

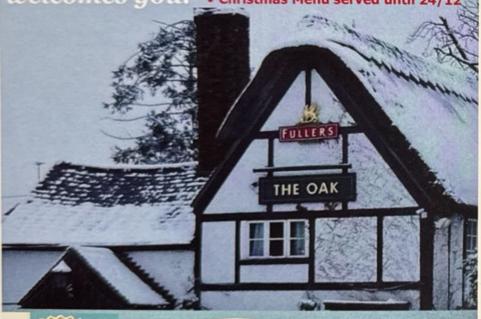


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AYLESBURY VALE VILLAGE PUB COMPETITION

2015-2016

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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



THIS ISSUE marks the end of the old year and the opening weeks of the new. As another year of our lives passes into history, we should perhaps reflect on our good fortune in living without hunger and fear in a predominantly peaceful society which cares for our well-being and guarantees our freedoms.

Most (but not all) of us will be looking forward to an enjoyable family Christmas with plenty to eat and drink. But there will also be many families and individuals in France, Russia, Turkey and the Middle Eastern countries whose winter festival reunions will be very different. We should think of them. The senseless loss of loved ones to mindless mass violence demands a search for an answer to the question: Why?

This is not the place to suggest possible answers. Yet, we all need to think about what makes young men and women in some parts of the world become so consumed with hatred that they wish to destroy us.

This issue also marks the conclusion of Professor Peile's story of Aston Clinton Surgery from its earliest beginnings through its development into the large practice that we know today. He has put his experience to good use in his later years as a trainer of GPs.

The growing importance to mums of being able to work from home is the topic of Sarah Marsh's article on p11. Helen Shepherd reminds us on p10 of the challenge of literacy for some boys at school and how attitudes to learning could benefit from dads, uncles and grandads coming into school with the message: writing's cool!

If you need a reason to sustain your hope that the world has a good future, look no further than the photos on pages 7 and 21. Happy Christmas!

tlec Just

A message from the Rector

Dear Friends

Here is a Christmas parable for you:

God was preparing for a great celebration and sent the Spirit to east and west, north and south, telling people to "come, for everything is now ready". To show them the way the Spirit appeared in the sky, like a star, the brightest of all the stars in heaven.

But people began to make excuses, saying, "I'm just about to buy some land and I need to keep in touch with the developers." Others said, "I have just bought new tanks for our army and we are about to try them out, so please excuse me." Another excuse was, "I've just committed myself to an agreement with a new business partners and I me."

with a new business partner and I must make sure she understands who's the boss."

Of all the people in the world, only three from the East completed the journey, following the star. They came seeking, with gifts from their wealth and hope in their hearts, and were led to a stable where the banquet was held. They met some shepherds who had left their land when the Spirit told them to go and share the celebration. But not many people accepted

the invitation for they had to consolidate their land, strengthen their armies and be master of all and servant to none. They were far too busy with important things to recognize God's invitation in the uncurling buds and falling leaves, in the unemployed and victims of war, in the neighbour who wanted to talk.

But meanwhile, the Spirit of God never gave up. She continued hovering over the world, singing the good news of a wonderful banquet to which everyone was invited. She swept through the streets of the cities, over the fields and villages of the Chilterns, down across Aylesbury Vale inviting the rich and the

poor, the children and younger people, those who were gay and those who were straight, the retired folk and the very elderly, the churchgoers and those who weren't – all were invited to make the journey together, to follow the light that would lead them to the Christ-child and into God.

With love Elizabeth

St Michael and All Angels

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

at the ANTHONY HALL Saturday 5th December 11am-3pm



Lots of stalls including gifts and vintage items, cakes, plants, tombola, produce, raffle and many more. Teas and lunches will be served and Father Christmas will be dropping in at about 11.45am in his horse and trap! Come and support us and make the most of this Christmas shopping opportunity!

For further information, please call Marion Richards on 01296 630577

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 5 Dec	11-3pm	Christmas Fayre	The Anthony Hall
Fri 11 Dec	3.30pm	Children's Christmas Activities	St Michael's Church
Sun 13 Dec	6pm	Candlelit Nine Lessons and Carols	St Michael's Church
Wed 16 Dec	8pm	AC Ladies' Carol Service	St Michael's Church
Mon 21 Dec	2-4.30pm	Rhubarb Café Christmas Special	St Michael's Church
Christmas Eve	5.30pm	Candlelit Crib Service	St Michael's Church
Christmas Eve	7.30pm	Carols by Candlelight	St Michael's Church
Christmas Eve	11.30pm	Midnight Mass	St Michael's Church
Christmas Day	9.15am	Family Christmas Communion	St Michael's Church
Sun 27 Dec	9.15am	Family Carols and Communion	St Michael's Church
Sun 3 Jan	9.15am	Family Eucharist for Epiphany	St Michael's Church

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

(Please note that over Christmas, the café won't be open on Mon 28th Dec or Mon 4th Jan)

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

Aston Clinton Ladies Group

Forthcoming meetings

Wed 16 December at 8pm Carols at St Michael and All Angels, followed by coffee and mince pies at Sue Sanders' house (note venue change).

Wed 20 Jan at 6.30 for 7pm Dinner at the Chandos Arms, Weston Turville

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

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

VILLAGE LIFE DECEMBER/JANUARY 2015/16

Parish Council news

AUTUMN has seen the last few sunny days in the park and the end of the summer maintenance programme. We have been able to clear some of the overgrowth at the boundary and this has opened up the space in the park, as well as clearing some of the village footpaths. We have also had our new CCTV installed on the Café roof with 360° coverage of the Park.

We were privileged to have a visit from St Stephen's Youth Group from Tonbridge, Kent (see photo opposite) who were staying at Green Park during October half-term. They asked if they could do a day of voluntary work for us and it just so happened that we needed a large amount of bark shifting into the play park! Around 40 young people plus several adults (including some of our own parish councillors) worked extremely hard all day in the rain and gradually the massive pile of bark disappeared. Thanks to all involved.

Any locals who would like to volunteer their

time to help with litter picking, monitoring dogs, land clearance, pruning, and weeding, clipping or even odd maintenance jobs are asked to contact myself or the Assistant Clerk c/o the Parish Council office. We have recently been informed of a country-wide initiative scheduled for March 2016 entitled 'Clean for the Queen'. To celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday in April, groups up and down the country such as scouts, guides, brownies, cubs, youth groups and parish councils are being asked to do a big litter pick on 4th-6th March to have a beautiful clean country for Her Majesty.

On a less cheery note we must ask once again that dog owners please pick up and dispose of your dog mess. Every weekend the poor footballers have to do a co-ordinated sweep across the park so that they can

Continued opposite



New councillors co-opted in October

John Egglesfield has lived in Aston Clinton with his wife Bridget since August 2009. They have two sons and three grandchildren. John spent much of his early life abroad, although educated in the UK. After six years in the army from 1954, he embarked on a career in industry. Both John and his wife are very happy in Aston Clinton, and he would like to be more closely involved in its well-being. His varied experience will, he believes, help him in his role as councillor. He enjoys meeting people and relishes the prospect of being involved in council affairs.



Lesley Ronson has lived in the village for 38 years and has raised two children who both attended the village playgroup, of which she was treasurer and then chairperson. Both her children went on to the village school. Lesley cares deeply about the community, the park and other green spaces. She volunteered to open the park entrance for 6/7 years (until 2011) at 7am sharp every morning. She is currently allotment coordinator and is very involved with the anti dog-fouling campaign. She is 'dog and horse mad' and is happiest when enjoying the outdoor life,



Parish Council news contd

play, free from dog mess. It can cause disease and infection in children and some parishes are now delivering on-the-spot fines!

