

VillageView

WATERMEAD'S *FREE* QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

Spring 2016 Vol.23 Issue 1

Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 19th May 2016

Village Hall, 7pm

May Day Fair

Sunday 1st May 2016

Balloon Meadow, 11am to 6pm

see inside for more

Plant Sale

Saturday 14th May 2016

Village Hall, 10am to 1pm



News from Watermead Parish Council & more!
watermead-pc.gov.uk / [@watermead pc](https://twitter.com/watermead_pc)



Sunday
1st May
2016

MAY DAY FAIR

Balloon Meadow, 11am to 6pm

Plans are well under way at the Watermead Inn to present a spectacular day-long event to celebrate the end of Winter and the coming of Summer. Kelvin is aiming for a traditional themed Fair with the focus on bringing the Watermead community together. There will be a myriad of things to do and watch, some will require a small payment but many will be free. There will be no admission charge. There will be competitions, demonstrations and opportunities for local businesses or hobbyists to ply their wares at a 'Market Square'. There will be a **bar and barbecue**.

The Fair will be opened by the winner of the May Queen Competition. The competition is open to any female who lives or works in Watermead. There is no entry fee, no photograph required and no age limit. You can nominate yourself, or someone else, by emailing a letter explaining why you should be the May Queen to watermeadmayfair@yahoo.com or by post to the Watermead Inn, marking the envelope 'May Queen Competition'. Deadline for applications is Friday 15th April.

If you win you will need to wear something white for your ride around the Balloon Meadow at the start of the Fair. The Lily Pot flower shop will provide a garland to wear in your hair.

The day will include **traditional entertainments**, such as dancing round the Maypole by pupils from Bierton School and dancers from the Towersey Morris Men, tinkling their bells and waving their handkerchiefs in time-honoured fashion.

More up-to-date **dancing entertainment** will be demonstrations of tango and

salsa on the bandstand outside the Watermead Inn.

There will be '**field games**' such as welly-wanging and horseshoe quoits. Less traditionally there will be a **fun fair and bouncy castle** on site.

For a small fee you can have a go at the **giant Dunk Tank** – see if you can drop the seated volunteer into the vast tub of water! If you want to volunteer to sit in the chair, contact the Watermead Inn (details below).

Teams of eight are needed for the **Tug of War Tournament**. There will be medals for the winning and runner-up teams. You will need to pre-register at the Watermead Inn (details below) and there will be a small entrance fee of £15. Why not see if you can get together a team from your place of work or your mates at the gym.

Archery Demonstration. You can just watch, or for a small fee, you can get some instruction and have a go. Who knows, you may find this an exciting new hobby.

Academy of Arms will be giving a demonstration of their expertise in sword fighting. They have some special 'safe' swords so you can take part as well.

Have you ever seen the **Model Boat Club members** out on the lake with their remote controlled boats? They will be there on the day demonstrating their skills and will show you how the boats work so you can try your hand at controlling them.

The Great Watermead Bake Off. Can you bake the best 'May Fair Show Stopper' cake? Bring your cakes along before the start of the Fair for judging. There will be a trophy for the winner and all the cakes will be sliced up and sold in the refreshment tent with the proceeds going to charity. Please email (see below) to register to take part. Guest judges are still to be confirmed.

In the '**Market Square**' there will be

pitches available for local businesses (not just Watermead's) or hobbyists to set up a stall to offer their goods for sale or promote their services. You will need to provide your own table/marquee. The fee for the pitch will be 10% of the day's takings, rather than a set fee, so no-one will make a loss. To reserve a space contact The Watermead Inn (details below).

At the end of the Fair all prizes and trophies will be presented by the Town Mayor, Cllr Allison Harrison.

Volunteers needed.

This is a substantial undertaking for Kelvin and his crew and will involve much organisation and commitment in the next couple of months. If you can offer any time to assist the organisers on the day – anything from an hour or two to the whole day – then they will be grateful to hear from you. Please contact the Watermead Inn. (Details below).

Now for the boring stuff

- There will be toilet facilities on site.
- You are welcome to bring your dogs, but they MUST be kept on a lead.

If the Watermead Inn make any profit from this day 10% of it will go to the local charity Smiles, who provide adults with learning difficulties the opportunity to play team games and sports to develop skills needed in everyday life.

watermeadmayfair@yahoo.com
Post: Watermead, HP19 0FX

Carolynne McKee

Parish Chairman's News

Watermead enjoyed its usual Christmas festivities in extraordinarily warm weather. The Craft Fair was a great success. The Carol Concert had record attendance with Father Christmas being kept busy for a long time handing out his presents; the Reverend Mark Ackford told the Christmas story in his unique way, involving much chocolate.

Since the new year it seems to have rained and been very windy almost without a break. Gardens, fences and trees are not looking great, but we hope that shortly spring will be with us to transform our environment back to its best. For now, it's very muddy and walking round the lakes is hard work with wellies and walking boots required most days.

Recycling Christmas trees

Many people left their Christmas trees in Watermead for us to use for environmental projects. The first of these is to put them in the copse opposite the Piazza. As they lose their remaining needles they provide a natural habitat for nesting birds during spring. We hope to see swans nesting in the copse again this year.

Maintenance

We will continue to manage and look after the verges and grass cutting on behalf

of Bucks County Council this year in accordance with our Devolved Services Agreement. We have had positive feedback on the appearance of Watermead since we took over last year although Bucks County Council's lack of funds and resources has meant they have not carried out all the work they usually do including weed killing (roads and gutters), repairing road signs and pavements. We continue to make strong representations to them to carry out the work for which they are responsible, particularly road repairs. In the meantime volunteers continue to clean our road signs, collect litter daily and do everything they can for our own environment.

Planning

The Parish Council is still occupied with planning matters. Most particularly, we continue to fight the outline planning permission for a crematorium on the Riviera Restaurant site. Our oral application for a Judicial Review was successful and the hearing date is set for Tuesday 1st March in the High Court. We hope that justice will prevail and that our community will not be blighted by this absolutely appalling plan. In accordance with what the community tell us, the PC remains, absolutely determined to do everything in its power to stop this plan. The message is

clear. We do not want a crematorium in our village in full sight of our homes and leisure land. This is a terrible planning decision. We are sorry that Aylesbury Vale District Council has let us down in this way.

We await the decision of the Inspector in respect of the proposal to build on Land to the East of Watermead. His report is expected in early spring. We hope for the best. As soon as the Inspector's report is available we will put a link on to the Parish Council's website (www.watermead-pc.gov.uk). Needless to say, if the plan to create a leisure park with golf course, hotels, swimming pool, etc was to be developed into a planning application we would similarly consult parishioners and represent their views to the responsible Authorities. We would work with neighbouring parishes, particularly Bierton Parish Council, should this occur as we did before.

Budgets

Our Parish Precept (council tax payable to Watermead Parish Council) has been set this year at £71,000 a 3.57% increase on last year's Precept. The cost for an average Band D property is £73.61 per year, or £1.42 per week. We have made every effort to preserve and improve the services we offer even though we received a reduced income from Bucks County Council for



Chairman:
Cllr Sue Severn
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sue.severn@watermead-pc.gov.uk

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(Call weekdays 10am to 2pm)
noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk



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

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...page 3

devolved services and increased costs. The Village Hall and Village View continue to make positive financial contributions which helps us to keep the cost as low as possible while continuing to hold reserves. We also thank our volunteers who carry out litter picking which would otherwise cost a lot of money. The editorial team of the Village View must also be congratulated on their hard work, the result of which is enjoyed by many, including visitors to our website where it can be read online, representing excellent value to advertisers.

Summer events

It has been decided not to hold a community event this year. We do not want to spend funds on an event this year, but during the summer there will be a May Fair sponsored by the Watermead Inn. This new event in Watermead will provide an opportunity for Watermead and local residents to come together in a family-friendly environment, for a participative community event, with a wide variety of fun, games, and activities on the Balloon Meadow. We wish The Watermead Inn well for this event. For further information please see editorial on page 2.

Dogs

As some of you will be aware the Parish Council resolved to create a Dog Control Order which would apply to dogs being walked around the small lake. This would mean that dogs must be kept on leads around this lake. Legislative process changed recently and we have had to start again. We will report on this as soon as progress is made. In the meantime we hope that dog owners will respect the environment and pick up the poo! There are a number of dog walkers who do not pick up after their dogs meaning that children and other dogs are vulnerable to serious infection and the sheer unpleasantness of this thoughtless and selfish behaviour. Taking bags out with you and putting them in one of our many dog bins is not difficult; it's not much to ask, and makes a real difference to everyone, not least the residents of Guillemot Court who endure people allowing their dogs to roam over their gardens.

