

A photograph of a forest path covered in autumn leaves. The path is made of fallen leaves in shades of red, orange, and yellow, leading into a wooded area. The trees have green and yellowing leaves, and the overall scene is a vibrant autumn landscape.

Village Life

The community magazine
for Aston Clinton, Buckland
and Drayton Beauchamp

No. 27 October-November 2015



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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



I MAKE NO APOLOGY for returning to the vexed question of change. All around us, it seems that green space is about to disappear under bricks and concrete as developers are rushing to get ahead both of our emerging Neighbourhood Plan for Aston Clinton and AVDC's new Vale of Aylesbury Plan, yet to be approved.

Demographic and economic forces together compel the building of far more houses. Apart from the need to accommodate a rising population, the social ill that puts house prices beyond the reach of most young people will only be cured by a big increase in the supply of new homes. That reality is accepted by most, if not all, of us.

What seems illogical to many is that there appears to be no mechanism which directly links the provision of so-called 'social infrastructure' (e.g. schools and primary healthcare) to the building of new homes. The next few years will see a big growth in the population of Aston Clinton. The school is already almost full but where are the plans to further enlarge the building or build a second school? Young children should be able to walk to school, not have to travel for miles. The surgery also has capacity problems, including parking provision.

Despite these current concerns, ordinary life goes on in our community. Our young people continue to fulfil their potential (see pages 4 and 20). Senior citizens and early retirees are reminded on page 9 of the wide range of interests catered for by our local U3A. Arts and crafts are not forgotten on pages 11 and 29 which feature events easily accessible from Aston Clinton. The Rhubarb Café (page 5) continues to buzz with activity every Monday afternoon and generous, warm-hearted folk continue to donate much-needed food and clothing for the homeless at the Whitechapel Mission (page 23).

Alec Just
Editor

Be thankful for the gifts of God

I like the change in season that comes around mid-September. It seems that whenever I come back from holiday at the end of August, the air, the smell and feel of it all, is so very different than before. The nights begin to draw in, and suddenly what was true night-time darkness appearing at around 11pm, suddenly shifts to about 9pm by the start of September. By October it is roughly 7.30pm. Indeed, within just under two months Christmas will be upon us. It is all change!

As you know we have just gone through Harvest – a precious time of year because it gives us an opportunity to be thankful for the food and drink we have. Compared to so many in the world, we live in a country of extreme plenty. The vast majority of us are able to simply buy the food we want, without any difficulty at all, and enjoy the provision of God. I am not sure we really appreciate Harvest as much as we could, due to the rise of the super-



Rev. Simon Downing, Baptist Minister

market and the ease of obtaining what we want.

Small facts often amaze me. Did you know that there over 7,500 varieties of apples in the world (2,500 of which are found in the UK)? Remarkably, there are only two main species of coffee plant in the world, yet we get so many different blends from them, influenced by where the plant grows. We are so blessed because within the humble avocado there are five different vitamins and many important minerals; it is low in calories and full of healthy fats. The avocado is truly a super food! And we could go on...

So perhaps we can try to be more conscious of the goodness of God; stop and ponder for a moment, knowing that a spiritual harvest is found in Jesus too.

Many thanks and take care over the coming months.

Simon

World Scout Jamboree

BETWEEN 28 July and 8 August 2015, 4,000 Scouts and Guides from across the UK joined others from around the world in Kirara-bama, Japan for the 23rd World Scout Jamboree.

Among those present was Sue Wall, a local Guide. This her account of the experience:

THIS summer I was fortunate enough to be a participant in the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in Japan.

We started off this great three-week experience by staying with a Japanese family for three days. This was a lot of fun and also challenging because they spoke very little English.

Then we camped for ten days in the 36-degree heat with 33,000 scouts from 161 countries.

During these ten days we went on visits to a local beach and to the Hiroshima Peace Park where we learnt of the importance of peace, 70 years on from the dropping of the atom bomb.

We also participated in activities where we experienced other cultures and learnt how we as individuals could make the world a better place. Finally we rounded off the trip with a three-day visit to Tokyo. Here, we visited many of the city's famous tourist attractions.

To conclude, I would like to recommend this experience to all current scouts and guides and would suggest that they apply for the 24th World Scout Jamboree in America. *Sue Wall*



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 17 Oct	7pm	Sausage Supper and Music Quiz	The Anthony Hall
Sun 1 Nov	11am	Benefice Service for All Saints	All Saints' Church
Sun 1 Nov	6pm	Benefice Service for All Souls when we remember those who have died	St Michael's Church
Sat 7 Nov	5.30pm	Bonfire Party	The Rectory
Sun 8 Nov	11.20am	RBL Service of Remembrance	St Michael's Church
Sun 29 Nov	6pm	Candlelit Advent Carol Service	St Michael's Church

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

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

Aston Clinton Ladies Group

Forthcoming meetings

Wed 21 October at 8pm at the Guide Hall
Ready, Steady Christmas Bits with Irene and Linda. A collection of ideas for the Festive Season.

Wed 18 November at 7.30pm prompt
AGM and Supper at the Anthony Hall.

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

In the directory of advertisers on pages 34 and 35 you will find a surprisingly wide range of local services. Please support our advertisers and mention Village Life when you contact them.

Parish Council news

THE summer months have seen the Park full of children, families, picnic blankets and dogs. We are thrilled to have been able to open Your Cafe in the Park in time for the school holidays and to see everyone enjoying the goodies on offer. Behind the scenes, Parish Councillors have been working hard to implement maintenance work, such as clearing village footpaths, weeding and pruning in the park, fixing pot-holes in the park approach road and pitch preparation for the coming football season.

Play Around the Parishes was a huge success again this year with large numbers of children enjoying the bouncy castle, craft activities, soft play and face painting. Only one day was rainy, so everyone enjoyed the shelter of the Pavilion and carried on playing. Big thanks to Lesley and Chris Ronson for their help with overspill parking!

Now the damp and darker season is upon us, we know we have to brace ourselves for an

increase in dog mess. Did you know that children who are exposed to dog mess can contract **toxicariasis**, an infection that can lead to blindness? Dog mess is foul for park users, a huge problem for our fantastic footballers and can cause serious illness. So, please, please, **PLEASE, pick it up and bin it!**

Finally, we have two further vacancies on the Parish Council at the moment. If you would like to get involved and make a difference in your village, please contact the Parish Clerk on **01296 631269**, or you can email parishcouncil@astonclinton.org

You don't have to have any special skills, just a bit of time and a willingness to roll up your sleeves and help make this village an even better place in which to live.

Gillian Merry
Parish Clerk



New councillors co-opted in September

Paul Hughes moved to Aylesbury from Kent in 1990 with his young family having grown up in Harrow, West London. He has served on many local parish councils since then and became founding chairman of Coldharbour Parish Council in 2001. Paul was very active on behalf of residents of Fairford Leys during his chairmanship. In 2003 he was elected to AVDC for the Coldharbour ward and served until 2015. Paul moved with his family to Aston Clinton in 2011. He works in MK as Contracts Manager for a large American automation company.



Mike Osborn has lived in Aston Clinton for most of his life, attending the village pre-school and the County Combined before completing his local education at Aylesbury Grammar School. In his early years he was a paperboy in the village and played football for local teams. He obtained an honours degree in sports and business and gained experience in multi-party project funding. Mike has a career in financial services and is involved in strategic planning and project management. He is looking forward to contributing to the work of the Parish Council.



Launch of Neighbourhood Plan

THE 4th & 5th September saw the launch of the Aston Clinton Neighbourhood Plan (ACNHP) at the Anthony Hall. The event was run by the ACNHP Steering Group and was held on Friday evening and Saturday morning. The Steering Group and the majority of parish councillors attended and were available to answer questions. This is the first event when the Steering Group have consulted with the village and the purpose of the launch was to inform the village exactly what an NHP is, and to encourage everyone in the village to become involved.