Meanwhile, there is a lot going on this winter. Santa will be visiting the village again on **Sunday 20th December** with his helpers, collecting funds for the Rennie Grove Hospice, the scouts and the guides. He will start his journey in Wenwell Close around 3pm. The

route can be found on p9. As this goes to press we have heard that our application to install a MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) in the park has been approved, with new skate ramps and picnic area to follow. There is much to look forward to in 2016!

Wishing everyone a peaceful Christmas with good wishes for 2016 from all at the Parish Council.

Gillian Merry, Parish Clerk

St Stephen's Youth Group from Tonbridge visited Aston Clinton in October - see article opposite



The Neighbourhood Plan (NHP) has reached the stage of evidence-gathering after the review of the consultation process held in September. We will be talking to all the relevant organisations in Aston Clinton as to their views on the future of the village. This includes the largest, such as Arla, to the one-person business operated by a local resident.

The research will include the history and development of the village—how it has grown and where we wish to see it develop further. Anyone who has knowledge of the village's past should please get in touch with me.

We are also looking for people to actively help with research, mainly via the internet. If you can spare some time please contact me. Once this evidence has been gathered we can then compile a questionnaire to be distributed to all residents. This is the vital part of the process whereby everyone has their say and a plan is formulated and written, later to be put to a local referendum.

Cllr Colin Read
Chairman, NHP Steering Group
Email: readberg@google.com
Tel: 07956 352 507

Aston Clinton, Buckland & Drayton Beauchamp Horticultural Society

IT IS nearly the end of another gardening year. The effects on our gardens are different each year. This year autumn has come late. We have not yet had any frost and it is very nearly November (as I write). Many plants such as roses, asters and dahlias are still in full flower. Dahlias are the first to wilt following a frost and this can occur in late September or early October before the so-called "Indian Summer". My photo shows my garden in flower in late October. Whilst it is nice to see our gardens full of colour as late as possible, it means that the snails and slugs will be multiplying like mad to eat our young plants and seedlings next year.

Last winter was a mild one so we have had real problems with slugs and snails over the summer. I sometimes think that snails are worse because they hide away, even in the greenhouse, come out at night and nibble off the young leaves of your seedlings, leaving just a stalk. Slugs and snails love delphiniums and will eat the new shoots before they break through the surface if you do not take precau-

tions. Nematodes are the best biological control since they are effective in the soil over several weeks until all the slugs have gone.

On a more cheerful note, the top fruit harvest has been brilliant this year with my apple trees producing a surfeit of fruit, albeit on the small side due to the dry spring and early summer. We even had apricots and figs as well as Victoria plums and cherries. The Needhams virtually kept the village in pears. Each year in my garden something dies and this year it was a crab apple tree and our Codling cooking apple that must be the best part of fifty years old.

In the vegetable garden, I seem to have cracked recent carrot problems (mine are very sweet this year) and I have some good parsnips, which, together with the carrots, will keep me in veg till after Christmas. My potatoes were on the small side and this is due to the lack of rain early in the year, but I have enough not to need to buy any. I struggled with peas but my beans did well and continued into October (they suffer from early frosts). Finally, it looks as if the special netting over the brussels sprouts plants has worked and we are looking forward to enjoying them at Christmas.

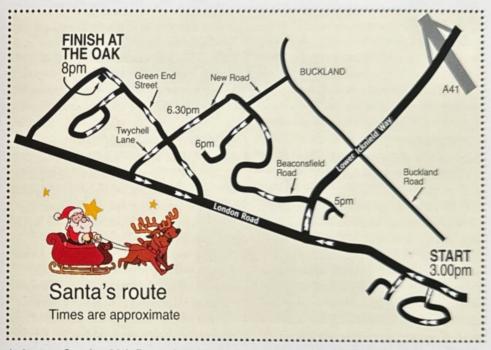
Continued opposite

Ralph's Japanese anenomes continued blooming until the first frosts



solo: Balah Mississ

Santa's coming again to Aston Clinton!



At 3pm on **Sunday 20th December**, he will start his tour of the village on his trusty sleigh. The local Scouts and Guides will be collecting for their organisations and for the lain Rennie Grove House Hospice at Home. If you are not on the route, please come and find us. Santa's tour is organised by Aston Clinton Parish Council.

Horticultural Society contd

All good gardeners will be planning for next year. I trust you have planted your daffodils for our spring show in April 2016 where there are plenty of opportunities for novice growers and children. Now is the time to plant bare root decorative shrubs and fruit trees and fruit bushes such as raspberries and gooseberries. Make plans as to how you would like your garden, however small, to look and develop and don't just buy the first plant in the garden centre that has a pretty flower. They might not survive where you put them. There is plenty of advice and guidance on the Horticultural Society website or email the society with your query.

On Wednesday 9 December we have our annual Christmas talk with slides by Alan Goodger, followed by a light Christmas buffet and a complimentary glass of wine. This year's competition is a Christmas wreath in any medium. In the new year, on Wednesday 13 January, Dick Bignell will give an illustrated talk entitled: From 'Oving to Olney - The Great Ouse'.

On Wednesday 10 February Hugh Granger's talk is: 'Can plants think'. Meetings are held in the Anthony Hall, Aston Clinton and start at 8pm. They are free to members, but £2 to non-members. Coffee and tea are served in the interval. Do come along. Ralph Weston



Aston Clinton School

Head: Mrs Helen Shepherd



FUDGE days

From the title of this article you may feel the school has become a sweet shop! Nothing could be further from the truth.

FUDGE stands for Friends, Uncles, Dads, Grandads, Everyone' and is now one of the ways we hope to address our OFSTED development point to raise the standards of boys' writing. We were very fortunate in September to have training from Gary Wilson who has written books about raising boys' achievement and helping boys succeed in school. One reassuring aspect of the training was that we are already doing several things that supported boys in school such as Philosophy 4 Children.

What it raised for all the staff was the issue of male role models and their impact on learning. Whilst we are very lucky to have many mums and grandmas volunteering to help us, we only have a handful of men.

Seeing men in school valuing learning is vital to all children, especially boys. It sends out a positive message to the boys that learning is a good thing to aspire to and that it has a purpose in the wider world. Research by psychologists such as Daniel Goldman has shown it can have a significant impact on exam results, school attendance, behaviour, quality of relationships in later life and better mental health. It does not matter whether there is a male role model at home or the level of involvement of the mother, the effects of men getting involved in education is the same.

So with this in mind we came up with a plan!

Each year group is planning a FUDGE event for their classes which involve the children and adults (FUDGE) doing activities together. This will encourage talking, teamwork and hopefully out of it will come a purpose for writing. The writing is not the main outcome we are looking for at the moment - that will come as FUDGE days develop. We are looking for the children to have a positive engagement in learning, a commitment to work as a team and some fun. Hopefully, the dads will experience that too. We recognise it is not easy to find time to come into school, but hope that this initiative will grow over time, just like our grandparents' afternoon led by Year 1 has. That started small, but I know some families now put the date in their diaries to ensure they can come!

The reception classes have already held two FUDGE sessions where the dads came and made dragons, dragon traps and even some dragon dens.

Early feedback showed that whilst some dads were initially nervous about coming in, they really enjoyed themselves. We will be asking them how we could enhance the experience for them so that they will come back again. The children thought it was fantastic to see so many helpers in class, especially those children whose dads had come into class.

If you want to come and join us and do not have a child in school, drop in to the office and ask for more information about FUDGE days and how you can join in the fun!

Helen Shepherd

The rise of the 'mumpreneurs'

EAFY Aston Clinton with its wealth of green space and amenities has long had a strong pull for families. Many parents in the village have faced the stressful dilemma of trying to fit their careers around a growing brood.

