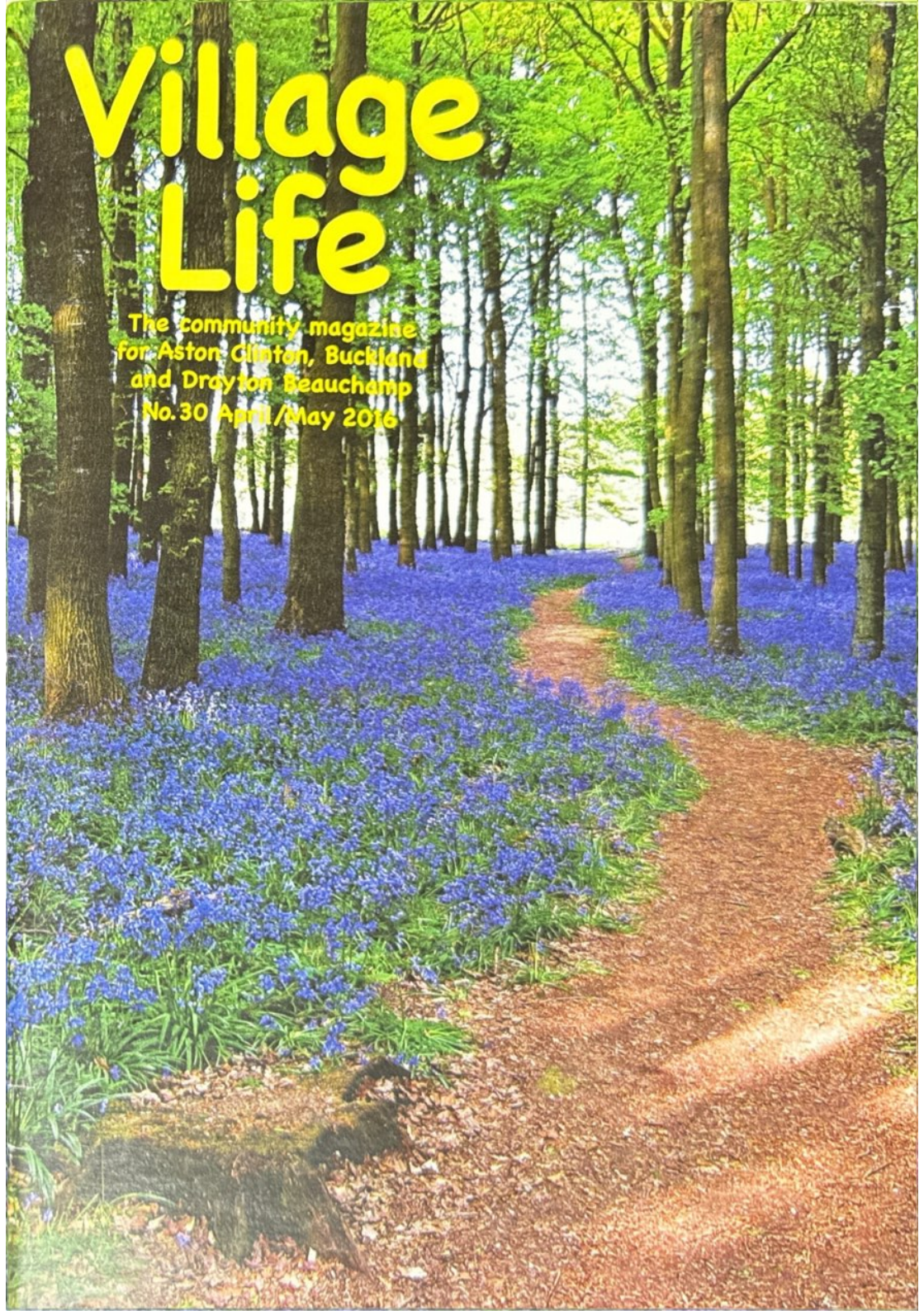


Village Life

The community magazine
for Aston Clinton, Buckland
and Drayton Beauchamp
No.30 April/May 2016





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**The Editor is always pleased to
receive local news of people,
clubs and events.**

VILLAGE LIFE APRIL/MAY 2016

Village Life

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



YOU WILL FIND that the young generation features strongly in this Spring issue of your magazine. The future of our country depends on our children acquiring the knowledge and skills needed to meet the many challenges facing us as this century unfolds.

On page 19, Paula Daddow reminds us that a good pre-school needs willing helpers in both foreground and behind the scenes, as it introduces little ones to learning together through play. Volunteer if you can.

Helen Shepherd, head teacher at Aston Clinton School, describes on page 12 a proven and innovative idea that she is deploying in the challenge of encouraging children not to be dispirited by difficulty, but instead to discover the pride and pleasure of success through effort.

One of the many advantages of growing up in Aston Clinton is access to open green space. Gill Merry, Clerk to our re-energised Parish Council, tells us on page 8 of the many improvements being made to our already magnificent park and recreation ground. The story of how that wonderful space came to be is recounted on page 22 by James Adam, who was instrumental in the purchase of the land for the village almost 50 years ago.

As we know, outdoor sports are hugely important in helping to develop the social skills of young people as well as building healthy minds and bodies. Cricket, football and netball are all played in our park with room to spare for walking and refreshment at The Café in the Park. On page 14, Elton Gray invites us to meet the Aston Clinton Colts, as frisky and competitive a bunch of youngsters as you'll find anywhere. Cricket is not forgotten on page 15.

Finally, do enjoy reading Neil Walker's account on pages 20 and 21 of an exhilarating Scouting year in the lives of many young Aston Clintonians.

Alec Just
Editor

Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends

Recently I was watching a father watching his child who was learning to walk. The little girl was just so resilient – the failure she was experiencing as she mastered her new skill didn't put her off, even though every couple of steps she sat down heavily or fell forward towards the settee to save herself.

Her father meanwhile, was being really encouraging: even though his little daughter was having a lot more failure than success, he was celebrating every faltering step.

For we who are older, it's harder to reveal our failures to others. Perhaps we're embarrassed about them. Perhaps we fear that those around us will think less of us if we're not always successful. Perhaps we don't like our vulnerable selves as much as we do our capable selves.

It's hard to admit our failures to others, but it's not impossible. As adults we need to re-learn how to be real and, to do that, we need to start by being honest. Honesty really is the best policy! Whatever we do, we have to begin by

starting to admit the truth about ourselves to ourselves. And we must never impersonate other clever, holy, successful people. Pretending we're somebody we're not isn't life-giving. Neither is sentimentalising or romanticising what it's like for others. After all, unless we've been incredibly blessed, most of us recognise

that just getting through life is heroic. Everyone shares our experience of the frailty of being human. We are each pursuing a uniquely interesting and valuable journey but we all have deep flaws as well as great strengths.

Like the father I watched, God is never absent. He celebrates our failures and delights in every hard-won step we take. He recognises that salvation is not a magic act accomplished by moral behaviour but a gradual realisation of who we are and eternally will be: children of God, who through Christ are human and divine at the same time.

With love

Elizabeth



Happy birthday, Ma'am!

We offer our respectful congratulations to Her Majesty the Queen who, on 21st April, celebrates her 90th birthday.

The description 'role model' is used lightly in today's world. There can surely be no living person who more rightly fits that term than the Queen. With the support of Prince Philip, she exemplifies, through her dignity and charm, the qualities of commitment, loyalty, and unwavering dedication to the Coronation vows she made back in 1953.



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
Sun 3 April	11am	Benefice Communion Service	All Saints' Church
Sat 9 April	7.30 for 8pm	Music Under the Lights	Anthony Hall
Sun 8 May	11am	Prayer Tent at the Village Market	AC School
Sun 15 May	4pm	Service for HM the Queen followed by Bring and Share Tea	St Michael's Church
Sun 19 June	10.30 – 12.30pm	Day of Prayer begins at ...	St Michael's Church
Sun 19 June	12.30 – 2.30pm	Day of Prayer continues at ...	AC Baptist Church
Sun 3 July	11am	Benefice Service to celebrate the ordination of Alison Roberts	All Saints' Church
Sat 9 July	2-5pm	Church Fete	St Michael's Church
Sat 9 July	6-8pm	Barbecue	St Michael's Church

Every Monday 10-12am Bridge at St Michael's; 2-4.30pm Rhubarb Café at St Michael's Church.
More details about all these events on the church website: www.s-michaels.org.uk

Village Market Prayer Tent

If you would like a quiet space, or
would like to pray with us, or have
any needs we can support you with,
then come and visit us in the
tent at this year's market.

Sunday 8th May 2016 from 11.00 a.m.

