

Village Life

The community magazine
for Aston Clinton, Buckland
and Drayton Beauchamp

No.87 June / July 2026





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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

There's something special about this time of year in the Chilterns – carpets of bluebells have given way to golden fields of buttercups, hedgerows are now teeming with wildlife, and everything seems that little bit greener.

Whether you're orchid spotting at Aston Clinton Ragpits [page 16], enjoying a picnic in the park, or simply making the most of the warmer weather in your garden, it's hard not to appreciate the beauty of our local area at this time of year. The Chilterns are at their very best during the summer months, with footpaths lined with colourful flowers and the countryside is buzzing with activity. If you're looking for ways to bring more wildlife to your garden, check out the Horticultural Society's seasonal tips on page 36.

As always, the Village Life team has been busy putting together another packed issue for you, and we're incredibly grateful to all of our contributors, without whom the magazine simply wouldn't be possible.

For our resident sleuths, the Hidden Gems quiz returns [page 33], and you can also put your skills to the test with our sudoku [page 27]. Meanwhile, in our Village People feature, we meet Dave McElhinney, a familiar face delivering parcels around the three villages [page 30].

And of course, with summer fête season in full swing, there are plenty of opportunities to get together over the coming months. From school fairs and live music to village celebrations and family events, there's something for everyone – buy a raffle ticket at St Michael's Summer Fête [page 4], enjoy Music Under the Stars [page 28], sample a local brew at the Aston Clinton Beer Festival [page 18], or spruce up the pooch and enter the dog show at the Family Festival [page 8]. The energy and enthusiasm behind these events is a wonderful reminder of the dedication of the people who make them happen, and of the enormous contribution they make to village life throughout the year.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer filled with sunshine, fresh air, and a little time to relax.

Fiona Skeggs, co-editor

Our Cover Story

A summer tradition returns: St Michael's Fête promises fun for all

There's something wonderfully timeless about a village summer fête – and this year, St Michael's is bringing back all the charm and cheer you could hope for. On Saturday, July 11, from 2pm to 5pm, the church grounds will come alive both inside and out for an afternoon packed with entertainment, great food, and community spirit.

Visitors can look forward to a fantastic range of stalls and attractions. Whether you're sipping a refreshing drink at the **Pimm's Stall**, browsing the ever-popular **Plant Stall**, or cooling off with a treat from **Jay's Ice Cream Van**, there will be something for everyone to enjoy. Food lovers won't want to miss the delicious **hog roast** from Kings Butchers, alongside a refreshment stall brimming with **homemade cakes**.

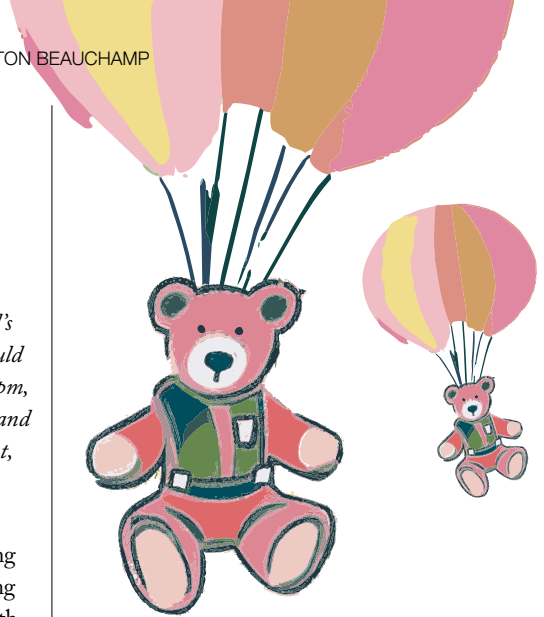
For those who enjoy a bit of luck, there will be a great **raffle**, a **classic tombola**, and a **bottle tombola** – all offering exciting prizes. You can also hunt for hidden gems at the **book and jigsaw stand**, explore **preloved clothing**, or pick up something special at the **jewellery stall**.

Entertainment will be in full swing throughout the afternoon. A **local brass band** will provide a lively soundtrack, while one of the fête's most anticipated highlights – the **parachuting teddies** – will once again descend from the church bell tower, delighting children and adults alike.

Dog lovers can also join in the fun with a friendly **dog show** run by Rev Sally.

Adding to the strong community feel, Aston Clinton Pre-School will be hosting its own fundraising stall, helping to support local families and young children.

Local stories by local people



More than just a fun day out, the fête plays an important role in supporting the church itself, with all proceeds going towards keeping St Michael's doors open for the community.

This promises to be a truly fabulous local event, so be sure to put the date in your diary and come along to join the festivities.

If you have any questions, or if you would like to contribute by donating homemade cakes or items for the tombola (including bottles), please contact **Natalie** on **01296 632488** or email Benefice3@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you there for a memorable summer afternoon!

Natalie Fieldhouse

Live Music Nights

Free Friday night live music evenings with a licensed bar. All proceeds will go to the upkeep of the church involved. All 6.30 – 9.30pm.

St Mary's – June 26 and July 24
All Saints' – July 3 and July 31

St Michael and All Angels Aston Clinton, All Saints' Buckland and St Mary's Drayton Beauchamp



On this page you will find the regular church services and community events that happen within our three churches.

REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES

St Michael's, Aston Clinton	9.15am Family Eucharist every Sunday 6pm Evensong every Sunday
All Saints', Buckland	8am Holy Communion every 2nd and 4th Sunday 10am Midweek Communion every Wednesday 11am Messy Sunday every 2nd Sunday

MONTHLY SUNDAY SERVICES

St Mary's	Holy Communion. June 7, 11am Hymns & Pimms Service. July 5, 4.30pm
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WEDDINGS & BAPTISMS

You can hold your wedding at any of our wonderful churches. Baptisms every 3rd Sunday 11.30am at St Michael's church and 1.30pm at All Saints' church, time tbc for St Mary's church. Please contact *Natalie Fieldhouse*.

OPENING TIMES

St Michael's and All Saints' are open daily 9am to 4pm and St Mary's is open every Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm for private prayer.

CONTACT DETAILS

Rev Sally Bottomer 01296 632488,
Rev Jane Nash 07562 672481,
Natalie Fieldhouse, Benefice Administrator
01296 632488 email all on: Benefice3@gmail.com

Facebook: *Aston Clinton Benefice with Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp*

Website: www.achurchnearyou.com search for: St Michael's, Aston Clinton, All Saints' or St Mary's

Benefice Website: www.ac-buck-db-churches.org

REGULAR COMMUNITY EVENTS

Gentle Stretch Class at St Michael's

Monday 10 – 11am, £5.00 per person

Rhubarb Café at St Michael's

Monday 2 – 4pm (Closed Bank Holidays)

St Michael's Little Angels Toddler Group

Thursday 9.30 – 11am

Aston Bridge Club at St Michael's

Friday 2 – 4.30pm

Coffee & Produce Stall at All Saints'

homemade cakes, bacon rolls
& preloved books on the
1st Saturday every month 10 – 11.45am

Repair Café at St Michael's

bring along your broken items on the
2nd Saturday every month 9 – 12 noon.
Refreshments available.

Aston Clinton Baptist Church



An abridged story from evangelist J. John from another part of the country.

'Two weeks ago I woke up with a mouth full of ulcers. So I rang the GP's surgery. The earliest appointment? A week away.

Eventually, the appointment arrived. We entered the doctor's office. No warmth. No welcome. No 'How are you?' Just: 'What do you want?' It felt less like a consultation and more like a cross-examination.

He glanced in my mouth – and when I say glanced, I mean one second. I've had longer eye contact from a pigeon. Tap, tap, tap on the keyboard.

'Go to the pharmacy. Pick up your prescription. Goodbye.' Ninety seconds. We were in and out faster than a Formula 1 pit stop.

He wasn't offensive, he was efficient - just distant, detached, uninterested.

The prescription didn't work. The ulcers and pain worsened.

So I rang again. To the surgery's credit, they offered another appointment three days later with a different doctor. We walked into the second consultation. 'Hello! Come in! Take a seat.' And immediately, something shifted. He examined my mouth properly. Checked my ears, took my blood pressure, asked questions. Ten minutes. Same surgery: two doctors, two atmospheres, two prescriptions - two outcomes.

The second doctor's prescription cleared the ulcers within three days.

But this isn't really about ulcers, it's about us. We are living in an age of relentless pace. The NHS is under enormous strain; staff are exhausted, patients are anxious, systems are stretched thin and efficiency has become a survival strategy. But somewhere along the way, efficiency has started to replace empathy. The first doctor treated a mouth, the second doctor treated a person.

We underestimate how much kindness costs and how much coldness costs more. Attention is one of the purest forms of love. To give someone your full focus for even a few minutes says, 'You matter.' And in a distracted society, that message is priceless.'

God's richest blessings to you.

Rev'd Nick Harris

SPECIAL EVENT AT THE BAPTIST CHURCH

Ladies Refresh

A special breakfast meeting to be held in the church on **Saturday, June 20, 9am.**

An opportunity to enjoy breakfast and friendship. Victoria Bryne will be speaking on *Finding Peace, A Christian perspective.*

To reserve a space please contact Caroline by June 16th via the contact form on the website ACBC.church.

For a digital version of Village Life please visit our website.

acvillagelife.co.uk

REGULAR EVENTS AT THE BAPTIST CHURCH

*All services are live-streamed and available for viewing via catch up on the church YouTube channel. Follow the links on the website:
www.ACBC.church*

Sunday morning worship 10.45am – 12 noon.
The Junior Church caters for children dropped off by parents/carers; pick up from the church.

Sunday@6 encountering the Holy Spirit.

Monthly afternoon service 'Oasis' - first Wednesday of each month 2 – 3pm in the hall with familiar older hymns, companionship and a short reflection.

Various **Homegroups** meet regularly for Bible study, fellowship and prayer.

Lunch is served in the hall every Wednesday 12.45 – 1.30pm.