Increasing numbers of people are 'thinking outside the box' to make both job and family fit without going totally insane!

This can mean adopting part-time or flexible working within your current role-presuming your employer is adaptable – but could also mean launching a new business venture, or un-

dertaking a total change of direction as far as career is concerned.

The mums among these enterprising people are being labelled 'mumpreneurs', But love or hate the label, this is nevertheless a rapidly growing employment trend.

The 'parent-preneurs' are right here amongst us in Aston Clinton and I'm one of them!

After more than a decade as a journalist writing for various newspapers and magazines, and working on the features desks of several women's weekly titles, having my daughter was a bit of a shock to the system, job-wise.

It became pretty clear to me that a stressful, full-time job with a long commute to London wasn't something I wanted to juggle with my longed-for little girl. But as the 'newborn fog' started to lift it also became increasingly obvious just how much I missed my writing career. So I went into business as a sole trader.

I wasn't sure how I'd get on at first, without the comfortable camaraderie of brain-storming meetings and office tea rounds, but four years on I mostly love working for myself and appreciate daily just how fortunate I am to have the opportunity to fit my journalism, copywriting and PR activities around my two children.

Strangely enough I've even ended up doing

publicity for some mumpreneurs – for example, one savvy businesswoman who went from being a police officer to running a successful nursery product brand. If that's not a change of pace, I don't know what is!

Many of my Aston Clinton friends are in the same boat as me. Vidhya Jayarajah was a London-based employment lawyer for years before and after having her two young sons, but the stressful environment, gruelling commute and hugely long hours meant she often wasn't getting through the front door until 10pm.

'I finally decided that enough was enough and for the past six months have been taking a career break while I consider my options,' she explains. 'It's exciting to think just how many doors could be open to me. Yes, it's a challenge, but a change of direction can also be a really good thing.'



Sarah Marsh

Andrea Hicks worked as a PA for 12 years prior to having her daughter, for companies ranging from Harrods to Shepperton Film Studios.

'They were very demanding roles in fastpaced environments, requiring me to be on call at evenings and weekends – not so easy to do with a family,' she says.

'I chose to have a career break until Tilly started school and luckily started working again in that same week, I found my job as a virtual assistant via a working mums' website that advertises flexible positions.

'It's great that more companies are offering modern ways of working to cope with the demands of busy family life.'

Whatever line of work you're in as a parent there seem to be more ways than ever before to try to attain a happy work/family life balance. Perhaps it's not so elusive after all.

Sarah Marsh



About 100m from the junction of Green End Street with London Road, you may have noticed this quaint and somewhat dilapidated cottage.

For many years it had been obscured by overgrown trees and bushes until a restoration project began this year.

It could be the oldest house in Aston Clinton and is reputed to date back to the 17th century when it was the original 'Bell' public house. It pre-dates the present Bell Inn by a hundred years.

Read a full account of the story of this unique building in the next issue of Village Life.

GP Corner ...

As we go forward into what is usually the coldest part of the winter please take good care of yourselves and any elderly relatives, friend or neighbours. Ensure that you eat nourishing hot meals, keep warm indoors and, when venturing out in icy weather, wear lots of layers and be extra careful to wear shoes or boots with soles that have good grip to prevent falls. Check in on each other and make sure things are OK: does someone need help to collect medication? If someone lives alone, a quick 'pop in' for a cuppa may be all that is needed to ensure they are safe and well and that they feel cared for.

With Christmas and New Year celebrations in mind, please enjoy your alcohol sensibly and stick to the recommended limits. No amount of alcohol is totally safe but the recommended limits ensure the lowest risk: that's no more than 3-4 units for men or 2-3 units for women daily.

A unit is 10ml of pure alcohol, described as

a percentage of the drink's volume-known as ABV (alcohol by volume)

A small (25ml) measure of spirits (ABV40%) = 1 unit

A pint of beer:

(ABV 4%) = 2.3 units (ABV 6%) = 3.4 units (ABV 5%) = 2.8 units (ABV 9%) = 5.1 units

A 175ml glass wine:

(ABV 12%) = 2.1 units (ABV 13%) = 2.3 units(ABV 14%) = 2.45 units

Ten minutes after a drink half the alcohol is absorbed into your bloodstream with all of it being absorbed after an hour. Don't forget that alcohol takes a long time to disperse from your bloodstream, despite drinking coffee, having a big fry up or taking remedies. After a big night out you could still be above the legal level for driving until the next afternoon! If in doubt, take a taxi or have a designated driver. With all that in mind, do enjoy yourselves!

We would like to wish a happy and healthy Christmas and new year to all our patients.

> Best wishes from all the staff and GPs at Aston Clinton Surgery

How Aston Clinton got its surgery (Part 4)

As the title suggests, this series of articles was intended to focus on the beginnings of the surgery, and the first three articles focused on the beginnings in 1983-1985. This final article traces some of the changes that have taken place since then.

PART 4 Growth and Development

In 1985 I began to look forward to taking on a partner, because the workload was becoming increasingly heavy for one doctor. Once again I had to apply to the Medical Practices Committee in London, and once again they turned down an application for another Aston Clinton doctor. Fortunately they could not stop me taking on an Assistant, sharing my own earnings, and Elizabeth Muir joined me in 1986. By the time she had finished her maternity leave, we had consent for a partner, and we also had planning permission to extend the surgery building—bursting at the seams after only three years.

It seems strange in these days when female GPs predominate, that in 1985 there were few in local partnerships. By 1989, when Judith Harvey joined the practice, my workload, like that of most male GPs was changing gradually as more and more women chose to see a female doctor. At the same time, home births were becoming less popular, and with the closure of the GP maternity unit at the Royal Bucks Hospital in Aylesbury, I found myself doing less obstetrics and less gynaecology, although still putting my paediatric experience to good use in the practice.

Specialism and generalism

General Practitioners are not specialists but often they have special interests and special expertise like Craig White's interest in musculoskeletal conditions. A focus on particular aspects of practice can add to the interest of a career where the main emphasis is on 'knowing something about everything,' However, as one member of a team becomes more skilled, there is always the risk that others will become less skilled through lack of practice. Think about my example of seeing less gynaecology: I performed fewer cervical smears and these tests,

"Specialists aim to reduce uncertainty, explore possibility and marginalise error. General Practitioners aim to accept uncertainty, explore probability, and marginalise danger."

Marshall Marinker, Bayliss Lecture, Royal College of Physicians, London 1994

which play a vital role in protecting women from cancer, are dependent on clinician expertise. It has been shown that the more you do, the better you do it, so by the early 1990s I had stopped doing them, letting more expert female colleagues perform these tests.

Time pressures

I was glad that we had computerised from the start, as in the late 1980s the NHS drive for more data from family doctors became insatiable. At the beginning, I had tried to visit every one of my patients who was hospitalised, and also prioritised the Wednesday lunchtime meeting with consultant and GP colleagues at Stoke Mandeville. Part of what family doctors offered patients then was a knowledge of which consultant was most appropriate for the referral. We knew them all, their strengths and their weaknesses, and we wrote a personal letter to the specialist that patient and doctor jointly chose to sort the problem. Despite patients having more choice of hospital departments nowadays, it is difficult for GPs to advise patients on referrals if, due to time pressures, they have never even met the specialist.

Sharing the workload

Practices are businesses, and they need management. Alison Beck managed the team as we grew from being very small to being one of the medium-sized enterprises in this village. Our cosy little team expanded continuously and I don't even know what size it is now! Growth is not without pain and, as doctors, we too had to put a lot of effort into management. Judith Harvey successfully oversaw the building of the present surgery, financed by the partners. This enabled Linda and me to first rent out and then sell the 'old' surgery building to the dentists who now work there—a great step forward for the village to have local dentists.