Hosted by St. Michael's, All Saints', St. Mary's
and Aston Clinton Baptist Churches

A historical guide to St Michael's Church



Photo: James Adam

PART TWO

IN the previous edition of Village Life I dealt with the Sanctuary which is that part of the Church at the east end containing the High Altar and divided from the rest of the Chancel by the Altar Rail.

The word 'Chancel' comes from the Late Latin word *cancellus* meaning lattice, which referred to the typical form of rood screen which divided the Chancel from the main body of the Church, known as the Nave.

The Chancel at St Michael's contains the choir stalls. The back rows of the stalls are the originals which have been adapted to fit in with the design of the pews throughout the church. The seats on the front rows and the frontals are oak and were installed in 1961. The oak that they (and all the pews throughout the Church) are made from came from trees cut down when building the then new Bedgrove Estate. They were made by Webster and

Cannon whose yard was in Cambridge Street, Aylesbury and which is now part of Sainsbury's car park. In the 1990s, additions were made to enable members of the choir to see their music better whilst standing to sing and brass candle sticks incorporating electric down lighters were added.

When the organ pipes were moved from between the windows on the south side of the Chancel to the west end of the church, some of the plaster fell off revealing a little bit of a medieval wall painting. Some time ago an 'expert' told us that it was a small part of a depiction of the beggar touching the robe of St Martin. How such a bold assertion could be made from such a small detail, I do not know. Conscripted as a soldier into the Roman army, St Martin found the duty incompatible with the Christian faith he had adopted and became an early conscientious objector. He is best known for the account of his using his military

sword to cut his cloak in two, to give half to a beggar clad only in rags in the depth of winter.

Over each of the four windows in the Chancel and over the east window and the blocked up window in the Sanctuary are stone mouldings at each end of which are carved stone heads. They would have been carved by a stonemason who specialised in portraiture. Usually the heads would be of people who lived in the village at the time the church was built, so here we probably have portraits in stone of some old Astonians. Considering they are nearly 800 years old, they are in remarkably good condition. Up close to the one with the



Photo: James Adam

rather peculiar hair that looks like snails, one can still see traces of the paint with which it was originally covered.

There are a small number of memorial plaques in the Chancel. The most notable is that to the former

Rector, Charles Watkin Wynne Eaton who was Rector between 1848 and 1870. Although the memorial is to him, most of the information on it concerns his wife to such an extent that I wonder if *she* wrote it during her lifetime!

The Chancel contains the organ console and the Choir Organ. The organ was installed in 1894 at a cost of £280. The organ was fully restored and improved in 2012 when the pipes which are now at the west end of the nave were painted and gilded. The cost of the restoration was nearly £100,000, thirty-five times its original cost! Behind the choir organ



Photo: James Adam

and hidden from view, is a 'squint', - a small window which enabled lepers and others,

unable to come into church for health reasons, to watch the administration of the sacraments.

Finally, I have to correct a statement I made in Part 1 of this history in which I said that the figure on the right in the East Window was St Peter. In fact, it is St Paul who is always depicted with a sword. My thanks to those who spotted this and pointed it out.



Photo: James Adam

James Adam

St Michael and All Angels

SUMMER FETE

On Saturday 9th July we will be holding our Summer Fete from 2-5pm followed by a Barbecue from 6-8pm. Come and relax with afternoon tea, browse among the stalls laden with the beautiful handiwork of local crafts people, try your luck at the tombola and raffle or have fun in the children's games area. Enjoy entertainment from local school children during the afternoon or bring the family to the early evening barbecue. Whatever you choose to enjoy you will be most welcome.

Parish Council news

THE END of the financial year sees the parish council planning towards the next one. As we look back, we can feel a great sense of pride in all that it has been achieved in the first year of this new council.

We have launched our Neighbourhood Plan (NHP) which continues to gather pace and is currently in the midst of a public consultation exercise. We have tendered out all our grounds maintenance work, saving us money and have had our first year in partnership with the excellent Buckland Landscapes. We have undertaken more grounds maintenance work but what a difference it has made, with all the clearance along the boundary of the Park, in the wooded areas and in the churchyard! We have been able to employ a new staff member who is not fully but largely dedicated to the planning committees and NHP, without whom the NHP would not have been possible.

We have applied for and received almost £128,000 in Section 106 money from new housing developments in the village. This has enabled us to install a state of the art Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), new park signs and a new pathway allowing everyone to access our facilities. We have installed an overspill car park in anticipation of the busy summer months. We are hoping that the new skate ramps and integrated play park equipment will be in place by May half-term. We look forward to seeing disabled children being able to use the new equipment alongside their able-bodied counterparts.

We have implemented new policies that have brought us into line with current public sector practice, and a new accounting system to keep a tight eye on the finances. We have forged working links with the football club, the youth club and the skate park users. Last but not least, we have tenanted out the Pavilion to the fantastic 'Your Cafe in the Park'. For this

council, this is only the start of what is planned.

As Clerk, I would like to congratulate the council members on these achievements and for ensuring local taxes are being spent for the good of the village, with every penny working effectively during 2015-16. The parish council proportion of your council tax amounts to £8.79 per household per month for the average home in Aston Clinton. More than two-thirds of this was spent on projects for, and maintenance of, the village.

Future plans

Looking ahead to the next two years of this council, we are thinking big! Building a new community centre is not for the faint-hearted but we have already had earmarked over £1 million from BCC's New Homes Bonus and from Section 106 money, to be set aside from local housing developments. The sub-committee are now meeting regularly to find ways of raising the remaining £1.5 million. Designs have been prepared for the building which will contain high quality sports, hospitality, performance, meeting and office provision. We can't wait!

Gill Merry Parish Clerk

Royal British Legion news

Our main fundraising event for the Aston Clinton branch will be on **Sunday 8th May**, 11-4pm, when we will have a stall at the Village Market (see page 24). Our stall will have a range of merchandise and books to sell. Please come and visit us on the day.

We are holding a quiz evening with fish-and-chip supper on Friday 17 June at the Café in the Park. Doors open at 7 for 7.30pm and the event is open to the public. Tickets £10 from Brian Parker on 07437 341052 or by email from: Bryanparker150@googlemail.com

Ralph Weston

Aston Clinton Neighbourhood Plan / Questionnaire

Calling every resident!

By now you should have received your questionnaire which is your chance to influence the future of our village by helping to guide the Neighbourhood Plan towards a successful outcome. PLEASE take the time (about 20 minutes) to complete, either online or using the printed version. Printed copies can be dropped off, posted, or if necessary we will collect.

To coincide with this reminder we have extended the deadline. The original date was 10th April. The extended deadline is now 18th April.

Thank you.

Cllr Colin Read

Chairman, Steering Group

Aston Clinton Neighbourhood Plan

Email: readberg@google.com

Tel: 07956 352 507

Interested in being an allotment holder?

ASTON Clinton used to boast over 300 allotment plots on two main sites in the village. The first site was where the Wimpy estate is built, between Rosebery Road and New Road. These allotments were served by two wells and housed a variety of sheds in all shapes and sizes. Several families had piggeries for fresh meat and to recycle waste food from their homes. The second large allotment site was where the Long Plough estate is now. This area stretched from the back of Brook Street and Green End Street to the telephone exchange and to the school which was built on the site of the old recreation ground.

In the early 70s the land for Aston Clinton Park was purchased by the Parish Council to replace the old recreation ground which was needed for a new village school (see p.22). Provision for new allotments was made, because new homes were being built on the original sites. Initially they were situated on the site of the All Weather Pitch in the park, but later were moved to the existing location.

A happy band of allotmenters can be found tending their plots and cultivating fresh fruit and vegetables most days throughout the growing season. Nowadays, water is supplied from a water tank which is filled by pump from the stream which flows through the park.

Over recent years remedial work has taken place bringing the uncultivated plots back into use and there are now eight vacant plots. Each plot measures 15x5 metres with an annual charge of £11. For more information, phone the Clerk to the Parish Council on **01296 631269**.

Cllr Lesley Ronson

The Aston Clinton Park allotment site looking forlorn at the end of winter. The soil is rich and the site is open to full sun. Reserve your plot now!



Photo: Alec Just

Aston Clinton Ladies Group

Forthcoming meetings

Wed 20 April at 8pm at the Guide Hall:
"Breathe Easy", an illustrated talk by Zoe
Sutherland on coping with breathing problems.

Wed 18 May at 8pm at the Guide Hall:
Illustrated talk by Sian Chattle of Lindengate, a
charity which provides health and well-being
through nature and horticulture.

New members very welcome. To join us or for
further info please call Sue Sanders on 01296
630740 or Janet Watson on 01296 630104.

