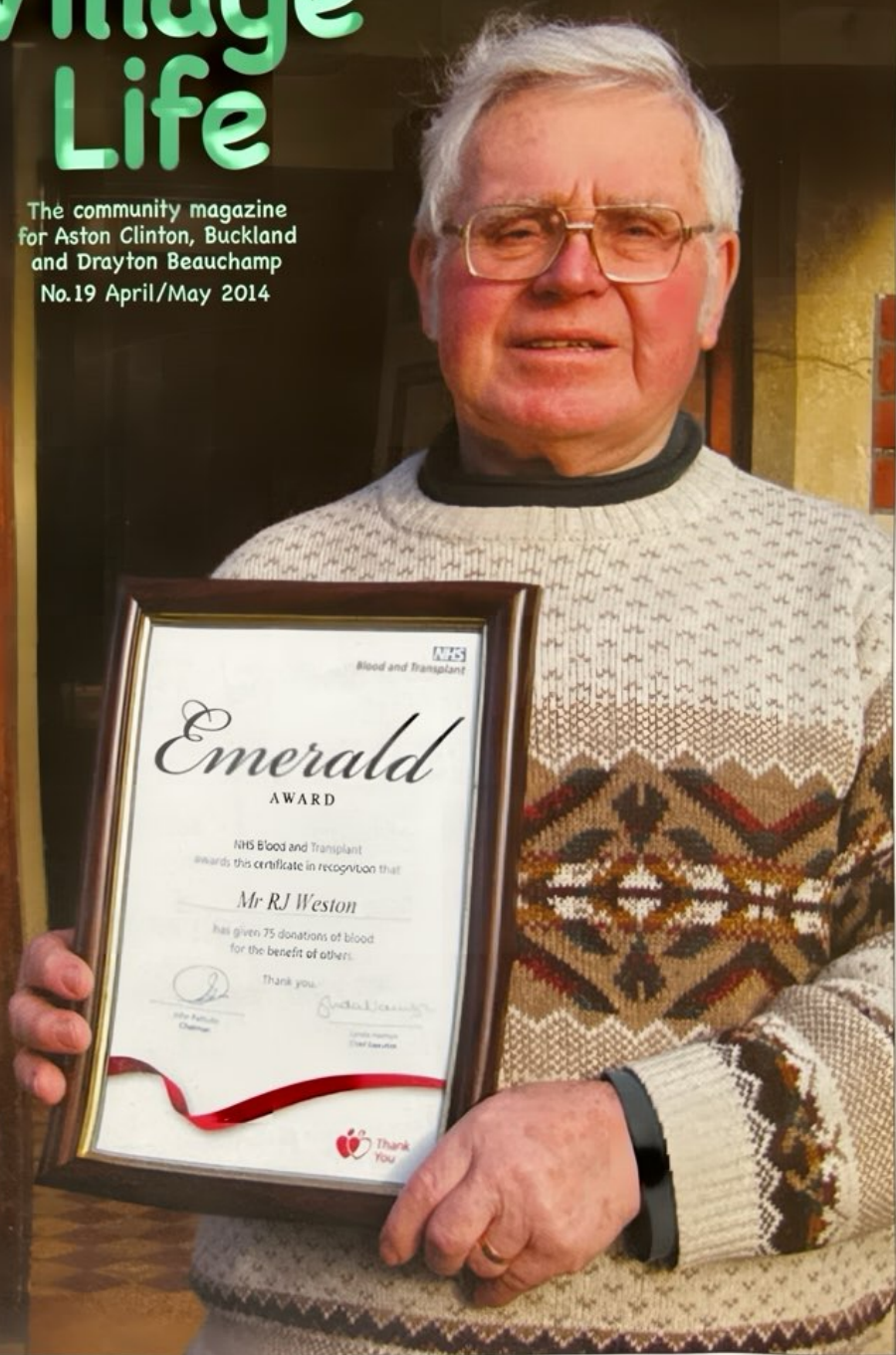


# Village Life

The community magazine  
for Aston Clinton, Buckland  
and Drayton Beauchamp  
No.19 April/May 2014



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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)

THE scandal of youth unemployment in this country and across much of the developed world is a scourge on our so-called civilised society. To educate our children to understand and appreciate the world and all its wonders and then leave so many of them without hope is a public disgrace for which we are all responsible as citizens.

Fortunately, not all is woe. In our community, there are many who give their time and energy in the service of our young people. Of course they include teachers who have long deserved a higher status in our country. They also include those unsung heroes who are committed to helping our youngsters develop as people through the enjoyment and reward of group activities, based on mutual trust and respect for themselves and others.

On page 6, David Wall tells how the Aston Clinton Scout Group is going from strength to strength, constrained only by the facilities needed for expansion.

Green Park Activity Centre has been recently acquired from Bucks CC by the Adventure Learning Foundation (known as ALF). On page 4 you can read about their plans to open up this wonderful space to a wider audience, with young people very much in mind.

Easter is a time of great significance to Christians. On page 8 Monika invites us to reflect on the real meaning of Easter, based on love and compassion for others that we are taught is at the heart of the Easter message.

We don't often feature people on the cover of **Village Life**. Ralph Weston deserves the thanks of everyone who has benefited from a blood transfusion. He is one of the small but vital army of selfless people to whom many of us can sometimes owe our lives.

Before the winter rains fade from memory, Ralph is kindly reminding us on page 11 how awful it all was.

Finally, on behalf of the **Village Life** production team, may I wish you and your families a very Happy Easter!

*Alec Just*

Editor



# The Rector's Easter message

## Dear Friends

Have you ever played word association games? If I asked you for the first word which came to your mind when I said 'Easter', my guess is that many of you would respond 'egg'. But how did a Christian festival which celebrates the death and resurrection of Jesus come to be associated with eggs?

Imagine, if you will, a space ship landing from outer space. The traveller who climbs out of his craft finds himself on a wide pebbly beach. Bending down he picks up one of the spherical stones and tests it. It's smooth and cold and lifeless. Disappointed, he walks up the beach and makes for some distant farm buildings. Near one of the outhouses he almost steps on a cluster of pale, oval, stone-like objects. 'More stones,' he thinks but when he picks one up, it's warm. He runs his testing machine over it

and finds, to his surprise, that there is life inside. As the space traveller holds the egg in his hands it cracks and a little chick pushes its head out – new life from what looked and felt like a stone.

Easter is celebrated with eggs because they provide a parallel to what happened on the first Easter morning. The stone behind which Jesus had been buried looked cold and dead, but suddenly, new life burst out of it. Love could not be put to death. Jesus was alive! So when you give and receive Easter Eggs this year, you might want to recall the warmth and vitality of God's love for you and be challenged by its potential for new life in all our lives.



*Elizabeth*

## Aston Clinton Ladies Group

Forthcoming meetings:

**Wed 9 April at 8pm:** Lenten Service at St Michael and All Angel's, followed by coffee and biscuits at Janet Watson's home, 14 Putnams Drive. Tel: **01296 631014**

**Wed 21 May at 8pm at the Guide Hall:** A talk on Wine by Nigel Brigden (with nibbles).

Please note there will be no meeting in June. Please call Sue Sanders on **01296 630740** or Janet Watson on **01296 631014** if you would like to join us. New members are always very welcome.

## A quotation for Easter

**Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see. – Mark Twain**

Even just thinking about kindness can rewire our brains. This is the point at which neuroscience now meets religion. A decade of research into meditation and kindness has mirrored the biblical prescription: "Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things." (Philippians 4:8)

See also: [www.theage.com.au/comment/pope-francis-shows-it-is-simple-to-simply-be-kind](http://www.theage.com.au/comment/pope-francis-shows-it-is-simple-to-simply-be-kind)



## St Michael and All Angels

Regular Services:

9.15am and 6pm each Sunday

and Evening Prayer at 7.30pm each Friday



### Forthcoming events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Tues 8 April	8pm	Taizé Service	St Michael's Church
Wed 9 April	8pm	AC Ladies Lent Service	St Michael's Church
Sun 13 April	9.15am	Palm Sunday Service	St Michael's Church
Mon 14 April	8pm	Stations of the Cross	St Michael's Church
Thurs 17 April	7.30pm	Last Supper with the Baptists	AC Baptist Church
Good Friday	12 noon	The First Hour	St Michael's Church
Easter Day	9.15am	Easter Fire Service	St Michael's Church
Sun 11 May	11am-4pm	Stall at Village Market	Aston Clinton School

More details about these events on the church website: [www.s-michaels.org.uk](http://www.s-michaels.org.uk)



## Aston Clinton Village Market coming soon!

IT'S TIME to start spreading the exciting news that this year's Village Market at Aston Clinton School is COMING SOON! (And if you're a local supplier and you haven't yet booked a stall, now is the time to do it!)