The Craft Club runs on alternate Wednesday mornings 10.30 – 12.30pm.

All-sorts after school club with craft, games etc; weekly on Wednesdays during term time 3.30 – 5pm in the hall.

Noah's Ark Baby & Tots runs Tuesdays during term time 9.30 – 11am.

The Foodbank is most active on Friday morning (preparing parcels) and Saturday mornings (delivering parcels).

Men's Full English Breakfast every first Saturday of the month 9 – 10am
Numbers are currently limited to 20.
Booking is required.

A bereavement group meets alternate Wednesday mornings from 11.30 – 12.30pm.

Youth group meeting weekly on Fridays 7 – 9pm during term time.

The hall is available for private hire.
Please see website or call for more details
01296 631824 or **07972 770361**

Bucks Art Week



St Michael's in Aston Clinton will be hosting Bucks Art Week between **Tuesday, June 16 and Sunday, June 21**. Come along to our wonderful church and browse the works of some superb local artists. There will be a variety of media including glass, wood, mixed media, painting, printing and pastels and refreshments will be available.

Open times: June 16 – 20: 10am – 5pm.
June 18: 7pm – 9pm, June 21: 11am – 4pm

Aston Clinton Ladies Group

We meet in the Baptist Church in Green End Street, Aston Clinton, with meetings starting at 8pm.

Wednesday, June 17 2026 – Group talk with Fred Martin from Medical Detection Dogs.

July – No meeting.

Non-members are always more than welcome to come along in the evening and join our friendly group – £3.00 on the night to cover the cost of tea and biscuits, and there's also a raffle.

Wendy Perkins
ladyperkins27@aol.com

Aston Clinton Parish Council

Aston Clinton Family Festival
FREE COMMUNITY EVENT
SATURDAY 13TH JUNE 2026 - 12PM - 5PM
ASTON CLINTON PARK

FREE

Time	Event	Location
12:00 - 17:00	FOOD CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE	FIELD
12:30 - 17:00	STILT WALKING	FIELD
12:00 - 17:00	CLASSIC CARS AND LANDROVERS	FIELD
12:00 - 17:00	TENNIS COURT AND BOWLS FUN	TENNIS COURT AND BOWLING GREEN
12:00 - 13:00	DOG SHOW REGISTRATION	BLUE MUGA
12:00 - 12:45	JSDA DANCE DISPLAY	BLUE MUGA
12:00 - 14:00	ANIMALS EXPERIENCE	NEAR ALLOTMENTS
12:00 - 17:00	ZORBS, BOUNCY SLIDE, DARTS (FREE OF CHARGE FROM 12:00 - 16:00)	FIELD
12:00 - 17:00	FAIRGROUND RIDES (FREE OF CHARGE FROM 12:00 - 16:00)	ALL WEATHER PITCH CAR PARK
12:45 - 13:15	SALSA DISPLAY	BLUE MUGA
13:00 - 13:30	CRACKLEWICK MORRIS DANCERS	RED KITE PAVILION
13:30 - 14:15	SESSION 1 - ELLESBOROUGH SILVER BAND	BALCONY OF RED KITE PAVILION
13:30 - 15:30	PUNCH AND JUDY	MAIN FIELD
13:30 - 15:00	DOG SHOW	BLUE MUGA
14:00 - 14:30	THE LUCY CLARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB	RED KITE PAVILION
14:50 - 15:20	CRACKLEWICK MORRIS DANCERS	RED KITE PAVILION
15:00 - 15:30	PET DOG SCENT DISPLAY	MUGA
15:00 - 15:45	SESSION 2 - ELLESBOROUGH SILVER BAND	BALCONY OF THE RED KITE PAVILION
16:15 - 17:00	SESSION 3 - ELLESBOROUGH SILVER BAND	BALCONY OF RED KITE PAVILION
17:00	RAFFLE	RED KITE PAVILION

£2.00 PARKING DONATION ON ENTRY

Aston Clinton PARISH COUNCIL

We are delighted to announce that Aston Clinton Parish Council has been awarded the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Bronze Award as part of the Local Council Award Scheme. This recognition reflects the parish council's commitment to operating lawfully, transparently, and with strong governance, ensuring it provides the best possible service to our community. The Bronze Award is an important stepping stone towards further excellence, and the parish council will continue to work hard to achieve even higher standards for the benefit of residents.

With the arrival of longer and warmer days we look forward to a busy summer in the park, and our events team have been hard at work putting the final touches to the Family Festival on June 13, 2026. The festival is a free event with attractions operating free of charge up to 4pm, after which a small charge will apply on some rides. Please come along and join us, enjoy some of the fabulous food and drink on offer, watch the various fitness and dance displays taking place, and visit the many community groups who will have stalls at the event. And don't miss our fun dog show on the MUGA – with prizes and rosettes – bring your pooches! Timings for the whole event can be found on the posters placed around the village, on our noticeboards, website and Facebook page, and of course in Village Life.

The Milton Keynes Play Association will return to the park on Monday, August 11, offering two simultaneous sessions from 9am-11.30am for children up to 11 (Messy Play) and a teen event for ages 12+. Both are free to attend, and more details on how to take part will be found on our website and social media closer to the date.

Turning to all things green, the parish council has recently joined the Chiltern Society, with a view to strengthening our village biodiversity, which will be particularly important in maintaining and protecting our precious greenspaces in the face of increased

housing developments which are likely to come our way. Our lovely allotment growers will continue to support the Grow to Give initiative in 2026, by donating their excess produce to the Aylesbury Vineyard foodbank. This will start again mid-June, and we hope to beat the large amount of 175kg that was donated last year.

Our planning committee is always busy, and we have enjoyed meeting a lot of residents who have recently attended meetings and raised queries and concerns about various planning applications. The planning system is complicated and residents are encouraged to get in touch, if they have any concerns or need advice.

As reported in an earlier edition of Village Life, the parish council, in conjunction with the East Bucks Community Board, has made good progress with plans to run digital support sessions in the near future, to help residents feel more confident, safe and included online. These sessions seek to offer support in making everyday tasks such as GP appointments on the NHS app, banking, shopping and recognising scams easier to manage, and we need your help in putting the right kind of support together. We have created a survey, which will only take a couple of minutes to complete, and will enable us to prioritise the right kind of sessions for residents. To take part in the survey, please follow the online link on our website. Alternatively, you can ask a friend/family member to complete it for you, or visit the parish council office for a paper copy.

Finally, the parish council currently has a casual vacancy for a councillor following a resignation, so if you have a few hours per month spare and would like to get involved and make a difference within your local community, please do get in touch with us to find out more.

Aston Clinton Parish Council
www.astonclinton-pc.gov.uk



Aston Clinton School

Head Teacher.: Mrs Carol Macdonald



Is the art of writing dying out?

A reflection from Aston Clinton Primary School

In a world of voice notes, emojis, instant messaging and AI-generated responses, it is understandable to wonder whether the art of writing is beginning to fade.

Recent research suggests that fewer than three in ten children enjoy writing in their free time, and only around one in nine write daily outside of school. For schools and families alike, that naturally raises some important questions. Yet there is also something encouraging within the findings: more than half of children say they enjoy writing in school. That tells us that, when children are given the right opportunities, writing can still capture their imagination.

Why writing still matters

Writing is about far more than handwriting, spelling or punctuation. It is one of the main ways children learn to organise their thoughts, express themselves and make sense of the world around them. Through writing, children develop creativity, confidence and the ability to think carefully and communicate clearly.

It is also a skill that stays with them for life. Whether writing a story, sending an email, making notes or explaining an idea, the ability to communicate effectively matters enormously. Strong writing supports learning across every subject and plays an important role in preparing children for the future.

The challenge for schools

Teaching writing well is not always straightforward. Writing is one of the most demanding things children are asked to do because it requires so many skills to come together at once – spelling, grammar, handwriting, vocabulary, structure and imagination.

Alongside this, schools are under increasing pressure to ensure children meet national expectations. At times, this can create a tension between teaching technical accuracy and nurturing a genuine enjoyment of writing. At Aston Clinton, we work hard to balance both. We want children to become capable writers, but just as importantly, we want them to see writing as something meaningful, personal and enjoyable.

How families can support writing at home

Some of the best opportunities for writing happen in the ordinary moments of everyday life. Writing at home does not need to feel formal or pressured. Small, purposeful experiences can make a real difference.

For example:

- encouraging children to write shopping lists, plans or reminders
- helping them write notes, cards or letters to friends and family
- keeping a simple diary or journal
- creating stories together, whether through comics, captions or short pieces of writing
- praising effort and ideas, not just accuracy.

Thursday 29th January 1916
To write an important letter.

20th January 1916

Dear my darling Mary,

It feels like a lifetime since I last set my eyes on you and the children. It pulls at my heart strings to think of you. I wish that this living nightmare could be over. Sleep is horrific out here. Each night rats invade our trenches and nibble into our boots. I have beyond hope that I can get out of this hell hole and come back to you.

Last night, I lost a close friend of mine. It was gone eleven o'clock and we were all exhausted but the Lieutenant's orders were clear: hurry across no-man's-land, jump into the enemy front line, and intercept the Jerry trenches. Sounds simple then doesn't it? Well it wasn't. With barbed wire everywhere and shells exploding every two seconds it was almost impossible. Eight minutes later, a good friend, Jim, rounded a tree stump. As it was shooting at our enemy, I heard a long thin wail followed by a wet scream of agony and then silence. A crimson

stream of blood poured up in a crater his hands bled as death took his culture from him. However, thinking of you gives me the hope I wish I could come back to my normal life with you.

I will never forget the day of our first meeting. It was a lovely sunny morning in the spring and I recalled jumping out of bed. Oh was Monday! I recall walking down the street hand in hand with Mother. She dropped me off at the Mappetts where I could dance. I remember perching on my chair waiting my turn. But Mary, how many that was when I met you. Your dazzling eyes fell upon me then, without thinking I stood up, only to see you. There were no spaces left off the map. However, you gave up your ribbon to let me have a go. I knew then you were the girl for me.

