



Village Life

The community magazine
for Aston Clinton, Buckland
and Drayton Beauchamp

No.89 October / November 2026



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PLEASE NOTE

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Village Life is funded with support from Aston Clinton Parish Council.

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

It is rare, as I write this in early September, that I find myself looking forward to a fresh shower of rain, or digging out a warm jumper, or even the prospect of having to turn on the central heating, but after the extreme heat of this summer I find the thought of approaching autumn and winter rather more bearable than usual!

It is clear throughout this edition of Village Life that many of our contributors have also found the hottest summer on record rather a mixed blessing. For our friends at Estone Grange, BBOWT and the Horticultural Society, there have been sad losses, especially in trees which simply could not cope with the aridity, but also welcome gains in an abundance of flowers, beautiful butterflies and rare insects. For the sports clubs there has been none of the worry of waterlogged pitches and miserable wet playing conditions, but also the challenge of playing on rock-hard ground in searing heat. For once some matches have even had to be cancelled due to heat rather than rain!

Despite the highly unusual conditions, however, it is evident throughout these groups' entries and others that our myriad organisations have battled through and triumphed, as evidenced by the wonderful displays at the Horticultural Show, the impressive successes of the villages' sports teams and the adventures of the Scouts and Simply Walk group amongst others.

Elsewhere in the villages, groups have been busy improving our environment, brightening our surroundings and entertaining our citizens, regardless of freak weather or any other challenge. As always, we salute them all, and are grateful for their hard work and commitment.

Perhaps as we await whatever El Niño has in store for us this winter, we can remember that no season, however extreme its conditions may be, is entirely positive or negative in its impact on our environment and our lives, but demands imagination and determination to deal with the challenges it may bring. At least we Brits will never be short of material in our never-ending conversations about the weather! *Jill Wallis*

Forthcoming events at St Michael and All Angels

Pumpkin Festival

Friday, October 30, 4.30-5.30pm

Come along to this annual service and bring your carved or decorated pumpkin. There are prizes to be won!



Christmas Fair - Save the date!

St Michael & All Angels Christmas Fair will be held at the Church on **Saturday, December 5, from 11am until 3pm.**

For more information please contact:

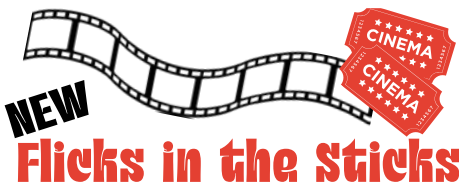
Natalie on 07961 259791 or *Marion Richards* 01296 630577



Forthcoming events at All Saints' Buckland

All Saints Patronal Festival.

Sunday, November 1 at 11am



GREAT films, **GOOD** food and **LICENSED** bar

New for this Season, Vale Brewery beers!

Dates: 30 Oct; 27 Nov; 18 Dec; 29 Jan; 26 Feb

Venue: Buckland Village, All Saints Church

Time: Doors & Bar open at 7 for 7.30pm showing with interval @ 8.30pm for Bar & Supper

Tickets: Prior booking required from Alison at bucklandvillagefits@gmail.com

Price: £12.50 pp including film and Supper

Need a reminder? Join our mailing list to receive our monthly flyer with details of film, food and specials. Email Natalie at benefice3@gmail.com



All profits go to the upkeep of the Church

Flicks in the Sticks Films:

Friday, October 30: Keeping Mum, a comedy with Maggie Smith, Kristen Scott-Thomson, Rowan Atkinson and Patrick Swayze

Friday, November 27: The Best of Men, the story of Dr Ludwig Guttman of Stoke Mandeville with Eddie Marsan and Rob Brydon.

Enjoy a film with good food and a licensed bar. Doors open at 7pm.

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

acvillagelife.co.uk

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 1st Sunday
All Saints', Buckland	8am Holy Communion every 2nd and 4th Sunday 10am Midweek Communion every Wednesday 11am Messy Sunday every 2nd Sunday

HARVEST FESTIVAL

October 4 9.15am at St Michael's, 11am All Saints' and 4.30pm at St Mary's.
Please bring a non-perishable item for Aylesbury Foodbank to these services

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

November 8	10.45am Act of Remembrance at Aston Clinton Memorial 11.20am RBL Service of Remembrance at St Michael's 12.30pm Service for Remembrance at All Saints' 4.30pm Remembrance Sunday Service at St Mary's
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WEDDINGS & BAPTISMS

If you live in the parish you can hold your wedding or baptism at any of our three wonderful churches. 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 07961 259791,
Rev Jane Nash 07562 672481,
Natalie Fieldhouse, Benefice Administrator
07961 259791 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

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



Jesus gives a pattern for our prayers known as the Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

We start our prayers with our focus and attention on our heavenly Father – his name, his will, his coming kingdom. Then, with God front and centre, our fears, anxieties, failures and desires are given their true place; they no longer rule over us. God the Father does. Secure in his love, we turn to our needs – seeking material provision, spiritual pardon and supernatural protection, concluding with affirmation of our heavenly Father's supremacy.

This pattern helps us pray well. However, the mystery of Christian prayer is that we do not pray alone – the Holy Spirit is at work within us, evoking prayer. The ascended Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father, interceding on our behalf and the Father loves to answer prayers, giving good gifts to his children.

Just as a parent knows the cry of their baby-hungry or tired or distressed, so our heavenly Father understands our cries and answers them. There's no need for eloquence, religiosity or being 'good', just a desire to be heard.

If, like many, you struggle with prayer, the booklet 'Try Praying' is freely available at the church. It offers the opportunity and challenge to give prayer a try for one week and see what happens! Many people have been greatly helped by it. Please let me know if you would like a copy.

My prayers for your prayers.

Rev'd Nick Harris

Aston Clinton Ladies Group

Aston Clinton Ladies Group started back in 1956 and was known then as Aston Clinton Church Ladies Group. We are therefore delighted to report that this year we celebrate the group running for 70 years, which is a great achievement.

Our meetings are held at the Baptist Church in Green End Street, Aston Clinton. Coming up:

Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 8pm: we are having a Social/Games Night; anyone is welcome to attend. We stop for coffee/tea and biscuits and draw the raffle.

Wednesday, November 18, 2026 at 8pm: we will be holding our Annual General Meeting.

We are looking for a volunteer to help us out with our treasury position. This entails producing a couple of entries each month and a report at the end of the year. Anyone willing to assist us please contact **Pat** on **07972 287767**.

It would really help us to carry on with our community fundraising for the village, so the group can continue.

ladyperkins27@aol.com

Local stories
by local people

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.

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

St Michael’s Quiz Night

*We’re looking forward to a huge response to our next Quiz Night on **Saturday, October 24** in the Anthony Hall.*

We’ll follow the same format as before (bring your own snacks and drinks) but use long tables, so that we can fit in more. That means teams on tables must be limited to a maximum of eight (£10 a head).

The team from The Oak will be there as defending Champions and we hope other previous winners will also join us to give us all a run for our money. There will also be a raffle and a ‘Heads and Tails’ at the end for £1 a go. So please bring cash.

Please book your places now with **James Adam** at james@jamesadam.co.uk or by phone on **07860 236904**.

Phil Storr and James Adam



Aston Clinton Parish Council

As we move into autumn, Aston Clinton Parish Council has a few updates to share with residents.

Work will continue around Aston Clinton Park, including repairs and improvements to help keep the play and recreation areas safe and enjoyable for everyone. From October we change over to winter opening and closing times, when the Park entrance gate will close at 9pm and reopen at 7am each day.

We are also continuing to look after and improve the green spaces around the village. Recent ecological work in the Park has identified opportunities to enhance wildlife, while still ensuring that the Park remains a welcoming place for everyone to enjoy. We are pleased to support local environmental projects through our Community Grants Scheme, and projects we have supported so far include improvements to the School's Gardening & Eco Club, the creation of the Rising Sun Wildflower Area, and planting at the village gates and around the village. Community Grant funding is still available, so if you are involved with a local group or community project, please get in touch with the parish council to find out more.

