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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



WE AIM to provide something for everyone in the pages of **Village Life**. As some of you will know, the magazine evolved out of the old parish magazine which, apart from the war years, had been published continuously for well over a century.

It is pleasing to acknowledge our heritage by featuring on pages 6 and 7 a brief history of St Michael's Church by James Adam. Although not as well filled on Sundays as they once were, our churches are beautiful places and deserve to be appreciated more, as much for what they are as for what they represent.

Religious devotion has inspired great art over the centuries. On pages 12 and 13, Pat Rozental (herself a talented artist) tells us the story behind the set of powerful charcoal drawings she has created depicting the last days of Christ. Whether you are a believer or not, you will agree that these are powerful works. The entire set will be on display in St Michael's during Lent.

Still exemplifying the Christian virtues of love and charity, on pages 22 and 23 Rev. Sally Bottomer describes this year's take-up of the Whitechapel Breakfast Challenge. Not for the faint-hearted!

Elsewhere in this issue, you'll find plenty to inform and entertain you. Ralph Weston's vivid account on pages 18 and 19 of Christmas dinner at Halton proves that the RAF not only keep us safe, they feed us as well!

Primary healthcare is embracing the computer age. The Surgery is effectively telling us, on p20, that it won't be long before those of us who choose to do so will be able to obtain much of their routine healthcare via the Surgery website. Mrs Elsie Birch (p21) would have been amazed. She described a time, unlike the present, when change happened slowly.

A message from the Pastor

AS I SIT in my peaceful office and write these words, I feel suddenly aware of the luxuries I have in life. I have a wonderful wife and children, a lovely home, friends, food, drink, and various other blessings—too many to count. Today, as you read this, sometime after I penned it, I am still in this blessed position, and I am

sure that is the case for many of us.

We all know that the world is struggling at the moment. There are tremendous difficulties afflicting so many. We have wars and rumours of wars, a refugee crisis, people with no food at all, and persecution is rife worldwide. Christians across the globe also endure such perils. To be honest, the

world has continually been this way-there have always been difficulties.

I believe it is so important for each of us to try to influence and affect the various situations before us, where we can. I know the world issues we see are huge, as are some of the issues locally and nationally, but let us try to make what difference we can. We know we cannot solve these things fully, but each of us in our own small way can contribute. We have already seen the generosity of so many across this country and beyond, with regard to the refugee crisis, and so it is only right to work towards the welfare of others in need.

My personal belief is that ultimately this world will reach a stage in history, ready for

Jesus Christ to return. The Bible makes it clear that before he returns, things will be difficult, and so his predictions are proving themselves truthful—even now. Therefore we have hope in him not just today, but also tomorrow, and for that day when he comes—bringing perfection with him. Things will be changed, especially as we let his life

enter and empower us.

So, as spring approaches, with new life appearing all around in nature, let us ponder the gift of Christ and his new life, and give thanks for his common grace given to us all, indeed for all the numerous blessings we have.

Thank you.

Rev. Simon Downing

Aston Clinton Ladies Group

Forthcoming meetings

Wed 17 February at 8pm at the Guide Hall "The Okavango Experience", an illustrated talk by Mr I Rhodes.

Wed 16 March at 8pm at St Michael and All Angels: Lenten Service followed by coffee and biscuits at Janet Leech's house

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

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
Wed 10 Feb	8pm	Ash Wednesday Communion	St Michael's Church
Sat 13 Feb	7.30pm	Quiz Night	The Anthony Hall
Fri 4 March	2pm	Women's World Day of Prayer	St Michael's Church
Sun 6 March	9.15am	Mothering Sunday	St Michael's Church
Sun 13 March	10.30am	Annual Parochial Church Meeting	St Michael's Church
Wed 16 March	8pm	AC Ladies' Group Lent Service	St Michael's Church
Sun 20 March	9.15am	Palm Sunday	St Michael's Church
Fri 25 March	12noon	Good Friday Worship	St Michael's Church
Sun 27th March	9.15am	Easter Fire Family Communion	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 Baptist Church

SUNDAY SERVICES

We meet together every Sunday at 10.45 a.m. The teaching theme for January through to March is around the concepts of: Resolve, Perspective and Preparedness.

We also provide 'Allsorts Sunday' - our Sunday school and creche.

We have a Youth Church Worship Celebration service every third Sunday in the evenings at 6pm.

TOTSPOT

This is a baby and toddler group where parents and carers get together on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-12 midday, term time only, in the Church Hall.

YOUTH WORK

Youth Cafe: Wednesdays 3-6pm Youth Group: Fridays 7-9pm.

We also run other youth teaching groups during the week, and have an older Sunday school group which meets twice every month.



A historical guide to St Michael's Church



PART ONE

THE FIRST THING I am always asked about the history of St Michael and All Angels Church at Aston Clinton is "When was it built?". In reply, I joke and say 'just in time for lunch—1232!" But, in fact, nobody knows exactly. The first recorded rector was appointed in 1232 and our architect, Michael Bartosch, who is an expert on church buildings from great cathedrals to tiny parish churches, agrees that the architecture of the nave (the main body of the building) and the chancel (the choir and the sanctuary) are indicative of that time.

The Rev'd Dennis Davies, a former minister at the church, reckoned that it was probably dedicated in about 1250 by the then Bishop of Lincoln, Bishop Grosseteste (pronounced *Growtett* which is Norman French for Big Head). In 1250, Aston Clinton was in the Diocese of Lincoln, an enormous diocese which

stretched from The Wash to the Thames. So big was it that the Bishop had to have more than one palace and, if indeed he did dedicate St Michael's, Bishop Grosseteste would have been staying at his palace in Thame (which was subsequently owned by Robin Gibb, one of the Bee Gees, until his death in 2012).

St Michael's is a Grade II* listed building and this is probably because of the excellently carved stonework in the Sanctuary. To the right of the Altar there are three 'sedilia' (seats) with carved pinnacled canopies above them. They are another clue to the dating of the building as they are typical of carvings carried out in the middle of the thirteenth century. The sedilia were there for the priest, the deacon and the sub-deacon to sit on during parts of the Mass. Two of them appear to be rather low but that is because the altar now stands on a step which wasn't there when the sedilia were

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installed. To the left of the sedilia is a 'piscina', where the vessels used for the Mass would be washed and any consecrated elements left on them flushed down a tiny drain into the earth.



