

VillageView

WATERMEAD'S *FREE* QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

Autumn 2016 Vol.23 Issue 3

Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday 3rd December

Carol Concert

Saturday 10th December

Dementia Charity Cake Sale

Saturday 3rd September, 2-4pm

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Sunday 25th September, 2pm

Plus see inside for our Bonfire Night
Toffee Apple recipe plus how to take care
but enjoy Halloween and Guy Fawkes night



News from Watermead Parish Council & more!
watermead-pc.gov.uk / @watermead pc



Best Christmas Decorated House COMPETITION 2016

After the success of last year's Christmas Lights Competition the Parish Council have decided to run it again this year. It has been a seasonal tradition to decorate inside our homes for over a hundred years and more recently to line our streets and rooftops and fill our gardens with beautiful lights and decorations.

As Christmas approaches we hope that every Watermead resident will help to spread the message of hope, peace and joy through lights!

RULES: Every home within Watermead will be eligible • Judging will take place between Christmas and New Year • The winner to be announced on our notice boards and on our website on New Year's Day.

PRIZE: Gilded Watermead's Best Christmas Decorated House Certificate and a bottle of Champagne!

A photo of the winner's decorated house and those of the runners up (subject to their permission) will appear in the Spring issue of Village View along with their tips for success (if they have any!).

Parish Chairman's News

Summer is now in full swing with the children on their long school break and many people on holiday. For those of us at home the countryside is looking wonderful and the current good weather is a real bonus. Watermead is no exception and we are fortunate to live in such a beautiful place.

Since taking over some devolved services from Bucks County Council **our verges and other grassed areas** are much improved and we receive many compliments about the appearance of the village. One area which is questioned is why the gutters are full of weeds and why we do not remove them. Bucks County Council has always been responsible for the removal of weeds at the edge of the road (which they call siding out) since they are on the highway, which is one of their responsibilities and not included in our devolved services Agreement. Notification has now been received from Bucks County Council that they will no longer be carrying out "siding out". Earlier in the year they indicated that this was due to budget cuts but they now tell us that another reason is environmental. Parish Councils generally are very disappointed that they have chosen not to fulfil this responsibility. The only solution is for us to carry out the work ourselves. Our Parish Clerk has started to get estimates for the work, but it is costly. It involves

weed killing, removing the debris and a further application of weed killer which obviously needs to be carried out regularly. It is hoped that the work can be carried out, within budget, shortly. In the meantime, in several roads, householders have cleared their own frontages and this has helped enormously. Thank you to all those who have taken this proactive approach.

Major maintenance work to **prevent further erosion of the bank** is now required at the edge of the Balloon Field. Our lake consultants have been to look and have provided an outline of the work required. This work has been given highest priority and we are now seeking grant funding to allow us to start this work as soon as possible. It is envisaged that the work will return the bank to its former width, forming a robust and long-lasting barrier to prevent further erosion for many years.

In terms of planning the draft **Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan** is now available for public consultation. You can see the details at www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk and we would urge everyone to read the plan, attend consultations and respond to the questionnaire. It is very important that your views are known. Once it is approved it will form the basis of planning decisions in the Vale of Aylesbury area for many years and will shape both our own and neighbouring districts.

Planning consultations received for Watermead have been mainly for extensions to existing houses in recent months. On 10th August we received the Inspector's report and verdict on the Hallam Land Appeal. The Inspector has found against Hallam and refused the appeal. We are delighted with this verdict and are grateful to the Inspector, Mr David Rose, for the care and attention to detail with which he conducted the Appeal and for the courtesy shown to us as non-expert witnesses throughout.

In terms of the **crematorium** we still await the outcome of our Application for Permission to Appeal. This is taking a very long time - the Courts are very busy, but there is no way in which we can speed up the process. We must await the decision of the Court. If we receive Permission our QC will vigorously present our case.

It's a bit early to talk about **Christmas**, but bookings are now being taken for tables at our **Craft Fair on Saturday 3rd December**. If you would like to book a stall, please phone Graham on 01296 336575. The **Carol Concert is on Saturday 10th December**. After the success last year we will be running the **Christmas Lights competition** again this year.

We were sorry to hear that attendance at the **Plant Sale in May** was disappointing but hope you will come along and support both the **cake sale on 3rd September** in aid of the Dementia charity and the **Macmillan**



Chairman:
Chair Sue Severn
T: 336575
sue.severn@watermead-pc.gov.uk

In this issue:

- 02 Best Christmas Decorated House competition
- 05 Energy from waste
- 05 Please help me find Jimmy
- 05 Our new councillor
- 06 What I realised 83,764 steps later
- 07 Antipodean visitor
- 10 Lakeside tales
- 13 Les Stocker MBE
- 13 Seasonal tips for spiny visitors
- 16 Info to Bucks Vision
- 17 The Dung Beatles
- 20 Update May Day Fair
- 20 Random writing
- 21 Colour Rush returns
- 24 In memory of Alan Lambert
- 26 Don't go with a bang this Bonfire Night
- 27 Halloween

Plus our regular features:

- 03 Parish Chairman's News
- 04 Tea break quiz
- 08 What's on
- 09 Worrying
- 11 Random people
- 12 Sally's Blog
- 15 Watermead Cygnets Pre-school
- 17 Neutering cats
- 19 Watermead allotments
- 21 Recipes for Bonfire Night
- 23 A comprehensive A-Z guide of everything in fashion
- 25 Letters to the Editor
- 29 Watermead & Weedon WI
- 30 View from Westminster

page 05



Vice Chairman:
Cllr Adrian Schwab
T: 338118
adrian.schwab@watermead-pc.gov.uk



Cllr Julian Gent
T: 07769 675797
juliangent@hotmail.com



Cllr Eric Rose
T: 486735
ericrosewpc@aol.com



Cllr Mary Singleton & Editor of the Village View
T: 428569
mary.singleton@watermead-pc.gov.uk



Cllr Phil Toler
T: 432405
philtoler3@gmail.com



Cllr Irina Schwab
T: 338118
irinaschwablegal@gmail.com



Parish Clerk and Halls Manager:
Noreen Shardlow
T: 395211
(Call weekdays 10am to 2pm)
noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk



Assistant Parish Clerk:
Michelle Jackson
T: 481554
michelle.jackson@watermead-pc.gov.uk

- Independent dental care
- NHS care for children
- Very competitive rates

Denplan
Registered

New residents to
Watermead are
warmly welcome.

We offer quality care
at affordable prices.

Telephone: 01296 330700

The Village Piazza, Watermead HP19 0FX

Lythan Davies BDS LLM and Associates

Opening hours: Tuesday to Thursday 9.00am – 8.00pm
Monday & Friday 9.00am – 4.30pm,
Saturday 10.00am – 12.30pm (by appointment)

Dental excellence in the centre of your village

For NEW customers
£10 off
1 voucher per customer

For NEW customers
£10 off
1 voucher per customer

Tea Break Quiz



1. Mrs Beeton's Cookery Book is very famous. What was her first name?
2. Who wrote Catch 22?
3. After which animals are the Canary Islands named?
4. What was Elvis Presley's middle name?
5. What did Louis Glass invent in 1890?
6. In what year were Premium Bonds first issued in Britain?
7. What is a squirrel's nest called?
8. At 220 miles, what is the longest river in the UK?
9. Who wrote the Maigret novels?
10. What year was the Channel Tunnel between the UK and France opened?
11. Which desert takes its name from the Arabic word for desert?
12. Au is the chemical symbol for which precious metal?
13. 2016 is the Chinese Year of which animal?
14. Which is the smallest planet in the solar system?
15. Which US aviator made the first solo transatlantic flight in 1927?
16. Which is the largest cathedral in the UK?
17. How many UK number one singles has Bob Dylan had?
18. Which MP served as Labour Home Secretary between 8th June 2001 and 15th December 2004?
19. What is onychophagia?
20. What sport uses a ball 38mm in diameter and weighing 2.5 grams?

Answers on page 09

Coffee morning on Sunday afternoon, 25th September.

As we approach **Guy Fawkes night** I would ask you to respect your neighbours and advise them if you are going to let off fireworks so that they can keep their pets indoors. There are also some people who are frightened of fireworks and they can take necessary precautions if they know about fireworks parties in advance.

I would like to welcome

Julian Gent, who was co-opted to the Parish Council in July. Julian and his wife have lived in Watermead for many years and he feels the time is now right for him to work for the community. He brings experience of sport management and marketing which will prove very helpful. We look forward to working with Julian.

Chairman Sue Severn

Energy from waste

After 10 years of planning and negotiating many hurdles, Thursday 14th July marked the final completion of the construction of Buckinghamshire County Council's new energy from waste power station at Greatmoor near Calvert. This facility generates electricity from waste that cannot be recycled. It is the single biggest investment ever made by the county council and stands to save our taxpayers £150 million over 30 years. This is brought about through avoiding the huge landfill charges and, of course, it also earns income from the power generated.

The plant is being run on behalf of the Council by FCC Environment one of the UK's leading waste resource management companies in the 30 year partnership.

Please help me find JIMMY

Jimmy went on his normal night prowls on Sunday 31st July 2016 and has not returned home since. He is a Maine Coon/Bengal cross - dark tabby, sleek, longish soft coat with pretty markings. He has a bushy tail that he holds upright. He has had a tendency to roam around the small lake. Is it possible Jimmy has got himself locked in somewhere? Or have you taken him in because you thought he was a stray or has been injured?

Please call or text **Mary**
on 07986
582903
with any
information
you may have
about Jimmy.



Our new councillor

"I have lived on Watermead since the summer of 1992 and have seen many people and many things come and go in that time. During this time, I have worked for a number of high profile leisure, entertainment and sport companies including The Tussauds Group, Harlequins Rugby, Saracens Rugby and Leicester City FC. I now work for myself from home as a Sales, Marketing and PR consultant and as such, can now commit time and energy to the Parish Council."

I hope to be able to use my skills and experiences to help the Council maximise the social, sporting and cultural aspects of life on Watermead and to hopefully bring perhaps a new perspective to such events moving forward."



Cllr Julian Gent

WATERMEAD REMEMBRANCE DAY 2015

Friday 11th November 2016
at 10.45am

Join members of our community to remember the fallen from all conflicts, from all countries. Meet at the Memorial Garden to observe the two minutes' silence together in quiet contemplation.

If you need any assistance with mobility issues or need to drive on to the field we will be pleased to help. Contact Noreen Shardlow 01296 395211. or email noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk



WATERMEAD CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 3rd December 2016
Village Hall, The Piazza 11am - 5pm

To book a table at this year's fair please contact
Graham for further information

01296 336575
graham.severn@yahoo.co.uk

and don't forget:

WATERMEAD CAROL CONCERT
Saturday 10th December 2016. From 6pm

What I realised 83,764 steps later...

Waste services are something we all very much take for granted. Did you know that more than 3 billion people don't have waste services? That's 40% of the world's waste not managed causing life threatening public health issues and long lasting environmental damage. Correct waste management is therefore a vital public health service and an engine for sustainable development.