This year will be our sixth year, running what has become an eagerly awaited fixture on the village calendar. The market brings together all our local area has to offer, with a side-servicing of musical entertainment while you browse the stalls. Then, when you are all shopped out, enjoy a cuppa or even a Pimm's with a tasty BBQ lunch!

We will have a fantastic selection of stalls, including beautiful vintage furniture, handmade jewellery, tasty cakes, delicious bread and mouth-watering cheeses. There will be chutneys and

pickles, home-reared pork sausages, local apple juice, wine and cider. As always, the children will be entertained with crafts, games, and more.

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

*Clare Simmonds*

### ASTON CLINTON VILLAGE MARKET Sunday 11 May, 11-4pm

Aston Clinton School, Twitchell Lane,  
Aston Clinton, HP22 5GG. For more information, see: [www.acvillagemarket.co.uk](http://www.acvillagemarket.co.uk)

To book your place as a stallholder please email: [bookings@acvillagemarket.co.uk](mailto:bookings@acvillagemarket.co.uk)

## A new life for Green Park Centre

Have you ever wondered what goes on at Green Park Conference and Training Centre, off Stablebridge Road? You are probably aware that (until recently) it has been run for many years by Bucks CC. You may have guessed (correctly) that conferences are held and training goes on there. But exactly *what* activities would have been a mystery for most of us.

interest in providing outdoor educational opportunities would be better served by leasing the entire 80-acre Green Park site to a Bucks-based charity called the Adventure Learning Foundation. As well as Green Park, ALF runs Longridge, the Thameside adventure learning centre at Marlow. The charity has also recently taken over Shortenills outdoor education centre at Chalfont St Giles which had also been run

by Bucks CC.

ALF have ambitious plans for Green Park and intend to continue the policy of letting facilities to corporate organisations and others as an income source. The impressive facility already has a fully equipped sports complex including a 30m indoor swimming pool with a 3m deep end, one of the finest pools in the area.

On the Park site there is a climbing wall, a ropes course, a conference hall,

residential accommodation for up to 96 young people and a restaurant. Their website is well worth a look at [www.green-park.org.uk](http://www.green-park.org.uk)

Your editor had a tour of the Park earlier this year, conducted by Amanda Foister, the CEO of the Adventure Learning Foundation. She explained that she wanted the people of Aston Clinton and district to become aware of this wonderful site and of the educational benefits available to local children and young people through organised visits.

Although Green Park is not a public park, anyone interested in a visit to the park to discover and explore the network of footpaths through woodland and parkland is invited to telephone 0330 303 0101 to arrange a visit.

*Alec Just*



Photo: Alec Just

Green Park Centre is on the site of what was Sir Anthony and Lady Rothschild's mansion and grounds. Following the demolition of the mansion in the late 1950s, the whole estate was acquired by Bucks CC for use as a residential outdoor educational training centre for young people. Only the stables and entrance lodge remain of the original buildings. In order to generate income to support the charitable activities, corporate and other organisations were invited to hold meetings, conferences and team-bonding events and weekends.

With the cutbacks in public finance over recent years, BCC have found it increasingly difficult to fund the necessary investment to maintain and update the onsite facilities.

Last year Bucks CC decided that the public





Photo: Alec Just

The Sports Complex building is on the site of the Rothschild mansion (*right*). The low wall and stone pillar base in the foreground (above) are remnants of the elegant balustrade that once fronted the mansion. The encircled portion shows the exact spot seen from side-on. The lower photo shows part of the residential block that sits on elevated ground beneath the trees on this glorious 80-acre site, now to be more widely available.



Photo: Alec Just



# Scouting in Aston Clinton: a success story

If you believe what you read in the papers and hear on tv and radio, you'd be tempted to believe that youngsters today spend all their leisure time on computers, smartphones and tablets. As far as Aston Clinton is concerned, you'd be wrong!

Although there have been many changes to Scouting, the principles have not changed much from the original ideas formulated by Baden-Powell a century ago. The basic principles of providing service to others, developing intellectual, physical, creative and leadership skills still hold true today.

The Scout troop aims to provide the scouts with a varied and balanced programme, working to develop the scouts as a group whilst identifying their individual strengths.

The Aston Clinton Scout Group (admitting both boys and girls) is thriving and comprises:

- 11 Leaders (3 Beavers, 4 Cubs, 2 Scouts and 2 Explorers) plus
- Occasional Helpers and 6 Young Leaders
- 19 Beavers (6–8 years of age)
- 21 Cubs (8–10½ years of age)
- 30 Scouts (10½–14½ years of age)
- 6 Explorers (14–18 years of age)

The Scout Group currently meets in the old Clock School, in the grounds of Aston Clinton School. Whilst extremely appreciative of both the Local Education Authority and the school for the arrangement, they are tenants and have

## *The Aston Clinton Scout Group is thriving ...*

no available access outside the agreed times and no access at all on weekends. This limits the programme they can offer the youngsters and gives them no possibility of setting up or running a programme over a number of nights. Access is through the goodwill of the school

governors who are to be thanked for their support especially on cold winter nights.

The group has participated in many events over the past twelve months, some of which you may have witnessed and some you may not be aware of. You most likely would have seen us at the Remembrance Day parade and events such as Christingle. You may however not be aware that we also participate in a county-wide orienteering event at Wendover Woods, the District Swimming Gala at Aquavale and the St George's Day Parade at Warwick Castle.

**Beavers** More children want to be Beaver Scouts than there are spaces available. One new Assistant Leader has recently been welcomed to the colony. However, with more support we could expand the Beaver Colony.

Last term, two-thirds of the colony didn't miss a single meeting which shows how much fun they have! The children enjoy a range of activities including: chip shop walks along the canal, putting up tents, learning about healthy eating, following simple maps around Wendover Woods, learning about the Countryside Code, building and sailing/flying model boats and planes, campfire sing-songs, learning about road, home and water safety and many other topics.

The aim at every meeting is that the Beaver Scouts try out new things, keep their Beaver Scout Promise and have fun.

**Cubs** Over the past year they have taken part in a summer camp at Phasel's Wood, a Deer Walk at Ashridge, visited the WW1 trenches at RAF Halton, pitched tents at Braid Wood, attended campfires and visited Aylesbury Fire Station amongst many other activities. The cubs continue to achieve their Chief Scout Silver Awards showing that they have a full programme of activities.

**Scouts** In the past few years, the scouts have: camped on an island in the Thames, in the New Forest and locally at Braid Wood. They have been to Brownsea Island (the birthplace of the Scouting Movement) and travelled to Gilwell Park in Essex. In 2013 seven scouts from the troop joined Ivinghoe and Pitstone Scouts on a week's adventure holiday to Iceland. They have also been active locally: clearing the churchyard and collecting money with the Parish Council on the Santa Sleigh.

The scout troop have also achieved some great successes winning the Cole Trophy, also winning the District Cooking Competition. Last summer they travelled to Cheltenham to

join 3,000 other Scouts, competing in the Malvern and Cotswold Challenges. All patrols competed well with one beating the other 193 patrols to win the Cotswold Challenge.

An Aston Clinton scout has been selected as part of the Buckinghamshire contingent to go to the World Jamboree in Japan next year. Success breeds success!

*David Wall*

*Aston Clinton Scout Group Leader*

### **Imagine what the Scout Group could do if they had a dedicated Scout Hall!**

## **Are our youngsters worth a brand new Scout Hall?**

YOU'VE read (above) of the success achieved to date with the limited resources available to the Aston Clinton Scout Group. A proposal has been floated for a brand-new Scout Hall to be built, sufficient for not only the scouts but also to provide extra space for other village activities.