A reminder too that, as autumn growth continues, please keep hedges and vegetation on your property trimmed back, particularly where they overhang pavements or highways. Keeping paths clear makes a big difference for pedestrians, wheelchair users and parents with pushchairs, as well as helping to keep the village looking tidy.

On the planning front, the parish council continues to work closely with neighbouring parishes on future housing provision in the area and has been actively involved in responding to Buckinghamshire Council's Local Plan proposals. Our aim remains to protect Aston Clinton's identity and green spaces, while making sure that new development is supported by the infrastructure that our community needs. We will also be continuing with improvements to village facilities and highways, including streetlight remedial works and the new bus shelter at the London Road/ Church Lane junction.

Looking at the events calendar for the next couple of months and beyond, it is a busy time! The first weekend in October (3-4) is a celebration of Harvest Festival and sees our annual Scarecrow Trail event being run in conjunction with St Michael's Church and in support of Aylesbury Foodbank. There will be a considerable number of scarecrows created by the village community groups, sited around the village, and a scarecrow trail map will be available in the Red Kite Pavilion foyer for you to collect between 10am-4pm each day. Please come along and support this event - take a stroll around the trail and vote for your three favourite 'best dressed' scarecrows. All trail participants are asked to bring a donation of non-perishable food to the Red Kite Pavilion when collecting the map, in support of this very worthwhile cause. The top three best dressed



will win a prize and the theme this year is cartoon characters!

A new event has been arranged for Wednesday, October 14 between 5-8.30pm at the Churchill Hall in AC park, where a movie night and fish & chip supper has been organised for our older residents. Over 65s can enjoy a film showing and a tasty fish supper at no cost, but spaces will be limited, so please email us on: events@astonclinton-pc.gov.uk to secure your place. Alternatively give the office a call if emailing is not possible.

A little later in the month we're delighted to bring back some free-of-charge half-term fun for the little (and not-so-little) ones!



On Wednesday, October 28, there will be a programme of free Punch & Judy shows and magic fun for children in the main hall at the Red Kite Pavilion. Performances will run from 11am-12.45pm and 1-2.45pm. To reserve your place, scan the QR code on our posters to be found on noticeboards around the village, the

parish council website or on our Facebook page. Places are limited, so register soon and don't miss out!

Sunday, November 8, 2026 is Remembrance Sunday and residents are invited to join us at the war memorial for the annual Act of Remembrance from about 10.45am. As usual, the roads surrounding the memorial will be closed between approximately 10.30 and 11.30am; this will include London Road from the Shell garage roundabout (Weston Rd junction) up to the Lower Icknield Way roundabout at China Water, and the junctions at Twitchell/Church Lane and Brook Street.

Looking further ahead, we are currently arranging the annual Christmas tree lighting event at the Red Kite Pavilion. The proposed date is Friday, November 27, 2026, from 4pm, outside the RKP, and at the time of writing we are awaiting confirmation from AC School that their pupils will once again come and serenade us with Christmas songs and switch on the lights. Finally, and also to be finalised, we are considering asking Santa to visit the village this year over the weekend of Saturday, December 19 and Sunday, December 20, from approximately 4-7.30pm each day. Confirmation and more details of these last two events will be found on our website, on posters around the village and our Facebook page.

As always, we welcome residents' views and encourage you to keep an eye on the Parish Council website and Facebook page for updates on all aspects of the PC's business, news and events.

Aston Clinton Parish Council

01296 631269

www.astonclinton-pc.gov.uk

Village Life is funded with support from
Aston Clinton Parish Council

ACSA

A Huge Thank You to Lisa and Liz



As you may have seen earlier in the year, we were looking for a new chair for ACSA to kick off the new school year. This unfortunately means it is now time to say goodbye to Lisa Warburton who has been chair of ACSA for the past three years. We also say goodbye to Liz Smith whom I am sure many know from coffee @108 and who has been ACSA's vice chair. On behalf of everyone at the school and the wider community, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks as they step down from their roles within the committee.

Their incredible dedication, energy and leadership have transformed fundraising efforts and brought our school community closer together. From organising memorable events to raising vital funds for school resources, their hard work has left a lasting, positive impact on our children's education. They have done all this

while working and raising young families. It is truly inspiring and we can't wait to see them just enjoying ACSA's future events with their families and not running around behind the scenes! Thank you both for all your hard work; we will miss you on the committee!

Aston Lights

After the success of last year's event we are hosting our second Aston Lights event on October 17. This is going to be bigger and better than last year! We have already secured the brilliant Elastic Cats to perform, and will have five food trucks, larger fairground rides and an even more spectacular laser show! Come and join us from 5pm till 8pm at Aston Clinton School for a fun-filled evening.

Thank you to our first sponsor, Twenty Four Hair, for being a silver sponsor for us. If you'd like to sponsor us please contact us on astonclintonschoolassociation@gmail.com.

Tickets are on sale now via the Aston Lights website, they are selling fast so grab them while you can!

A poster for the Aston Lights event. The background is a vibrant, colorful laser light show. The text on the poster includes:

LASER LIGHT SHOW
@ ASTON CLINTON PRIMARY

ASTON LIGHTS **SATURDAY 17 OCT**
17:00 - 20:00

FOOD TRUCKS, BAR, RADLEY EVENTS TEAM & AMUSEMENTS

FAMILY TICKETS £24
(2 ADULTS + 3 KIDS)
ADULTS £8
CHILDREN 3-16 £5
CHILDREN 2 AND UNDER- FREE

SCAN HERE TO BUY TICKETS

WWW.ASTONLIGHTS.CO.UK

WOULD YOUR BUSINESS LIKE TO SPONSOR THIS EVENT?
VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

LIVE MUSIC FROM

There is also a small ACSA logo in the bottom left corner and a small image of a person in the bottom right corner.

New beginnings and getting involved

With the recent departures, ACSA will be taken over by a new team which hopes to build on the success of previous years. We can only do this with your help. If you feel you would like to join the committee or for more information on how to get involved, please email astonclinton-school-association@gmail.com or visit ACSA's social media pages. Everyone is welcome and all support is greatly appreciated!

Thank you for your continued support for our local school and we look forward to another successful year!

Emma Clifford

Top Awards for Buckinghamshire Scouts



Over 300 young people involved with Buckinghamshire Scouts were recently awarded the top award for their section. Young people from Amersham to Aylesbury, Beaconsfield to High Wycombe and Milton Keynes to Wendover, including some from Aston Clinton, attended the event. Across

the sections, the young people had to earn Challenge badges and activity badges, with the number increasing as they progressed through the sections.

When Conor and Mia were asked what they liked about Scouts, they said, “Camps, making friends, learning survival skills, using knots for a purpose, for example, building a raft, and going to the Essex Jamboree in 2024.” When asked to describe Scouts in three words, they said, “Outside, fun, friends”.

HM Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, Countess Howe, said, “Thank you to all the volunteers for their support and dedication so these young people can achieve these awards. They can turn ordinary days into adventurous days. I admire the patience, commitment and resilience of the volunteers. The Scouts will be telling stories for many years about some of the wonderful activities they have done. It’s so good to see young people challenge themselves. I’m incredibly proud of this wonderful movement.”

Haniya, when asked about her daughter, said, “Amira has enjoyed Beavers and Cubs, she has made friends and tried lots of activities she had never done before. She has grown in confidence, been taken out of her comfort zone and earned several badges.” She added, “Amira has had lots of fun, has learned about kindness and been educated in a non-formal way.”