The sedilia, with the piscina on the left

On the north side of the Sanctuary is an Easter Sepulchre which is a comparative rarity. An Easter Sepulchre is an arched recess used during annual Easter ceremonies. Easter Sepulchres are relatively rare in English churches, as most were destroyed during the Reformation. A crucifix and other sacred elements would be placed in the sepulchre from Good Friday until Easter Day, recalling Christ's entombment after his crucifixion. Easter Sepulchres are found only in England, and generally date from the Decorated Gothic period, roughly the 13th and 14th centuries. However, ours has a clue as to its date as it is decorated with the head of a Knight in armour and the armour is 14th century, so the sepulchre could well have



been added after the church was originally built. The Lords of the Manor at that time were the Montacutes and the then head of the family was the young Earl of Salisbury who had fought at Crécy in 1346. Is the carved head a portrait of him? I would like to think so, but we will never know.

Another question I am asked is "Who paid for it to be built?" In a village the size that Aston Clinton was in the 13th century, the only person to have enough money to build a church would be the Lord of the Manor who, in 1232, was William de Clinton. England had been a Christian country for hundreds of years before 1232 so it is likely that the present church is not the first to be built here. However, being in the centre of the village, it is likely that the present church is on the site of an earlier, perhaps Saxon, church.

The East window above the Altar is very fine. The story that I have been told is that the Rev'd Wynne Eaton who was Rector between 1848 and 1870, went on the Grand Tour of Europe and acquired the three main panels in Rome. I was once told that they are 17th century German stained glass depicting St Peter on the right with a sword, St John on the left with an eagle and Christ in the middle. Only the head of Christ has been replaced. It will be noticed that they are a little bit too big to fit between the mullions. Again, the story that I was told was that Rev'd Wynn Eaton didn't measure up properly before purchasing them!



Photo: James Adam

Another instalment will appear in the next edition of Village Life. The church is open on Sundays from 8am to 7pm, on Mondays from 8am to 4.40pm and from Tuesdays to Saturdays from 8am to 3pm.

James Adam

Parish Council news

EVERYONE at the Parish Council is looking forward to the spring and the brighter weather coming. Not least because our park improvement plans will really start to come to fruition as the spring rolls by. We already have the new Multi-User Games Area (MUGA) built and by the time this issue comes out, it should be wheelchair accessible. Following on from this, there will be a new pathway allowing pushchairs, wheelchairs and mobility scooters to not only access the MUGA, but also the skate ramps, the stream and beach and our new picnic

site. Community and sports groups can use the MUGA for free and we are particularly keen to hear from groups with wheelchair users.

In the meantime, we all have a responsibility to maintain our beautiful park which is the envy of many surrounding areas. Please remember to pick up after your dogs, throw away all rubbish and

treat the amenities (which you have paid for), with care.

In the summer, we plan to have some new, integrated play equipment in the children's play park for use by the disabled and able-bodied alike!

New dog bins anyone?

The parish council has set aside some funding for some new dog waste bins for the village. To get the best value for money, we would be grateful if residents could let us know where

> they think the new bins should be sited, by filling in a short form which can be downloaded from our website: www.astonclinton.org

> Please place the completed forms in the mailbox at the parish office in the park or, alternatively, you can email it to us at: parishcouncil@astonclinton.org

Gill Merry Parish Clerk



Santa's Float - another successful round!

ONCE AGAIN Santa brought his float to Aston Clinton on the Sunday before Christmas

to help raise money for charity. The float visited Wenwell Close, Bishopsfield, Dean Way, Beaconsfield Rd, Rosebery Road, Beechwood Way, Overstrand, New Road, Green End Street, London Road, Twitchell Lane, Long Plough and College Road South. Next time, Santa hopes to cover more of the village by going out for two nights.

It was fantastic to see so many families and children coming out to see us and in some cases, following the sleigh along the road. We are delighted to announce that £1,156.50 was

raised to be divided equally between Rennie Grove Hospice at Home, and the local Scouts and Guides. This exceeded last year's total and our sincere thanks go Colin Lane of C.D. Lane Contractors for driving Santa around the village and to the Scouts and Guides for their tireless door-knocking.



Santa greets a child on his round

Cllr Liz Tubb Chairman

Aston Clinton Parish Council

Aston Clinton Neighbourhood Plan/Progress Report

The committee members are currently writing up the subjects identified from the public consultation in September 2015. These will be refined by our consultants and, in consultation with them, we shall shortly start preparing the questionnaire which will be distributed to all households in the village. When this arrives we would urge you to complete it as it will form the basis of our Neighbourhood Plan.

We will then write up the final draft which will be presented first to AVDC and then on to the planning inspector for approval. Once approved, the Plan will be submitted to everyone on the electoral roll for approval in a public referendum, expected to be held later in the year.

We are very mindful that this process is taking a long time but we are hopeful that all your comments for the future of the village will be incorporated into the questionnaire.

Happy New Year to all!

Cllr Colin Read
Chairman, Steering Group
Aston Clinton Neighbourhood Plan
Email: readberg@google.com
Tel: 07956 352 507

Eric Rose: modelmaker and historian

'The Astonian' was a local magazine, which was published by the erstwhile Aston Clinton Residents' Association during the 1970s and 80s. This story, which appeared anonymously in 1977, is about an Astonian and his friend who shared a passion for military history. Together, they wanted to remind everyone of the futility of war.

Porty Brook Street, a tastefully modernised end-of-terrace cottage, is the home of ardent modeller and preservationist of World War One relics and history, Eric Rose.

To the outside world, Eric is a professional carpenter/builder and family man who came to Aston Clinton from Westcott some 22 years ago and quietly made his mark in the village. Like his namesake, Sir Alec Rose who, just as quietly and unassumingly, sailed single-handed around the world, Eric has travelled, both in the RASC, where he was attached to the 3rd Parachute Regiment, as well as other army units. After the war, Eric worked for a firm

specialising in exhibition films and display work at home and at continental trade fairs. From this he developed an interest in model making, which has won him seven certificates from the British Model Soldier Society for his models of World War One battle scenes and military miniatures. This has added a dimension to his main hobby—which he shares with his friend and fellow enthusiast, Jack Disbrey—of researching the history of World War One.

This entailed more travelling for these two sleuths around the battle zones of France and Belgium. The fruits of their labours can be seen in an exhibition they are laying on at the Silver Jubilee Exhibition at Aston Clinton Fete this summer [1977].

Eric's first interest remains the history and militaria of that never-to-be-forgotten 'war to end all wars' that the following generation failed to learn from and so had to suffer the consequences. By preserving its history, Eric Rose hopes to ensure that the lesson will never again be forgotten.

Please support our advertisers. They make your magazine possible.

Aston Clinton, Buckland & Drayton Beauchamp Horticultural Society

A HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all. We are the only active horticultural society in the local villages that stages two shows a year. This is because we have good committee support and willing volunteers. I thank them for organising our activities and in particular our shows. Without them the Society would quickly collapse. Financially we have a healthy balance to keep us going. However, a number of members have not yet paid their subscriptions for 2016 and they are now due. We always welcome new members. To pay your subscription or join the Society, please contact Ken Halls on 01296 631636.

