



Village Life

The community magazine
for Aston Clinton, Buckland
and Drayton Beauchamp
No. 26 August-September 2015



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receive local news of people,
clubs and events.

VILLAGE LIFE AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2015

Village Life

The bi-monthly community news magazine for
Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp



THIS IS A TIME of change and anxiety for Aston Clinton. In January 2014 the government-appointed planning inspector rejected AVDC's Local Plan, mainly because it was considered not to provide for an adequate number of new homes across Aylesbury Vale. Since then, two things have been happening.

The first is that AVDC have been trying to come to an agreed figure for new homes (so far unsuccessfully), taking account of the growth in demand between now and 2031. The second is that developers, noticing the absence of a current Plan, are rushing to submit planning applications to build hundreds of new homes in and around one of the most desirable villages in the Vale: Aston Clinton.

This apparent stampede threatens to change the character and quality of the village. Already, the large development in Stablebridge Road will be completed soon. Residents are worried that unless something is done to avert it, we will be swamped with huge extra demand on school places and GP services, leading to chaos.

Aston Clinton Parish Council has had an injection of new people and new ideas. Two big ideas are to build a new community centre to replace the old Pavillion and to create a Neighbourhood Plan for Aston Clinton (NHP).

The purpose of our NHP will be to help ensure that our village will continue to be a desirable place to live. You'll be hearing more about both over coming months. On pages 10-13 you can read all about the progress so far with the NHP.

On all the other pages you can read something of the rich tapestry of life in Aston Clinton and its neighbouring villages. From that you'll begin to understand why so many people want to live here.

Alec Just
Editor

My path to priesthood

JUST before the first anniversary of our arrival in the Parish, I was ordained into the Holy Order of Priest in a magnificent and emotional service at All Saints' Church, Chalfont St Peter on 27th June 2015. This was my second ordination, the previous being celebrated last year at Christchurch Cathedral on 5th July 2014, where I was admitted into the Holy Order of Deacon. It sounds a little confusing doesn't it, so please allow me to explain what this all means.

My journey began five years ago when I felt a strong calling to a leadership role in the Church. After talking it through with my local priest, he arranged for me to meet with a Vocations Advisor: the first port of call or rather discernment for what seems quite a long journey. After a couple of meetings with him, I was then referred to a Diocesan Director of Ordinands (DDO for short!). After several meetings with my DDO and lots more discernment,

The Reverend Sally Bottomer immediately after the first time she celebrated Holy Communion at St Michael's Church

Photo: Ralph Watson



I was then recommended and sponsored by Bishop Colin of Dorchester to attend a Bishops' Advisory Panel which is how the Church of England selects candidates for ministerial training. On 23rd May 2011 I went away for three days with 15 other candidates sent from all over England to be interviewed by three Bishop's Advisors, two men and one woman with the huge responsibility and task of discerning who they feel is being called by God into the ministry of the Church of England.

Anyway, to cut a long story short, I was selected for training and went onto to train at Ripon Theological College for three years. The process is then very much like any other academic process, where you begin with studying the theory and then move onto the practice. My curacy here in the Benefice is now where I can finally put into practice all that they teach you at college, although there is so much for which they don't prepare you! My first year as a Deacon was a gentle introduction into ministry. It focuses heavily on pastoral

ministry. As a deacon, one can baptize and lead funerals, an important ministry to be alongside people in good times and in sad times.

This second year, now as a Priest, will allow me to participate in more sacramental worship, like presiding at the Eucharist (communion or Lord's Supper) and celebrate weddings, to which I am really looking forward! Although as a Priest, I have more responsibilities, I am well aware that I am still in training and will forever be learning more about us, God's people. I look forward to what God has in store and give thanks for all the love and support my family and I have felt from the whole community here in the Benefice. It has been an amazing journey so far...

Revd. Sally Bottomer

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
Sat 12 Sept	10am-5pm	Ride and Stride	St Michael's Church
Sat 12 Sept	7pm	Harvest Supper and Ceilidh	The Anthony Hall
Sun 13 Sept	9.15am	Harvest Festival Family Eucharist	St Michael's Church
Sun 13 Sept	6pm	Harvest Evensong	St Michael's Church

Every Monday 2-4.30pm Rhubarb Café at St Michael's Church.

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

A message from the Rector

Dear Friends

As I write this, Sally Bottomer is about to be ordained to the priesthood. This will entitle her to preside at Holy Communion, the most obvious sign of her new ministry. (She's writing more about this on the opposite page.)

Over the past year, many of you have had the opportunity to get to know Sally and to value her contribution to church and community life in these villages. It takes a while to grow into most new jobs and as there are so many facets to being a vicar, I think it's a great blessing to us that Sally has two more years here, as she continues to discover where her particular gifts lie.

Christians are called to serve one another: the privilege of the priesthood is that we are

called to serve in particular places and to touch people's lives on some of their most important occasions. I'm hoping, as Sally continues with her training here, that she will continue to flourish and develop. I pray that God will bless

her ministry in the future as he has been doing in the past.

On a more personal note, Sally's ordination has been a timely reminder for me that I was ordained to serve in this benefice ten years ago. I'm grateful for the generous mentoring I had as a curate from The Rev'd Alan Bennett, and the love and support I've enjoyed from

you all as we've lived and worked together over the past decade.

Thank you.

Elizabeth



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Parish Council news

THROUGHOUT June and July the Parish Council have been concentrating on reclaiming village footpaths, remedial work in the Park, including weed spraying and fixing pot holes in the Park approach road.

We are also delighted to have a new tenant in the Pavilion – 'Your Café in the Park' who are planning to run this much-loved amenity as a real community resource.

We are also looking forward to hosting 'Play Around the Parishes' on the afternoons of the 6th, 14th and 20th of August in Aston Park. These popular play events run by AVDC are a great way of getting children out in the summer holidays to socialise and burn off energy outdoors.

Gillian Merry

Please mention Village Life when responding to our advertisers.

GP Corner...

AT PRESENT if you are signed up for and are using patient online access you can already book appointments, order repeat prescriptions and start your registration process online. If you have not signed up for this or would like more information please ask at reception.

We are currently developing and re-vamping our website which will allow patients to access information and advice on services provided by the GP surgery. It will also advise on the best way to get prescriptions, travel jabs, registrations, insurance forms and a whole host of other services. It will give access to online forms for completion to save you coming to collect them from us, although registrations will still need a final visit to the surgery for verification of identity.

So far in the NHS we have continued to rely largely on face-to-face consultation and the

Have you thought of becoming a councillor?

AS many are aware, there were nine nominations for the Parish Council at election time but with eleven places available there is room for two more! Interested members of the public can apply to be co-opted on to the council and can really get involved in plans for the village. These include the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for the village, picnic and barbecue area for the Park, more skate board facilities, improved play equipment and surfaces and eventually, it is hoped, a new community centre. We would particularly like to hear from people with financial management, project and fundraising experience but anyone who is prepared to roll up their sleeves to help is welcome to apply. Please email the Clerk at parishcouncil@astonclinton.org with an idea of your background and why you would like to be a Parish Councillor.

Gillian Merry

telephone, and very little use has been made of modern media to facilitate self-help and consultation with health professionals. This is all set to change! Alongside developing the new website, Westongrove will be launching an on-line consultation tool called WebGP in the next few months. With this, patients will be able to access information on about 100 common health conditions, including advice on self-help treatments and what symptoms might indicate a serious problem. WebGP will also give patients the opportunity to consult electronically with a doctor by completing a special form on-line. It is accessible via a computer or a mobile device such as a smartphone.

Please keep an eye on the notices in the surgery and our website for the go-live date for the WebGP service.

Don't forget your sunscreen this August and drink plenty of water. Have a lovely summer!

From all at Aston Clinton Surgery

The village has a new dentist: Leila Thawley

THIS August I start a new job at Aston Clinton Dental Clinic. A new job is often daunting, filled with first-day trials. Where to go? Where to park? What will the people be like? Not this time.

For me this is a return to the familiar environment of my childhood (or more specifically, teenage) dental practice. To be returning twenty

years later as their newest dentist is both strange and rather wonderful.