Adult volunteer Will said, “It’s great to be able to share experiences and skills with other volunteers around the County. I became a volunteer as I was inspired by the volunteers I saw and met. I realised the amazing impact they had on the lives of young people.” When asked to describe volunteering in three words, he said, “Adventurous, inspiring and second-family.”

For more information about any of the sections (young people aged 4 to 17) or volunteering (aged 18+) please visit bucks-scouts.org.uk.



**Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
& Oxfordshire**
Wildlife Trust

News from your local nature reserves

In 1999, BBOWT had the chance to buy three fields adjacent to Dancersend Reserve that had been ploughed up during the Second World War. The idea was that this Extension to the reserve would be restored to flower and insect rich chalk grassland and become an extra refuge for vulnerable species hanging on in this part of the Chilterns. None of us involved back then dared think success would be declared as early as 2026.

The main challenge was the increased nutrients in the layer of topsoil after nearly 50 years growing cereals and non-native grasses. These conditions favour the more vigorous grasses, thistles and nettles and give little chance for the more delicate chalk grassland species to re-establish. In addition to general re-seeding with a basic chalk grassland seed mix, our secret weapon for creating the right conditions was a JCB digger used in 2011 to excavate chalk scrapes, ditches and banks followed by scattering seed collected by our volunteers elsewhere on the reserve onto the bare chalk.

This was remarkably successful with plants like Large Thyme, Marjoram, Kidney Vetch and Clustered Bellflower appearing during the first two years. Chiltern Gentians and the rare Slender Bedstraw flowered after four years and there was a scattering of orchids by 2020, when the total wildflower count was over 130 species. Establishment of some of the key butterfly food plants led to breeding by some of our exciting grassland butterflies – Common Blue, Marbled White and Dark Green Fritillary appearing within the first few years, Small Blue showing from 2017 and Chalkhill Blue finally

breeding this year, a rather ambitious objective we had at the start. Many other insects have found the Extension to their liking, including the rare Hornet Robberfly, our largest fly. The scrapes and their insects now even attract birds like Wheatears on migration.

Inspired by our successes, we excavated further scrapes in 2023 in conjunction with the national charity Plantlife. These have created similar low nutrient conditions for reintroducing threatened Juniper to the valley where it had thrived until around the 1960s, when the explosion of scrub and young tree growth, caused partly by the loss of rabbits to myxomatosis, swamped the surviving bushes. These latest scrapes happen to have exposed different underlying chalk layers despite being quite close together and I have suddenly developed a new interest – identifying the fascinating variety of fossils, flints and rocks associated with the different geological formations.

Events at our reserves and activities for both children and family groups coming up at our flagship College Lake Reserve are shown on our website at www.bbwt.org.uk/events. A new season of wildlife-themed talks organised by the local BBOWT Chilterns Group takes place through the winter on the third Tuesday evening each month at Great Missenden Memorial Centre. On September 15, local reserve warden Phil Townsend will speak about Aston Clinton Ragpits and on October 20, Nick Marriner will cover the successes of the Mid-Chilterns Farmer Cluster in helping nature recovery. The talks are usually accompanied by a second-hand books stall and sales of Dancersend Special Reserve Apple Juice. All are welcome from 7pm for refreshments with the talk starting at 7.30pm.

*Mick Jones,
Volunteer Warden at Dancersend*



Left:

Excavating a chalk scrape in 2011, Scattering wildflower seeds, Female Hornet Robberfly with her lunch and Horseshoe and Kidney Vetch. Credit – Mick Jones.

Above:

The chalk scrapes from the air in 2026 Credit – Google Earth. A wheatear calling into the Extension on migration, and Vipers Bugloss and Kidney Vetch. Credit – Mick Jones.

Estone Grange

End of Summer Update. The long hot summer brought challenges as well as rewards for Wild Estone Grange. Like everywhere, the flowers turned early, but not before seed was collected. The trees continued to suffer despite some of the residents' watering, but there is hope no more will be lost. The watercourse dried completely, though the big pond eventually held some dampness a while longer.

Thanks to Kelly Hazelden, who provided a network of watering bowls around the estate, we hope that some of the animals and birds have survived, including the two roe fawns seen in the Wildflower Strip. Deer footprints clearly mark where they searched for pond water that no longer existed.



The new benches provide good vantage points for viewing moths, butterflies, dragonflies and insects. They have had a good year generally.



One of the rewards of the hot summer was the increase in the varieties and numbers. This summer saw the introduction of bees to the Wildflower Strip. Wayne Mitchell, a fellow director, installed his first hive and harvested honey in August. Though not sufficient yet to provide surplus for sale, it is something to celebrate at the end of this difficult summer.

Now begins the process of cutting back and preparing for winter, whatever it brings. This year the Rough Around the Edges Team will be laying one of the old hedges. After years of brutal flailing it will continue as a living structure for another 75 years. The long dry growth will be scythed and scrub edges cut back, making ready for spring. The collected seed will be added to the meadows.

Katy Todd

Christmas Concert with Wendover Choral

*Date for your diary –
Saturday, December 5, 2026.
Wendover Choral performs
Light at Midnight*

Come and celebrate the festive season with Wendover Choral. We invite you to join us on Saturday, December 5, at 7.30 in St Mary's Church, Wendover, when we're looking to entertain you with a wonderful Christmas Oratorio by Camille Saint-Saëns, Marc-Antoine Charpentier's Midnight Mass for Christmas and several other festive works.

Tickets will soon be available from 'Just' on Wendover High Street, or online at [Ticketsource.co.uk](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk) (£17.50 if bought in advance, £20 on the door and £5 for under 18s).

Mulled wine and mince pies will be available to get us all in the Christmas mood. We look forward to seeing you there.

Rod Ainsworth

Drayton Beauchamp Parish Meeting

A Parish Meeting will be held in St Mary's Church on Thursday, November 19 at 7.30pm.

All parishioners are welcome to attend and stay for a drink and a chat after the meeting.

For information contact the Clerk,
Meryl Nodes on 01296 630396 or email
merylnodes2018@gmail.com

Local stories
by local people

Adult Social Netball in Aston Clinton

Net4All has been running for 11 years, bringing people together through netball, friendship and fun! And we would love to welcome some new faces.

Fancy getting back into netball, trying something new, playing more of the sport you love or just meeting some lovely new people?

Our Adult Social Netball sessions are relaxed, friendly and welcoming — ALL abilities are welcome, whether you play regularly or haven't picked up a netball since school!

Make friends, play netball, get active and have fun! Every Monday, 6.15-7.15pm at Aston Clinton Tennis Courts, £6 per session. Age 18+ net4alluk@hotmail.com

No pressure, no judgement — just an hour of netball, exercise and a good laugh! If you fancy giving it a go, drop me an email and come along! *Molly Wilkinson*





Scouts

1st Aston Clinton Scouts

During the school summer holidays the leaders and young people usually take a break from all things Scouting. Not our Scouts though. During the holidays eight Scouts and one leader from 1st Aston Clinton joined 10th Harpenden Scouts for a week-long camp in Ashbourne in the Peak District.

The Scouts had a packed week of activities and games, including water sports, slip & slide, volleyball, cricket, movie night and plenty of evenings around the campfire. They also prepared and cooked most of their own meals throughout the week. One of the highlights was our MasterChef challenge, as well as making their own pizzas from scratch!

They headed out on a great hike through the Peak District, although a few very overgrown footpaths and a lack of waymarking made things a little more adventurous than planned! Our oldest Scouts also took on a two-day overnight expedition, while the younger Scouts completed a day hike before spending the night back at camp in shelters they had made themselves.

Another big highlight was a choice of water rafting or river tubing, both were brilliant fun – followed later in the week by a full day at Alton Towers.