I miss you so much and the children beyond anything. My heart breaks to think of you. You will forever be in my mind. I hope to leave this living hell and return to your loving arms. Meanwhile, whilst I am still in these trenches I pray that we will not be apart for much longer.

Children are naturally curious and expressive from a young age. Often, their confidence as writers grows through positive encouragement and seeing writing as something that has purpose and value.

Looking ahead

Technology has undoubtedly changed the way we communicate, but it has not removed the need for strong writing skills. In fact, writing by hand still plays an important role in supporting memory, understanding and deeper thinking.

Rather than seeing technology and writing as opposing forces, there is an opportunity to help children become confident communicators in both worlds – able to express themselves thoughtfully whether using a pencil or a keyboard.

A final thought

The art of writing is not disappearing, but it does need nurturing. By working together, schools and families can help children see writing not simply as a task to complete, but as a way to share ideas, reflect on experiences and express who they are.

When children find confidence in writing, they gain far more than a classroom skill. They gain a voice – and with it, the ability to connect, communicate and engage with the world around them.

Kate Miles
Lead Practitioner

Village Life is funded with support from
Aston Clinton Parish Council

ACSA – seeks new Chair as community spirit builds ahead of summer events

ACSA is reaching out to the local community as it begins the search for a new Chair for the upcoming school year. The group is also looking to appoint a Secretary, offering parents and carers a valuable opportunity to take an active role in school life and help shape the experiences of its pupils.

ACSA plays a central role in fostering a strong sense of community, organising events that not only raise funds but also bring families together. Those involved describe it as a rewarding way to meet new people, support the school, and contribute to memorable moments for children throughout the year.

With preparations already underway for the summer term, ACSA has an exciting line-up of events planned.

Break the Rules Day, which took place on May 15, is always a firm favourite among pupils. For a small donation, children were invited to enjoy a day of harmless rule-breaking fun. This could include wearing non-uniform or even mixing and matching outfits, having brightly coloured or ‘crazy’ hairstyles, bringing a teddy to school, or eating pudding first at lunch. Some classes may even introduce fun classroom twists for the day. The event is designed to be light-hearted and inclusive, giving every child a chance to take part while raising funds to support school resources and activities.

Later in the term, the much-anticipated return of the *Bouncy BBQ* will take place on July 3, promising an afternoon of entertainment for the whole family. The school grounds will be transformed into a lively summer fair atmosphere, featuring a variety of bouncy castles and inflatable attractions suitable for different age groups. The *Colour Run* will also be returning, but this will run during the school day.



ACSA hopes these events will continue to strengthen school and parent ties while raising essential funds for the school. At the same time, it is encouraging anyone from the community interested in taking on the Chair or Secretary role – or simply lending a hand at events – to get in touch. With the continued support of the community, ACSA is confident it can build on its success and deliver another year of engaging and enjoyable experiences for all.

Date For The Diary:

Aston Lights Laser Show – 17th October 2026

Aston Clinton School Association

Associationastonclintonschoolassociation@gmail.com

Local stories by local people



Since Christmas, we've been meeting in the hall during the darker evenings. One night, we enjoyed knotting and making keyrings, while another saw us celebrating St Patrick's Day by creating paper shamrocks.

Some of our older Guides showed great leadership and creativity, leading a session where we made flowers out of pipe cleaners. We also explored internet security from a girl's perspective, which proved eye-opening for both the Guides and the leaders.

There have been plenty of fun, energetic evenings too, including games of human Hungry Hippo and bingo, organised by our two new young leaders. Alongside all this, we've continued working on badges, including a challenge to build a tower using recycled materials.

We are looking forward to going away on a two-night residential stay in May with 20 of our Guides and to getting out and about this term to the park, and to local Scout sites.

If you've ever thought of volunteering now is the time: www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/register-to-volunteer-Aston

Karen Binns

Our Scout group enjoyed an unforgettable night in February with a high-energy sleepover at Rush Trampoline Park, High Wycombe. From our youngest members (aged just 6) right up to our 18-year-olds – and a few brave adult leaders – everyone threw themselves into an action-packed evening of bouncing, games and laughter.



As you might expect, there was plenty of energy on display... although not quite as much actual sleeping as you'd hope from a 'sleepover'! Despite that, the behaviour and enthusiasm of all our young people was fantastic and it was a great opportunity for different sections of the group to spend time together and build friendships.

Events like this are only possible thanks to the support we receive throughout the year. We're pleased to subsidise activities like the sleepover using funds raised from our community efforts, including the village Santa Float and the annual Family Festival.

We'll be back at the Family Festival this June with some of our ever-popular stalls – including the coconut shy, crockery smash, tombola and splat the rat. Do come along, say hello, and support us if you can – every contribution allows us to continue to offer opportunities like this to our young people.

Claire Walker



In 2018, Nick, the minister at Aston Clinton Baptist Church, started a small community food bank to support local people in need. What began with members of the congregation donating tins of food at the back of the church, has grown into an independent initiative supporting households across Aston Clinton.

Where we are today

We have a dedicated team of six wonderful volunteers who regularly collect, pack, and deliver food parcels and personal hygiene products to local families and individuals.

The food bank is currently in urgent need of funding to help cover additional costs such as:

- Pet food
- Emergency vet bills
- Rising fuel costs for the households we help.

We have seen first-hand how important animal companionship can be, with many people choosing to feed their pets before themselves.

How you can help

There are several ways you can support the food bank and help local neighbours in need:

- **Donate pet food.** Tins of dog and cat food can be dropped off at Aston Clinton Baptist Church in the porch collection box. Opening times: 9am–4pm, seven days a week
- **Donate online.** Support us through our JustGiving page (just scan the QR Code) to help cover urgent vet bills and essential supplies.
- **Set up a monthly donation.** Regular contributions help us continue providing reliable support to local households.
- **Donate bedding materials.** Old bed sheets and blankets are always appreciated for use as pet bedding.

Every donation, no matter how small, makes a real difference. Thank you for helping us support our community. *Katie Palmer*

Coffee Morning

A supportive group with trained volunteers for those affected by suicide to share a coffee and a chat in tranquil surroundings.

<p>CHILTERNES CREMATORIUM</p> <p>Sun 26 Apr 11am - 1pm</p> <p>Sun 4 Oct 11am - 1pm</p> <p>Chilterns Crematorium Whielden Lane, Amersham, HP7 0ND 01494724362</p>	<p>BIERTON CREMATORIUM</p> <p>Sat 4 Jul 11am - 1pm</p> <p>Sat 5 Dec 11am - 1pm</p> <p>Bierton Crematorium Cane End Lane, Ayrbury, HP22 5B11 01296350089</p>
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memorials.crem@buckinghamshire.gov.uk



Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity's Midnight Walk Returns

Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity's Midnight Walk is returning in June, bringing another unforgettable night of remembrance, celebration and community spirit to Aylesbury. Taking place on Saturday June 20, at Roman Park Hall, this special event will coincide with the summer solstice, making it an even more magical occasion as participants walk together on the lightest night of the year and welcome the longest day.

The Midnight Walk has long been a highlight in the local calendar, offering the local community the opportunity to come together in memory of loved ones while raising vital funds for local hospice care. Participants will walk side by side under the solstice sky, honouring those they miss and celebrating the compassionate care provided by Florence Nightingale Hospice and Butterfly House. It is always a moving and uplifting experience, filled with moments of reflection, connection and hope. This year's event promises all the colour and atmosphere that walkers have come to love.

Every participant will receive a free commemorative t-shirt, and, new for 2026, light-up summer solstice headpieces will

be available to purchase on the night as the Aylesbury sky is illuminated in a sea of light. Face painting, glow sticks and fairy lights are all highly encouraged to help create a vibrant display. With entertainment, refreshments and food available, it will be a wonderful summer evening for friends, families and colleagues to gather in support of a cause close to so many hearts.

Whether walking in memory of someone special, in gratitude for care received, or simply to support local hospice services, every step taken will help ensure that patients and their families across Buckinghamshire continue to receive dedicated compassionate care when they need it most.

To sign up and find out more, please visit fnhospice.org.uk/mnw26

Aston Clinton WI

The WI meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.45pm in The Anthony Hall, where we are entertained by high quality speakers on a wide range of topics. These talks are followed by light refreshments. We also hold raffles and plant sales and we support our local community in addition to our other activities, including walking group, craft club and lunch club.

In June, we will welcome Maggie Taylor, who will tell us about the work of the Donkey Sanctuary and in July, Susan Clark, of the V&A Conservation of Costumes Department, will talk us through her 25 years of volunteering.

Please feel free to come to one of our meetings to try us out and see what we do. Your first meeting is free and tea/coffee and cakes/biscuits are included.

If you would like further information please contact me on the following email address b.d.ac.wi@gmail.com. *Lin Mitchell*



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News from your local nature reserves

Aston Clinton Ragpits is a remarkable, small nature reserve at the edge of the village. There are records of the Ragpits being quarried for chalk (or 'rag stone') from the 19th century, but the extraction of chalk may go back even earlier than that. The land was acquired by the military for a while, before BBOWT began managing the site in the early 1980s. At that time the quarry area was choked with scrub, and it was only after a herculean effort by the trust and many volunteers that the site began to reveal its treasures.

Now, after decades of careful management and autumn sheep grazing, the reserve boasts many chalk grassland plants, lots of invertebrates, such as butterflies and solitary bees, and at least nine species of orchid. We have conducted an annual orchid count in mid summer, starting in the 1980s, and the number of individual flowering plants has risen from about 10,000 to just under 20,000 in 2025. This is largely down to the management of the site, to which many eager volunteers have contributed.

The results have been impressive, and the annual display of orchids has become noteworthy indeed. Former quarries are often good environments for wildlife, and good quality chalk grassland is botanically one of the richest habitats we have. Sadly, in the UK, this kind of habitat is declining and with it many

vulnerable species.