Shortly after we moved in to the new surgery, large sections of the roof fell off, and our insurers would not let us bring patients up to the building in high winds.



An unwanted distraction from seeing patients, following this debacle, was our successful suing of the architects to recover more than £100,000 in re-roofing expenses.

Meanwhile, as the NHS was experimenting with new ways of delivering better patient care, so we had to play our part. Aston Clinton joined an early wave of local fundholding practices, consuming vast amounts of clinician time as we contracted with hospitals for the care of 'our' patients. Perhaps the most lasting benefit was forging links with Bedgrove and Wendover surgeries which led to us joining them as Westongrove partnership. In 2004, our large consortium was well placed to take part in the NHS Personal Medical Services pilot.

These fundamental changes in the way GPs work consumed a lot of doctor time in management, as did the arrival of Primary Care Trusts and Clinical Commissioning Groups, and the creation of out-of-hours co-operatives to deliver the night-time care that GPs struggled to deliver in the new millennium. I was saddened as I had always enjoyed looking after

our own patients. We ceased to be dispensing doctors, choosing instead to host the pharmacy, which became a village asset under Georgia's leadership. At the same time we started a patient research centre run by Paula Caldwell.

One outstanding experiment in which we played a leading role in the late 1990s was the Intermediate Care Project for Westongrove and Tring. We pioneered complex out-of-

Shortly after we moved in to the new surgery, large sections of the roof fell off ...

hospital care which was critical to maintaining independence of frail and elderly patients wanting to stay at home (perhaps with their equally frail partner) over a period of serious illness. This project continues under the leadership of Pippa Moreton as the Weston Project.

Fortunately, Aston Clinton's medical team was expanding. Craig White, then Gwen Williams, and later Emma Lumb became partners absorbing much of the administrative load. Judith Harvey left to go to London, and I was reducing my time in practice from 1998. Our trainee doctors were contributing strongly to patient care as they learnt their trade, and increasingly the doctoring service became dependant on part-time doctors. Over the time I was at the surgery we had some wonderful doctors like Bobbi Jacob and Nerith Solan. It should also be remembered that doctors are but a small part of the picture. Nurses, therapists, receptionists and administrative staff have always been vital to the quality of patient care. There are many whom I have neglected to mention in these articles, and I can only name check a few. Pam Currer (receptionist and administrator), Carol Gill, (practice nurse) and Yvonne Carter (district nurse) are amongst those who stand out in my mind for the service they gave to patients and what they did for team morale.

Moving on—my personal story
I mentioned how much I have
enjoyed training young doctors.
Medical education was becoming
more and more important to me in
mid-life as I realised that in my
remaining years as a doctor, I could
do most for patient care by concentrating on medical education.

Medical learners, for whose development I have been in some way responsible, now see thousands of patients every day, whereas I could only see a few.

In 1998 I gained an NHS Scholarship for research leading to my Doctorate in Education. I continued to work a couple of days a week at Aston Clinton Surgery, relinquishing my 'Senior Partner' role whilst I held senior roles in undergraduate and postgraduate medical education at Oxford. In 2003 I resigned from the partnership at Aston Clinton, when I was appointed Professor and Head of the Institute of Clinical Education at the new Warwick Medical School. The university released me to the NHS part-time in order that I could serve as Clinical Lead for Health and Social Care of Children at the Strategic Health Authority.

Our family home remained in Aston Clinton, as I had a university flat and commuted weekly to Warwick. When I retired from full-time work there, I was lucky enough to be employed to do weekly sessions in Aston Clinton for two-and-a-half more years until I gave up my clinical licence, and I enjoyed the opportunity to see old and new patients.

I still conduct appraisals of some senior NHS doctors and GPs. Appraisers have recently become concerned at the patient safety implications of mounting pressures on doctors and



"I enjoyed training young doctors ..."

practices as workload becomes more unmanageable, regionally and nationally. I have been asked to develop a regional project to look into this.

Well there you have it. I hope you have enjoyed reading about the origins of the surgery as much as I have enjoyed the exercise of thinking back and writing on the subject. It has enabled me to reflect on the changes that have taken place both locally and nationally. Whilst the context of medical care today in a village like ours is very different from the context of the days when we began in 1983, change has always been happening. I can remember the old-timers then saying to me, "Things ain't what they used to be. I can't get on with all this having to make appointments-time was when we just turned up in the morning and waitedmight have to wait an hour or so before the doctor called you, but there was always someone in the waiting room to talk to." Patients of that era also expected their medicines to be left for them in a cupboard outside the surgery door.

What next? So long as there is compassionate expert healthcare at the heart of Aston Clinton, I will be happy. *Ed Peile*

If you are the secretary of a local organisation and you'd welcome new members, tell the readers of Village Life what you offer and who to contact. To include your news in Village Life, email the editor at: alec.just@btinternet.com

Back to netball in Aston Clinton



hoto: Molly Wilki

HE 'Back to Netball' programme run by England Netball provides a gentle introduction/re-introduction to the sport for female players over sixteen years of age. Running across England since 2010, over 60,000 women have taken part in Back to Netball and realised the benefits of getting involved. From losing weight, developing the body's cardio-vascular system and improving muscle tone, taking part in Back to Netball is great in so many ways.

Run by passionate and enthusiastic coaches, sessions cover the basics of the game including passing, footwork and shooting. Sessions finish with a friendly game to put skills into practice.

Local netball coach Molly Wilkinson runs weekly Back to Netball sessions on Monday evenings at Aston Clinton Park. Molly says: "I have been running this session for nearly two years. It is great to see so many people trying out the sport that they used to play in school or perhaps have never played before. The sessions are very social, fun and, most importantly, everyone gets a good run around!"

Below are some quotes from the wonderful

ladies who take part in Molly's Back to Netball sessions at Aston Park:

Liv Benjamin: "I love the fact you get a great fun workout and everyone is so encouraging of each other!"

Samantha McKenna: "Great fun whatever age with a great group of people. Thank you to Molly for giving up her time each week."

Georgia Benjamin: "I like that there isn't any pressure if you haven't played for years. Thanks, Molly!"

Kate Byrnes: "Really friendly group of mixed ages, having a laugh while getting some exercise. Thanks Molly for always being there."

Jacqui Locke: "It's good exercise, a fab way to meet new people, everyone gets on no matter what age you are and it's all down to Molly giving up her time."

Hundreds of women and girls from all over the country are getting 'Back to Netball' each week. Come along and give it a try in Aston Clinton! To find out about other sessions in Buckinghamshire, please visit the session finder on the England Netball website below.

Continued opposite

WOW! There goes 2015, whizzed by in the blink of an eye. It has been quite an eventful year for Team Cornish. We've had two wonderful family weddings, one very sad loss, two new jobs, our first 11+ exam and the twins have taken up football and rugby. Clearly with netball, hockey, swimming, guides, cubs, beavers and sewing, there just weren't enough other activities going on. Sigh.

It makes me think back to the days when I actually wished the time away. I refer, of course, to the baby and toddler years which, on occasion,

I admit I found really quite dull. When the kids were newborn I looked forward to them being able to sit up or crawl. When they were weaning I couldn't wait to be able to go out without taking half the UK's Tupperware supply with me. Having four children within four years meant I spent at least six years of my life changing nappies daily. How I used to dream of them being able to wipe their own bums. I couldn't wait

for the time when all four would be at school and my days would no longer revolve around Tot Spot, nap-times and Mr Tumble.