Local stories by local people

At 1st Aston Clinton Scouts, we passionately believe that opportunities to step away from the everyday life of screens and structured routines are more important than ever. Camps like this give our young people the chance to try new things, take responsibility and solve problems - while having a lot of fun along the way.

It is exactly this combination of challenge, independence, teamwork and adventure that makes Scouting as relevant today as it has always been.

Claire Walker





Simply Walk

What a glorious Summer it has been for our Simply Walk group. The wonderful weather has meant many lovely walks in our countryside which acted as the perfect antidote to a rather wet winter and spring. We have also been pleased to welcome Gavin Brown as an additional new leader and hope that he enjoys his time as part of our leadership team.

This year marks our 10th year in operation and, with our 10,000th walker milestone passed just last year, we aim to celebrate accordingly. Consequently, we would like to invite all walkers, past and present, to join us for our 10th Birthday party, which will take place at The Red Kite Pavilion on completion of our normal walks on Thursday, November 12.

Our free Health walks are open to all abilities and take place every Thursday at 10am sharp from the car park by the Pavilion; just look for the person in the hi-viz jacket. We normally run two walks each week: a Short Walk (up to 60 mins) for the less able and a Long Walk (up to 90 mins) for those more used to walking. If it's your first

time, then please arrive 15 mins early so that we can make sure you end up on the right walk.

Edward Kempton

ASTON CLINTON YOUTH CLUB

School years 3-7
Time 3:30pm-5:30pm
Every Friday (Term time only)



**First session Friday
18th September 2026**

Weekly entry fee £3.00

Please register your child by emailing:
astonclintonyouthclub@yahoo.com

 [@aston_clinton_youth_club](https://www.instagram.com/aston_clinton_youth_club)



Churchill Hall,
London Rd,
Aston Clinton,
Aylesbury,
HP22 5HL

Come along
and join us
for a couple
of hours fun



Tuck shop is available
so bring some money
to make sure you
don't miss out on
yummy treats!

Aston Clinton Colts



A new season begins at Aston Clinton Colts JFC. After what feels like a very quick summer, we're incredibly excited to welcome everyone back to Aston Clinton Colts JFC for the start of another football season!

Players, coaches, parents and volunteers have all enjoyed some much-needed R&R over the summer break – although it wasn't exactly relaxing, with the nail-biting World Cup keeping us entertained. Now, boots are being dusted off, kits are coming back out and we're ready to get the new season underway.

Lots to look forward to

There's a real buzz around the club this year. Behind the scenes, we've been working on some fantastic new initiatives and projects, all with one goal in mind: creating even more opportunities, experiences and fun for our children – and hopefully a few things for the parents to enjoy too!

We'll be sharing more over the coming weeks and months, so watch this space. We're really excited about what's ahead and continuing to build a football club that sits right at the heart of our village community.

Even the pitches needed a summer break!

Of course, the brutally dry summer has brought its own challenges. After spending so many seasons worrying about waterlogged pitches, we've had the opposite problem this year.

The FA has delayed the start of some matches while pitches recover and become safe and ready for play. While everyone is itching to get started, we certainly welcome the extra preparation time, and perhaps, after such a dry summer, we can finally look forward to a season with fewer matches called off because of waterlogging ... although this is British weather, so we probably shouldn't say that too loudly!

Thank you to our sponsors

Grassroots football simply wouldn't be possible without the businesses and people who support it. As we begin another season, we want to say a huge THANK YOU to our fantastic club sponsors:

KMS Motor Services

Bucks College

Mason Grab Hire

Aston Commercial Cleaning

Hardings

Their support helps us continue investing in the club and creating great football experiences and memories for children across Aston Clinton and the surrounding community.

Come and be part of the Colts

Aston Clinton Colts is about much more than what happens during 90 minutes on a football pitch. It's about friendships, families, volunteers, local businesses and bringing our community together.

Whether you'd like to get involved with the club, volunteer, help with one of our projects or explore sponsoring the Colts, we'd love to hear from you. Please reach out to the club and come and be part of what we're building.

Here's to muddy boots, early Saturday and Sunday mornings, great goals, questionable refereeing decisions from the sidelines, plenty of laughs and, most importantly, another brilliant season for our Colts!

Welcome back everyone – let's make it a great one. *Aston Clinton Colts JFC*

Buckland & Aston Clinton Cricket Club

The 2026 season has been an impressive one on the field for the Senior teams. With the Junior section finishing when school term ended, the spotlight has been on the Senior sides for the last part of the campaign as we celebrated the 75th anniversary of the combined Buckland and Aston Clinton Cricket Club.

In our debut year in the Cherwell Cricket League we have exceeded our own expectations, with only a single defeat between the teams. The 1st XI has won every game that it's played in Division 5B (two were rained off despite the incredibly hot and dry summer) - the only team in all 23 Divisions to do that. We survived the loss of veteran captain Mike Parsonage, who suffered an unfortunate lower leg fracture midway through the summer whilst playing for Bucks Over-60s, and some tricky availability in July, to seal the Divisional title with a comprehensive win against our closest rivals, Silverstone, in late August. Highlights have included the batting consistency of top scorer Safeer Ahmed, centuries for George Robinson as well as brothers Jonny and Tommy Patel, and a remarkable 46 wickets at an average of under nine apiece from Dharmendra Patel (with a best of 9-38 away to Brill).

The 2nd team has only lost once in Division 9C, but the strong form of the other teams who followed us from the Four Counties League (Old Bradwell New City and Cublington) meant it all came down to the last game of the season. We hosted leaders Old Bradwell New City 2s, and ran out comfortable winners to leapfrog our opponents to claim the title. Lewis Richards has led the batting with a maiden century and four fifties to show for his efforts. The bowlers fought it out for top wicket-taker, with it ending in a tie with 26 apiece for Venky, captain Kyan Dawson and Kris Greig, all at averages of 11 or below. There have also been encouraging performances from Under-14s Sonny (14 wickets) and Freddie as we seek to give our promising youngsters good exposure to Senior cricket.

Our Midweek Senior side came out on top of the Village T20 group stage and after winning the competition in 2025 was able to host Finals Day this year on August Bank Holiday Monday. Liam Smith's men were able to retain their trophy after a well-paced victory against Long Marston in the semi-final and a crushing win by over 100 runs in the final against Linslade. A half century from Jonny Patel and three wickets for Casey Dawson were the highlights in the semi-final. The other semi-final was interrupted by heavy rain and had to be settled by the toss of a coin. The final (after the application of a lot of sawdust on the square) then saw crucial runs from Charlie Skiller and four wickets for Lawrence Snookes and three for Tommy Patel. Back-to-back winners, and already looking forward to going for the hat-trick next year.

Phil Samuels



Baggies nose ahead of Wasters in charity cricket challenge

On the evening of Friday, August 7, Buckland Baggies pulled off a thrilling four run win over Wilstone Wasters in their annual charity cricket match, taking their tally of victories to three, with Wilstone on two. The fifth year of the fun contest, held, as ever, at Long Marston Cricket Club, on a steamy, humid evening, had Baggies' skipper, Jon Sainsbury, winning the toss and choosing to bat. With the aim of at least smashing the three figure barrier, the Baggies, despite commanding innings of 25 from Sainsbury and Simon Taylor – who under the rules both had to retire on that score – finished the 15 overs on 99-6.

The Buckland side were not over optimistic about their chances and their apprehension was proved right when the Wasters came out fighting with three batsmen, their skipper Tom Folley, notching up 25 in short order. David Underwood and Matt McGlinn followed suit with Folley then telling his remaining batsmen to “finish the job.”

After 10 overs it seemed that the Wasters would cruise home but the Baggies bowlers were able to force them to apply the brakes and, as the runs dried up, it seemed a turnaround was still a possibility. Nerves were jangling, with spectators on the edge of their deckchairs.