The Rhubarb



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

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



BUCKS DISTRICT ASSOCIATION
of the
NATIONAL VEGETABLE SOCIETY



Sherie Plumb: 'My Garden Through the Year'

The Holiday Inn, Aylesbury HP22 5QT
Wednesday 20 April at 7.30 pm

NVS Members free
Non-members welcome (admission £3 incl. refreshments)

Sherie, making a welcome return to the Bucks DA, is famous for her exemplary runner beans, potatoes and cauliflowers. She is one of the best all-round vegetable growers in our Society. Renowned for her attention to detail, Sherie is careful to choose the right fertilisers, manures and composts and, importantly, choosing the right varieties to grow.

We are hoping to hear lots of tips enabling us to produce better vegetables for
our kitchens and village shows

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.

Aston Clinton, Buckland & Drayton Beauchamp Horticultural Society

We are now well into spring and I hope your garden is showing the fruits of autumn labours. The flowering trees are in bloom and we have leaves on the trees. Now is the time to stroll in the park and see how well the trees, planted by the Horticultural Society are growing. The Society's forthcoming talks include Graham Austin of Home Farm Plants on **Wednesday 13th April** who is talking about

how to grow and look after delphiniums. Grown well, these plants can often become magnificent specimens and, as perennials, can last many years. My own experience is that you have to watch out for slugs and snails, pests that eat the young shoots as they come through the surface.

Once again your Society has taken a stall at the Aston Clinton Village Market to be held on the village school playgrounds on **Sunday 8th May**, opening at 11am and ending at 4pm. We will offer our usual range of plants for sale including potted geraniums (some in flower) ready to plant into your tubs and window boxes. There will be bedding plants and perennials. We hope to have all the plants that you would wish to buy! We hope also to have runner bean and tomato plants and also fresh produce. This annual market, which also raises funds for our school, has a large range of stalls and food. It is worth a visit and if you have any surplus plants for us to sell—all the better!

On **Wednesday 11th May** we have Mick Jones from Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust talking to us about 'Conservation of Dancers End Valley and the Rothschilds'.

Society Summer Visit to RHS Wisley

Our annual garden visit will be to RHS Wisley on **Thursday 7th July 2016**. The cost of the trip is £15 with an optional guided tour costing £3. Wisley is the headquarters of the Royal Horticultural Society and in recent years has undergone many changes including the building of a world-famous glasshouse. The photo of the Agave is one of a number of succulents given to Wisley by Maureen Ridler in 2007 for their new glasshouse. It is well worth a visit. Priority will be given to Horticultural Society members,

but if you would like to join us contact Diane Kolonko, phone: 01296 631122 – (mobile: 07930 337253). Email her at dianekolonko@2s.com



Photo: John Ridler
Maureen Ridler presented this fine specimen of an Agave succulent to RHS Wisley (see article)

59th Annual Summer Show

Our annual Summer Show will take place on **Saturday 20th August**. At 59, we are a year short of the BBC's Countryfile show which is celebrating 60 years this year. However we are just as good and this year we are moving the show from

Aston Clinton School to the hall at The Café in the Park. We have done this because the Society does not have enough members to organise and run the Fete that has traditionally been associated with the show. We are all getting too old! Actually we are returning to our roots since when I first arrived in Aston Clinton the Show was held on the field outside the café in two large marquees. We shall still have our own stalls which will include raffle, tombola, books, plants and cakes, but this year there will be no charity or commercial stalls. Teas will be provided by The Café in the Park and there will be plenty of parking. We hope that families and children visiting the park will come and see the show.

Ralph Weston



Aston Clinton School

Head: Mrs Helen Shepherd



The Learning Pit

This year our school is putting children in the pit... the Learning Pit, that is! As part of our involvement in the Great Learners' Project, we are embedding the vocabulary that surrounds successful and unsuccessful learning into our classrooms. We had already started this with the concept of Learning Wizards (mentioned in a previous magazine article), but we have extended the idea in maths lessons so we can challenge children's learning more.

The idea of the pit is simple. To learn something new you need to be in the bottom of the learning pit. Once you have learnt the new skill, you are out of the pit. The most useful discussion with the children is how you get out the pit. We use the image of a ladder and each rung is another strategy they can use to help them learn. The rungs might be getting out equipment, having a go before I ask for help, talking to my partner, asking an adult, using a different approach ... the list goes on.

We are asking children to say how their learning has gone after each lesson (by saying how high up the ladder they have gone to get out of the pit), what helped them learn and what they need to do next. When monitoring books we have seen children making comments such as 'I got halfway out the pit when I got the Numicon out to help me calculate the sum'; 'I have almost got multiplying decimals, but I need another go tomorrow please'; 'It really helped me today when I talked it through with my partner'.

To feel a sense of achievement a child should recognise their own efforts in learning new skills. It was pointed out to us at the project meetings that if we help children too much with their work we diminish their personal feelings of success. They believe they only did it right because an adult helped them.

At Aston Clinton, we want the children to be independent learners who know what to do when they face the challenge of developing a new skill. We know we are having some success already with this as, if you listen carefully around school each day, you can hear some children asking to be put further into the pit! They are relishing the challenge of 'hard' work.

We are very enthusiastic about the pit project as it fits comfortably with the school work on values. For example you have to be honest where you are in the pit - too near the top - then the work is too easy. If the work is too hard then perhaps you were deeper in the pit than you realised and you need to go back a step before moving on. You also need to have learning courage so you can cope with the frustrations you always get at the outset when learning something new. You must take responsibility for your own learning and not let others do it for you.

These are just a few examples of how this project fits in with our school ethos and values.

Helen Shepherd

• Discover more about The Learning Pit at:
www.jamesnottingham.co.uk/learning-pit

Green Park: activities galore

Gemma Craig is Regional Development Manager for the ALF Village at Green Park. Village Life invited her to describe the work of the charity and the many and varied outdoor activities on offer in that magnificent space ...

THE Adventure Learning Foundation (ALF) is one of the leading providers of outdoor activities in the UK and now operate Green Park in Aston Clinton as an ALF Village, offering a fun, safe and challenging environment where young people from all backgrounds can have inspirational outdoor adventures.

Set in 80 acres of stunning woodland, Green Park hosts a wide range of exciting outdoor and indoor activities. From climbing to kayaking, our programmes are designed to build confidence, teamwork, trust and co-operation skills – expert instructors guiding you every step of the way, helping you achieve your goals and reach your full potential.

Recently we've opened up the gates to Green Park and introduced self-led trails that allow everyone to enjoy all the surroundings Aston Clinton has to offer. Were you brave enough to chance the Halloween trail, warm enough to give the Christmas trail a go or prepared to take a Bear Hunt at half-term? Our trails are an adventurous, low cost activity that are fun for all the family. We've been delighted to partner up with the Café in the Park team so that there is an opportunity to get a fabulous snack and hot drink when you have completed the trail. When your mini explorers are ready to take on the challenges at Green Park they can come and join the Holiday Activity Days during the school breaks. A day packed full of adventure, from High Ropes to Low Ropes, to Archery and Mountain Biking for £30 per child with lunch included—we have the school holidays covered!

Our All Ability Days this February half-term were very popular. These activity days are specifically designed for participants with Special Educational Needs or a disability. Each year more children take part and develop their physical abilities with our experienced activity team. We take enormous pride in being a centre that's able to adapt activities so that everyone has the opportunity to learn new skills in the great outdoors that is Green Park.

This summer we're excited to launch our Safari Lodges, Buckinghamshire's answer to 'glamping'. Our heated safari lodges are ideal for schools, youth groups and families looking to get back to nature in comfort and style.

Checkout our website for the latest news at www.green-park.org.uk or speak to one of our customer advisers on 033 0303 0101.

Gemma Craig



Meet the Aston Clinton Colts!

ASTON Clinton Colts have always striven to be a truly community club since it was founded in 1983. Over the past 33 years we have provided football-related activities to thousands of boys and girls. At the present time, we have teams in all the age groups from under 7s through to under 18s, with over 200 children and young adults playing and training with us in Aston Clinton park and at Weston Turville.

The club is run by unpaid volunteers and all activities are funded through member subscriptions and general fundraising. We want the whole community to be actively involved. Whether it's to help coach, mark out pitches, or just get involved in the social side of the club, there's a role for you.

My committee and I have spent the last year strengthening the bonds that bind us to the community, for example by ensuring that at our incredibly successful tournament we offer local businesses the opportunity to get involved (and a big thank you to those who did—please visit our website for more details). But more than that, we have worked actively with the Parish Council to improve what we can offer for the children, young adults and families of

Aston Clinton. The Council's wonderful addition of the Multiple Use Games Area (MUGA) allows our younger age groups to train, no matter what the weather, as well as giving them somewhere safe to just come and play! We're also working with the Scouts to improve the compound in the Park.