Banners were placed around the Hall containing details of the parish boundaries, what the process is for, how an NHP is put together and encouraging attendees to comment. There were sticky pads and white boards set out to further encourage thoughts and comments under various headings on topics including housing, environment, schools and health. Around 550 comments were received which are now being collated and will form part of the thinking behind the NHP. There was a good turn-out on both days and many people stayed to ask further questions and the great majority left comments.

The next steps are to continue the consultation process and to contact local groups – for instance the churches, scouts, youth club and football clubs – and to hold meetings with them to see what their views are on the future of the village.

It is very important that as many people as possible are consulted and provide their views. The plan must not be devised by the Steering Group – it has to be based on what the residents of Aston Clinton want to see happening in their village.

We all know that Aston Clinton continues to be deluged with planning applications and this NHP cannot stop those; but as the plan becomes more advanced it will begin to carry more weight. It is more likely that Aylesbury Vale District Council planning committee will take the views contained in the plan into account in their decision-making. Your full involvement is therefore vital.

We will continue to provide more information and progress reports in further editions of Village Life magazine and on our website at: www.AstonClintonNeighbourhoodPlan.org

Cllr Liz Tubb Deputy chairman
Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Photo: Liz Tubb

What looks like a tabletop display are in fact the first four of nine 7ft high floor-standing banners. The banners described the Neighbourhood Planning process and were faced in the Anthony Hall by a row of tables on which visitors were invited to jot down their ideas and comments on a series of topic boards.



Aston Clinton, Buckland & Drayton Beauchamp

Horticultural Society

THE Horticultural Show took place on the third Saturday in August. For once the weather was kind to us and though it rained most of the day before, the Saturday was a mixture of sun and cloud which meant that it was not too hot.

Some 300 people visited the show, about the same as last year, and we made a modest profit of £240 that will be used to support the Spring Show and next year's Summer Show. It also helps the Society maintain its presence in the life of Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp when other surrounding villages are stopping their shows. For this we have to thank our Chairman, Sue Lipscomb, the committee and the innumerable volunteers who helped out, particularly noticeable during the clearing up process at the end.

As for the show itself, the dahlias looked
 Andrew Barrow's winning dahlias



Photo: Sue Lipscomb

spectacular this year. This was in part because there were no other dahlia shows coinciding with ours and we had entrants coming from as far as High Wycombe. The National Dahlia Society Silver Certificate for the best dahlia exhibit went to Andrew Barrow for his entry of three vases each with three dahlias (see photo).

There were 66 exhibitors this year, the most since 2010, and they made up the 465 entries. The premier award, the RHS Banksian Medal for the most points in the horticultural section (i.e. veg and flowers) went to Richard Nicholls. Modest David Elkins, who always says he has not much to show, walked away with many of the cups presented for vegetables: six in total. However, we did not see the giant cabbages he normally produces. Local village people did very well. The cup for the most points in the Novice sections went to Angelo Lucatello who will now no longer be eligible to enter those sections. We desperately need more novices to enter the novice classes next year!

Rosemary Mojsak, Mary Flower and Diane Kolonko – all were awarded cups for their flower arrangements and Felicity Nicholls was the star of the Domestic Section, winning a cup for the most points and also another cup for the best exhibit – her brown bread rolls. The Children's classes are important to us as it encourages them to become interested in growing and making things. It is a joy to see the delight in their faces when they come up to collect their cups. In the children's sections those winning cups were Lizzy Pearson, Amy Parker, Florence Ashwell, Charlie Kempster and Oliver Wallis.

The best handicraft exhibit and the Violet Rolfe Cup were won by Rachel Groom for her beautiful fabric box. The photographic class, subject "clouds", produced a large number of entries and was won by John Ridler.

Finally, Chris Ronson once again won a cup for the best Allotment with Diane Kolonko

Continued opposite

Aston Clinton U3A

What is U3A?

The University of the Third Age is a unique international organisation whose aims are the promotion of education and the encouragement and stimulation of friendships within mainly retired members of the community. That is to say, those in their 'third age' of life, after the second age of full-time employment and parental responsibility. The organisation is commonly referred to as the U3A.

Anybody in their third age can join U3A and this includes people who are working part-time. The guiding theme of U3A is that all members should continue to learn and share experiences during their third age of life.

History of Aston Clinton U3A

Following an inaugural meeting, Aston Clinton U3A ("the ACU3A") was formally constituted on 8 February 2006.

Members of the U3A are entitled to join Interest Groups of other local U3As, by arrangement with the respective group organiser, provided space is available.

The ACU3A is run by four officers, currently supported by six other committee members, all of whom have a specific role within the ACU3A, for example, producing monthly newsletters, arranging speakers, organising trips, etc.

Current ACU3A activities

The ACU3A has expanded steadily since inception and currently has about 240 members with 28 Groups covering areas of interest ranging from Art and Bird Watching to Music, History, Walking and Wildlife.

General meetings

General meetings are held every third Tuesday of the month in the Anthony Hall, when information about group activities is shared and there is time for socialising. A speaker is carefully chosen for each meeting to ensure wide appeal. Recent topics have included: the Kinder Transport; Science of Colour; Shakespeare; Local Archaeology; Eric Morecambe by his Daughter; the Berlin Airlift and Rudyard Kipling.

If you would like to come along to a general meeting before committing yourself you will find a warm welcome. Just make yourself known to one of the committee members or John Bullard, the ACU3A Secretary, who can give you more information.

Interest Group meetings

Interest Groups meet at a variety of venues ranging from local halls to members' houses, depending upon the nature of the activity and number of members. For example, the Wildlife group might meet up at a place of ecological interest.

Trips and outings

The trips include visits to venues of general, cultural, scientific or historic interest and theatre visits.

The ACU3A website

For further information about ACU3A, please go to the website. Search Google for Aston Clinton U3A or see contact information in centre pages of this Village Life. *Janet Cato*

Horticultural Society *contd.*

coming second and Trevor Fawcett third.

All-in-all, another good year, but we would like to encourage many more readers of *Village*

Life to enter our shows, the next one being the Spring Show on **Saturday 2nd April 2016**.

It is easy to grow a few daffodils for the Novice and Children's sections. *Ralph Weston*



Aston Clinton School

Head: Mrs Helen Shepherd



The challenge of change

This year sees the government's educational changes come into force. These include a new curriculum, new expectations and the removal of levels. Change can cause anxiety and so one of our tasks this year is to reassure everyone that we have a way forward to manage the changes.

The new curriculum was a change we made last year for most year groups and most subjects. However, there is some work still to do as the expectations in literacy and numeracy, in particular, have been raised substantially.

The new expectations mean that what was 'average' for a 7-year-old last year is now below age-related expectations in the new curriculum. For example, a child this year working at Level 3 at the end of Year 2 (which was an above-average level) would now be considered to be working at the age-related expectation for Year 2. This has several implications. For the children, it means Year 6 will push them further than they thought possible. But they will most likely take it in their stride (with our support) because they will accept that that is what Year 6 is supposed to be like.

For parents, it means they will need to be made aware of what is expected for the year ahead for their children. They will also have the opportunity at parents' evenings to discuss with the class teachers where their children fit into the new curriculum and what their next steps will be. Parents will have to trust us if we tell them not to worry!

The decision to remove levels was made by the government as it was felt to be confusing for parents. This is our opportunity to use language that makes more sense to parents. But it is not without its problems. If a child is below age-related expectations—what does that actually mean? How far behind are they? The same difficulty applies if they are working above their age expectations.

As a school we are working with the John Colet Liaison Group schools to come up with an agreed method to describe a child's attainment. Every school in the country was required by the government to devise its own assessment system. Our local Liaison Group schools decided to use the same system for consistency. This has the advantage of allowing staff across the schools to get together and moderate work so as to check their assessment decisions.