I have lived in the village on and off since I was eight years old. My parents, Graham and Marilyn Johnson, have lived on New Road

for 30 years and in 1994 when the practice opened I was studying for my A-levels at Aylesbury High School.

After school I headed into the wild north to study dentistry at Sheffield University. It was certainly a city I loved and the dental students I met on my first day eventually became bridesmaids at my wedding many years later.

In the end I stayed eleven years but began to hanker for home so as I turned thirty in 2007, I came back to the village. After the initial setback of a spectacular horse riding accident (courtesy of one of those beloved bridesmaids' horses) that left me on crutches for six months; things have gradually been falling into place ever since.

I met my husband Paul whilst recovering from the accident. Fortunately being a physio-therapist the crutches didn't faze him! We married in 2012, bought a home in the village and this March welcomed our little girl, Dora.

I did a year's postgraduate education at the Eastman Dental School, learnt Botox and fillers at the Paddocks Hospital, lectured at UCL and took a part-time teaching role at Kings College all whilst working in general practice. The joys of being close to London!

The new job seems fittingly full circle and I can't wait to get started.

I can bring all that I've learnt and experienced back to a village I love, treating familiar faces, and getting to be a part of a fabulous, forward-thinking yet reassuringly local practice.

Leila Thawley

Photo: Leila Thawley



Aston Clinton Ladies Group

Wed 12 August (*please note change of date*)
A Summer Evening Cheese and Wine at Marion Richards' home, starting at 7.30pm.
Cost: £5. There will be a raffle; donated prizes will be very welcome.

Wed 16 September at 8pm in the Guide Hall
'A Chiltern Ramble' – an illustrated talk by George Stebbing-Allen

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

The Rhubarb



Open at St Michael's Church,
Aston Clinton every Monday
afternoon from 2 to 4.30pm

Serving tea and coffee with delicious
freshly baked cakes, come rain or shine

Aston Clinton, Buckland & Drayton Beauchamp

Horticultural Society

SUE LIPSCOMB, our Chairman, visited the Chelsea Flower Show in May. This is her report on one garden that caught her imagination: "I always love going to the Chelsea Flower Show, but after visiting the main show gardens (before the crowds build up and I can't see a thing!) and then the magnificent floral marquee of course, I always head for the Artisan Gardens.

This year the one that caught my eye was 'A Trugmaker's Garden', designed by Serena Fremantle and Tina Vallis. It celebrates the



Photo: Sue Lipscomb

traditional skills of the Sussex trugmakers who produce the iconic willow and sweet chestnut garden trugs that are still made in the region today. This lovely garden won a well-deserved gold medal. It contained some beautiful natural planting and lots of indications of the trugmaker's skill. It was good to know that after the show, many of the plants would be replanted at a children's hospice in Sussex run by the charity Demelza.

Our Horticultural Show

We cannot quite match the quality of a Chelsea Flower Show but our Village Show is always of a high standard whether it is in our floral art, flowers (particularly dahlias), or in the vegetable sections. We do not have 'show gardens' but we always have a children's section displaying the skills of the younger members of our village. Our show is a traditional village show and fete similar to many others that have been put on all over the country for many years. In its present form our show has been going for over 50 years, in fact this will be our 58th and will take place during the summer holidays on the third Saturday in August. We do not have Gold medals but we have plenty of cups, medals and rosettes to compete for in every section, so please come along and see what the village can do or better still – enter a class. There is something for everyone. Our website www.astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk has the full schedule. Printed copies are available from Maureen Ridler and Ralph Weston (01296 630456).

The Show and Fete will take place in the Old Clock School and on the playground on **Saturday 15th August** at 2pm. Entry night is on Wednesday 12th August in the Anthony Hall from 6 to 7.45pm. Most of the classes are similar to last year, however the schedule should be consulted for detailed changes. This year, the adult photographic subject is 'Clouds' and the children's is 'Animal(s)'. The main floral art subject is 'A Day at the Seaside'.

Entry to the Show & fete is just £1 and free to children. There will be a range of traditional stalls and side shows such as tombola, cake and produce stall, plant stall, books, raffle and teas to help defray costs. A number of local charities have been invited, including St Michael's Church, Royal British Legion, WI and RNLI. Rosemary and Graham Brown will also be bringing their plants. We will again be enter-

Continued opposite

tained by the Great Horwood Silver Band who will play throughout the afternoon.

As always, on the Friday afternoon we need additional support to set up the show, to help man the stalls and to help clear up afterwards as we have to be clear of the school that evening. If you can help, even in a small way, please contact Maureen Ridler or Frances Farley.

Apart from the shows, the Society provides monthly talks and occasional visits to gardens. Recent talks have included one on Home Composting and a photographic journey through Cornwall with John Cornwall. In June we also had an evening Garden Visit to Montana, Shire Lane, Cholesbury, and in July we visited the RHS garden at Hyde Hall in Essex. There are no talks in August but they start again on **Wednesday 9th September** with a talk about wildlife around Milton Keynes amusingly titled *Orchids and Owls* – not *Concrete Cows*. Visitors are always welcome but there is a charge of £2 to non-members. We meet at the Anthony Hall at 8pm.

Our website is continually being updated and includes advice and guidance, gardens to visit as well as our latest programme of events.

We are always looking for new members, so

do consider joining us. Membership costs £5 per year if you live locally so our volunteers can deliver your newsletter easily or indeed if you live outside our villages and are happy to receive it by email. The cost is £6 if we have to post your newsletter using the Royal Mail.

Ralph Weston

Horticultural Society Show

**Sat 15 August at 2pm
at Aston Clinton School**

Attractions include:

**Display of produce • Side shows
Raffle • Tombola • Refreshments
Books • Cakes • Charity stalls
Great Horwood Silver Band**

Entry £1 • Children free

Graham and Carol Thirkettle ready to tempt visitors to their colourful stall at the Spring Show.



Photo: Diane Kinton

Neighbourhood Plan to launch in September

PREPARATIONS are now well underway to create Aston Clinton Neighbourhood Plan (ACNHP). Our Parish Council has been preoccupied in recent years with other matters in its own immediate neighbourhood. This may have contributed to a delay in starting the process needed to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for Aston Clinton.

Now we have a new Parish Council eager to make up lost ground. Under the rules laid down by the Localism Act 2011, a parish or town council may set up a Steering Group to manage the process leading to a Plan being approved in a local referendum. The Steering Group should comprise some councillors but also volunteers representing the wider community.

The Steering Group is guided through the plan development by professional consultants whose fees are partially offset by a government grant.

The present membership of the ACNHP Steering Group is set out below. Its first task is to consult with local people, businesses and other interest groups to find out how they wish to see the future of the village unfold.

The consultation process begins in earnest with the Launch Event at the Anthony Hall on Friday/Saturday, 4th and 5th September (see page 13). At this event, information panels

will describe how a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) can benefit a local community and what can be included, such as:

- The extent and location of new housing development in its area.
- The design of buildings.
- Designation of sites for commercial and business development.
- Transport and access issues.
- Development of schools, health centres and other community facilities.
- Protection and creation of open space, parks, allotments, play areas and the planting of trees.
- Protection of important buildings and historic assets, e.g. archaeological remains.
- Promotion of renewable energy projects such as solar energy and wind turbines.



The entire process leading to an ACNHP

being approved and in place is prescribed by the government and takes about 18 months, so if we are successful our Plan will not be effective until early 2017. You may well ask: "Isn't this all too late, given the plethora of planning applications being filed with AVDC Planning?" The answer is that an ACNHP cannot have an impact on planning applications already approved or about to be approved. However, AVDC Planning Committee will become aware of the opinions and views of our community as the Steering Group publishes the results of ongoing consultations with all sections of the public, culminating in the final plan which would be put to a local referendum around the beginning of 2017.

Many hundreds of parishes throughout the UK already have or are in the process of creating their own Neighbourhood Plans. Late though we are, the Steering Group believe that Aston Clinton will still benefit from having one.

Members of the Aston Clinton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, as at July 2015

Cllr Colin Read, Chairman
Cllr Liz Tubb, Deputy Chairman
Alec Just, Aston Clinton resident
Keith Loxley, Aston Clinton resident
Bob Mason, Aston Clinton resident
Prof. Ed Peile, Aston Clinton resident

Regular meetings of the Support Group are held to monitor progress of a Project Plan agreed in advance with professional consultants.