The team at Your Café in the Park are also working hard with us, hosting our incredibly successful Christmas party this year and welcoming us for our fund raising Quiz Night on the 19th March, to raise money for the club and Sport Relief.

And we've done all that in the last six months, with plenty more to come. Everyone involved with the club is passionate about sport as a whole, football is our focus, but we all share a belief that getting kids out in the open air to get active, build team camaraderie and learn a bit of self discipline is a really positive thing.

If you are passing, don't hesitate to stop and chat to any of the coaches or to cheer on the kids, there is nothing better than a bit of local support and these bonds are part of the community. Your support and interest really will be

welcomed! We are all keen to build strong ties with all the other sporting groups in the park, whether it's the tennis club, the bowls club, the fitness club or any others, we all share a bond which is the love and enjoyment of sport.

The committee and I hope to hear from you soon. Aston Clinton Colts is your club at the heart of your community. See you soon!

Elton Gray, Chairman
Aston Clinton Colts JFC

- You can find out more about the Colts on their website at www.astonclintoncolts.org.uk



Photo: Elton Gray

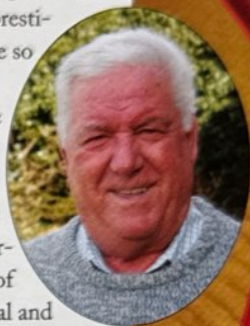
Local blood donor gives 100 pints!

MICHAEL Atterbury of Weston Road has achieved a rare feat. Over his adult life to date, he has given 100 pints of blood, an amazing achievement which the NHS has recognised by awarding Michael a commemorative medal (see photo). The award ceremony was held in the prestigious surroundings of Blenheim Palace so it really was an occasion to remember.

Until recently, there has been an age limit of 70 for blood donors. Because of a growing need for blood and a shortage of suitable donors, this limit has been relaxed in the case of those certified as remaining fit. Michael is one of those and plans to continue in this vital and selfless work for as long as possible.

Michael would like everyone to know that giving blood is painless and urges you to sign up as a volunteer. The first step is to look at the website www.blood.co.uk/who-can-give-blood to see if you qualify to take part in a very worthwhile and life-saving cause.

Alec Just



Photos: Alec Just

Cricket Club re-starts junior section for boys and girls



Aston Clinton Cricket Club are re-starting cricket for boys and girls under 13 years of age and especially the under-11 age group.

Any parent interested should please notify the child's name and contact details to: bucklandastonclintoncc@gmail.com

Additionally the club are urgently looking for more senior adult players from the age of 15 upwards to join their Saturday, Sunday and midweek teams. Anyone interested should please contact Mike Parsonage on 07710 301486 or email: parsonagem@yahoo.co.uk

The 2016 season starts in late April.

Music under the Roof

A fun evening of music, food, drink and dance with the Barn Rat Band

Saturday 9th April
Anthony Hall, Aston Clinton

Doors open 7:30pm; Music from 8:00pm; Ceilidh from 9:30pm



www.facebook.com/BarnRatBand

£10 per head or book a table for 8 people

Bring your food; bring your drink; bring your friends!

All proceeds to charity

Tickets from Nigel Kippax: nigel@kippax.org.uk; 01296 631010
(Maximum capacity 80 people – 10 tables each of 8 seats)

THIS SUMMER a new film called *Me Before You* is released and I am immensely excited because it is directed by Thea Sharrock, one of my oldest friends.

We met at the age of nine when we started a new school on the same day and quickly became firm friends. In our early twenties we shared a flat in South London and while I walked over Tower Bridge to work in Wapping each day, she carved out a career in theatre, quickly rising to be a fully-fledged director in her own right.

We met our future husbands within a few months of each other and eventually I gave up work and city life to move here and multiply.

Thea stayed in London and somehow managed to effortlessly pop out two gorgeous kids AND progress her exciting career. While I spent my days at Totspot or Rhyme Time at the library and fretted over nap times and routine, she took her toddler and six-month old to New York for three months to direct a show on Broadway.

Television beckoned and she directed a one-off Christmas episode of *Call the Midwife*. I was beyond excited and offered myself up as an extra. I could definitely manage 'greasy-haired-and-put-upon housewife, surrounded by noisy, filthy children'. No-brainer, right?

Then, during one half-term visit, Thea showed me a script adaptation of *Me Before You* by Jo Jo Moyes which, as a member of the Buckland Book Group, I had read a few months previously. I had adored the book and when she said she was going to direct the movie version, I immediately offered my help

with casting. While the kids played, she took a call from Kevin Spacey. It was a surreal moment in my kitchen, albeit perfectly normal for her as she was working with him on one-man show at the time. I made tea and short-listed my favourite actors for the role of extremely handsome, paralysed Will Traynor, hoping I'd at least get to plump the cushions on the casting couch if not sit on it.

When shooting began, I spent a day on set at Pinewood Studios. Cool, young 'runners' assigned me the Assistant Director's chair and

kitted me out with headphones, as if I was in some way important. I kept shtum that I was just an ordinary mum escaping real life for a few hours and nodded sagely that "Yes, the foliage needs to move more". It was someone's actual job to waft the branches outside a window during an indoor scene. Imagine that?

Others brought me drinks and snacks and only blue smarties if that's what I wanted. Well not quite, but you get

the picture. Post-production was an eye-opener too. Did you know that for every one second of footage there are 24 frames to edit?

Anyway, I accept that I am totally biased but I urge you to go and see it. It's a wonderfully British tragi-rom-com featuring a hilarious cameo from Joanna Lumley. You won't see my name in the credits but I can assure you that I was a key member of the 'crew', in on some crucial decisions, like which song to play during THAT scene. And look out for the wafting foliage, I was sat right behind it.

Me Before You is in cinemas from June 3rd.

Kelly Cornish



**Mum's
the word**

Solution to Crossword No.15

Across 1. Spring 5. Day 8. Disarmed 9. Peat 10. Disintegrate 12. Amen 13. Inch 17. Battle
19. Angle 20. Aura 21. Identity 23. Toy 24. Notion
Down 2. Pea 3. Immune 4. Gadjet 5. Departing 6. Yeast 7. Diadem 11. Sanctuary 14. Create
15. Benign 16. Caveat 18. Adult 22. Too

Singing is good for you!

THERE are studies that suggest choral singing is beneficial to your health. Singing releases endorphins and oxytocin, which help to lower stress levels and put you in a good mood. At the same time, it is an aerobic activity and so increases the flow of oxygen to the brain and body. It will also improve your memory and make you more creative. Plus it is a communal experience so you get the benefit of socialising and meeting new people.

So now that I've persuaded you to start singing, where should you go? It depends on what type of singing you would like to do.

If you are looking for the challenge of a constantly changing repertoire with regular performing, then a church choir could be what you are looking for. St Michael's choir is always looking for more members in all voice parts. Children can join when they have reached a reading level to be able to cope with the hymns (often 7-8 years old) and adults of all ages are welcome. You do not need to be able to read music but everyone can develop the skills through the RSCM Voice for Life scheme

(St Michael's was the first choir in Bucks to have a chorister gain the Gold Award). Practice is on Friday evenings at the church, from 6.15pm with Sunday service at 9.15am (additional service at 6pm).

Want to spend a long time working on one or two larger pieces? Then you could join a choral society. Members of the church choir are also members of Aylesbury Choral Society, who rehearse on Tuesday evenings; and Tring Choral Society, who rehearse on Mondays.

Enjoy acting and dancing as well as singing? Then you could join one of the many amateur theatrical societies in the local area. Church choir members can also be found in the Chiltern Community Opera, who will be performing 'The Mikado' in July; and the Vale Musical Society, whose main show for November is 'Anything Goes'. Both of these rehearse on Tuesdays.

A quick Google search shows many other singing opportunities in the area, so what's stopping you?

Hilary Weston

Aston Clinton Bowls Club, based in Aston Clinton Park, is the envy of many other clubs. It boasts a superb six-rink green and a modern and spacious clubhouse with a well-stocked bar. Lawn bowls is an enjoyable social game of skill which can be played by all ages. For further information, contact the Membership Secretary on **01296 631023**. A whole new world awaits you!



Local children visit a Chinese restaurant

Aston Clinton Childminders is an association of local independent registered childminders who come together occasionally to organise a variety of social experiences for the children in their care.