A convenient site in the NW corner of Aston Clinton Park has been offered by the Parish Council; preliminary plans have been drawn up by a local firm of architects and a pilot Project Team has been assembled. A feasibility study will be needed to assess the long term viability of the project. If the benefits are shown to justify the costs, fund-raising can begin.

The Project would be funded partly through local support and partly from the National Lottery or similar grant-giving bodies. With the increasing population of Aston Clinton, there is already pressure on existing accommodation. Sooner or later a new building will be needed. Providing better facilities for our young people is surely investing for the future.

The greater the expressions of public support for the Project, the greater the chance that it will happen. If you would like to register your support in principle, please email "YES" to: [ac.scouts@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ac.scouts@yahoo.co.uk)

*Alan Davis*

*Chairman, Aston Clinton Scout Group*

## **THE RBL**



**THE Aston Clinton and District Branch of the Royal British Legion wish to increase their membership and invite you to join.**

**ALL are welcome as membership is not only for current or former service personnel.**

**For further information contact Janet Tye on 01296 434866**

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS**



## What do you see?

SOME OF US may remember the moving photographs of Pope Francis praying for a severely disfigured man (Vinicio Riva) last November. With a strong sense of love and compassion he conferred the love of Christ in these simple gestures of kindness. People around the world were deeply moved by this expression of affirmation to human beings from whom many may turn away in embarrassment. What did Pope Francis see that others may not have seen?

In this and similar cases the disability/illness is very visible, open for everyone to see. Surely the afflicted bear a significant burden as they cope with these conditions. People respond with deep compassion. Working on a small cancer ward in my earlier days as a nurse, I still have a very vivid recollection of a lady with facial cancer who needed to have much of one half of her face removed. As I sat with her a while on the night-drugs round, she started talking about many areas of her life in a very calm and composed manner and as I sat listening I suddenly realised that I no longer noticed her face

“... it is only with the heart that we can see clearly.

Antoine de Saint Exupéry

because of the beautiful person that emerged from inside her as she clothed her experiences in an attractive narrative. What did I see? The person inside rather than that which meets the eye.

We sometimes hear the phrase that ‘reality is often more than that which meets the eye’ and Antoine de Saint Exupéry coined the beautiful phrase ‘it is only with the heart that we can see clearly’ (The Little Prince). Whereas the above examples inform our hearts and minds of a very obvious condition, there are myriads of invisible traits, characteristics and disabilities

which are not immediately apparent as we meet other people. Having often a neurological origin, these features are invisible, yet they can produce powerful repercussions that find expression in human encounter.

To give but two examples: a BBC report at the end of last year reminded us of the hidden condition of Asperger’s syndrome (‘Susan Boyle is part of autism’s ‘invisible generation’), a condition often associated with children, but the National Autistic Society estimates that 20% of the adult population may be affected.

This invisible disability has countless reverberations in daily life, especially in the area of social interaction, where there is often an intense interest in an object or a hobby and reduced empathy. Individuals are often highly gifted though (Einstein and Newton are thought to have had this condition). It often comes as a great relief when certain characteristics can be identified as originating from this condition (see life-stories on the National Autistic Society’s website).



Susan Boyle

Another condition is IBS or irritable bowel syndrome. Again this has a great impact on activities of daily life but they are not immediately observable by others. It often affects younger people.

All these peculiarities and idiosyncrasies of character and personality do not give immediate clues as to the invisible condition underneath the behaviour we see. These people face multiple challenges as they try to lead a ‘normal life’.

In our encounter with a myriad of different people throughout our lives, some with characteristics which we may find profoundly irritating, exasperating or simply puzzling, let us ‘see’ beyond that which meets the eye. As Jesus and Pope Francis did, let us look at the person inside who is deeply loved by God, no matter what.

Monika Faranda Bellofiglio





# Aston Clinton School

Head: Mrs Helen Shepherd



## Sporting dreams

THE legacy from the 2012 London Olympics seen in school has been a lump sum, called the sports premium, ring-fenced to develop and enhance the quality of PE in schools. The government wanted to ensure teachers were given appropriate training to ensure PE lessons were of high quality. It was also to ensure that children had opportunities to take part in sporting competitions and to improve children's health by increasing participation in sports.

At Aston Clinton School we have been putting this money to good use. Since September 2013, we have been offering an increasing number of children, from across the school, the opportunity to participate in interschool competitions. So far these have included sports such as badminton, netball, tag rugby, football, dodge ball and swimming.

The children come back to school and share their experiences in our Friday Praise assembly. Whatever the competition results, great sportsmanship and team work are shown through the feedback. They enjoy themselves and are keen to have another go! With some children, the most important thing is to win, for others it is to take part and do their best. We hope to harness both and win some of the competitions whilst retaining a spirit of sportsmanship.

We have been increasing the number of sports clubs we offer to the children and aim to have something for everyone. The children in years 1 and 2, and occasionally reception, have access to a football club, tag rugby and yoga

bugs at lunchtime. In the juniors we have a netball club, hockey club, football club and dodge ball. The netball club have used some of the sports premium money to join the netball league and to date have played four matches. The team have learnt a lot about the tactics needed to be more successful on court. They know they have to be more assertive and go for every ball! The hockey club played several matches all on the same day. The weather was appalling, but our teams showed grit and determination and came out victorious.

John Colet School have been instrumental in helping us provide all these opportunities for our pupils. Their staff team arrange and co-ordinate the competitions, with help from their student sports leaders. They do a brilliant job and it is greatly appreciated by our children and staff. An extra benefit of these close working arrangements is that many of our children feel very comfortable going to the Colet, which helps make for a smooth transition when children leave us and move on to secondary school.

Finally, our staff are having training in PE. All teachers are having gymnastics training, which culminates each term in a gymnastics presentation to parents. Other training is accessible to staff, if they request it. Without the sports premium money, it would be hard to see how we could fund the amount of training we are offering staff, as the main focus for all schools is literacy and numeracy and this takes up most of the training budgets.

*Helen Shepherd*

Aston Clinton, Buckland &amp; Drayton Beauchamp

## Horticultural Society

WHEN will it stop raining? I do hope that by the time you read this the weather will not only be warmer but drier. The weather has made it almost impossible to get into our gardens and allotments to even start clearing the detritus from last year.

The biggest problem is the very high water table makes it impossible to dig and cultivate the soil in order to sow seed and plant out onions and shallots that traditionally go in first. Kneeling to weed raspberry and other bushes has resulted in very muddy jeans! Assuming the ground has dried out by April, it is not too late to plant potatoes. With Easter late, the traditional day for planting potatoes is Good Friday. It was the one day in the year when labourers were given the day off.

Spring has begun in my garden with the snowdrops and early daffodils giving a bright display. In the meantime I and other gardeners have been sowing seed and starting off the onions and shallots in pots so that they will have a flying start when planted out.

Preparations for the Spring Show are progressing and my show daffodils have been brought into the greenhouse. Whilst not everybody can concentrate on growing these specialist blooms, there are plenty of classes for the novice to have a go from what is growing in the garden.

Our **Spring Show and Plant Sale** is on **Saturday 12 April** at 2pm in the School hall. Entry night is the previous Thursday 10th April 6-7.45pm at the Anthony Hall. Those of you who have trophies, please return them to Ken Halls by entry night at the latest. Full details of the classes are on the Horticultural Society website. The show includes all the regular features and classes with a section for children, floral art, spring flowers, handicrafts and domestic. There are plenty of challenges for everyone to

have a go and enter something. There are also teas and a raffle to help defray costs.

Our next talk is on **Wednesday 9 April** when Frank Parge will tell us about 'Hughenden Manor Gardens'. On **Sunday 11 May** we will be having a Plant and Produce Stall at the Village Market, from 11am at Aston Clinton School. Please bring as many plants as possible for us to sell. Our following talk is on **Wednesday 14 May** when Tisa Mabel, who lives in the village, will be presenting her slide show on 'Cape Town to Victoria Falls'.

On **Thursday 10 July**, the Society is organising a coach trip to the late Geoff Hamilton's Barnsdale Gardens. The total cost of the trip (lunch is extra) is £20. If you are interested, please contact Diane Kolonko on **01296 631122** (mob: 07930 337253) or you can email her at [dianekolonko@f2s.com](mailto:dianekolonko@f2s.com)

*Ralph Weston*

Award-winning daffs at the 2013 show



Photo: Richard Needham



## Aston Clinton Weather

THIS winter's rainfall from the recent storms has been the heaviest for many years. Here in Aston Clinton we seem to have escaped the worst effects of the storms compared with other places. However we have not escaped completely—I have had reports of trees coming down, fences being blown over and lake-sized puddles on several roads.