Paradoxically, it is the nutrient poor chalk that allows many "less competitive" plants to thrive. If you look very closely in the summer months you will see lots of these specialist species with wonderful sounding names such as Fairy Flax, Squinancywort and Chalk Milkwort.

Moreover, there are lots of other species to enjoy, whether it's the Chalkhill Blue butterflies in late summer, the Toasted Waxcap fungi in Autumn – or a male Firecrest which I was lucky to observe singing only a few weeks ago.

For such a small site, it certainly punches above its weight in terms of biodiversity!

The orchids are the main attraction in the summer, and from May the first species are flowering with the peak being mid-June. The most colourful species are the Chalk Fragrant, Pyramidal and Common Spotted Orchids, and we usually have a few Bee Orchids whose flowers have evolved to resemble bees; this is one of our most exotic looking native wildflowers

There will be an organised guided walk to enjoy this floral display on Sunday, June 7 from 10am until noon. There will also be a later guided walk on Saturday, July 18, also from 10am until noon, when we hope to see some of the other chalk grassland flowers as well as some of the many butterfly species that are found on the reserve. If you would like to come along, please book via the link below, but hurry as places are limited.

There will be another guided walk with Mick Jones on June 28 at Dancersend and a range of events and activities for children and family groups throughout the summer at College Lake. For full details and booking go to www.bbowl.org.uk/events.

Phil Townsend

Volunteer Warden at Aston Clinton Ragpits

For a digital version of Village Life please visit our website.

acvillagelife.co.uk



Left: Orchid display at the Ragpits, Bee Orchid, Bumblebee on an orchid – Phil Townsend.
Below: Greater Butterfly Orchid amongst Bird's-foot Trefoil, Species rich grassland in early July – Mick Jones



Aston Clinton Beer Festival 2026

*The much-loved Aston Clinton Beer Festival is set to return this summer, taking place from **July 31 to August 2**, and promises to be another fantastic celebration of great beer, local community, and summertime spirit. Held right in the heart of the village, the festival has become a firm favourite on the local calendar, drawing in residents and visitors alike for a relaxed, sociable, and thoroughly enjoyable event.*



This year's festival will once again feature an impressive selection of real ales, ciders, and craft beers, thoughtfully curated to suit a wide variety of tastes. From classic bitters and refreshing pale ales to more distinctive and adventurous brews, there is sure to be something for everyone. With many drinks sourced from local, independent and

regional breweries, it's also a great opportunity to discover new favourites while supporting smaller producers.

At its core, the Aston Clinton Beer Festival is about far more than just what's in the glass. It's a true community occasion, offering a friendly and inclusive atmosphere where people can come together to relax and enjoy good company. Whether you're catching up with friends, meeting neighbours, or simply looking for a pleasant way to spend an afternoon, the festival provides a welcoming setting for all.

A range of food options will be available throughout the event, offering something to complement the drinks and satisfy every appetite. Combined with live music and entertainment, the festival creates a lively yet laid-back environment that captures the spirit of a traditional village celebration.

Importantly, the festival also supports a number of excellent causes. Charities benefiting from the event include Chilterns Neuro Centre, Aston Clinton School, Bucks Mind, Aston Clinton Youth Club, WheelPower, Carers Bucks, Aston Clinton Colts, and others. By attending, visitors are not only enjoying a great day out but also contributing to organisations that make a real difference both locally and beyond.

This event is run entirely by volunteers, so if you'd prefer to be on the other side of the bar rather than enjoying the ales, we would love your support. Please email us at lynnne@astonclintonbeerfestival.com to get involved and help us raise even more money for charity.

Tickets are available now, and early booking is recommended to avoid disappointment. You can find further information and secure your place by visiting www.astonclintonbeerfestival.com. Be sure to mark your calendar and join in what is set to be another memorable weekend for the village. *Cheers!*

The Aston Clinton Beer Festival Team

Thoughts when the bypass closed

What a day – Saturday, April 18 – the A41 was closed for filming, and the village caught the full effect of slow moving nose to tail traffic throughout the day. How glad we are to have normal traffic on normal days. Though this too can feel intrusive. But we have plenty of wonderful places to walk to where it is possible to get away from all that. Across from the park we can walk to the canal – water always has a calming influence. Up from Stablebridge Road there is the BBOWT Ragpits reserve, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which is one of the most important places nationally for chalk grassland wildflowers, especially orchids, and a huge number of butterflies.



Photos: Canal, Stablebridge Road (Alison Beck).
Bluebells at Dancersend (Katy Todd).

Between the canal and Wendover Woods is Cobblers Pits wood with glades full of birdsong and wildflowers, perfect for a quiet picnic. A little further afield, but still within walking distance, is Dancersend, another BBOWT SSSI. At Dancersend, we were far away from the discombobulation on April 18. Here all was calm amid what seemed like mile upon mile of bluebells. Beneath the trees, in



the glades, beside the roads, under the hedges. Everywhere the deep blue of English bluebells. To sit and take in the scent and sight of the blue beneath the brilliant new green of the trees accompanied by birdsong was heaven.

Fifty years ago, bluebells were at their peak at the end of May, even early June. This spring there were simultaneously cowslips, primroses, violets, stitchwort and yellow archangel covering the floor of the woods and roadsides. Warmer, drier springs mean our wildflowers appear much earlier. With the ground beneath already hard and cracked, we are aware too that water is more precious than it once was. Dancersend is where the Rothschilds built the water pumping station in the 19th century. Now owned by Thames Water, you can hear the roar of the water on its way to our homes. It was a stark reminder that water is becoming increasingly precious. Who knows whether our relatively dry spring will be followed by another hot dry summer this year?

Two years ago, we installed water butts – enough to keep our garden going – but when we've had enough of our own plot there is so much more of the great outdoors to enjoy just beyond the village. The closing of the bypass made me realise what a truly excellent location Aston Clinton is. *Katy Todd*

Aston Clinton Colts Celebrate a standout season



As the season draws to a close, Aston Clinton Colts reflects with pride on what has been an exceptional year for the club. From strong performances on the pitch to continued growth off it, this season has reinforced the club's position as a cornerstone of youth football within the village.

One of the most encouraging developments has been the significant increase in young players joining through the club's junior pathway. The continued influx of local talent is a testament to both the strength of grassroots football in Aston Clinton and the welcoming, inclusive environment the club strives to maintain.

On the competitive front, the U14 Blues deserve special recognition for reaching their league finals this year – an outstanding achievement that highlights the quality, commitment, and teamwork across the squad.

Behind the scenes, the club's success is underpinned by the dedication of a number of key volunteers and contributors. A sincere thank you goes to both Gordon Baker and Jim Trustman, whose tireless efforts in pitch marking throughout the season have not only ensured excellent playing conditions but have also saved the club thousands of pounds.



Local stories by local people

Recognition is also due to Antonia Lloyd, who has served as Treasurer for the past five years. Her organisation and financial stewardship have had a lasting and positive impact on the club's operations. Yat Ghedia, in the role of Community Engagement Officer, continues to play a vital part in supporting both coaches and players, fostering an environment where individuals can thrive.

Gary Woodley, as Football Development Director, has been instrumental in shaping a safe, secure, fun, and fair setting for all children to participate in football. His leadership ensures that kids' happiness remains at the heart of everything the club does.

A special mention must go to Di Waller, who for the past 20 years has served as Club Secretary. A driving force behind securing the club's first FA Accredited status, Di's commitment and attention to detail keep the club running seamlessly year after year.

Attention now turns to the club's biggest fundraising event of the year – the Aston Clinton Colts Tournament, taking place on June 27-28, 2026. The club warmly welcomes support from across the village, whether through volunteering with refreshments, assisting with set up and clean-up, or simply attending and showing encouragement. The club greatly appreciates the community's ongoing support and understanding during this busy weekend.

Finally, Aston Clinton Colts extend their sincere thanks to all sponsors for their invaluable support throughout the season:

KMS Motor Services, Bucks College Group, Mason Grab Hire, Aston Commercial Cleaning, Hardings Concrete, Griffin & Sons Landscaping, Aylesbury Signs.

Here's to another successful season and continued growth in the years ahead. But first, after the tournament, a rest for the coaches, parents and committee!

The Colts Committee

It's all square as Baggies face Wasters



A tense encounter is predicted when the Buckland Baggies take on the Wilstone Wasters at Long Marston cricket ground on Friday, August 7.

The fifth match has the sides competing to go into the lead with two wins apiece on the record books.

This is 'coarse cricket' at its best with lots of tumbles in the field, some exotic bowling and frenetic batting. All great entertainment.

There will be a bar open in the clubhouse and a barbecue. The entry fee is £5 for non-members of Long Marston Cricket Club over 16 with all funds going to a local charity.

Bring a chair and small table for your beer and burgers and be ready for the action to start at 6pm.

Richard Peel

Wendover Choral Society

Wendover Choral Society presents "The Golden Age of Hollywood" with a series of relaxed and inspiring singing workshops under the guidance of musical director Kenton Brigden. Open to all.

Thursday, June 4, 11 and 18, 7.45pm – 9.45pm, St Mary's, Wendover. £30 for all three sessions (£10 per session).

To book, call **03336 663366** or go to www.wendoverchoral.org.

Penny Cobb

Bowls – an activity for all ages!



Casey Dawson is 30 years old and the last person you would expect to want to join the 'silver surfers' at the Aston Clinton Bowls Club (ACBC). Casey is a keen cricketer and has been part of Buckland and Aston Clinton Cricket club for nearly 20 years. He also played football for Aston Clinton FC and spent his childhood in the Colts. He joined ACBC in 2023, has made many good friends and enjoyed much success.

Bowls is considered by many to be an activity for older people. He is not, so what attracted him to bowls? *"I love watching curling on the TV when the Winter Olympics are on and wanted to have a go, but unless I moved to Scotland or Canada there wasn't much chance of me finding a local rink. So, I thought why don't I get involved with bowls, it's the same kind of tactics in both sports. I love sport and being active, I also enjoy being part of local clubs. Bowls is an activity and sport for everyone to enjoy – it's a game of thinking and skill. I also love the young and old generations coming together, you get to learn a lot".*

What did he find to be the most difficult aspect of bowling? *"The two most difficult things are also two of the only things you really need to master, 'Line & Weight'. It can be a game of*

millimetres sometimes, but as in any activity, practice makes perfect".