Without our collection crews, rats would run riot and we'd all be suffering from both ill health and a short lifespan. Did you also know that waste services are considered such a vital public service that the army would be called in if we were unable to get our crews out to collect it?

A day in the life of a refuse & recycling loader

With this in mind, I wanted to see what it was really like on the front line and during roll week! So last week I spent 3 days out with the crews... So that's a 4 am start in order to arrive on time. Armed with pedometer on day one I covered 8.7 miles on foot, day two 13.7 miles and day three a WHOPPING 17.7 miles.

It's not just a stroll in the park - it's a fast walk and then a jog in heavy steel toe cap boots, battling the weather, moving heavy bins, being extremely cautious of traffic and being patient with the impatient tooting

motors. All this and remembering the importance of being courteous and polite to our customers, saying 'hi' to the children waving from their window, and remembering all the little nuances of the round; No.7 likes to have their bin put back next to the blue gate, No.30 needs an assisted collection and No.15 has a suspicious dog that needs bribing with a dog biscuit!

To say the job is challenging is an understatement.

Amazing teamwork despite the challenges

Despite these challenges, I was overwhelmed with the sense of team work throughout the day. Watching out for each other, helping with a heavy bin, constantly telling each other what the other was doing and where to go next if they were less experienced. Not only this but the knowledge loaders and drivers have of the district is exceptional, I mean down to who lived where, what their 'bin habits' were, how long they'd lived there, etc.

Vigilance was also exceptional. They check each bin before they put it on the back of the vehicle to make sure that it didn't contain something that we couldn't accept - putting the wrong item in the bin is an expense to us and crews understood the importance of this.

Always striving to do our best

AVDC collect over 340,000 individual bins every week and this is done by just 110 loaders and drivers. We sometimes get it wrong and the sheer volume of work means we can miss a resident's bin by mistake. On an average week we might miss around 60 bins - that's less than 0.02%, but understandably residents feel that we have really let them down and we then have to turn that customer experience round by learning from our mistakes and responding positively to resolve the issues. We get a lot of positive feedback from our residents as well and this motivates the crews to improve and keep working to meet our residents' needs.

How you can help us

We all get our bins emptied, and I'd ask you to be mindful of how hard it is. Smile at your bin man or lady, give them a wave, wait patiently if you're in a car, put your bin out on a flat surface avoiding grass or gravel, and you could even go the extra mile and put your bin out with the handles facing out! All these things really do make a huge difference.

*Amy Bridgford,
AVDC Recycling & Waste Operations and
Projects Manager*

Antipodean visitor



The black swan (Cygnus atratus) is a large waterbird, a species of swan, which breeds mainly in the southeast and southwest regions of Australia.

The species was hunted to extinction in New Zealand, but later reintroduced. Some academics cite lack of records during a period of time as evidence that the black swan was hunted to extinction in New Zealand. Within Australia they are nomadic, with erratic migration patterns dependent upon climatic conditions. Black swans are large birds with mostly black plumage and red bills. They are monogamous breeders that share incubation duties and cygnet rearing between the sexes.

Black swans have been introduced to various countries as an ornamental bird in the 1800s, but have escaped and formed stable populations. A small population of Black swans exists on the River Thames at Marlow, and near the River Itchen, Hampshire. Described scientifically by English naturalist John Latham in 1790, the black swan was formerly placed into a monotypic genus, Chenopsis. Black swans can be found singly, or in loose companies numbering into the hundreds or even thousands. They are popular birds in zoological gardens and bird collections, and escapees are sometimes seen outside their natural range.

Black swans are mostly black-feathered birds, with white flight feathers. The bill is bright red, with a pale bar and tip; and legs and feet are greyish-black. Cobs (males) are slightly larger than pens (females), with a longer and straighter bill. Cygnets (immature birds) are a greyish-brown with pale-edged feathers.

The black swan utters a musical and far reaching bugle-like sound, called either on the water or in flight, as well as a range of softer crooning notes. It can also whistle, especially when disturbed while breeding and nesting.

When swimming, black swans hold their necks arched or erect and often carry their feathers or wings raised in an aggressive display. In flight, a wedge of black swans will form as a line or a V, with the individual birds flying strongly with undulating long necks, making whistling sounds with their wings and baying, bugling or trumpeting calls.

This photo was taken by Eric Rose who came home on the afternoon of 15th June 2016 to see this on the lake right in front of his house.



This Green Woodpecker visits my garden from time to time. Despite its name it feeds largely on ants from the lawn. I have also seen it on the area of grass behind the outdoor gym.



This shot is of a Greater Spotted Woodpecker who comes most days to peck at the nuts in my feeders. Note the beautiful red underbelly.

Eric Rose



SATURDAY 10th SEPTEMBER
Selection of quality draft beers & cider
Commemorative glass & 4 half pints - £10 Live Music
including 'Bucks Best Band' White Elephant
Free Entry 2pm 'til late
FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!
Hog Roast & BBQ / Face painting /
Lucky dip / Bouncy assault course & castle...and more!

The Mushroom Club, East & Botolph Claydon Village Hall, Botolph Road MK18 2LP

ALL children below the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult
All proceeds go to East Claydon School & Pre-School's Expansion Funds



What's on IN AND AROUND WATERMEAD

September

1st	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7.30pm
3rd	Dementia Charity Cake Sale	Village Hall Times, 2-4pm
11th	The Tudor Fayre	Bucks County Museum, 11am-4pm
15th	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7.30pm
24th	Plaster Carving Workshop	Bucks County Museum
25th	Macmillan Coffee morning	Watermead Village Hall, 2pm

October

6th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7.30pm
9th	Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity's Colour Rush,	Green Park Activity Centre, 11am-2pm
20th	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7.30pm
31st	Halloween	

November

3rd	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7.30pm
5th	Guy Fawkes night	
17th	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7.30pm

December

3rd	Watermead Christmas Craft Fair	The Piazza, 11am-5pm
10th	Watermead Christmas Carol Concert	The Piazza, 6-7pm

Village Hall

PARISH COUNCIL
3rd Thursday of the month
Public meeting - 7.30pm
Council meeting - 8.00pm

CYGNETS PRE-SCHOOL
Monday - Friday 9.15 - 12.15pm
Lunch Club: Monday,
Wednesday-Friday
12.15pm-1.15pm
Maree Van Danzig
maree-cygnets@hotmail.co.uk
07563 783464

**SCRAPBOOKING/CARD
MAKING ANY CRAFT OF
YOUR CHOICE**
CRAFTY CHICKS
4th Friday of the month
from 6.30pm
Contact Daphne 393131

KUMON MATHS
Monday & Thursday
2.30 - 6pm
Susan Jones 747469

**AYLESBURY & DISTRICT
PHILATELIC SOCIETY**
Second Wednesday of the month
7.30 - 10.00pm
Peter Barnes 612913

**WATERMEAD & WEEDON
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**
First Thursday of the month
7.30 - 9.30pm
Julia Morgan 487650
julia-morgan@sky.com

JO JINGLES
Tuesdays
Music & Movement 1.30 - 2.15pm
18 months upwards 2.30 - 3.05pm
6 months to walking
(approx 18 months)
Debbie Bird 625599

**DRAWING FOR FUN -
ART CLASSES**
Every Wednesday 2.30-5.30pm
Avril Nurse 580495

CASTIELLIDANCE SCHOOL
(for children) Monday 6 - 7.30pm
Janet Castiell 433956
www.luv2dance.co.uk

YOGA
Tuesdays 6.00 - 7.00pm
7.15 - 8.15pm
Gale Smith 747900

MYLES GREEN
Exterior & Interior Painter & Decorator
free estimates, no vat, over 30 years experience



**Craft your holiday
experience
with GoCruise**



Discovery, Celebration,
Adventure, Family-time,
Entertainment, Fun,
Revitalisation, Relaxation,
Luxury, Inspiration,
Cuisine, Culture....

Let us help you find it!



Ideal cruise itineraries at top value prices.

Sarah & Bjarne Thelin
01844 390 203

sarah@gocruise.co.uk bjarne@gocruise.co.uk
www.gocruise.co.uk/sarah-and-bjarne

Watermead Village Hall is the ideal venue for young children's birthday parties, meetings or christenings, etc. If you are an organisation looking for a regular venue, the Village Hall or the Bandstand could be the perfect place. Please contact Noreen Shardlow on 01296 395211

Advertise in the **Village View**
50% discount for Watermead residents

Resident Rates - 1/4 page - £25 1/2 page - £50 full page - £100

Non-resident Rates - 1/4 page - £50 1/2 page - £100 full page - £200

Colour is extra - £30 - 1/4 £60 - 1/2 £120 - full page.

Resident advertisers committing to 4 issues will be eligible for 10% discount subject to paying the invoice within 30 days of receiving it. Non-resident advertisers committing to 4 issues will be eligible for a 20% discount subject to paying the invoice within 30 days of receiving it. Special prices apply for back, inside front and inside back cover. Please call the Advertising Manager for further details.

The Team:

Advertising Manager	Chris Cooling	Tel: 719694	cc@broadgateuk.com
Editor	Mary Singleton	Tel: 428569	mary.singleton@watermead-pc.gov.uk
Assistant Editor	Carolynne McKee	Tel: 435096	carolynnemckee@btinternet.com
Graphic Designer	Rachel Seago	Tel: 712545	rachelseago@sky.com
Distribution Manager	Dot Toler	Tel: 432405	dot_toler@hotmail.com

Read by over 1,200 homes

Creating or modifying the adverts will also be charged for separately. Please arrange advertisements at least 4 weeks prior to publication date and send to the Advertising Manager (see above). Publication dates are subject to change depending on local events at time of publication. Payment of advertising space is required in advance of publication - advertisers will be invoiced accordingly and must pay the invoice within 30 days of receipt. If you have any suggestions for content/articles please contact any member of the team above.

Worrying

Do you worry? Let's face it, in our world today there is certainly a lot to worry about. I try not to worry, but sometimes it can catch me unawares; suddenly something happens and the butterflies in the tummy take to flight! Maybe you know the feeling? You see, there are all sorts of things that can crop up which may cause concern and need a response. For instance, there is the large pile of papers on the floor of my study which need sorting and reading after my summer holiday, and don't mention the so far unanswered telephone calls and emails in my inbox.

I wonder how many of you find your waking hours are spent mostly worrying about what has happened or worrying about what will happen. I have the feeling I am not alone. Those of an anxious disposition often seem incapable of fully engaging with the here and now. Even those who are not quite so anxious probably spend a good deal of their lives looking backwards or forwards, with pleasure or regret.

To help people with these feelings, I would like to tell you about a person called Brother Lawrence. Nicholas Herman of Lorraine was born of peasant stock in 1614. Poverty and despair drove him into the army, where he was assured of board and lodging. The sight of a winter tree bereft of leaves brought about his conversion when he was 18 years old. Then, leaving the army disabled from an injury, and seeking more of God, he entered a monastery in Paris as Brother Lawrence. He was set to work as a skivvy in the cookhouse, and later the sandal repair shop.