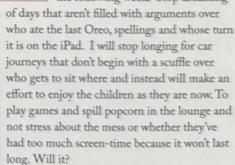
And suddenly, here I am edging into what I believe are known as the 'taxi years' whereby there's an awful lot going on and I am the central logisitics expert, mostly figuring out how to be in several places at the same time on a regular basis. (The answer usually being good friends who bail me out—thank you, you know who you are!).

I used to sneer at families with children rushing from one extra-curricular activity to another but it's hard to say no when they are begging to be able to take up a new sport, instrument or hobby. After all it might be the one thing they are incredibly talented at which will lead to a glittering career and lots of money to look after me in my old age. Deluded, much?

This year I've had my first taste of the hormone-related angst and turmoil that puberty brings and I'm still dealing with the fact that yes, they do sleep through the night now, but

with age comes later bedtimes and I resent not being able to 'clock off' at 7pm. Yesterday, my bottom did not actually make contact with a seat until 8.30pm and even then there wasn't enough room on the sofa.

So, as I reflect on what I might do differently for 2016, it might be to stop wishing this time away and dreaming of peace, quiet and reading the Sunday paper before Saturday of the following week. Stop dreaming



Kelly Cornish



the word

Netball contd

You don't need any special kit, just clothes you feel comfortable exercising in and trainers.

Make sure you bring some water and that you've had a snack a couple of hours beforehand so that you've got plenty of energy. See session details to the right.

Joanne Odro

Venue: Aston Clinton Tennis Park, Aston
Park, London Rd, Aston Clinton HP22 5HL
Day: Mondays Time: 6pm - 7pm
Session cost: £4 per session
Coach Name: Molly Wilkinson
Contact Number: 07545 033 986
Contact Email: weststandmolly@aol.com

Roll up for Village Market 2016

WHAT could be better than a day packed with family fun and entertainment in the sunshine – with a spot of shopping on the side?

Well, while we can't guarantee the weather, the eighth annual Village Market is shaping up to be another amazing event, and now is the perfect time to book your pitch.

Over the years, Aston Clinton's Village Market has become a 'don't-miss' date for the diary, well supported by the local community and those further afield. In fact, last year's event raised almost £6,000 and saw a whopping 1,600 people turn out for the mouth-watering food, toe-tapping entertainment and wealth of unique stalls.

After all where else can you browse vintage furniture, shop for everything from crafts to cakes and sample stunning local produce—as well as supping on a pint of the best British beer.

The 2016 Village Market will be held on

Sunday 8th May.

In the past the market's vast menu has included delicious mozzarella, fantastic BBQ and paella lovingly cooked in a giant pan, so please remember to bring your appetite along with those shopping bags. You can come for lunch and take home dinner—and support our brilliant primary school as well as many local businesses and services at the same time!

Pitches are already selling well so make sure you don't miss out. They cost just £20 for a stall and £50 for a catering pitch and booking forms are available to download from our website: www.acvillagemarket.co.uk

Bookings are taken on a first come, firstserved basis. We always try to have as wide a range of stalls as possible. If you have any questions or need further info, please email us at: info@acvillagemarket.co.uk. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sarah Marsh

The Oak wins Pub of the Year award



Congratulations to Patrick Hayward and his winning team on their success in the award of Aylesbury Vale Village Pub of the Year 2015! The Oak fought off stiff competition from 37 other pubs across the Vale.

A delighted Patrick said after the announcement, "I could not believe it! This is down to everybody who nominated us and everybody who comes in and keeps the pub alive. Thank you to everyone. This means so much to me and my family including my new wife Hannah."

Not only was The Oak voted overall winner but the pub was also runner-up in the Best Family Pub category. The judges described the pub as a 'hidden gem' and commended its service, food, value, ales and the play area.

Royal British Legion news

ASTON Clinton School is the first primary in the country to be affiliated to the Royal British Legion. ACS became affiliated to our branch in Aston Clinton at a special school assembly on Wednesday 30th September. The head-teacher, Helen Shepherd, said that they are proud to support the Royal British Legion. Also present at this assembly were George Mills, chairman of our branch, and Lt Col Simon Wilkinson, the Bucks and Milton Keynes president of the Legion, who presented the school with a certificate to mark the occasion.

Our branch will hold its Christmas function and bingo on Tuesday 8th December at 7.30pm at our usual meeting place in the council office in the park. We meet there, at that time, on the on the second Tuesday in the month when we welcome visitors and new members. You do not have to have been a member of the armed services to belong and our objective is to support our ex-servicemen. *Ralph Weston*



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.

For further information please contact:

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

Whitechapel Mission

A group led by our Curate, Sally Bottomer, went to the Whitechapel Mission last month for the Breakfast Challenge. A report into their experience will be in the next edition of Village Life. In the meantime, I have received offers (01296 630456) from volunteers for a second team at a later date.

The Mission sent their trailer to pick up our Harvest contributions in October. Together with what was collected from Aylesbury, the box trailer was full. We sent a wide selection of food, clothes and toiletries which was gratefully received. Many thanks to all who gave to this cause.

Ralph Weston

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Road to Rio-final push for Gemma Collis

A YEAR AGO I wrote an article highlighting Gemma's appeal for funds on her Go-fund Me website www.gofundme.com/eolhho to help her on the road to qualifying for the Paralympics in Rio 2016. So far £2115 has been raised

through the website; she has also received a generous donation from the Aston Clinton Beer Festival of £1000.

However, her main support has come from her adopted family of members and friends of the fencing club at Durham University. They organised a gala dinner to raise funds for her; the university donated the use of the Grand Hall in Durham Castle and many local businesses donated items to be auctioned or as raffle prizes. During the natural breaks between courses there was a wheel-

chair fencing demonstration by two of Gemma's able-bodied sparring partners after which Gemma spoke eloquently about her problems and aspirations. The event was attended by 130 guests; a good night was had by all and about £8000 was raised.

With these funds, support from family and friends and what she can earn as a Sky Mentor,

Gemma has competed in six competitions and is to compete in Sharjah in December.

The Road to Rio is hard and undulating. There have been some remarkable results along the way against some of the highest rated fencers in the world. Unfortunately one good bout does not necessarily mean a good overall result.

Not only does Gemma need to gain points, she also needs to get experience against the world's top fencers, many of whom come from China

where they are state funded, as are many of the competitors from Europe.

Despite these disadvantages Gemma now ranks no.8 in both the World and Paralympic list for the Women's Class A Epée – her favoured weapon and is in the top sixteen in the world in the Women's Class A foil ranking.

There are four more qualifying competitions. Can you help with the final push?

Roy Collis

Gemma, pictured here with the Mayoress of Durham at a Gala Dinner held in the Grand Hall in Durham Castle. The dinner was to raise funds to help realise Gemma's ambition to qualify for the Paralympics in Rio in 2016.

GEMMA COLLIS FACTSHEET

2012 Paralympian Wheelchair Fencer 2x World Cup Medallist British Champion Freelance Sports Journalist BBCKickOff Reporter London & Sochi Torchbearer Sky Sports LFS Mentor Education: Aston Clinton School and AHS, now at Durham University Chronic Regional Pain sufferer Constant, often severe pain in the right leg makes any walking difficult, with long distances impossible. Sport England funding was withdrawn from Wheelchair Fencing in 2013 Competitions can cost £2000 for fees, travel and accommodation.



Rainbows come to Aston Clinton

VOU probably already know that Aston Clinton has two thriving Brownie units as well as a Guide and Ranger unit but what you may not know is that in April 2015 a new Rainbows unit was launched – a first for our village. Rainbows is the youngest section of Girlguiding and is open to all girls between five and seven years of age. Rainbows follow a programme called the Rainbow Jigsaw, whereby they can take part in lots of different activities based around the four parts of the Jigsaw: Look, Learn, Laugh and Love.