Cllr Sue Severn, Chairman

Annual Parish Meeting

There can be, and often is, confusion between the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council. All Parish and Town Councils throughout England are required by law to hold an Annual Parish Meeting, which must take place between 1st March and the 1st June (inclusive). Meetings should not commence before 6.00pm. The Annual Parish Meeting of Watermead Parish Council will take place in the Village Hall (in the Piazza) at 7pm on Thursday 19th May 2016.

This is the meeting where the parish council invites public and press to hear reports from the Chairman, District and County Councillors, or any community or charity group that the council has given significant funding to. There is also an opportunity for the public and press to express their opinions on what the council is doing. No votes taken at this meeting are binding on the parish council although they should consider them at the next meeting of the parish council. Only members on the electoral roll can vote on an issue. Other members of the public can attend and express their opinions but not vote.

It is recommended that in an election year the Annual Parish Meeting should be held after the elections.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

This is the meeting of the Parish Council where they elect the Chairman/Vice Chairman, make other annual appointments and review their insurance, risk management, policies, etc.

Both meetings are open to the press and public but what is said and done at each meeting is fundamentally different. The Annual Parish Council Meeting is formal whilst the other should be relatively informal.

Christmas Lights Competition 2015 - Judgment Day

Christmas Lights Competition Judgment Day arrived on 1st January; the weather was cold and damp.

I feared the organisers would be reluctant to venture forth for the judging, not least because they might wonder if some of the contestants may already have stored away their displays until next year.

However, as I made my way to the meeting point I passed houses still festively illuminated and that gave me hope that post-Christmas gloom had not stolen away all the magic of the winter celebrations. I arrived at the Piazza to find other members of the Watermead Parish Council sheltering from the rain in their cars. We all compressed into one car – half the Parish Council, plus cameras, plus a tripod, which Cllr Toler had quite wisely brought along.

We drove along every single road in the village, stopping at every house with festive illuminations to assess the effect and praise the effort involved. We speculated on the effect on the owners' electricity bills. Those run on batteries were just as beautiful, but not as bright. (I kept a low profile when the car passed our house; our battery operated lights simply did not meet the standard required). Perhaps next year we could introduce an award for the least expensive, most inventive method of decorating your house for Christmas.

We took many photographs, but the wind

and rain made that an almost impossible task. The results are not as good as we would have liked.

Next it was time for our deliberations. We decided that just a decorated tree didn't fit the bill for best decorated house, so we created a new category of 'best tree'. (See photograph). The most ardent debate was over Santa and animal themed displays. One of our number felt that a Santa was essential. I disagreed and fought my corner, despite risking a conflict of large proportions. We drew up a short-list of potential winners:

**3 Mallard Close, 3 Watermeadow,
3 Raven Close, 3 Sparrow Close.**

Extra mention should be made of the first two properties, as they put on a light show every year - congratulations for effort and consistency.

Yes, I know, all properties on the short list are 'number threes'. A strange coincidence that we all thought was a bit spooky.

After two hours we voted unanimously that 3 Mallard Close was the outright winner, not only for decorating their own house, but the entire close. Congratulations to the winners, Frank and Jeanette Glynn. We plan to invite them to be guest judges next year. So you'd better get preparing now!

Cllr Irina Schwab



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Delicious recipes for Easter

Mini smoked haddock Scotch eggs with asparagus dippers & watercress mayonnaise

Ingredients:

16 asparagus spear, trimmed

For the scotch eggs

400g potato, cut into chunks
400g skinned smoked haddock, cut into large chunks
16 quail eggs
25g butter
2 tbsp milk
50g plain flour
2 eggs, beaten
100g breadcrumb
sunflower oil, for frying

For the watercress mayonnaise

100g bag watercress
1 tbsp lemon juice
150ml mayonnaise

Method:

1. For the Scotch eggs, tip the potatoes into a large pan and cover with water. Bring to the boil, then tip in the haddock and then the quail's eggs. Cook the eggs for exactly 2 minutes, then remove them and cool under cold running water. Continue cooking the haddock until it flakes, and the potatoes until soft. Drain the fish and potatoes well, then mash with the butter and milk until you have a thick mash. Set aside to cool.
2. Meanwhile, peel the eggs. When everything is cool, pat out spoonfuls of mash mix and mould them around the eggs so that they are completely encased. Roll the covered eggs in the flour, then the beaten egg and finally the breadcrumbs. Chill for 1 hour to firm up, or overnight if you're assembling ahead.

3. For the watercress mayonnaise, blitz the watercress with the lemon juice until finely chopped, then stir through the mayonnaise. Blanch the asparagus for 4 mins, then drain under cold water. This can all be done a day in advance.
4. To serve, heat a good layer of sunflower oil in a frying pan. Fry the eggs until crisp on all sides, then drain on kitchen paper. Serve with the asparagus and watercress mayonnaise for dipping everything into.

Garlic and herb roast lamb on boulangère potatoes

Cooking succulent lamb and herby potatoes together means the potatoes absorb all the lovely juices

Ingredients:

2kg leg of lamb
4 garlic cloves, sliced
few rosemary sprigs
few thyme sprigs
2kg large potato, such as King Edwards
2 onions, thinly sliced
600ml chicken stock
50g butter

Method:

1. Heat oven to 190C/170C fan/gas 5. Cut small pockets into the skin and flesh of the lamb by piercing it with the point of a sharp knife. Stuff each pocket with a slice of garlic and a few leaves of rosemary, or scatter with thyme. Put in a roasting tin, season well with salt and freshly ground black pepper, then cover with foil.
2. Peel and thinly slice the potatoes, rinse under the cold tap and pile into a large ovenproof dish or roasting tin. Toss with the onions, remaining slices of garlic and a good scattering of herbs.
3. Heat the stock and butter together, then pour over the potatoes. Cover the dish with

foil and bake in the oven with the lamb for 1 hr. Uncover, put the lamb on top of the potatoes and roast uncovered for 45 mins more. Allow the lamb to rest before carving, for about 15 mins. Leave the potatoes in the oven (covered, if starting to brown too much) until ready to serve.

Easter egg rocky road

Ingredients:

225g dark chocolate, broken into pieces
100g unsalted butter, cubed
2 tbsp cocoa powder
2 tbsp golden syrup
100g rich tea biscuits
50g mini marshmallows
50g dried cranberries
200g chocolate mini eggs

Method:

1. Line a 20 x 30cm tray bake tin with 2 sheets of cling film (in a criss-cross pattern). Put the chocolate and butter in a large bowl set over a saucepan of gently simmering water, and melt until smooth and glossy.
2. Remove from the heat and add the cocoa powder and golden syrup. Mix together until fully combined and leave to cool at room temperature for about 15 minutes.
3. Put the biscuits in a freezer bag and use a rolling pin to bash them, leaving some pieces chunkier than others. Stir into the cooled chocolate with the marshmallows, cranberries and 150g of the mini eggs.
4. Pour the mix into the tin and press down with the back of a spoon until even. Scatter over the remaining mini eggs, pressing them in a little, and leave to set in the fridge for 1 hour.
5. Remove from the tin and cut into bars to serve. Will keep for up to 1 week in an airtight container.

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What's on IN AND AROUND WATERMEAD

March

3rd	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall 7.30pm
17th	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall 7.30pm
25th	Good Friday	
27th	Easter Sunday	
28th	Easter Monday	

April

7th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall 7.30pm
21st	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall 7.30pm

May

1st	May Day Fair	Balloon Meadow 11am to 6pm
2nd	Bank Holiday	
5th	Police Commissioner Elections	Village Hall 7am - 10pm
12th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall 7.30pm
14th	Plant Sale	Village Hall 10am to 1pm
19th	Watermead Annual Parish Meeting	Village Hall 7.00pm
19th	Watermead Annual Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall 7.30pm
30th	Bank Holiday	

June

2nd	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall 7.30pm
16th	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall 7.30pm

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

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Auril Nurse 580495

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Janet Castielli 433956
www.luv2dance.co.uk

YOGA

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7.15 - 8.15pm
Gale Smith 747900

Tea Break Quiz



1. Which royal invented dipped headlights?
2. Which country invaded Cyprus in 1974?
3. Which film star began life in Bristol as Archibald Leech?
4. What alloy do copper and tin form?
5. What animal has the longest lifespan in captivity?
6. Who told his hotel staff 'Don't mention the war'?
7. What was the name of Charles Darwin's survey ship?
8. Who played the lead role in the film Room at the Top?
9. What type of creature is a merganser?
10. Which two cities are connected by the M40?
11. What colour is the Central Line on the London Underground map?
12. Which race of fairy people live under the kitchen floor of a house in Bedfordshire?
13. What does Parkinson's Law state?
14. Which Cambridgeshire Hospital is renowned for heart surgery?
15. What term is used in American English to describe a dinner jacket?
16. Where in the body will you find the coccyx?
17. What was the name of the wrestler known as Big Daddy?
18. What did Percy Shaw invent?
19. What type of body tissue connects muscle to bone?
20. Which maximum security prison can be found on the Isle of Wight?