At the time of Chinese New Year, a number of their members decided to arrange a visit to a local Chinese restaurant where the children experienced a food culture quite different from what most of them had encountered so far. The restaurant opened an hour earlier than normal, and as you can see from the pictures, it was an enjoyable outing for the children, enabling them to try different foods.

Sophie, aged seven said, "The noodles were really wriggly and tasty and I liked that!" Evan, aged six, declared, "I liked sitting with my friends."

Dee Horwood



Photos: Dee Horwood

Walk it, jog it or run it!



Five fantastic events. Whether it's 100km, 50km or 25km, you'll get full support and great hospitality to go the extra mile. Take on a real challenge in 2016 and raise funds for Age UK Buckinghamshire. Contact knorwell@ageukbucks.org.uk or call 01296 431 911 for full details.

 **Buckinghamshire**
ageUK

Our lovely Pre-School needs your help

IT ALWAYS amazes me that even though we have lived in the village for over 10 years, I am constantly hearing of things I knew nothing about. I learned recently that Aston Clinton Pre-school was set up nearly fifty years ago by four ladies, three of whom are still living in the village. Today, it remains a thriving village pre-school, run from the same venue, at the Anthony Hall.

I have only been involved for the past five years on and off and I feel very very grateful to those ladies as it has been, on occasion, a lifeline to my sanity but mostly a fantastic start to my girls' education. It is still run as a charity with a committee and employs eight members of staff.

We are however looking for lots of helpers.



First, anyone with photographs or memories with a view to fund-raising to celebrate the 50th anniversary.

Secondly, we are always looking for members to join the Committee and at the moment particularly seeking a treasurer. You do not need to have children at the pre-school, anyone willing to help would be warmly welcomed.

Lastly, we need a Level 3 Early Years practitioner to join the team whom we would like to recruit promptly.

If you feel you could help with any of the above, please get in touch. You can contact me by phone on 07576 936430 or email me at: acpscommittee@gmail.com

Paula Daddow

Try making this scrumptious cake

My Lemon and Ginger Non-Cheesecake has proved very popular among our friends, so we thought other people might like to try it.

Instead of a 9" tin, you can divide the mixture between two 7" tins so that you can eat one and save one for later. *Elizabeth Weston*

Lemon and Ginger Non-Cheesecake

Ingredients:

8oz (225g) ginger biscuits
3oz (100g) melted butter
Tin condensed milk (approx 400g)
1/2 pint double cream zest and juice of three lemons and one lime

Method:

- Crush biscuits and mix with melted butter.
- Press into a 9-inch tin (lined with foil).
- Chill whilst making topping.
- Whip the cream until it forms soft peaks.
- Mix in the condensed milk.
- Mix in the juice and zest.
- Pile into chilled base and level.
- Freeze until required.



Photo: Ralph Weston

While still frozen, unwrap and place on serving plate. Leave to defrost (approx. 4 hours). Decorate with zest of lemon and lime if you wish.

Scouting – making a difference since 1907

'Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.'

– the Scout Association mission statement

Beavers is where the adventure starts in Scouting. Open to boys and girls between six and eight years of age, our aim is to have lots of fun, learn new things and try new and exciting experiences. We started the year off with Burns Night activities where an attempt was made to learn some Scottish dances. This was mostly foiled by our inability to distinguish our left from our right. Most of the time we try to hold meetings outside and this year we have been stargazing, firelighting, outdoor cooking, pioneering, canal dipping, orienteering, scavenger hunting, litter picking and campfire singing. We have had our own colony sleep-over and some children attended the county sleepover at the Royal Artillery Museum. Food is very popular at meetings and we have

tasted fruit at Tring Tesco, cooked pancakes and sausages, made 'smores' over the campfire and continued the traditional chip shop walks.

Cubs (up to ten-and-a-half years old) is the next stage, where the outdoor activities get a little more adventurous and the first nights are spent under canvas. During the year Nigel stepped down as Akela after three years, Sophy and Sharon replacing him along with a new team of leaders.

The annual camp was two nights at Youlbury Scout Camp trying climbing, abseiling, rifle shooting and archery as well as helping with all the chores on camp. A great time was helped by Akela remembering to book the correct weather this year.

We've had hands-on demonstrations from Tring Martial Arts Academy, Aston Clinton bowls and tennis clubs, baked a cake in a mug, forced the Cubs to talk to the Brownies when we organised a joint activity in the park with them and finished the year making snow globes and tobogganing at Hemel snow centre.

Scouts (up to fourteen years old) is where you start to take responsibility for yourself. For many activities the leaders are only present to ensure everyone remains safe (if sometimes that means you're still lost). Activities started with a camp in January, chipping ice from tent zips is character building and everyone gave an enormous cheer when the snow started to fall. Other highlights are etching coasters in buckets of boiling chemicals and walking from dusk to dawn on midsummer's night. The biggest challenge for the Scouts entering their final year is 'The Expedition': two days of hiking and one night under canvas, organised and run entirely by the Scouts themselves who also carry all their own gear. Six Scouts looked utterly shattered as they staggered into Aston Clinton park at the end of the weekend but they still declared it the best activity ever.



Photo: Claire Walker

Explorers (up to eighteen years old) provide six Young Leaders to the other sections in addition to having their own meetings. Last year was the final year of the leaders providing the programme, from January everything has been organised by the Explorers themselves. During the year Alex attended the World Scout Jamboree in Japan, a once-in-a-lifetime trip for a very limited number of Scouts from across the globe and a further five Explorers took part in the county expedition to the Swiss Alps.

Support from the local community allows us to offer a wide range of activities. We're really grateful for the support given by too many people to mention. In addition to those already noted we've had the use of local fields for camp fires, space to store our equipment and demonstrations of DIY and car maintenance. We've also had our trailer sponsored by

At the end of 2015 Aston Clinton Scout group were presented with the Endeavour Trophy, an annual award to the 'best' group in the District, awarded for supporting events and performance in competitions.



Photo: Rob Kenney

This year is the Centenary of the founding of the Cub Scouts and we will be organizing a 'Thanks Event' this summer. This is an opportunity to thank past and present leaders and

supporters and a chance to strengthen our links with the local community.

We would like to share this with guests who have special memories of Cubs in our area. This is a great way for former Cubs to be able to share their memories of their time in the Group, even if they are unable to attend the party.

Do you have any Scouting memorabilia from the local

area that you could lend us or bring along to a meeting for a chat to the Cubs? Further details of the event are available from Rob Kenney, at rkenney@furzedownschool.org.uk or phone 07970 359007.

Neil Walker



Photo: Neil Walker

acar2go that means we've been able to have the leaky cover replaced.

If you have a skill that you think the young people of the village would appreciate learning about, please get in touch.

How the Park and 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 the previous issue of Village Life, you would have read an account of how the youth club building came to be. Through a misunderstanding between your editor and James Adam, a former Parish Clerk, wires got crossed resulting in the building being wrongly described as The Pavilion in both the heading and the introductory paragraph.

This is James Adam's account of his involvement in how Aston Clinton came to have its present enviable recreation ground and Pavilion.

IN 1971 I was working at the Aylesbury solicitors Horwood & James and was asked to assist the then Clerk of Aston Clinton Parish Council, Raymond Tetlow. He needed some 'legs' to run around in the village and take the minutes at the meetings. I was appointed at the meeting on 12th March 1970 at a salary of £50 per annum, payable quarterly!

It all started when the County Council wanted to replace the school which was operating from three buildings on two sides of the A41 trunk road. The Education Officer in charge of the project was Tim Brighouse, a young go-ahead Senior Assistant Chief Education Officer. He wanted to site the new school on the Rothschild Allotments at the back of New Road but the Parish Council was, understandably, against this and wanted the School to remain in the centre of the village. I was deputised to attend a meeting at the then new

County Offices when I was told that the site at Twitchell Lane was too small to include a football pitch and was, therefore, ruled out. Living, as I was then, in Putnams Drive, I was well aware of the little field with a gate into Putnams Drive which was owned by Mr D J Elliott of Gingers Farm and almost adjoined the Twitchell Lane site and so I suggested that it was quite big enough for a junior school football pitch. This suggestion was jumped at by the county council and the field was quickly acquired together with a strip of land from the telephone exchange (at the end of Putnams Drive) to link the two sites and plans went ahead to build the new school on what had been, until then, the recreation ground.

However, from the parish council's point of view this raised the problem of finding a new recreation ground as it was statutorily bound to do. Raymond Tetlow had ascertained that there were 35½ acres of pasture land available on the south side of the A41 London Road, but it was thought that, with a purchase price of £17,500, there would not be enough money for the Parish Council to purchase it. He and

I both attended another meeting at the county offices, this time with the county valuer. His valuation of the school site, based on its development value, was £52,500 which left us both (literally) speechless! There was enough to purchase all 35½ acres with lots left over.