The telling moment came in the last over when a spectacular diving catch by Sainsbury, off the deceptive, varied and some might say mercurial, bowling of Dave McElhinney, made the task impossible for the Wasters, who finished on 96-6.

After Sainsbury's six foot two inch, tortured frame had crashed to the ground, he was mobbed by his team mates and, after gingerly getting to his feet, joked that he might need to see a chiropractor.



The charity of choice for the event was the Hospice of St. Francis, Berkhamsted, which supports more than 2000 families in Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire. Spectators raised £570 for the cause.

Thanks go to Motorbike Martie Arscott and Geoff Gigg for umpiring and Matt Hardy for keeping the scores and to Paul Dumbleton of Long Marston Cricket Club for finding a date for the fixture and organising the scoreboard and bar. Thanks also, to Guy and Abbi, from the Half Moon pub, for laying on the barbecue and Maddie Bennett for selling raffle tickets. The match was organised by Richard Peel (Buckland) and Guy Campbell (Wilstone).

Richard Peel

Aston Clinton Bowls Club



Jo Allwork has been a member of Aston Clinton Bowls Club for 22 years. A successful bowler with many club trophies, whose name appears 19 times on the club's Honours Board, she looks back on her career.

"My late husband, Trevor, was the first to bowl and then a few years later encouraged me to learn. That was over 30 years ago. Initially, we were members of Iwer Heath Bowls Club before joining the Aston Clinton Bowls Club when we moved to the village 22 years ago."

Bowls matches can be competitive or friendly between clubs, which did Jo prefer?

"Both actually. I have always enjoyed the friendly matches which would take us all over the county, but at the same time also enjoyed the competitive side of both club and county competitions. I gained pleasure in all aspects of the game. You get regular exercise and you get to meet many people from other clubs in the area."

Jo's name appears many times on the Honours Board at the clubhouse. Which success gave her the most satisfaction and

of which is she most proud? "You get a sense of pride to see your name on the club's Honours Board. But to get to the County quarter finals of the Pairs and Triples competition, as well as being a finalist in the Vi Trunbell County Club competition, was special."

Jo has seen changes in the sport over the years. "Bowls has become much less formal in recent years. For example, there was a time when the dress code was quite strict. When playing at the weekend, men used to have to wear white trousers but grey during the week and most bowls club shirts were white. Now they are all colours and designs."

After over 30 years, Jo's bowling days are over. "Sadly, I do not have the strength these days, the body doesn't cooperate so well. I really miss it."

What advice would Jo give to someone who wants to give it a try? "At the beginning, when a bowl is put into your hand it can be quite daunting but with a bit of perseverance and practice you'll never look back. Bowls isn't all about competitions either; you are just as important to your club in friendly matches, the 'bread and butter' of a season, which also provide the opportunity for you to develop your skills. There's nothing more satisfying than playing out in the open, no matter what the weather brings. In previous years rain has been a challenge, this year it has been the heat. Bite the bullet and come along to the bowls club. If you don't try, you'll never know if you'll enjoy it. And don't forget that all bowls players were also beginners once."

Andrew Andersz

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acvillagelife.co.uk

Aylesbury Green Park Sub Aqua Club



Operation Smash

A day-trip to Swanage may seem a little dull after Club diving trips to the Red Sea and the Bay of Naples earlier this year but this pretty little Dorset seaside town holds plenty of interest under the waves to complement the shoreline above. There are numerous wrecks to be explored and the boat trip to the dive sites offers magnificent views of the eastern end of the Jurassic coastline and Old Harry Rock. (Old Harry's Wife crumbled into the sea towards the end of the 19th century. Harry – and his wife – were originally joined to the Needles on the Isle of Wight by a line of chalk hills which were eroded during the last Ice Age.) Our destination, however, was not Old Harry but the final resting place of two Valentine Tanks.

In April, 1944, King George VI, Winston Churchill, General Eisenhower and Field-Marshal Montgomery gathered at Studland Bay to witness Operation Smash, the rehearsal for the D-Day landings. Whilst there were a few similarities with the Normandy coastline, the area was more likely chosen for its sparse population, making it a good site for the largest live ammunition exercise of the war.

To prepare for the landing of Sherman tanks on the Normandy beaches, six weeks later, around 30 Valentine tanks were modified to be tested as part of "Operation Smash." Propellers were added, as well as canvases that raised around the tank and displaced enough water to allow them to float. In calm conditions the idea would have worked but a strong swell saw seven of the tanks take on water.



Members on Spike at Swanage and
A floating Valentine tank

Most of the tank crews had already been ordered to climb to the top of the tank turrets before their experimental amphibious craft sank, but unfortunately six men lost their lives in the exercise.

Two of the seven tanks remain relatively intact and over the intervening decades have become a thriving artificial reef, home to lobster, crab, bib, sea bass and the ubiquitous starfish that cover the seabed around the tanks. Also present, though less common, are the elusive John Dory and the occasional dogfish, a species of small shark which can often be spotted, partially covered, resting on the seabed. Conger eels are the largest (and most intimidating!) fish you are likely to see around the tanks. They lie curled within the mechanism and caterpillar tracks (and relatively inactive during the daytime) and it is very unusual on a dive not to come face-to-face with this large predator as it peers menacingly out. Although unlikely to pose any real threat to a diver, it is best not to get too close!

Lying at a relatively shallow depth of 15 metres, the Valentine Tanks are an excellent first sea dive for new and trainee divers whilst still having plenty of interest for the more experienced. There is a permanent shot-line (rope with a buoy) attached to one of the tanks, making the descent and ascent an easier one. A further rope (if you can find it!) leads to the second tank and is useful to hang on to if fighting a strong current. On the day we dived the sun was bright, the sea warm (following our record-breaking summer temperatures) and marine life abundant. Visibility was not the best, a common complaint in British waters, but the extra challenges this posed only added to our experience, honed our skills and helped make for a great dive. Perhaps a metaphor for life?

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

Kelvin Bagley, Club Secretary

Jazz Evening at St Mary's Drayton Beauchamp

JAZZ EVENING
at St Mary's Church, Drayton Beauchamp
featuring Swing, Latin and much more!
"LEND US A TENOR" WILL BE PERFORMING

**SATURDAY
24TH OCTOBER
7.30PM**

Licensed bar open
and all proceeds will
go to the upkeep of
the church

£10.00 per person
Buy through bit.ly/3S87mpg
or on the door

Saturday, October 24 at 7.30pm

'Lend Us A Tenor' is a seven-piece group playing mostly 'jazz standards' (swing, latin, etc) with a few other tunes thrown in from time to time. The band formed originally when a group was put together during a jazz course at The Stables (Milton Keynes). They decided they enjoyed playing together and so they carried on. Tickets are £10 on the door or at bit.ly/3S87mpg and there will be a licensed bar. All proceeds will go to the upkeep of the church. *Lucy Kibble*

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Health Benefits and Happiness

In previous articles I've often mentioned that Scottish Country Dancing is good for our physical and mental health so, at the start of our new season, I thought I'd dig a little deeper into this topic. The health benefits of listening and moving to all genres of music are widely recognized.

Let's look at the physical benefits of dancing: it improves muscle tone and heart health, contributes to weight management, and improves posture, balance and flexibility. Did you know that dancing is advocated by The Royal Osteoporosis Society for its positive contribution to supporting bone density and balance? It identifies that dance routines involving hops, jumps and moving the body in different directions at a variety of speeds are good for you. There can be no better summary of the movements involved in Scottish Country Dancing!

Dancing is also good for our mental health. It's well-known that moving to music boosts our mood and is directly connected to our sense of wellbeing. In one study, researchers from the University of Oxford found that dancing in rhythm with others can significantly

raise the participants' feelings of social bonding. To "Dance Scottish" it's necessary to memorise the sequence of intricate formations and this is something that continually exercises and enhances our muscle memory. Also, whilst focusing on formations and the timing required to complete dances successfully, the stress and anxieties of the day are set aside for a while.