Answers on page 11

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

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He is not here: He is risen!

Sylvia Caldwell and her husband were returning to the USA on the RMS Titanic; as they boarded the ship one of the deck hands said to her: 'Yes, lady, God himself could not sink this ship'. They set sail - 2,224 passengers and crew including 17 millionaires! 375 miles south of Newfoundland the Titanic struck an iceberg and over 1,500 passengers and crew were lost and today over 100 years later we are still fascinated by the story.

During March this year we move ever closer to Easter and as you read the gospel record of the events that overtook Jesus during Holy Week it too reads like a journey that has struck an iceberg and come to a shattering halt. The events of Good Friday: Jesus betrayed and arrested, denied by Peter, deserted by his friends, condemned by Pilate, abandoned, crucified and left to die. That journey of hope had ended in tragedy and despair. It's with that sense of overwhelming loss that a group of women made their way to the tomb on the first Easter day morning in the hope of performing the burial rites they'd been unable to complete on the Friday, a few

loose ends to tie up, a journey's end; the Jesus story as lost as the Titanic at the bottom of the ocean.

What they discovered changed everything. An empty tomb, a mysterious messenger and seven brilliant words - 'He is not here: He has risen!' Events alone of course are not enough - they need an explanation. The tomb was empty. But why? Empty because Jesus wasn't there and he wasn't there because he was no longer dead but alive! Hope and life - that's Easter.

One stoker from Belfast had spent the night before Titanic sailed in a bar in Southampton and he missed the sailing. Another looking for work had taken his place. The Belfast stoker was listed as lost, so imagine his wife's surprise when he turned up alive and well! His catch phrase, his story, for the rest of his life was simple - 'someone else died for me'.

'Someone else died for me' and that someone is Jesus who died, was buried and rose to life. The tomb was empty. "He is not here, He is risen!"

Having heard what the mysterious messenger said, the women turned their backs on the grave and ran with great joy

to tell the disciples what they had seen. The important word here is "Joy". Christ died, but he wouldn't stay dead. The grave could not hold him and because of what he did, the grave cannot hold us either.

The promise which Jesus made before he died was that he would rise again on the third day. It was a promise that the first disciples heard but did not fully comprehend. It was only their visit to the empty tomb that had shown them the full extent of what Jesus had meant. When the stone was rolled away on that first Easter morning, it wasn't to let Jesus out; it was to let us in, to show us that death is not an end, but a new beginning. "He is not here, He is risen!"

Please join us to celebrate this good news at one of our Easter Day services on Sunday 27th March details of which can be found on our parish website www.biertonhulcottchurches.org and may Jesus who rose again from the dead, bless you this Easter.

*Revd Mark Ackford,
Vicar of St James the Great Berton*

A brief history of the Civil List and Crown Estates

Oliver Cromwell's period of running the country was not particularly successful. Although he had the army on his side he wasn't popular with the general public. When he died and his son took over, things went from bad to worse. The country was divided and civil war loomed again.

And so it was that Charles II, son of Charles I who had been executed by Oliver Cromwell's followers, was given the opportunity to return to England from exile and take up the role of Monarch.

Negotiations between Charles's advisers and parliament developed ways for the relationship between Monarch and Parliament to function differently to how it had been previously. Their agreements were cemented in many Acts and Declarations and Charles II was welcomed back to England with great jubilation from the people of England.

As well as compensating royalists who had lost land and property to Oliver Cromwell's followers, and the disbanding of Oliver Cromwell's New Model Army, a new financial arrangement for the upkeep of the Monarchy was put in place.

Charles agreed to the abolition of feudal duties (an extremely complex system of land use, services and taxes). In return parliament granted Charles an income to meet all official expenses. However, it proved to be inadequate and continued to be so for his successor, James II.

James II's reign was further complicated by the fact that he was a Roman Catholic and he was regularly seen to be favouring Roman Catholics, which caused much conflict with Parliament and alienated his subjects.

When, in 1688, William of Orange (husband of James' eldest daughter Mary) invaded England he was welcomed with open arms. James II fled to France where he lived in exile until his death in 1701. Parliament declared that deserting his Kingdom equated to abdication and William and Mary were offered the throne.

The Bill of Rights was drawn up to limit the sovereign's power and reaffirmed Parliament's control over taxation and legislation and many other conditions to ensure that no future Kings or Queens could abuse their power in the way that Charles II and James II had.

A financial settlement was reached which separated the cost of government from the expenses of the Monarch and made William and Mary financially dependent on the Parliament. So, although the Monarchy remained important and central to English life, power had shifted to Parliament. Eight

years later in 1697 these principles were reinforced when the Civil List Act was passed.

William and Mary had no children, so on William's death in 1702 (Mary having predeceased him), Anne, James II younger daughter by his second wife, succeeded to the throne.

Anne's reign was overshadowed by wars, political unrest and disagreement with Scotland over succession rights. Funding of the monarchy continued as before. Queen Anne died in 1714, having no surviving children. Her 18 pregnancies had ended in miscarriages, still-births or children who died in childhood.

She was succeeded by George I, the first of the Hanoverians, which was the beginning of a period of royal and political stability.

Despite George I having 50 relatives with stronger claims to the throne, they were all Roman Catholics and therefore banned under the Act of Settlement to succeed to the throne. George I spoke little English and had no understanding of English customs. He preferred spending as much time as possible in Hanover. Because of this he was dependent on his Ministers, but rarely attended Cabinet meetings, thus allowing Cabinet to make decisions without any opposition from him.

He was succeeded in 1727 by George II. His reign was threatened with take-over by 'The Young Pretender' who was defeated at the Battle of Culloden. But it was mostly positive things that occurred during his reign. The foundations of the industrial revolution were laid; overseas trade was boosted by our victories abroad, so despite his early unpopularity by the time of his death in 1760 he had gained the respect of his subjects.

His son Frederick had predeceased him, so his grandson inherited the throne. George III was the first of the Hanoverians to be born in England and have English as his first language. His accession in 1760 brought a significant change to royal finances. Since the passing of the Civil List Act in 1697 during the reign of William and Mary the Monarch had received an annual grant from Parliament for civil government costs and the expenses of the Royal Household. But the revenue from the Crown Estates, used to fund this grant, had diminished considerably due to large areas having been granted to nobles, leaving insufficient income for the Monarch to fulfil his obligations to the nation.

In 1760 it was decided that responsibility for the management of the Crown Estates would pass to the government, rather

than the Monarch, and any profits would go directly to the Treasury. In return the Monarch would receive a fixed sum annually for the expenses of the Royal Household. The situation would be reviewed at the beginning of each successive Monarch's reign.

The Civil List/Crown Estates arrangement has undergone many changes and amendments over subsequent years.

In 1782 it was reformed to ban secret pensions and parliamentary supervision of the Civil List was introduced. This was because George III was abusing his income by rewarding his friends in the government who supported his desire to re-establish the supremacy of the Monarchy with pensions, homes etc.

In 1830 at the beginning of William IV's reign the amount of the Civil List was reduced, to reflect the fact that previously the Monarch had still been contributing to some specific costs of the government, eg the secret service, and this practice ceased.

In 1952 the Civil List was expanded to include some minor Royals who performed public duties. But then in 1993 it was reduced when our present Queen agreed to meet the expenses of most of her family out of her private income. At the same time she and Prince Charles (who has never received any funding from the Civil List, covering his own and his family's expenses from income from the Duchy of Cornwall) volunteered to pay Income Tax despite officially being exempt.

In 1955 a Government Committee recommended that Crown Land (as it was known then) should be renamed Crown Estates, in order to distinguish it from government property. It also recommended that it should be managed by an independent board. These recommendations were implemented in the Crown Estates Acts of 1956 and 1961.

Over the years inflation increased the cost of running the Royal Household and tight economies were introduced in order to build up a reserve to use to offset inflationary rises. The profits from the Crown Estates had also increased dramatically. Something like £240m profit in 2011/12 from Crown Estates, with less than £8m going to the Civil List.

So, in 2011 The Sovereign Grant Act was passed which radically changes the way the Queen is paid and what she has to do with the money. In future the Civil List each year will consist of 15% of the net profit from the Crown Estates two years previously. This will significantly increase the Queen's income from the Civil List. For example, in the financial year 2013/14 she got £36.1m.

She has to do a lot more with that money than previously though. She now has to pay for all royal travel, previously paid for by the Department of Transport; maintenance of the numerous royal palaces, previously paid for by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and all royal engagements at home and abroad. Previously those expenses cost the government in the region of £30m. As before, there is complete transparency around expenditure as the Annual Financial Reports are available on the internet.

The most recent figures show a Crown Estates net profit for the financial year 2014-15 of £285,100,000, giving a Sovereign Grant of about £42,800,000 in 2016/17. Bargain!

Changes to bin collection days

On Tuesday 5th April 2016 AVDC is changing the days it collects recycling and waste from households.