Spring Show and Plant Sale -2 April 2016

This year will be our 20th annual Spring Show. It will be held in the hall at Aston Clinton School as before, opening at 2pm. Entry is £1, children free. Entry night is the previous Wednesday 30 March, 6-7.45pm at the Anthony Hall.

Those of you who have trophies, please return them to Ken Halls by entry night at the latest. Full details of the classes will be published in the schedule early in 2016, but the show includes all the regular features and



classes including a section for daffodils, floral art, children, spring flowers, handicrafts and domestic. There are plenty of challenges for everyone to have a go and enter something. As it is our 20th Show some of the classes will reflect this milestone.

Some of the proposed changes for the show are:

- · Adult photograph classes; title: 'Cityscape'
- Children (9-14 years) photos; subject: 'Trees'
- Floral Art novice class Flower arrangement in a piece of china (china is the gift for a 20th anniversary!)
- Floral Art 20th Anniversary Celebration

Remember there will also be the Society's plant sale. On offer will be trailing geraniums, fuchsias, sweet peas, a range of perennials, primulas and other early pot and bedding plants.

The Browns will be selling their plants and there will be our raffle stall to help defray costs. Teas will be available.

We will need the usual help to set up the show on the Friday afternoon from 4pm. Perhaps more importantly we need as many people as possible to clear away the tables etc. after the show closes at about 5pm on the Saturday. Contributions to the raffle would be much appreciated. Anyone who would like to learn to be a steward on the Saturday morning would also be most welcome; you will get one of John and Evelyn's superb lunches! Please contact either myself or a member of the committee.

Ken Halls

Spring Show Secretary (tel 01296 631636)

Gardening advice and guidance

As a Society we are often asked for advice and guidance on how to look after and enjoy our gardens. Unfortunately many people find themselves with small gardens but there are

Unheard of? Geraniums still in bloom in an Aston Clinton garden on 10th January!

ways to make them productive and enjoyable and there are also allotments in the park.

Some of our talks are directed towards how to grow flowers and this year we have talks on delphiniums, sweet peas and cacti. More advice can be found on the Society's website where there is a contact email address that can be used to ask a question. If we cannot answer directly then enquirers can be directed to other sites.

Slugs and snails

This winter has been so wet and mild so far that most of the bugs, but especially the slugs and snails, will survive to fatten themselves on our new shoots, seedlings and young plants when they start to grow. Oh for some frosty weather! As was shown in the Dec/Jan Village Life, I had perennials in flower in November due to lack of frosts.

Slugs will attack delphiniums and lupins before the shoots break the surface so it is essential to scatter slug pellets early on. A natural way to get rid of snails once growth commences is to use nematodes, microscopic parasitic worms that live in soil. You can purchase nematode species specifically for killing slugs. Once all the slugs are killed, the nematodes will leave the area or die out. I find they are effective for about two months. Remember, slugs and snails will find their way into greenhouses and seedlings planted out can be stripped overnight.

Society trees in the Park

The Horticultural Society celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2008 by planting fifty trees in Aston Clinton Park. Recently the Parish Council have cleared the undergrowth from around many of our trees. They are field trees recommended by the district council to be suitable for the Buckinghamshire countryside and include silver birch, hornbeam, beech, cherry, lime, oak, wild service, field maple and



Society stalwart Elizabeth Weston poses alongside one of the fifty trees planted by the Society in Aston Clinton Park in 2008.

alder. They are now eight years old and have grown well. Some are nearly 20ft high, as can be seen from the picture above, and will eventually make a significant contribution to the park. Our thanks to the Parish Council for keeping the area around them clear.

Back to the weather

The mild wet weather in December meant that little or nothing has been done in the garden. Ground cannot be turned over when it is so sticky and heavy with water, and the weeds keep growing. I pray for some frosty weather in February, then you can dig the allotment or veg garden over and let the frost break down the tilth. I hope that you all have a successful gardening year in 2016.

Ralph Weston

Stations of the Cross

During Lent, a visitor to St Michael's Church will see a remarkable set of eleven charcoal drawings by Pat Rozental. They depict Jesus on the day of his crucifixion. To believers and non-believers alike, the images she has created are both moving and powerful. Here three examples are shown and Pat describes the background to their creation ...

SINCE the age of nine when my Sunday school went to see the epic film 'The Greatest Story Ever Told', The Stations of the Cross have been part of my visual vocabulary. I was probably a bit young for the film as I was absolutely horrified by the depiction of the crucifixion and for years after was haunted by the image of Max von Sydow's Christ suffering on the cross. Growing older I came into contact with other emotionally charged versions of

No. 2 Jesus takes up the Cross



Christ's Passion, such as Mantegna's 'Dead Christ', 'The Entombment of Christ' by Caravaggio and Michelangelo's 'Pieta'.

It was always my ambition to put some of the emotive power of such images into a suite of works corresponding to the Stations of the Cross. So when Rev. Elizabeth Moxley commissioned me to make a series of drawings to display in St. Michael's during Lent three years ago, I was delighted to oblige.



No. 4 Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

Because the drawings are site specific it was important that that they reflected the fabric of St Michael's: the wood in the pews and beautiful newly-lit ceiling, the stone arches and numerous gargoyles.

As my face of Christ was revealed I wanted him to look strong but vulnerable and at times almost resigned to his fate.

I felt compelled to give Jesus large, strong hands. He was a carpenter after all and 'He holds the whole world in them'. Indeed in Station number 4, where Jesus meets the

Women of Jerusalem, his hand actually comes over the cross and through his halo.

In drawing 6, Simon of Cyrene's hands are also huge, coming to the aid of a diminutive, exhausted, beat up Jesus.

Other characters in this 'Greatest Story Ever Told' include a grief stricken Mary, Pilate, depicted as a fat Roman and the revolting man who is clearly relishing his task of nailing Jesus to his cross.

My drawings, executed in charcoal, are a representation of violence and suffering brought to bear upon a single human figure. This is the Son of God, but also represents the son of man and is a response to human cruelty and the abuse of power that is most evident in the actions of repressive political, governmental and terrorist regimes today.

I feel we should be affected by them. They should make us feel angry, humble, complicit and pained.

Pat Rozental



No. 6 Simon of Cyrene helps carry the Cross

Royal British Legion news

The December meeting of our branch of the Royal British Legion was our Christmas bingo and supper. Some 25 to 30 members along with their guests crowded into the parish council meeting room.

After the formal opening remembrance we relaxed into our bingo session. Ray Rust was the caller and entertained us with his humour. The buffet was provided by the members.

The Aston Clinton branch meets regularly on the second Tuesday in the month at the parish council office in the park at 7.30pm.

We welcome all visitors and any who may wish to join us. The Royal British Legion is not necessarily for ex-servicemen but for all who wish to support the work of the Legion and to provide a social focus for those who are interested.