Whilst Aston Clinton has not been flooded, the water table has risen and created flood pools in my garden (*see photo opposite*). This is not surprising since it has been known for a long time that there are a number of springs in the village.

Opposite is a table of Aston Clinton rainfall as recorded by a member of our Horticultural Society. This winter we have had 200mm (or just under 8 inches) *more* rain than usual.

Over in Dagnall, in Hertfordshire, up to 27th February they have had 283.4 mm of rain and that is 250% above the 6-year average. RW

### Aston Clinton rainfall in mm (rounded down)

	Dec	Jan	Feb	Total
2012/13	116	66	45	227
2013/14	85	198	148	431



Photo: Ralph Weston

## 75 and not out!

RALPH WESTON, 75, has just given his 75th blood donation. He has been giving blood



since the time of his National Service in the 1950s. He says that it was a bit like 'you, you and you will give blood' from the drill sergeant. Actually it was not quite like that. It was explained why

blood donation was needed and afterwards you were given a bottle of Guinness to drink in exchange! The idea was that the iron in the Guinness helps replace the blood. Ralph was presented with a badge and certificate for his contribution. He has not been able to give blood continuously since he started, such as when he was working in the Falkland Islands. When working in London he used to go to the blood donation centre behind Oxford

Street every three months. From there the blood was taken directly for use to the London hospitals. Ralph had to stop giving blood when he was 70 and then the service changed the rules and he started again. He still gives blood two or three times a year and intends to continue while he remains healthy.

Ralph's blood type is 'B' positive not the most common 'O' type. According to the NHS website there is nine days' stock of 'B' positive or about 4000 units compared with some 20,000 units of Group 'O' positive. Donated blood is a lifeline for many people needing long-term treatments, not just in emergencies. Teams from the NHS are out every day collecting blood from volunteers. Donating blood does not take long and depends on how fast the blood flows from your veins.

The science of blood has advanced over the years. Nowadays your blood will be split into its main components: red cells, plasma and platelets that are vital for many different uses.

*Photo by Richard Needham*



# Getting a part-time job

IT IS NOW TYPICALLY ASSUMED that a teenager at around the age of sixteen should get a part-time job to help pay for buses, presents and alcohol. Growing up, a job seemed to me a natural, easy thing that anybody could get. For years, I had a paper round which paid around 8p per paper through the letterbox, so naturally one hung-over Saturday morning in the pouring rain I flipped, jumped on a bus and handed my CV all around town. I was fortunate enough to get a job relatively early on, despite my CV consisting of a few predicted grades and swimming certificates, yet I know a lot of my friends have had difficulty in finding part-time work, especially in recent times.

Recently, I read an article that claimed that more than 66% of 14-17-year-olds believe negative portrayals of teenagers in the media are affecting their job prospects. From experience, I can easily believe this. It stated that four out of five teens felt they were unfairly represented in the media and this was affecting their chances of getting a job. The part that I found most interesting was the analysis of UK newspapers over 10 years. It found that the words most commonly associated with teenagers were 'binge-drinking', 'yobs' and 'crime'. Typical. No wonder the majority of teens feel they can't find a job if their would-be employers are fed numerous negative ideas about them.

As a matter of fact, today's teenagers—or youth, as certain newspapers prefer to dub

them—far from being antisocial hoody-clad riotmongers are, according to actual statistics, highly concerned with social issues, keen to volunteer, take fewer drugs and drink less alcohol than previous generations. It seems daft to me, therefore, that this generation is finding it hard to find part-time work. Clearly it is hard for a lot of people in the current economic climate with jobs being limited and money

being tight, yet it rubs off most harshly on the group who are going to be placed at the bottom of the priority list: the teenagers.

I have, therefore, compiled a list of tips that might help first time job seekers:

1. Start looking around towards the end of summer. This is the time that all the students going off to university will be leaving, meaning loads of openings for part-time work.

2. Look presentable when handing round CVs. In a competitive climate first impressions

stick, and when comparing individuals going for the same job, they could be the decider.

3. Body language is key. In an interview don't slouch against the desk or fold your arms. If you appear genuinely interested and keen to get the job, that's how you're going to be remembered!

If it's true that most teenagers today are far from what they're often portrayed, I hope that negative stereotypes don't stop them from at least going out and trying, and striving to turn that stereotype around.



**A TEENAGE PERSPECTIVE**  
by Becca Harty

**OUR ADVERTISERS MAKE YOUR MAGAZINE POSSIBLE.  
THEY DESERVE YOUR SUPPORT.**

## Should Tring Hill have a lower speed limit?

IN THE LAST ISSUE of Village Life I invited comments from readers on the suggestion that the 50mph speed limit on Tring Hill should be lowered to 40mph for safety reasons. A number of you responded, many strongly in support.

The danger point is at the junction of the B4009 to Wendover with Tring Hill. Drivers waiting to emerge from the B4009 are mostly turning right towards the double-roundabout to access the A41. Drivers coming from Aston Clinton tend to accelerate up the hill whilst those descending the hill are encouraged to drive up to the speed limit.

The result is that drivers trying to emerge from the B4009 onto Tring Hill are tempted, sometimes with limited visibility, to enter through a brief gap in the traffic stream when it is unsafe to do so. Combined thinking and stopping distance at 50mph is much greater than at 40mph (53m against 36m). In rain, the distances are greater, of course. A driver acting on impulse, with perhaps a queue of impatient drivers behind, might easily stall the

engine halfway out into Tring Hill—conceivably with disastrous results. If a descending driver is travelling at 40mph, the chance of braking in time is almost 50% greater than at 50mph.

Remember that a driver at 50mph swerving into the path of another travelling at the same speed could equal a 100mph impact force.

It is less than 800 yards from the double roundabout to the beginning of the 30mph limit at the foot of Tring Hill. Apart from the danger described above, there seems little point in maintaining the limit at 50mph for such a short stretch of road.

Drivers ascending Tring Hill are encouraged to accelerate as soon as they pass the 50mph sign, adding unnecessary pollution to the air for negligible gain. One is often overtaken up the hill at speed only to see brake lights showing well in advance of the roundabout.

So far, there have been few serious accidents at the B4009 junction. Must we wait for a calamitous one? Please tell us what you think. Email the editor at [alec.just@btinternet.com](mailto:alec.just@btinternet.com)



Photo: Alec Just



## Valerie Owen's Anthony Hall memories

**H**aving been forced, due to ill health, to retire as bookings secretary at the Anthony Hall at the start of 2014, I have so many memories of my 38 years in this role.

For several years I was also the general secretary which I often found very daunting and sometimes felt out of my depth. However, the trustees and committee members have all been so supportive that slowly I began to cope with everything. A few years ago these roles were shared between two people and I just continued as bookings secretary. I have made so many friends amongst the hirers and the local community and I am very sad to leave.

However, there have been a few 'rogues' with whom I have had to deal. There was a salesman who took an unhealthy interest in the painting of the Rothschild daughters, then resplendent in the Main Hall. The police were informed and I heard no more from him.

Another sale was held quite a few years ago which the organisers had well publicised around the village. The local police have always received a copy of each month's bookings and asked the neighbourhood 'bobby' to keep an eye on this one. Well before the opening time a

**There was a salesman who took an unhealthy interest in the painting of the Rothschild daughters ...**

queue of customers, eager for a bargain, had formed. The sales team were unloading their wares when the 'bobby' turned up in a police car, which he parked opposite the hall. Spotting him, the salesman immediately re-packed everything and fled. A rumour went round the queue of customers that their homes were being burgled and they too dispersed at a rate of knots!

One very sad occasion was when an open disco was held and a teenage girl attendee

failed to return home afterwards. A couple of days later on a Sunday, two policemen called at my house to see if I could throw any light on the situation, which of course I couldn't. The



Photo: Alec Just

policemen were very 'official' in their questioning until my daughter came into the room, whereupon the atmosphere became much more relaxed as they recognised her as a secretary at the Aylesbury Police Station. Very sadly the missing girl's body was later found in a quiet lane, but I never heard what had really happened.