This change will affect most households throughout the district. All households will be notified by AVDC directly by letter in late March, before the change takes place, backed up by a publicity campaign in the run up to this. The changes take place after the Easter bank holiday and will not directly affect properties with communal bins, eg those living in flats.

Residents can check on

whether they are affected or not by checking our website www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/ bins or download the free app from android or Apple - search AVDC bins. The new days will be posted online from Sunday 3rd April.

The change is necessary to maximise efficiencies in the waste service following the growth of around 4,000 new homes in the district, and changes to disposal arrangements for garden, food and residual waste being introduced by Bucks CC.



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Active Vale Get fit, have fun and feel fab!

The Active Vale project run by AVDC and sponsored by Sport England is gathering pace. Active Vale is particularly encouraging girls and women aged 14 – 40 to get more active, more often, by providing a variety of fun and friendly sports activities across towns and rural areas across the Vale.

Girls-only swimming is kicking off the calendar of events at the end of February, and there will also be 'Netball Now' coming to towns and villages soon.

After Easter, residents can look forward to increasing their gym confidence with friendly taster events and lunchtime sessions, more swimming sessions including 'swim-fit', and outdoor activities including Nordic Walking, beginners running, and lunchtime cycling.

We'd love your support getting the message out to local women that these activities are out there! They can check out the AVDC webpage for more information on locations and prices, and we'll be keeping Facebook and Twitter up-to-date too.

For more information please call our new Active Vale Co-ordinator Rachel Robinson on 01296 585024 or email activevale@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk.

Answers to Tea Break Quiz on page 09

1. Lord Mountbatten, 2. Turkey, 3. Cary Grant, 4. Bronze, 5. Giant tortoise, 6. Basil Fawlty, 7. The Beagle, 8. Laurence Harvey, 9. Duck, 10. London and Oxford, 11. Red, 12. The Borrowers, 13. Work expands for the time available for its completion, 14. Papworth, 15. Tuxedo, 16. Lower back, 17. Shirley Crabtree, 18. Cat's eyes (on the road) 19. Tendon, 20. Parkhurst.

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News from Netta Glover

Vale Lottery has hit the road running with over 70 organisations already signed up. Not only are they starting to feel the benefit of a little self-help but AVDC is receiving funds through ticket sales that will be passed on to deserving causes in The Vale.

Government Funding
I recently attended an interesting presentation outlining the future for AVDC. The government grant to local authorities is being cut year on year until 2020 when it will cease – but that is not the end of the story; when government grants have reached zero it will be levying a minus grant which will have to be paid out of other income. This means that councils are going to have to get income from elsewhere and to that end AVDC has been working for some time on income producing activities.

Tri-County Alliance
The first meeting of the Forum (Tri County Alliance) will be on 12th February 2016 at the Transport Systems Catapult in Milton Keynes – they will meet in public on a quarterly basis and papers will be available on their website www.englandseconomicheartland.com. For a full picture log on to the website but here are some interesting stats for you:

- Key statistics for the Strategic Transport Forum:**
- Value of economy £92.5bn – bigger than Greater Manchester and Merseyside combined: bigger than Wales and almost the size of the East Midlands
 - Population of the area is 3.45m
 - Businesses in the area 175,000, with 1,640,000 jobs

I can give a fuller briefing to anyone who is interested.

Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum this is the forum that looks after rights of way etc. Volunteers are forming a working group to take part in historical research towards achieving more joined-up public access on the rights of way network. I am pleased to report that there has been a really good response by people interested in being involved in this group but if anyone is still interested they have until 29th February to register their interest.

Burglaries
There has been an increase in house burglaries so residents are advised to double lock their doors because in some cases the thieves are just drilling out the locks and getting in. The perpetrators do not arouse suspicion because they behave as if they are on legitimate business. In a recent incident a resident who had locked herself out appealed to a neighbour who, with the use of a crowbar, got into the house faster than he could have done with the key.

Fostering
Teenager appeals for foster parents to help young people. I was touched by a recent case of a young girl who was fostered. She was so impressed by the loving care that she had received from her foster family that she stood up in front of a large audience to tell them how she had benefited from being fostered.

She admitted to being very nervous when she stood up in front of 50 to 60 people at the presentation in Aylesbury, but added: *“I just felt like if I spoke about it, people would have an understanding of what it’s like to be fostered and have a happy home.”* She went on to say that she felt part of the family and had lost any sense of being fostered.

A comment from the foster parents: *“We are both working parents. If you can be creative and flexible in your work, it is still possible to foster. It is worth inquiring if you think you are in a position to foster. You may think you won’t be considered because of the myths, but if it is something you want to do, you can get round it. It’s not about looking for the difficulties – it’s looking for the*

positives and doing something worthwhile with your life which you can enjoy at the same time.” If one person from each village or town could take on a foster child it would transform many lives. If anyone is interested in fostering please contact me on my email: nglover@buckscc.gov.uk

Support for Dementia patients
It is predicted that one in three people will develop dementia, and currently there are over 6,800 people in Buckinghamshire who have been diagnosed with dementia. The dementia-friendly community initiative is aimed at helping people with the disease or experiencing a memory impairment, and their carers, to remain independent for as long as possible and ‘live well’ with their condition. If you would like more information then please contact Gemma Workman (Dementia-Friendly Community Manager) on mob: 07827 955 872 email: dfcommunities@buckscc.gov.uk

Call for Community Champions to get Bucks active
A challenge to get Buckinghamshire active in 2016 has been thrown down by the County Council.

The council is looking for 38 volunteers across the county to champion Active Bucks, a fun programme launching in the Spring to help more people get more active more often. Statistics show that Buckinghamshire residents would benefit from being more active. Volunteers will receive personal development and training in skills such as basic marketing, activity management, and leadership. In addition volunteers will get time credits that can be exchanged for anything from a trip to the theatre to a day watching cricket at Lord’s.

The community activities that will happen from Spring will be the chance to have more fun, make new friends, and improve our health. For full details log on to: www.buckscc.gov.uk/healthy-living/active-bucks/community-champions.

Netta Glover, District Councillor

Get that old photo collection in order

Many people have old photo collections – perhaps you’re one of them. If you’re lucky the photos are all organised, labelled and dated; but if they’re a bit of a jumble and you want to get them in order here’s what you can do.

O=Organise: First, assemble all the photos together so that you can see what you’ve got to work on. Next, do an initial sort to match up photos from the same set of negatives or that were taken at the same time or place. Clues you can look out for include black and white or colour, print size, border width, paper-type markings on the back, and any words or numbers printed on the back. This is an excellent little game for the family to play!

As you identify sets of photos, try to give them a rough date; if you want to write the dates on the back, don’t press too hard or the writing will show through on the front - write lightly and on the edge. Now you’ll need some old envelopes. Assign an appropriate date range to each envelope (eg 1940-1950) and put the photo sets into them. Try to date any individual photos that haven’t been matched to any other and put those into the envelopes as well. The remainder can go into an ‘unidentified’ envelope of their own.

R= Record: Once you’ve got your photos organised, you may decide that you’ve done enough. In which case, clearly mark the envelopes with their date ranges and then store them in a safe place. However, sorting through your photos may have stimulated your curiosity, and you might want to find out more about them. If so, you should first decide whether to create an index of your collection in a notebook or on a computer to make it easy to access. You can choose to just record information about each envelope or about each individual photo. In both cases, each envelope or photo will need a unique identifier so that you can relate the information in the record to the particular physical item it refers to. If you’ve chosen to record information just about the envelopes, the identifier can be the date ranges they contain. If you’re choosing to record information about each photo, the identifier you should use is a serial number which you should apply to each set of photos (eg 1, 2, 3 etc). Each photo within a set should be given a unique sub-number (eg 3-1, 3-2, 3-3 etc). If this all sounds a bit too daunting, no problem; you can go ahead and investigate the contents of your photos without creating a separate record.

D= Discovery: Discovering what people, places, activities and dates are associated with each photo can be difficult especially if it’s an old collection. The obvious thing to do is to talk to older relatives who are of that era or who may have been told about the people in the photos by their forebears. It may be worth making a recording of some of these conversations for family

posterity (several simple sound recording apps for modern smart phones are available for download).

Although the easiest place to make a note of what you find out about each photo is on the back, it might damage the photo. So, as advised before, if you are going to write on the back, write lightly and on the edge. If you’ve decided to number each individual photo, this is the time to start doing it and to set up the Index. Starting from ‘1’ assign consecutive numbers to each separate set of photos, and make a note about what this set is all about in the Index. For each photo within the set, assign a sub-number (eg 8-1, 8-2, 8-3 etc) and write that sub-number on the back of the relevant photo. An Excel template for creating an Index is available in the ‘Organising Family Photos’ section on my website www.pwofc.com.