We feel we are in the right place to put all the changes into place this year. Will it all go smoothly? Probably not completely, as change rarely does. It is made more difficult as the government has yet to announce some of the detail, such as what the end-of-year tests will definitely look like and how they will be marked, as well as what age-related work will look like for each year group. When all that is known, we can put training in place for staff and the relevant parts can then be passed on to parents.

We will get there eventually! All we ask is that we are given a few years' rest from change so we will be able to embed all this year's changes.

Helen Shepherd

The Clock School artists off to Ashley Green

THE CLOCK SCHOOL group of artists have exhibited in Aston Clinton School for the past fifteen years. However, they will hold their next sale exhibition in a new venue.

Their exhibition of paintings, sculptures and pottery will be held in the Old School Hall at Ashley Green on **Saturday 17th October** and **Sunday 18th October**. The exhibition will be open from 10am to 6pm. Admission is free.

These are two examples of the standard of work on display.

Alan Eeles



Top: 'Sandra's Boat' by Sandra Lawless Bottom: 'Torrent Walk', a scene at Brithdir, Wales by Sarah Moruzzi

Solution to Crossword No.12

Across 5. Halton 6. Calico 9. Abacus 10. Orbiting 11. Kiss 12. Laboratory 13. Backbencher 18. Calculated 21. Room 22. Cardigan 23. Scampi 24. Apeman 25. Awaken
Down 1. Black Sea 2. Fossil 3. Barbic 4. Dikai 5. Hybrid 7. Owners 8. Cobblestone 14. Kilogram 15. Earmarks 16. Banana 17. Coupon 19. Cudgel 20. Disown

Royal British Legion news

THE British Legion had a successful afternoon at the summer Horticultural Show. We had a good display of photos and pamphlets showing what the Legion does for our ex-service men and women. There was a wide selection of related merchandise on the stall and the raffle raised £100 for the Poppy Appeal. A big thank you to all who contributed to this appeal. During September, a party from the Aston Clinton branch attended the Battle of Britain Service at Westminster Abbey.

Our next important event is **Remembrance Sunday 8th November**. We start to gather at the village war memorial about 10.30am for the short service, the two-minutes silence and laying of wreaths. Members of the branch then

march to St Michael's Church with the scouts and guides for a full RBL service of remembrance.

The Aston Clinton branch meets at the Parish Office every second Tuesday in the month at 7.30pm. All are welcome, even those who have never been members of the armed services. During the two weeks before Remembrance Sunday, members of the branch will be selling poppies. As well as going around the village, we have a stand at B&Q each year. We are desperate for volunteers to man this for a two-hour slot. If you can help please contact Emma on **07468 434707**.

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



Ralph Weston

GP Corner...

AS the flu season will soon be upon us we will be holding walk-in flu clinics at Aston Clinton Surgery in October (they started in September). There are posters in the surgery, local pharmacy and in the post office, giving the dates and reminding people of eligibility. Information will also be on prescriptions, on our website www.westongrove.com and if we have your mobile number you will be messaged. You can also look on Facebook if you have access.

If you need to confirm your own eligibility please check the posters or call the surgery. You need to let us know when you change your contact details so that we can keep you up-to-date and ensure that information is sent to your correct address. You can update this information on our website. You will be able to access more of your own information, complete forms online and access medical advice through easy links to other NHS sites and the new Web GP. Please ask at the surgery for

information on Patient Access so that we can give you secure access to the new services which will be available. We do not yet have a go-live date for Web GP but we are hopeful that it should be reasonably soon.

Best wishes to all our patients
From everyone at Aston Clinton Surgery



How Aston Clinton got its Surgery (Part 3)

Professor Ed Peile continues his account of the history of Aston Clinton Surgery which he started on 11th July 1983.

PART 3 Keeping afloat financially

Money matters

Funding is crucial for health care, now as in 1983. The system of risk-sharing, whereby General Practitioners work as independent contractors employing staff, providing premises and equipment, in return for NHS payment is fundamentally still the same despite multiple tweaks.

We took a big risk. By deciding to build lovely new premises and take on quality staff, my overdraft peaked at over £180,000 within nine months. That's debt of well over half-a-million pounds in today's terms for a young couple with two little girls to support. Our house was on the line as the security.

If we went bust, the village would lose its surgery and I would have had to find work as a doctor elsewhere. Fortunately, we had an under-standing bank, and I always kept loans within

"The first year was the toughest."

predicted limits, and took a pride in providing the bank with detailed quarterly reports which showed how we were keeping on track.

The first year was the toughest. No basic practice allowances were paid and I could not afford time off whilst the practice expenses were £2,000 per month more than the practice income. I had to keep taking on as many patients as I could as fast as I could, or we would go under.

Every single person registered as a patient of mine brought in income. A year after I started, my list size had reached the magic number of 1000 patients so I qualified for the basic practice allowance. Then, in 1984, each patient earned

me on average £13.00 per year which was made up as follows:

Capitation fees and allowances	£6.20
'Item of service payments' (the extra money paid by the NHS to doctors for services like immunisations, maternity services, and contraception) ...	£3.60
Dispensing fees	£2.40
Non-NHS income earned for writing certificates and reports for patients	£0.80

I was able to earn some extra money whilst the practice demands on my time were low. In my first month I was providing locum cover to Dr Colin Campbell, another single-handed practitioner working in Waddesdon with clinics at Quainton and Grendon Underwood. To have responsibilities as far away as that would be unthinkable nowadays – not only because it would take double the time to cross Aylesbury but because patient access to doctors has improved so much. Quite rightly patients today expect to be able to access general practice services promptly in times of need, and they also have rapid access to hospitals and ambulances. Expectations had to be lower 40 or 50 years ago. Mobile phones had not arrived and pagers were useless in much of our area. Doctors out on visits were often not contactable.

Other earnings

St John's Hospital was also some way away in Stone, but I soon had work to do here at the psychiatric hospital with nearly 300 beds for patients with mental health problems from all over Buckinghamshire. Some had been 'asylum' inpatients for 50 years or more and were deemed to be too 'institutionalised' to attend general hospitals for medical problems. In view of my previous medical experience I was appointed Visiting Physician to St John's. Twice a week I did a ward round there and

together with a devoted nursing staff we looked after most acute and chronic medical conditions at the medical 'Willow Ward'. My appointment lasted until the hospital closed some years later, and I learnt much of value about mental health problems from working with my psychiatrist colleagues. The regular income was highly important.

We began working in the new building from October 1983, much to the relief of my children. Our house became our own again, although I had a connecting door to the surgery to do my paperwork of an evening. After the official opening, early in 1984, I began to receive 'cost rent' reimbursement, which went a long way towards covering the bank charges for the surgery mortgage.

The Growing Surgery team

Alison Beck, selected from 50 who answered the advert in the Bucks Herald, became the Practice Manager and cornerstone of the practice for over 10 years. Next came Jean Darby who rapidly took on the dispensary and Gill Allen joined full time, a year later. Ann Elkins provided much needed support in the office, typing all the referral letters. Unusually for those days, we were computerised from the start. As there were frequent computer crashes, we learnt much of our 'back-up' practice the hard way, and almost nothing was intuitive on the 1980s mainframe, so training was laborious.

The local health authority supported the new practice with superb, experienced, NHS 'attached staff' and we always tried to work as an integrated team aspiring to excellence. Health visiting was successfully initiated by 'Nan' Annetts, with us for only six months before she retired to be replaced by Chris MacMillan. Collie Badrick was a much-loved midwife who was keen on home births; and for the first two years Helen Walker was our devoted District Nurse, being replaced by Pip

Large. Over the years many more have left their mark on team care at Aston Clinton, but those early pioneers were remarkable for seizing the opportunity to establish new ways of working.