Preschool (or Playgroup as it was originally called) used to keep an imitation cake at the hall to celebrate the children's birthdays with candles. Some local youngsters once broke in and stole this. What a nasty shock they must have had when they tried to eat it!

There have been several 'celebrities' who have hired the hall, one of whom was a well known pop group who wanted to rehearse there. I am more into classical music and I obviously offended the caller by asking him to spell the name of his band – much to the disgust of my teenage children.

Recently, on a couple of occasions, Mark Webber, the F1 driver, has used the hall to make some film documentaries about himself.

*Continued opposite*



## Anthony Hall *continued*

I had hoped he'd give me a lift in his car but the offer never came!

In 1984 a Victorian-type Music Hall was held to celebrate the centenary of the Hall. The place was packed and it was a wonderful occasion, with many people dressed as for that era. Again, I blotted my copy-book when attending Aylesbury Magistrates Court in order to obtain a Special Licence to sell alcohol for this prestigious occasion. I was asked what I knew about alcohol and I had to admit my complete ignorance being virtually a teetotaler. After a lot of discussion the Licence was granted so long as I handed everything over to a more competent person.

Finally, I must finish by recording how beautiful the Anthony Hall now looks, both

inside and out, due to all the renovations and refurbishments recently carried out. I know there are other improvements being considered but if anyone has not visited the Hall, do come and have a look.

*Valerie Owen*

## Mobile Library now visits monthly only

The BCC mobile library now visits Aston Clinton on the first Friday each month. It will be at Long Plough 2.05-2.25pm and Twitchell Lane 2.30-3.35pm.

## Theatre in the Villages

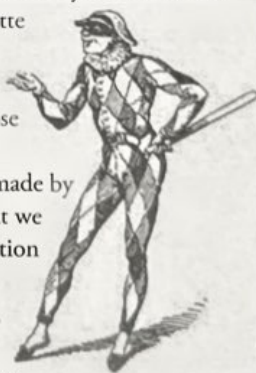
The annual 'Theatre in the Villages' programme brings professional performances to rural locations across Bucks, giving villages the opportunity to host and co-promote events for the enjoyment of their community. Local organisers are invited to apply for a chance to participate in the scheme. Anyone interested should contact Jeannette

Baxter on **01296**

**630902**. The menu for promoters to choose from is now available

We need decisions made by the end of June so that we can put all the promotion and publicity in place ready for the autumn.

This will be the 16th year of the scheme, which is supported by AVDC in partnership with Wycombe and South Bucks District Councils. It is hoped that some really good shows will be on offer this year.



## A date for your diary

The Aston Clinton Community Group, in partnership with St Michael and All Angels parish church, are holding a Centenary Commemoration of the outbreak of the Great War on Saturday 12th, Sunday 13th and Monday 14th July 2014. A Flower Festival, with WW1 themed titles, will be included together with WW1 memorabilia.

The commemoration event will be held in St Michael's church. There will also be an evening of popular music and song from the last 100 years, to be held in the Anthony Hall on the Saturday evening.

If you have items of WW1 memorabilia (medals, letters, posters etc), maybe you would consider showing the items during the commemoration event. If so, please give Mike Collins a call on **01296 632039**.



## "The Headmaster's OK", said 5-year-old Bryan Rolfe

RECENTLY I was perusing the Autumn 1974 issue of *The Astonian* magazine (*see opposite*), a community magazine of the 1970s. I came upon an article about the then new combined boys and girls school in Twitchell Lane. At that time only infants had been admitted and Mr Warry, the head teacher, was expecting the juniors to join them a year later.

I was amused to read the author's interview with two of the children, one of whom was named Rolfe, a name I had seen on the war memorial. In fact the name was inscribed three times, twice in WW1 (*see photo on p.15*) and again in WW2. Five-year-old fresh-faced Bryan Rolfe is pictured in the article (*opposite*) and looks to me as though he was a lively lad.

I found myself wondering if, forty years on, Bryan still lived in Aston Clinton. By checking the phone book, I discovered that he's now living with his wife and family in London Road. Tom, their 7-year-old son (seen on the right below) looks to me not so very different from how his daddy looked in 1974.

Wishing to know if there were any family connections with the lost Rolfes on the war

memorial, I contacted Bryan who told me that he believed he was related to them.

Rolfes have lived in Aston Clinton for well over 150 years. In 1847, it is recorded that a Joseph Rolfe was one of eight straw plait dealers in Aston Clinton. Straw plaiting was a cottage industry in this area with the plaiting sent on to Luton to be made into hats. Joseph could well be the grandfather or great-grandfather of one of the two Rolfes who died during WW1 and whose names are forever remembered on the war memorial.

Bryan's father, Ken, lives in Weston Road with his wife. Ken says that Arthur W. Rolfe, who died in WW2, was a distant cousin.

The 1901 Census records that 16-year-old George Rolfe lived with his parents in Brook Street. It seems that he emigrated to Australia as a young man from where he found himself on the battlefields of WW1, never to return. George's cousin, Arthur, lived in Brook Street and was also lost in the Great War. *Alec Just*



George Rolfe

The Rolfe family of London Road, Aston Clinton can trace their roots in the village back nearly 200 years



Photography by Hyatt Studios, Tring 01442 824747



## ALL HIS 'WARRIES' ARE LITTLE ONES

## The School that is going places

Aston Clinton's new combined school isn't completed yet, and children still have to cross the hazardous A 41 to the older buildings — but the renaissance has started. The visitor to the school is impressed, not only by the relative tranquillity of the place, but also by the air of industry that seems to permeate the whole building.

The infants occupy the new school at the moment and Mr. Warry, the Headmaster, expects the juniors to join them on the new site in September, 1975. Mr. Warry, from Haddenham, described himself as an "old fashioned" teacher — meaning, of course, that he believes in all of those virtues that are sometimes lacking in young people today. He encourages neat hand-writing, for a start! Children are taught the basic skills of English before they tackle a piece of extended writing. Mr. Warry's analogy was with the footballer who practises skills before taking part in the big game.

So for the 270 children of Aston Clinton and surrounding villages the standards are high — but what do *they* think of it all?

I spoke to pretty blonde-haired Julie Floyd of Green End Street and she had no hesitation in telling me, "I like the work we do and my favourite subject is maths". When asked what it was that he liked about the school, five-year-old Brian Rolfe of Weston Road replied, "The rooms are bright", and as an afterthought he added "the Headmaster is okay, too!".

According to Mr. Warry, "It takes a year to settle down", but there are lots of exciting things going on already. The older children, looking very smart in uniform, look forward to swimming on a Wednesday and there is a school orchestra in the making. Several children are learning to play the violin and some the viola.

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Mr. Warry is also toying with the idea of producing a school magazine. He considers it very important that his pupils have an "audience" for their work.

There is to be a public meeting about the formation of a group of people interested in the welfare of the school. It would be a kind of a Parent Teacher Association but the Staff are not keen on calling it a P.T.A. The very name would tend to exclude those people who do not have children at the school, and this is not the intention. It is hoped that by the time you read this, a name has been decided and a constitution drawn up.

Mr. Warry is a little reluctant to "advertise" but I think we might be hearing more about him and about his village school. The children have instructed me to inform the village that if you want to buy a school tie it will cost you 35p — or 40p for a 'long one' ..... and they've got the last word.

*John Winter*



A page from the Autumn 1974 issue of The Astonian magazine. The article describes the time that the new combined school for boys and girls began to accept infants, with the juniors following a year later. The little imp pictured at the lower left caught your editor's eye and prompted the article on the opposite page.

## Planning application news

We are indebted to Cllr Carole Paternoster for supplying the following information.

### Chapel Drive off Green End Street

Permission has been refused for 47 dwellings on the land because the development:

- (a) intrudes beyond the settlement into open countryside; and
- (b) has significant adverse visual and landscape character impact on the area; and
- (c) fails to demonstrate that adequate visibility is achievable at the junction of Chapel Drive with Green End Street so as to ensure it would not be detrimental to highway safety; and
- (d) lack of a Section 106 Agreement to secure: the provision of 35% affordable housing on site; the provision of onsite outdoor play space and a LEAP\* and a financial contribution towards off-site sport and leisure facilities, and towards education facilities, public transport and cycling, contrary to AVDLP policies and NPPF advice.

