances are on a secure footing for the size of society. There were questions about the monthly talks and about our website. Members thought that the balance of the subject matter of the talks, i.e. gardening, travel and wildlife was about right. Our website has been running for under a year and is regularly kept up-to-date with useful information such as 'hints and tips', 'what's on elsewhere' and 'photo gallery'. Though not so

many of the members present said that they had looked at our website, it is open to all and contains a great deal of interesting information. It's worth taking a look at our website at: www.astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk

Remember, you can also contact us by email at: info@astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk

The evening was nicely rounded off by a very interesting illustrated talk by John Tyler on the "Chilterns' Changing Wildlife". He took us back to well before prehistoric times and explained how the Chilterns were formed and how, from fossil evidence, it was possible to discover something of the wildlife existing here then. He showed how tectonic and climate change over millions of years has affected and changed wildlife up until today.



The Corinthian Arch, seen from the Avenue at Stowe

Our annual Christmas talk and social will be given by Alan Goodyear in the Anthony Hall on Wednesday 11 December at 8pm. The Christmas competition is for a Christmas decoration which includes a candle. Just bring your masterpiece on the evening. The talk will be followed by a glass of wine and Christmas buffet. Come and join the fun.

... continued opposite

#### Horticultural Society contd.

This past year has again been difficult for growing flowers and vegetables in our gardens and on our allotments. The long cold winter and spring made growth late. This was followed by a very dry period that did not help. The one positive was that the cold winter helped towards a giant crop of top fruit such as apples, pears and plums, which we have been harvesting until recently. The hot dry summer meant that runner beans matured hard and tough, though I have managed carrots and am picking Brussels sprouts. Dwarf French beans and potatoes did well this year, too.

Our 2014 Spring Show and Plant sale is on Saturday 12th April. There are numerous competitive classes, not only in specialist daffodils (including a novice class). There are to be sections on spring flowers, floral art and also domestic products and handicrafts. If your

children (or grandchildren) like entering competitions we have something for all ages up to fourteen. The subject for the photo competition is 'Spring is in the Air' for adults, and 'A photograph of a flower or plant' for children aged nine to fourteen. For those who have been inspired by the BBC's *Great British Bake Off* competition, we have several classes in our show for you to display your skills. They include Normandy apple flan; Fruit Teabread and Victoria sandwich. You'll find details on the website. The 2014 schedule for the Spring Show will be posted early in the New Year.

The plant sale stall at the Spring Show will be selling spring bedding plants, fuchsias, sweet pea plants and young perennials. Browns of Aylesbury will also be there with their trees, shrubs and perennials which they raise themselves. We look forward to seeing you.

Ralph Weston



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In Buckinghamshire our Fire and Emergency Support Service attends to incidents such as a fire or flood. Our skilled volunteers offer immediate shelter, emotional and practical support to those affected by a house fire. Whitchurch Morris Menhave started their winter practices in Wilstone Village Hall

We meet 8.15pm-10pm
every Tuesday evening,
and refresh ourselves afterwards
in The Half Moon!
We're looking for some new recruits
to keep our enjoyable tradition
flourishing.



Why not come and give it a try?

Want to know more beforehand? Contact our Bagman on 01296 641382, or by email at info@whitchurchmorris.org.uk

## A man with a passion for Frazer Nash cars

ILL and his charming wife Gill moved to Aston Clinton earlier this year along with their beautiful German Munsterlander gundog, Millie. You can see from the photo below that Bill is a happy man. He's had his fair share of life's ups and downs but, unlike many of us, he's spent most of his working life doing what he loves-bringing vintage sports cars back to their original glory.

Alec and I met Bill on Sunday 1st September in Aston Park, when over fifty Aston Martins stopped off for lunch at The Hub during the marque's centenary celebration run. We noticed, away from all the glamorous Astons, a 2-seater chain-driven Frazer Nash open sports tourer from the 1930s, in pristine condition with its proud owner clearly not wanting to miss the fun of the day.