So, what is this centuries old pastime of Scottish Country Dancing? Well, it doesn't involve swords and kilts aren't compulsory. Dancers work together in groups to complete a sequence of formations. It takes time to learn the basics but, once mastered, the opportunities to dance are limitless because it's done all over the world. When you add the secret ingredient of irresistibly cheerful music, you have a triple treat – good for your body, brain and social calendar.

There's a thriving Scottish dance community based locally at the Lucy Clark SCD Club in Wendover. We're a welcoming and friendly group with excellent teachers. All ages are welcome, partners are optional and everyone leaves with a smile. The statistics are clear but, more importantly, the simple fact is that Scottish Country dancing makes us happy.

Why not give it a try? Liz Mitchell

lucyclarkscottish@gmail.com

lucyclarkscottish.org



Tring Choral Society's New Season

Tring Choral Society’s rehearsals have resumed at 7.45pm on Mondays in Akeman Street Baptist Church. If you would like to come along, see what we do and have a go at singing with us, then please contact *Rosie* at rosie.southworth@outlook.com.

The choir’s first concert will be on Saturday, December 19, and we will be singing CPE Bach’s Magnificat and JS Bach’s Cantata No. 191. These are magnificent and cheerful works (in major trumpet keys!) for chorus, soloists and orchestra, including two choruses used by JS Bach in his great Mass in B minor.

We will also perform a selection of Christmas motets (both unaccompanied and accompanied by organ and trumpets).

Our subsequent concerts are on Saturday, March 20, 2027 and Saturday, July 3, 2027 so please make a note in your diary; the repertoire will be advertised nearer the time. All concerts start at 7.30pm in St Peter & St Paul Church Tring and feature professional soloists and the choir’s regular orchestra, comprising a mix of professional and local musicians.

If you would like to support the choir by becoming a Friend, then please contact Lucy at publicity@tringchoral.org.uk for more details.

Lucy Kibble

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

Sudoku

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

(SOLUTION ON PAGE 36)

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.

David and Lynne Culliton are two of the Trustees of the Aston Clinton Charitable Foundation and organisers of the Aston Clinton Beer Festival.



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

Dave: We moved to the village in 1999.

Lynne: Too small a house, twin girls and rising prices brought us here from Abbots Langley. We have never looked back!

Q. When did you found the Aston Clinton Charitable Foundation and what inspired you?

Dave: The foundation was created in 2012 after Lesley Butcher and Kathryn Sykes approached me about a pre-school event “for the dads”. When the pre-school pulled out, much of the organising was already done, so the three of us set up the foundation with Lesley’s husband, Mike.

Lynne: I became a Trustee when Mike and Lesley stood down in 2016, with Kathryn leaving later. They were vital to the early events and the formation of the foundation. Lesley, especially, drove those first festivals; a great lady and friend, lost far too soon in 2022.

Q. What does ACCF do?

A. The foundation distributes beer festival proceeds to good causes in Aston Clinton and the surrounding area.

Q. When and how did the Beer Festival come about?

Lynne: It was 2012. Craft beer was taking off, the village was ready for ACBF, and its family-friendly feel, which has always been central to its appeal.

Dave: I’d become interested in beer beyond just drinking it and was on the Institute of Brewing and Distilling education path, qualifying as a Beer Sommelier in 2017. The timing was good.

Q. What have been the highlights?

Lynne: Seeing the volunteer army arrive every year. We also have a fantastic committee made up of former visitors and volunteers, and our three daughters now help run the event.

Dave: Realising on the Saturday of ACBF1 that I would get back all of the £2000 I’d put on my credit card for the beer without telling Lynne!

Nearly
£200,000
raised for local
causes

“

Q. ...and the challenges?

Lynne: Recruiting enough volunteers hasn't always been easy, but we're now seeing a second generation get involved.

Dave: We've only lost money once, in 2017, due to bad weather and subsequent poor attendance. Careful management and reintroducing an entry fee helped secure the future of the festival.

Q. How much money have you raised for local causes over the years?

Dave: We're closing in on £200,000, supporting children's activities, education, sport, healthcare, mental health, and young carers.

Lynne: We've also supported one-off projects, including Helen Boswell's memorial benches and local Paralympic athlete Gemma Collis' journey to the Rio Olympics in 2016.

Q. What's your life outside your charitable and community activities?

Lynne: We both have very busy day jobs, as directors of large companies.

Dave: I also run a small business hiring out beer

festival equipment with another Aston Clinton resident.

Q. You're very busy people; what do you do to relax?

Lynne: We do a lot of walking. Between our Border Collie and our daughters' Cocker Spaniel, we're definitely kept on our toes!

Dave: We also go to the gym twice a week. Our trainer is a former youth boxing champion, so we know how to throw a punch or two!

Q. What's your favourite music?

Dave: The Smiths, although I have a big soft spot for 70s disco!

Lynne: I was part of the late 70s and early 80s Mod revival, so The Jam remain a favourite. These days, it's usually ABBA, Kate Bush, or something more soothing!

Q. What's your favourite film?

Dave: Withnail & I

Lynne: Calamity Jane

Q. What do you think makes Aston Clinton a good place to live?

Dave: Fantastic countryside, plenty of walks and some good pubs.

Lynne: People say hello. It has always felt friendly.

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

Dave: I work in housing, so I understand the need for new homes, but some proposed large developments could permanently change the village's character.

Lynne: Post-Covid, everyone seems to have discovered the outdoors!

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

Dave: Better support for things like doctors' services and school capacity as the village grows.

Lynne: I hope the village maintains its character and identity and doesn't just become another suburb of Aylesbury.

If you would like to recommend anyone whose contribution to village life should be featured in a forthcoming issue of Village Life, please send details to the editor at editor@acvillagelife.co.uk

Interview by Barbara Muston

Laura Kyrke-Smith MP

It is a pleasure to contribute to this edition of Village Life. At time of writing, I have just submitted my consultation response on Buckinghamshire Council's draft Local Plan, and I'm sure many of you have too. I have been listening carefully to residents, parish councils and action groups across the constituency. I have attended public meetings, spoken to councillors and community representatives, studied the Council's evidence and worked through what these proposals would mean for places including Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp.

I've made submissions on topics such as infrastructure, affordable housing, and environmental impact. Above my submissions sits my overarching challenge to the Plan, which is that it cannot be reasonable to put three quarters of the proposed development into the centre and north of Buckinghamshire, when it is supposed to be a Plan for our county as a whole.

I do not believe the Council has made a convincing case for concentrating development on this scale in Aylesbury and our rural communities. It should look again at the alternatives and reconsider both the scale and distribution of development proposed.

Across the constituency, residents already experience severe pressure on roads, schools, GP services, drainage and sewerage. The Council is proposing thousands more homes while its own evidence identifies substantial infrastructure requirements and significant uncertainty about how all of them will be funded and delivered.

It is not enough to say that infrastructure will come with development. Our town and rural communities need confidence that the roads, schools, health services, public transport, water and wastewater infrastructure they will need can be funded and delivered at the right

time. We are still suffering from where this has gone wrong in the past, like the promised GP provision in Kingsbrook that never materialised.

There are important questions about the effect of development on biodiversity, habitats and protected sites, landscape and agricultural land, water resources, drainage and flood risk. Where thousands of homes are proposed, it is not good enough to assume that these issues can simply be mitigated later. There is also a cumulative impact. Several developments affecting the same water catchment, landscape or ecological network can have a much greater impact than looking at each site separately would suggest.