In November 1971, Raymond Tetlow decided to retire from the post of Clerk to the parish council

and left it all to me! I had to arrange land swaps with Michael Harris at The Bell which allowed us to have the access that is now the approach road into the park and provided him with a site big enough for him to build his magnificent Bell Pavilion (sadly burnt down in



James Adam

Photo: studio by James Adam

the 1990s). I also had to guide the Council through the hoops of fire which the Local Government Act provided before completion could take place.

Once completed, we then had the task of planning out the field. Planning and mapping out the whole area took months with meetings going on well into the night. Two football pitches were planned and trainees from Aylesbury Youth Custody Centre (the prison) were brought in to pick the stones off them. Space was allocated for the Bowls Club to have a new Bowling Green and Club House as, up until then, they played on a sloping green at the corner of Brook Street and College Road. Further space was allocated for tennis courts. Plans for two squash courts and a house for a groundsman were abandoned on the grounds of cost.

With the money left, the Pavilion was then planned to provide a sports and social club building and, of course, the changing facilities for Aston Clinton Football Club whose hut on the old recreation ground had gone. David Bosanquet, an architect, was brought in as well as Gordon Tomalin, a quantity surveyor, and more lengthy meetings eventually saw the completion of the Pavilion in October 1973. It had a flat roof and the large meeting room was only half the size it is now. The bar had two sides as it does now but what is now the Café in the Park was the football clubs' room, adjoining their changing facilities and showers. The whole building was

However, it served its purpose at the time and, bearing in mind that it is a modular concrete building and was built 'on the cheap', it has lasted well for over 40 years. Aston Clinton can rejoice at having such a wonderful park and recreation ground which is the envy of neighbouring villages. Bowls, tennis, children's playground, woods, walking areas, allotments, five-a-side pitch ... the list goes on.

I do applaud the courage of the present Parish Council in planning a replacement to the Pavilion. The present building has always



had its drawbacks and I wish them every success in their endeavours.

And finally, let's not forget the foresight of those members of the Parish Council of the early 1970s. With the notable exception of Valerie Owen, every one of them has died but I hope that what they did for this village will not be forgotten. They were: Joan Baker, Dorothy Brown, Jack Cato, John Crofts, Andrew Dames, Susan de Fraine, Jack Disbrey, Ian Elliot, Ken King (chairman), Rev'd Terry Lewis, Margaret Lowe (chairman), Valerie Owen and Dick Stratford. Not all of them served throughout the development of the site and I don't remember Mr Burnham and Mrs Parfitt who are mentioned in the minutes early on. Thanks also to my Assistant Clerks (first Tim Lewis and then Elaine Dykes) without whose help I could not have managed.

James Adam

"Aston Clinton has a wonderful park and recreation ground, the envy of neighbouring villages."

designed to a strict budget and at a final cost of £35,604.75 it was a bit utilitarian. Later parish councils have been able to double the size of the hall and football clubs' showers and to make other improvements including a pitched roof.

The Village Market provides the perfect weekend blend

IF you're looking for a family day out packed with live entertainment, gorgeous food and shopping galore then make a date in your diary.

Aston Clinton's eighth annual Village Market is nearly upon us. **Sunday 8th May** is shaping up to be another unmissable community event in aid of our brilliant primary school.

Held at the school, last year's market raised almost £6,000 with an turnout of around 1,600 people. And whether you fancy sampling paella cooked in giant pans washed down with something cold from the Aston Clinton Beer Festival tent or browsing everything from the best local farmers' market produce to vintage furniture and hand-made jewellery, you can quite simply do it all in one afternoon.

This year, the market is showcasing a live music treat in the form of renowned blues band Storm Warning.

One of the best contemporary blues bands in the country, they play original songs as well as creating their own interesting new versions of blues classics.

Currently performing songs from their latest album *Take Cover*, which features songs by Jimi Hendrix and Bob Dylan, Storm Warning is fronted by vocalist Son Maxwell and guitarist Bob Moore, with Ian Salisbury on keys, Derek White on bass and drummer Russ Chaney.

Aston Clinton parent Lisa Woodbridge is co-owner of local general handyman business MJB Smart Services. Specialising in painting and decorating but covering every aspect of DIY, Lisa says. "The event is very well organised, extremely well attended and generally a lovely day out.

"We love to support local events and, as parents at the school too, we feel this is a valuable and worthwhile event for both us and them."

The Village Market is on from 11am to 4pm on **8th May**. For more information 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

A bird's-eye view of last year's Village Market in the grounds of Aston Clinton School



Photo: Louise Brine

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 2 April	10am	Produce Stall and Coffee	All Saints' Church
Sun 3 April	11am	Benefice Communion Service	All Saints' Church
Sat 30 April	10am	Produce Stall and Coffee	All Saints' Church
Fri 27-30 May	<i>See below</i>	The Buck Pub	The Buckland Hall
Sun 3 July	11am	Benefice Service to celebrate the ordination of Alison Roberts	All Saints' Church

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



Buckland's Charity Pub Weekend 2016



THE BUCK
At Buckland
Village Hall

Spring Bank Holiday Weekend: Friday 27th May - Monday 30th May

Old-fashioned pub hours: 11am-2.30pm and 6pm-11pm.

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

Once a year the village community uniquely transforms its beautiful Rothschild village hall into a pub. Over the years an average of 50 people have helped set-up, cook, serve, clean and tidy up, raising over £60,000 for local charities and good causes. This is our 21st year!

Come and Eat and Drink for Charity!

Planting in the rain

THE Buckland, Drayton Beauchamp and Aston Clinton WI planted an oak tree in the Aston Clinton Park on Saturday 6th February 2016 to celebrate the centenary of the Women's Institute. Although it was a damp and very windy morning WI members and guests were in good spirits as President Catherine Letton and Mary Tyrrell (a member since 1968) planted the tree.



Undaunted by the bad weather, current President Catherine Letton and long-standing member Mary Tyrrell prepare to wield their spades.

The WI movement began in Canada in 1897. Erland Lee was chairman of his local Farmers' Institute and decided to have a Ladies' Night, to which Adelaide Hoodless came. Adelaide had lost a son at eighteen months as a result of drinking unpasteurised milk. Following this evening, Erland, his wife Janet (who had been a teacher) and Adelaide formed a group—The Women's Institute—to educate and inform rural women about the health of their children and encourage them to be a part of their local community.

In 1915, after much work by Madge Watt, another Canadian, on the 16th September at Llanfair PG on the Isle of Anglesey, the first WI was formed. By the autumn of 1916 there were 24 WIs. In 1924 Jerusalem was sung for the first time at the AGM. This had been the Suffragettes' song, many of whom had joined the WI. In 1947 Denman College, near Abingdon, was opened and today still offers courses on many subjects to today's members.

Each local WI is supported by the National Federation and, for us, also by the Buckinghamshire Federation. We are a campaigning organisation and over the years have passed many resolutions on a wide range of topics that matter to women and their communities. The WI Life magazine, sent to every member, keeps everyone up-to-date.

Our WI was started at Buckland in November 1930 with Drayton Beauchamp, followed by Aston Clinton so this December we celebrated our 85th birthday.

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at the Anthony Hall in Aston Clinton at 7.45pm and have a varied programme of talks but we also have other activities such as theatre and cinema visits, lunch get-togethers, walks and gentle strolls.

"So, Ladies, give it a try at our WI. You will receive a warm welcome!"

Brenda Wheeler



Our next Wednesday meetings are:

- 6 April The Bedford Estates and Gardens
- 4 May Resolutions followed by
A Member's Holiday Adventures
- 1 June Photo Restoration
- 6 July Highwaymen and Highwaywomen
- 3 Aug Buckinghamshire Spies and Subversives

St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp

Regular Services:
10.45am each Sunday

Forthcoming events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun 3 April	11am	Benefice Communion Service	All Saints' Church
Sun 5 June	12.30-4pm	Wendover Arm Trust Open Day	St Mary's Church
Sat 11 June	7.30pm	Concert-Fitzroy String Quartet	St Mary's Church
Sun 3 July	11am	Benefice Service to celebrate the ordination of Alison Roberts	All Saints' Church

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

Obituary: Dr Peter James

IT WAS with great sadness that we in Drayton Beauchamp learned of the recent death of Peter James. After leaving this area, Peter and his wife Heather had been living for several years in Swansea. They were proud to be Welsh and enjoyed living once again in Wales, but their move to Swansea was unfortunately prompted not by a wish to return to their homeland, but rather by the heartbreaking discovery that Peter was suffering from a severe hearing problem for which no treatment could be offered and which would inevitably become gradually worse. Given that music was his career and his great passion this was a particularly cruel blow, although happily he was still able to carry on composing music and marking the examinations of music students.