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

An answer to that question was outlined in an article in the April/May issue of *Village Life*. For the convenience of readers, extracts are reproduced below. Our Neighbourhood Plan will be based on what residents say about how Aston Clinton should develop over coming decades.

OUR VILLAGE has many enviable attractions, valued both by long-established residents and newcomers alike. Aston Clinton is a calm and peaceful place in a beautiful setting below the Chiltern Hills. Ask yourself why Sir Anthony de Rothschild chose to build his country house here.

The last 50 years or so have seen the change from a centuries-old, largely self-sustaining village to a mixed community of established families finding themselves sharing their village with increasing numbers of relative newcomers. You will have noticed that there has been consternation recently over the apparent tidal wave of planning approvals for large numbers of new homes to be built in and around Aston Clinton. This surge of applications has followed the failure of AVDC's new Local Plan, a framework against which new developments are judged. AVDC's local plan failed to gain ministerial approval because it did not provide for enough new homes. Concerned people believe that Aston Clinton needs its own Neighbourhood Plan (NHP), now permitted under the Localism Act 2011.

Under the new rules, local communities have the right to shape development in their areas through Neighbourhood Plans which, when accepted by the Local Planning Authority (in our case AVDC), will form part of the planning policy for the Vale. Winslow, a few miles to the north of us, was the first community in Buckinghamshire to adopt a Neighbourhood Plan. You can download a

copy of the Winslow Neighbourhood Plan by googling those three words. You will see that the process of producing an Aston Clinton Neighbourhood Plan will involve a lot of work, only possible with the active support of the parish council, local residents, and a small team of committed volunteers, assisted by consultants. Grants are available to help pay for professional consultancy fees.

The process starts with an application to the Local Planning Authority (in our case AVDC), defining the area to be covered by our Plan. This is followed by a period of public consultation followed by the preparation of a detailed plan setting out a vision of the future of Aston Clinton, reflecting an informed consensus of what the whole community wants to see. The plan would be based partly on the results of questionnaires sent out to all residents and partly on the conclusions reached from positive engagement with the entire community throughout the process. The final Plan would be subject to approval by a majority of those voting in a local referendum on the subject.

Those of us with a concern for the future of Aston Clinton need to think carefully about how we would like to see our village develop and change over coming years, given that 'no change' is not an option in a changing world.

If you have particular skills or interests relevant to the production of the Plan please send an email with your name and address to: info@astonclintonneighbourhoodplan.org typing 'NHP' in the subject box.

To find out more about Neighbourhood Plans, copy this website and paste it into your web browser.
<http://mycommunity.org.uk/programme/neighbourhood-planning/>

Progress to date with the ACNHP

TECHNICALLY, Aston Clinton Neighbourhood Plan is an initiative of the Parish Council. The Steering Group (SG) currently comprises six people, only two of whom are councillors. The intention is that a majority of SG members should be residents, not councillors.

The ACNHP will be based on what residents want the future of Aston Clinton to be like, given that change is inevitable. The process leading to a full-blown Neighbourhood Plan is very strictly controlled by law and involves extensive consultations with all sections of the community including households, businesses, school, clubs and other local organisations. The feedback from all those consultations will form the basis of a questionnaire which will be delivered to every home and business in Aston Clinton. From those results, a Neighbourhood Plan will be prepared which, after statutory examination by an independent expert, will then be put to a local referendum. If passed, AVDC will be bound to take it into account when deciding all future planning applications within the area of Aston Clinton civil parish.

The process started in the early spring with the official registration with AVDC of our intention to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for Aston Clinton. This was followed by the appointment of professional consultants (partly paid for by grants) to guide us through the intricacies of the process. So far the Steering Group has had around a dozen meetings leading up to the Public Consultation Launch at the Anthony Hall on the 4th and 5th September.

Public Consultation

These are the sort of questions that we need your responses to:

- How important do you think new housing development is?
- What kind of housing should we prioritise?
- Do we need more cycle paths and footpaths?

- Where should future housing development be located?
- How concerned are we on the impact of new housing development on school places?
- Have you or any member of your family (even if they now live elsewhere) had a problem finding suitable living accommodation within the parish?
- Where do we particularly want to preserve green space?
- What changes would we like to see in respect of traffic, parking and bus routes?
- Are our shops, cafés, pubs, restaurants and filling stations the right mix and in the right locations for the future?
- What do we feel about more light industry and where should it be sited?
- What do we feel about future plans for Aston Clinton Park and the proposed new community centre?
- Do we think that speed bumps should be installed on roads near the School?

ACNHP v. PACVE

There may be understandable confusion over the respective roles of the Aston Clinton Neighbourhood Plan (ACNHP) and Protect Aston Clinton Village Environment (PACVE).

ACNHP is a process, authorised by act of parliament, leading to an outcome. According to their website, PACVE is a community group of local people established to represent the views of the village and campaign for sustainable development in Aston Clinton.

There is some overlap between the two, in that both are concerned to safeguard the rural distinctiveness of the village and to avoid it becoming a suburb of Aylesbury. The key difference between them lies in the route taken to achieve a result most of us want to see, namely: a smooth transition over time to a larger village, not a suburb.

Alec Just

**Aston Clinton
Neighbourhood Plan
2017-2032**

PUBLIC CONSULTATION LAUNCH

**Friday 4 September 6-10pm and
Saturday 5 September 10am-1pm
at The Anthony Hall, Aston Clinton**

**Aston Clinton faces a big expansion.
Our Neighbourhood Plan will help to
manage and control that expansion.
Come and say how you would like
to see the village develop and
change over coming years.
The future belongs to us.**

WHEN EXACTLY did kids' birthday parties get so complicated? With four primary-school-aged children, it sometimes feels like we ricochet from one party to another almost every weekend. If that sounds ungrateful, it's really not meant to. I'm pleased my children are popular enough to be invited but expectations are getting higher and higher and I sort of miss the days of pass-the-parcel and the bumps.

When it's your own child's party you care deeply that everything goes to plan—namely that your little darling has the best time ever and that it all looks perfect including yourself as effortlessly-in-control hostess. You want the party tea to be a perfect balance of nutritious food (carrots/cucumber/wholemeal bread) to show other parents that you are responsible and recognise the importance of a healthy diet. And yet fun (mini ice creams and fruit kebabs) even though the kids are demanding party rings and chocolate fingers while trying to stab each other with their kebab sticks.

You are up until midnight the night before sweating over the novelty cake (or two if you have twins like me!)—because somehow it seemed like a good idea to ask a three-year-old what cake they want, knowing full well the response would be a dinosaur or peppa pig and that you will not be able to say NO despite possessing one rusty cake tin and no experience of fondant.

Then there's the 'entertainer'. The good ones get booked up six months in advance, earning in one weekend what I earn in a year. And many of those I've encountered make me a little bit sick in my mouth.

It's just their way.

I always felt indignant that I would not be pressurised into the trend of the expensive party bag, but you need to have a very hard heart indeed to refuse twenty-five over-stimulated kids going-home gifts—not to mention the risk of social death on the playground. So you spend hours searching online for different fillers at the cheapest possible prices. You get sucked into analysing different types of actual bag.

Cones? Paper bags? You want the contents to be fun and quirky but definitely not tacky. You think a book would be a lovely idea, but the disappointment on the kids' faces tells you otherwise. What about a lucky dip? I did that once, and I'm ashamed of the ridiculous amount of time I spent actually wrapping a dustbin in which to offer said gifts.

As your kids get older you try to find something original for them to do, something that no one else has done yet. What can possibly top bowling, archery, Go-Karting, trampolining and reptile-stroking to name a few.

There are the parents who like hanging about. This is common with first-timers for whom a kids' party can be a fun social outing but once you're on child no. 2 or 3 and you've got projects to complete, hockey training and a music lesson to fit in, you need to drop and run. You sweep in late for pick up, fail to notice the cake and are thankful if they've eaten enough party rings not to require feeding later and with some sweets left in their party bag to share with you on the way home.

Kelly Cornish



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Aston Clinton School

Head: Mrs Helen Shepherd



Cricket, lovely cricket!