After my first two years in practice, one of my great excitements was to discover the newly-formed Iain Rennie Hospice at Home team. Daphne Vessey, an Aston Clintonite, was one of the founders and Village Life readers may not know that Alison Roberts and Jean Savigar were also part of the wonderfully compassionate and skilled team who revolutionised practice for us.

It has always been a privilege to share important intimate times like births and deaths with families in the village, and caring for the dying is one of the aspects of practice I loved most. Early on, we were limited in the symptom care we could provide at night and some patients who would rather have stayed at home had to go to hospital in those pre-hospice days (Florence Nightingale Hospice only opened in 1989). The Iain Rennie team changed all that, as a nurse would come at any time of day or night and together we were able to keep most patients comfortable at home.

On-call day and night

The contract for GPs in 1983 stipulated that the family doctor was responsible for providing care 24/7. Doctors in partnership had rotas for night calls and some single-handed GPs also cross-covered each other, but I started doing all my own days and all my own nights. Of

"babies had a habit of being born at night..."

course with few patients and a culture whereby you didn't call the doctor unless it was really urgent, I had many undisturbed nights when the phone didn't ring.

But on other nights I barely saw my bed—babies had a habit of being born at night, and I had to go either to the GP maternity unit at the Mid-Bucks Hospital in Aylesbury, or to the patient's home. I saw most of the commoner medical and surgical emergencies on home visits and I think I have entered a fairly high proportion of the houses in the village of that era. With experience, most emergencies ceased to terrify me but there was always the sense of anxiety as an urgent call came in: would I rise to the challenge, and be able to meet the patient's needs? Coming back home after visits, I found I could never go back to bed immediately, I always needed to eat something and read for ten minutes to clear my head.

Dr Ian Patrick, partner at Whitehill Surgery Aylesbury, lived in Aston Clinton and it was not long after I had started practice that he approached me with an offer from their team to share a weekend rota which gave me a Saturday or Sunday off duty most weekends and I was very grateful. For the rest of the time Linda had to be at home to answer the phone—if she wanted to go out, we had to have a babysitter even if I was at home, because we never knew when I would get called out.

Not only that, but without any medical training Linda was facing a huge responsibility in being the first point of contact for managing emergency situations when the person on the other end of line could be in great distress. Around 1986, to our great relief, we were able to purchase a first generation mobile phone. The Panasonic could be carried in large shoulder bag. Weighing 7kg, it had a battery life of about four hours.

I was mostly working on my own with few opportunities to talk through cases with colleagues. In the first year I had two days and nights off-duty when a friend covered the practice for a weekend. My former research colleague Dr Paul Blake made regular monthly visits to the practice to do a cardiac clinic which was much appreciated. In 1984 Dr 'Vicky' Plumb retired from Tring and to my great delight, she then did a weekly clinic at Aston Clinton Surgery. Her sense of humour kept me going. As the patient numbers grew, so did the workload, and tired to the point of exhaustion some days, I began to plan towards getting a partner. I only once fell asleep during consultation, I think!



The 1993 team in front of the Aston Clinton Surgery

This picture is a 'fast-forward' look more than twelve years ahead to a time I will talk about in my next and final article. It shows a team more than double the size of that in 1985, and less than half the size of the one at Aston Clinton Surgery today. Times change: teams grow, and growth brings challenges. I have talked about the tiredness resulting from practice in the 1980s but my experience as an appraiser of GPs in the Thames Valley today leads me to believe that modern practice is more demanding and more stressful.

Ed Peile

THIS MONTH I will be celebrating my 40th birthday. I know there are some who have dreaded this milestone but I intend to properly celebrate because all things considered, I've achieved most of what I dreamed of as a child.

OK, so I haven't yet written the novel I've been promising and I never did live in New York City but I have travelled, quite literally, around the world. I had a proper career pre-kids. I hoodwinked a decent bloke into thinking I would be good wife material and together we have produced children who drive me nuts every single day but who, deep down, I am proud of and thankful for. We have our own home surrounded by fantastic friends and an extended family that we love to spend time with. Touch wood, we all have our health too, which is the thing I appreciate the most.

There are however, a few things I wish I could have told my 20-year-old self:

1. Enjoy your own company a bit more. There will come a time when you will crave this more than anything. This includes but is not limited to a Mulberry handbag and a pair of Jimmy Choo's.
2. Stop fannying about with expensive gym memberships. Using the steam room and Jacuzzi does not constitute exercise. Get outside and run, it will change your life.
3. Why torture yourself in high heels every day? You will be no less attractive nor professional in flats and you will get places a whole

lot quicker.

4. You are wasting your time with that bloke from the Advertising Department. He will never leave his girlfriend. Likewise, the Deputy Editor who is more than double your age. He may have taken you to the Oxo tower once but he is no Mr Big. You can and will do so much better. Be patient.

5. Wear a bikini and embrace your curves while you are still firm. You may not be a perfect size 10 but one day your waist will expand to 56 inches carrying twins. And then deflate.

This is as good as it gets.

6. Having to set an alarm for 7.30 to get yourself showered, dressed and into the office on time is not a hardship. There will come a time when you will dream of sleeping in so late.

7. Floss. It really doesn't take long and it will be worth it.

8. Save up and buy a flat. A pension would be useful too.

9. The beautiful flatmate who makes you doubt yourself is not your friend. Don't compare yourself to her. Cosmetic surgery can't change who you are on the inside and your real friends will love you and be there for you in 20 years time. Also, ditch the red hair dye, you are not Ginger Spice.

10. Understand that your weekends are not busy. Hours stretch ahead to do exactly as you please even if that does involve wasting two of them on the Hollyoaks omnibus. You have no idea how lucky you are.

Kelly Cornish



Men in Sheds

DO YOU have practical or craft skills using tools with wood or other materials? Are you looking for companionship with like-minded men and perhaps a chance to learn new skills? Then you should know about Men in Sheds, a brilliant project for older men set up in Aylesbury in 2012 by Community Impact Bucks with support from Bucks CC. Adrian Shepherd, 45, Aylesbury chairman, explained that members came to the group for a range of reasons, such as unemployment, illness, retirement, bereavement or depression. For more info call **01296 709256**.

So who works from home in Aston Clinton?

SOME OF US are lucky enough not just to live here, but also to work here! Working at home, whether occasionally, one day a week or full-time is becoming increasingly common as technology enables work to be done almost anywhere. Working from home sounds like heaven, but it has its challenges as well as its advantages.

It can be lonely. It is all very well calling, emailing, tweeting and skypeing but I know some home workers who are at their desks for days at a stretch. I am lucky enough to have neighbours who work from home so if I find myself going a bit stir crazy I can usually find someone to pop in on*. I also have dogs and have to take them out each day—and I usually meet someone to talk to in the park just so I can feel I have seen an actual person.

"I'll see you in The Oak—that's the homeworking equivalent of everyone being sent home from the office because of a power cut!"

Secondly, we homeworkers are totally at the mercy of our technology. If the broadband goes down, I can't work. Everything I do relies on having excellent access to the internet; without it I am lost. If there is no broadband and no mobile phone in the village? Goodness, I'll see you in The Oak—that's the homeworking equivalent of everyone being sent home from the office because of a power cut!

Lastly for the downsides (there are more, but I'm not after the sympathy vote here as I know I won't get it!), people assume because you are at home you are basically doing nothing. If there is an errand to be run, "Oh, you're at home, can you do it?" The phrase is "working from home". And that does mean sometimes making physical and mental space at home to

get on with it (*and politely saying no when your neighbour turns up for a coffee!).

And the upsides. There's no commute. No dress code. You can organise your day how you want it to be and have more control so you can plan around family. You can decorate your workspace, work from bed if you have a stinking cold and no one is going to look over your shoulder and tut if you're on Facebook at 3pm.