Bill Roberts is an engineer-craftsman to his finger tips. His father ran a model-making and engineering business and from an early age Bill was gripped by a love of all things mechanical. One of his early memories is as a 12-year-old boy helping in the assembly of a full-size wooden replica of the 1918 Vickers Vimy twinengined bomber. The family company had received an order to build the replica from a film company who intended to create a re-enactment of the first non-stop crossing of the Atlantic by the pioneering aviators Alcock and Brown. Sadly, the film company went bust and the film was never made. Bill believes that the replica plane languishes to this day somewhere in the bowels of Elstree film studios.

He was apprenticed to Westland Helicopters at Yeovil where, with engineering already in his blood, he acquired all the basic skills needed for a life in his chosen field. Whilst at Westlands, he acquired his first Frazer Nash, the very car we saw at Aston Park in September. He returned to the family company for some years until his independent spirit (and an

abiding interest in vintage sports cars) drove him to set up his own company.

His fascination for the Frazer Nash led to a life-long involvement with the marque. Not only has he spent 40 years of his working life restoring these much-loved and unique sports cars, he became Captain of the Frazer Nash Car Club from 1996-1999. During those years, Bill and Gill hosted two Frazer Nash 'picnics' for over 50 cars in the large garden at their farmhouse near Reading. He had several workshops around the site all engaged in car restoration.

At one time he himself owned no fewer than five Frazer Nash cars. These were not only driven by Bill but also by other Club members and friends in competitions and tours at home and abroad, motoring as far away as Sicily. Alec asked him whether he ever had any reservations in lending these valuable cars to other drivers. "None whatsoever," he replied. "I used to tell them: 'We bend 'em - we mend 'em'".

You may be thinking by now that Bill is somewhat obsessed by vintage sports cars. You would be wrong. Some years ago, when a lot younger, he had the idea that he would like to



VILLAGE LIFE DECEMBER/JANUARY 2013/14

take up sailing as a change from the smell of petrol. At the time he and Gill were living at Maidenhead in a maisonette.

Bill went down to Poole and persuaded a yacht builder to sell him a 32ft yacht in kit form for him to take back to Maidenhead for assembly in the small back garden. After several years' work in his spare time, he and the family finally completed the task and the finished yacht had to be craned out over the roof of the maisonettes onto a low loader parked in the road outside. A few of his neighbours were somewhat alarmed and not altogether happy at the sight of the operation! For some years after, Bill and Gill enjoyed sailing trips to the Isle of Wight and further afield. They named the yacht Brigadoon, as Gill had been taking part at the time in an amateur dramatic version of the musical of that name.

Now in retirement, he retains his passion for vintage cars, particularly his special love (after Gill), for his 1934 Frazer Nash BMX 72, which he has owned for over fifty years.

He is ever the engineer-craftsman and is currently engaged in his latest project, a 1920 GN/Frazer Nash that has seen better days.

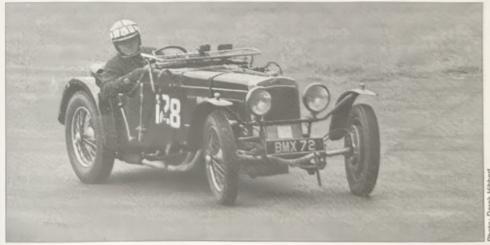


Bill with the two loves of his life.

He's also happy that his stepson Steven is continuing the family tradition.

Bill Roberts is a creative and self-sufficient man who finds fun and fulfillment in using his God-given talents to the full. He has a deep understanding and love of wood, metal and other materials and machines of all kinds. He enjoys motor sport, making and playing with 5" and 71/4" steam locomotives, travel and the pleasure of friendship with like-minded people. In a word, he's inspirational. Jenny Just

Bill Roberts driving his 1934 Frazer-Nash in the Prescott Hill Climb at the 1998 Vintage Sports Car Club Rally



Derek Hibber

## Never a dull moment!

EVERY Sunday night I come home, exhausted from work, and clamber into bed, asking myself why I do so much extra during the week. From music orchestras to volunteering, my normal week gives me very little time to sit at home and just do nothing. It was only recently when I was writing my Personal Statement for

my University application, that I realised how much I have actually done, and more importantly, what it has taught me over the years. Sorting through paper after paper of awards and certificates (even if it was only "swimming 5m"), I had an epiphanic moment of how much I actually enjoy travelling from activity to activity, much to my parents' dismay, and how rewarding they can be.