Casey has enjoyed much success since he began bowling. In his first year he became Men's Pairs Champion, and in the last two seasons he has won the Men's Singles Trophy and went on to play in the Buckinghamshire Champions of Champions competition.

Has it helped that he's also a cricketer? *"I would say if you come from any sporting background, you'll hit the ground running with bowls. Having any kind of competitive nature is key to success in sporting activities."*

What would he say to anyone thinking of joining a bowls club? *"The hardest part for some people may be plucking up the courage to walk through the gates at ACBC, just to introduce yourself and show your interest. But I promise you, the people within are what make the club such a friendly environment. I'd also say if you want to see true British sports and traditions survive, it's important to get yourself involved!"*

The outdoor bowls season continues until the third week of September. If you're walking past and there's a match in progress, come in and watch – you might like what you see and may want to get involved. You'll be very welcome.

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Aston Clinton Cricket Club

The 2026 season got underway on April 30, with a midweek friendly at Amersham, and is planned to run until September 6. There is a lot of cricket to be played between those dates and hopefully this will be a memorable year for all the right reasons. Although separate clubs existed in Buckland and Aston Clinton going back into the 19th century, by the time the 2nd World War had finished neither village had a team and there was no ground to play on. This was soon put right and the Buckland and Aston Clinton Cricket Club was formally born in 1951 after purchasing the former kitchen garden from the Rothschild Manor. This year is the 75th anniversary of the club in its current guise, and we plan to celebrate in style.



Our Senior Saturday teams have made the switch to the Cherwell League, where we will take our places in Divisions 5 and 9. We are looking forward to the change, to playing on new grounds against unfamiliar opposition, and to enjoying the higher ground standards that this league demands. With an influx of new blood we are probably starting with probably too many players, but it is a better problem to have than desperately seeking extra bodies as we have done at times in the recent past. The Senior Midweek team is defending its Village T20 title and will be hosting the Finals Day this season on the August Bank Holiday.

It would be fantastic to retain the trophy on our home patch. We have Junior sides entered at Under 11, Under 13 and Under 15 levels but the Under 13 squad is short on numbers and really needs new recruits if we are to raise a team for the eight fixtures this group is scheduled to play. All Stars for 5-8 year olds returns for its 4th year and as per every previous season this ever popular ECB programme has sold out.

Work continues to slowly upgrade the ground. At the end of the 2025 campaign our volunteer groundsmen led a small party in scarifying the whole playing square, then adding new loam and reseeded. Pre-season we replaced the netting in our practice nets, bought new boundary ropes with a trolley/winder and with the assistance of Aston Clinton Parish Council have added another pair of sightcreens to the ground. More improvements remain in the pipeline as and when funding and time allow us to get on with them. *Phil Samuels*

Spring Concert at St Mary's

On April 29, the audience at St Mary's Drayton Beauchamp was treated to a simply wonderful concert when The Ridgeway Chorale and City Brass combined forces to raise funds for the church.

A varied and delightful programme included a mixture of pretty, cheery, solemn, naughty and boozy pieces from both ensembles who took turns to perform. The brass playing felt like a wonderful hug with its amazing resonance. The singing was so diverse with very talented soloists and beautiful harmonies.

In the finale, the band, the choir and the audience all joined together to sing 'Down by the Riverside' which was quite simply the icing on the cake and much-enjoyed by everyone.

Thank you to everyone involved in trying to raise much-needed funds - such a successful and memorable evening. *Lucy Kibble*

Aylesbury Green Park Sub Aqua Club



I am often asked when a child can learn to scuba. The British Sub Aqua Club does not specify a lower age limit for a 'try-dive' but, in practice, the equipment weight and other factors would make diving a considerable challenge for too young a child. Our club welcomes Scouts, Guides and other youth groups for Try Dives from the age of 12, and for those wishing to take up the sport, the BSAC Ocean Diver course from the same age.

So far this year, we have welcomed 20 Scouts (both boys and girls) to the underwater world of snorkelling and diving. In June, we hold our biggest ever youth event when 36 scouts, over a period of four hours, will take the plunge in the PGL Green Park Pool. As well as using their own breathing to control buoyancy in the pool, they will learn how to set up and use scuba equipment, learn some essentials of first aid and lifeguarding, and complete exercises designed to simulate laying a safety line at depth.

Just as age is not a barrier, nor is disability. A few medical conditions require approval by a Medical Diving Referee, but most people are able to dive. Mental and physical health benefits are numerous and include improved breathing, muscle tone, strength and physical fitness. Self-confidence/esteem, a feeling of wellbeing and the development of communication skills all promote good mental health.

Diving is a great leveller, giving a unique sense of freedom. Weightless, the paraplegic diver can experience unrestricted movement in three dimensions, the deaf diver has an



Scouts training at Green Park pool

advantage in an environment where visual signals are the main means of communication and the blind and visually impaired, using tactile communication, experience a liberating, sensory-rich experience. Those with autism, PTSD, Parkinson's disease and a range of other conditions benefit from and enjoy diving and love its challenges and rewards.

With the help of 'buddies' and specialised training, almost anyone can enjoy scuba diving and an increasing number of disabled divers are becoming instructors.

For more information or enquiries about *Try Dives* for individuals or youth groups, text or phone **07857 868234** or go to our website aylesburydivers.org.uk.

Kelvin Bagley, Club Secretary

Aston Park Tennis brings pickleball to the village!

It's nearly that time of year again for strawberries and shouts of "OUT!"

Aston Park Tennis Club has invested in two outdoor pickleball courts this spring – bringing one of the fastest growing sports in the world to the village and the fabulous Aston Park.

Pickleball's surge in popularity has been driven by its accessibility and strong social appeal. It's easy to learn for beginners, less physically demanding than tennis, and caters to all ages, making it a popular sport for all generations. The start costs are low – a small paddle and ball and for the summer sunshine some shorts! Games are fast-paced and played in close proximity, encouraging conversation and interaction.

Aston Park Club has the facility to book both pickleball and tennis courts online for non members – but has also lowered the annual membership fee this year to a really cost effective £150 – this is to bring both tennis and pickleball to more players in our local area.

Summer time is the best time to try out either sport and our friendly village club has social mornings and evenings for all levels of play.

We are also a competitive club which flies the Aston Park flag all over Buckinghamshire and into Hertfordshire; our top teams are now in Division 1 of the ADTL, fully pushing above our size for the club.

Come on down to your tennis and pickleball courts and give the game a try – we can provide all the necessary starter kits as needed!

Book at astonparktennis.co.uk or visit us on a Sunday Morning 10am to 12 noon for a knock and cup of tea!

John Montague





Happiness is Scottish Country Dancing

Our very busy spring term, which included charity fundraising, tuition from guest teachers and our attendance at the Iberian Gathering in Cadiz, ended on a high with our Spring Dance. The ever-joyful Chris Oxtoby led the Strathallan Band with such energy and produced some thrilling music demonstrating what we all know – that there's nothing quite like dancing to a live band.



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For the 14 dancers who went to Cadiz, The Iberian Gathering was a memorable experience and it's hard to choose a highlight ... the Flash Dance in the Plaza, or perhaps the Grand March led by a piper at the start of Saturday night's ball?

Those who stayed after the weekend joined dancers from our sister club, the Cadilonians, at their weekly meeting after which (in true Spanish style) the hospitality continued in the local tapas bar!

An impressive number of dancers braved the elements last term to benefit from the free tuition delivered every week by our three qualified teachers. We were also delighted that two teachers from another local club in Berkhamsted led the tuition and dancing on another evening. This high standard of teaching will continue this term when two other guest teachers, one from Berkhamsted and the other from Barcelona, will lead classes. Once again, we'll have live music to accompany one of the classes and also for our last evening of the season at the end of June.

Before that, of course, we'll be participating in the Aston Clinton Family Festival on Saturday, June 13 when we'll be putting our best feet forward and demonstrating some simple country dances – and perhaps encouraging some audience participation.

As you can see, you don't need to be a Scot to 'Dance Scottish' – you just need to like moving to the rhythm of the wonderful reels, jigs and strathspeys (unique to Scottish dancing). It makes us happy and we'd like to share that as widely as possible. If you're interested in joining our classes, complete the 'Join Us' form on the website and we'll be in touch with all the necessary information.

*Liz Mitchell, lucyclarkscottish@gmail.com
www.lucyclarkscottish.org*

Buck Pub 2026 Buckland's largest community event



We are delighted to confirm that Buck Pub will take place this year from Friday, June 12 to Sunday, June 14 in Buckland Village Hall.

This is our annual village community event that's been running for almost 30 years. We provide a pop-up pub, food and entertainment for one weekend only. Saturday evening will be the Quiz Night (not like other quiz nights!) and Sunday afternoon will be the ever-popular music festival. All details are on the website which will be updated regularly with the latest news: www.thebuckpub.co.uk.

Over the years this event has raised around £100,000 for a range of charities. This year we will be donating to local causes including Hector's House.

As with every year, for Buck to be a success we need a team of volunteers to serve behind the bar, provide food, help in the kitchen and contribute to the music festival on Sunday afternoon.

Do please get in touch if you would like to help. It's great fun and you'll get to meet a lot of your neighbours!

We look forward to seeing you.

Nigel Kippax and the Buck Pub organising team
nigel@kippax.org.uk

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Sudoku

All you have to do is fill in the squares so that each row, column and the nine small 3x3 squares contains the numbers 1-9.

(SOLUTION ON PAGE 33)

Midsummer music for charity

Music under the Stars returns for its 19th year on Saturday, June 27 with some new sounds and the return of Old Country Union favourite Frank Walsh.