Being a Rainbow is all about developing self-confidence, building friendships, learning new things and having fun. Our unit of Rainbows had a fantastic first term and made us proud by fully embracing the ethos of guiding and getting stuck into each and every activity: from planting sunflowers, to craft activities, playing team games, dancing, learning new songs, going on a trip to Wendover Woods and,

most importantly, taking their Rainbow Promise and receiving their promise badges.



During the autumn/winter term, some of our Rainbows are preparing to move up into Brownies which is exciting both for them and us as we start to welcome new members into our now-established unit. We kicked off the new term with a session of 'Indoor Camping' which involved making their own tents, building a campfire, making fruit kebabs, 'toasting' them on the fire and singing campfire songs. The girls had a wonderful time and we look forward to another term of fun and excitement as they work towards their first 'Roundabout' badge.

If you have a daughter interested in joining Rainbows, Brownies or Guides or you are interested in volunteering, you can register your interest at: www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

Joanne Neale

Learning about nature and having fun under a weeping birch at Green Park activity centre



oto: Joanne Neak

Local teenager (and would-be journalist)
Becca set off last February on a global
'back-packing' adventure. She returned
in late May. She described some of her
experiences in the June issue of Village
Life. But there were more to come ...

OVER THE COURSE OF 2015, I have achieved a whole bunch of things I can honestly say that 12 months ago I would have dubbed impossible—from flying around the world to starting university. Yet the thing I am probably most proud of is the most random of all: my 3-week adventure in Italy, working in a summer camp.

A friend I met travelling in Vietnam was keen to fuel my ever-developing travel bug. She recommended this project, where I would

work in a summer camp in Italy for children to improve their English. With my newly-acquired 'YOLO' attitude, I applied, had a Skype interview at 3am my time with a huge hostel party going on below, and got the job. Least to say, my mum was not impressed when I told her that I would be jetting off again two weeks after I got back from my trip around the world.

It was only when I had met the other teachers in the airport for the first time, and we were all realising we actually had no idea what we were going to be doing for two weeks, that it started to sink in just how huge this was for me. I have never been a linguist, being barely able to pull a sentence together in French, a language I had studied for five years. Yet here I was, off to be paid to help Italian children learn English and living with an Italian host family, being unable to speak

any of the language at all, with the exception of 'ciao' and 'spaghetti'.

Yet Italy turned out to be a huge antidote to my travel blues. My Italian host family were an absolute dream. I was totally immersed into Italian culture through them: from the food, to a weekend to Milan, and a trip to the mountains to meet the extended family for a 50th birthday party. I can truly say I have a second home and family. The summer camp itself was so much more than I expected as well. My role as an Activity Leader involved teaching art, drama and sport to children aged 5-16. This proved a huge challenge, particularly explaining the rules of cricket by single-handedly acting it out, and trying to persuade 16-year-old boys that making a farm poster really was quite fun. Yet of course it all paid off, with a wonderful



Becca at Milford Sound, New Zealand, during her world trip in 2015

end-of-camp play put on for the parents to show off the students' language skills. Even my own Italian was improved slightly—the word 'toilet' in particular proved to be vital, with one 5-year-old having to act in order for me to understand and permit her.

Another major highlight of the trip was the Continued opposite

Solution to Crossword No.13

16. Honiton 18. Radar 20. Awful

Down 2. Admit 3. Parapet 5. Christmas Day 6. Under 7. Rainbow 8. Approachable 14. Utensil

Across 1, Happy 4, Acquire 9, Improper 10, Drip 11, Stupor 12, Shrub 13, Aunt 15, Arm 16, Hawk 17, Earth 19, Sunday 21, Used 22, Beautify 23, Blamey 24, Ankle

Astonbury?

THE Parish Council is proposing to host a Village Festival in 2017 with music and food etc, but most importantly, lots of local involvement.

If you would like to be on the planning committee for this event, please let the Parish Clerk have your name and contact details at parishcouncil@astonclinton.org or phone her on 01296 631269.

The Parish Council would particularly like to hear from local children's and youth groups, choirs, bands, entertainers, event planners and general good organisers.

> Gillian Merry Parish Clerk

Becca contd

social aspect we teachers felt we deserved. We became quite accustomed to the bar opposite the summer camp and took advantage of the 1 euro drinks on offer. It was on one of these after school drinking sessions that I and a fellow teacher decided that we would ditch our flights home and instead spend a week travelling the country we were falling in love with.

Following the end of the camp I spent my days walking along the canals in Venice, sweltering in the heat in Florence, taking in the historic sites in Rome and, with my additional day, I spontaneously headed to Naples. Having been told at the hostel that my goal of seeing Pompeii, climbing Mount Vesuvius and travelling to the island of Capri—whilst only staying one night—was truly impossible, I was determined to end my trip on a high and prove them wrong. Which I did.

My time in Italy truly was an incredible one. As it turned out, throwing myself into unknown and scary territory, which could have been disastrous, ended up giving me more confidence in myself and hopefully a lifetime of memories.

Becca Harty

Together with service personnel from RAF Halton, well over 100 people attended the Remembrance Sunday commemoration service at the War Memorial on 9th November. The service, led by Rev. Elizabeth Moxley, included prayers by Rev Sally Bottomer.



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 5 Dec	10am	Produce Stall and Coffee	All Saints' Church	
Sun 6 Dec	4pm	Messy Christingle	All Saints' Church	
Fri 11 Dec	7.30pm	Film Night	All Saints' Church	
Sat 12 Dec	4pm	Junior Flicks	All Saints' Church	
Sun 13 Dec	11am	Nativity Service	All Saints' Church	
Christmas Eve	4pm	Carols around the Crib	All Saints' Church	
Christmas Day	8am	Christmas Communion	All Saints' Church	
Sun 27 Dec	9.15am	Family Carols and Communion	St Michael's Church	
Sun 3 Jan	11am	Family Service for Epiphany All Saints' Ch		
Sun 3 Jan	6pm	Epiphany and Commitment All Saints' Chu		

More details about all these events on the church website: www.allsaintsbuckland.org.uk (Please note that over Christmas there will be no Midweek Communion on Wed 23rd and Wed 30th Dec and no Produce Stall on Sat 2nd Jan)

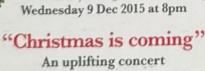
Women's Institute 1915-2015

24

Buckland, Drayton Beauchamp and Aston Clinton WI

Wed 6th Jan 'The Work of Film Extras' Wed 3th Feb 'The Secret History of Nursery Rhymes'

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.



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

St Mary the Virgin Church

given by

THE RIDGEWAY CHORALE

Music Director Richard Grylls Guest Soloists Scarlet & Thomas O'Shea DONATIONS TO ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH



St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp

Regular Services: 10.45 am each Sunday





Date	Time	Event	Location
Wed 9 Dec	8pm	Christmas Concert- Ridgeway Chorale	St Mary's Church
Sun 20 Dec 4pm	4pm	A Celebration of Christmas	St Mary's Church
		followed by tea	
Christmas Day	10.45 am	Christmas Communion	St Mary's Church
Sun 27 Dec	9.15am	Family Carols and Communion	St Michael's Church
Sun 3 Jan	10.45 am	Epiphany	St Mary's Church

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

Pony Express

The Pony Express will run again this year. I will aim to do a first delivery in Drayton Beauchamp on the weekend of 19/20th December and a final delivery on Tuesday 22nd. I don't plan to go to Buckland unless several people ask me to.

Please drop cards in at The Dray House by 9am on Tuesday 22nd December at the very latest.