Until his premature retirement Peter was for many years the Vice-Principal of the Royal Academy of Music in London. He and Heather lived in Wilstone, but loved St Mary the Virgin Church in Drayton Beauchamp and threw themselves enthusiastically into church

life. Heather became organist at St Mary's and Peter became a churchwarden. Using his professional access to a ready supply of young students from the Royal Academy of Music, Peter set up the Summer Music concerts in Drayton Beauchamp.

These concerts gave young musicians valuable experience in playing before an audience; they gave the audience an opportunity to listen to excellent music and to socialise over supper and a glass of wine; and they raised funds for the ever-recurring costs of repairs to our ancient church. Peter even secured the ('anonymous') sponsorship of Professor Bill Mead of Aston Clinton, who also died recently. These concerts are now in their 29th year and attract young musicians—some of whom are already graduates of the Royal Academy of Music and seasoned professionals—and an audience from far beyond the village.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Heather and to all the family.

Margaret Ross

ST MARY'S CHURCH, DRAYTON BEAUCHAMP
SUMMER CONCERT

Saturday 11 June 2016 at 7.30 pm

THE FITZROY QUARTET

String quartets by Haydn, Beethoven and Mendelssohn and Wolf's Italian Serenade.



Stefano Mengoli, violin
Jure Smirnov Oštir, violin
Michael Newman, cello
Emily Pond, viola

Tickets £15 including a glass of wine, available from:
Rosemary Brooke 01296 630446
Anne Eardley 07890 798476 / 01296 434357
Guy Moores 01442 826241

Please join us in welcoming four award-winning musicians from across Europe. Recipients of numerous prizes, including in 2015 the Sir John Barbirolli Memorial Prize for outstanding contributions to the Royal Academy of Music, they have debuts at the Wigmore Hall and St Martin-in-the-Fields and have won a residency at St. Peters, Eaton Square, London. We look forward to a summer evening of wonderful music.

Restoration of the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union

WENDOVER ARM TRUST will be attending Aldbury Spring Fair and will have their usual gazebo with display stands describing the canal and current stage of restoration. There will also be the possibility of purchasing items from their ever-expanding sales stall. Membership applications are invited!

There will be two **Restoration Open Days** this year, on **Sunday 5th June** and **Sunday 4th September**. Both will be held in the grounds of St Mary's Church, Drayton Beauchamp, by kind permission of the Rector. Free on-site car

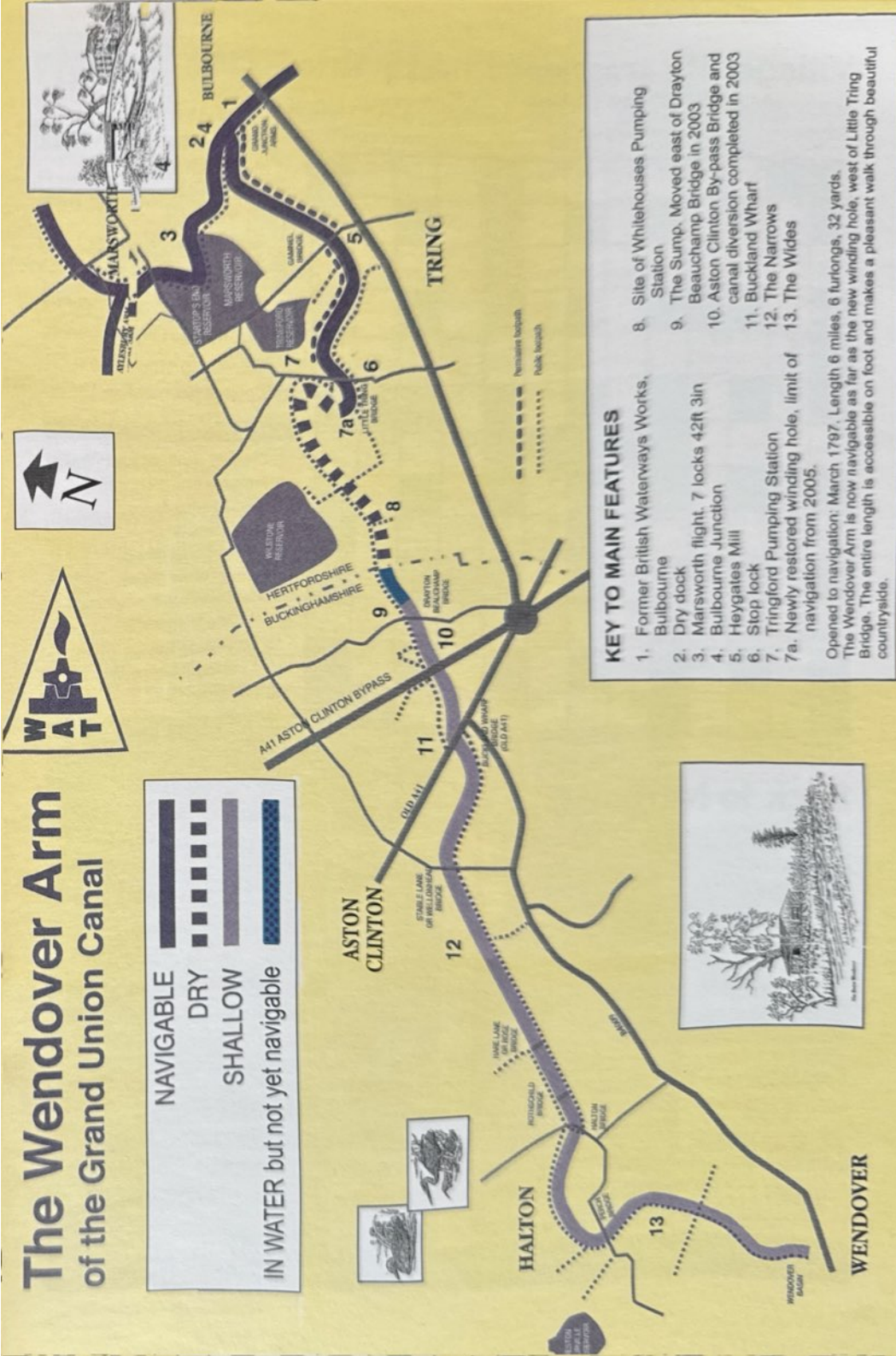
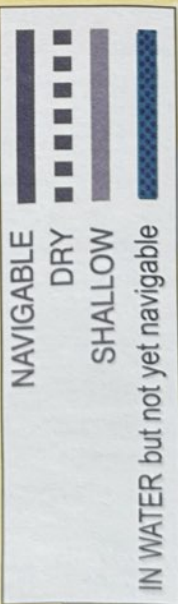
parking. No admission charge is made but donations will be welcome. Guided visits to the current restoration site will be arranged but those interested should note that these entail a 25-minute walk along the canal, which passes the restored sections. Teas and cakes will be for sale adjacent to our Sales Stall. Volunteers will be on hand to explain this current and future restoration project. Both events will open at 12.30pm and close at 4pm.

The sketch map opposite shows the current stage of restoration.

Nigel Williams

Please support our advertisers. They make your magazine possible.

The Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal



KEY TO MAIN FEATURES

- Former British Waterways Works, Bulbourne
- Dry dock
- Marsworth flight, 7 locks 42ft 3in
- Bulbourne Junction
- Heygates Mill
- Stop lock
- Tringford Pumping Station
- Newly restored winding hole, limit of navigation from 2005.

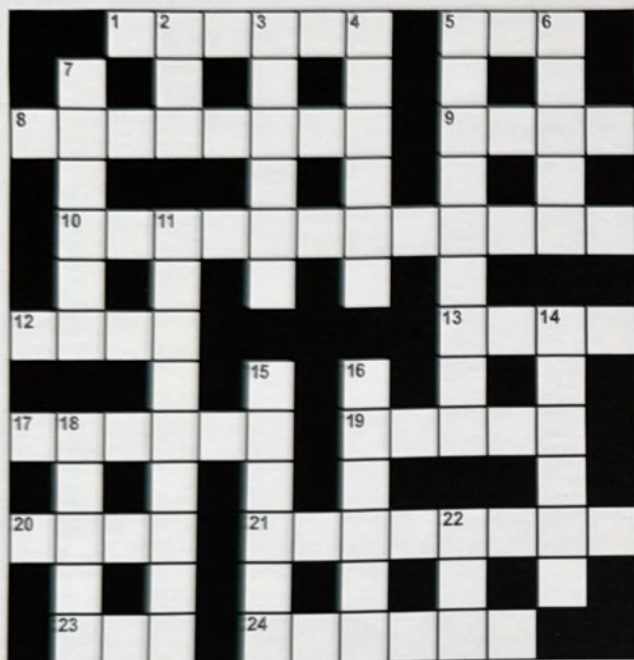
- Site of Whitehouses Pumping Station
- The Sump, Moved east of Drayton Beauchamp Bridge in 2003
- Aston Clinton By-pass Bridge and canal diversion completed in 2003
- Buckland Wharf
- The Narrows
- The Wides

Opened to navigation: March 1797. Length 6 miles, 6 furlongs, 32 yards.
The Wendover Arm is now navigable as far as the new winding hole, west of Little Tring Bridge. The entire length is accessible on foot and makes a pleasant walk through beautiful countryside.