Aston Clinton School has long been known as a musical school. Our tradition for music has seen children going on to perform in choirs, bands and orchestras; with other children just enjoying being able to play an instrument.

However, we are now becoming known for our sporting successes. This year, for the second year running we have had success with our cricketers. This year both the girls' and boys' teams successfully got through to the County finals. This was an improvement on last year when only the girls' team got through to the final.

On the day, our team captains Sam and Ella were tasked with organising their players appropriately for the teams they were playing. They had to make decisions during the games and show great leadership to ensure everyone listened to what they were telling them to do. They must have been effective leaders as the teams did listen to their captains and played to their best abilities.

We were proud of them at this point in the day as none of the other teams were asking this of their captains, but more was to come! The boys' team suffered a defeat straight off and needed to be given a real pep talk to pull themselves together and get back out there. They could see this was their moment to shine

and raised their game fantastically. Unfortunately for them, many of the other teams had County team players on the pitch and so our lack of experience showed. Next year we will be better prepared!

The girls' team, having had last year's experience, went in with a different mindset and beat all the teams in their half of the competition. They played the winners of the other half and excelled themselves, winning by a significant number of runs. As I write this article the girls are waiting to go to the Regional Finals being played in Bristol at the Clifton College, organised by Gloucestershire County Cricket Board. Whatever happens, it will be an experience to remember forever.

What has impressed me is that many of the

"Several of the children have been invited to County try-outs."

children involved have found a real talent. Several of the children have been invited to County try-outs. As the cricket team continues to be so successful, so the enthusiasm to join the school club grows and more children are participating in sport. Some children believe that football is the only sport. At Aston Clinton the tide is changing! Cricket is here, and I suspect, to stay.

Helen Shepherd

Solution to Crossword No.11

Across 1. Cube 3. Academia 9. Chancel 10. Cedar 11. Microwavable 14. Era 16. Meows
17. Roc 18. Disdainfully 21. Roast 22. Adelphi
Down 1. Cucumber 2. Blanc 4. Col 5. Declassified 6. Meddler 7. Aura 8. Accommodates
12. Aioil 13. Acrylics 15. Agitate 19. Lupin 20. Trot 22. Air

How Aston Clinton gets its Surgery (Part 2)

This article follows on from 'Part 1: Early Beginnings' in the June/July issue (no. 25) of Village Life, which stimulated many readers' memories. We are particularly grateful to Ann Elkins for her photographs.

PART 2 Building up the Practice

Opening day, July 11th 1983, had seen eleven patients register. In those days each patient had an NHS Card with an obscure NHS number. To register with the new doctor Part A had to be completed as an application to be placed on a different doctor's list. As the patient's chosen new doctor, I had to sign that I would accept the patient. Not only that, but the card also had to be signed by the previous doctor, 'I agree to this transfer'. Only then could the card go to the Family Practitioner Committee in Aylesbury to organise the transfer of medical records – a process which took about six weeks. I invite you to think for one moment what this old-fashioned process meant. It was as though doctors 'owned' patients, which in a sense they did: the patients registered on a doctor's list were that doctor's livelihood. Unlike most client bases, the doctor was (and still is) paid

capitation fees, getting paid a sum every three months by the NHS whether or not any service has been provided to that patient. Patients needed to be quite brave to ask their doctor to release them to another doctor's list, and some of my new patients reported that the process could be quite unpleasant.

Another feature of setting up a new practice is the diversity of new patients I met. All were welcome. Some patients, often with few medical

"... over two-and-a-half years the number of patients grew to two-and-a-half thousand."

needs, came to support the new village surgery out of a wish to support the local community. In the leisurely days when I had plenty of empty slots in morning and evening surgeries, their 'new patient consultations' afforded a chance for a newcomer like myself to learn more about the village after we had checked their details and their blood pressure. Other patients were more challenging medically. I had anticipated that some of the very sick patients in the village would transfer early because of ease of access to care. Also among

the 'early adopters' of the new service were those who had done the rounds of many practitioners and dissatisfied with all, were here to try the new doctor. I had no miracles to offer, but in those days I had the time to listen and sometimes that helped build trust.

Continued opposite



Doctor Ed and colleagues shortly before the practice moved over the road. From left to right: Dr Judith Harvey, Linda Peile, Dr Ed Peile, Dr Mina Gupta (GP trainee), Dr Elizabeth Muir and Alison Beck (Practice Manager)

Number of patients registered at Aston Clinton Surgery 1983-1985 (at year-end)



The list growth exceeded my expectations and over two-and-a-half years, whilst I was still single-handed, the number grew to two-and-a-half thousand patients.

Implications of rural practice

On the patients' NHS cards there were two other boxes to complete: one for if the patient was to be a rural dispensing patient; the other to claim 'rural practice miles'. Both were crucial for me.

Patients living more than a mile from a dispensing chemist could choose to get their medication dispensed by the surgery. We earned a strictly regulated profit margin on the medicines dispensed. Dispensing doctors were not allowed to sell anything, and we needed to be strictly ethical in not prescribing in order

Ann Elkins, who worked in the surgery office, has supplied this photo of Dr Ed taken at the party where he and Linda entertained the surgery team at home on the occasion of his 50th birthday. Practice Manager Alison Beck (right) is looking on.



to make money, but this extra income was a vital source of funding for ten years until the new pharmacy opened in 1993, and patients loved the convenience. As the doctor, in the absence of a qualified pharmacist, I was responsible for checking all medication dispensed. Mrs Jean Darby, who joined in the very early days, took to dispensing like a duck to water and soon had our stock control in hand, taking endless trouble to explain medications and to load the dosette packs for patients who struggled to remember what to take and when.

Rural miles payments came in handy too. I needed to build my list up fast (see below) and with time on my hands I could travel a few miles to see patients. For rural patients living more than three miles away, there were additions to the capitation payments, and I had patients as far away as Mentmore and Ivinghoe Aston. One or two patients generated even more income: I received 'difficult walking miles',

Continued overleaf

Surgery *contd. from previous page*

payments for a patient whom I could only reach in his barge by crossing a lock gate and walking along the canal bank.

Incidentally, canals featured in my life in another way. Rural visits were made more complicated in 1984 by the activities of the notorious rapist Malcolm Fairley, known as 'The Fox'. Fairley, captured in September 1984, was given six life sentences in February 1985. Throughout the summer of 1984, when on night visits to patients, I became used to getting stopped by the police who took the sensible step of mounting road blocks on every canal bridge in the area.

Those early years saw bad winters with heavy snowfalls making it difficult for the district nurses to get to remote farms and cottages to give insulin injections (in those days few patients administered their own insulin.) This induced me to purchase a Landrover in our second year.



The surgery Landrover, stocked as it was with copious equipment became a hallmark of our practice. In the light of my experience of intensive care at RAF Hospital Halton, Bucks Ambulance service appointed me as their local entrapment officer, issuing me with a blue flashing light and emergency clothing. These being the days before paramedics or outreach trauma teams here, the idea was that if the ambulance crew at a road traffic accident estimated that a casualty would be trapped for an hour or more, I was called to assist with emergency care and pain relief. Patients were very understanding on the occasions when I needed to 'drop everything and run' from the surgery.

Friends of Aston Clinton Surgery (FACS)

Not long after the practice started in July 1983, I was approached by Sam Powell to ask how the community could help the new venture. At that stage, finances were severely stretched and it was wonderful to have a local group raising funds for much-needed equipment, ranging from baby-weighing scales and an obstetric ultrasound to an early cardiac defibrillator, which was to prove life-saving. The group included stalwarts like Pat Collins (pictured left), Margaret Stevens, Tom Lyth, Jack Disbrey, George and Janet White, and Ellis Taylor (along with countless others). They not only raised funds but drove transportless patients to the surgery and accompanied others on scary hospital visits. More than anything else, their support carried us through those challenging early days.

Ed Peile

Next instalment: Keeping afloat financially;
The growing team at the new surgery;
Life on call.

FACS had raised £3,400 towards the cost of a cardiac defibrillator for Aston Clinton Surgery. TV personalities Frank Bough and Bernard Falk came to Green Park to present a cheque for the final £800 needed.

Royal British Legion news

70th anniversary of VE Day

FRIDAY 8 May 2015 was the anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe Day), marking 70 years since the end of WW2 in Europe.