Of course the monastic life revolved around the rhythm of organised prayer times, but Brother Lawrence revolutionised this idea. He found a new way of praying which has become known as "Practising the presence of God in the present moment". He said: "The

time of business does not differ with me from the time of prayer. In the noise and clatter of my kitchen, while several persons are at the same time calling for different things, I possess God in great tranquillity as if I were upon my knees at the blessed sacrament."

So for us, he suggests prayer isn't just about attending Church on a Sunday; it is a continuing commentary on all that we see, hear and experience each day. Sometimes it's just holding out to God for a second or two, the thoughts or people running through our minds. I am reminded of one retired parishioner who said her prayers of intercession as she watched the needy places and people on the TV screen. And what about the spontaneous hymn of praise when you see something of real beauty? Some experiences might evoke a comment to God about injustice or we might just want to have a moan to him. Maybe we can't let go of something we said or did and a quick prayer of penitence could clear the air.

St Paul said that we should pray without ceasing. That sounds impossible, but maybe it isn't if we follow Brother Lawrence's approach. Savouring the moment and holding it out to God sounds a much wiser way of living than constantly worrying about the past and the future.

*With every blessing for the Summer ahead, and always,
Revd Mark Ackford, Vicar of St James the Great Bieron.*

Answers to Tea Break Quiz on page 05

1. Isabella, 2. Joseph Heller, 3. Dogs, 4. Aaron, 5. Jukebox, 6. 1956, 7. A drey, 8. River Severn, 9. George Simenon, 10. 1994, 11. Sahara, 12. Gold, 13. Monkey, 14. Meroury, 15. Charles Lindburgh, 16. Liverpool Cathedral, 17. None, 18. David Blunkett, 19. Nail biting, 20. Table Tennis.

Inspired design & print



If you look good, we look good

We believe that print should be vibrant and beautiful, giving you the opportunity to stand out.

Whatever your print requirements, we can help. And we'd like to.

Pick up the old 'dog & bone' **01525 384893**

Email on **info@egp.uk.com**

Have a look at our website **www.egp.uk.com**

Eagle Graphics [Printers] Ltd
Unit 1 Firbank Court | Leighton Buzzard | Beds | LU7 4YJ | t 01525 384893 | f 01525 852045 | e info@egp.uk.com
www.egp.uk.com



Suppliers and installers of the highest quality

Windows, Doors & Conservatories

Visit our Showroom or contact us for a free no obligation quote:
Junction Retail Park, 138 Cambridge Street,
Aylesbury, HP20 1BB

Tel: 01296 422842
enquiries@premwindowsanddoors.co.uk
www.premwindowsanddoors.co.uk



WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT

MacMillan Coffee Morning

at the Watermead Village Hall
2pm Sunday 25th September

Pat a cake pat a cake baker's man

Bake me a cake for I really hope you can.

Roll it and stir it and make it with love

Then bring it to my event,
So I can make loads of money!

For a very needy cause.



Call Marcia on 01296 435544
if you can bake for this wonderful cause

Lakeside tales

It was one of those rare, beautiful and calm evenings and I was sitting at an outside table at the Watermead Inn, sipping from my cold pint of beer. I was taking in the view out over the piazza and onto the lake.

I became a little distracted by several people who were walking around the fountain and staring into their iPhones, oblivious to everything except catching Pokemons and, although I thought this new craze was a total waste of time, I told myself not to be so grumpy. After all, they were doing no harm and at least the youngsters were getting some exercise.

There was hardly a ripple on the lake's surface and I was really relaxed and content when I felt a tap on my shoulder and heard a gruff voice say,

"Mind if I join ye?"

I looked up but, as the light was quite dim now, I could only make out the outline of a tall man. His head was covered, not by a modern 'hoody' but more by an old fashioned cowl. You know, the sort of thing you see in the films on monks in the old days.

"Yes, please do," I heard myself say, "take

a seat." As he sat, he carefully placed on the table something that was covered by an old blanket and which he held very gently. My first reaction was to ask him what he had under the blanket, but I thought that that would have come across as rude so I said nothing, hoping that he might tell me in his own time. However, five minutes went by and there had not been a word between us, so I took a deep breath and said,

"Fancy a pint?"

"You'll not see none of that devil's brew pass my lips!" he shouted angrily and that is when I thought the time had come to take my leave of this weird person. I was just about to get up and go inside when his tone changed completely as he asked,

"Would you like to see what's underneath this blanket?"

It was no good me trying to kid myself, I was dying to see what was beneath that dirty old blanket. Anyway, he did not give me a chance to answer as he whisked the blanket away, like some mad magician, revealing a gigantic egg which he balanced on the table between his hands. I had never seen anything like it, not even on any of David Attenborough's programmes.

"What sort of an egg is that?" I could not help myself asking.

"Tis my monster egg," he said in that strange dialect of his.

"Well, where did you get it?" I asked
"Never mind where I got it, but I'll tell you where it's going," he sneered.

"Tis going in this here lake and when it hatches, God help anybody that crosses its path. It'll rip 'em apart. I've been telling them for years this lake should never have been put here, but did they listen? No! They thinks I'm mad they do, but I 'ain't you know. I'm going to throw this devil egg in the lake," and with that, he stood up and chucked the egg far into the water, much further than any normal human being would be able to.

Then he just sat down as if nothing had happened, but I noticed his head movements were following those of the Pokemon players.

"They are zombies they are," he said in a calm voice.

I was not going to argue with him because I was quite sure by now that he was completely mad, but then my mind started thinking. The egg did look real, but then it could have been made to look real using any

number of modern plastics and methods.

The strange man shook me out of my thoughts saying,

"No boy, that egg is real, it's no fake! That's what you were thinking boy weren't it? Well, just wait till it hatches. Then you will know old Watermead Ted ain't mad like you was thinking."

Maybe I was the one that was mad or perhaps the beer was particularly strong and I had drunk too much. But I looked at the glass and it was more than half full. No, I was definitely not drunk and I was sure that the stranger had read my mind.

I looked up so as to confront him but he was gone and as I looked around the piazza for him I noticed that all the Pokemon players were also gone.

Since that evening, I have walked around the lake several times a day, looking for 'Watermead Ted' but there is no sign of him. I am beginning to think that I must have imagined the whole episode, but, I'll tell you one thing - if I ever see anything even remotely look like something large swimming beneath the surface of the lake, I am going to run like hell and I suggest you do the same.

By Gary Zambas

Random person

Gary Zambas' parents came to Britain from Limassol in Cyprus in 1949 and a few years later Gary was born. After attending college he was

offered a place at two universities, but an opportunity arose to join the fashion textile business and it was too good to pass up. Four years later he set up his own business, which was very successful and took him all over the world. But some of his fondest memories involve trips to Lancashire and the mills that were prevalent in his early days in the industry. Sadly, imports took their toll and the mills are now all gone.

Gary has had many hobbies, including driving racing cars, golf and playing the guitar, but now he is retired he is able to indulge his love of writing. His first book, Aphrodite Sleeps, was published a few years ago and is a political thriller set in Cyprus from 1949 to 1960. He is currently putting the finishing touches to his second novel, Hercules' Rock, which should be ready in a couple of months' time, so he is actively looking for an agent to represent him.

Gary moved to Watermead nearly two years ago after living in Rickmansworth for

30 years. He is currently in a rented house with his wife, three children and mother-in-law, but they like it here so much that they are looking for somewhere to buy.

Gary responded to our request for contributions from residents, so watch out in future editions for some of his stories.

Carolynne McKee





Greetings from Watermead in the height of summer. Yesterday I went to Countryfile Live. I have to say this was a top day out for dogs. My mum has a Fitbit and it told her she had walked 14,999 steps which is 11.5 Kilometres in the day – safe to say I had done at least twice that by sniffing everything in sight, dashing off to talk to other dogs, and to be patted by lots of strangers. They had a very ingenious water trough arrangement ‘watering stations’ for dogs – I found a novel use for it and laid down in the trough to cool my tummy. Naturally this behaviour was met with the usual attention and laughter. I love to hold the audience in my paws, as you probably know by now!

Looking my best after bath and haircut – Jaime is very patient but she says I seem to have tickly feet – I think I’m quite ticklish



and don’t really like being cuddled tightly or stroked too much, I prefer to be in charge at all times.

12 Talking of which...25th July I am sorry to report that my mum and dad decided

I needed further training. The idea was to enrol me for gundog training. They have enlisted the support of Kimberly Cox. I had a 2 hour session with her this evening. The result of this is that we are changing my diet to give slightly less protein, and I have to be taught self-control, which she says I don’t have. Not sure what this is, but I suspect I am not going to like having it, although there won’t be a choice because they are determined to make me perfectly behaved. I shall report back to let you know who wins.

Football Ha! I have been a football fan ever since I managed to persuade the humans to let me sit in a comfortable chair to enjoy the match. Last night I settled down to enjoy the match England vs Iceland.

I don’t know anything, but I know that I am not going to watch any more - what a fiasco!

All games involving a ball interest me very much - as much as digging the garden, chewing up newspapers, the post, parcel wrapping, but I am off football FOR GOOD!

It’s Andy Murray and tennis for me in future. Great to see him carry the flag for Team GB

at the Olympic Games opening ceremony. I shall be watching carefully to choose another sport to follow - golf is certainly a contender.

My own choice of sport has to include a



ball or something being thrown and people chasing after it; the reason for this is that I am happy to chase after sticks and balls but not bring them back. My view is ‘they threw it, let them pick it up’! (If only this applied to litter and poo. Come on people, pick it up and put it in the bin, please).

I have a new friend called Rocky. We met when I was walking in the fields. He is 2 and his mum told mine that he is much better behaved now – why are they so obsessed with good behaviour! Surely having fun, being amusing and generally going ‘crackerdog’ are enough for any human? After all, we take them on long walks, chew things, try to jump up whenever anyone comes to see us.

Humans – they are a challenge, but we love them.
love Sally.

Recipes for Bonfire Night

Creamy Tomato Soup/ Hot Bloody Mary Soup

Ingredients:
1½ tbsp olive oil,
1 onion, chopped,
1 celery stick, chopped,
150g carrot, chopped,
250g potato, diced,
2 bay leaves,
2½ tbsp tomato purée,
2 tbsp sugar,
1 tbsp red or white wine vinegar,
2 x 400g cans chopped tomatoes,
250g passata,
2 vegetable stock cubes,
200ml whole milk

Method:
1. Put the oil, onions, celery, carrots, potatoes and bay leaves in a large saucepan. Fry gently until the onions are softened – about 10-15 mins. Fill the kettle and boil it.
2. Stir in the tomato purée, sugar, vinegar, chopped tomatoes and passata, then crumble in the stock cubes. Add 1 litre boiling water and bring to a simmer. Cover and simmer for 15 mins until the potato is tender, then remove the bay leaves.
3. Purée with a stick blender (or ladle into a blender in batches) until very smooth. Season to taste and add a pinch more sugar if it needs it.
4. The soup can now be cooled and chilled for up to 2 days, or frozen for up to 3 months.
5. To serve, reheat the soup, stirring in the milk – try not to let it boil. Serve in small bowls for the children with cheesy sausage rolls.