An appeal has been lodged with the Planning Inspectorate to be the subject of a public inquiry anticipated to be held in June 2014. AVDC

will be writing to notify people who have written in of the details of the time and date of the Inquiry in due course.

Any further comments had to be sent to the Planning Inspectorate by 10 February 2014. The Inspectorate would have been forwarded copies of any representations made on the original application. Watch this space!

### Stablebridge Road

The Planning Inspector granted permission for 48 dwellings despite strong objections from AVDC. The Inspector considered that the proposal would be sustainable, that the provision of market housing weighs very significantly in favour of the scheme and that there would be no adverse harm to the appearance and character of the area to outweigh the presumption in favour of development. The appeal allowed was in outline form and details of the appearance, landscaping, layout and scale of the development (called 'the reserved matters') are required to be submitted for approval and are currently awaited.

*\* Local Employment Access Provision*

## RAF Association • Aylesbury and Halton Branch

The bar in Building 259 at RAF Halton (first building on the right from the entrance to airfield) is open to everyone Thursday and Saturday evening 7.30–11 pm. Ordinary meetings are held there on the first Wednesday in every month at 7.30 for 8 pm.

**Wed 2 April:** Social Evening with entertainment. Harry Richards will be playing hits from the 50s and 60s. Harry's past sing-along evening was very well received. By special request, he will be presenting another evening, sure to be an enjoyable one. Jean will be running her Special Raffle.

**For your diary:** On 10 August there will be a BBQ on the lawn.

For any further information please contact:

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

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When responding to them, remember to mention Village Life.**



# All Saints' Church, Buckland

## Regular Services:

8am Holy Communion each Sunday except 1st in month  
 11am Morning Worship – First and Third Sundays  
 6pm Choral Evensong – Fourth Sunday each month  
 10am Midweek Communion each Wednesday



## Forthcoming events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Fri 4 April	7.30pm	Film Night	All Saints' Church
Sat 5 April	10am	Produce Stall and Coffee Morning	All Saints' Church
Sun 13 April	6pm	Choral Evensong for Palm Sunday	All Saints' Church
<i>(followed by Annual Parochial Church Meeting)</i>			
Wed 16 April	8pm	Taizé Service	All Saints' Church
Thurs 17 April	7.30pm	Last Supper with the Baptists	AC Baptist Church
Good Friday	1.20pm	Watching and Waiting	All Saints' Church
Easter Day	8am	Easter Communion	All Saints' Church
Easter Day	11am	Easter Fire Family Service	All Saints' Church
Tues 13 May	8pm	Intercessions Workshop	All Saints' Church
Sat 17 May	All day	Franciscans' Quiet Day	All Saints' Church
Thurs 29 May	10am	Holy Communion for Ascension Day	All Saints' Church

More details about all these events on the church website: [www.allsaintsbuckland.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsbuckland.org.uk)

**ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS** of the social calendar in Buckland has long been The Buck Pub, held over the last bank holiday weekend in May. The Village Hall is turned into a licensed pub for the weekend. Locals supply and serve home-made meals and all profits are donated to charity. The people of Buckland are thrilled to have our very own drinking establishment. With (fingers crossed) decent weather and the ability to sit outside in the garden with friends and neighbours, the bank holiday

becomes a real social treat.

The first year we lived here, my new post-natal friend (and neighbour) Kate and I were approached to help out on a 'quiet' lunchtime shift. We presumed it would be a breeze, after all the projected number of covers was only ten and we were women of the world, recently arrived in this small idyllic village, on maternity leave and excited by the prospect of a challenge that didn't involve persuading

*[contd. overleaf]*



*[contd. from p.19]*

a baby to enjoy pureed courgette. So we laid a blanket on the grass outside Buckland Village Hall, deposited our 8-month-olds in the shade and got busy in the kitchen. That day we produced and served thirty meals and the gauntlet was laid down.

Each year since then I have helped in some way—either by cooking, waitressing or helping to drink the bar dry. Mr C and I would team up with pals and come up with ideas such as a 'Greek' themed night with a lamb roasting on a spit outside and 'Zorba' played on a loop. The following year, we decided to go Spanish and, by a stroke of luck, discovered a neighbour at the bar who happened to be an accomplished Flamenco dancer. Off she popped for her costume and castanets and ... bang, topical LIVE entertainment. Tick!

This year the Pub's chief organiser, Phil, announced he was taking a well-earned break and stepping down from the job and without anyone else prepared to take up the mantle, we faced the prospect of losing this great village tradition. And yes, you guessed it, in my capacity as a person-unable-to-say-no, I put

my hand up and said that Mr C and I would take it on. What was I thinking?!

So, publicly I invite those of you in Drayton Beauchamp and Aston Clinton to consider popping over—Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th May—for a pint or two and some reasonably priced tasty grub. Those who have known and loved the Buck Pub over the years, please bear with us while we find our feet and try our best to live up to the reputation that precedes this lovely village event.

Due to the risk of our kids turning feral from neglect, this year's Buck Pub will be a pared down version with reduced opening—*i.e.* not open on Friday lunchtime **nor on Bank Holiday Monday**. The menus will be a little simpler but we hope you will join us at some point, and thank you all in advance for your support in every capacity.

*Kelly Cornish*

## All Saints Easter decorations

Friday 18 April at 2.30pm

Pots of flowering daffodils needed for window ledges; twigs and eggs could be added.

Details from Frances: **01296 630072**

## Buckland's Charity Pub Weekend 2014



# THE BUCK

At Buckland  
Village Hall



Under new management!

Friday 23rd May – evening only 6-11pm

Saturday 24th May – brunch served 10-12am, lunch 12-3pm. Evening 6-11pm

Sunday 25th May – lunch 12-3pm, 7-10pm bar only

Home-cooked food with a full range of alcoholic & non-alcoholic beverages in a friendly pub setting

Families very welcome

*Come and Eat and Drink for Charity!*



# St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp

Regular Services:

10.45am each Sunday

8am on first Sunday of month



## Forthcoming events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Tues 15 April	8pm	Tenebrae	St Mary's Church
Thurs 17 April	7.30pm	Last Supper with the Baptists	AC Baptist Church
Good Friday	2.30pm	At the Foot of the Cross	St Mary's Church
Easter Day	10.45am	Easter Communion	St Mary's Church
Sun 27 April	10.45am	Benefice Service	St Mary's Church
Fri 2 May	All day	Simulated Driven Clay Shoots	Painesend Farm, DB
Sat 17 May	7pm	Concert – Notus Winds Quintet	St Mary's Church

More details about these events on the church website: [www.s-marys.org.uk](http://www.s-marys.org.uk)

## Annual Village Litter Blitz

The Drayton Beauchamp annual litter blitz will take place on **Saturday April 5th**. Meet at Lower Farm at 10am wearing suitable footwear/wellies and protective gloves. Plastic refuse sacks will be provided. The customary bacon rolls and coffee will be provided afterwards.

## Obituary for Esmé Southam

Older Drayton Beauchamp residents were saddened to read the announcement, in the Bucks Herald, that Esmé Southam had died suddenly at her home in Mickleton, County Durham,

on Sunday February 9th, 2014. Esmé and her husband Alan lived in Drayton Cottage from 1964 until 2000. They moved to Mickleton to be near to their daughter Sarah and their grandchildren. Sadly Alan died three years later. Esmé maintained her links with Drayton Beauchamp and visited annually to see old friends and neighbours. She will be remembered as Alan's partner in their car maintenance business, always welcoming and helpful to their many customers in the village and from further afield. They were a vital part of Drayton Beauchamp and are sadly missed.

*Meryl Nodes*

## Drayton Beauchamp Annual Parish Meeting

The annual parish meeting will be held on Thursday 17th April at 8pm at St Mary's Church, Drayton Beauchamp.

**Please mention Village Life when responding to our advertisers**

## Driven Clay Shoots

Driven Clay Shoots will be held at Painesend Farm on **Friday May 2nd** and **Friday June 27th** on behalf of St Mary's, Drayton Beauchamp and The Wildlife and Game Conservation Trust.

A day of four drives with 500 clays fired at random over each gun.