E=Electronic version: When your investigations are over you may want to consider making electronic versions of your photos. The best way to do this is by scanning them on to your computer. The digital files that are created can be named in the same manner as your envelopes or individual photos, with the addition of a brief description and date, eg 8-4 - Aunt Sally and George at Blackpool, August 1937. If you aren’t numbering each photo you can put the date in the file name (using the YYYY-MM-DD format) with a brief description eg 1971-9-29 - York races. You’ll need to name some folders to store the files in. If you’re numbering the photos individually, I suggest using the set numbers with a very short description eg 8 – Sid’s wedding. If you’re just putting the date in the file names then the folder names can be date ranges eg 1940-1950.

If you want to get really sophisticated, you can obtain specialist software such as Photoshop which will help you look after your digital photo files. Such software may also have the very useful ability to pick out all the instances of a particular face within your collection.

One last important point about your digital collection - don’t forget to back up your files.

R=Reveal: Now that your collection is in good shape, it’s worth considering whether you really want to keep it hidden away or whether you’d like to reveal it to your family and friends so that they can enjoy the results of your hard work. The obvious thing to do with the physical photos is to store them in a photo album. My preference is to use albums with slip-in tabs that you can write on. If you decide to create electronic versions of the photos as described above, it’s easy to print out your own slip-in tabs - see the ‘Organising family photos’ section on my website www.pwofc.com. Albums with slots for two 6x4 prints on each page fit easily on most bookshelves. They can be adapted for the odd larger photo by cutting an opening in one of the lower plastic slots.

Another simple thing to do is to use a multi-photo frame, changing the photos every month or so.

If you have created digital photos you can use an accessory application to randomly display all your photos in a window on your computer screen (such an accessory came bundled with MS Windows 7 but I’m not sure if it’s still in Windows 10). A tablet computer, such as an iPad, is also an excellent way to view photos – but be sure to buy one which has enough storage to take the whole of your digital photo collection. Another approach is to buy a digital photo frame which will display the photos you load onto an SD card. However, if you want to get really sophisticated you can load copies of your digital photos on to a so-called Media Server – essentially a storage computer – linked to your TV – you will then be able to look at your photos from the comfort of your sofa.

Finally, an option which makes the most of both the digital and the physical is to create a hardcopy book of your photos using one of the many online photo services. It’s very easy to download your digital photos, arrange them on the pages and add some explanatory text. There are a variety of sizes you can choose from; an A4 sized 40-page book needn’t cost you more than £30 if you keep a look out for special offers.

Paul Wilson, www.pwofc.com

Winner of Reflexions Christmas competition

On 18th December 2015 the draw was made and Kate Bolt was the lucky winner of the competition to win six months’ free peak membership at Reflexions gym.

Supporting Crohn’s and Colitis UK

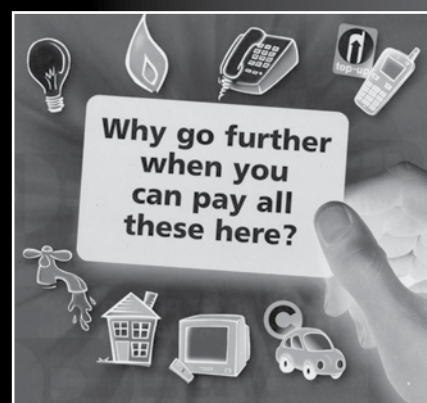
An event is being held at Reflexions on Friday 26th February in support of Crohn’s and Colitis UK. One of our full time instructors suffers with the condition. A dance-athon will take place at Reflexions which will combine Zumba, Bokwa and Booiaka between 6 and 8.30pm for just £5 per person. The event will also be open to non-members. We hope to raise as much money as we can for this charity as it will be the main focus of all our fundraising this year. We will be running events in aid of Crohn’s and Colitis UK every three months – look out for the next big event in the summer. See more at www.crohnsandcolitis.org.uk

Lou Harrison, Manager, Reflexions Health & Leisure

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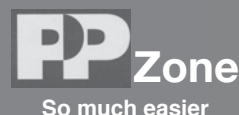
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Alabama Rot the story so far

Last year an apparently new and deadly disease affecting dogs hit the headlines. The affected breeds included English Springer Spaniels, Flat Coated Retrievers, Crossbreeds, Whippets, Border Collies, Jack Russell terriers, Dobermans and one Labrador Retriever, Cocker Spaniel, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Hungarian Vizsla, Weimeraner, Dalmation and Tibetan terrier. The age range was 1-12 years old (average 5 years old) and half were female and half were male. Affected cases originated from multiple areas of northern and southern England with ten dogs having been in the New Forest National Park between 4 hours and 14 days prior to developing skin lesions or becoming unwell. The peak months for affected cases were between November and March. Two thirds of the dogs were up to date with vaccinations. Skin lesions usually appeared before signs of general illness (high temperature, lethargy, anorexia,

vomiting) and the average time between developing skin lesions and kidney failure was 4 days (range 1-9 days). The skin lesions typically affected the lower limbs, underside of the abdomen and muzzle with half of the dogs having more than one lesion and varied from 0.5cm to 5cm in diameter. They were painful to the touch and variably inflamed and ulcerated. Approximately 40% of dogs living in the same household as confirmed cases developed skin lesions without concurrent kidney damage.

Alabama Rot (or Cutaneous and Renal Glomerular Vasculopathy to use the scientific name) has been recognized in the USA for almost 30 years. It is unknown whether it represents a "new disease" or a variant of an existing condition called haemolytic uraemic syndrome. The cause currently remains unknown despite extensive investigation into any common environmental factors, evidence

of infection, toxins, parasites, poisons, genetic factors and post-mortem findings. As a result, vets are unable to make recommendations about where to walk dogs other than avoiding locations where previous cases have been detected. We don't know how to protect against the disease as we don't know how it enters the body. The current advice is if you notice one or more ulcers, sores or blisters on the paws, underside of the abdomen or affecting your dog's muzzle or tongue then advice should be sought from your vet without delay. The disease remains very rare so most likely any skin lesions will be due to a variety of other treatable conditions.

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



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November BULLETIN

Is your Hedge or Tree overhanging the public highway?

Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB) on behalf of Buckinghamshire County Council, would remind home and land owners that it is their responsibility to keep the highway free from overhanging trees, shrubs and overgrown bushes etc. Landowners must ensure that there is no obstruction or partial obstruction to the footway or carriageway.



©RNIB

TfB regularly makes inspections and also receives reports regarding obstructions on the highway. If you are notified, TfB would ask that you arrange to have any obstruction cut back within 14 days.



Should you be unable to complete the work by the end of this period of notice, TfB may arrange for the work to be carried out and may claim reimbursement from the landowner for reasonable expenses following completion of the works, in accordance with Section 154(4) of the Highways Act.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter and please do not hesitate to contact 01296 382416 to discuss this further should you wish, and also, if needed, how TfB may be able to assist you in carrying out these works.

To report a highway fault please visit www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport

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- www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport

Slimming World re-launched

Watermead resident, Janet Newell, has recently re-launched the Buckingham Park Slimming World group at the Community Centre on Fridays at 9.30 and 11.30am. The group has significantly grown and now welcomes over 80 members each week.

Janet herself joined Slimming World four and a half years ago when her eldest son announced he was getting married. She had 18 months to lose weight so that she could wear her dream outfit and for once stand at the front of the photos rather than at the back as she always did.

She went along with a friend to her local Slimming World Group and in 18 months lost 4 stone 7lbs. Not only did she get the chance to wear that dream outfit, she also dodged an impending knee replacement operation, has so much more energy and is now able to join in and run around with her grandsons George and Toby who live in Buckingham Park..

Janet wanted to help others to enjoy the benefits of Slimming World and in November 2015 she gave up her full time job to do so. She is very proud of her friendly and supportive group at Buckingham Park and wants to share the story of a very inspirational couple who were last year's couple of the year; they have been nominated for this year's competition and will go forward to the National Finals.

When Brenda and Nigel Law moved to Buckingham Park from Norfolk in June 2013, they registered at the Buckingham Park Doctor's Surgery. They were offered the opportunity to join Slimming World on Referral for a free 12 week period as their BMIs were well in excess of 30 and they were classified as obese. They



joined Slimming World in August 2013 and in 10 months, Nigel had lost 4 stone 7lbs and Brenda 2 stone 7lb.

Nigel and Brenda say that Slimming World's Food Optimising weight loss programme is not a diet, but a healthy eating plan. Losing 10% of their body weight was a major milestone for them as at that point the risks of suffering type 2 diabetes and some cancers were significantly reduced. A bonus for the couple was also that Nigel's terrible snoring had stopped! They both started sleeping much better, felt healthier and were able to get back to walking. This was particularly important to Nigel as he had osteoarthritis in his right knee and previously walking was very painful. The weight loss significantly reduced the pain in his knee and was a contributory factor to the excellent recovery following his knee replacement operation.

