

VillageView

WATERMEAD'S *FREE* QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

Spring 2017 Vol.24 Issue 1

May Fair 2017

Sunday 28th May
from 11.30am to 4.30pm
Balloon Meadow

Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 18th May
Village Hall, 7pm

Sandra Landy 1938 - 2017
See inside for obituary



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



May Fair 2017 Sunday 28th May

from 11.30am to 4.30pm

The year since the last (and first) May Fair has flown by and it's time to make plans for this year's festivities. Kelvin and the crew at The Watermead Inn are already busying themselves with preparations.

The themes of tradition and community used last year were so successful that they will be repeated, but lessons have been learned and remembered so there will be a couple of changes. There will be more parking available with the use of Mr Bone's Fairground Field and entertainment activities will take place in a central performance area more easily visible to all visitors.

The format for this year's May Queen Competition will be the same – no entry fee, no photograph and no age limit. The only criteria are that you must live or work in Watermead. You can nominate yourself – or someone else – by emailing a letter, giving the reasons why the nominee should be the May Queen, to watermeadmayfair@yahoo.com or by post to the Watermead Inn, marking your envelope 'May Queen Competition'.

The winner will open the May Fair by riding around the Balloon Meadow dressed in white with a garland in her hair and then give a short welcome speech to the crowd. (The garland will be provided.) Deadline for entries Friday 28th April 2017

Most of the local businesses and hobbyists

who filled the 'Market Square' last year will be back this year. If you would like to join them to offer goods for sale or to promote your services you will need to bring your own table or marquee. There is no fixed fee for a pitch, just 10% of the day's takings. To reserve a pitch contact The Watermead Inn. (Details below.)

The Great Watermead Bake Off returns with the addition of a Junior category for bakers aged 15 or younger. There will be a trophy for the winner of each category and all cakes will be sliced up and sold in the refreshment tent in aid of charity.

Judging will take place at the beginning of the Fair so make sure to bring your entries along before the start. The organisers need to know who is entering so email (see below) to register to take part.

If you like baking, but aren't competitive, why not donate your cakes, biscuits and sweets for sale in aid of charity without entering the competition. Your donations would be very gratefully received.

Entertainments and activities will include many of those enjoyed so much last year, such as the Maypole dancing and Morris Men, plus demonstrations from several local dancing schools. There will be field games again, including welly-wanging, a set of stocks for anyone brave enough to face the onslaught of wet sponges, and 'football accuracy'. There will be several rounds of tug-of-war, organised on the day, for those

with muscles to flex.

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

Volunteers needed

Kelvin and his crew will have learned a lot from last year's enterprise, but it is still a lot of hard work and commitment. If you can offer any assistance on the day - from a couple of hours to the whole day - they will be grateful to hear from you. (Contact details below.)

Sponsors

A big thank you to those companies who have already pledged their support for the May Fair – Gardenscapes, Dalesford Plumbing, Sportif Citroen and GK Plumbing.

If your business would like to get involved please let us know.

N.B

- No entry charge, many free activities but a small payment for some.
- There will be toilet facilities on site.
- Dogs are welcome, but should be kept on a lead.
- Parking available on Mr Bone's Fairground Field.

Contact details:
watermeadmayfair@yahoo.com
Watermead Inn HP19 0FX

Parish Chairman's News

Welcome to the spring edition of Village View. We can now look forward to enjoying spring and there is much to look forward to in the coming months. Our Christmas

festivities were enjoyed by many of us including the craft fair with lots of interesting stalls and present ideas, great catering from Dot Toler and our own name the dog competition. The following week saw our Carol Concert take place under the Piazza walkway with children and parents sheltering from the rain. Safe Sax provided the music, Reverend Mark Ackford conducted the service and the WI the coffee and mince pies which were, as ever, a delicious accompaniment to the warming mulled wine.

Christmas lights competition

Once again, many of us made a great effort to have the best light display. Thanks to all those who took part and congratulations to the winners. Particular mention should be made of Kestrel Way where there were many lit houses, all of which added up to a magical display - thank you.

Summer gardens

This summer Cllr Irina Schwab has decided we

should have another friendly competition for the best front garden. Gardens will be judged at the end of July and the winner will receive a gardening gift. We hope that our front gardens will bloom this year. We can't take part in the Best Kept Village competition because we don't have a church but it would be lovely to look as if we were taking part!

Speeding

Since Christmas we have, at long last, managed to place our MVAS sign (motor vehicle activated sign), nicknamed 'SPEEDY', in various locations in Watermead. If you see it light up you are driving much too fast. Speed statistics will soon be published on the website and in this magazine. Please, slow down; it is dangerous to speed on our roads.