I've done it now for four years, both as an employee and as a business owner and have worked out how best to make it work for me. I hope to be working at home in Aston Clinton for years to come. However, you should know that if I manage to invent a device to be able to use my laptop in the sunshine you'll see me first on Dragon's Den and then shortly after on a warm beach somewhere! **Kathy Soulsby**

Virtual Assistant and Homeworker



New World courtesy



Seen at a 'gas' station near Boston, Massachusetts in September. With the intense competition between our petrol stations, are Tesco and the rest missing a PR opportunity?

Photo: Peter Just

Village Market 2015

THIS year's Village Market saw 1,600 people through the gates on a gorgeous sunny day. We had over 50 stalls and plenty of activities for the children.

We were entertained by Dreamchaser Entertainment, as we sat on the grass munching delicious food from Mozzarella Nation, Ashridge Delicious and the ACSA BBQ. We were so pleased to have the Aston Clinton Beer Festival join us, providing us with much needed liquid refreshment!

Bookings are now being taken for next year's Village Market, to be held on **8th May 2016**.

We are particularly interested to hear from local entertainers. Are you a children's entertainer? Would you like a 15-minute slot to entertain the kids and promote your party business? Are you a member of a band? A local singing group? Please email us at info@acvillagemarket.co.uk

Pitches are just £20 for a stall and £50 for a catering pitch. Booking forms for next year are now available to download from our website: www.acvillagemarket.co.uk

Bookings are taken on a first-come first-served basis. We try very hard to not have too many

stalls selling similar items in order to provide a variety of goods to the public and in fairness to the stallholders. We look forward to hearing from you.

Clare Simmonds



Photos: Louise Brine

Village Life grants

Village Life community magazine is a non-profit magazine published for the benefit of our local community. It is made possible by the support of our advertisers and by the fact that what would otherwise be editorial, production and distribution costs are donated, save only for the cost of paper and printing.

This makes it possible to offer our advertisers exceptionally keen advertising rates, whilst at the same time providing every home in Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp with local news and other useful information.

Now well into its fifth year, **Village Life** has attracted increasing volumes of advertising, resulting in a modest financial surplus. Each year, part of that surplus is distributed to local churches and other charitable groups. This year, the following grants have again been made:

£500 to St Michael's Church, Aston Clinton
 £350 to All Saints' Church, Buckland
 £350 to St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp
 £350 to the Baptist Church Youth Café
 £350 to the Scouts
 £350 to the Guides

The rest of the surplus is being retained as a reserve against future increases in printing costs.

Alec Just
 Hon. Editor



A 'dinosaur's foot' amidst the autumn leaves photographed at Ashridge by Sue Lipscomb

**Please support our
 advertisers. They
 make your magazine
 possible.**

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 all interested parties Thursday and Saturday evening 7.30–11pm. Ordinary meetings are held there on the first Wednesday in every month at 7.30 for 8pm.

Forthcoming events

Wed 4 Nov: Quiz Night 19:30 for 20:00.

Wed 2 Dec: Christmas Party and Dinner 19:30 for 20:00. There are only 43 seats available so book early to avoid disappointment. Dress code: Ladies-cocktail dress; Gentlemen-mufti.

For further information please contact:

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

Pax Lodge and straw plaiting

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) has five centres around the world where Girl Guides/Scouts can meet up and enjoy experiences together. Back in 2012, with other Guiders from Bucks, I visited the World Guiding Centre in Mexico; Our Cabana. It was brilliant exploring the culture and taking part in the Day of the Dead celebrations. This year, for my summer holidays, I decided to take part in a residential at the World Centre in the UK: Pax Lodge.

Pax Lodge is just a few stops on the Northern line up from Euston and opened in 1991, replacing the former centre in London, Olave House. Any WAGGGS member and their families can stay there.

WAGGGS has over 10 million members in 146 countries and having the opportunity to meet each other is wonderful. My first meeting was earlier than I expected. I was waiting for the lift at Belsize Park station and spotted a group of girls with American accents and large

suitcases looking a little lost. Sure enough, they were heading to Pax Lodge. I introduced myself and friendships were born.

The other participants during the week were a large group of Girl Scouts from New Jersey, USA, and a smaller group of Guides from Atlanta, a hamlet in Nova Scotia, Canada. We did lots of touristy things like going on the London Eye, seeing the Crown Jewels, climbing the lions in Trafalgar Square (cue one of the Girl Scouts asking if Trafalgar was Nelson's surname), posing on the Abbey Road crossing, and eating samples in Selfridges' food hall. I took the opportunity on our free evening to go to the Proms and queue up properly for a £5 ticket to the gallery.

What was really fun were the conversations where we compared each other's Guiding organisations, lifestyles and word pronunciations (one of the Canadian Guiders couldn't get her tongue around Trafalgar). The Americans were fascinated by some of our crisp flavours and I bought a packet of Twiglets so they could try them (an acquired taste). Many of the sandwiches made by the girls were peanut butter and jelly (jam), which is very common across the pond. I myself have not yet tried the recommended peanut butter and apple.

Our first evening at Pax Lodge was an international evening where we were invited to share a song, game or craft from our own country. As I hadn't travelled far, I chose to do a craft local to Bucks: straw plaiting. The girls all really enjoyed making the gentleman's favours I had found instructions for. I also looked up a bit of the history and found some interesting facts.

Straw plaiting became popular in this area because of the hat industry in Luton and certain

Photo: Hilary Weston



Two of the Girl Scouts from New Jersey, USA who attended the international gathering at the World Guiding Centre in NW London this summer.

villages became famous for certain patterns of plait. The industry took up most of the time of young girls and women, who plaited even when walking. Plaiting schools were set up for young children, but they were little more than day-care workshops where they would plait from 9am to 4pm and sometimes later. The children may have learnt to count to twenty, but that was only because a bundle of straw plait needed to be twenty yards in length.

The 'schools' were addressed eventually following the 1870 Education Act, but Aston Clinton was luckier than most due to the Rothschilds investing in children's learning before it was compulsory. The following quote can be found in "The Buckinghamshire Straw Plait Trade in Victorian England" by Pamela L R Horn:

'...at Aston Clinton the children attended the parish school from three to five half-days a week so that they might "qualify for Lady de Rothschild's clothing benefit", while spending the remainder of the week at the plaiting school.'

If you are interested in having opportunities like this, then why not consider volunteering for Guiding? We are always looking for adult help at weekly meetings. Register your interest at www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved.aspx

Hilary Weston



Photo: Debi Macdonald

Hilary (left) and some of the Guiders she met at Pax Lodge pose for the camera at Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square.



Photo: Hilary Weston

PAX LODGE
DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF
THE WORLD CHIEF GUIDE
OLAVE BADEN-POWELL
6th MAY 1989

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

Con-men (and women) have always been with us. Unscrupulous criminals target older people because the older generation, honest themselves, trust other people to be as honest as they are.

These words are from Esther Rantzen's introduction to an excellent booklet published by the Metropolitan Police called "The Little Book of Big Scams". It covers fraud of all kinds and you can read or download it by going to: www.met.police.uk/docs/little_book_scam.pdf
Protect yourself against these clever fraudsters!

"23494712, Sir!"

You can forget your telephone number, bank and credit card numbers, particularly as you get older. But the one thing an ex-serviceman never forgets is his service number. The only items I still have from my demob in November 1956 are two shoe brushes bearing my number and they very much remain as good as new.

I started my national service at Catterick, where we were billeted in barrack huts with a solid fuel stove. It was not very warm. There was a competition amongst the lads (we were all 18-year-olds) as to who could swear the most! My name was soon remembered by the officer, because I laughed at one of his so-called jokes. Ever since I seem to be remembered by everyone, whereas I have problems remembering names.