In Aston Clinton, Susanna Lamport's Youth Cafe allows the young people in the village to have a place where they can enjoy a va-

riety of activities, mix with children of different ages and just be themselves. After being set up 6 years ago, it has grown to having around 50 children every Wednesday after school to enjoy a few free hours of fun. It is in places like this that young people can learn, grow and look back on with fond memories.

After speaking to Susanna I learnt just how much these extra-curricular clubs can contribute to young peoples' lives. Not only gaining valuable skills to boast about on CVs in the future, but also confidence boosts in places

for children where they feel welcome, something they may only feel occasionally. Once in a lifetime experiences can also come around. Members of Aston Clinton youth group are travelling to Mexico at Easter 2014, a trip which they arranged themselves and for which they are continuously fundraising. The trip will

be something which will inspire them on into the future.

Looking back over my school years, my attitude of saying yes to pretty much everything has had its ups and downs. Joining the school volleyball team, despite not necessarily being an asset to them, has given me a chance to look back and laugh at fond memories of completely missing the ball on several occasions and, after eventually hitting it, nominating myself as "most improved player". Looking ahead to University life and the amazing variety of societies

available there has also got me excited, as I am already preparing to join both the "Quidditch" and "tea drinking" societies.

So despite my weariness on a Sunday evening from a hectic, non-stop week, I would never exchange it for a less stressful time, because it's all the constant activities which really allow people to develop what they're interested in and grow as a person. They have certainly given me a chance to collect a folder full of memories, ones which I will cherish forever.



#### AN INVITATION

**Village Life** is YOUR magazine. We try to provide interesting local reading matter as well as useful information. Please tell us what changes you would like to see (if any). Email the editor.

St Michael's and All Angels

# CHRISTMAS FAIR

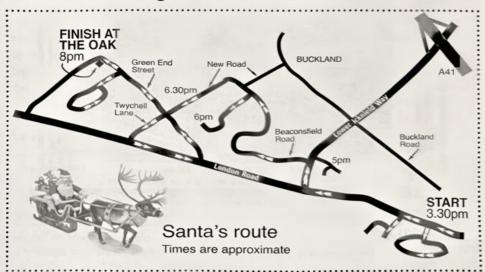


Saturday 7 December 11am-3pm

Many exciting stalls including Christmas gifts Hopefully Father Christmas will be calling in to sample the delicious lunches and teas to be served.

For further information, please call Marion on 01296 630577

## Santa's coming to Aston Clinton!



At 3pm on **Sunday 22 December**, he will start his tour of the village on his trusty sleigh. The local Scouts and Guides will be collecting for their organisations and for the lain Rennie Grove House Hospice at Home. If you are not on the route, please come and find us. Santa's tour is organised by Aston Clinton Parish Council.



The front cover of Aston Clinton church magazine for December 1913. It exemplified in its design the hangover of Victorian Gothic. Excessively ornate to modern eyes, the cover symbolised the elevated dignity of the Church's image of itself as an institution and of the expected piety of the God-fearing congregation it both served and led. The then Rector, the Rev Jean Rougier Cohu MA (1858-1930) was a scholarly cleric who wrote many books on theology and biblical studies. He served the Parish from 1904 until his death in 1930. Mercifully, he never lived to know of the tragic death of his son, Canon Clifford John Cohu, at the hands of the Nazis, having been arrested for 'disseminating anti-German news' on the island of Jersey during WW2.