We shall soon see our duck population crossing the roads and every year, sadly, ducks are killed crossing the road - such a shame and avoidable by driving more carefully. Take care as it could be a child you hit. Plans for Community Speedwatch are advanced and our volunteers will soon be working with other villages to man the speed gun equipment with details of cars speeding given to the Police, who will

take appropriate action.

The bollards at the end of Lark Vale have had a very chequered past and despite having been repaired, at long last, have continued to malfunction. We must remind residents that it is illegal to drive through this entrance into Lark Vale. The police will prosecute drivers because it is dangerous.

Looking forward to spring please enjoy our beautiful land but please pick up dog poo if you are walking your dog and put it in a dog bin and don't drop litter.



Parish precept latest news No increase required for legal case fees!

Parishioners mandated the council to fight the planning application for the crematorium to the Court of Appeal and agreed a one year increase in the Parish Precept to cover the cost. I am



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

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noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk



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

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Tea Break Quiz

1. Who is the only British Prime Minister to be assassinated?
2. Who was the first actor to refuse an Oscar?
3. How many episodes of Fawlty Towers were made?
4. Which two countries signed up the common market in 1973 alongside the UK?
5. What is contained in a dish described as Lyonnaise?
6. To which film star was John Profumo married when his affair with Christine Keeler was discovered?
7. Which word can go after 'special' and before 'line'?
8. Who took the song 'Downtown' into the charts in the 60s and the 80s?
9. What does the Latin phrase 'Caveat emptor' translate to in English?
10. What was Ethel Cain the first to record?
11. In 1929 Donald F Duncan introduced a toy based on a weapon used by 16th Century Filipino hunters. What is it called?
12. Which city hosted the 2002 Winter Olympics?
13. Who was the first ever DJ on Radio 1?
14. Mozzarella cheese is made from which animal?
15. What is the name given to a word that reads the same backwards and forwards?
16. In which part of the body is the stirrup bone?
17. Who infamously lived at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester?
18. How many letters make up the Hawaiian alphabet?
19. Which flag is raised when a ship is about to leave port?
20. Which planet is nearest to the sun?

Answers on page 14

...page 03

delighted to report that the costs have been paid, in full, from existing reserves and budget; therefore we will not need to charge the legal fees to the Parish Tax - a significant benefit to all.

The Parish Precept for 2017/18 will be increased slightly to allow for increased costs in respect of services we deliver, including 'siding out' and weed killing in road gutters, no longer done by Bucks County Council. The funds we receive for grass cutting and other works is reducing and the work is increasing. Consequently, next year, the precept for Watermead Parish will increase by 2.99%. A Band D house will pay £75.82, an increase of £2.21 for the year.

Keeping costs down – how you can help

If you are able, clear weeds from the gutter outside your own property, it helps a great deal. Picking up litter as you walk round the land is also helpful; if you take a carrier bag with you it can be filled and placed in a litter bin. Everything helps. We already spray dog poo pink, and will continue with this to highlight the issue and prevent people walking on it.

Recreation and leisure

The average age of the Watermead population has reduced (with the possible exception of the writer) over recent years, which means we have welcomed many more young children and teenagers. We are conscious that there is little for them here other than fields and walks.

With this in mind the Parish Council is seeking grant funding to provide sport and play facilities for all. It is envisaged that there will be a 'dragon shaped' piece of play equipment which will have, at its tail end equipment for very small children, rising at its highest point to include more challenging play equipment to cater for older children. There will be an in-ground trampoline, windchimes and other equipment providing fully accessible and varied play for the widest age group, within a suitably sheltered and separate area of the balloon field. A multi-user games area

will be included which will offer an all-weather playing surface for a variety of sports such as 5 a side football, basketball and netball, possibly badminton. Once again, this will be accessible and will allow wheelchair sports, walking football and so on.

Beside these areas the running track will be reinstated which was part of the original Watermead scheme and this will have stretching and strengthening equipment in natural materials as well as marker posts to enable walkers and runners to know how they are progressing. Complementary dynamic outdoor equipment will also be included in the scheme.

The design for this scheme will be available to see once it has been submitted by the contractors. We are already seeking full grant funding and hope to be able to report a successful outcome in the next edition. Watermead should not be left behind modern developments which now, of course, have these facilities included at the planning stage. There is competition for funding but this project meets the criteria of various funding organisations due to its breadth and the provision of facilities for all age groups and abilities, fully accessible to all.

Lake erosion

The need to repair the bank by the Memorial Garden and reinstate the land has been known for a while. The advice from our environmental consultants is that work must be undertaken as soon as possible to avoid losing the very important lakeside footpath. We have not so far been successful in obtaining grant funding and the Parish Council will consider funding options and hopes to get the work done as soon as possible.