After learning how to maintain cypher communication machines, including a few weeks at GCHQ at Cheltenham, I was posted to a signals unit in Bavaria close to the Austrian

border at Kufstein. In those days to get there meant travelling from Harwich to the Hook of Holland on a military transport ship that with the slightest swell made you seasick. Rumour had it that it had already been sunk once and recovered to transport troops backwards and forwards to Germany. Then it was a train journey through Holland and Germany to Munich and beyond till we got to our destination.

It was a good posting and was during the time of the Hungarian uprising, but before the year was up, they closed us down and we had to move everything north close to the British headquarters at Rheindahlen. From there I was posted to our signal unit in Berlin. We were based at the RAF Station at Gatow, made famous for its work during the Berlin airlift shortly after the war. I thought it was heaven since we all believed that RAF catering was better than army variety. When I was there you could walk up to the Brandenburg gate and watch the Russian guards parading around their war memorial which happened to be in the British sector. But there was no wall though we were forbidden to cross into the Russian sector or travel on the 'O' Bahn. (over-ground railway) Since then, as a civilian, I have been to Berlin a number of times whilst the Wall was there and have taken the tourist bus through Checkpoint Charlie. Since the wall came down I have visited the mock Tudor hotel at Potsdam where Churchill and the other leaders had one of their conferences.

Finally, I was demobbed through a camp outside Chester called, of all things, 'Satan Camp'. These are just a few memories of my time in the army. To receive my pay each week I had to stand in front of the officer, salute and say: "23494712, Sir!"

Ralph Weston

Made to last! Ralph's boot brushes, still in use almost 60 years after they were issued to him as a National Serviceman. His service number is just discernable.

Photo: Ralph Weston



The Whitechapel Mission

IN the last edition of *Village Life* I described what we do with our harvest gifts and appealed for food and clothing. Thank you very much for your donations. We have had a good response and these will be collected during October so there is still an opportunity for any additional donations which may be left at the back of the church.

One of our teams of volunteers will be taking up the Whitechapel Mission Breakfast Challenge in late November. We are still looking for volunteers for additional dates. Every day of the year, and this includes Christmas day and New Year, the Mission provides breakfast for 300 people. Each day a group of five volunteers get up incredibly early to arrive at the Mission in Whitechapel just before 6 am. After a briefing by the permanent staff it is down to work preparing and cooking bacon, sausages, beans, tomatoes, eggs, mushrooms and hash browns; buttering bread and making toast. We will also make and serve over 400 cups of tea and 600 cups of coffee.

"I can't remember how many loaves of bread I buttered ..."

I cannot remember how many loaves of bread I buttered when I volunteered some years ago. It all has to be ready for serving by 8 am, the customers having already been let in to the dining room for a mug of tea and biscuits. Cereals are also served. A charge is made for the breakfast depending on the number of

items served. However, nobody is turned away, especially if it is their first visit. Some customers buy an extra breakfast to take away or extra sausages to feed their dog. Afterwards, dishes have to be washed up and the kitchen cleaned.



Our Curate, Sally, will be leading the first party to the Whitechapel Mission, and we are looking for volunteers. If we get enough we will organise more than one party and it would be nice to send some of our younger members when they are on holiday or home from university. Further details can be read on the Mission website. It is the sort of service that can contribute to the Duke of Edinburgh's award. If you are interested, especially if you can gather together a party of five, please contact me on 01296 630456. Thank you!

Ralph Weston

Clarification – In an article on the Aston Clinton Neighbourhood Plan in the previous issue of *Village Life*, the impression may have been given that the decision by Aston Clinton Parish Council to begin the process was not taken until the recently-elected council took office in May. I would like to make it clear that

the decision to proceed with the Neighbourhood Plan was taken by the previous council in 2014. Funding for the project was included in the council's budget for 2015/16. The Steering Group set up for the Neighbourhood Plan began its meetings in the spring of 2015.

Alec Just, Editor

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 3 Oct	10am	Produce Stall and Coffee	All Saints' Church
Sun 4 Oct	11am	Pet Service	All Saints' Church
Fri 9 Oct	7.30pm	Film Night	All Saints' Church
Sun 1 Nov	11am	Benefice Service for All Saints	All Saints' Church
Sun 1 Nov	6pm	Benefice Service for All Souls when we remember those who have died	St Michael's Church
Sat 7 Nov	5.30pm	Bonfire Party	The Rectory
Sun 8 Nov	12.30pm	Act of Remembrance	All Saints' Church
Fri 13 Nov	7.30pm	Film Night	All Saints' Church

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

Women's Institute 1915-2015

As a WI member, you will enjoy a varied programme. Every member can contribute ideas to the annual programme of speakers, activities and events



Buckland, Drayton Beauchamp and Aston Clinton WI

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at the Anthony Hall in Aston Clinton at 7.45pm.

Ladies, come along and try us twice at no charge. You will be pleasantly surprised and make new friends.

St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp

Regular Services:
10.45am each Sunday



Forthcoming events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun 1 Nov	11am	Benefice Service for All Saints	All Saints' Church
Sun 1 Nov	6pm	Benefice Service for All Souls when we remember those who have died	St Michael's Church
Sat 7 Nov	5.30pm	Bonfire Party	The Rectory
Sun 8 Nov	4pm	Evensong for Remembrance followed by tea	St Mary's Church
Sun 29 Nov	10.45am	Advent Carol Service	St Mary's Church

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

An unusual view of St Mary's Church emphasising the battlements, a symbolic reminder of the protection believed to be received from the gospel of Jesus Christ.



Photo: David Lonsdale

Bees in the garden

SOME YEARS AGO, a colony of feral honeybees took up residence in the wall of a shed in our garden. We contacted a local beekeeper who removed them and we filled in all the holes – job done ... A few years later they were back in the same spot!

Clearly they like it here, but it wasn't an ideal location for us. As I was in the process of retiring, I thought I might learn a bit about bees and move them to a more convenient position and maybe get some honey into the bargain. If beekeeping was good enough for Aristotle and Sherlock Holmes, it should be good enough for me!

I joined a local club and attended their beginners' course. Now I am totally hooked. If you ask me a question about bees, I have to ask you how long you've got – five minutes, an hour, a week ...?

Photo: Charlotte Dunbar

weeks. Half of that time will be in the hive – cleaning, storing nectar, making honey, feeding young, making wax comb, guarding the hive entrance. The older bees go out foraging, mostly for nectar, but also for pollen and water. They will commonly fly up to three miles away, bringing back half their body weight in nectar. That's quite a distance for a creature measuring about 1.5cm in length. Indeed, if you add all the flights of all the bees in a single hive over one year, they would reach halfway to Venus!

It is estimated that, to make 1lb of honey, over 500 workers will visit 2 million flowers in their short lives. Their combined flight distance would stretch twice around the world.

They also have hidden talents. We all know about honey and wax and some will have heard of propolis*. But they are now harnessing the bees' extraordinary sense of smell to detect drugs, explosives, and even medical conditions.

It makes me proud that these wonderful creatures decided to set up home in our garden!

Alistair Dunbar

.....

* Bees produce propolis from plant resins that they collect and mix with wax, pollen and enzymes in their saliva. Bees use the sticky result as a glue and a filler in the hive. They also use propolis to line cells in the comb making a hygienic environment for eggs and larvae. Propolis was used in medicine in ancient times and this continues, supported today by ongoing scientific research into its anti-bacterial and anti-fungal properties.

Drayton Beauchamp Parish Meeting

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 24th November** at The Dray House at 8pm.

It will be a chance to meet your County and District Councillors and be up-dated on local issues.

Meryl Nodes



Honeybees are important on a global scale. 80% of flowers depend on insects to pollinate them. Of those, 85% are pollinated by honeybees. As many as 90% of fruit trees are dependent on honeybees for pollination.