VILLAGE LIFE DECEMBER/JANUARY 2013/14

## Obituary: Bill Pennery

WHEN his wife, Gladys, died in 1985 Bill Pennery came to live at The Surprise, Buckland Wharf, in a custom-built annexe to the family home. In his working life he had been a carpenter and from 1949 onwards he had traded with his younger brother Ken in partnership as Pennery Brothers. Testimonials from those

times speak glowingly of the firm's care, consideration and standard of workmanship. Throughout his life Bill applied these same high standards to everything he did; and with unfailing energy. At the age of 75 he undertook all the carpentry/joinery work in the building of the annexe, including installing the rafters four storeys up!

Bill had always been a keen gardener and the garden at The Surprise became his passion; and he regularly exhibited in both floral and vegetable classes in the Horticultural Society shows. As befitted a meticulous tradesman, his approach to gardening was thoroughgoing: soil to be enriched and dug over, paths cleared and cleaned, and plants in orderly rows. This was in contrast to his daughter, Sue Lipscomb's, more creative approach. In spite of the heated discussions that entertained the neighbours, father's and daughter's approaches were ultimately complementary.

The June-July 2013 edition of Village Life, under the Horticultural Society headline, included a special feature of Bill Pennery's success at the society's Spring Show. Sadly, that was to be his last involvement.

Bill's health was already failing and within two months of the Spring Show he was unable

to climb the two flights of stairs in his part of the house. From then on his decline was pitiful to watch, and extremely frustrating for him. Eventually severe dehydration led to his admission to Stoke Mandeville Hospital; and thence to Chiltern Court Nursing Home in Weston Turville. In both places he received exemplary care. He achieved his 102nd birthday on the 30th September,

but thereafter the decline was rapid; he died peacefully on 13th October.

Bill was not a highly educated man but he had a sound understanding of the world and his place in it. He enjoyed travel, both at home and abroad; and, though a self-sufficient person, he enjoyed the company of friends. He was charming, polite and maintained his sense of humour to the end. The world today is a very different world from the one that Bill was born into; and it is a poorer place as a result of his passing.

George Lipscomb

I grow plants for many reasons: to please my eye or to please my soul, to challenge the elements or to challenge my patience, for novelty or for nostalgia, but mostly for the joy in seeing them grow.

David Hobson (b. 1936)

He who plants a garden plants happiness.

Chinese proverb

The glory of gardening: hands in the soil, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul.

Alfred Austin (1835-1913)

To dig one's own spade into one's own earth! Has life anything better to offer than this? John Beverley Nichols (1898-1983)

## 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 Christmas events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun 1 Dec	4pm	Christingle Service	All Saints' Church
Fri 6 Dec	7.30pm	Film Night	All Saints' Church
Wed 11 Dec	8pm	Advent Carols-The Ridgeway Chorale	All Saints' Church
Sat 14 Dec	10am	Christmas Produce Stall	All Saints' Church
Sun 15 Dec	11am	Carols, Baptism and Nativity	All Saints' Church
Christmas Eve	4pm	Carols around the Crib	All Saints' Church
Christmas Day	8am	Christmas Communion	All Saints' Church
Sun 29 Dec	11am	Benefice Service	St Michael's Church

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

#### Flix in the Sticks

Buckland's own cinema, based at All Saints' Church, continues its Third Season through December and January. The £10 ticket includes film, supper and a glass of wine or soft drink.

The current Season runs until March and, as ever, is proving to be very popular. Our film-and-supper events are great fun but do require a number of people to work, cook and provide support behind the scenes. If you are interested in helping, please get in touch.

As usual, tickets need to be pre-booked with Alison Roberts on **01296 630256** or to be on the mailing list to receive programme details, email: alisonroberts999@btinternet.com

Remaining showing dates are: 6 December, 10 January, 11 January (matinée *t.b.c.*), 14 February and 14 March.

## Decorating All Saints'

Help is needed to decorate Buckland Church on Monday 23rd December at 2pm please. Donations of flowers, foliage, baubles, tinsel and ribbon would be greatly appreciated. The theme this year is RED and GREEN.

Thank you! Frances

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

Just email a few notes to the Editor and he'll do the rest and send you a proof before publication.