If you wish to give me something for charity I will divide the money between one of the local hospices and an equine charity.

Erica Godman, 01296 630066

Calling all photographers!

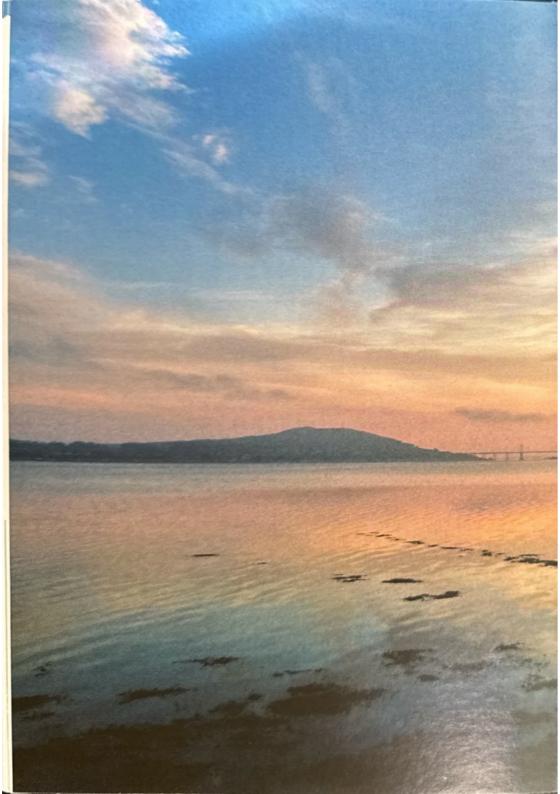
Now that **Village Life** is printed in colour, I would like to invite amateur photographers who live in our three villages to submit photos to be considered for publication.

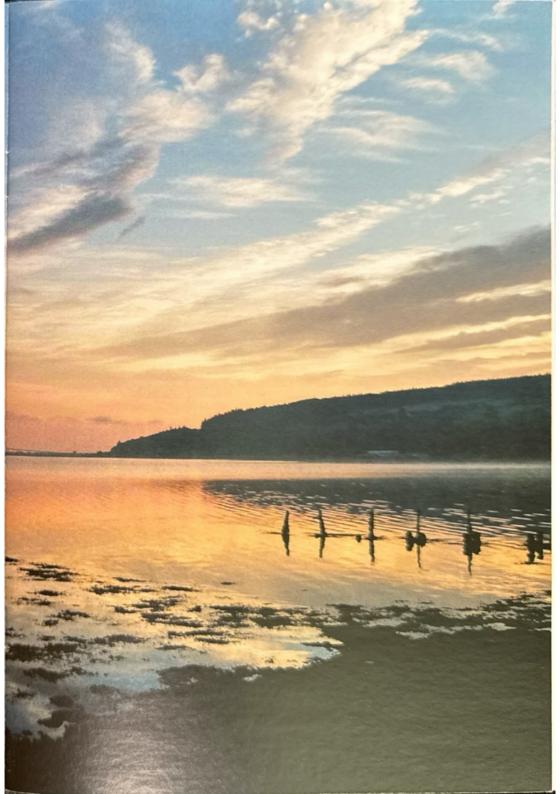
Digital files of at least 1 megabyte in size are preferred. Ideally the subjects should be of local interest but this is not essential. In my reminder to contributors to send in items for this issue, I mentioned my request for photos.

The first to respond was Margaret Ross who sent in a magnificent picture (see overleaf).

She writes: "I took it in September from the shores of the Beauly Firth looking along to Inverness. You can see the Kessock Bridge which connects the Black Isle to the "mainland". In the old days one had to drive round the coast from Inverness to reach Muir of Ord and the other Black Isle villages and towns."

[See overleaf] Alec Just





The Buckinghamshire Assistive Technology Project products available.

AGE UK Buckinghamshire is working with Carers Bucks and the Alzheimer's Society to provide assessments and information on Assistive Technology across the county to help people live as independently as possible. The Buckinghamshire Assistive Technology (BAT) Partnership is led by Carers Bucks and is funded jointly by the Adults & Family Wellbeing service at Buckinghamshire County Council and the Aylesbury Vale and Chiltern Clinical Commissioning Groups.

The project offers home visits to assess the need for any Assistive Technology and gives advice on how it can be accessed. Some people are eligible to receive products via the Prevention Matters initiative, while others can be referred to private providers.

Assistive technology can support people to stay in their own homes, while also giving reassurance and peace of mind both to them and their family.

There is a wide range of easy-to-use everyday

products available. These include things such as mobile phones, tv remote controls, radios and telephones, as well as pendant alarms and alert-giving equipment. There are also products to help support people with dementia: calendar clocks for instance, memory prompts, item finders and so on.

The Alzheimer's Society has a range of products that people can try at home prior to purchase. Carers Bucks have examples of gadgets and equipment on their website and they also have the *Buddi* locating device available to loan. This uses mobile phone technology to track the person wearing it so that they can be found quickly. This can be useful for people who have memory problems or learning disabilities who wander from home or when they are out with their carer.

For further information about the service or to request a home visit please contact the BAT project by calling Julie Melvin at Age UK Buckinghamshire on 01296 431911

Buckinghamshire on 01296 UK

Famous insults (rediscovered by James Adam)

"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire." - Winston Churchill

"He had delusions of adequacy." - Walter Kerr

A member of Parliament to Disraeli: "Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease." "That depends, Sir," said Disraeli, "whether I embrace your policies or your mistress."

"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But I'm afraid this wasn't it." - Grouch Marx

"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure." - Clarence Darrow

"Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it." - Moses Hadas

"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends." - Oscar Wilde

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.

Public invited to foster carer information session

AN information session for those thinking of giving a child a helping hand by becoming a foster carer is being held from 7pm to 9pm on Wed 13th January at Aylesbury Day Centre, Thame Road South, Aylesbury HP21 8TS for

all potential new carers.

Lin Hazell, Bucks County Council "It's the Cabinet Member for Children's best job Services, said: "The refugee and asylum I've ever seeker situation has once again done." brought the importance of fostering into sharp focus. We always need foster carers for our children and young people. But now with the overlay of the Syrian crisis and not knowing when or how many extra children might need homes in Buckinghamshire, we wanted to react quickly and harness people's interest in knowing more about what's involved.

"We welcome all those who think they can help to come along to the session. One of our foster carers who has looked after a child who

has claimed asylum in the UK will be available for you to speak to, as well as a foster child from Buckinghamshire who will share how fostering has transformed her life.

"We struggle to recruit foster carers in

Buckinghamshire, so I would strongly encourage anyone who wants to find out more to attend the evening. The more foster carers we have the easier it is for us to match children with the right families."

There is no obligation to proceed if anyone attending the session feels it's not right for them. To book onto the fostering information session or find out more about fostering, please contact: First Step Team either by email at: firststep@buckscc.gov.uk or phone on 0800 160 1900. Alternatively, visit the website at: www.buckscc.gov.uk/fostering

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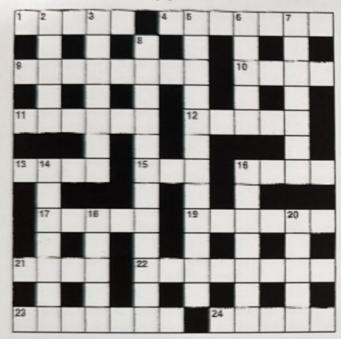
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- * Require publicity to grow?