Why not make another batch for the adults and serve as Hot Bloody Mary soup by garnishing with:

2 tbsp celery salt,
2 tbsp celery seeds,
2 tbsp mixed peppercorn,
1 tbsp Sichuan peppercorn,
bottle Worcestershire sauce,
small bottle Tabasco sauce,
small bottle vodka,
1 large lemon, cut into small wedges

Method:
1. Reheat the tomato soup. Mix the celery salt and seeds in a small jar. Crush all the peppercorns together using a pestle and mortar. Assemble a tray of all the ingredients to garnish, with the celery mix, crushed pepper mix, Worcestershire sauce,

Tabasco, vodka and lemon wedges.
2. Ladle the soup into bowls and let everyone spice it up to their liking.

Slow-roast pork shoulder
Prep: 20 minutes;
Cook: 6 hours 30 mins + overnight marinating.
This smoky, melt-in-the-mouth main course is slow-cooked for several hours, making it ideal for a Bonfire Night feast after the fireworks. Serves 6

Ingredients:
1 tsp black treacle,
2 tbsp cider vinegar,
2 tsp smoked paprika,
1 tsp ground cumin,
1 tsp mustard powder,
1 tsp chilli powder,
2.7kg boned pork shoulder

Method:
1. In a small bowl, mix the treacle, cider vinegar, paprika, cumin, mustard powder and chilli powder until smooth. Using a sharp knife, make deep slashes in the skin of the pork shoulder to cut through the skin and fat layer, but not the meat. Place the joint, skin-side down, in a large dish and rub the spice paste into the meat (not the fat). Turn skin-side, cover tightly with cling film and put in the fridge overnight, or for 24 hrs to give the pork maximum flavour.
2. Heat oven to 150C/130C fan/gas 2. Transfer the pork, skin-side up, to a deep roasting tin, rub 1 tbsp sea salt onto the skin and pour 500ml water into the bottom of the roasting tin. Cover tightly with foil and roast in the oven for 5 hrs.
3. Remove the foil, turn up the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6 and cook for a further 1 hr 30 mins or until the pork is very tender and the skin has turned to crispy crackling.
4. Once the pork is ready, take it out of the roasting tin, cover with foil and leave to rest. Pour the juices from the roasting tin into a jug and leave to separate. Pour off the fat layer and transfer the remaining juices to a large sauté pan. Simmer over a high heat, stirring, until reduced to a rich gravy.
5. Once rested, cut the pork into pieces – it should pull apart with very little effort – and break the crackling

into shards. Serve the pork and crackling with the gravy poured over and mustard mash, honey-roasted carrots and quick pickled red cabbage on the side.

Toffee Apples

Ingredients:
8 Granny Smith apples
400g golden caster sugar
1 tsp vinegar
4 tbsp golden syrup

Method:
1. Place the apples in a large bowl, then cover with boiling water (you may have to do this in 2 batches). This will remove the waxy coating and help the caramel to stick. Dry thoroughly and twist off any stalks. Push a wooden skewer or lolly stick into the stalk end of each apple.
2. Lay out a sheet of baking parchment and place the apples on this, close to your stovetop. Tip the sugar into a pan along with 100ml water and set over a medium heat.

Cook for 5 mins until the sugar dissolves, then stir in the vinegar and syrup. Set a sugar thermometer in the pan and boil to 150C or ‘hard crack’ stage. If you don’t have a thermometer you can test the toffee by pouring a little into a bowl of cold water. It should harden instantly and, when removed, be brittle and easy to break. If you can still squish the toffee, continue to boil it.

3. Working quickly and carefully, dip and twist each apple in the hot toffee until covered, let any excess drip away, then place on the baking parchment to harden. You may have to heat the toffee a little if the temperature drops and it starts to feel thick and viscous. Leave the toffee to cool before eating. Can be made up to 2 days in advance, stored in a dry place. **Optional:** After dipping apples in toffee, roll in chopped nuts or 100’s & 1000’s, or chopped chocolate pieces.

Howse Electrical Part P Approved Electrician

rewires
fuse board replacement
security lighting
fault finding
extra sockets and repairs
free quotation
and friendly advice

Reliable
Reasonable
Fully Insured

07878 235185
grahamhowse@hotmail.com
Watermead resident
for over 10 years



Les Stocker MBE, HonAssocRCVS

31st January 1943 – 16th July 2016

We were immensely sad to hear that Les Stocker, founder of Tiggywinkles, had died following a short and sudden illness on the return journey of his holiday.

The loss will be greatly felt to the world of wildlife. Les was a steadfast ambassador, achieving his goal to turn wildlife rehabilitation into a profession to have it recognised by other professionals, and to ensure wherever possible that all casualties have the best treatment in order to return back to their natural habitat.

In 1978 when Sue and Les Stocker and their son Colin started taking in wildlife casualties in earnest, there were very few facilities available. There was certainly no written work or experience accessible in this very different field and no training available on wildlife for veterinary surgeons. Quickly the Stockers began to realise the enormity of the problem and when the general public and other animal welfare bodies became aware of their willingness to care for injured wildlife, casualties began to flood into their home.

Soon they were coping with all species from toads, badgers and deer to wrens, owls and swans. Every patient was an unknown and together with a local sympathetic vet, they learnt the idiosyncrasies of wild animals that demand such a different regime to that required by their domestic counterparts.

Until 1983 the Stockers funded their work from their savings. Then in February of that year the project became a Registered Charity with the official title of The Wildlife Hospital Trust.

Hedgehogs and Tiggywinkles

As the casualties continued to come in, it soon became apparent that this intake provided a barometer of happenings in the environment. This particularly came to light during the drought of 1984 when the whole hedgehog population seemed to be arriving at the door. A nationwide awareness campaign was launched to make people conscious of the plight of hedgehogs and soon thousands

of people were putting out bowls of water and dog food to support their neighbourhood pricklies. At the same time the campaign highlighted the perils of "bread and milk" the traditional but harmful food for hedgehogs.

More people were looking at their local hedgehogs and consequently more saw that their visitor was injured, so they brought it along for treatment. So great was the influx that the Stockers had to install a new shed as a 'hedgehog only' ward. This was duly opened amid great fanfare by Susan Hampshire on 9th August 1985 and christened 'St Tiggywinkles', the world's first bespoke hedgehog unit.

Every casualty is given a chance; we only ever use euthanasia as a last resort. Any animal or bird unable to be released back to the wild is maintained at the Hospital, in as natural conditions as possible. Medical treatment is carried out by a team of trained veterinary nurses and specialist consultant veterinary surgeons. This enables us to give our patients ground breaking treatment and the best possible care.

Our veterinary team has pioneered much of the treatment now used for wildlife throughout the country. Our expertise and knowledge on all species is used worldwide. Over the years we have perfected techniques for hedgehogs, badgers, deer and other species and have a commitment to passing on this information through books, papers, courses and lectures to veterinary schools.

The experiences of our Hospital staff are helping many of the millions of casualties across the world, most of which are now being looked after thanks to the positive attitude of Tiggywinkles.

Tiggywinkles survives on a solid base of membership and relies on donations from the general public and sponsors to thrive. It receives no state funding of any kind and no financial assistance from other animal welfare or conservation groups.

See more at <http://www.sttiggywinkles.org.uk>

Seasonal tips for spiny visitors

It is a time when many of you, including myself, are active in the garden. Simple, satisfying jobs such as turning the compost heap, raking up leaves or a spot of pruning. Local hedgehogs are preparing to hibernate and so any help you can give them will be invaluable.

Here are three easy ways you can help them this weekend:

- Leave some leaves. Decay processes support the fungi and bacteria which underpins the garden ecosystem. More rotting leaves = more insects = more hedgehog food.
- Sort, don't burn. Burning everything is a waste. Sort your woody debris from leaves and shoots. Pile the former in a corner of the garden, the latter can go into the compost heap. The result: less

pollution, more nesting opportunities for hedgehogs.

- Plant a fruit tree. Apples, pears or cherries all produce fruit which encourages insects, and they have the right type of leaves for hedgehog hibernation nests.
- Hedgehogs can remain active well into November and December and will often move nesting sites during hibernation. A bowl of fresh water will be greatly appreciated by any 'hog out and about.
- Food - Meat-based cat or dog food, special hedgehog food, along with a few crushed unsalted peanuts, raisins or mealworms are all great for hungry hedgehogs.
- Hibernacula, the nests in which hedgehogs will hibernate, can be in log piles, compost heaps, patches of brush or in a specially built hedgehog nest box.

Find out more at www.hedgehogstreet.org

Watermead Cygnets Pre-School

The children had fun learning about different people who help us, such as police officers, doctors, nurses and dentists. They also learnt about different farm animals and visited the Green Dragon Eco-farm where there was the chance for the children to see lots of animals that they had been learning about. We looked at fantasy and super heroes. The children particularly enjoyed dressing up as Spiderman, Captain America, Snow White and princesses. We saw some great acting and expression through the role play and use of vivid imagination!

The children also explored in the pre-school garden and the children found lots of mini beasts such as worms, woodlice, and snails. We also looked at sea-life and beaches, including holidays, and we finished off with an 'I Can' week where the children thought about all the things they had learned and achieved throughout the year.

We had a busy and fun Dad's day when fathers spent the morning with their children and accepted the challenges set for them: to build the tallest Duplo tower, a shoe race and an obstacle race. The day concluded with the children playing charades with their dads. Dad's day is a great opportunity for fathers to interact with their children in a learning environment and it is also great for the children too.

Our end of term trip was a day at Gulliver's Theme Park, made possible by the parents and children who were sponsored earlier in the year for our obstacle race. The children (and parents!) thoroughly enjoyed the day, especially the log flume where we all got soaked!

It was fantastic summer weather for our Sports Day where races included a scooter race, mini-obstacle course, running race, and beanbag race. The parents and carers had a beanbag relay race and the staff had a beanbag race. The fun day ended with medals and lollies.

We finished off the summer term with our graduation ball. Fourteen children left Cygnets this year to start their full time education and one left for another setting. We had a great afternoon on the bouncy castle! It's always sad to see the children leave but we all feel proud to have played a part in preparing them for school and we wish them every success in the future as they start their academic career.