Village Life crossword no.15

Crossword compiled by **Helen Lonsdale**

Solution to this crossword on page 16



CLUES ACROSS

1. Coil of wire (6)
5. Period of light (3)
8. Charmed or deprived of weapons (8)
9. Found in bogs and fens (4)
10. Splinter and crumble (12)
12. So let it be (4)
13. Creep slowly (4)
17. Town in East Sussex (6)
19. Corner (5)
20. Atmosphere (4)
21. Self (8)
23. Plaything (3)
24. Concept (6)

CLUES DOWN

2. Contents of referee's whistle (3)
3. Protected from danger (6)
4. Labour saving device (6)
5. Going away (9)
6. An agent of ferment (5)
7. A crown or coronet (6)
11. Place of refuge and asylum (9)
14. Produce an original (6)
15. Good-natured (6)
16. A warning of caution (6)
18. Fully grown (5)
22. Moreover (3)

Back to Netball!

Venue: Aston Clinton Tennis Park, Aston Park,
London Road, 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

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Emma Toft

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You can find out much more by contacting theteam@soapboxshout.com or checking out their website at www.soapboxshout.com

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Aylesbury Waterside reviews

My name is Christine Jensen and I will be writing a review for the shows I see at the Waterside Theatre. I realise that these productions may well have been and gone from our area by the time you read these words. But if the tour is still going on, you may be able to catch up at another local theatre.

The Glenn Miller Story

I did not see this production, but the reviews from my fellow critics are varied. I have looked for some guidance and the general feedback is extremely positive. However, one criticism is worth mentioning; Tommy Steele, excellent showman that he is, is felt to be too old to play the 40-year old band leader. Fortunately the show has two big pluses: a rich sounding 16-piece on-stage orchestra (four of whom double up as actors), and some nifty period choreography, gracefully executed by a six-strong chorus.

Rehearsal for Murder

As a murder mystery fan I was really looking forward to this production, and I wasn't disappointed. With an effective, simple single set throughout the play and carefully created flashbacks to a murder (believed to be a suicide) a year ago to the day when the characters reunite, the Classic Thriller Theatre Company keeps you on the edge of your seat. A playwright is still struggling to deal with being told his fiancée committed suicide the night before their wedding, and, after a party to celebrate the opening night of their play, he still believes she was murdered. The play has plenty of twists and turns, and you really won't see the end coming! Highly recommended.

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1st & 2nd Aston Clinton Brownies	See below*	-	
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Anthony Hall (Bookings Sec)	Janet Brassington	01296 630229	janet@goggle.plus.com
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* 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 two PCSOs. Wendover Police Station is open on Wednesday mornings 9-12am and on Thursday 9.30am-4pm, staffed by volunteers (more always welcomed). If the front desk is not open and you wish to report a crime, there is a yellow box with a phone providing a direct link to the Police Enquiry Centre. The non-emergency police number is 101. For **real** emergencies dial 999. More information at www.thamesvalley.police.uk

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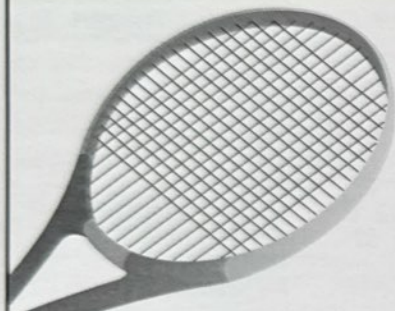
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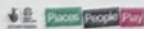


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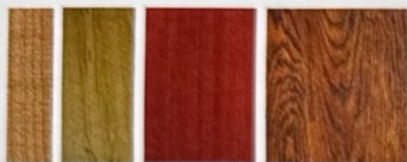
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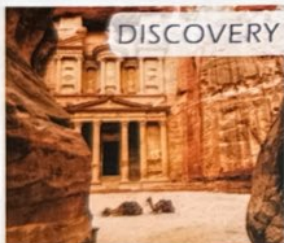
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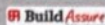
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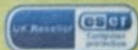
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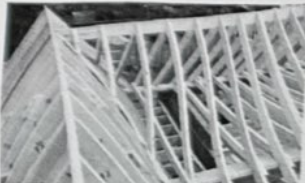
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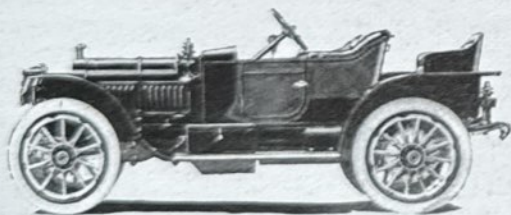
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Aston Arrows Racing

For those of you fortunate enough to be present in Aston Clinton Park for the start of the Aston Hill 100 Celebration procession on May 17, you may have wondered about the group of children who were flagging the cars off. They were in fact Year Six pupils from Aston Clinton School, who belong to a very special club – Aston Arrows Racing.



Aston Arrows Racing has been running for three years and is a wonderful partnership between the school and volunteers from our local community. The project is part of the Greenpower Education Trust, a UK-based charity that enthuses young people about science and engineering by challenging them to design, build and race an electric car.

Each year, a new group of children embark on the challenge of putting together a car framework from a kit before designing and adding the bodywork. They learn how to safely use tools and to understand the mechanics of this simple car. Much consideration is given to the theme of the car each year and the materials that will be used to complete it.

This season, we have used our local history and based our car on the 1922 Aston Martin TT1 'Green Pea' which had its racing debut at

the French Grand Prix in 1922 and at Aston Hill in the same year. At the Aston Hill 100 celebrations, the team were delighted to meet the owners of this wonderful car and be allowed to sit in it! The children researched 'Green Pea', designing the bodywork and including elements of it in their car. They were fortunate to form a partnership with the Automotive Engineering department at the University of Hertfordshire and, through this, learned about computer design and 3D printing which they used to recreate the iconic grill of this Aston Martin. Through visiting the university, the children were given the chance to learn more about how cars work and see what higher education looks like. They also had the opportunity to present our project to the heads of the engineering departments!

The children are taught to drive the car and practise throughout the school year, honing their skills ready for our race meets. Greenpower runs many meetings across the country and Aston Arrows Racing takes part in two race days each year, ending at Goodwood on the last Sunday in June. This is a fun day out for the team and their families. The children race against up to 100 cars from other schools across the country. They enter drag, slalom and sprint races as well as driving a lap of the course and undertaking a pit stop challenge.

Each year, we have improved on our performance, learning from previous seasons. This year, we came away from both our meetings with many wins and trophies. We could not be prouder of our children and all they have achieved!

Aston Arrows Racing is so much more than building and driving a car. It teaches the children teamwork and independence, it builds confidence, it teaches them about fundraising and blogging, and it is an opportunity for children to apply STEM understanding in a practical way. We also encourage past students to come back and volunteer with us, often for



their Duke of Edinburgh awards. This year, it has been wonderful to be part of the Aston Hill events, learning about and celebrating our local racing history as well as the history of Aston Martin.

As we come to the end of our third season, it only remains for us to dismantle the car and say farewell to our current team members as they head off to their new secondary schools. We are very aware that we would not be able to offer such an exciting experience without our local volunteers who come in week after week to support the children. Special thanks need to go to Mike Stark, Andy Graham and Paul Flower, without whom, Aston Arrows would not be so successful.

We are always looking for volunteers and sponsors to support our endeavours and be part of our journey. If this could be you, please contact office@astonclinton.bucks.scb.uk.

Aston Clinton Ladies Group

Wednesday, September 17, 8pm:

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We are a friendly group of local ladies and always make a point of welcoming new members personally. If you are interested in joining, please contact *Wendy Perkins* 07752 100217 or *Jacqui Gardiner* 01296 256956.