The need for genuinely affordable housing is one of the strongest arguments for building more homes in Buckinghamshire. Too many people are priced out of the communities in which they grew up, while others face long waits for social housing. Yet the Council's own evidence raises serious questions about whether some of the proposed developments can viably deliver sufficient affordable housing. At a national level, the government is clear that proposed housing development should include 40% affordable homes. So, the Council's overall target for the north of Buckinghamshire of 25% affordable housing is simply not good enough.

I am not pretending that there is an easy answer to Buckinghamshire's housing need, and I am not saying that we should stop building homes altogether. I am asking Buckinghamshire Council to reconsider this specific Plan for the reasons I have set out.

The Council needs to produce a Plan that is fair, sustainable and deliverable. That means looking again at the scale and distribution of development across the county, reducing the burden being placed on some of our smaller communities, and directing development

towards locations that can genuinely accommodate it.

It means choosing locations where the necessary infrastructure can realistically be delivered, where development is environmentally sustainable, and where we can build the affordable and council homes that Buckinghamshire so badly needs.

Most importantly, the Council needs to listen to the communities that will live with the consequences of its decisions for decades. Residents who question whether their community can absorb hundreds or thousands of additional homes are not necessarily opposing housebuilding, they are asking whether development is happening in the right places, at the right scale and with the infrastructure necessary to make it work. Those are legitimate questions, and I will keep pushing for better answers.

Laura Kyrke-Smith MP

LITTLE LIVES
Commemoration

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER, 10AM-12PM
BIERTON CREMATORIUM

We invite you to join us for a moment of quiet reflection.

Gentle music will be played, and guests are invited to light a candle and write a message for the Memory Tree. Bereavement support will be available throughout the event for those who may wish to access it.

Bierton Crematorium, Cane End Lane, Aylesbury, HP22 5BH
memorials.crem@buckinghamshire.gov.uk | 01494724263

Buckinghamshire Council

CHILTERN'S
CREMATORIUM

Bierton Crematorium Events

Little Lives Commemoration

(Baby Loss Awareness Week)

Sunday, October 11, 10am-12pm

Our chapel will be open to welcome anyone within the community who may have been affected by the loss of a child of any age, at any time. *(No need to have used our service before.)*

- Gentle music will be playing
- Candles can be lit and a message added to the memory tree
- Visitors are welcome to reflect quietly in private if they do not wish to speak to anyone
- Bereavement volunteers will be available
- Bereavement and memorial information available
- Refreshments available

SOBS

(Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide)

Saturday December 5, 11am-1pm

A support group with trained volunteers for those affected by suicide to share in a coffee in tranquil surroundings with no expectation to talk. This is a free session, open to everyone. *(No need to have used our service before.)*

Tel: 01494 724263

www.chilternscrematorium.co.uk

Tel: 01296 350019

www.biertoncrematorium.co.uk

Buckland Parish Council

August has been a busy month for Buckland Parish Council. As previously reported, we ran a competition with Aston Clinton School to create speed awareness posters throughout the parish. These have been placed throughout Buckland and areas of Aston Clinton and have received a very positive response from residents.

Planning seems to have dominated local conversations in Buckland. In August, Buckland Parish Council held an extraordinary council meeting to discuss the Buckinghamshire Council Local Plan along with the notice we had received from Bloor Homes to develop land on the Lower Icknield Way for 195 homes. Over 40 residents attended this meeting to raise concerns on the local development and hear information relating to the Local Plan which shows the council's plans for the area for the next 20 years. Members of the parish council have attended a meeting with Bloor Homes at which the developers shared their plans; they suggested that they will apply for outline planning in mid-September. Any updates will be posted on our Facebook page and website.

BJC has responded to the draft Buckinghamshire Local Plan, and a copy of our responses is available on our website. The Plan is due to be submitted to the Government by the end of this year. From there it will be allocated to a Planning Inspector who will then hold an examination in public, during which time revisions are likely to be made. It will finally be adopted by the council in 2028/29 when it will become the Local Plan for Buckinghamshire until 2045.

As everyone is acutely aware it has been a VERY dry summer! We have been working hard to keep the trees going in our Community Orchard, but sadly, like many, we have lost some. However, we have been gifted some

replacements by Lindengate Charity for which we thank them. We would also like to thank the Chiltern Society for its continued support of our wildflower areas in both the Community Orchard and also the Burial Ground.

A reminder to all residents that if they have bushes, hedges or trees that face on to pathways and roadways, they are responsible for cutting them back and maintaining them. Please do not force walkers into roads because you have not cut back your plants.

clerk@buckland-pc.gov.uk

Aston Clinton u3a

I hope that many of you went to the u3a exhibition on September 5, and enjoyed it and were stimulated to join us. I look forward to meeting new members as a result. I am sure that our various groups can cater for most people's interests and ACu3a can provide a source of information and support for your plans.

Many of our groups have been long established and certainly Science & Technology is one of these. Meetings continue to be well supported and the summer day trips usually fill the coach. The most recent trip to Basingstoke Milestones Museum was a good example and brought back many great memories to our members. S&T lecture meetings have resumed in Aston Clinton Bowls Club and details are on the website www.astonclinton.u3asite.uk.

Several new groups are being established and these include bowls (though finished for this season), pickleball, a new book group and Italian for beginners, as well as Strength and Balance. Full details and contact information are on the website as are details of other group activities, trips and social events. We look forward to seeing you there.

Anthony Atwood

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. We've recently enjoyed two excellent presentations, one by Susan Clarke, a volunteer for the V&A, and the second by Michael Hazel, who told us all about rationing during the Second World War. As rationing didn't finish until the early 1950s, quite a few of our members were able to remember what it was like during their early childhood. Michael even brought a cake and some scones made using mashed potato in place of butter, which was in very short supply at that time.

The highlight of our summer was the annual Garden Party held in my garden and this year didn't disappoint. We were lucky that it was held very early in July before the second, or was it the third, heat wave! Guests were able to sample a range of drinks, Pimms proving popular again, whilst enjoying a substantial two-course meal.

Our remaining meetings this year are not open to guests, as we have various activities for members only. However on Wednesday, January 6, 2027, we are back with a full programme of meetings for the year, to which we will be delighted to welcome visitors.

If you would like further information, please contact me at: b.d.ac.wi@gmail.com.

Lin Mitchell



Hidden Gems



Did you identify the last issue's Hidden Gem?

During the preparation for the Arla dairy complex in 2012, archaeologists carried out a 12-week survey on the site and found several Iron Age and Roman artefacts.

Included in the finds were 10 burial sites and five cremations. They also found various tools and jewellery. To commemorate the people who had been buried in the area, the obelisk in our picture was erected at the far end of All Saints Churchyard in Buckland.

You can read more about this and other treasures found from the A41 by-pass site on our website, www.acvillagelife.co.uk and look for issue 68.

How about our next Hidden Gem?



Where would you find this plaque?

See the answer in the next issue.

Richard Vincent

Horticultural Society



Well, it has certainly been a tough year for gardeners. A wet, dismal start to the year made germinating seeds a challenge and then a prolonged dry spell over the Summer became a drought with a hosepipe ban. What a way to celebrate our 70th year as a Society! However, established plants such as roses, lavender and eryngium have thrived, tomato plants have certainly enjoyed the sunshine, targeted watering has kept pots colourful and the allotments are looking good.

The difficulties posed by the weather meant we were particularly glad to see the splendid entries at our late Summer show, with growers rising to the challenges of the year. Vegetable entries were still of a high quality and there was a lovely display of later flowering blooms while the floral arrangement and handicraft sections showed off the many talents of our supporters. An increase in entries gave a mouthwatering display of baked and preserved goods. A big thank you to all who entered and who came along on the day to support our anniversary event. The refreshments team were certainly kept busy! Particular thanks to Alistair Dunbar for stepping in to present the prizes at short notice and to all the community groups who put in vases in our special anniversary Community Vase section. It was great to



showcase other local organisations and the inventiveness of the vases made a wonderful display. Do have a look at photos on our Facebook page.