Following the graduation party, we celebrated our 20th Anniversary at the Watermead Inn, joined by one hundred past and present children, parents and Committee members. We would like to thank all for turning up to help us celebrate. We would also like to thank Kelvin and Nikki Wong for the fabulous buffet and letting us hold our party at the Watermead Inn; and thank you too to Martyn Filbey for the bouncy castle which all the children enjoyed.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our staff for their continued hard work over the year and would like to say a big thank you to our Committee for their commitment. We say farewell to our Chairperson, Kirstine Mumford; we are so grateful for all her hard work over the past two years. We welcome our new Chair, Tara Peaks, and Committee member, Danielle Lewis.

Cygnets accepts children from 2½ years to 5 years old. We open from 9.15am to 12.15pm on Monday to Friday and we provide a lunch club most days from 12.15 to 1.15pm. If you would like your child to attend Cygnets, please visit us and ask to be added onto our waiting list. Please call and ask to speak Maree on 07563 783464.

The Cygnets Team



ABOVE: Class of 2016.

LEFT: Ex-Cygnets Francesca, Holly, Hollie and Maddie.

BELOW: Cheers! It's 20 years.



ABOVE: Thank you Kirstine!

ABOVE LEFT: Never too old!

Introduction to Bucks Vision

BucksVision is a local charity which supports people living with sight loss across Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. We are here to support you through all the stages and severity of sight loss. We offer a wide range of services to help you maintain independence; keep in touch with family and friends; gain confidence; and learn new skills. Our services are delivered by a small team of staff and a fantastic group of volunteers, working across Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes and include:

ADVICE AND INFORMATION

We are here to answer questions, offer advice and signpost you to other helpful organisations.

PRACTICAL COURSES

We offer several free courses which concentrate on retaining independence and gaining useful practical skills, including:

Living with sight loss/finding your feet

Workshops that offer practical and emotional support.

Online today

Courses aimed at beginners of all ages, which offer an introduction to using tablet and smartphone technology.

Big Skills Project

If you would like to work or volunteer but lack confidence then the Big Skills project could be for you. The project will start with a two day workshop which will cover things like technology tips, guidance around work, benefits information and other useful information.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Our volunteers run a number of social clubs across the county. We also have two bowls clubs, walking groups and run one off activities including theatre trips, visits to stately homes and other trips.

SUPPORT AT HOME

Befriending, Reader and Shopping Services

Befrienders can help reduce social isolation while Readers and Shoppers can help with correspondence and shopping respectively.

EYE CLINIC PATIENT SUPPORT SERVICE

Our volunteers provide support to patients within the eye clinics of Amersham, Milton

Keynes, Stoke Mandeville and Wycombe Hospitals.

USEFUL EQUIPMENT

Our resource centres contain equipment, including magnification, for demonstration. Get in touch to make an appointment or find out more.

We are confident that we can help – please get in touch with us on 01296 487 556, email reception@bucksvision.co.uk or visit our website www.bucksvision.co.uk

VOLUNTEERING

Most of our services are delivered by our fantastic volunteers who are involved in numerous roles including Drivers, Club helpers, Befrienders, Walking guides, Readers, Shoppers and many more. If you would like to volunteer your time we would love to hear from you, **call us now on 01296 487556 or visit our website www.bucksvision.co.uk** to find out more



The Dung Beatles Sir George Martin Tribute

It has been a sad year for the loss of so many musical show-biz legends.

Among the most famous names passing away have been Prince, Victoria Wood, Andy Newman ("Thunderclap Newman"), Keith Emerson (Emerson, Lake & Palmer), Maurice White (Earth, Wind & Fire founder), Glenn Frey (The Eagles frontman), David Bowie and, of course, "Fifth Beatle" Sir George Martin. In the last year, Watermead Parish Councillor Phil Toler and his band "The Dung Beatles" have had the honour and pleasure of performing many of The Beatles songs which have been touched by his musical magic, and are rarely performed live; I Am The Walrus, Strawberry Fields, A Day In The Life, and many more. Accompanied by their amazing horn section, all of their recent theatre performances have been over-subscribed. If you fancy a musical trip through the sixties, come on a magical mystery tour with us to The Elgiva Theatre in Chesham this September 17th.



In concert • playing the hits & more at the Elgiva Theatre Chesham HP5 1HR 8pm • 17 September 2016

Tickets £15 (£14 concessions)
Box office 01494 582900
email boxoffice@elgiva.com

If you love Beatles music played the way Sir George Martin and the Fab Four intended then this special concert is a must-see!

Let the Dung Beatles take you on a musical history tour with songs from every album including gems that are rarely heard live!

In a tribute to Sir George Martin

Neutering cats – is six months old too late?

Although ninety per cent of our cat population is eventually neutered, the timing of when this is undertaken is of great importance. A survey of cat owners in 2009 revealed that only two thirds of cats aged 6-12 months were neutered. Many cat owners are unaware of the reproductive efficiency and capacity of cats. Typically veterinary surgeons have advocated neutering cats from 6 months of age. This recommendation appears based on tradition rather than based on scientific evidence. However if one of the fundamental goals of neutering is the prevention of breeding then it could be argued that undertaking the procedure earlier than six months old is preferable. Despite the commendable efforts of vets and charities to promote and subsidize neutering, the cat population continues to increase at a concerning rate.

The marked improvements in anaesthetics, surgical and nursing techniques have culminated in reduced morbidity and mortality than

neutering at six months or older. This has led veterinary bodies and charities including the Cat Group, British Small Animal Veterinary Association, PDFA and Cats Protection to endorse "early neutering" ie from four months of age.

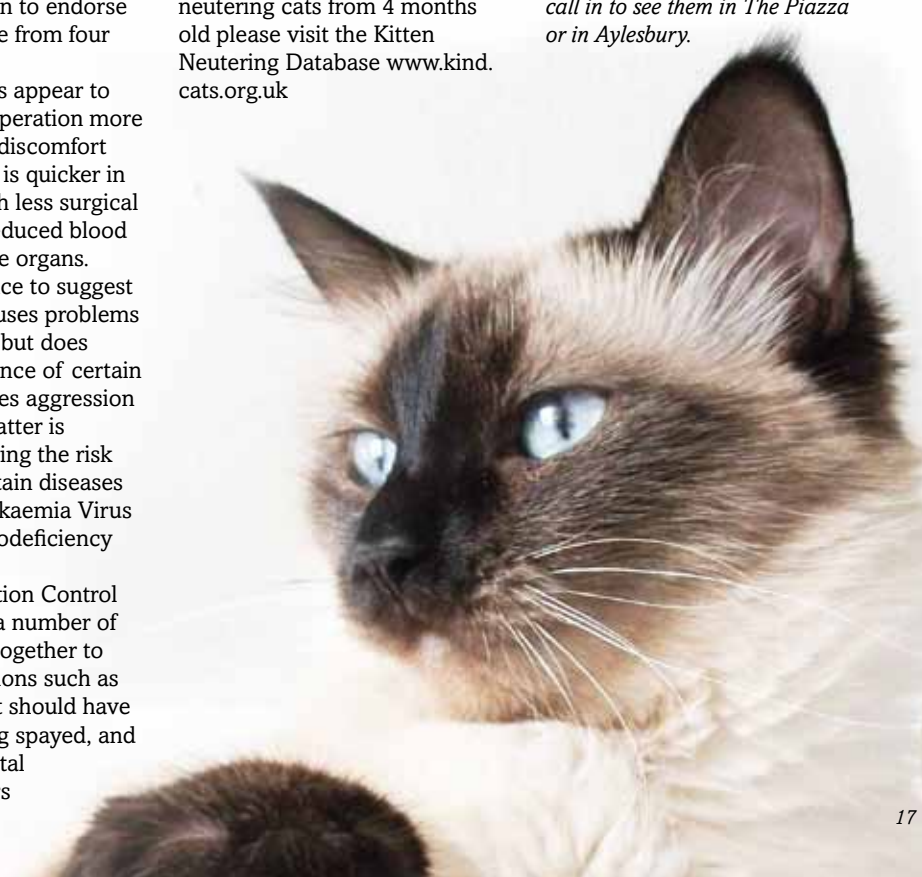
Younger animals appear to recover from the operation more quickly, show less discomfort and the procedure is quicker in leaner animals with less surgical risk as there is a reduced blood supply to immature organs. There is no evidence to suggest early neutering causes problems with development but does reduce the prevalence of certain cancers and reduces aggression and fighting. The latter is important in lowering the risk of contracting certain diseases such as Feline Leukaemia Virus and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus.

The Cat Population Control Group represents a number of charities working together to tackle misconceptions such as the myth that a cat should have a litter before being spayed, and the risk of accidental litters when owners allow their kittens

outside at 4 months old after completing their vaccination course before considering neutering at 6 months old.

For more information on neutering cats from 4 months old please visit the Kitten Neutering Database www.kindcats.org.uk

This information is given by Richard Rallings at Hampden Veterinary Hospital. For any information or advice about your pets contact: 01296 745373 or call in to see them in The Piazza or in Aylesbury.



Hampden Veterinary Hospital

Watermead Branch Surgery

10-11 Lakeside, Watermead, HP19 0FX

Local care from dedicated professionals

Your local Branch Surgery supported by our RCVS accredited Small Animal Hospital

- ✓ **Highly Recommended** - 98% of clients said they would recommend us to family & friends.
- ✓ **24 hr nursing care** - as a Hospital we have nurses onsite to care for your pets 24/7.
- ✓ **Advanced surgical capabilities** - we provide a wider range of services and surgical options.
- ✓ **Our own client out of hours emergency service** - no need to travel long distances to get your pets treated in an emergency.
- ✓ **Higher Standards** - as a Hospital we are inspected to much higher standards
- ✓ **Pet Healthcare Plan** - spread your costs over 12 months and get a 30% saving.
- ✓ **Enhanced laboratory facility** - we have our own lab with specialist technicians, so we get quicker results and can treat your pets quicker.

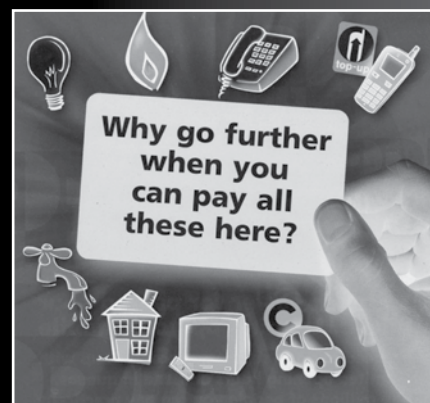
01296 745 373

www.hampdenvets.co.uk smallanimal@hampdenvets.co.uk

Your local convenient shop...

AMAZING VALUE

OFF-LICENCE
HOT & COLD DRINKS
ICE CREAM
FOOD TO GO
GROCERIES
PET FOOD
HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS
PHOTOCOPYING & FAX SERVICE
SANDWICHES
SANGSTERS PIES & PASTIES



PP Zone
So much easier

- GAS
- ELECTRICITY
- PHONE
- WAX
- BUS TICKETS*
- COUNCIL TAX*
- MOBILE TOP-UP

* Subject to local availability



Freshly ground Italian coffee machine now in store!