Their work ethic is legendary; they are on the go throughout their short lives. In summer, an adult worker bee will only live for six

The Wendover Arm Trust held their second Restoration Open Day of this year on Sunday 6th September at St Mary's Church, Drayton Beauchamp by kind permission of the Rector.

During the day the official presentation of the new box trailer, sponsored by Chiltern Branch of the Inland Waterways Association, was handed over by John Brice (right) to Chris Sargeant, Chairman of WAT. This will be of considerable help in transporting equipment to various fairs and events throughout the year.

The Trust is currently working on the restoration of a further one mile stretch of canal to join up with the restoration completed at Little Tring. New members and volunteers are always needed. For more information please visit www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk



Photo: David Page



St Mary the Virgin Church, Drayton Beauchamp
Wednesday 9 December 2015 at 8pm



“Christmas is coming”

An uplifting concert

just over an hour in length, of carols,
instrumental pieces and Advent hymns
(the hymns with audience participation, please!)

given by

THE RIDGEWAY CHORALE

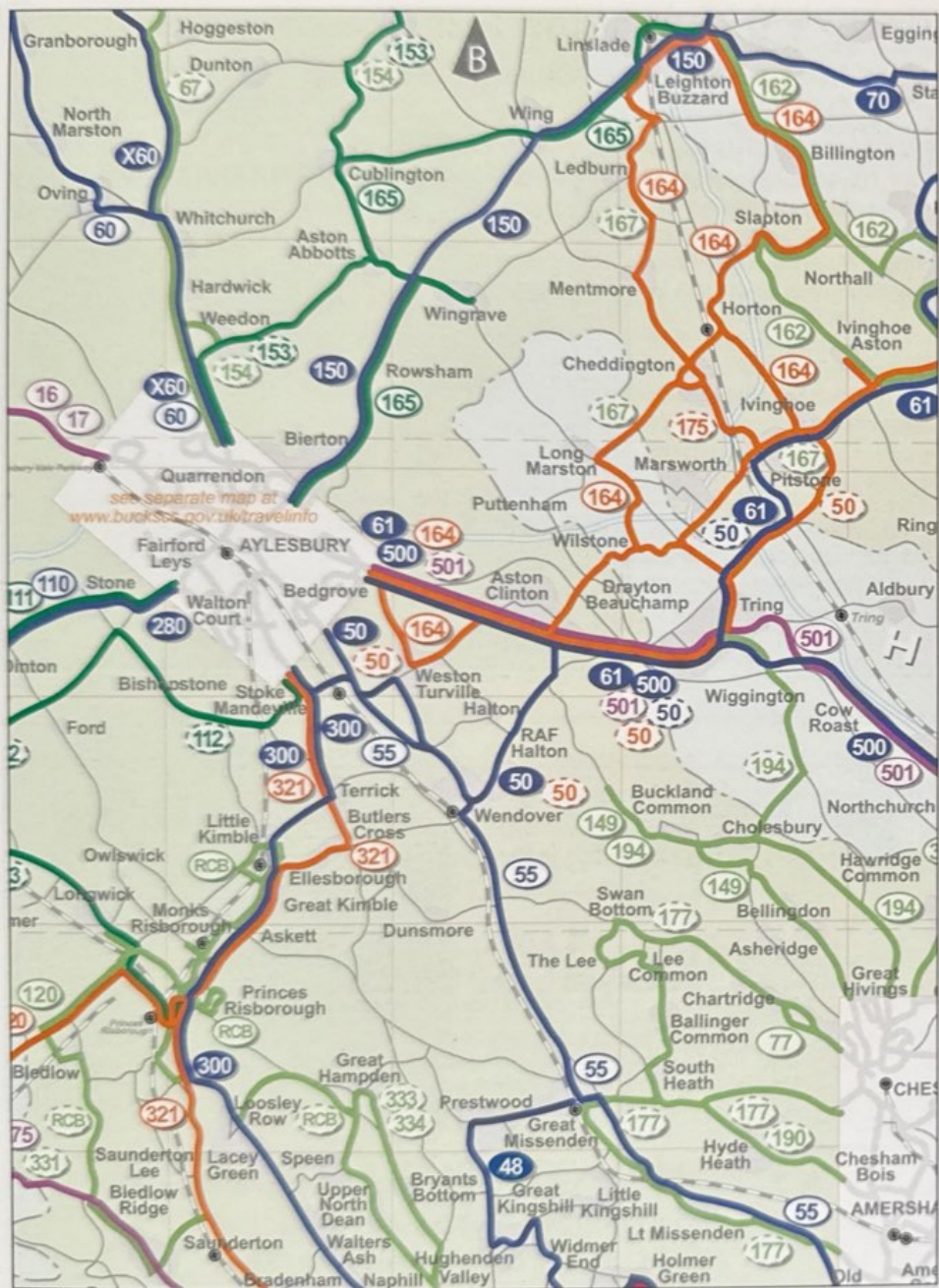
Music Director Richard Grylls

Guest Soloists Scarlet & Thomas O'Shea



DONATIONS TO ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH





If you are a senior citizen with a free bus pass, this map will encourage you to make more use of this valuable concession. From Aylesbury bus station you'll have the county at your feet! If you have a computer, google "Bus timetables in Bucks", and you will be able to get timetables for any bus route shown on the map. Be adventurous but take an umbrella! Map reproduced by courtesy of Transport for Bucks

Carers Befriending Service

a new free service from Age UK Bucks

Looking after someone with dementia is both challenging and demanding and carers often need extra support themselves. Any carer, over the age of 18, living in Buckinghamshire, can access this free service, which offers:

- regular confidential home visits by trained befriending volunteers
- having a sympathetic listener to discuss your concerns and feelings in an impartial environment
- information, advocacy and telephone support.

The needs of the carer are carefully assessed and then matched with a fully-trained volunteer on the basis of shared interests and a similar outlook on life. The relationship is monitored

to ensure both parties benefit and full support is given by the CBS team.

If you are a carer for someone with dementia or know someone who would benefit from this service, please call Angela Thornton, on **01296 438411** (direct line), mornings, Monday to Friday or email: a.thornton@ageukbucks.co.uk
Co-ordinators: Anna Bennett-Harrison and Yolande Smith.

Volunteering: If you are a good listener and can spare a couple of hours each week, please get in touch—full training and ongoing support is given; and reasonable expenses paid.



Town Farm ART SHOW

For that special Christmas gift



ONE WEEKEND ONLY

Friday 27 – Sunday 29 November, 10am–4pm

6 Town Farm, Cheddington LU7 0TT

Please park on High Street – not in Town Farm

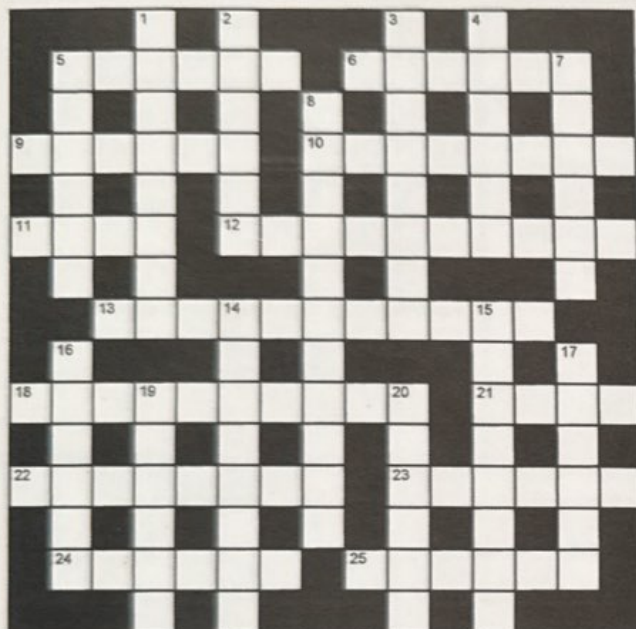
Photos and more info at www.townfarmartshow.blogspot.com