Coming up we have the following events, all at The Anthony Hall:

Wed, October 14, 7.30pm: *Talk, "Gardening in the 2020s"* given by Andrew Mikolajski, a writer of over forty gardening books and contributor to magazines and the RHS website. We will have a selection of bulbs for sale at this meeting, including bulbs for the "Grow for Show" and "Society Bloom" classes at the 2027 Spring Show. Plant them in a pot and wait for Spring – no reason not to give it a go! Our expert bulb growers can give advice if needed.

Wed, November 11, 7.30pm: *Talk, "Taming the Indoor Jungle"* given by Chris Day, a horticulturalist who has worked in commercial horticulture, garden centre retailing and gardening magazines. He will be telling us how to make growing houseplants easy and how to enjoy them all year round. Perfect for picking up tips for Christmas gifts.

Sat, November 28, afternoon: *Christmas Wreath Workshop.* This is a very popular, bookable event. Please get in touch for further details at: info@astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk.

Wed, December 9, 7.30pm: *Christmas Social.* This will be our final 70th anniversary celebratory event.

Wed January 13, 7.30pm: *Annual General meeting* and a chance to put forward ideas for the Society and catch up with friends.

As everyone now knows, 2026 marks the 70th anniversary of the Society. It was founded in October 1956 when 12 villagers met in the front room of a house in Weston Road, Aston Clinton and decided to form the Aston Clinton and Buckland Allotment and Garden Society. The Society soon became an important part of the local community, offering a wide range of activities. Naturally, gardening and the Annual Summer Show have always been

the mainstay and in 1997 a Spring Show was added. We are very proud as a Society that we have been able to maintain two shows a year when other societies have struggled and we are grateful for the support of all those who enter and come along – make sure you do not miss out next year! Other events over the years have included talks, dances, outings, ceilidhs, quizzes, bingo parties and annual dinners and we continue to offer a wide-ranging programme of talks, visits, social events, plant sales as well as the two annual shows. We have also been involved in tree planting around the villages, supporting Aston Clinton School and Barn Owls Nursery with gardening activities and have a practical gardening group, whose members swap plants, help out with garden tasks and organise plant nursery and other visits.

With the new Millenium approaching at the end of 1999, the Society drafted a new mission statement:

Our Horticultural Society should aim to encourage the residents of Aston Clinton, Buckland & Drayton Beauchamp and friends in the surrounding communities to look after and develop their gardens and allotments, however small, and preserve our environment for future generations.

This remains our aim and we hope that as our communities increase in size, the Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp Horticultural Society will continue to be an important part of village life. The society is always keen to welcome new members and at just £5 a year, membership is a real bargain. Discover more on our website at www.astonclintonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk/

Happy gardening
Your Horticultural Committee

Village Life at the Horticultural Society's Summer Show

Village Life was delighted to respond to the invitation to community groups to enter a flower arrangement in celebration of the Horticultural Society's 70th anniversary. The whole team is very proud of the efforts of Louise Rolfe and Lindy Butters who produced a splendid creation from recycled copies of the magazine.

Barbara Muston



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

Sudoku Solution

Puzzle on page 27.

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

An illustration of a town street scene with a large, multi-story brick building. A spider is on the roof, and several bats are flying in the sky. A ghost is visible in the background. The text 'Discover Bucks Museum' is overlaid on the left side.

Discover Bucks Museum

As autumn arrives, Discover Bucks Museum has plenty to keep families entertained, from stepping back in time with the Saxons to spooky half-term adventures, imaginative play and creative activities for little ones.

The big autumn highlight is *Spooktacular Half Term*, running from October 24 to November 1. Families can get creative with a host of hands-on Halloween activities, including making a colourful yarn-wrapped spider and web, creating a spooky 3D flying ghost scene and sculpting a terrifying – or not-so-terrifying – clay monster.

For budding scientists, Spooky Science sessions promise bubbling witches' brews, oozy ogre slime and plenty of eerie experiments. And for those feeling brave, the Creepy Doll Hunt challenges families to explore the museum and track down some unsettling hidden residents.

Alongside the Halloween fun, don't miss the immersive exhibition *SAXONS: Three lives. Three burial sites. Three extraordinary stories*, running until November 1. Bringing Buckinghamshire's early medieval history to life, the exhibition features remarkable archaeological discoveries and immersive displays, offering visitors the chance to discover the stories of three extraordinary Saxon lives.

The Roald Dahl Children's Gallery is also open every day throughout the October half term. Packed with hands-on exhibits, it

ensures children can crawl through Fantastic Mr Fox's tunnel, explore the Giant Peach and discover the magic of Dahl's stories through play and imagination.

For families with younger children, the museum's regular programme continues throughout the autumn. Stay & Play Café takes place every Wednesday during term time, from 10am–12pm, offering under-fives a safe space to play, along with free tea and coffee for parents and carers and a chance to meet other local families. Sessions cost just £2 per child, with adults free.

The popular Discover Ducks sessions also return, with themed activities for under-fives and their parents and carers. Each two-hour session includes a story, songs, games, play, a craft activity and a museum trail, with a different theme each month. October looks at Day & Night, November explores Patterns, and December brings a festive Christmas theme.

There's something for grown-ups too. Those looking to put pen to paper can join the museum's Introduction to Creative Writing Course, offering an opportunity to explore creative writing in a friendly and inspiring setting.

Whether you're looking for spooky family fun during half term, a creative activity for your little one, an inspiring day out exploring local history or simply somewhere to discover something new, Discover Bucks Museum has plenty waiting to be uncovered this autumn.

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

Emergency

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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

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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	07961 259791	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@acolts.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.baccc.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	07961 259791	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	07808 531156	steve.bowles@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Mike Collins	01296 632039	mike.collins@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Environmental Health (fly tipping)	01296 585605	
Highways	01296 486630	www.buckscc.go.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

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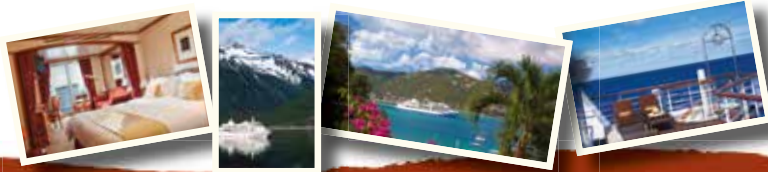
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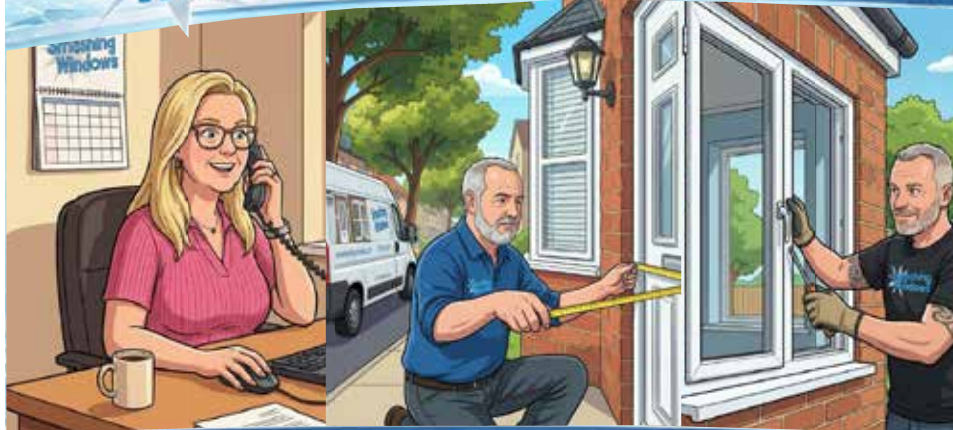
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