Nigel and Brenda now enjoy cooking healthy family friendly meals from scratch and have now lost well in excess of 3 stone each. Nothing is off the menu, you can eat to your appetite - no weighing, no measuring, no counting and absolutely no fuss!

Why not go along on Friday to find out more.

Janet also runs a group at Salvation Army on Thursday Evenings, 3.30, 5.30 and 7.30pm.

On Saturday 12th March, Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity are holding a brand new event at Aylesbury High School, which will see people of all ages dancing for their choice of 2, 4 or 6 hours. It's set to be a fantastic event which we are hoping will be a true success and ensure that the specialist palliative care we currently provide to patients and families in our community continues.
Michelle Merrison, Events Fundraiser

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Watermead & Weedon WI

Another year has flown by and it has been a busy, memorable one for WIs all over the country, marking 100 years of our existence. In addition to the things that we have organised at Watermead and Weedon WI, there have been various events organised at both national and federation levels which some of our members at WWWI have attended.

This year, we had the same President, Secretary and Treasurer as last year and a small Committee. There were some changes in personnel due to the personal circumstances of members and, by the end of the year, the total Committee numbered only six; that meant that we doubled up on jobs and sought assistance from other members from time to time. All the existing Committee members are to remain in place for another year but we would like some more members to join us.

Our general membership has changed this year, attracting new members partly due to a concerted effort on our part to publicise our existence and partly because of the generally high profile that the WI has enjoyed this last year. During 2015 we gained 5 new members but we lost 4 existing members due mostly to relocation to other parts of the country. We now have a group of 29. We welcome new members and hope they will stay with us for a long time.

At the end of 2014, we were concerned about our financial situation. We had a reasonable bank balance but we did not have a particularly strong income and speakers were becoming more expensive. After long discussion and consultation with the membership, we decided to try and spend less and try to attract more income. We began by claiming back the gift aided part of our tax paying members subscriptions for the last 4 years. That raised £297.77 and, although it will be considerably less for future individual years, it was of enormous help last year. We now look forward to 2016 safe in the knowledge that we are financially viable for the next year and several years into the future.

Spending less meant being more inventive in organising our monthly programme of events. During the year, we enjoyed an energetic but hilarious

evening of country dancing, we did some simple science experiments and lived to tell the tale, we shared our favourite cake and biscuit recipes with the obligatory tasting session, and made Christmas cards under the guidance of one of our members. In general, our meetings were more interactive than during previous years and members have said they have enjoyed that. We also departed from tradition and had our annual WI meal in August at lunch time rather than at Christmas in the evening. We decided that we would prefer to drive out into the country in the afternoon sunshine rather than turn out on a cold wintry night. There was a good turnout for the meal which we enjoyed with the added benefits of a beautiful day and a wonderful view. We still had a celebration at Christmas but we provided our own food, music and entertainment. In fact, we probably managed to have the best of both worlds and plan to repeat the arrangement again in 2016.

Thanks to the efforts of one of the Committee members, we received our usual grant for coach trips and in 2015 went to The Chiltern Open Air Museum and to The Craft Exhibition in Birmingham. The craft exhibition is a huge affair and offered the opportunity to see crafts that may not have been familiar, to buy equipment for craft work that we already do, and to begin Christmas shopping. It was quite a tiring day but definitely worthwhile. We regularly ask for ideas as to where members would like to visit and try to incorporate as many ideas as possible. The transport is free to our membership and the only cost involved is any entry fee required for the places we visit. Non members are always welcome but we ask them for a small donation.

The WI is known for craft work and the WWWI craft group continues to meet every month, usually on a Tuesday afternoon for a couple of hours. The venue moves from place to place, members taking it in turn to host. Most of the members bring knitting, sewing, crochet or tapestry with them, in fact anything that is easily portable but also allows the participant to talk, drink tea and eat cake. In 2016 we intend to try and engage in teaching crafts in

which some of us are proficient but which others would like to learn. 2016 begins with a crochet afternoon for those of us who always wanted to learn but never quite got round to it. Unfortunately, the proposed jigsaw group did not get off the ground but may well do so during 2016. We have recently been invigorated by our performance at the BFWI Jigsaw Competition in which our two teams came 3rd and 10th respectively. A great improvement on last year!

Each year there is an Annual meeting of WIs in Buckinghamshire at Waterside Theatre. Seven ladies from WWWI attended in 2015 and at the end of the meeting, the WI baton which was part of the Centenary celebrations was taken to the next destination by barge from alongside the Waterside Theatre. Other Centenary celebrations which involved WWWI membership were the Palace Garden Party which was reported on in a previous edition of Village View, The Garden Party at Waddesdon, and the evening event at Quainton Railway Centre organised by the Mercia Group. Those from WWWI who took the opportunity to attend any of these events enjoyed them and were part of the continuing history of the WI.

In spite of vowing not to enter the Bucks County Show competition ever again because, although it is usually enjoyable, the competition preparations take over the lives of all those competing, when the specification for the 2015 competition was advertised, we succumbed! This time, the team was enhanced by two new participants making five in the team. We had to choose and then represent something that the WI had achieved over the past 100 years; we chose the creation of the home produce markets. We produced a garden produce chutney, a punnet of strawberries made of fabric, wool and felt, a flower arrangement entirely of flowers from our gardens and some cakes decorated with small sugar flowers. All the items were labelled with prices current in the 1950s and displayed on some artificial grass such as was used on market garden stalls years ago. The other competition entries were all very different and well-presented and there were 19 in all. As before, the marks were all

very close and we finished in 6th place. I heard two members, who shall be nameless, talking about next year's entry the other day. So it seems we will be entering again!

The work on the programme for 2016 is now complete and the new programme has been published. We have tried to include a mix of talks, inter active sessions and some time to simply enjoy meeting together and enjoying some food and good company. Members can try their skill at hand bell ringing, various crafts and First Aid or learn more about Scannappeal, a charity which raises money locally for the very latest technology and equipment for Buckinghamshire hospitals that would not normally be provided by the NHS. In April we shall be hearing from Preston Bissett Nurseries how to plant our gardens for summer colour and in October, we shall enjoy a return visit from Frances Benton, an inspirational lady who buys, strings and sells the most beautiful pearls, all for charity. She brings along a selection of her beautiful pearls for sale at reasonable prices and that is always a well attended meeting.

The WI on Watermead is a long established group and one which intends to flourish for many more years to come. We always welcome new members and encourage anyone thinking of joining to come along to a meeting. You do not need to be able to sew, knit, bake, make jam or any of those activities traditionally associated with the WI. You simply need to want to be part of a group of women who enjoy each other's company and like the opportunity to experience new things. We meet in Watermead Village Hall on the first Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. The only exception to this is the meeting in May which will be on May 12th. For further details, Members of the Committee can be contacted as follows;

President Jackie Hawkins
01844 299429

Vice President Carol Hiatt
01296 485385

Secretary Julia Morgan
01296 487650

So, come along and join us at a meeting. You are always welcome!

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First Anniversary of Easy Living

It is exactly one year since 'theeasyliving.company' opened its doors at Watermead and we wish to thank all our customers who have stayed loyal to us during what has proved to be a turbulent twelve months.

'theeasyliving.company' began life as a new venture for Christopher Walsh and his father, Alan. Christopher imported ten years' experience working in the field of mobility and personal care; the new partnership sought to combine Christopher's expertise with that of his father, Alan Walsh, who had retired after a long career in journalism and publishing.

Interestingly, Alan, a Liverpoolian, had spent his early career working on popular music papers in the sixties and seventies and was very involved in the music scene of that era. He had accompanied the Beatles on their first tour of Germany, playing a large but unsung part in their subsequent success. A selection of Alan's articles, written whilst working on Melody Maker as its Features Editor, can be found on YouTube.

Father and son were confident that a combination of the enthusiasm and energy of youth coupled with age, experience and a continuing zest for life and new experience would provide a platform for success in their new venture together.

Sadly, this was not to be. Christopher fell prey to a serious medical event which coincided within the first week of the launch of 'easyliving'; Alan, already in remission from cancer was, seven months later, assaulted by a catastrophic neurological terminal disease from which he passed away on 3rd February 2016.

Although severely compromised by their respective illnesses it is to their credit that both Christopher and Alan gave of their very best; we are hopeful that Christopher will return to 'easyliving' shortly, initially on a part-time basis.

So – it has been a struggle, but 'upward and onward' is our motto and we again thank all those who have stayed with, and supported, us.

Maureen Cole, Care Manager/Director

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Tell Bowie I love him very much



David Jones was born 69 years ago in a normal house, in a normal street in a very ordinary London, recently ravaged by war. But David Jones grew up to be someone not so normal, a misfit, an eccentric, some might even say a maverick. He was a pivotal leader and a major influence in combining fashion with the music world. He shook off his average name and, just like that, a hero to millions was born. Obviously David Bowie wasn't the only name he adopted. There were many more, ranging from Halloween Jack, The Thin White Duke and the indelible Ziggy Stardust.