FREE CASH MACHINE NOW IN STORE

MY HERMES PARCEL SHOP
COLLECT OR SEND YOUR PARCELS HERE

WE NOW SELL NATURAL CHOICE DUCK FOOD

Open 7 days a week 6.30am – 8.30pm. Watermead Village Piazza Tel: 338435

We want you to know how much we appreciate you. You have been loyal and dependable customers. Thank you for your custom.



Bundles of our fresh rhubarb.

News Watermead allotments

Summer is starting to draw to a close and the long summer nights will soon be coming to an end. Despite the weather being up and down most of us have had a good crop this year with lots of soft fruit and vegetables, but the last three months have not been without disappointments. Firstly, our Plant Sale at the Village Hall in May was poorly attended. It was mainly plot holders who came along to see what was on offer, be it flowers, vegetables or garden shrubs. There were even some very nice cakes. We advertised well in the Village View and put up various posters around Watermead. The sale raises money for a local charity and the Allotment Society and plants are mostly only 50p so not at all expensive if you compare the cost with Garden Centres. We are planning a plant sale again next year and hope it will attract more interest. Please make a note in your calendars next time and do come along.

Secondly, the allotments site experienced two episodes of break-ins to sheds over a period of about five weeks. Sheds were damaged and garden tools, machines and implements taken - well the car boot season has started! Mindless damage and stealing tends to take the fun out of having an allotment, but this has to be chalked up as something that comes with the territory. Some of us have beefed up our shed security or are not leaving anything of value there; some plotholders are leaving their sheds open - not very convenient but we will not let the few spoil our hobby.

Despite all this, the allotments are thriving and we feel a huge sense of achievement when our produce is harvested. We share it with each other and pass on excess to family and friends who can also enjoy eating really fresh fruit and vegetables. So why not join our happy group? Allotments are still available and, if you are new to allotmenting there are plenty of people who will provide advice and help you get started. If you are interested you should contact the Parish Clerk, Noreen Shardlow. Prices depend on size of plot but a standard plot costs £25 per annum plus £10 for water.

Colin Smith



Selection of homemade cakes for sale.



Charlotte Eardley with some of her 50p bargains.



Selection of bedding plants including Geraniums, Cineraria, Silverdust, Bellis, Belle's and lots more!

Update on the May Fair 2016 - and beyond

I hope you will have seen the report on the May Fair in the last issue of Village View. There has now been time for Kelvin to analyse the event and its outcome in more detail and he has expressed his gratitude to the Parish Council for giving him the opportunity to organise it and to Ruth Mayhew and the volunteers and sponsors whose contribution to its success is immeasurable.

The event went very well. All the vendors and equipment arrived promptly and, except for a few stalls, everyone was ready when the Fair opened. Everyone participating was very happy with their results and have expressed their intention to take part again next year.

There were no nasty incidents; a first-aiders was present but not needed, and the only child to be separated from his parents was reunited with them within two minutes when a member of the public delivered him to the Rally Point and an announcement was made over the loudspeaker.

The Parking Marshalls did a great job, but by mid-afternoon the car park was full. At future events Kelvin plans to review how the space available is utilised.

Attendance was estimated to be 2,500 – more than had been expected. Consequently, the queue at the food stall was too long and the bar was not visible enough. In the future Kelvin hopes to have an extra barbecue and will site the bar near the entrance, rather than at the back of the field.

Just over £100 was raised by the cake competition and £133 on the ‘dunk tank’ for Smiles Aylesbury, who were very pleased with this donation.

Since the May Fair Kelvin has organised an open-air Salsa evening, with instructors to teach how to dance; a DJ to provide the music; Paella outdoor dining and a dance floor between the fountain and the lake. The perfect summer weather completed the Spanish holiday atmosphere. Those attending enjoyed themselves so much they have requested another Salsa evening before the summer ends.

Kelvin has future plans for an outdoor cinema evening, a Smile charity event and a children’s Halloween party in the pub. Keep an eye on the pub’s Facebook page for news of what’s happening at The Watermead Inn.

Carolynne McKee



Colour Rush returns after selling out last year

Following a very successful event last year, Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity (FNHC) is once more hosting the family favourite Colour Rush, a colourful 5km run, jog or walk – with a ‘Mini-Rush’ for kids – on Sunday 9th October, at ALF Green Park, Aston Clinton. This year’s event is set to be bigger and better than before, with runs taking place at both 11am AND 2pm! Every kilometre there is a colour station where the runners get showered with multi-coloured powder so everyone becomes a rainbow by the finish!

The event has proven to be a hit with families looking for a fun day out. “It is a brilliantly organised, family fun way to raise money for such a worthwhile cause,” said previous participant and mum of two, Caroline Gearing. “Colour in the sun, what an awesome day for children and adults alike! Great day, will be back this year and thanks for such a fantastic opportunity.”

Organisers highlight that the Colour Rush plays a vital role in supporting Hospice services. Fundraising Manager Frankie Hockham comments, “Without events such as the Colour Rush and the wonderful support from our volunteers and participants, we would not be able to ensure the continued funding of in-patient and at-home palliative care services for patients battling life-limiting illness.”

Local businesses which partner with Florence also enable the event to run smoothly. “We were delighted to see how many local businesses got involved last year by manning and sponsoring colour stations,” says Frankie. “It’s a great chance for them to meet with families, and makes a huge difference to how much money can go back to the Hospice.”

You can register to take part for £25 per adult, £12 per child over 5 years and £2.50 for children under 5. There is also a special group rate: register 10 people for £225, plus a family of four can register for £65.

Each participant will receive a Runners Pack, which includes a white t-shirt, bag of coloured powder and neon sunglasses to wear on the day.

Money raised from the event will support the funding of local palliative care services at Florence Nightingale Hospice.

Who we are

Florence Nightingale Hospice is located at Stoke Mandeville Hospital and provides first class specialist palliative care which is accessible and free of charge to those with a life-limiting illness in Buckinghamshire. The Hospice also provides other services such as 24/7 end of life care in the home, Florrie’s Children’s Team support for families, the Day Hospice and Bereavement Support.

Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity needs to raise over £650,000 annually to ensure the continued funding of local in-patient and at-home palliative care services, for many more years to come.

For more information visit www.fnhospice.org.uk

Random writing

My First Job - it was the early 60s and at last I had left school, having spent much of my final two years absent through ill-health. The first job I applied for was as an Outdoor Clerk; I didn’t even know what an Outdoor Clerk was, but I used my sewing skills to adapt an old dress into something I supposed was suitable to attend a job interview at a solicitor’s office.

The office was located in Gate Street, at the corner of High Holborn and Kingsway in central London. Luckily, I could get a bus just a short walk from where I lived in SW London all the way to Kingsway. Not so luckily, the long bus journey gave me plenty of opportunity to cultivate my anxiety to the point where I would happily have crossed Kingsway and got a bus straight back home.

I had no idea whether the interview had gone well so I was amazed to be offered the job at the magnificent salary of £6.8s a week. (£6.40p)

Determined to make a good impression I arrived so early on my first morning that, although the front door was open, there was not a soul to be seen. Had I come on the wrong day? Was it really Saturday – or a Bank Holiday? These were really the thoughts that were going through my mind! But eventually people did start to arrive and confirmed that I was in the right place at the right time.

I learned that Outdoor Clerks were so named because they spent most of their time out of the office. Among other things, my job included going to the High Court of Justice in the Strand to process documents and other stuff; and delivering briefs to the barristers that we instructed (one of whom was John Mortimer, who I later got to know quite well, but that’s another story – and no, not that well!).

Sometimes I had to present myself to a Master of the High Court to ask for some kind of special permission; maybe a document that was being filed out of time. These gentlemen sat behind enormous oak doors, in rooms lined with books. Their desks were always at the far end of the room so there was a long walk to get your nerves up before explaining why you needed special permission.

I was a very shy, almost timid, teenager (those of you who know me are now open-mouthed with disbelief) and I used to pace up and down outside these oak doors trying to pluck up the courage to knock and enter. Then I hit on a solution.

These men were about the same age as my dad (he was an old

dad) and I imagined them having got up that morning wearing the same kind of green stripy pyjamas that my dad wore, they’d had a bowl of cornflakes and done a poo. Imagining their normality allowed the awe to slip away, but retained my respect for them.

I hadn’t been working there long when I was instructed to conduct a conveyancing completion somewhere outside London. It involved several modes of transport, the last one being a bus, travelling through very unfamiliar countryside territory. I had explained to the bus driver where I needed to be and asked him to alert me when we reached the appropriate stop. As the time of my appointment approached I asked him if it was much further, to which he replied ‘Oh, sorry. I forgot. It’s way back there’.

I didn’t know what a completion was, let alone the significance of any delay, but I got off the bus and searched for a telephone box. In those days mobiles weren’t even a glint in anyone’s eye. I phoned the solicitor’s office where I was due and someone came to where I was and we conducted the completion in the middle of the street!

That job and the people I met there was the catalyst to being able to move away from home and begin an independent life, sharing a flat with a colleague. I doubt that would be financially possible today for a 17 year old in a comparable position.

Carolynne McKee

We haven’t had much response to our request for contributions from Watermead residents, so I’ve written this to start you off. We are looking for personal anecdotes – funny, poignant, unusual. Here are some suggestions: **Your first job, Retiring, Taking in a lodger, ‘Empty nest’ syndrome, The ‘boomerang’ effect – adult children returning, A first-date with a now long-term partner, A DIY disaster, Moving house, Starting University, or maybe you have a Literary leaning and would like to offer a short story or poem you have written?** If you’re interested contact the Editor, Mary Singleton. Contact details on page 2.



Do you own a 4x4?

Why not let us look after it for you...

Delivery/
collection or
loan car free
of charge

Servicing
MOTs
Repairs
Parts, Tyres
Diagnostics
and more

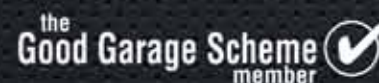
4x4 used car
stock list now
available,
please contact
us for details



John Dennis has over 20 years of Land Rover experience. In 2000 he opened his own establishment to service & repair Land Rover's, including all makes of 4x4's. We are conveniently located on the A413 between Aylesbury & Whitchurch. At John Dennis 4x4 we pride ourselves on our friendly unique approach and the personal touch which reflects in our high level of repeat business.



LAND ROVER SPECIALISTS



Which?
Trusted trader

t: 01296 640750
m: 07768 173131
www.johndennis4x4.co.uk
www.4x4vehiclehire.co.uk

The comprehensive A-Z guide of everything in fashion - part one



Meeting Stefano Gabbana & Domenico Dolce at a recent talk I attended at the Vogue Festival

Azzedine Alaïa - the Tunisian born designer silently remains the King of luxury due to his detached nature from the fashion industry. Alaïa's signature is particularly tight dresses which peaked during the 1980s but still remain a cherished favourite to this day among people like Grace Jones and Naomi Campbell.