The British Legion was the centre point of many of the celebrations, with many veterans joining in the remembrance at the Cenotaph and the service of thanksgiving in Westminster Abbey. The Aston Clinton Branch was part of local celebrations. A delegation was invited first to a reception at Little Kimble Hall, attended by the Lord Lieutenant Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher and the then chairman of Bucks County Council, Zahir Mohammed. The party were then bussed from there to Coombe Hill where a two-minute silence was observed. This was followed by the beacon being lit at 9.32pm.

Presentation by 1st Aston Clinton Scout Troop

The 1st Aston Clinton Scouts came to our June meeting and gave us a super presentation of their Summer 2014 expedition to Mons, following in the footsteps of the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry 1914 retreat from Mons in Belgium to Le Cateau in France.

The scouts walked the first three days of the retreat to Le Cateau. Our troop was joined by other British and overseas scout units. They

also met up with some German scouts. Their presentation has been made into a DVD telling the story of the retreat that only stopped close to Paris. There are pictures of our troops marching to Mons and also of our scouts walking in three stages from Mons to Le Cateau. The scouts found that walking that distance was quite tiring, especially on the third day when it rained, a situation that was common to all our troops during WW1.

The DVD shows our scouts attending several memorial parades where they were made welcome by local Belgium dignitaries. To get the full story, purchase the DVD from 1st Aston Clinton Scout troop. Proceeds go to the Royal British Legion and UNICEF.

Other news

Members of our branch will be attending the annual Battle of Britain Memorial Service at Westminster Abbey in September. We have been given a couple of tickets to this service which will be raffled at the Horticultural Society Show in August. The two tickets include free transport to Westminster Abbey with the British Legion Party from Aston Clinton. Each entry to the raffle costs £1 and tickets are available from Ralph Weston (01296 630456). Proceeds will go to the annual Poppy Appeal.

Our branch will be at the Horticultural Show in August where we will have a variety of Legion merchandise and information. We need volunteers to assist in this year's poppy appeal in November and to recruit new members.

The Aston Clinton Branch meets on the 2nd Tuesday in the month at the Council Office in the Park. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Ralph Weston

Aston Clinton Scouts visiting a WW1 cemetery in Flanders during their Summer 2014 expedition

Photo: David Wall



A day to remember

ON a beautiful summer's day, in early June, my wife Angela and I attended a Garden Party, in the grounds of Buckingham Palace, to commemorate the centenary of the Blind Veterans Association (formerly known as St Dunstons).

Having only ever seen the Palace from outside the railings, it was an amazing experience to be allowed inside. Security was very tight. However, everyone, without exception, was polite, courteous and friendly.

We entered the Palace through the main entrance, and were shown through to the gardens at the back. There were quite a number of people there, many with white sticks or guide dogs.

As we came down the steps to the 'garden' the layout soon became apparent. To the left was a long line of open fronted marquees, where hot and cold drinks, sandwiches (yes, cucumber included), cakes and tarts were plentifully provided. Behind the marquees the 'loos' were discretely hidden. At the end of the row

of marquees was the first of the bands. To their right, immediately facing the Palace, and backing onto the lake, was the VIP area, where many of the veterans were presented to the Duchess of Wessex.

In front of all of this, on the lawn, a great many tables and chairs were laid out for us all to enjoy our refreshments. This area was full of very distinguished veterans in the company of their ladies, all of whom were extremely resplendent in their beautiful summer frocks and hats. The air was full of conversation: old friends meeting up, new friends being made, and stories galore.

Angela and I, on arrival, took the opportunity to explore the grounds. It was amazing, once we had moved away from the crowd, how peaceful a setting we were in. The gardens, whilst beautifully kept, were not manicured but kept tidy and colourful, and even allowed in places to be 'natural'. It was only when we reached the back of the gardens that we started to hear the sounds of the city on the other side of the wall.

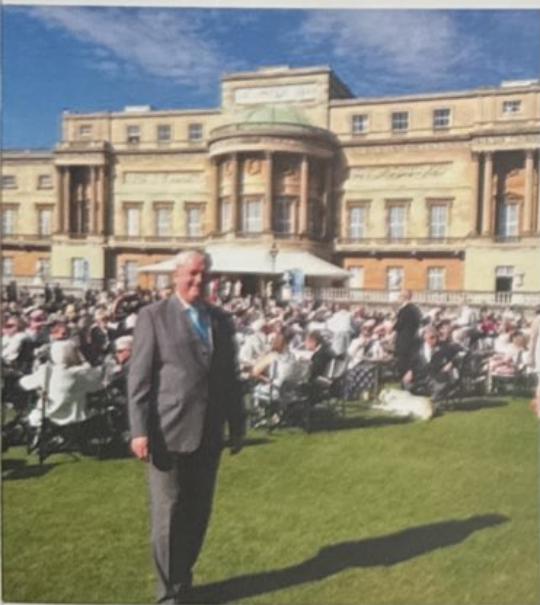
At 6pm the afternoon ended and we made our way to the loos for the pre-journey comfort break. Having washed my hands I turned to leave to find myself confronted by a six-foot-plus coloured gentleman. He was immaculately dressed in his jacket and tails, with an elderly blind veteran on each arm. He was kind, extremely polite and a credit in every way to all of the people who organised and took part in this wonderful day.

We left the Palace feeling extremely privileged to have been invited. We were humbled to be in the presence of so many brave veteran service personnel, and so very, very proud to be part of a nation that looks after its heroes so well.

God Save the Queen.

George Mills

George Mills, Aston Clinton's long-serving Royal British Legion standard bearer, at the Buckingham Palace Garden Party in June.



A hidden corner of Aston Clinton



THIS photograph dates from the time that 'The Bell at Aston Clinton' was synonymous with gastronomic excellence across the nation. Stars of stage and screen and famous faces from all walks of life came to Aston Clinton to enjoy the superb food produced by Michael Harris and his staff. Often, the diners stayed for days.

Such was the success of The Bell Inn that the old brewery opposite was converted to provide additional hotel accommodation. The original stables and malt-houses were turned into a group of cottages round the cobbled yard concealed behind what had been the wine shop. As you can see, the courtyard was seen at its best when geraniums and lobelia trailed from hanging baskets and fuchsias spilled out of the tubs and flower pots.

Much care went into making the rooms comfortable and attractive. The hotel brochure of the time claimed that "rather than resort to mass produced hotel-style furniture, old pieces are used—some of them having long been in the owning family's possession, and, though not necessarily valuable, regarded with affection".

The brochure also boasted that "each room has a refrigerator well stocked with drinks, and those little personal things which make so much difference: bath salts, soap flakes, bath-room scales, and even a hairdryer".

Altogether, there were 21 rooms and suites at The Bell Inn, each with bathroom, telephone, television and radio. Fifteen of those rooms were set around the courtyard and six were in the main building.

Jenny Just

Would you like to join the team of Village Life volunteers?

There are a few vacancies in our team of volunteer deliverers. If you would like to help the community and to benefit from a little regular light exercise, contact Geoff Plowman, our Distribution Organiser, on 07864 769776.

All Saints' Church, Buckland

Regular Services:

8am Holy Communion each Sunday

11am Morning Worship – First and Third Sundays

6pm Choral Evensong – Fourth Sunday each month

10am Midweek Communion each Wednesday



Forthcoming events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sat 1 August	10am	Produce Stall and Coffee	All Saints' Church
Sat 5 Sept	10am	Produce Stall and Coffee	All Saints' Church
Sun 6 Sept	11am	Harvest Festival Family Service	All Saints' Church
Sun 6 Sept	6pm	Choral Evensong for Harvest followed by Harvest Supper	All Saints' Church
Sat 12 Sept	10am-5pm	Ride and Stride	All Saints' Church

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

Don't pass The Buck

WHEN the Rothschild Arms pub closed in 1993, the last pub in Buckland was gone. Rather than mope, the Buckland Society sprang into action to create a village pub, to be overseen by members Tony Fleetwood and Phil Hedges.

The first obstacle was obtaining a licence which involved a court appearance which didn't come naturally to Phil. Confidence was not high as most applicants were merely applying for a licence to serve sherry at the next PTA meeting. The bench coughed and spluttered when Phil asked for a full 4-day licence. Having retired for what seemed an age, they returned to grant the licence. The process became less arduous in subsequent years.