The annual event, held at Lower Farm, Buckland from 4.15pm, last year raised £4,500 for local charities, with Hector's House, the chosen main charity again this year, receiving £3,000.

As well as the traditional mid-evening family Ceilidh, there will be contributions in the late afternoon from local musicians including Nick Atkinson, father and son duo Norman and Scott Mandry, and newcomer Carmen Schaffer.

Making their Music under the Stars debut at 6.30pm will be The Kings of Harmony from Chesham, who specialise in singing a capella, and the Blue Moons who should have the crowd rocking.

The Haydays return with a laid back set and some late night dance music, while the Valentown band, with Frank Walsh, will entertain with their special brand of Americana. We're privileged that Robin Boulton, who tours with Howard Jones, will join the band on lead guitar for the session.

There'll be beer, Pimms' and Rose champagne on sale, and some grand prizes in the raffle and through the silent auction.

Tickets are £10 on the door for your wristband. If you'd like one in advance, then please contact Richard at rppr@hotmail.co.uk. It'll stop congestion at the gate!

As ever, we are asking people to bring toiletries for the Women's Refuge in Aylesbury. Bring a chair and a picnic too.

Richard Peel

St. Michael's Quiz Night

We managed to squeeze in 11 tables and more than 80 people at our very successful Quiz Night on March 28.

The winners were the table from The Oak pictured below with the Dennis Davies Cup, who came from behind and won on the last round by playing their Joker!



We raised £1,029 for much needed Church Funds, and Phil and I are most grateful to all who supported us in quizzing, donating raffle prizes, buying raffle tickets and playing Heads and Tails!

Already we're preparing for our next Quiz Night on **Saturday, October 24**. We'll be following the same format and tickets will be £10 per head, with tables for up to 10 people.

We look forward to seeing you all again for an evening of fun and teasing challenges in the autumn.

James Adam

Aston Clinton u3a

Aston Clinton u3a is your local group for pursuing interests, friendships, knowledge and experiences in the third age.

What is your third age?

Allegedly, it is a time when we have a chance to follow interests without the problems of regular working hours; the age when we still want to do more and not become old and crumbly. At this time we all, as individuals, have had years of valuable experience and yet we still may have things we want to do. The u3a ethos is to encourage this with the 'Learn, Laugh, Live' motto.

As I mentioned in the last issue, we have our 20th anniversary this year and we invite everyone to come and see us at our exhibition on Saturday, September 5 in the Old Clock Hall, at Aston Clinton School between 11am and 3pm.

In the last issue, I explained about some of the group activities and I apologise if it seemed as if our ladies are catered for more than the gentlemen. I will redress the balance as this time I have photos of our railway modellers and anglers but all groups are open to anyone who is interested. Our art group is very sociable and instructive and here can be seen as truly all engaging.

Our new groups project is well underway: Pickleball meets every Monday afternoon and Lawn Bowls started their taster sessions in May. Full details are on our website astonclinton.u3asite.uk where contacts and schedules are shown.

We are looking forward to welcoming new group activities and if any non member wants to get a new activity group going then please get in touch with Craig via the website links.

Of the regular meetings, Science and Technology (S&T) had the last lecture before starting its summer outside activities. What do you know about 'Zero'? It was fascinating



to discover that the concept of zero is a fundamental of almost all activity in time, science, finance, computing and history as well as making maths simpler. S&T outside events continue with the residential trip to Kent and the Elizabeth Line London experience completed by the time you read this. Later there are trips to the National Space Centre in Leicester, the Steam Museum in Swindon and Milestones in Basingstoke before we resume lectures in September.

Garden visiting is another group that gives you a chance to be inspired and see gardens not generally open to the public. The History group is one of our larger groups and we recently visited RAF Halton airfield. We had a fascinating afternoon hosted by the Halton Aeroplane Club. We not only had the history of the airfield, with seaplane hangars and the station activities, but also learnt about aviation and a projected world record around-the-world flight in a single seat self-built aircraft. u3a broadens the mind!

Anthony Atwood

Village People

This is a series about the people of Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp. Not just about the people who live in these villages but the people who are a part of the daily life of the villages.

Dave McElbinney is a familiar face delivering parcels around the village.



Dave, you are a familiar, frequent and friendly visitor to so many local people with your deliveries and collections.

Q. How long have you been involved with Evri?

A. I've been involved with Evri/Hermes since 2012. I'd worked in London since 1989, but it left me with little time for anything else. I also had an alternative business venture at the time so needed something more local and with a bit more flexibility.

Q. How many deliveries do you do on an average day? What is your delivery area?

A. The average is usually around 120-150 a day but that could increase to 250-270 over the Christmas period.

I cover part of Aston Clinton and Buckland, as well as Drayton Beauchamp.

Q. How long have you lived in Buckland and what brought you here?

A. We moved to Buckland in 2003 from Wembley. Fiona and I had just had our daughter and wanted to have more rural surroundings to bring her up in but still with relatively easy access to NW London.

Q. You are always cheerful and helpful, what is it about your role that gives you satisfaction and why?

A. I'm fortunate that while I work on my own, I still get to interact with so many different people, it's literally the best

of both worlds. Some of my customers have now become friends and it's always nice to pop into one of the pubs in the village and see familiar faces. Being outdoors is another favourite as well as being in control of the music choices!

Q. Are you involved in any other activities or groups in the village?

A. I play in the annual charity cricket match between Buckland Baggies and Wilstone Wasters. I try to support other activities by attending as many events as possible.

120 - 150
local deliveries
on an average
day

“

Q. If you have any spare time, what do you do for fun or to relax?

A. I'm a member of a golf society, which is mainly made up of old footballing mates.

We have monthly games and an annual European tour. I also go to watch Wealdstone FC whenever I can finish work early enough to get there.

Q. What's your favourite music?

A. Literally anything, often depending on my mood, from 70s disco/soul, 80s pop, 90s dance to Irish/country music. As a cheesy pub DJ in the 90s-00s, there is literally nothing off the table. Particular favourites are Stevie Wonder and Neil Diamond.

Q. What's your favourite film?

A. I have great memories of trips to the cinema in my school days to see the likes of Beverly Hills Cop and Back to the Future. In more recent times I really enjoyed The Greatest Showman.

Q. What's the best thing about living in Buckland?

A. The obvious peace and quiet and the walks are a big attraction. There are also some really good people who do a lot to make it a more social village. Music Under The Stars, The Buck Pub, The Belfry Bar, and Flicks in the Sticks are all fantastic events among many others that come about through the efforts of villagers.

Q. What was the first car you owned and what do you drive now?

A. A maroon Ford Escort and unsurprisingly now you'll often see me in my van.

Q. What changes to village life (good or bad) have you noticed in recent years?

A. There have been more younger people and families moving in which brings a new energy and vibrancy to the village. With that, I think it's important that there are still a good number of long term villagers who I maintain a lot of the traditional values as well. The positive of social media offering advice, recommendations or information has been a big change since I arrived as well.

Q. What, if any, changes would you like to see locally?

A. A more permanent social hub in Buckland would be a big bonus. A bus route that services Tring and Wendover stations, and less speeding through the village.

If you would like to recommend anyone whose contribution to village life should be featured in this column, or if you advertise in Village Life and would like to be featured in Village Business, please contact the editor at editor@acvillagelife.co.uk

Interview by Nigel Brown

Laura Kyrke-Smith MP

Last time I wrote for Village Life, I mentioned my “Meet and Greet” at St Michael and All Angels in January. Residents raised issues as varied as potholes, traffic calming and the upcoming SEND reforms. I wanted to update you on some of the follow-up work I’ve been doing.

I sent a formal enquiry to Buckinghamshire Council about the speeding on Tring Hill, and you can see my questions followed by the answer I got back from the council.

LKS: Are any current or planned reviews of the speed limits on Tring Hill?

Bucks Council: “We do not have plans at present to review the current speed limit.”

LKS: What is the current status of the Tring Hill Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) and when are repairs expected? (noting that my office has already raised this with the council as individual casework on a number of occasions).

Bucks Council: “Unfortunately, the VAS on Tring Hill appears to have been vandalised and as it is no longer supported by the manufacturer the parts needed to repair it are unavailable. At present, we do not have funding available to replace life-expired VAS units. We will explore potential funding options and should funding be identified we will update you and the parish council.”

LKS: Has the council undertaken any recent safety assessment of the Stablebridge Road junction, including recorded accident data?

Bucks Council: As part of our annual injury collision countywide review, we note that there have been two reported injury incidents at the Stablebridge Road/London Road junction. One involved a pedestrian and another involved a motorcyclist. From the information we received, it would suggest that the injury incidents were predominately due to drivers

failing to look properly before carrying out a manoeuvre and colliding with the respective pedestrian and motorcyclist. These occurrences do not indicate a pattern of behaviour or suggest an issue with the layout of the junction and, as such, we do not intend to undertake any further analysis at this junction at present.

LKS: What mitigation measures, if any, are being considered?

Bucks Council: In relation to the Tring Hill Upper Icknield Way junction, we are in the process of initiating discussions with our Design Alliance partner to explore potential options for reconfiguring the junction. To be clear, this is not a commitment to deliver work on the ground, but should provide some indication on what is possible, give a very high-level cost estimate, and facilitate discussions connected with any future redevelopment of the RAF Halton site.

I am in ongoing contact with Buckland Parish Council, and we all hope to get some more satisfactory answers from Buckinghamshire Council in future.

My team also picked up many individual enquiries from the event, including the potholes on Putnams Drive, which were repaired but deteriorated in the winter conditions. I hope that the council will take action to fix these in the summer, but I will keep on the case.

I have continued to raise many different potholes with the council, which are still awaiting repairs despite the additional funding they have received from the government for this specific purpose. Please continue to report potholes to [FixMyStreet](#), because I cannot escalate individual cases on your behalf if the pothole hasn’t been reported in the first instance.