## Buckland Lock re-opens following reconstruction

ALL BEING WELL, by the time you read this, after eight months of closure, Buckland Lock will once again be open to traffic on the Aylesbury Arm of the Grand Union Canal.

Peter Walker, the Canal and River Trust's project engineer in charge of the re-building of Buckland Lock, was interviewed on BBC Three Counties radio recently. Questioned on the likely cause of the collapse at Easter, he said

that the lock is built on a unique type of clay, which was affected by the dry summer causing it to shrink, only to swell during the very wet spell that followed. He felt that the construction work at Arla was unlikely to have been a contributory factor.

The cost of repairs, met by the Canal and River Trust, was around £800,000, £200,000 of which was used to build an access road through the Arla site. There was no other route to reach the canal site, since the bridge at Buckland has weight restrictions and it would not have been practical or desirable to bring heavy machinery through the village. Additionally, The Canal and River Trust has had to re-order priorities for other projects since this urgent repair consumed a large part of their annual budget.

The condition of the original brickwork was very good and just needs some re-pointing. The wall measures 4m high x 30 metres long. A brick dated 1911 was found in the wall during the re-construction work. I understand that another brick dated 2013 will be laid alongside it.

The Canal and River Trust has been working with the Aylesbury Canal Society, to minimise

the disruption for the boats stranded in the recently-built Circus Field Basin at Broughton. At the cost of another £20,000 to hire cranes, twenty-one of the stranded craft were lifted and moved to Milton Keynes in the summer. Some of those have since been returned to the Basin in anticipation of Buckland lock reopening by the end of November.

Jenny Just



ALL SAINTS CHURCH, BUCKLAND

Wednesday, 11th December 2013 at 8.00 p.m.

# CONCERT

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directed by Richard Grylls

Violin Sarah Hinde Refreshments

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# John o'Groats to Land's End in ten days in memory of David Preskett

ARLIER THIS YEAR my younger son, Matthew, his girlfriend Mel and two old school friends, Alex and Stuart, got together and decided it would be a challenge to cycle from John o'Groats to Land's End in ten days, and dedicate the ride to David. Their journey started on 9th September after travelling to Scotland by train with the bicycles on 7th September.

DAY 1 dawned clear and bright with light winds. They cycled the 113 miles from John o'Groats to Lairg, visiting Dunnet Head on the way because it is the most northerly point of mainland Scotland.

DAY 2 was a mere 98 miles from Lairg to Invergarry, the weather was dry but overcast. They passed through Inverness and down the side of Loch Ness.

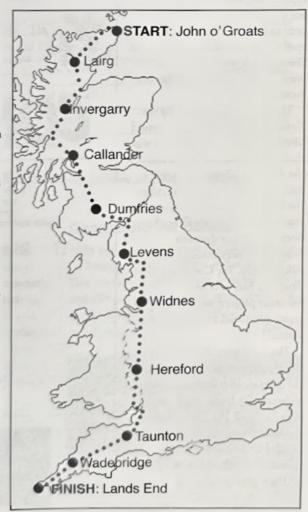
DAY 3 saw them cycling 108 miles in pouring rain, destination that day was Callander. On the way, they cycled through Glen Coe amidst desolate but beautiful scenery.

DAY 4 started off dry between Callander and Lanark where they stopped for a late lunch because they came up against a strong headwind which slowed them down quite considerably. After lunch, their journey continued to Dumfries but unfortunately four hours of rain found them 'swimming in their shoes'. That was another 113 mile day. Mel's parents supported them with food and fluid and also scouted for suitable lunch stops for the first four days. Stuart's Dad, his friend Pam and their dog took over support from Dumfries.

DAY 5 was a 90 mile trip from

Dumfries to Levens, near Kendal, the morning was wet but luckily it cleared up in the afternoon. The Kirkstone Pass was a test for all of them.

DAY 6 the weather was good with a tail wind (hooray!) from Levens to Widnes, another 81 miles under their belts. My daughter, Naomi, and granddaughter, Sophie (age 4) and I took on the support mantle in Widnes.