In the first year of 1995, the Aston Martin Owners Club (AMOC) celebrated its Diamond Jubilee and built a monument on Aston Hill.

They had planned a luncheon at the Bell but following a double booking there, they snapped at the invitation to move to the Buck. The owners of Church Farm, Ronnie and Margaret Brown, kindly provided use of their paddock for parking and it was to become the first of many luncheons AMOC enjoyed over the years.

This year, the Buck celebrated 20 years and 22 openings (the extra events were the Golden Jubilee and The Millennium weekends).

Over £60,000 has been raised to date for local charities, mainly All Saints Church at Buckland and Rennie Grove Hospice Care (formerly Ian Rennie Hospice at Home).

The first years helped pay for the restoration and extension to Buckland Village Hall, followed by extra funds for restoring the storage sheds. A further two years paid for the material used to build the toilet block at All Saints, followed by money given towards the impressive village sewn map proudly displayed in the

church. In 2013, a donation was gratefully received by the Stoke Mandeville colonoscopy scanner appeal. Their department, along with their families, came to the Buck for lunch. This year nearly £4000 has been divided between All Saints and Rennie Grove.

Every year over 50 volunteers give their time, energy and commitment into organising and running this wonderful social and charitable

event. They deserved the support from the hundreds who enjoy the splendid lunches and fine local ales. This year, an impressive 380 main courses were served, with the bonus of live music at three of the eight sessions provided by Norman Garner, David Bekaert and Nigel Kippax and their fellow musicians.

Once again, a brilliant effort by all concerned.

David Lonsdale

Brisk business as Buckland Village Hall was transformed into The Buck Pub over the late spring Bank Holiday weekend in May. *Photo by David Lonsdale.*



Photo: David Lonsdale

A Shabby Zumta

IF YOU'VE EVER visited the Village Hall in Buckland you may have seen a scraggy and casually-moving ginger-and-white cat relaxing in the grounds. Always on the lookout for a treat he may have come over to say hello with one beady eye on whatever tasty morsel you thought you had to yourself.

The chilled-out, curious cat was named Zumta and was the resident ginger tom whose territory included the Village Hall and adjoining

Old School House. Sharon and I moved in to the Old School House in the summer of 2012

Continued overleaf



Photo: Brian Berry

Shabby Zumta *cont'd. from page 23*

and within a couple of days Zumta had introduced himself to us. He was very keen to come inside but Fudge, our own ginger tom, was equally determined that he didn't. We were curious as to who, if anyone, was the owner of this cheeky and slightly shabby feline, given that he was appearing on our doorstep every day.

We learned that he originally occupied the Old School House with his owners but was then left behind when they emigrated some six years ago. From then on he adopted a nomadic existence wandering from house to house being fed, becoming more feral in nature but yearning to return to his original dwelling. Zumta was sometimes seen jumping through open car windows of Village Hall patrons and making himself at home and I'm sure that the unseen stowaway must have taken at least one unexpected ride! Having an air of independence and self-reliance meant he patrolled his patch

and enforced his territorial rights relentlessly.

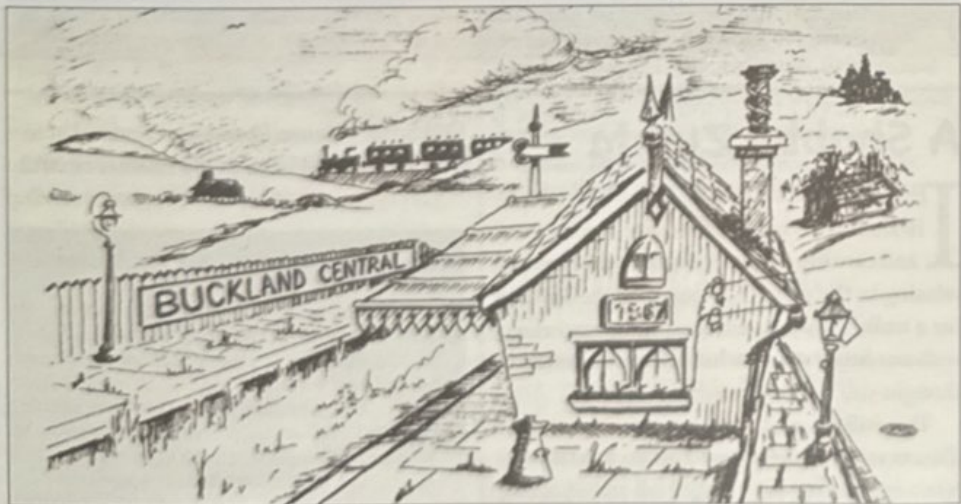
By 2012 it was thought that he must have been between 15-17 years of age. In any event, and he was definitely looking a little shabby. As he was living outside we built him his own weather-proof, cushioned and heated cat-pad. We were relieved when he adopted this and soon made it his nightly residence.

We also adopted the name Shabby for him to accompany his twilight years. Fudge and Shabby learned to accept each other's presence and even shared our vegetable box for a summer snooze. About a year ago Shabby developed a cataract in his right eye but continued his normal routine (sleeping, eating and wandering) until we noticed another appearing in his left. His eyesight quickly deteriorated and with great sadness we had to say goodbye to him in June of this year.

You can spend a few minutes of your own with Shabby on one of the memorial benches in the Village Hall grounds. *Brian Berry*

Rail news

Our transport correspondent writes that there is no truth in the rumour that Network Rail are planning to reinstate a 1977 proposal for a branch line from Wendover to Buckland with a station in Buckland Road. *From an illustration in The Astonian, August 1977*



The Whitechapel Mission Clothes and Goods Appeal

Our chance
to give back!

PART of St Michael's regular giving is the support we offer to the Whitechapel Mission.

Each year we give our harvest gifts. The Mission is open every day of the year, including Christmas, to provide a substantial breakfast to the homeless living in the East End of London. It is independent of government and relies totally on donations. Besides money, our harvest gifts of breakfast foods help support the work.

This year we are looking for non-perishable, bulk, and staple items (dry and canned) food items such as: baked beans, tinned plum tomatoes, cereals, tomato sauce, tea, coffee, sandwich spread, pepper, canned fruit, canned meat, biscuits, baked beans, hot chocolate, sugar, squash and honey.

We also collect clothing which is made available to anyone. Any clothing, new or secondhand is accepted but they are in need of the following: winter jackets, winter coats, jumpers, men's gloves, black woollen hats, woollen scarves, baseball caps, T-shirts, padded shirts, face flannels, men's underwear, socks,

jeans (28-36"), rucksacks, men's trainers, men's shoes, jogging bottoms, trousers (28-34"), hand towels and bath towels.

In the basement of the Mission are washing and showering facilities. The following are much needed: ladies' make-up, body lotion, body wash, hand cream, face cream, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, deodorant and shaving foam.

They are also desperate for old 35mm film canisters to put medical tablets in and carrier bags so that the homeless can carry their belongings.

We will start to collect clothing and food-stuffs in church from the beginning of September for our Harvest Festival on Sunday 13th. The Whitechapel Mission will collect our harvest gifts in October, so if you cannot make the Harvest Festival there will still be time to donate.

For further information, please look at the Whitechapel Mission website or contact me on 01296 630456.

Ralph Weston

FACTFILE on people supported by the Whitechapel Mission

- 60% come from dysfunctional families
- 47% are indigenous to the UK
- 87% are male
- 38% have been in prison
- 15% have been in the armed forces
- 30% have been in care at some point
- 10% are under 26



Don't forget Gemma!

We have featured before in **Village Life** the heroic efforts of local girl Gemma Collis, now studying law at Durham. Gemma is a 2012 Paralympian wheelchair fencer and is trying to make it to Rio next year. Due to government cuts, SportEngland is unable to continue to support her. She needs our support. Please visit www.marsmilk.com/play-fund-2015/clubs/gemma-s-road-to-rio/

St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp

Regular Services:
10.45am each Sunday



Forthcoming events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun 6 Sept	12-4pm	Wendover Arm Canal Trust Open Day	St Mary's Church
Sat 12 Sept	10am-5pm	Ride and Stride	St Mary's Church
Sun 20 Sept	4pm	Choral Evensong for Harvest followed by tea	St Mary's Church

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

Michael Anns (1940-2015)

MICHAEL ANNS was a true son of Drayton Beauchamp. He was born at 2 Peartree Cottages on 11th June 1940, only one week before his father Jim went off to war for five long years. Michael's mother, Margery, was a Ball – one of the ten or so families whose names were ever-present in Drayton Beauchamp for generation after generation in the days when the parish was still a farming community.