More generally, I remain very busy trying to assist with issues across Aylesbury and

the villages, getting them on the radar of Buckinghamshire Council and, where relevant, government Ministers. Other issues I have been working on include our reforms to support for children with special educational needs and disabilities, the government's consultation on young people's use of social media, and of course ensuring that Buckinghamshire Council are listening to residents' views on their proposed Local Plan, which remains a work in progress.

In lighter news, it was a great pleasure to organise a tour for residents of Aylesbury and the villages. Participants had the chance to explore the historic Palace of Westminster, learn more about how Parliament works, and see first-hand where decisions are made that affect our communities. After the tour, I was glad to meet everyone for a chat. If you'd like to join a future tour, you can sign up to the waiting list at www.lauraforaylesbury.org/visit-parliament.

More generally if I can be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Laura Kyrke-Smith MP

Sudoku Solution

Puzzle on page 27.

8	4	9	7	6	5	1	3	2
1	7	6	3	2	9	5	4	8
5	3	2	1	4	8	7	6	9
2	5	7	4	9	3	6	8	1
9	8	4	6	5	1	2	7	3
6	1	3	2	8	7	4	9	5
3	2	1	8	7	4	9	5	6
7	9	8	5	1	6	3	2	4
4	6	5	9	3	2	8	1	7

Hidden Gems Quiz



The picture in our last issue showed one of three benches, installed in the village during 2022, that were the idea of Aston Clinton resident Helen Boswell. The idea was formed during the Covid pandemic when we were all encouraged to go for walks as many normal activities were closed off to us.

Her original idea, which got the backing of the parish council, was for just one bench but such was the local interest that a total of three were funded by generous donations from local companies and individuals. This bench is on Tring Hill, near the Mela restaurant, and the others can be found next to the War Memorial and at the bottom of Stablebridge Road.

To read more about the story, visit our website at www.acvillagelife.co.uk and see issue 63, with updates in issues 65, 66 and 67. The bench in Stablebridge Road even found itself on the cover of issue 68.

Our next Hidden Gem Question.



Is this somewhere /something you pass regularly? Where do you think it is? *Answer in the next issue.* *Richard Vincent*

Buckland Parish Council

It's been a busy couple of months in Buckland since we last wrote for Village Life!



On March 21, we held our litter pick. The weather was exceptionally good to the 18 people who turned out to help. In total, 20 bags of rubbish were collected, working from the canal bridge in Lower Buckland all the way along the Lower Icknield Way towards Aston Clinton. Afterwards, volunteers enjoyed some refreshments in All Saints Church. Thank you to everyone who turned out to help.

At the beginning of April we held our Annual Parish Meeting, where organisations in the parish come together to report on what's been happening in their group over the past 12 months. This year BPC, BOST and All Saints' Church reported.

As reported in the last issue, BPC has been keeping a close eye on any possible developments with Thames Water's Booster Station. No formal plans have been submitted,

only pre-application advice. BPC held a meeting with Thames Water and Laura Kyrke-Smith MP when we were updated on the progress of the project. Until pre-application advice is received from Buckinghamshire Council, Thames Water is unable to submit formal plans; however they did tell us that they have taken on board residents' views from last time and are seeking to run pipelines and the booster station nearer to the A41. They have also said there will have to be a lot of archaeological surveys before any building happens. This is common practice, and, given the number of finds that occurred with ARLA and also the A41, it is very wise. They will let us know when these take place and we will post updates on our Facebook page.

Speeding continues to be a big issue within the parish and seems to occur throughout now. BPC continues to push Buckinghamshire Council for speed control measures. The reply from Bucks Council can be found on our website, which we will continue to update. Buckinghamshire Council has installed some signage along Buckland Road and London Road. BPC is looking into other initiatives that we can take and we are hoping to install some signage designed by local schoolchildren over the coming months, along with possible new signage at entrances to the village, by the village gates.

Whilst talking about speeding, can we please ask residents to drive slowly on the bend on Buckland Road? This is a very dangerous bend and the road has been used as a cut through since the Aston Clinton traffic calming was introduced. Residents are having trouble exiting their properties due to the speed of vehicles on this bend.

Unfortunately we have been receiving reports of increased smells again from the ARLA/Ollecco site. To report any odours: www.gov.uk/report-environmental-problem

Or call the Environment Agency incident hotline: 0800 80 70 60.

If you are able, please also let BPC know and include the report number that you receive from the Environment Agency. The parish council keeps a record of all complaints made, which helps it to put its case to the Environment Agency, as well as to Arla, Olleco, or any other company involved.

We have been working again with The Chiltern Society in our community orchard in Lower Buckland, and the area is really starting to take shape. If you have half an hour to spare and would like to get involved in the watering, please get in touch. As a result of a grant from the Gib Lane Community Fund, we now have hosepipes across the orchard to make the job a bit easier.

B Discover Bucks Museum



Step back into the world of the Saxons this June at Discover Bucks Museum's major new exhibition, *The SAXONS: Three Lives. Three Burial Sites. Three Extraordinary Stories* which is now open. Explore spectacular treasures, fascinating burial discoveries and never-before-seen artefacts that reveal what life was like in Buckinghamshire over 1,300 years ago. Continue the adventure at the special Saxons Open Weekend on August 1 and 2, when the museum garden will come alive with re-enactors, a Saxon village encampment, live combat displays, hands-on activities and a family-friendly Beowulf puppet show. It's an immersive weekend of history, storytelling and discovery for all ages.

Celebrate the Festival of Archaeology on Saturday, July 18 with exclusive tours of the new exhibition, hands-on object handling with rare archaeological finds, and family-friendly craft activities.

If you've got pre-school children and are looking for something different to do during the week, bring them to a Discover Ducks activity, which includes a story, song, games, play, craft and museum trail. Sessions run from 10am to 12pm on selected Thursdays during term time. On Thursday June 11 and 25, the theme is 'vehicles' and on July 9 it's 'summer'.

Every Wednesday during term time from 10am – 12pm pop into our Stay & Play Café for a safe play space for under 5s, free drink and a chance to meet other parents and carers. And don't forget the Roald Dahl Children's Gallery is open for hands-on discovery every weekend during term time and during Bucks School holidays.



For opening times, tickets and booking, visit discoverbucksmuseum.org

Discover Bucks Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 2QP

Horticultural Society

Belated congratulations to all the prize winners at our Spring Show, and a huge thank you to everyone who took part, helped on the day, and came along to enjoy the wonderful displays.



Our 70th Anniversary Summer Show will be on Saturday, **September 5** so mark the date on your calendars, look out for full details on our website (www.astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk), and start thinking about what you could enter to help make this a great year. We intend to make this a really special event and have our local M.P, Laura Kyrke-Smith, presenting the prizes. New for the anniversary show we will be inviting other local community organisations to enter a vase of flowers to represent their organisation. We hope to have a fantastic display showing how much our villages offer. Please get in contact if you're able to join us.

Coming up we have:

Wed, June 10, 7.30pm: Anthony Hall, Talk: 'The Rothschild family's passion for Orchids' by garden historian Dr Francesca Murray, an insight into how the Rothschilds' investment in their gardens benefited the wider gardening community.

Sat, June 13, Plant stall: Aston Clinton Family Festival, Aston Clinton Park. Another chance to buy some bargains if you missed our sale in May.

Sun, June 21, 1pm-5pm, Plant stall: Buckland Open Gardens.

Thu, July 16, 6pm-9pm, Summer Celebration Buffet, Buckland Hall: Special 70th Anniversary event. Watch out for details on booking.

Thu, September 3, 6pm-7.45pm, Summer Show Entry Night, Anthony Hall.

Wed, September 9, 7.30pm, Talk: 'Chiltern Heritage Orchards Growing Organically', Lindsay Engers, Anthony Hall. Bringing back the flavour! An organic orchard, growing and promoting heritage varieties, many of which are not grown commercially elsewhere.

Back in April, we were delighted to have the very knowledgeable naturalist John Tyler talking to us on how to encourage wildlife in our gardens so this time's tips focus on some seasonal simple ways to make our spaces wildlife friendly.

Birds: Keep a bird bath topped with fresh water so birds can drink and bathe in dry weather. Clean regularly to stop algae and bacteria growing. Check out the RSPB website for how to make an inexpensive one from recycled material and for advice on what to feed birds throughout the year. Leave the seed heads on plants such as sunflowers, echinacea, rudbeckia and teasels for birds to enjoy. Check hedges thoroughly for nests before trimming and wait until all are empty.



Bees: You can buy a bee hotel or make your own using a design found online and fill it with bamboo canes, and the dead stems of hollow plants and reeds cut to 15cm in length. Fix bee boxes in a south-facing spot but not in direct sunlight and make sure the entrance points downwards so that rain does not get in. Some species prefer a wood pile and others enjoy a grassy bank to nest in – let the grass grow tall and plant pollen-rich plants along the edge of the bank.

Grass: Even a small patch of grass left to grow long will make a difference to wildlife, offering shelter to hedgehogs, small mammals and amphibians, a breeding spot for butterflies and moths and seeds for the birds. An area left for daisies and dandelions is an easy source of nectar for bees.

Plants: From July, sow wildlife-friendly biennial plants, such as honesty, teasels and foxgloves, that will flower next year. If netting crops, make sure the net is taut to prevent animals getting caught.

Ponds: Keep topped up with rainwater. Remove blanketweed by twirling it around a stick. Leave the weed close to the pond for a few hours to allow wildlife to return to the water. Ponds are a real boost for wildlife and don't have to be huge – you can use an old water tank, barrel or trough sunk into the ground.

Log pile: A pile of logs in the corner of the garden makes a great habitat, with the gaps filled with moss and dead leaves. It provides shelter for small mammals and amphibians and invertebrates such as beetles and centipedes.

Fences: Don't shut out hedgehogs and frogs. Make sure your garden fences have some gaps at the bottom that can allow wildlife to move through, linking different habitats together.

Happy summer gardening!

Your Horticultural Committee

Buckland Open Gardens

Sunday, June 21, 1-5pm



We have seven gardens opening in the village this year. If you have never been before, it's a lovely afternoon visiting private gardens with a chance to have a cup of tea and a piece of cake in All Saints' church.