Ralph Weston

Buckland, Drayton Beauchamp and Aston Clinton WI

MARCH MEETING: Wed 2nd March 'Shrove Tuesday—more than just pancakes' In 2016, why not join your local branch of the WI? We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at the Anthony Hall in Aston Clinton at 7.45 pm. We enjoy theatre trips, a monthly lunch get-together and a strolling group. Ladies, come along and try us twice at no charge. You will be pleasantly surprised and make new friends.

Are you being noticed?

ECEMBER signalled the emergence of Christmas trees, decorations, tinsel and and lights. Driving through Tring High Street you were positively dazzled and possibly a little distracted by the almost continuous wave of beautiful white snowdrops and glittering lights. Emerging from the Western Road end, the carnival of lights became less noticeable and the street lights gave over their omnipresence.

Driving further along towards Aston Clinton, the swathe of orange light breaks here and there to blanket the surroundings in near-darkness. It's a fair bet you'll drive past those walking their canine friends or just walking whilst taking the opportunity to become pleasantly distracted by the surrounding world.

These hardy duos (or more) quite often walk down poorly illuminated or unlit lanes and roads and positively disappear into the dark surroundings. From the walker's perspective it's probably quite easy to estimate the trajectory of the headlights of an oncoming car and adjust their route accordingly but for the driver it's quite often a surprise to suddenly be confronted by a pair of shining eyes from the pooch and its owner at fairly short range. The dipped headlights on a car will typically have a 22m (72 feet) of forward illumination on the road before roadside detail can be discerned. A car travelling at 30mph will traverse that 22m in 1.6 seconds and so allowing for typical realisation and reaction times of around 0.5

seconds the driver is left with a second or so to take any avoiding action required. With dark clothing and/or no illumination or reflective material on the walker or pooch they do indeed seem to appear from nowhere! Slowing down one's driving speed to 20mph gives the driver almost an additional 1 second reaction time so is well worth doing.

I do tend to slow down when driving on unlit roads for this very reason but it does surprise me how many walkers walk along unlit

"... it does surprise me how many walkers walk along unlit roads with no high visibility aids."

roads with no high visibility aids. The misty weather we sometimes get doesn't help matters either and even in daylight a dark figure against a murky background blends in too well.

Some of the good visibility aids I've noticed (no excusing the pun) are high visibility and reflective jackets and/or strips that provide excellent poor light and darkness protection giving an early warning beacon between walker, pooch and driver. This visual highlight is particularly effective when accompanied by strips worn on moving limbs.

Being part of a closely knit community means looking out for everyone. Sharing the roads, as so often we do, requires effort by everyone to drive cautiously, remain noticed and stay safe.

Brian Berry

Parents: be aware of danger in and around Green End Street

During the current housebuilding off Chapel Drive, you will be aware of the constant coming and going of contractors' heavily laden lorries. The drivers are said to be paid by the load and many residents have noticed that some drivers drive at excessive speed. The site manager has

been made aware of the risk this poses to the safety of children at both ends of the school day. Parents: please be aware of the danger and be especially careful to keep control of children and toddlers at all times. The danger is acute.

Alec Just

Having fun and growing with the Brownies

E had a very busy term last year, at 1st Aston Clinton, welcoming new Brownies and saying goodbye to some, who went on to join our local Guides. This past term we had lots of exciting and fun activities, such as pancake making, stocking sewing, cookie decorating, and crazy science experiments to name only a few. We also got involved with our local community by attending the local Remembrance Parade in November.

We got the girls to explore and try new things at our Farm to Fork trip, at Tesco's in Tring. The girls went around the store trying different breads, cheese and exotic fruits, plus even getting to go in the big fridge and freezer! Everyone who participated tried 100% of all the different foods.

We worked on and all achieved the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) badge, which meant learning about Brownies from around the world, trying different foods and learning some fun new songs and actions from other Brownie countries.

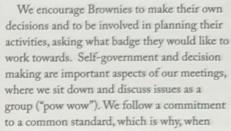
This upcoming term we are hoping to do some fun and adventurous outdoor activities, such as a torch-light treasure hunt, a visit to Green Park and a trip to a working farm during

Photo: Samantha Mayne
lambing season. In the summer our annual walk to Western
Turville fish and chip shop always proves popular amongst our

The Brownie adventure is all about having fun and trying exciting challenges, for girls aged seven to ten.

Brownies and Leaders.

Leaders also have fun!



hoto: Ja Johnson



Creative activity and friendship

they are ready, our Brownies and also the Leaders, make the Brownie Guide Promise, which has changed since I was a Brownie:

I promise that I will do my best
To be true to myself and develop my beliefs,
To serve the Queen and my Community,
To help other people, and
To keep the Brownie Guide Law.

We do have spaces in our Brownie Unit and welcome any girls who would like to come to one of our meetings, to see what we get up to.

If you would like more information or wish to register an interest in joining please visit www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

Jo Johnson



VILLAGE LIFE FEBRUARY/MARCH 2016

I CONSIDER myself to be pretty clued up on all things "social media". I've been using Facebook for almost a decade, dip in and out of Twitter and my current favourite, (like all the cool, young things I'm told) is Instagram. I try not to post pictures of my dinner but must 'fess up' to the occasional selfie (filtered obviously).

So when the kids' school offered a workshop for parents on e-safety and online protection for children, I went along fully expecting to be told how to suck some eggs. I was wrong.

In fact, by the end of the meeting, which was run by an officer from CEOP (a division of the police for Child Exploitation and Online Protection) I wanted to throw my phone away in horror and move my family to a wi-fi free cave somewhere up a remote mountain. There are some properly evil people out there, who do horrible things and it turns out I've been a bit of a naive numpty all this time practically inviting all

manner of weirdo's and freaks to find out exactly where I live, what I do and who I do it with.

I'm exaggerating of course, at least I hope I am. I'm strict about privacy settings and don't accept 'friend' requests or 'follows' from anyone I don't know in person. But what surprised me was how incredibly easy it is for those with a small amount of technical nous to glean infor-

mation and worm their way into the online world of those slightly less long-in-the-tooth than me. Like my children.

Now, my lot are, as yet, still too young for their own social media accounts, although tablets for Christmas gave them their first opportunity to 'message' each other digitally. Reading through their messages was a fairly shocking insight into the swear words they can now use in context and yes there was a proliferation of poo emojis. I realised pretty quickly that I needed to have a word with them about

the implication of sending such messages to people outside of our family. This of course spiralled into a lecture about context and cyber-bullying and upsetting someone so much they might kill themself, and that then the police would be able to trace all messages even if they had been deleted ... at which point my husband cleared his throat and I noticed the terror on the poor darlings' faces. "I don't

think I want this anymore", no. 2 muttered, pushing it away like it might explode.