The surname Ball has appeared in the registers of the village church for 200 years at least. The Balls and other local stalwarts toiled on the land, looked after the church and graveyard, volunteered whenever tasks needed to be done or money raised for the church, and took care of each other in good and bad times.

In his father's absence, Michael was surrounded by the loving care of his extended family – mother, maternal grandmother, cousins, aunts and uncles – many of whom lived locally. He delighted in his rural surroundings and as a lad could often be found helping with the work on a local farm rather than sitting in the school

classroom. He pumped the organ in the village church and helped his neighbours carry out repairs to the old schoolroom which was at that time used as the village hall.

Michael was fortunate in being young at a time when village children could roam freely around the countryside, learning, exploring, and having the kind of adventures which most children in the more anxious, cautious world of

2015 will never experience. At the same time, in this small hamlet where everyone knew everyone else, the activities of Michael and the other children were quietly observed by the village men and women going about their daily tasks. This meant that each child's safety and well-being were always being monitored, but – perhaps less welcome to the child – it also meant that reports to parents of a child's misdemeanours tended to reach the child's home before he did.

Michael was involved in many boyhood adventures, at least some of which must have earned him his mother's displeasure. There were occasions when the Lower Farm pony and trap were 'borrowed' so that Michael and

Continued opposite



Photo: David Lonsdale

Michael Anns *contd. from page 26*

his friends could go for jaunts, particularly to the rookery at Buckland; there were eggs to be 'rescued' from a henhouse and cooked in a hole dug in the field, and there were cricket pitches to be laboriously created in a level area of meadow with the help of a push-mower.

At a Christmas concert in the schoolroom one year, organised by Edie and Florrie Ballard of Lower Farm, Michael hid their niece's recorder before she – Frances – was due to play it. Fortunately Michael's cousin Richard had seen him hide it and retrieved it just in time to save the day.

Michael's first paid work was at Upper Farm for Harry Nicholls. He then trained as a builder, carpenter and bricklayer, studying at Aylesbury Technical College. He was involved in the construction of the new town of Hemel Hempstead and for a time made chicken cages for Grossmith of Aston Clinton. He also worked at Frovines, the Jewish slaughterhouse in Tring, and became foreman there.

Michael married and had two daughters. In 1996 after some years away from the village, he returned to 2 Peartree Cottages with his second wife Norma to look after his by-now widowed mother, Margery, who was in poor health.

Margery died in 2000; Michael and Norma stayed on, creating a wonderful vegetable and flower garden at their cottage, content and happy in the surroundings they both loved.

Although the village had changed greatly during the course of his lifetime, Michael never had a moment of doubt that his heart and his roots were here in the village of his birth. As his health failed, he was lovingly looked after by Norma who was in turn supported by their children and grandchildren. Both Michael and Norma felt greatly helped in his last few weeks by the recently-established Weston Project which provides support at home to the older patients (and their carers) of the Wendover, Aston Clinton and Bedgrove Surgeries. Norma remains very grateful to the Weston Project and asked after Michael's death that anyone wishing to give a donation in his memory should name the Weston Project as beneficiary. With the Project's help Michael was able to remain in the home he loved, and with Norma – his love for 42 years – at his side. His life ended, as it had begun, at 2 Peartree Cottages and Michael was buried, as was his wish, in the churchyard of St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp beside his parents and other members of his family. *Margaret Ross*

Emily Jane Icke (1989–2015)

IT IS with the greatest sadness and regret that we record the premature death of the brave and beautiful Emily Icke, the beloved wife of David and treasured daughter-in-law of Simon and Valerie Icke of Long Plough, Aston Clinton.

Readers will recall the article in the February/March issue in which we were able to join in celebrating her 'one-year-on' from her double-lung transplant. She had suffered all her short life from Cystic Fibrosis, an inherited disease affecting the lungs and digestive system. Emily's transplant in 2013 came in the nick of time and gave her a new lease of life. Tragically, that lease proved to be all too short. A full obituary of Emily will appear in the next issue of the magazine.

Alec Just



Photo: Paul Adam

Marsworth's Steam and Classic Car Rally 2015

ON an overcast and blustery midsummer day while druids cavorted around rough-hewn stones, the good folk of Marsworth turned out *en masse* to support the 17th Marsworth Steam Rally. This event, which has grown beyond all recognition from its early days, boasts a free bus service from Tring and an ever greater number of steam vehicles including traction engines and lorries. The number of classic cars also continues to rise year on year. The classic tractors were as always of great interest to the many children of all ages who came to marvel at these great replacements for the horse.

The rides on the model steam engines were popular with the youngsters to the point that some complained loudly at having to return home, high praise indeed!

Among the classic vehicles, some did indeed stand out. A magnificent showman's engine with generator, a Ford Model T speedster and a mobile cinema, the last of six made to bring information and culture to outlying towns.

The classic cars were loosely set out by types and displayed many vanished English marques such as Humber and Rover as well as more exotic vehicles from Europe and the USA.

In the arena was the perennial favourite of country shows, the gun dog display. This was supplemented by parades of steam engines and other classic vehicles which were greeted with

muted rapture by the crowds jostling for a view.

Of course mention must be made of the beer tent which, staffed by volunteers, supplied several thousand drinks to thirsty patrons. The long suffering and dedicated staff of the car parking squad reckoned to have parked over 2500 cars during the day keeping them busy, many of them turning up in the early morning to ensure that all went smoothly through the day.

Members of the committee and volunteer staff manned the gates, collecting cash with a determined cheerfulness, whilst grateful that the weather was perfect, should you have to stay at your post all day in it.

Many thanks have of course to go to Evan and Josie Kempster who give their time and land for the benefit of the village and the charities which are supported by this great event. Thanks also to all our many sponsors, to those who advertised in the programme and to all who donated food, drink and raffle prizes.

This year, thanks to the foresight of the committee there were more 'facilities' in the field, helpfully located near the beer tent, easing the queuing seen in previous years.

On a personal note I would like to thank all the volunteers and members of the public for making this such a good-tempered, entertaining and quintessentially English event.

Long may it continue. *John Downer*



VOLUNTEER AND INCREASE YOUR WELLBEING!

Looking at ways to increase your wellbeing now summer is well and truly here? Why not try volunteering as a way to boost your health and wellbeing as well as increasing someone else's...

The Volunteer Hub will be recruiting more volunteers for charities which support older and vulnerable adults. There are many different roles; you could volunteer one to one and help someone maintain their garden, co-ordinate a local group walk, provide company by enjoying a mutual hobby or activity as a befriender. Depending on your spare time and interests, a perfect role can be found to suit you.

By giving a few hours during school time, after work, or at the weekend you could transform someone's life and your own. Above all you'll get the satisfaction of knowing you've made a difference where it matters most.

For more information about volunteering and roles, call the Volunteer Hub on 0300 1111 250 or email gillian@communityimpactbucks.org.uk

The Volunteer Hub actively recruits volunteers for charities and groups in Buckinghamshire who support older and vulnerable adults as part of Buckinghamshire's County Council's Prevention Matters programme.



Come and see what your local WI is doing

Visit our stand at the Horticultural Show at Aston Clinton school on **Saturday 15th August**. Or come to our meetings on the first Wednesday in the month at 7.45pm at the Anthony Hall.