There will be a plant stall at The Old Rectory run by the Horticultural Society as well.

Come along and bring your friends – £5 per person, no charge for children. Pay at the first garden you visit.

Emergency

HEALTH

Aston Clinton Surgery	01296 320384	www.westongrove.com
Aston Clinton Dental Clinic	01296 323090	www.astonclintondentalclinic.co.uk
Amersham Hospital	01494 434411	www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk
John Radcliffe Hospital	01865 741166	www.ouh.nhs.uk/hospitals/jr/
Stoke Mandeville Hospital	01296 315000	www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk
Wycombe Hospital	01494 526161	www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk
NHS Direct	111	111.nhs.uk
Samaritans	116123	jo@samaritans.org

ENERGY SUPPLIERS

Electricity Emergency	0800 7838 838	
Gas Emergency	0800 111 999	
Water Emergency	0800 3169 800	

CRIME

Police Emergency	999	
Police non-emergency and Neighbourhood watch	101	www.thamesvalley.police.uk
Childline	0800 111	

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

EDUCATION

Aston Clinton School	01296 630276	www.astonclintonschool.co.uk
Aston Clinton Pre School	07928 309321	pre-school.acpsmanagement@gmail.com
Noah's Ark (AC Baptist Church)	01296 631824	www.acbc.church
Little Angels Toddler Group	01296 632488	Benefice3@gmail.com

SPORT AND LEISURE

Aston Bridge Club	01296 630552	astonbridgeclub@gmail.com
Aston Clinton Badminton Club	07958 479690	
Aston Clinton Bowls Club	07885 595447	www.astonclintonbowlsclub.org
Aston Clinton Colts Junior F.C.	07786 908219	clubsecretary@accolts.com
Aston Clinton F.C.	07930 925840	www.astonclintonfc.co.uk
Aston Park Tennis Club	01296 630826	www.astonparktennis.co.uk
Aston Wine Club	01296 630531	www.astonwineclub.co.uk
Aylesbury Green Park Sub Aqua Club	07857 868234	www.aylesburydivers.org.uk
Back to Netball	07545 033986	net4alluk@hotmail.com
Buckland & Aston Clinton Cricket Club	01296 631788	www.bacc.play-cricket.com
Colts Kickers Liam Hickey	07585 119066	
Buckland Book Group	01296 631111	brfletcher@hotmail.co.uk
Dolphin Swim School	07966 450458	dolphinswimschool2017@gmail.com
Swimezee	01296 730742	www.swimezee.co.uk

YOUTH GROUPS

Aston Clinton Guides, Brownies and Rainbows		www.girlguiding.org.uk
Aston Clinton Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers	01296 708158	
– Waiting Lists		ac.secretary@yahoo.com
– Other enquiries		ac.gsl@yahoo.com
Aston Clinton Youth Club		astonclintonyouthclub@yahoo.com

CHURCHES

St Michael and All Angels, Aston Clinton	01296 632488	www.ac-buck-db-churches.org
All Saints, Buckland	01296 632488	www.ac-buck-db-churches.org
St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp	01296 632488	www.ac-buck-db-churches.org
Aston Clinton Baptist Church	01296 631824	www.acbc.church
Our Lady of Lourdes RC Church	01296 290545	www.ourladyoflourdes.uk

HALLS FOR HIRE

Anthony Hall	07443 976639	hallbookingonline.com/anthonyhall/
Baptist Church		lettings@acbc.church
Buckland Village Hall	07749 041434	hallandbookingsmanager@bucklandvillagehall.com
Churchill Hall		astonclintonyouthclub@yahoo.com
Red Kite Pavilion	01296 630270	nick@yourcafeinthepark.co.uk

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aston Clinton Parish Council	01296 631269	clerk@astonclinton.org www.astonclinton.org.uk
Buckland Parish Council	01296 630962	clerk@buckland-pc.gov.uk www.buckland-pc.gov.uk
Drayton Beauchamp. Parish Meeting	01296 630396	merylnodes2018@gmail.com
Buckinghamshire Council	0300 131 6000	www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk
BC Councillors	Steve Bowles	steve.bowles@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
	Mike Collins	mike.collins@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Environmental Health (fly tipping)	01296 585605	
Highways	01296 486630	www.buckscc.gov.uk
MP for Aylesbury	Laura Kyrke-Smith	laura.kyrkesmith.mp@parliament.uk

MISCELLANEOUS

All Saints Friends, Buckland	01296 630454	peter.elwin@elwins.net
Aston Clinton Ladies Group	01296 630740	
Aston Clinton U3A		www.astonclinton.u3asite.uk
Horticultural Society	01296 633376	www.astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk
Royal British Legion	01296 632039	
SSAFA Forces Help	01296 631030	
Turpins Charity	01296 630162	www.turpinscharity.org.uk
Wendover Heights Veterinary Centre	01296 623439	www.whvc.co.uk
Women's Institute	01296 706908	b.d.ac.wi@gmail.com

Sell in Haste, Repent at Leisure

On Monday 16th March this year, after a weekend of headlines and a terrible night in Asian markets, the FTSE 100 fell nearly 3%. Within 4 hours Donald Trump had made a speech and the market had turned positive, and spent the rest of the afternoon acting as if nothing had happened. Earlier in that month, something similar happened in South Korea when their stock market fell 12%, the worst day in the last twenty years. On 5th March, the same market rose 10%, the second best day in the last twenty years.

These sharp swings are a great real-time reminder of the lessons behind one of the most important and useful charts available to advisers and investors alike. The story is simple, investment markets mostly tick along gently, some days or weeks generally heading slightly upwards and obviously sometimes downwards. Over time, history tells us that the ups are greater than the downs however, when there is geopolitical or economic uncertainty, the markets are more volatile and these fluctuations occur.

The chart below shows that missing those few key days in the market can absolutely ruin your long-term returns. The UK's FTSE 100 index is just a small sector of the investment world but most people know it so I'm using it as an example in my chart but it's the same with other sectors.

If the graph is not so easy to read, the main points are:

The FTSE 100 has had an annualised return of 6.7% over the past 20 years. Putting it another way, £10k invested would have turned into £39k.

Miss the best FIVE days and that turns into a 4.7% annualised return. 2% less PER year – the same £10k would have become £26k.

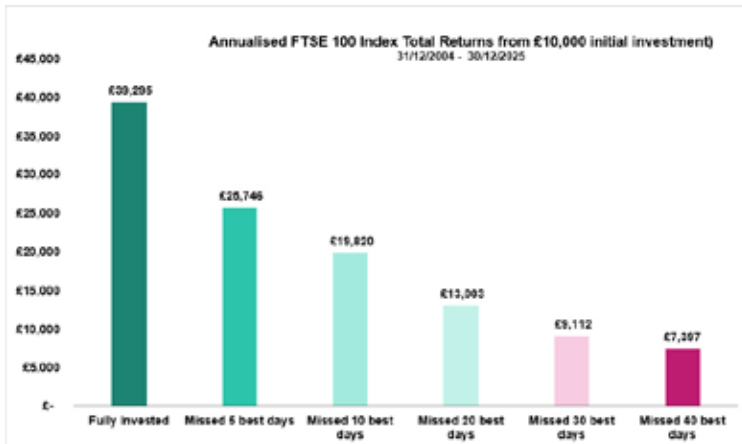
Miss the best 30 days (one month out of twenty years!) and you lose money! £10k becomes £9k!

What the chart doesn't show is that, very often, the big positive days come hot on the heels of the bad days. Just when you're feeling most worried or scared is when things are likely to turn around.

10 of the 40 BEST days come the day AFTER one of the WORST 40 days!

The other 30 BEST days come within two weeks of one of the WORST 40 days!

I think the second fact above is the most important. We often receive phone calls from worried clients the day after a large fall. We know it can be hard to hold your nerve when you've seen a large chunk of money wiped off it's value but it is part of being an investor and history suggests you should generally hold tight. After all, the people who've sold aren't going to be the ones buying back the next day, that just doesn't happen. What is happening in reality is the sellers are just giving their returns to somebody else!



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Defibrillator locations

Unless otherwise stated, these defibrillators are available 24/7. The postcode is required by emergency services.

AC Parish Council Office

(in the park) HP22 5HL

Buckland Parish Council Office

(Village Hall) HP22 5JB

Baptist Church

(Green End Street) HP22 5EX

Guide Hut

(Aylesbury Road) HP22 5AJ

Pilates House

(35 Brook Street) HP22 5ET

Aston Clinton School

(8am-5pm, Mon-Fri) HP22 5JJ

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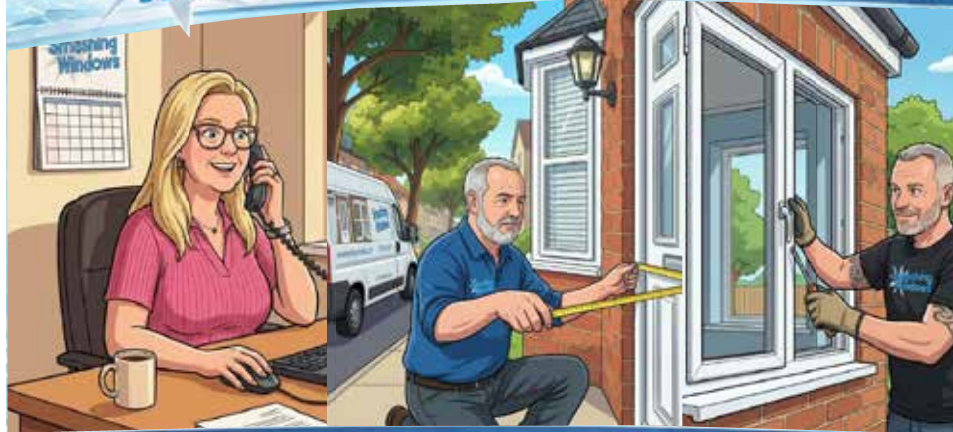
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