Then to my horror, no.1 wandered in to my

bedroom on a video call to her uncle completely oblivious to the fact that I was still at the mostly naked stage of getting dressed. This was possibly more traumatic for him than me. So yes, our online safety definitely needs some work if only to protect the innocent, my 31-year-old brother included. Kelly Cornish

Solution to Crossword No.14

13. Adultery 15. Duennas 19. Catch 20. Aria 22. Bye 1. Cardigan 2. Range 4. Ark 5. Dictatorship 6. Absolve 7. Keen 8. Cartographer 12. Flash

18. Metaphysical 21. Ranch 22. Brittle 23. Absorbed 24. Whey 1, Card 3, Aardvark 9, Ransack 10, Caste 11, Identifiable 14, And 16, Guano 17, End

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 please mention Village Life when you contact them.

Don't miss this year's Village Market!

SHOPPING BAGS and hearty appetites at the ready – Village Market 2016 is almost here! There's still time to book a pitch at one of the most anticipated dates in the Aston Clinton calendar, but spaces are going fast so now is the time to get in touch!

The eighth annual Market will be held on Sunday 8th May and is shaping up to be another fun-paced, family event, with fabulous food and drink, great entertainment and a wealth of stalls selling a huge variety of local crafts and farmers' market fare.

You'll be able to browse everything from vintage furniture and hand-made jewellery to tempting cakes, pickles and chutneys. Plus you will be supporting local sellers and our wonderful primary school at the same time.

For more information about the 2016 Village Market or to enquire about booking a stall or catering pitch, please visit our website: www.acvillagemarket.co.uk or email us at: bookings@acvillagemarket.co.uk

Sarah Marsh



hoto: Alec

Be vigilant and be safe!

Aston Clinton is regarded as a peaceful and relatively crime-free locality. However, as this incident report makes clear, we should not be complacent ...

On 12th January, between the hours of 7pm and midnight, an intruder removed the door of a garden shed in Long Plough by unscrewing the hinges to the door before stealing a petrol strimmer. The theft was reported to the police.

This is the first incident reported in Long Plough for more than three years. Everyone would be well advised to check the security of their property and cars; especially garden sheds, garages and vans if you have tools or garden equipment that might be targeted. Fit good locks, padlocks, lighting and alarms, or take expensive tools indoors at night where appropriate.

If you see anyone acting suspiciously please inform Thames Valley Police on their non-emergency number 101. In an emergency, if you see a serious crime taking place, still dial 999.

Simon Icke

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Long Plough, Aston Clinton

Christmas lunch 2015 at RAF Halton

his year over fifty of our senior citizens were invited to RAF Halton for a Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 9th December where we were joined by others from Wendover and Weston Turville. It was held in the Henderson Trainee Mess.

We were received by station commander Group Captain Adrian Burns and volunteers from RAF Halton who took our coats and assisted those who needed help to climb the steps and generally made us welcome. We sat down to listen to the Halton Voluntary Band playing carols and Christmas songs. After we had been joined by the Wendover contingent we were served with mulled wine and soft drinks. This was followed by a three-course Christmas dinner that included turkey and ham, vegetables and all the trimmings and followed by Christmas pudding and coffee and mince pies.

After lunch we played two rounds of bingo followed by a prize draw. This was followed by music from a disco and a Karaoke when our

own Ray Rust got up and sang to us. The station commander spoke to us and thanked us for our support of RAF Halton.

Before being brought home by coach we were given a goody bag which this year included a recruiting plastic 'waterbag'. I am not sure if it was intended to sustain us on our daily runs or to encourage us to take up running!

Our thanks are due to RAF Halton for a Ralph Weston very enjoyable occasion.

Ron Tye and Mary Flower pulling a cracker



David Green looks on expectantly as Margaret Baynes is served by Cpl Fiona Rotherham.





Above: The invited senior citizens tuck in to the splendid Christmas lunch provided by RAF Halton.

Below: RAF Halton station commander Group Captain Adrian Burns goes beyond the normal call of duty. The lucky diners are Sylvia Green and Janet Tye.



holography by Photographic Section RAF Halton © UK MOD crown copyright re

Surgery news

UR new website is now live, with lots of new functions and advice for patients. The go-live date was a surprise for everyone – both the practice and the patients! We knew it was on its way but the domain change happened much more quickly than our supplier anticipated, and brought with it some technical hitches that both our old supplier and new supplier worked very hard to sort out as quickly as possible. We appreciate that the change caused some frustration, and apologise for that. All the patient-facing hitches are now rectified, but we have had some feedback regarding the repeat prescription ordering system.

The new website supplier has built in a security element that requires patients to type in the medication that is required each time it is ordered. This is different from our old website which remembered previous ordered items. We appreciate that, for some patients, this is frustrating but the new system is designed to protect patient confidentiality.

If you wish to order your repeat prescription online, please click on 'prescriptions', then click 'order your repeat prescription online', fill in the online form and click submit. The details are then sent securely to the practice for them to process the requests.

Following our patient surveys, we are also offering another new service, via the website, that went live on Wednesday 6th January. It is called Web GP and offers patients a huge amount of self-help information regarding lots

of illnesses. However, if this information doesn't answer your question, you can complete an online questionnaire which is delivered securely to the practice. One of the GP team will assess the form and you will be contacted by the end

"Web GP (accessed via our website) offers patients a huge amount of self-help information regarding lots of illnesses ..."

of the next working day with feedback and treatment options. As this system is online 24/7, we anticipate that it will allow greater flexibility for patients, and offer an alternative to a traditional GP appointment.

Technology is a wonderful thing and we know from patient feedback that many patients are keen for us to explore new systems that allow patients to complete forms, view their records, order medication and many other things, without actually having to contact the practice by telephone or in person. Of course, the new systems may not suit everyone, but we hope that by offering a variety of options, we offer something that works for you. There are sometimes hiccups with new technology, despite however much testing is done beforehand, but we will always do our best to solve the issues as soon as possible, and appreciate your patience and support when this happens.

Take a look at the new website, see what you think. www.westongrove.com

Best wishes for 2016 from all at Aston Clinton Surgery

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

Temperance and training

THERE are two buildings at the top of Brook Street of considerable interest. On one corner used to be the Temperance Hotel and/or café. On the opposite side, where there are now flats, there used to be a shop, once owned by Dick Bignall's mother. Very many decades ago, that building was known as the 'Institute' and it dates back to the Rothschilds' time. It was built as a training school for domestic staff at the Rothschild houses. Its intake was three girls per year with a maximum of six. Dick Bignall remembers the lady in charge was a Miss Molique. During very cold spells they also made soup for the poor of the village.