Summer programme:

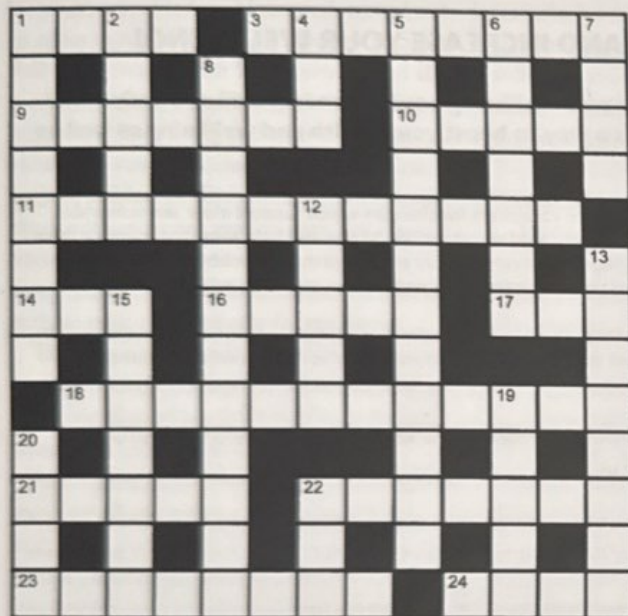
Wed 5 Aug: 'Tales from the Top Table' (or 'What the Toastmaster Saw!') by Paul Deacon

Wed 2 September: 'The Fairs of Old England' by Janet Dineen

Village Life crossword no.11

Crossword compiled by Helen Lonsdale

Solution to this crossword on p.15



CLUES ACROSS

1. Hexahedron (4)
2. The world of Scholarship (8)
9. For Clergy and Choir (7)
10. Tree (5)
11. Safe for electric cooking (12)
14. Age (3)
16. Cat cries (5)
17. A legendary bird of prey (3)
18. Scornfully (12)
21. Sunday food (5)
22. A Greek word meaning brothers/Theatre in The Strand (7)
23. Precious or valuable (8)
24. Burden (4)

CLUES DOWN

1. Salad food (8)
2. Mont _____ (5)
4. A gap in a ridge (3)
5. No longer secret (12)
6. Person who interferes (7)
7. Ambience (4)
8. Obliges (12)
12. Garlic Mayonnaise (5)
13. Painting medium (8)
15. Stir (7)
19. Tall spikey flower (5)
20. Jog along (4)
22. Ether (3)

Lindengate at World's End

LINDENGATE was founded by Charlie Powell and Sian Chattle in May 2013 and has a 5-acre site at World's End, Wendover. It is a registered charity with a board of trustees and provides gardening and social and therapeutic horticulture (STH) programmes to help those dealing with mental health issues on their road to recovery.

STH is now recognised as a successful way of promoting health and well-being. By providing gardening activities in a tranquil and rural setting, Lindengate aims to meet a long-term and growing need.

It has more than 30 people already using its

service and also has over 80 local volunteers.

Mental health is the UK's fastest growing health problem. A quarter of us will experience some form of mental health issue during our lifetime and this costs the UK over £100bn per year. There are over 2.3 million people who are out of work or on benefits and dealing with a mental health condition. In Buckinghamshire the percentage of adults classified as having depression is said to be 'significantly worse' than the average for England.

To learn more, contact Charlie Powell on 020 8144 4291 or 07837 239 328 or Sian Chattle on 020 8144 4291/07773 884 057 or at info@lindengate.org.uk



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Aston Clinton Baptist Church	Simon Downing	01296 631824	
Aston Clinton Parish Council	Gillian Merry	01296 631269	
Aston Clinton School	Helen Shepherd	01296 630276	
Aston Clinton U3A	John Bullard	01296 436403	
Aston Clinton Youth Club	Brian Churchill	01296 630142	
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Bosom Buddies	Tracey Norris	079102 58259	BosomBuddiesTring@hotmail.co.uk
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Buckland Bridge Club	Viv Barton	01296 630776	
Buckland Village Hall (Bkings Sec)	Paula Graves	01296 630310	
Buckland Parish Council	TBA	01296 626073	
Buckland Society	Kelly Cornish	01296 632119	
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Football: Aston Clinton FC	Mark Foster	07831 765738	
Football: AC Colts	Ray Lucas	01296 630076	
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Green Park Life Saving Assocn	John Lesingham	01296 622613	
Guides and Brownies	See below*	—	
Halton Singers	Cherry-Ann Evans	01296 622097	
High Wycombe Hospital		01494 526161	

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Horticultural Society	Maureen Ridler	01296 633376	info@astondintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk
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Aylesbury Vale District	Bill Chapple OBE	01296 425656	
Aylesbury Vale District	Mike Collins	01296 632039	
Aylesbury Vale District	Carole Patemoster	01296 630710	cpatemoster@aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk
Marsworth Pre-School Group		07506 179658	
MP for Aylesbury	David Lidington	020 7219 3432	
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Neighbourhood Watch, Buckland	Edwin Domican	01296 630467	
Neighbourhood Watch, DB	Elizabeth Dutton	01296 631613	
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Police	Non emergency	101	
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RAF Halton (Mon-Fri)	0800-1700hrs	01296 656367	
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Women's Institute	Anne Floyd	01296 434372	
Water emergency		0845 9200 800	

* 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 Constables who have been assigned to this area are Thomas Piercy and Jo Smith. They are supported by three PCSOs. Wendover Police Station is open Tuesday to Thursday 9am-1pm. Aylesbury Police Station is open until 10pm all week. The non-emergency police number is 101. For real emergencies dial 999. More information at www.thamesvalley.police.uk

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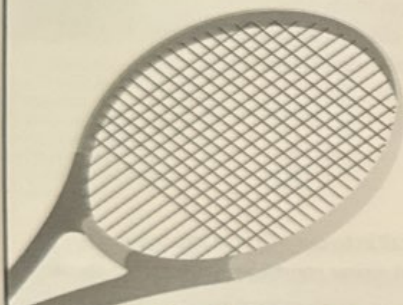
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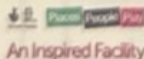


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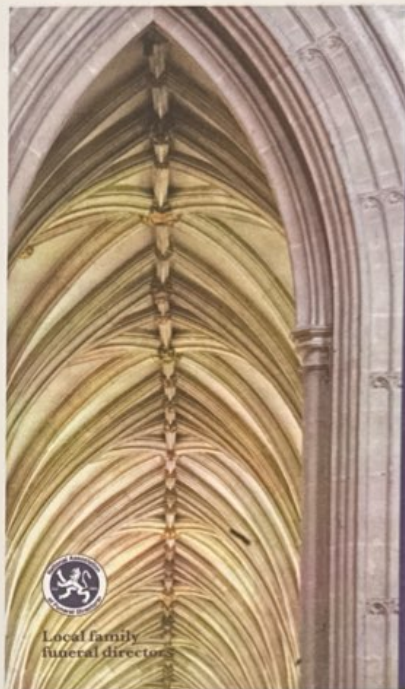


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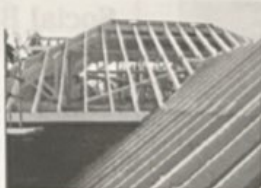
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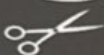
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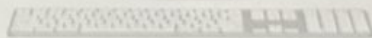
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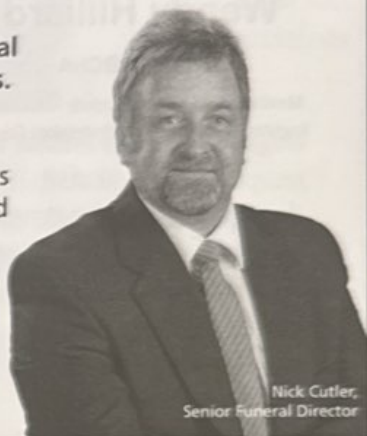


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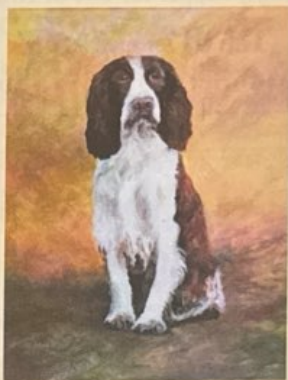
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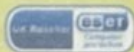
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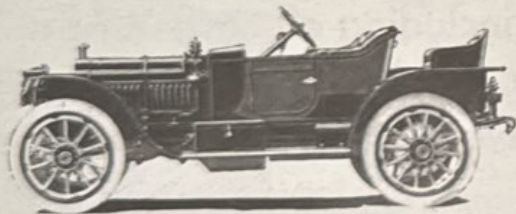
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