I thought Bowie's death was a twisted prank! I simply refused to believe it. It is the first time one of my idols has died since I am of an age that I can take it all in and remember. Bowie inspired me from a young age. I remember spending hours when I was little trying to draw the Aladdin Sane album cover while listening to "Let's Dance" on one of my mother's "greatest hits from the 80s" albums. However it was not until the beginning of last year that I truly became the fan I am now.

Last January I became absolutely infatuated with the idea of going to Berlin. I unrelentingly nagged my parents, constantly

whining and bursting into the kitchen with meaningless facts about the German capital. Why had I become so beguiled with the place? I had found out about Bowie's "Berlin Trilogy" and the idea completely engrossed me. Cocaine was at the heart of the music industry in the 1970s and Bowie had found a companion in the drug, being described as "old vacuum-cleaner nose" by the Record Mirror in 1975. Bowie had quickly found himself deep in a cocaine psychosis and enlisted the help of Iggy Pop. Together the two of them packed up and left for West Berlin. Along with Brian Eno they created some of my favourite pieces of music.

Just the thought of Iggy Pop, a small American with a hard face and penchant for performing shirtless, and David Bowie, an odd-eyed English gent/eccentric, wandering around a city (then being disfigured by Communism) is enough to make anyone giggle. Did they eat schnitzel together whilst chugging beer out of a stein? Whilst in Berlin Bowie made the albums "Low", featuring "Sound and Vision", "Heroes" and "Lodger" as well as aiding Pop in producing his albums "The Idiot" and "Lust for Life" (which is my favourite album of all time). Pop's song "The Passenger" was reportedly written while aboard the S-Bahn

(Berlin's equivalent of the underground) and was based on his adventures with Bowie. While in Berlin myself I listened to these five albums and could really feel how they mastered the tone and sounds of the city. Bowie and Pop lived in Berlin from 1976-1979. A lot has changed since then, most notably the fall of the Berlin Wall, which was the inspiration behind the song "Heroes", which has gone on to become one of Bowie's most famous songs.

The idea of fleeing to somewhere as obscure as Berlin to purge yourself of addiction is something admirable to me. Disappearing to a foreign country with a rock star friend and creating some of your greatest pieces of work sounds like a movie, but for Bowie it was his life. I admire Bowie's ability to reinvent himself, constantly transforming, adapting and shifting along with popular culture. He truly was a chameleon in every sense of the word and for that, and many other reasons, I love him dearly. So tell Bowie I love him very much, because he's the reason I'm an aspiring eccentric/rebel/chameleon.

Phoebe Shardlow

Sally's blog

I really enjoyed Christmas, we saw lots of people and other dogs so I wasn't short of company. I had

some presents and enjoyed eating some of the Christmas food - I don't think I was supposed to but I have developed a taste for crisps and snacks, especially if they are left on a low table - the humans ask me to help them to eat them! Since my last blog you will see that I have grown quite a lot.

Training and clothes

I have completed my training and was awarded a Certificate although to be honest all the puppies got those, but never mind, my humans think it's a relief that it's over. I can now sit, stay, lie down and do recall (if I want to). I have been out in the fields and love running through the grass getting as muddy as possible. The downside is that they make me wear a hi-viz coat which makes me look like I work for the AA but it keeps me dry, even though I don't look my best. They are a bit mad on clothing. I also had to wear my Father Christmas outfit and now they've bought me a coat with LED lights which can flash to wear on night walks - whatever next! They mean well and they do look after me well.

Bad habits (me?)

My special trainer Diane is still not ready to start training again, but as soon as she is I expect I shall learn not to jump up and bite the lead when I go for a walk. My humans are far too impatient. They do know that if I do this they have to stand still and look the

other way until I stop. This is very boring for them but I enjoy the jumping, growling and making a noise; apparently this is typical Spaniel behaviour...of course I am perfect in Cocker Spaniel terms so it's only to be expected.

Barking incessantly at the back door is another trick that seems to annoy the humans. I can make them get up, open the door, take me outside and stand and look up at the sky sometimes up to 6 times in an evening. They seem to think if I go outside I should be going for a comfort break, not to contemplate, especially when it's raining and windy. Never mind, spring and summer should improve things, although my over-enthusiastic digging in the garden last year has meant the humans have lots of work to do in the spring. I fully intend to help with the digging as soon as they let me out on my own again, although I think the digging and being let out alone are mutually exclusive. They like me at the Garden Centre - they have a 'little diggers' club - appropriate somehow!

Exploring

I've been to lots of different places now and met new friends, both human and doggie. I like to stand by the lake and look at the ducks and have even tried to put my paws into the water but, once again, the humans prove themselves to be no fun at all and tug me out. I don't like having a bath, so I am quite surprised to find I might like to swim. We'll see.



Butter wouldn't melt.



Training and clothes.



My own junk mail.

Watermead Piscatorials

Watermead Piscatorials are again looking for new members to join them. The club is run by a committee. You do not need to be experienced, as the existing members are more than able to offer advice and help to any new members.

The club ensures that everyone knows the rules of the lake, here are a few:

- no night fishing
- fishing from the pegs only
- all fish caught must be returned to the lake.

Unfortunately over the past months the committee have found evidence of poachers as hand lines have been left in the lake. These have been installed and left overnight. On a couple of occasions these poachers have been seen and the matter has been reported to the Police.

Watermead Piscatorials have also liaised with the Environment Agency who have come over to our ornamental lake to do a fish survey.

It costs £10 to join the club and then £40 per year. If you want to have a go before committing yourself the Parish Clerk has a one-day ticket to fish.

To find out more contact the Piscatorial Treasurer Don Smith: don.smith33@hotmail.co.uk or 07790 481232.



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The View from Westminster

As many residents will be aware, there continue to be serious planning problems arising from two applications to build crematoria in the area. As many residents will be aware, there continue to be serious planning problems arising from two applications to build crematoria in the area. Recently, I was made aware by Watermead Parish Council that there have been some new developments that I think residents of the village should be aware of.

To restate the current situation, the crematorium in Berton has already received planning permission twice by Aylesbury Vale District Council and is already under construction. This application is one supported by the local community, has a strong business case behind it, and is separated from residential areas to minimise disruption for local community. In contrast, the Westerleigh proposal by Watermead is a purely speculative application with significant drawbacks to the local community.

You may also be aware that the decision on the Watermead crematorium is currently under judicial review after the Parish Council, led by Sue Severn, won permission for this in early November. Unfortunately, Westerleigh continue to put obstacles in the way of the Berton site and have

responded by applying for a judicial review of their own. This is not the first time that Westerleigh have brought this proposal to judicial review after the initial planning approval was overturned by a judicial review in March last year on the basis of the proximity of Great Crested Newts. The ruling suggested that proper consultation had not been done with Natural England, the licensing body for works which could affect the newts.

I hope that these concerns have now been laid to rest as I continue to believe that the case for the Berton crematorium is significantly stronger and that ultimately common sense will prevail. I will continue to work with and support local councils and residents in trying to get the right decision for Watermead.

If you have any comments or concerns relating to this matter, or indeed other issues, please contact my Westminster Office on 020 7219 4573 or at david.lidington.mp@parliament.uk.

Housing

I hope that many Watermead residents have made representations to AVDC about the outline options for their Local Plan. There are going to need to be about 30,000 more houses in the AVDC area. The dilemma for the Council is to decide where

they should go.

While I believe that every town and village can take some more homes, I am more and more convinced that AVDC need to be bold and look very seriously at the option of a significant new settlement along the East/West rail line that is being built between Oxford, Bicester and Bletchley (with a phase two to Bedford and Cambridge also planned). The Oxford to Cambridge arc is seen as offering some of the best high-tech, high-growth economic opportunities in Europe. I think the chances of getting both public and private sector money to pay for infrastructure and employment are better there than anywhere else.

Finally, as we welcome in Spring and some warmer weather, I want to wish all Watermead residents a Happy Easter.

Rt Hon David Lidington, MP for Aylesbury



Want an allotment?

Have a small garden, live in a flat or just short of growing space and need a patch to increase your crop? Then consider an allotment at Watermead Allotments near your home. Plots are still available to residents. It can be a lot of hard work but the benefits include keeping fit and healthy which is a lot cheaper than going to the gym; lots of fresh vegetables and fruit at a fraction of the cost you pay in supermarkets; pleasant companionship with fellow plot holders and plenty of fresh air. A recent survey found that being green-fingered is good for your body and your mental health.

Look at the National Allotment Society website (www.nsalg.org.uk) to learn more about how to go about planning and starting your allotment. Also learn about how your plot can attract a host of wildlife which benefits us all at www.naturalengland.org.

A 5-pole plot is £25 a year with an additional £10 to cover water usage. General areas of the site are maintained by the Parish Council but we do have clean-up mornings by plot holders two or three times a year.