In a 1972 issue of *The Astonian* magazine, Mrs Elsie Birch, then a well-known figure in the village, recalled that next to the Temperance Hotel there was:

"... a row of cottages and shops including an Off Licence. In that shop, now a grocery shop, was a cycle shop, opened by the late Mr Ernie Collier. Mr Collier left the cycle shop and started the garage, together with a blacksmith's shop in Aylesbury Road. Both he and the late

Mr W Plater, who lived at the other garage, acquired a car just before the 1914-18 war. The old Ford 'tin lizzie' was then a luxury.

"Next to the row of cottages was Raglan House, the home then of Mr Robert Howe. He owned the horse buses, which travelled to Aylesbury twice daily; small one for weekdays, larger one for Saturdays. The fare I suppose was about sixpence return. Even then, many could not afford the fare, so they walked. It was not until 1919 that he changed to a 'motor'. Very different from the buses we are familiar with today.

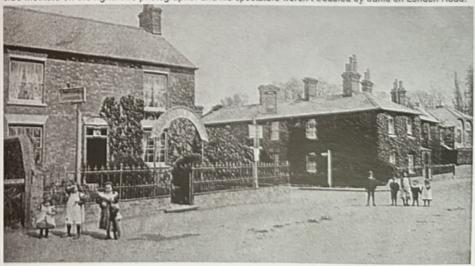
"Now we will go across the road. The shop, now the butchers, was a lovely toy shop, owned by Mrs and Miss Burnham. How we children used to love peering through the window.

What a lot of public houses there were in those days! Five have disappeared in my lifetime."

Ralph Weston

(with additional material by the late Mrs Elsie Birch, reprinted from *The Astonian* magazine of autumn 1972

The junction of Brook Street with London Road, c.1905. On the left is the Temperance Hotel with the ivyclad Institute on the right. The photographer and his spectators weren't troubled by traffic on London Road.



Whitechapel Breakfast Challenge

N 19th November 2015, a group of us from St Michael & All Angel's Church took the Breakfast Challenge at Whitechapel Mission, a London based charity helping the homeless of the streets of our capital. The Whitechapel Mission meets their immediate needs by providing them with food, shelter, clothing and medical care. St Michael's have been collecting for Whitechapel for many years now with our main collection happening around Harvest time. Food donations such as beans, cereals, biscuits and oil, and donations of clothing are essential for this charity to continue to provide the care for those less fortunate than ourselves.

The Breakfast Challenge is currently the most popular form of volunteering at the Whitechapel Mission. Teams of volunteers book up to prepare and serve breakfast to as many as 300 people.

Our day began at 4.15am (that in itself was quite a challenge!). We had instructions to be there by 5.45 am for our briefing. We were met by Michelle, the kitchen manager, who swiftly

"It was a very rewarding and meaningful experience to see where and how our donations are put to use."

delegated amongst us all the kitchen chores: emptying dozens of cans of beans into gigantic saucepans, toasting and buttering endless rounds of bread, stirring enormous vats of porridge, cooking mountains of sausages and bacon, and frying approximately 300 eggs! All this whilst serving umpteen cups of tea and coffee to the homeless visitors who started arriving from 6am.

At 8am some of the team began to serve breakfast whilst the rest of us continued to cook, or wash up. At 10am the kitchen closed for the day but the work did not end there as we all took on the job of clearing the kitchen and dining area, which included mopping floors, leaving it prepared for the next day. We were all done (and done in!) by 11.30am.

The Whitechapel Breakfast Challenge was indeed a challenge for us all; not only because of the hard work it entailed but also because it challenged us to help and serve people whom we would not necessarily meet in our everyday lives. It was a very rewarding and meaningful experience and fantastic to see where and how our donations are put to use. The permanent team of staff, headed up by Michelle, were inspirational, passionate and unconditionally caring towards the hundreds of visitors we saw come through the doors of Whitechapel that morning. But even more inspirational is to know that Billy, a regular kitchen volunteer, was himself one of those homeless visitors not so long ago, and thanks to the work of Whitechapel Mission has been able to literally Rev. Sally Bottomer turn his life around.

The best job went to Katherine Sheelan





Top: Penny Ginger, Phillip Bayley, Katherine Sheelan, 'Billy', Sally Bottomer and Grace Spiller pose for a souvenir group photo.

Bottom left: Penny Ginger and Phillip Bayliss hard at work

Bottom right: Grace Spiller, Sally Bottomer and Phillip Bayley drew the short straws at the end.





VILLAGE LIFE FEBRUARY/MARCH 2016

A sign of things to come?

FRIDAY 15th JANUARY was the deadline for parents to apply for their child's primary school place, starting this September. The trend over recent years has been for the number of applications to rise faster than places are made available. Despite this trend, over 80% of parents succeed in getting their first choice preference, leaving almost one in five parents disappointed.

It is also disappointing that the Dept of Local Government and Communities appears to have failed to inform Bucks CC back in 2011 that the National Planning Policy Framework it was preparing would greatly increase the need for primary school places in villages like Aston Clinton. Had there been proper co-ordination, perhaps the recent enlargement of our primary school would have better matched the expected large increase in demand for places. Currently, the newly enlarged school is all but full.

Aston Clinton will greatly increase in size over the coming five years or so. Where are all the extra children going to go?

Alec Just



BritishRedCross

British Red Cross needs YOU!

Do something amazing for 2016. Set up a fundraising group in your Community!

From coffee mornings to cake sales, quiz nights to wine tasting events, being part of a group makes fundraising really fun. Get together with friends, family or colleagues and start your own fundraising group in your community, or you may want to join one of our existing groups. Perhaps you have a great idea about how to raise money for the Red Cross?

Each group is different, but most groups meet up every month or so to plan fundraising events around their interests and to get their community together. As the local face of the British Red Cross our fundraising groups are essential to ensure that the British Red Cross continue to help people in crisis.

We'll support you every step of the way. With your support and great ideas you will be helping others in crisis.

Call Sharon, your local Community Fundraiser to find out more.
01296 739309 or email scooper@redcross.org.uk or
visit our website www.redcross.org.uk/getinvolved

In Buckinghamshire, our Fire and Emergency Support Service attends to incidents such as a fire or flood, our skilled volunteers offer immediate shelter, emotional and practical support to those affected by a house fire.

How the Pavilion came about

As you may know, plans are afoot to replace the Pavilion in the park with a modern building more appropriate to the needs of a growing community.

In 1972, following the acquisition by the Parish Council of land that now forms Aston Clinton Park, planning permission was obtained for the erection of a 'Youth Activity Centre'.

What follows is an account of the early progress of that project, jointly undertaken by the Parish Council and the Aston Clinton Association, published in a 1972 issue of the Astonian Magazine.