May Fair

Following the success of the inaugural May Fair last year I am pleased to report that Kelvin and Nikki Wong are planning another Fair this year. Please support the event. It was most enjoyable last year as well as raising funds for local charities.

Sponsored run/walk

The sponsored run/walk in aid of The Stroke Association will take place round the lakes on Sunday 12 March 2017. Do join in if you can, sponsor a runner, or come to cheer on the runners which will include Editor of Village View and our Parish Clerk!

Sandra Landy

I am very sad to report that Sandra Landy, who was a member of our Parish Council, died in January. She was a key member of our team and a very valued friend. Sandra's obituary is on page 20. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family. Sandra will be much missed. A tree will be planted in the memorial garden in Sandra's memory once erosion work is complete.

Chairman Sue Severn

Saturday 13th May
**NEARLY
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Watermead Village Hall, The Piazza
11am to 1pm

A chance to buy top quality preloved baby and children's equipment, toys and clothes at bargain prices. Entrance fee £1. Refreshments. Raffle.

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friends@eastclaydonschool@gmail.com
£15 per table. Businesses £20

Keep up-to-date:
'NEARLY NEW SALE - FOECS'

All proceeds go to East Claydon School's "Expansion Fund". Charity no. 1167901

The Annual Parish Meeting of Watermead Parish Council will take place in the Village Hall (in the Piazza) at 7pm on Thursday 18th May 2017.

You are invited to hear reports from the Chairman, District and County Councillors and you will have the opportunity to ask questions and express your opinions on what the council is doing. No votes taken at this meeting are binding on the Parish Council, however they should be considered 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 but cannot vote.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will follow and this is where the Chairman and Vice Chairman are elected. They may make other annual appointments and review insurance, risk management, policies, etc.



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Building useless houses

We are just about to enter the season of Lent, a time to be penitent and an opportunity to seek God's forgiveness and will for our life as we prepare for the glorious celebration of the Resurrection of Christ at Easter.

I suppose most of us have felt guilty about something that we've done in the past or something that we feel responsible for. Let's face it, that's why we ask for forgiveness when we pray but guilt can have other strange effects. Here is a good example:

The son of the creator of the Winchester rifle was called William Wirt Winchester. He and his father's widow Sarah built a most peculiar mansion in San Jose, California, to help her with her feelings of guilt. It is a house that took 38 years to build and cost over eight million pounds. With 160 rooms it has stairways that lead to blank walls and corridors that lead to un-openable doors; there are 13 bathrooms, 13 stair steps, 13 lights to a chandelier and 13 windows in each room. The house is referred to as the "guilt house," and was conceived as a never-ending building project to provide a home

for spirits of those killed by Winchester rifles. For some strange reason Sarah felt the guilt of all those deaths but instead of addressing her grief and remorse in more traditional ways, Sarah's project occupied the rest of her life.

Sarah's behaviour is all about guilt, but what about the other side of the coin that is holding a grudge? With that behaviour ours as Christians should be one of seeking or the giving of forgiveness. How many times should we be forgiven or forgive others?

"Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?'"

Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times." Matthew 18: 21 – 22 (NRSV)

The Greek text of Jesus saying we should forgive 77 times can also be translated as 490 times (7 X 70) and is generally considered to mean that, providing we show real remorse for our actions, we can be forgiven countless times.

As in the case of Sarah Winchester, our remorse must be real. However we don't

need to go building weird houses but must have the inner strength to say that we are sorry and truly mean it. It also means, as we say in our Lord's Prayer, that we must forgive others for their actions that have upset us. The Lord's Prayer can be found in chapter six of Matthew's gospel and later in chapter eighteen is the parable of the unforgiving servant who whilst pleading to be forgiven by his master, wouldn't forgive a fellow servant and so met his comeuppance by being handed over to the torturers until he could repay his debt; the writer of Matthew most certainly included this parable to underline the forgiveness part of the Lord's prayer and also God's desire for us to forgive our brother or sister from our heart.

And who knows, by forgiving somebody for their actions against ourselves, we may help them with their guilt and prevent them from building useless houses for the rest of their lives.

May you have a good Lent and a blessed Easter.