Enquiries please to Simon Brown at [simply.brown@gmail.com](mailto:simply.brown@gmail.com)



## Free-range eggs!

Chris and Alistair Dunbar have been keeping chickens, ducks and a few geese as a hobby for years. They are now selling their free-range eggs at the gate – Morgans in Drayton Beauchamp (near the B489 end of the village).

## Drayton Beauchamp Annual Concert

AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Saturday 17 May 2014 at 7pm

# NOTUS WINDS

*"brilliant performance"*

*"leaves us spellbound"*

Notus Winds are one of the UK's leading young and dynamic wind ensembles, comprising flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and horn, and are winners of numerous awards including the prestigious Patron's Award at the Royal Academy of Music.

Formed in 2011, they have performed in major venues in London including The Southbank Centre and Wigmore Hall and have a busy concert and recording schedule. For more information about the quintet see their website: [www.notus-winds.com](http://www.notus-winds.com)

Programme will include Malcolm Arnold's Sea Shanties, Ibert's Three Short Pieces and a Piazzolla Tango.

*Do join us for an evening of lively music in the superb acoustics of St Mary's and spread the word among friends, relatives and any young people you know who have an interest in woodwind instruments.*

Tickets £22.50 (for concert, supper and wine)  
or £12 (for concert and wine) available from  
Rosemary Brooke (01296630446),  
Anne Eardley (01296434357 / 07890798476)  
Guy Moores (01442826241)

NB: Notus was the Greek god of the South Wind



# Drayton Beauchamp in the 1940s

IN 1940 DRAYTON BEAUCHAMP news was welcomed for the first time on to the pages of what had formerly been the Aston Clinton Parish Magazine. I am privileged to have been allowed to study some of these old magazines, and fascinating reading they make. In a sleepy hamlet like Drayton Beauchamp with the church the only public building and no clubs or societies based here, it is easy to conclude that perhaps nothing much happens. I suspect, however, that – now as then – a great deal happens informally even if usually it does not seem sufficiently noteworthy to merit a mention in a parish or community magazine.

Church news, not surprisingly, features largely in the Parish Magazines of the 1940s and the thoughts and personal opinions of Revd D.J. Scurry Jones, who became Rector of

**“Buckland children” misbehaving in the churchyard and dropping bricks onto the well chambers ...**

Drayton Beauchamp in 1940, are often very clear. He did not agree with uniting two “separate and independent parishes” and saw himself as Rector of Aston Clinton AND Rector of Drayton Beauchamp (not Rector of Aston Clinton WITH Drayton Beauchamp). He saw little possibility of Drayton Beauchamp ever again having its own resident Rector.

However, as the financial position of the clergy in England was in his view precarious and the days of Rectors like Henry Burkitt and Henry Harpur Crewe who could supplement their salaries from their own private means, unlikely to return. Having chosen to live in the Aston Clinton Rectory, Revd Scurry Jones nonetheless remained fond of the Drayton Beauchamp Rectory which was requisitioned in 1941 for evacuees and de-requisitioned in April 1942. Sadly, it lay empty from November 1941 until

the end of the following year, and Revd Scurry Jones wrote angrily about its dilapidated state – windows broken, rubbish strewn, and nothing done by the Rural District Council to restore it to its former glory. At the same time he was describing the village church itself as looking “a little forlorn now”, and was much exercised by the problem of “Buckland children” misbehaving in the churchyard and dropping bricks onto the well chambers which were being built to supply water to Rectory Farm.

Missing church treasures worried him too – the font cover had disappeared from St Mary’s and mysteriously reappeared in Stoke Mandeville Church; a church banner dating back to Victorian times and traditionally carried in the procession had been lost, then found and carefully mended, but within a month was missing again. The choir book rests had vanished, as had parts of the brasses belonging to the effigies in the chancel – although these brasses seemed to have been missing for over 50 years by the time he wrote about them! Bats were proving troublesome inside the church, and Revd Scurry Jones regretted that these unwelcome visitors could not be persuaded to remain outside the building.

*Continued on p.25*



Photo: Rosemary Brooke

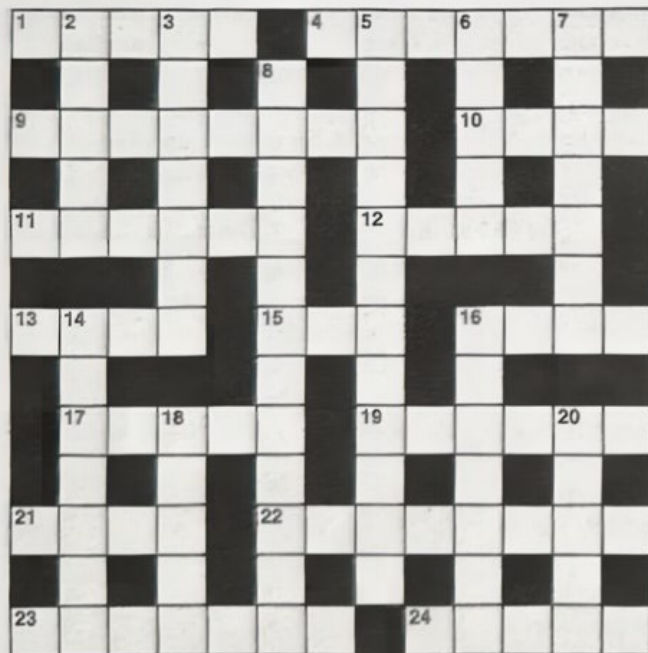
The grave in St Mary’s churchyard of Revd Henry Harpur Crewe (Rector 1860-1883). He was a highly regarded botanist, known for his snowdrops and wallflowers.

**IF YOU think you could make room** in your home for a child or children through adoption, find out the full facts – don't rule yourself out, rule yourself in! There are children waiting for loving parents like you who can give them the support they need to grow up into healthy happy adults. **Email: [adoption@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:adoption@buckscc.gov.uk)**

## Village Life crossword No.4

Crossword compiled by **Helen Lonsdale**.

Readers were invited in the last issue to say if they wanted answers to appear in the current issue. As requested, answers given on p.29



### ACROSS

1. Fiend (5)
- 4 & 13. Tring Wild Bird Sanctuary (7,4)
9. Thinly sliced veg the size of match sticks (8)
10. Symbol (4)
11. Zodiac sign (6)
12. Transmit or receive electric signals (5)
15. Land across the pond (3)
16. Remunerates or coats or covers seams of a ship ((4)
17. Cut-throat (5)
19. Rector of St Marys, DB 1554-1600 (6)
21. A sharp point projecting (6)
22. Peculiar (4)
23. Father and son waltz composers (7)
24. Gather together (5)

### DOWN

2. Escape by cunning (5)
3. Aperture or Cavity (7)
5. Trying to gain excessively (7)
6. Owner of landed estate in Scotland (5)
7. Study of the earth (7)
8. Dealers in rare books (12)
14. Side by side (7)
16. A set of instructions (7)
18. Equus genus (5)
20. Discoverer of Crete's Minoan civilisation (5)

### Solutions to Crossword No.3

**Across** 7. Deduction 9. Gable 10. Green 11. Powerless 12. Totspot 14. Raccoon 16. Arachnophobia 20. Desktop 22. Refined 23. Assemblies 25. Crepe 26. Email 27. Outsource

**Down** 3. Snowdrop 4. Agaric 5. Oboe 6. Season 7. Digits 8. Input 13. PVC 15. Orienteers 17. Napoleon 18. Oaf 19. Adhere 20. Dealer 21. Tumble 22. Resit 24. Scam

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THE MENTMORE ARTS FESTIVAL is back and 2014 promises to be the best yet. Live music will be performed in the Village Hall Garden making this a great day out for all the family.

There is a children's art competition and last year there were over 40 entries.

As well as promoting local art, the MAF donates funds raised to local charities and from the past five events a total of nearly £25,000 has been donated. This year our chosen charities include the Florence Nightingale Hospice, St Mary's Church and other local charities.

**Venue:** Mentmore Village Hall, St Mary's Church and on the Village Green (LU7 0QF)

**Time:** 11am-5pm each day

**Admission:** £2 per adult (incl catalogue)

Children under 16 free of charge

**Refreshments:** Homemade cakes, sandwiches, local real ale and other beverages will be available in the Village Hall Garden.