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Village Life crossword no.13

Crossword compiled by Helen Lonsdale

Solution to this crossword on page 22



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Glad (5)
- 4. Gain possession of (7)
- 9. Indecorous (8)
- 10. Plop (4)
- 11. Torpor (6)
- 12. Bush (5)
- 13. Mother's sister (4)
- 15. Limb (3)
- 16. Bird of prey (4)
- 17. Third Planet from the Sun (5)
- 19. Supposed day of rest (6)
- 21. Second hand (4)
- 22. To gild and bedeck (8)
- 23. Soft Soap (7)
- 24. The location of the Talus (5)

CLUES DOWN

- 2. Take the blame (5)
- 3. Low balcony wall (7)
- 5. in the workhouse (9,3)
- 6. Beneath (5)
- 7. Spectrum in the sky (7)
- 8. Accessible (12)
- 14. Kitchen device (7)
- 16. Devon lace town (7)
- 18. Remote detection system (5)
- 20. Ghastly (5)

More famous insults

- "I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend, if you have one."
- George Bernard Shaw in a letter to Winston Churchill / "Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second ... if there is one." Churchill to Shaw, in response
- "I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here." Stephen Bishop
- "He is a self-made man and worships his creator." John Bright
- "I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial." Irvin S. Cobb
- "He is not only dull himself; he is the cause of dullness in others." Samuel Johnson
- "He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up." Paul Keating
- "In order to avoid being called a flirt, she always yielded easily." Charles, Count Talleyrand
- "His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork." Mae West
- "Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go." Oscar Wilde
- "He has Van Gogh's ear for music." Billy Wilder

Support our advertisers! They make your magazine possible.

Watch out for council tax fraudsters

FRAUDSTERS have been phoning victims telling them that they have been placed in the wrong council tax bracket for a number of years and are entitled to a rebate. They normally say that this rebate should be worth about £7,000.

Once the victim is convinced, the fraudster tells them that in order to receive the rebate they will need to pay an administration fee in advance. The payment they ask for varies between £60-£350. The victim provides the details and makes the payment, but then is no longer able to make contact with the person they spoke to on the phone.

When they phone their council about the rebate and the fact that they are in the wrong tax bracket, the council will confirm that they know nothing about it and that they have been contacted by fraudsters.

So far, the fraudsters have mainly been targeting both male and female victims who are aged 60 and over and live in the Sussex area, but it is likely that the fraudsters will also start to target victims in other areas.

Protect yourself:

- · Never respond to unsolicited phone calls.
- Your local council won't ever phone out-ofthe-blue to discuss a council tax rebate. If you receive a call of this nature, put the phone down straightaway.
- No legitimate organisation will ask you to pay an advanced fee in order to receive money, so never give any unsolicited caller your card details.

If you think you have been a victim of fraud, hang up the phone and wait five minutes to clear the line as fraudsters sometimes keep the line open. Then call your bank or card issuer to report the fraud. Where it is possible, use a different phone line to make the phone call.

... not forgetting HMRC impersonators!

From: "HM Revenue and Customs"refund@hmrc.gov.uk Subject: [URGENT ATTENTION] Your 2014 Tax Report

Date: 9 November 2015 07:17:36 GMT

To: undisclosed-recipients:;

Reply-To: <steph918002@gmail.com>
1 1 Attachment, 73.5 KB

Good Day

Attached, is a copy of your 2014 Tax Return Report which was recently filed and approved. Our system has generated an error after processing it which require your immediate attention.

Kindly download the attached document to view full report and reason for the error

HM Revenue and Customs Comben House

Farriers Way

Netherton L75 1WB United Kingdom

UKTAXREPORT.doc (73.5 kg)

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An Aston Clinton resident recently received this very convincing-looking email, supposedly from HMRC. Opening the attachment could have led to those with intent to defraud him having access to his personal information. Unless you have very good reason to believe in the veracity of an email, NEVER click on any link or open an attachment. In this example, the unlikely 'Reply to' address, coupled with the bizarre 6th line of the note in red are together enough to raise suspicions.

Useful telephone numbers

Name	Contact	Telephone no.	Email address
1st Aston Clinton Rainbows	See below*	-	The state of the s
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 Friendship Club	Selly Clarke	01296 630207	
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 Villge Hall (Bkings Sec)	Paula Graves	01296 630310	
Buckland Parish Council	Fiona Lippmann	01296 626073	bucklandpc@googlemail.com
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	1000	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, Brownies & Rainbows	See below*	-	

Name	Contact	Telephone no.	Email address
Halton Singers	Cherry-Ann Evans	01296 622097	
High Wycombe Hospital		01494 526161	
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
Neighbourh'd Watch Administrator	Helen Thomas	01296 396262	
Neighbourhood Watch, Buckland	Edwin Domican	01296 630467	
Neighbourhood Watch, DB	Elizabeth Dutton	01296 631613	
NHS Direct		0845 4647	
Police	Non emergency	101	
Pre-School	Pam Borrows	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	
Rector	Rev Elizabeth Moxley	01296 632488	
Royal British Legion	Janet Tye	01296 434866	
Scouts, Cubs and Beavers	David Wall	01296 632142	
SSAFA Forces Help	Ann Smith	01296 631030	
Stoke Mandeville Hospital		01296 315000	
Tot Spot (Baptist Church)	Nicky Downing	01296 631824	
Trading Standards		0845 4040506	
Veterinary Centre	A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR	01296 630600	
Women's Institute	Anne Floyd	01296 434372	
Water emergency	Contraction of the	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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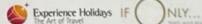
Save the date...

In the New Year we will be holding three open days at our office in Tring. Feel free to come along and talk to us about your holiday plans for 2016 and beyond:

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- Saturday 30th January: Planning a trip to the Indian Ocean, Arabia, Asia or Latin America? Visit us this week, as we will be joined by If Only Holidays and Latin Routes.
- . Saturday 6th February: We will be celebrating Chinese New Year with Wendy Wu Tours! If you are thinking of travelling to China, Hong Kong, Japan or another Asian country please. do join us today.

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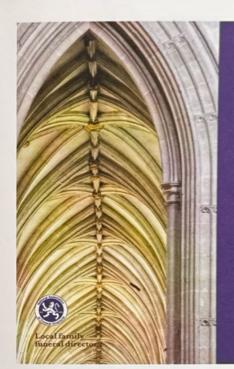
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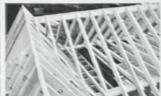
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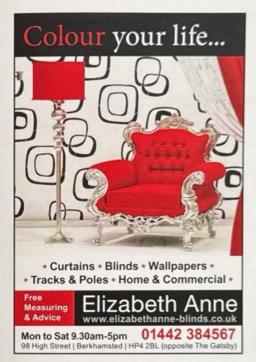
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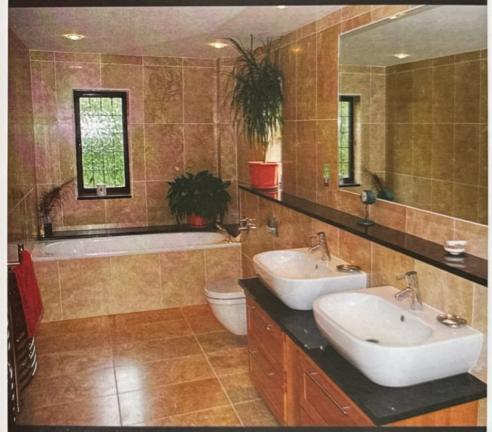
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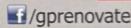
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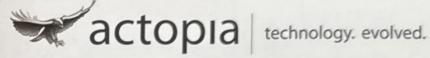
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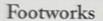


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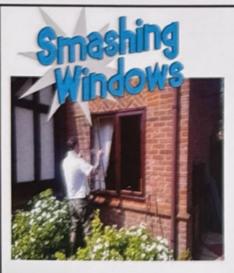
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