DAY 7 was a tough 115 miles with very strong headwinds and a fair bit of rain. The only protection from the wind and rain we could find for lunch was a bus shelter in Wem! It was Sunday and everywhere was closed. To make things worse, both Alex and Stuart had punctures. We met them again in Ludlow in the rain to boost their energy levels with homemade ginger biscuits and flapjack, particularly appreciated by Alex. They arrived in Hereford as the light was rapidly fading.

DAY 8 took them 99 miles from Hereford to Taunton. It was a mixed day of weather. We were all going over the Severn Bridge at the same time! Naomi, Sophie and I had lunch with them in a pub near the Clifton Suspension Bridge in Bristol before waving them off over the bridge. We handed the support role to Stuart's girlfriend Kim, and reluctantly turned for home. We were so pleased to have been involved in a small part of their incredible journey.

DAY 9 was the hardest-107 miles from Taunton to Wadebridge battling strong head winds and rain. This was their first experience of Devonshire hills, wet brakes on 25% inclines and declines! They were grateful for a dry set of clothes once the rain stopped. They reached Wadebridge at 9.10pm-long after sunset!

DAY 10 – 18th September and the final day. 90 miles from Wadebridge to Land's End via the Lizard, the most southerly point of Britain. The weather was clear with a gentle headwind. They reached their destination at 7.27pm having cycled 1014 miles.

I am so proud of these four young people and greatly admire their grit and determination. They have raised in excess of £2500 for the Alzheimer's Society. I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who sponsored them so generously.

Jane Preskett

See www.alzheimers.org.uk if you wish to make ,a donation to the Alzheimers Society.



Above: All spruced up and ready to go.
From left to right: Alex, Stuart, Matthew and Mel

Below: Ten days and over 1000 miles later, tired but happy are, left to right: Matthew, Mel, Stuart and Alex



#### GP Corner

### Still time for flu jabs at Aston Clinton Surgery

If you are in the eligible patient categories and haven't already had your flu jab, there's still time if you act quickly. Contact the Surgery on 01296 630241 without delay and get yourself protected.

Best wishes for a healthy and warm winter, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Tina Moran, Site Manager, and everyone at Aston Clinton Surgery. St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp

Regular Services: 10.45 am each Sunday

## Forthcoming Christmas events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun 1 Dec	10.45am	Carols and Communion for Advent	St Mary's Church
Sun 22 Dec	4pm	A Celebration of Christmas	St Mary's Church
Christmas Day	10.45am	Christmas Communion	St Mary's Church
Sun 29 Dec	11am	Benefice Service	St Michael's Church

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

#### DB stats

According to the 2011 Census, the population of Drayton Beauchamp was 152 souls, three more than in 1901. In the Census of 1831 the population was recorded as 275, the highest

figure in modern times. Those 275 people would have included very many farm labourers and their families, the great majority long since gone as farming has become mechanised.

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## The Kop Hill Climb 2013

This September marked the 5th year of the Kop Hill Climb (at Princes Risborough) with a record 15,000 motoring enthusiasts attending the event over two days, contributing tens of thousands of pounds to local good causes. They thrilled to the sight of over 400 motorcycles and cars from 1910 to the 1970s representing each decade of the last century.

One of the biggest draws this year was Brooklands Museum's record-breaking 1933 John Cobb-commissioned Napier-Railton. After being push-started, its 24-litre Napier aero-engine burst into ear-splitting life, consuming an eye- watering five gallons of petrol per mile! The Kop Hill Climb celebrated a brace of centenary celebrations in 2013, including the Martin (later to become Aston Martin following Lionel Martin's success in hill climbs on Aston Hill in the early years of the twentieth century) and Vauxhall's 30-98.

In addition to the Hill Climb, there were many other attractions to please all the family including 200 static car and motorcycle club displays together with trade stands, refreshment stalls, a roundabout for the younger visitors and a manic motorcycle 'Wall of Death'!