In the first instance please contact the Parish Clerk – Noreen Shardlow at noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk or call: 01296 395211.



This image, taken by Colin Smith which featured in the last edition of the Village View, has now gone national! A copy appeared in the Daily Mail on Tuesday 26th January 2016.

Plant Sale

**Saturday 14th May 2016
Village Hall, 10am and 1pm**

Please come along and buy your herbs, vegetables, salad and garden plants at a fraction of what you would pay at a garden centre!

News Watermead allotments

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.

Alright - it's not as bad as that out there. Even now when it looks like everything has stopped growing and either died or gone to bed, there's still life in the allotments. The mild December that we had has fooled Mother Nature into believing spring is almost here. We know it's not because we've got calendars.

There are little green things growing and buds opening on bushes. It does make us reminisce of summer on the allotment remembering the times when trying to dig in 25 degrees of heat and becoming a sticky, sweaty mess. We even took a dip in the cattle trough where we collect our water!

Allotmenting (if there's no such verb I want to be credited as the inventor) brings not just the pleasure of growing fruit and veg for the table, but also a community spirit out there behind the hedges of the ski-slope. On our first day of digging we went home with two full carrier bags of runner beans. Advice flows freely and after a while we begin to regurgitate the advice like it was our own wisdom.

This time of year brings dreams of summer projects. We'd like to build a shed

out of pallets. Pallets are great. Every plot holder has them. They're like Lego for adults.

We'd also like to try to build a bread oven. We get jealous seeing Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall building and growing things and then having a festival for it - it looks a lot of fun. If it's possible to build one, everyone could take some dough to the allotments and then pick produce from their own plot and then make and bake some fancy breads or pizzas. It would be nice to pass round and share.

Talking of sharing, us allotmenters are a generous bunch. We share our crops with pigeons, foxes, badgers, deer, more badgers, muntjac, mice, slugs, pheasants and even more badgers. You may have guessed we've done a lot of sharing with badgers this year. They really enjoyed our sweet corn! As long as we're left some of the crop we're happy. We enjoy seeing the wildlife.

We'd also like to see you. There are still a few spare plots for only a small fee. At the time of writing it is only £35 a year and this includes a charge for water. There are some smaller plots available too. The stables at Hardwick are very generous with their horse manure and bring down trailer loads free for us. We are spoiled!

Come and join us. In the first instance

please contact Noreen Shardlow, Parish Clerk via the Parish Council website www.watermead-pc.gov.uk or call 01296 395211 (between 10am and 2pm please).

Graham Howse



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10 Golden Points – Why prepare a Neighbourhood Plan?

Neighbourhood Plans were introduced by the Localism Act 2011 as a right for communities to shape development in their areas. As stated by the Government “if the local planning authority says that an area needs to grow, then Communities cannot use neighbourhood planning to block the building of new homes and businesses; they can, however, use neighbourhood planning to influence the type, design, location and mix of new development”. Once a Neighbourhood Plan is ‘made’ though, they become part of the statutory development plan for an area, which is the basis for planning decisions.

While not all Parishes will want to produce a Neighbourhood Plan, for those that are looking to begin or are in the process of producing one, the points below will provide some guidance as to what a Neighbourhood Plan can deliver. Communities often focus on the

amount and location of housing development, but a wide range of important issues besides new housing can be addressed within a Neighbourhood Plan as follows:

- Neighbourhood plans can include detailed policies about the design of new development, protecting local heritage, protecting community assets, etc., which can help define and enhance the village/Parish local distinctiveness.

- Neighbourhood plans can also contain policies which are more specifically related to the needs of the local area than the Local Plan is able to be.

- Open areas special to the community can be designated as Local Green Spaces to protect them from any development, apart from in very exceptional circumstances.

- Policies within the Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the development plan (including the Local Plan we are currently working on when adopted) and are given

significant weight in planning decisions.

- As the Local Plan progresses, more specific details on housing numbers will become available. Neighbourhood plans can then determine where the housing goes, rather than have allocations in the Local Plan if the community feels strongly about it.

- Once the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is adopted parishes get 15% if there is no Neighbourhood Plan; however if there is a ‘made’ Neighbourhood Plan the Parish gets 25% of CIL. Parishes can also list important community projects in a Neighbourhood Plan which can benefit from S106 monies until CIL is in place.

- Neighbourhood Plans give a more focussed context for the Parish Council and residents to comment more effectively on planning applications, infrastructure projects and other initiatives ie is this giving us what we are aiming for?

- If the Parish has already created a Parish/Community Plan you can use this as the basis for a Neighbourhood Plan and it can also be used as part of the evidence base. A lot of the inputs from consultation on the earlier informal plan will also give an indication of the desires of the local community which can also speed up Neighbourhood Plan preparation.

- Neighbourhood Plans require a lot of community involvement but this educates people about planning and they get more of an understanding of the challenges involved. It can also bring a community together and create a good community spirit.
- A Neighbourhood Plan can be labour intensive, but by recruiting local people to help you may also find people who wish to help on other parish council activities in the future.

Visit our website www.aylesburyvaldedc.gov.uk

Watermead Cygnets Pre-School

The festive season seems like such a long time ago, but the children enjoyed a magical time during the run up to Christmas. Everyone was really excited and they enjoyed making Christmas cards, Christmas crackers, tree decorations and Christmas sacks.

They all worked especially hard rehearsing for our Christmas performance of “Humph The Camel”; they all performed brilliantly on the day and we were really proud of them. It was a wonderful performance and one full of memories to treasure.

The new term started on the 5th January and our learning themes this half term are:

- winter – discussing the weather changes and what clothing we wear;
- dinosaurs - discussing their names, what they eat -herbivores, carnivores and omnivores, and how dinosaurs are thought to have become extinct. The children all liked our exciting volcano experiment!
- science and technology - exploring magnets, magnifying glasses, circuits. The children took part in experiments to find out which materials floated

and which sank. Technology involved laptops, cameras, Inotabs and toys that have motors and moving parts.

We are organising a sponsored obstacle course to raise money for the pre-school and next half term the children will also be learning about the Chinese New Year, lifecycles, growing and planting, farm animals, and Easter!

An AGM will be held in July and we will be looking for a new Chairperson. As a committee run pre-school we can't run without one so if you are interested in the position please contact Maree.

Cygnets accepts children from 2½ years to 5 years old. We open from 9.15am to 12.15pm, 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.

To avoid disappointment please call and ask to speak to Maree on 07563 783464.

The Cygnets Team



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The Watermead Inn update

It is now nearly half a year since the refurbished Watermead Inn opened and the early promise that I wrote about in our last issue has continued apace. In my own small social circle there had been some negative expectations of the future of the Watermead Inn – mainly due to the misunderstanding of possible changes in management. And one person knew somebody who knew somebody who had had lunch there and had ‘come away hungry’. Well, my children took me there for a birthday lunch on a Saturday recently and my daughter and her partner had a sharing grill. I’ve never seen so much meat – anyone who came away from that hungry must be suffering from pica! (Look it up.) At a recent social gathering the subject of the Watermead Inn came up and someone referred back to the early dissenters and said “I don’t know what they were on about, I’ve been and it’s great!” Not a scientific study or Yougov poll, but good enough to keep me and mine going back.

Kelvin’s community spirit continues to be a driving force at the Watermead Inn. On Easter Saturday at 3.00pm there will be another free children’s party. There will be an entertainer and Easter Egg Hunt within the pub. More details can be found on the Watermead Inn FaceBook page.

I’ve never quite understood the old saying about rain being ‘nice weather for ducks’. I’m sure they won’t have enjoyed the recent incessant rain, followed by heavy frosts. Please continue to support the lake environment and our wildfowl by buying the duck food from the Watermead Inn for your little ones (or you) to feed to them. As before, the profit from the sale of duck food goes to charity.

Carolynne McKee

The Vale Lottery

Are you supporting a local organisation through the The Vale Lottery yet? The Vale Lottery was launched in September 2015 and already has over 80 groups and organisations signed up and promoting it to their supporters.

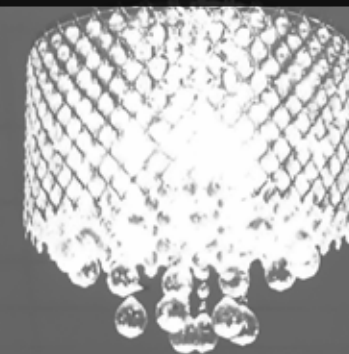
This is already on track to generate over £37,000 back to those groups overall, with some such as Medical Detection Dogs set to make over £1,500 new income for the year. If you know good causes not yet signed up the please tell them about this fantastic opportunity.

If you haven’t done so already why not support a good cause and be in with a chance of winning something for yourself as well. It’s quick and easy to sign up and you can do this on any mobile device or computer.

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