Mulled wine, mince pies & Christmas cake in aid of
Rennie Grove Hospice Care. Free entry

Village Life crossword no.12

Crossword compiled by Helen Lonsdale

Solution to this crossword on page 11



CLUES ACROSS

5. Local Officers' mess (6)
6. A plain white cloth (6)
9. Counting frame (6)
10. Going round a celestial body (8)
11. Affectionate greeting (4)
12. Scientist's workplace (10)
13. Sits in the rear of Parliament (11)
18. Planned risk (10)
21. Space (4)
22. Led the Charge of the Light Brigade (8)
23. Large Prawns (6)
24. Neanderthal (3,3)
25. To rouse from sleep (6)

CLUES DOWN

1. Body of water surrounded by six different countries (5,3)
2. Ammonite (6)
3. Brutal (8)
4. Strict order (6)
5. Anything of mixed ancestry (6)
7. Deed holders (6)
8. Material used for early streets (11)
14. 1000 grams (8)
15. Distinguishing features (8)
16. Fruit sometimes split (6)
17. Voucher (6)
19. Short thick stick (6)
20. Deny any connection with (6)

Theatre in the Villages 2015

Although Aston Clinton is not hosting a show this year, professional performances can be seen in many adjacent villages. The 2015 autumn season runs from September to December; a copy of what's on and where can be found on the AVDC website. Please visit www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/theatre-villages Theatre in the Villages is a scheme to bring live professional theatre (mostly light comedy) to villages in the Vale. The scheme is supported by AVDC and organised by Jeannette Baxter. If you would like to promote a performance in Aston Clinton in 2016 please contact Jeannette for details at jeannette.baxter@gmail.com

Furniture disposal problem?

The Florence Nightingale Hospice have opened a new Furniture Showroom in Aylesbury. They would be glad to receive donated furniture that you may wish to dispose of. They are at Unit 2, Chamberlain Road, Aylesbury HP19 8DY. They have a collection service and can be contacted on 01296 393963.

What happened next? (see page 12)

The hen laid an egg which frightened the kitten who ran off. The photographer dropped his camera trying to catch the egg. The kitten returned to enjoy an unexpected snack and the little lad learnt not to squeeze a broody hen.

Support our advertisers! They make your magazine possible.

The National Vegetable Society

WOW, that sounds a posh outfit! Agreed, it does, but in fact it is a charity and its members are people who love growing vegetables and, more to the point, enjoy eating them too. It's true one or two of us also get a lot of pleasure from entering our local village shows, but our main focus is seeing them on our plates.

Many of our members grow their vegetables (and flowers) on allotments, as I do. Allotments are a very good place to learn about the best practices, the best varieties, and importantly when and how to sow the seeds. Most experienced gardeners are more than willing to tell you what works for them. There is, of course, no single right way to do most things and growing vegetables is no different. That's why our gatherings are so interesting as they promote the exchange of thoughts and ideas, usually around the subject matter covered by our guest speakers. Most of our speakers are chosen because they are recognised as being at the top of their field within our hobby of growing and eating vegetables.

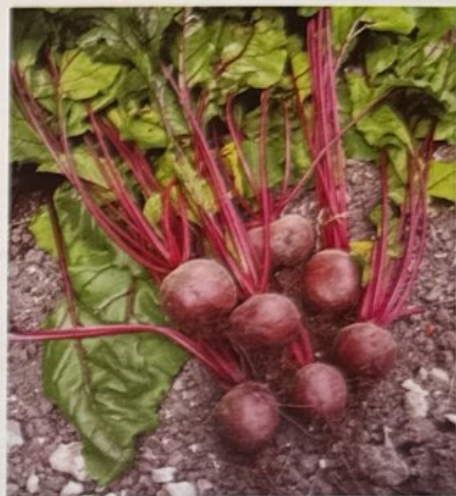


Photo: David Elkins

As with many hobbies, growing vegetables requires a certain amount of graft, particularly if you are an allotment holder. It is therefore important that sound advice is sought early on. This helps avoid hours of toil for no reward. Our Society, and particularly our local Bucks District Association, sees this as an important part of its role in promoting vegetable growing. Prevention and avoiding problems is so much better than a cure. Choosing the right variety and if necessary the right protection, is a good start.

We already have a number of members living within our three villages, and look forward to many more joining us. If you would like to know more about us you can email me at sec-nvs-bucksda@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01296 630659 and I will send you details of our next couple of local talks. Alternatively, you can visit our national website at nvsuk.org.uk

Above all else we are a happy bunch enjoying our great hobby of growing and eating vegetables.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Dave Elkins

Secretary to NVS Bucks DA

Photo: David Elkins

Useful telephone numbers

Name	Contact	Telephone no.	Email address
1st & 2nd Aston Clinton Brownies	See below*	—	
Amersham Hospital	—	01494 434411	
Anthony Hall (Bookings Sec)	Janet Brassington	01296 630229	janet@goggle.plus.com
Aston Clinton Badminton Club	Maureen Davison	07958 479690	
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	
Aston Park Tennis Club	Sue Hoey	01296 630826	
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	
Bosom Buddies	Tracey Norris	079102 58259	BosomBuddiesTring@hotmail.co.uk
Bowls Club	Rosemary Stratfull	01296 631339	
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	
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 B'champ Parish Meeting	Meryl Nodes	01296 630396	
Electricity emergency		0800 7838 838	
Environmental Health	Out of hours	01296 585093	
Environmental Health	Helpline	01296 585605	
Fly tipping	Hotline	0845 330 1856	
Football: Aston Clinton FC	Mark Foster	07831 765738	
Football: AC Colts	Ray Lucas	01296 630076	
Gas emergency		0800 111 999	
Green Park Life Saving Assocn	Liz Youens	01296 622895	
Guides and Brownies	See below*	—	
Halton Singers	Cherry-Ann Evans	01296 622097	
High Wycombe Hospital		01494 526161	

Name	Contact	Telephone no.	Email address
Highways on Call	Out of hours	01296 486630	
Horticultural Society	Maureen Ridler	01296 633376	info@astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk
John Radcliffe Hospital		01865 741166	
Ladies Group	Sue Sanders	01296 630740	
Local Councillors:			
Bucks County	Bill Chapple OBE	01296 426814	bchapple@buckscc.gov.uk
Aylesbury Vale District	Bill Chapple OBE	01296 426814	bchapple@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk
Aylesbury Vale District	Mike Collins	01296 632039	mcollins@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk
Aylesbury Vale District	Carole Paternoster	01296 630710	cpaternoster@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk
Marsworth Pre-School Group		07506 179658	
MP for Aylesbury	David Lidington	020 7219 3432	pslidington@fco.gsi.gov.uk
Neighbour'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	Pam Borrowes	01296 630877	
RAF Association (local branch)	Selly Clarke	01296 630207	
RAF Halton (Mon-Fri)	0800-1700hrs	01296 656367	
RAF Halton	At all other times	01296 656211	
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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	
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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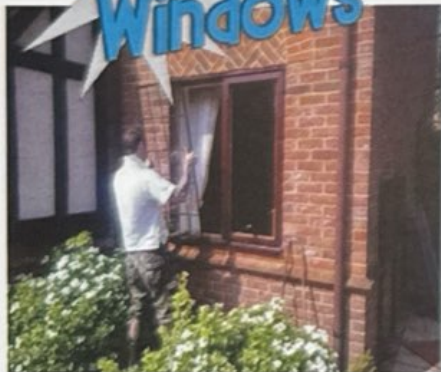
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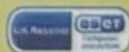
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