As if there was not enough excitement and nostalgia to please everyone, the not-to-bemissed spectacle on Sunday afternoon was the evocative sound and sight of a Spitfire and Hurricane fly-past from the Battle of Britain Memorial flight.

A great time was had by young and not-soyoung including my grandson Harry who, at four years and four months, is now a 'veteran' passenger, this being his third year at the Kop Hill Climb!

The 2014 event is already being planned, the third weekend in September being likely. So watch out for the exact date, to be confirmed, and mark it in your diary!

William Nodes

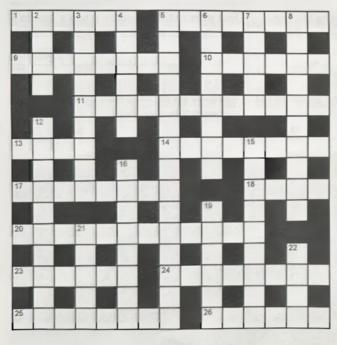
The actual car used by John Cobb to break the Brooklands track record at 143.44mph on 7 October 1935.



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## Village Life crossword No.2

Crossword compiled by Helen Lonsdale. The solution will appear in the next issue.



#### **ACROSS**

- 1. Steady flow (6)
- 5. Ant Bear (8)
- 9. Scholarly (8)
- 10. Loquacious person (6)
- 11. Made space (12)
- 13. Spanish Painter (4)
- 14. After the fall (8)
- 17. A Rags man (anag) (8)
- 18. Individual or entity (4)
- 20. Higgledy-Piggledy (12)
- 23. Strauss River (6)
- 24. Skittles (8)
- 25. Mountain communicators (8)
- 26. A four-winged fly (6)

#### DOWN

- 2. Children's Shop (4)
- 3. Inspiring affection (9)
- 4. Apes (6)
- 5. Successful achievements (15)
- 6. Local (8)
- 7. Goddess of the hearth (5)
- 8. Audience reached by Village Life (10)
- 12. Two fired comedians (6,4)
- 15. Lift off from here? (6,3)
- 16. Another name for Wheat Soda (4,4)
- 19. Tribal (6)
- 21. '---- of New Zealand' (plane that crashed in AC in 1934 killing all four crew (5)
- 22. Agin (4)

#### Solutions to Crossword No.1

Across 1+18 down Evelyn Waugh. 5 War. 8 Thank you. 9 Dhal. 10 Refreshments. 12 Arla. 13 Duck. 17 Twenty. 19 Penne. 20 Audi. 21 Abandons (sorry for the misspelt Deserts clue"). 23 Hag. 24 Saying.

\*The error was not the fault of the compiler who hopes it did not spoil your enjoyment in solving the puzzle.

Down 2 Van. 3 Laymen. 4 Nought. 5 Waddesdon. 6 React. 7 Sharer. 11 Flaunting. 14 Cheyne. 15 Bypass. 16. Apiary. 18 [See 1 across.] 22 Din.

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# 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
Citizens Advice Bureau	Carlotte a language of the same	0870 126 4056
Cricket Club	Mike Parsonage	01296 631788
Crimestoppers		0800 555 111
Dentists' Surgery	The Date of the Control	08443 756336
Dial-a-Ride	THE SECTION OF THE PERSON OF T	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*	
Halton Singers	Cherry-Ann Evans	01296 622097

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	The second second second	01296 315000
Tot Spot (Baptist Church)	Nicky Downing	01296 631824
Trading Standards		0845 4040506
Veterinary Centre	A STATE OF THE PARTY NAMED IN	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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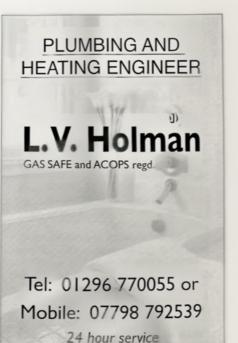
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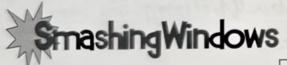
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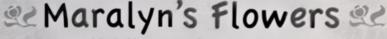
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