**Entertainment:** Live music in the Village Hall  
For more information visit [www.mentmore-arts-festival.co.uk](http://www.mentmore-arts-festival.co.uk) or contact Deborah Hall on 07831 707023.

## Drayton Beauchamp in the 1940s

*Continued from p.23*

The year 1943 seems to have seen him in a less troubled frame of mind and ready to report on happier events. He begins by describing a party in December 1942 at the Auxiliary Hospital (which had been opened in Drayton Manor) at which patients and their friends were entertained by the Commandant and his staff. Six months later, the hospital held a miniature agricultural show and fête. Although it is not recorded, perhaps this was the fête at which the real live Cossacks performed daredevil stunts on horseback to the admiration and envy of local boys.

Revd Scurry Jones was obviously delighted when the Rectory was "spruced up" in preparation for the Land Army Girls who moved in at the beginning of 1943. Before the end of the year, a garden party (the first of several) was being held at the Rectory with the Land Girls and the Aston Clinton Home Guard helping to organise sideshows, children's sports, tea and an open-air dance. The village children mean-

while had enjoyed their own tea party, presided over by the Rector, at the schoolhouse on the 9th January 1943 – a "capital spread" followed by games and gifts for all.

The road to the church past the schoolroom had been repaired and the Parish Meeting of June 1943 of which Revd Scurry Jones had been elected chairman twelve months earlier was pleased that "Company water" was to be supplied to several village houses along with a "proper sewerage system".

By this stage several local people were serving in the armed forces and there must have been much anxiety in the village about their well-being, but the tone of Revd Scurry Jones's reports conveys the sense that in Drayton Beauchamp people were rolling up their sleeves as they had always done, working hard, and coping as best they could. Funds were raised, children and wounded service personnel were entertained and the home fires were kept determinedly burning.

What of 1944? That's another story!

*Margaret Ross*

# Useful telephone numbers

<i>Name</i>	<i>Contact/Line status</i>	<i>Telephone no.</i>
1st Aston Clinton Brownies	See below*	—
2nd Aston Clinton Brownies	See below*	—
Amersham Hospital		01494 434411
Anthony Hall (Bookings Sec)	Janet Brassington	01296 630229
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		0870 126 4056
Cricket Club	Mike Parsonage	01296 631788
Crimestoppers		0800 555 111
Dentists' Surgery		01296 323090
Dial-a-Ride		01296 330088
Doctors' Surgery		01296 630241
Drayton Beauchamp Parish Meeting	Meryl Nodes	01296 630396
<b>Electricity emergency</b>		<b>0800 7838 838</b>
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: AC Colts	Ray Lucas	01296 630076
<b>Gas emergency</b>		<b>0800 111 999</b>
Green Park Life Saving Assocn	John Lesingham	01296 622613
Guides	See below*	—
Halton Singers	Cherry-Ann Evans	01296 622097
High Wycombe Hospital		01494 526161



<i>Name</i>	<i>Contact/Line status</i>	<i>Telephone no.</i>
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
<b>Local Councillors:</b>		
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
Neighbour'h'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
<b>Water emergency</b>		<b>0845 9200 800</b>

\* To register an interest in joining the Brownies or Guides, visit [www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested)

*Any error or omission in this list should be notified to the Editor*

## Police information

The Police Constables who have been assigned to this area are Thomas Piercy and Jo Smith. They are supported by four PCSOs. Wendover Police Station is open to the public: Tuesday to Thursday, 10am–2pm. The non-emergency number is 101. For **real** emergencies the number is 999.

More information at [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

# Whitechapel Mission

THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION is a charity founded in 1876, dedicated to providing a lifeline to those caught in the cycles of poverty, hopelessness and dependencies of many kinds, and to seeing their lives transformed to hope, joy and lasting productivity. The Whitechapel Mission believe that everyone deserves a chance, regardless of their background, race or religion and that they can make a positive and lasting difference to the homeless who ask for their help.

During the late summer St Michael's Church collects gifts of clothing and food as part of our Harvest Festival. The gifts are blessed in church before being collected by the Whitechapel Mission to help the homeless and rootless of London; specifically street sleepers. The food we collect is mainly tinned and suitable for the breakfasts they serve every day of the year.

Normally, the Harvest collections of tinned food that they receive from many churches and schools and other donors are sufficient for a whole year, until the next Harvest time. Last September's contributions, particularly tins of baked beans and tomatoes, were insufficient and the Mission has to delve into its cash reserves

to purchase these most basic of items.

The Mission has sent us a plea for additional supplies, not only for baked beans but for a number of commodities including biscuits, cereals, pot noodles, toiletries etc. St Michael's has been collecting clothing and tins of food during February. Frank Wagner from Brook Street has taken the donations to the Whitechapel Mission in London. He has also booked a new breakfast challenge with Whitechapel on Thursday 8th May for up to six volunteers from St Michael's and the wider benefice. Those who go have to be at the Mission by 6am to prepare and serve breakfast at 8am for up to 300 people. Afterwards, there is the washing and cleaning up to be done. The Mission relies on volunteers for this service throughout the year.

If you wish to join Frank on 8th May, please contact him on **01296 630029**. If more than six want to take this opportunity, then Frank will organise other sessions later in the year. This is an ideal challenge for 5th and 6th formers during their holiday breaks.

You can help too by collecting clothes and food items for our next Harvest contribution in September. The items that the Mission needs most of all are normally listed on each of the churches' notice boards.

*Ralph Weston*

A small part of the food collected by the parishioners of Aston Clinton for the Whitehall Mission in London





*Hold a Fish and Chip Supper to help spinal cord injured people rebuild their lives after injury*

## **Great British Fish and Chip Supper – Friday 16th May 2014**

Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 16th May 2014 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's vital services.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 8 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5 means you will raise at least £40 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

In 2014 SIA is celebrating its 40th anniversary and so we want to make the batter matter and raise £25,000 from everyone holding suppers. Last year we raised £12,500 from the suppers.

The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives, by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to rebuild lives.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

*Community Fundraising Manager, Elizabeth Wright, says, "The Fish and Chip Supper is a wonderful opportunity for a great evening with friends and family. We are also encouraging people who work to hold a Fish and Chip Lunch in their work places to raise even more funds. You may be even a local community group wanting to run a fun evening with your group".*

For more information or request a fundraising pack, call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 071 4350 or email [fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk) or visit [www.siafishandchips.co.uk](http://www.siafishandchips.co.uk)

---

### **Solutions to Crossword No.4**

**Across** 1. Demon 4 & 13. College Lake 9. Juliette 10. Icon 11. Gemini 12. Radio 15. USA 16. Pays 17. Razor 19. Hooker 21. Barb 22. Abnormal 23. Strauss 24. Amass  
**Down** 2. Elude 3. Office 5. Overreaching 6. Laird 7. Geology 8. Antiquarians 14. Abreast 16. Program 18. Zebra 20. Evans



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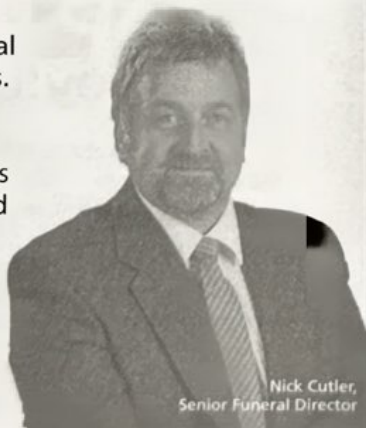


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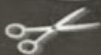
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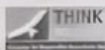


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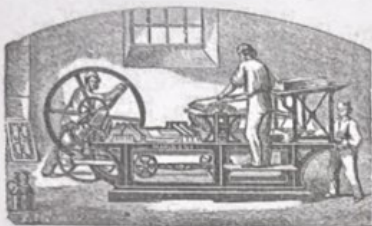
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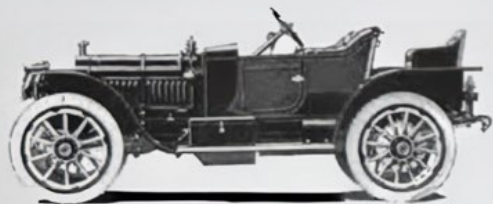
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