Bergdorf Goodman - the American Fifth Avenue department store, is responsible for catapulting some of the most important designers of contemporary fashion onto the scene. The subject of the 2013 documentary film "Scatter My Ashes at Bergdorf's" shows the plethora of fans including Marc Jacobs and Tom Ford which this store attracts and how ingrained the store is within upper middle class New York society.

Carine Roitfeld - legendary Parisian fashion editor who rose up from stylist at French Elle magazine in the 1980s and gradually became editor of Vogue Paris in 2001 and held the job for the next 10 years. Her most notable work is the images she created with designer Tom Ford while he was Creative Director of Gucci in the 1990s. Thanks to Roitfeld's assistance Gucci's sales increased by 90% and the brand was saved.

Dolce and Gabbana - the Italian double act first met in Milan in the early 1980s and went on to achieve international success for the next four decades. Famed for their controversial advertisements in the early 2000s and provocative "barely there" clothing, Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana now take a family

orientated approach to fashion. Focusing on the traditional Italian family set up and Domenico's homeland of Sicily, the two designers have completely changed their aesthetic.

Emilio Pucci - not to be confused with Gucci, Pucci was a Florentine designer noted for his kaleidoscopic selection of patterned silks within his designs. Pucci achieved success in the 1940s designing skiwear; this gave him the push he needed to leave the Italian Air Force and start his own swimwear line.

Françoise Hardy - a French yé-yé pop singer from the 1960s is most famous for her music, yet her style encapsulated what was happening in the French music scene at the time. Hardy serves as a tremendous influence for Nicolas Ghesquière, the current Creative Director of Louis Vuitton, and her influence is rife within his recent collections.

Gucci - founded in Florence in 1921 by Guccio Gucci (surprisingly his name and not a typo), the brand went onto become not only the most prolific within Italy, but also the world. Gucci is one of the most valued brands in the world with over 550 locations. After the brand's turbulent relationship with the Creative Director Frida Gianni in the early 2010s, Gucci rehired within the house and chose accessories designer Alessandro Michele as the man for the job. His resurgence of Gucci's classic styles from the 1970s are key to his current successes at the brand.

Phoebe Shardlow



Not so cheap and tacky souvenirs from the Gucci Museum in Piazza della Signoria where our apartment was in Florence



The Gucci Museum in Florence



A jacket from Alessandro Michele's latest Gucci collection on sale in their Florence store

In memory of Alan Lambert



Alan Lambert was a familiar figure around Watermead village, and could often be seen walking the family dog Ollie around the lake. Sadly, on 22nd May, he was involved in a fatal road traffic accident when riding his motorbike on the outskirts of Hardwick village.

One of Alan's main passions was motorbikes, having grown up around them and owning his first bike at 14 years of age. His pride and joy was his Yamaha R1, which he'd recently had re-sprayed in the Kenny Roberts anniversary colours. He would often take his daughter, Jen, on the back of the R1 to bike racing events, or enjoy riding in convoy with his son Steve and his brothers.

Alan's wife, Alison, didn't like riding pillion on the R1 as she likes her home comforts. So, as Alan wanted her to share his passion, he also bought a Honda Goldwing touring motorbike, on which they would travel around the countryside, often ending up at their favourite pub, The Bell at Hardwick. The Goldwing was so comfy that Alison once fell asleep on it - a story that Alan used to love recounting over and over.

When not enjoying days out on the motorbike, Alan and Alison would love nothing more than having a meal at their local, The Watermead Inn. They especially loved the live music events held there, their favourite being local band The Dung Beatles.

Another of Alan's passions was amateur dramatics and he remained an active member of the Prestwood Theatre Group even after moving away from the area to Watermead in November 2012. He acted in a variety of plays, the last being a week before the tragedy, and which had everyone crying with his brothers.

laughter at his perfect comedy timing. The group has also performed a play written by Alan and they are planning to produce it again in his memory. They have invited Steve and Jen to take part.

These passions were nothing compared to his devotion to his family. When Steve and Jen were little, every Sunday meant going for a walk, come rain or shine. As they got older his fatherly attention turned to, amongst other things, teaching them how to ride a bike, how to swim, maintain their cars and supporting them through university. He was immensely proud when they both achieved their degrees. Alan also liked to try to educate Steve and Jen musically - some of his favourite bands being Fleetwood Mac, Pink Floyd, Yes and Status Quo. He also loved debating politics with them. Now, more than ever, they truly appreciate the time he spent with them and the precious memories they now have of him.

Alan and Alison shared a love of dogs and have owned various

breeds over the years including Cocker Spaniels, German Shepherds and a Rottweiler. Before Ollie (their current Cocker Spaniel) came into their lives just over a year ago, they did a spell of dog-sitting and could often be seen walking around the lake with a different dog each week.

The family hope to have a memorial bench installed under the trees in the Balloon Meadow as, when walking around the lake, Alan would often comment "I really love it here". Mourners at Alan's funeral were requested to make a donation to this memorial, rather than send flowers, and £1,000 has already been donated. The Parish Council has granted permission for the bench, but exact details of design and location have yet to be finalised.

So, the next time you are walking around the lake, please take a moment to think of Alan - my husband, our Dad, and remember he "really loved it here".

Alison, Steve and Jen Lambert



RJW Carpet & Upholstery
Cleaning Ltd



**A Small Family Run
Business Cleaning
Carpets And
Upholstery At A
Reasonable Price**

**For A Cleaner Home,
Just Pick Up The
Phone**

**For A Free No Obligation Quote Call
Tony On**

**01296 482536 07850130536
rjwcarpets@yahoo.co.uk**

**WATERMEAD BASED
PLUMBING
& HEATING
SPECIALISTS**



Call Gareth on:
01296 434785

www.gkplumbing.net
@GKPlumbing1



GK Plumbing & Heating...

...are your local plumbing and heating experts with over 20 years experience.



Our team are Gas Safe registered and our services include:

- Boilers installed, repaired & serviced
- Bathroom design & installation
- Central heating & hot water breakdowns
- Cylinders, immersions, tanks & tops
- Leaks & ball valves
- Drains unblocked & repaired
- Annual maintenance contracts
- 24 hours - 7 days - 365 days

£20 OFF THE COST OF YOUR
BOILER SERVICE
WITH THIS ADVERT

Boiler Service includes:

- A Gas Safety & Carbon Monoxide Test
- Gas Safety Certificate/Landlords Safety Certificate



Terms: promotion price after discount is £45 +VAT (standard price £65 +VAT). Offer only valid on production of this advert. This advert cannot be redeemed against any other service offered by GK Plumbing and Heating.

Letters to the Editor - World challenge for Niamh

Hi, I am a 16 year old student at Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School and I live in Redwing, Watermead.

In July 2017, I have the wonderful opportunity to travel to Borneo with an organisation called World Challenge. As part of this expedition we will be spending two of the four weeks aiding a local charity to improve the habitat of Orangutans who are affected by the targeted deforestation surrounding that area in order to meet high demands of raw materials.

For the remaining two weeks, I will be fortunate enough to travel through the rain forest and climb Mount Kinabalu. This will be incredibly strenuous and hugely rewarding. During this experience I will be accompanied by other fellow students and we will be engaging with natives and embracing their culture.

As extraordinary as this experience is, I have to raise £4,000 to fund it. So far I have been raising money by doing various jobs including babysitting. However, there is still a long way to go. I would be very grateful if you would call on me if you need any jobs done such as babysitting, dog walking, car washing. Furthermore, if anyone would like to support me to achieve my goal, here is a link to my just giving page - www.crowdfunding.justgiving.com/niamhmerrison

If you require my services, my email address is niamhmerrison@gmail.com and my mobile is 07715 654159.

I thank my local community in advance for any support you can offer me to achieve my target.

Many thanks,

Niamh Merrison

World Challenge is the leading provider of life-changing school expeditions. Over 28 years of organising student trips abroad gives them the global reach, vision and resources to create bespoke educational programmes, tailored to the team's objectives. They provide 24 hour operational support to teams and their expertise and high standards are reflected in their prestigious accreditations.

World Challenge expeditions are designed to develop important life skills helping students to:

- Hone teamwork and leadership skills
- Gain confidence and self-esteem
- Become more globally aware
- Enhance employment prospects

Our school expeditions are arranged around five distinct phases:

- Planning and preparation is student-led, from fundraising to fitness training and itinerary planning.
- During the acclimatisation phase, challengers get to grips with their new environment with an introductory trek or practical task.
- They must draw on their physical resources and work as a team during the trekking phase, reaching remote and beautiful locations.
- The rewarding project phase involves community or conservation work with World Challenge partners on the ground.
- The rest and relaxation phase is a chance to unwind and enjoy cultural and adventure activities from visiting ancient temples to zip lining and white water rafting.

See more at www.world-challenge.co.uk

Don't go with a bang this bonfire night

Thames Valley Police and the Fire and Rescue Services across Thames Valley are urging people to take extra care at Bonfire Night parties.

Having your own fireworks party or celebrating with family and friends can be great fun. But by far the safest way to enjoy these seasonal activities is to attend a professionally organised event.

We want everyone to enjoy a safe and trouble-free Bonfire Night and are working closely with Trading Standards to ensure fireworks aren't sold to those who are under 18.

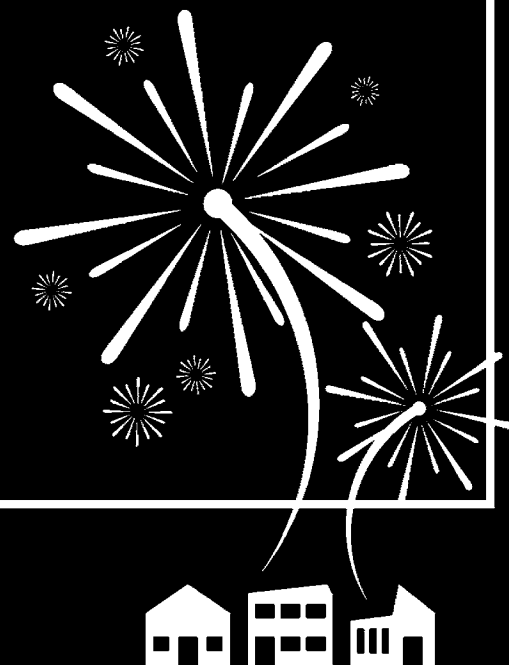
Please think of others and remember that fireworks shouldn't be let off between 11pm and 7am.

If you are holding your own fireworks party please don't put your family or friends at risk, follow the safety advice below for a safe home display.

Always remember to follow the fireworks code

- Only buy fireworks marked BS 7114
- Don't drink alcohol if setting off fireworks
- Keep fireworks in a closed box
- Follow the instructions on each firework
- Light them at arm's length, using a taper
- Stand well back
- Never go near a firework that has been lit
- Even if it hasn't gone off, it could still explode
- Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them
- Always supervise children around fireworks
- Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves
- Never give sparklers to a child under five
- Keep pets indoors

More information can be found on the Thames Valley Police website www.thamesvalley.police.uk



Halloween

Have fun during Halloween and Bonfire Night, but don't be influenced by others into doing things that may seem minor at the time – your actions could have a massive impact on not only people inside their house, but on your life as well.