"YOU will be aware of the acquisition by the Parish Council of the splendid 35 acre Green Park site for development of village recreational facilities. Your Association thought it right to sponsor the construction and running of a youth activity centre to be located in Green Park, subject to Parish Council agreement. Several meetings have been held, both within the Association and the Parish Council, to determine the type and siting of the building. Agreement in principle, subject to these conditions, has now been achieved with the Council.

"Mr S Powell, the County Youth Officer, has

kindly advised on all aspects of the future structure, supervision and equipment which will be involved in such a project. This expert advice has enabled us to obtain plans and make application for substantial grants from the various authorities. The total initial cost being approximately £3,800, the Association's proportion being £1,000. A decision is expected later this year and we hope that the building can be started shortly afterwards. To control costs and to maximise on the amount of money available, as much local practical help as is possible will be available.

"We are sure that you will be as excited as we are that such a centre is a distinct possibility and, although primarily for youth, it can be used for more adult recreational pursuits. Whilst certain funds are available, it is hoped that, with your support, this year's Garden Fete will be an even greater success than those held previously. The money raised will assist considerably this youth activity centre project. Your support, either in a practical way by donations or assistance, or by your attendance at our fete, will greatly contribute to its success.

DT Cotterell Secretary

Aston Clinton Association

(Reprinted from a 1972 issue of The Astonian)



Christmas Fair 2015

ST MICHAEL'S Christmas Fair on the first Saturday in December has become a long standing tradition for raising money towards the upkeep of the Church, and this year we raised £3,200.

Father Christmas usually arrives by pony and trap but sadly one of the 'reindeer' went lame so Father Christmas had to walk to the Anthony Hall. Here he was met by many of the children who wanted to hold his hand and have their photograph taken with him. The Fair was well attended by many people, including our local MP, David Lidington, Cllrs Bill Chapple

and Jenny Bloom, chairman of AVDC.

Stalls included Christmas wreaths made by Joan Collins, a home-made cake stall which is always popular and a large gift stall with plenty of choice for those looking for Christmas presents. The traditional tombola, plants and book stall were all well patronised.

Ralph Weston

Photos below:

Top: A general view of the Fair in the Anthony Hall Bottom left: Father Christmas with Joan Collins Bottom right: James and Tom Rolfe, aged 6 and 9, pose with Father Christmas.







Photography: Richard Needha

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 6 Feb	10am	Produce Stall and Coffee	All Saints' Church
Tues 9 Feb	12-4.30pm	Pancake Party	All Saints' Church
Fri 12 Feb	7.30pm	Film Night	All Saints' Church
Sat 5 March	10am	Produce Stall and Coffee	All Saints' Church
Sun 6 March	4pm	Messy Mothering Sunday	All Saints' Church
Fri 11 March	7.30pm	Film Night	All Saints' Church
Sun 20 March	11am	Palm Sunday All Sain	
Sun 20 March	6pm	Choral Evensong followed by	All Saints' Church
		Annual Parochial Church Meeting	
Fri 25 March	1.30pm	Good Friday Worship All Saints' Cl	
Sun 27th March	11am	Easter Fire Family Communion All Saints' Churc	

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

Thank you to all my helpers and friends, who came to help decorate and join in the fun at All Saints for our Christmas season. It looked beautiful as usual, if not a bit different! Thank you too for Altar flowers throughout 2015, and in anticipation for 2016. Very special thanks to Sue Lipscomb who, in my absence, checked and replaced flowers when necessary.

I will be holding a "Tea and Cake Afternoon" on Sat 6 February 2-4pm at 25 Beaconsfield Road with a raffle and bring & buy stall. Please come and bring your friends. Details on 01296 630072. Frances Farley

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH in Buckland Village is

Village is looking to form



a band to play once a month during Sunday morning worship. We are very interested to hear from keen local musicians.

for more info please call either: Nigel Kippax on 01296 631010 or Alison Roberts on 01296 630256.

The rise of the 'mumpreneurs'?

ORE than 40 years before the term 'mumpreneurs' was invented, some of us in the parish were juggling the same problem of how to make the best of being a working mum.

I reckon today's young mothers have got it easy! When I left my job on a national newspaper before my daughter was born, maternity

leave, paid or unpaid, was not an option. Fortunately I was offered regular freelance work which lasted for 25 years.

However, in that dark era before computers and mobile phones, I had to bash out copy on a manual typewriter and get it to the office. (My husband

was a patient courier.) The fixed line telephone was the biggest headache. Only local calls could be dialled, others had to go through the exchange. Getting information for an article was very time consuming.

Childcare was difficult. There were no local creches or play schools and I relied heavily on a wonderful local girl who worked as a 'mother's help'.

Food shopping in the mid-1960s was very limited. There were a few supermarkets in London but none in this area. The Tring grocer delivered to Buckland once a week and so did the butcher but the only place to get good, fresh fruit and veg was the Tring Friday market where the stall had a long queue. Instant meals were something you made yourself and froze!

On the plus side, I think life was probably lived at a more sensible pace than today. We worked very, very hard, but it was fun. 'Stress' was not a word you ever heard.

Like the girls in Sarah Marsh's article, I did have a career change in

order to stop commuting. I trained as a bookbinder and set up a workshop at home. Nothing like as profitable as journalism, just very satisfying.

Liz Young

Editor's note: Liz Young's article was inspired by the article by Sarah Marsh on p11 in the Dec/Jan issue of Village Life, entitled "The rise of the mumpreneurs".

Readers may recall being introduced to Shabby, the adopted ginger moggy, last August. Here's another day from the summer diary of his chosen carers ...

DURING midsummer days, the sun sweeps a long band of sunshine across the right-hand flower bed in our garden, uninterrupted for six



or seven hours.
Instinctively
positioning
himself at the
most easterly
point in the bed,
Shabby was
often seen
treading down a

comfy patch to bed-in for a day of summer basking. Our own cat Fudge, a typical cat most happy in his daily routine, often looked on Shabby's invading manoeuvres on his territory with an air of quiet protest embodied by much tail-wagging and distant hissing. Acting out the familiar holiday scene, where the early riser gets the best spots around the pool, Fudge was always a little too late to claim that for himself. Had he done this then I'm sure there would have been a dawn stand-off with neither wanting to give up their prize piece of turf.

The long coat of ginger and white fur that Shabby sported was, I'm sure, not his best ally during the hot summer days.

Continued on p30

St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp

Regular Services: 10.45 am each Sunday

Forthcoming events

Date	Time	Event	Location	
Sun 6 March	10.45am	Mothering Sunday	St Mary's Church	
Tues 15 March	8pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting	St Mary's Church	
Sun 20 March	10.45am	Palm Sunday	St Mary's Church	
Fri 25 March	2.30pm	Good Friday Worship	St Michael's Church	
Sun 27 March	10.45am	m Easter Day Communion St Mic		

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

Pony Express

This year I delivered in Drayton Beauchamp twice. I had 14 or more bundles of letters and delivered to about 30 addresses, I forgot to count the letters but it must have been between 100 and 200. Thank you for your generous donations. I have added a bit and sent £90 each to World Horse Welfare, and Rennie Grove Hospice Care.