Police will be carrying out patrols in the evenings to make sure that people who are trick-or-treating are doing so in a friendly manner and not causing a nuisance.

For some people, this time of the year can be a bother as your evenings are interrupted with people knocking on your doors for treats. Most of these children or teenagers are just getting involved in the Halloween celebrations and will be friendly. If you feel unsafe:

- Don't open your door if you're unsure who is there. Use your spyhole, look out of a window, and use your door chain if you do decide to open your door.
- Have a contact number of a close relative or good neighbour to hand by your telephone, just in case you need to phone them.
- If you are part of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, let your coordinator know that you will be on your own at Halloween. If you are a coordinator, please identify people in your scheme that may be vulnerable and offer them reassurance.

Thames Valley Police will not tolerate any anti-social behaviour at any time of the year.

To report anti-social behaviour, call 101, the 24-hour Thames Valley Police non-emergency number. If you feel threatened, if it's an emergency, or if a crime is in progress, call 999.

Further information at www.thamesvalley.police.uk/seasonal-events-halloween.



**NO TRICK
OR TREAT**

**please enjoy your
night without
disturbing ours**



Please cut this out and stick in your window/door

Could Be Halloween

*Yowling, prowling, growling cat
Why do you switch your tail like that?
Why do your eyes flash gold and green?
Could be--must be--Halloween!*

*Slinky, inky, blinky cat,
Why do you arch your back like that?
What scary creatures have you seen?
Could be--must be--Halloween!*

Song of the Witches

*(William Shakespeare - from Macbeth)
Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn and caldron bubble.
Fillet of a fenny snake,
In the caldron boil and bake;
Eye of newt and toe of frog,
Wool of bat and tongue of dog,
Adder's fork and bling-worms sting,*

*Lizard's leg and howlet's wing,
For a charm of powerful trouble,
Like a hell-broth boil and bubble.
Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn and caldron bubble.
Cool it with a baboon's blood,
Then the charm is firm and good.*

Boo!

*B is for broomsticks witches to fly,
O is outrageous spooks that go by,
O is for orange pumpkins so bright,
These are the signs of a Halloween night.*

Trick or Treat

*Trick or Treat! Trick or Treat!
Give me something good to eat.
Give me candy. Give me cake.
Give me something good to take.*

Halloween Wishes

*Since this is the time for goblins and bats,
Halloween spirits, ghosts and cats,
Weird-happenings and witches brew,
These are the things I wish for you.*

*May the only spirit you chance to meet,
Be the spirit of love and warm friends sweet.
May the tricks that you are asked to do,
Be a trick to help you gain a friend or two.*

*So, by tomorrow, pick three friends sweet,
And give them all a Halloween treat.
You only have one day, so hurry!
Leave a treat on the doorstep, then flee
in a hurry!*

McCOY'S

Traditional Fish & Chips

We cater for large orders and parties



Opening Times:
Monday to Saturday
12am - 2pm & 4.30pm - 10pm

Jubilee Square, Buckingham Park
Aylesbury HP19 9DZ

01296 427648

Painting & Decorating

Andy Dale



Interior Paintwork
Exterior Paintwork
Wallpapering
Lining Walls
Coving

07980 684919

andydale177@btinternet.com

Watermead Resident for 15 years

Watermead & Weedon WI

Ladies - what do you do on the first Thursday of each month? We, the members of Watermead and Weedon WI, meet in Watermead Village Hall (situated in the Piazza) at 7.30pm for our monthly gathering.

So far this year we have learnt about the local Scanner appeal, had an interesting session learning to use hand bells, tested our brains with a Quiz Night, imagined our perfect summer garden with advice from Preston Bissett Nursery and found ourselves choosing our Desert Island discs.

In support of the Associated Countrywomen of the World we collected old bras and loose change! This summer we are entering the Sutton Seeds Hanging Brasket competition – see photo.

There was no evening meeting in August; instead we all enjoyed our summer lunch which was held at the Black Boy in Oving evidenced by accompanying pictures.

On 1st September we have a talk and demonstration by Jilly Pewsey on spinning and dyeing wool.

We are looking forward to an evening with Frances Benton who will talk about pearls in October, our Annual meeting in November and a festive party in December.

Sound interesting? Why not join us?

Watermead & Weedon WI hold regular meetings on the first Thursday in the month, from 7.30 to 9.30pm, in the Village Hall, The Piazza, Watermead. We welcome any ladies who are new to Watermead, Weedon and Buckingham Park or any women who would just like to see what we are all about. For further information please contact Julia Morgan – details under “What’s On” on page 08.



the
easy living
.company
live your life your way



EXPERTS IN MOBILITY AND HEALTHCARE SUPPLIES

Come and visit our new showroom at Watermead, Aylesbury or, if you can't get to us - give us a call and we'll visit you!

Specialists in 'tilt in space' riser recline chairs
Lightweight wheelchairs
Wide range of mobility scooters
Extensive range of three/four wheeled walkers
Bath and shower solutions
Aids for daily living
Profiling beds and stairlifts
Discreet professional advice on continence management
Advice and guidance on all aspects of mobility and personal care
Equipment Hire
Excellent after sales service and customer care



35 Lakeside, Watermead, Aylesbury, HP19 0FX | Tel: 01296 435607 | Web: www.theeasyliving.company

Ian Whittome

Grasscutting Service

Mowing
Strimming
Scarifying
Lawn treatments
Regular or
one-off cuts

(01296) 68 23 61

07885 031 431



fieldstead
insolvency

Debt problems?
Cash flow problems?
Creditors demanding payment?
Demands from HM Revenue & Customs?
Pressure on the overdraft?

Call us on 01296 433303
for a FREE initial consultation

www.fieldstead.co.uk

LEADING INDEPENDENT
INSOLVENCY PRACTICE

The View from Westminster

We were on the M1 back from watching our son graduate from Leicester University when I noticed that the mobile was buzzing. I picked up the call (Helen was driving) to find my Private Secretary at the Foreign Office on the line. "Minister, Number 10 is trying to get hold of you urgently". So I ended up speaking to the Prime Minister not in Downing Street but from the car park of Northampton Services. Not the most glamorous of surroundings, but an invitation to join the Cabinet nonetheless.

I had thoroughly enjoyed my time at the FCO, but six years plus was a long stint. Unusually for any Minister, I had been longer in post than any of the Ambassadors or other officials who reported to me.

The new role is 'Leader of the House of Commons' and 'Lord President of the Council'.

My job as Leader is, in essence, to manage the Government's legislative programme. So I am now looking at the various Bills promised for the current session of Parliament but not yet introduced, to judge how ready they are to be brought forward, how much time they will need for debate and where the controversial areas lie. I work closely with the Leader of the House of Lords and the Chief Whips of the two Houses.

I also speak on behalf of the Government on all House of Commons matters. For example in my first week in the job I gave evidence to the Scottish Affairs Select Committee on our new arrangements to provide for English MPs to have a veto on legislation that applies only to England and which in Scotland is devolved to Holyrood.

The Leader is both a Cabinet Minister and Parliament's voice within government. I'm learning a lot more about the security of Parliament, where we are reviewing existing arrangements following the murder of Jo Cox, and about the state of the Palace

of Westminster itself. A few days ago, I toured the cellars and saw first-hand the problems that we face with electricity, water, sewage and cable systems that have been improvised bit by bit during the last 130 years. In the autumn, we should see a comprehensive report into the renewal and restoration of the Palace. This will make recommendations for the Government and Parliament to consider.

The leader also makes an oral statement to the Commons every Thursday. I announce the forthcoming business and then answer questions. While the questions are supposed to relate to the business of the House, in practice they can cover any subject under the sun, from international crises to constituency cases, provided that the MP frames his or her question in terms of asking for a debate or statement on the matter.

The office of Lord President of the Council dates back to 1530. The Privy Council meets monthly to deal with official business. The Lord President has the responsibility for presenting the business, item by item, to Her Majesty The Queen for her approval.

Although I will be moving to a different ministerial role, I would like to reassure constituents that this will not affect my role as MP for Aylesbury. I will continue to meet and support individual constituents and local organisations. If I can be of any assistance, you can get in touch using the contact details at davidlidington.com.

*Rt Hon David Lidington, MP
for Aylesbury, Leader of the House of
Commons and Lord President of the
Council.*



Get onboard



waterrider 6

• **Commute** • **Shop** • **Relax**

- Frequent buses running up to every 15 minutes between Watermead and Aylesbury town centre
- FREE travel to and from Aylesbury Rail Station, for Chiltern Railways monthly or longer pass holders.
- Family day ticket just £3.50*
(* 2 adults and 2 children or 1 adult and 3 children)

Save money with our great value multi-journey tickets:

- 1 week tickets **Adult £9 Child £5**
- 4 week tickets **Adult £30 Child £17**



www.rainbowroutes.co.uk



Avanti

32 LAKESIDE, AYLESBURY, HP19 0FX | 01296 488138 | www.avanti-salon.co.uk

ASK ABOUT OUR NEW PRODUCT!

50% OFF*
YOUR
CUT & BLOWDRY
when booked with
ANY FULL COLOUR SERVICE



STRONGER
SHINIER
SOFTER
HAIR

MON: APPOINTMENTS ONLY TUE: 9:30AM - 6PM WED: 10AM - 8PM THU: 9:30AM - 9PM
FRI: 9:30AM - 7PM SAT: 8:30AM - 4PM SUN: APPOINTMENTS ONLY

*Offer can not be used in conjunction with any other offers

L'ORÉAL
PROFESSIONNEL

KÉRASTASE
PARIS

ghd
and that's why ghd

PAUL MITCHELL



Connells

We have
people waiting
to buy and rent
on **Watermead
& Buckingham
Park** so call
us today!



LETTINGS

T: 01296 337 739

Andrew our Lettings Manager says "The rental market is as fast paced as ever! We have renters ready and waiting to move, so call Sara or myself as we are currently letting properties faster than we can take them on and have a large number of applicants looking for their next home."

SALES

T: 01296 395 111

"House prices are on the rise!" advises Karen our Branch Partner, so to achieve the best price for your property in a timescale to suit you call Cathy, Dan, Oliver, Chris or myself or speak to Khurram our Mortgage Consultant to see how we can could get you moving."

Connells Aylesbury: 2 Temple Street, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. HP20 2RH

If you have instructed another agent, the terms and conditions of those instructions must be considered to avoid a possible liability to pay two commissions in addition to any withdrawal fees or disbursements.

Connells Residential is an Appointed Representative of Connells Limited who is authorised and regulated by The Financial Conduct Authority for advising on mortgages and non-investment insurance contracts (most Buy to Let mortgages are not regulated). Registered in England No: 1489613. Registered Office: Cumbria House, 16-20 Hockliffe Street, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, LU7 1GN