Erica Godman

Restoration of the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union

THE Canal and River Trust together with the Wendover Arm Trust (WAT) have lodged a Stage 1 application for a Heritage Lottery grant for the completion of the restoration to full navigation of the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal from Little Tring Bridge to Drayton Beauchamp.

If the Stage 1 application is approved, a Stage 2 application will be made for a grant of £1.9m to complete Phase 2 of the restoration so that full navigation will be possible to Drayton Beauchamp. The grant would enable contractors to be employed to assist the volunteer workforce, thereby completing Phase 2 in about two years instead of 8/9 years if only volunteer labour is available.

A meeting of WAT supporters was held at Green Park in November to update everyone on restoration progress and to present the case for making the Hertage Lottery bid.

Addressing the Green Park meeting, left to right: John Dodwell, Canal and River Trust; Chris Sargeant, chairman, Wendover Arm Trust and James Clifton, Canal and River Trust

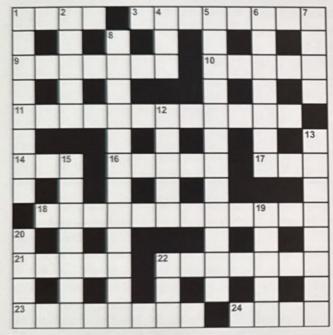


iolo: Wendover Arm Trust

Village Life crossword no.14

Crossword compiled by Helen Lonsdale

Solution to this crossword on page 16



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Referee's red or yellow (4)
- 3. Ant Bear (8)
- 9. Plunder and Pillage (7)
- 10. Hindu social class (5)
- 11. Distinguishable (12)
- 14. Also (3)
- 16. Seabird dung used as fertiliser (5)
- 17. Final (3)
- Of 17th century poems such as those by John Donne (12)
- 21. Large farm in N. America (5)
- 22. Fragile and easily broken (7)
- 23. Digested (8)
- 24. Watery part of milk (4)

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Town on River Teifi, S. Wales (8)
- 2. Scope (5)
- 4. Biblical vessel (3)
- 5. Autocracy (12)
- 6. Forgive (7)
- 7. Ardent (4)
- 8. Maker of maps (12)
- 12. Sudden news item (5)
- 13. Infidelity (8)
- 15. Chaperones (7)
- 19. Snare (5)
- 20. Song (4)
- 22. A extra in cricket (3)

Shabby the cat contd from p28

Early one evening we had set up our garden sprinkler to give our thirsty lawn a needed quench. Shabby was resident in his favourite spot and was oblivious to our activities, no doubt engrossed in a deep feline dream. The odd twitch he gave confirmed it was nothing deeper (Shabby was in his twilight years by now) and so we left him to his warm slumber and turned the sprinkler on. As the sprinkler swept across the lawn a light evening breeze drove the fine mist a little further.

Unbeknown to us, Shabby was also getting a light sprinkling at the end of every sweep and 30 minutes later we were confronted by a bedraggled ginger moggy meowing at our back door. I think it was his way of confronting us to either thank us for the cooling down or out of annoyance for being woken up, soaked right through! I suspect the latter but in any case we mediated by giving him a generous plate of just-cooked roast chicken which made the whole world right again.

The next day Shabby regimentally took up his post and wasn't even deterred by our evening sprinkler manoeuvres; this time we made sure he stayed dry if only in concern of having to sacrifice some the salmon we had prepared for dinner. I'm sure that the resourceful Shabby was angling for a different outcome though — a wet coat is fair exchange for a belly full of roast chicken in any cat's book! *Brian Berry*

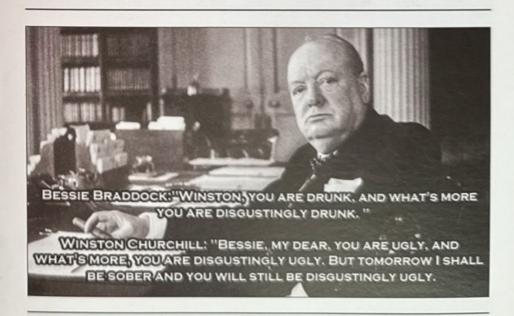
Support our advertisers! They make your magazine possible.



The County Museum in Church Street, Aylesbury should be better known. Here's what one visitor wrote about it:

"It's a hidden gem full of delights! Highly recommended by two 7-year olds! The variety and scope of the museum is well worth a visit. We didn't cover more than three rooms and spent nearly two hours there. We only left as they were closing! We will definitely visit again."

Winter opening times are Tues to Sat 10am-4pm. They have a small gift shop and cafeteria. Park in one of the main car parks. Visit their website for more information.



REQUEST: Would those who would like their email addresses included in the "Useful Numbers" listings on the centre pages please contact the Editor with details at alec.just@btinternet.com

Useful telephone numbers

Name	Contact	Telephone no.	Email address
1st Aston Clinton Rainbows	See below*	-	
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		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	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	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	cpatemoster@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	Diane Brown	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	
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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	Control of the Contro

^{*} To register an interest in joining the Brownies or Guides, visit www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

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

Police information

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

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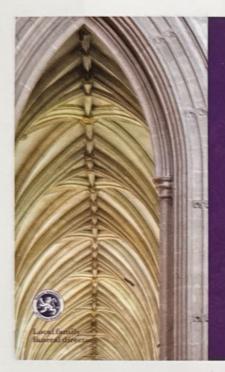
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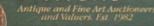
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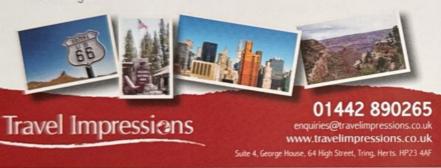


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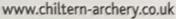
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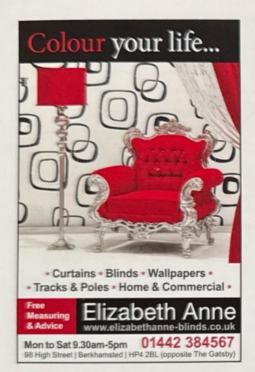
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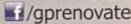
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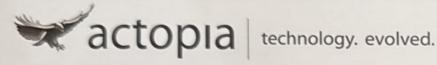
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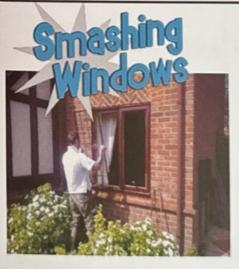
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