*Revd Mark Ackford,
Vicar of St James the Great Birtton.*



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What's on

IN AND AROUND WATERMEAD

March

2nd	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
12th	Stroke Association Resolution Run	Village Hall, 11am start time
16th	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7:30pm
26th	Mothers' Day	

April

6th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
14th	Good Friday	
16th	Easter Sunday	
20th	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7:30pm
23rd	St George's Day	

May

1st	Bank Holiday	
4th	Buckinghamshire County Councillor Elections	Village Hall, 7am-10pm
11th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
13th	Nearly New Sale - selling unloved kids toys, clothes, baby and maternity	Village Hall 11am to 1pm
18th	Annual Parish Meeting	Village Hall, 7:00pm
18th	Watermead Annual Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7:30pm
28th	May Day Event	
29th	Bank Holiday	

June

1st	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
15th	Watermead Annual Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7:30pm
18th	Fathers' Day	

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

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18 months upwards 2.30 - 3.05pm
6 months to walking
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Debbie Bird 625599

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YOGA

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

Easter recipes

Whole roasted cauliflower with red wine, shallots & wheatberries

Ingredients:

1 large head of cauliflower,
outer leaves removed
1 tbsp olive oil
1 tsp mustard seeds
3 large banana shallots,
quartered
4 Portobello mushrooms, sliced
2 tsp thyme leaves
1 garlic clove, crushed
150ml red wine
100g young leaf spinach
350g wheatberries
1litre hot vegetable stock
50g hazelnuts (skin on), roughly
chopped
½ tsp crushed pink peppercorns
50g vegetarian Parmesan, finely
grated

Method:

- Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Sit the cauliflower head upside down on a chopping board and cut the tough stem away. Leave some of the base so that the cauliflower remains intact.
- Heat the oil in a large flameproof casserole dish on a low-medium heat. Add the mustard seeds and, once they begin to 'pop', add the shallots. Fry gently for 4-5 minutes until starting to caramelize, then add the mushrooms, thyme and garlic, and cook for a further 4-5 mins, stirring every so often. Pour in the wine and reduce by half. Stir in the spinach and allow the leaves to wilt.
- Next, add the wheatberries, season well and combine. Make a well in the centre and put the cauliflower in the middle. Pour the stock around – not over – the cauliflower, then season.
- Cover and transfer to the oven. Cook for 50 mins to 1 hour until the cauliflower and wheatberries are tender. Remove from the oven and sprinkle the hazelnuts, peppercorns and Parmesan over the cauliflower. Return to the oven for a further 5 minutes, then serve.

Saddle of lamb

Ingredients:

1 boned saddle of lamb
weighing approx 1½ kg/3lb
5oz, skirts removed (ask your
butcher to do this for you)
2 rosemary sprigs
1 tsp olive oil
50ml white wine vinegar
1 tbsp milk

For the stuffing:

60ml (2½fl oz) whipping cream
25g butter
4 banana shallots, finely
chopped
2 garlic cloves, crushed
50g pancetta cubes
small pack flat-leaf parsley,
roughly chopped
6 sage leaves, torn
1 tsp grated lemon zest
50g fresh white breadcrumbs
1 egg yolk

Method:

- First, make the stuffing. In a large pan, melt the butter over a gentle heat and add the shallots. Cook slowly for about 10 minutes until softening, then add the garlic and stir to combine for 1 minute. Turn up the heat and add the pancetta and a little seasoning. Cook until the pancetta is crisp, and the shallots are tender and turning golden. Take off the heat, add the rest of the ingredients and stir to combine (it should not be too wet, as the stuffing should absorb some of the lamb juices when cooked). Set aside to cool.
- Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Lay the lamb saddle out on a board, fat-side down. Arrange the stuffing in a line down the middle, bring the sides up and roll into a large sausage shape so the stuffing can only be seen at the ends. Using string, tie the saddle, tucking the rosemary under the string, then rub with salt and a little pepper.
- Heat the oil in a large pan over a high heat and place the rolled lamb in the pan to seal the outside, turning every minute or so, until golden

– about 6 minutes. Remove from the pan and place in a roasting tin. Pour the vinegar over – this will help to crisp the skin – then cook in the oven for 1 hour. Leave to rest for at least 10 minutes on a board covered loosely with foil.

Amaretti & sultana cheesecake

Ingredients:

100g sultanas
3 tbsp Disaronno liqueur, plus
extra to serve (optional)
50g butter, plus extra for
greasing
6 digestive biscuits, crushed to
crumbs
8 amaretti biscuits,
crushed to crumbs
2 x 300g packs full-fat
cream cheese
3 eggs
170g pot soured cream
3 tbsp self-raising flour
1 tsp vanilla extract
175g golden caster sugar
icing sugar, to serve
roughly broken amaretti
biscuits, to serve

Method:

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.**

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.

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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The Team:

Advertising Manager	Phil Toler	Tel: 432405	philtoler3@gmail.com
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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

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Designed by Rachel Seago. Published by Watermead Parish Council. ©

PUBLICATION DATES

2017/2018

SUMMER

3rd June

AUTUMN

9th September

WINTER

2nd December

SPRING

10th March

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Changes to pothole and street light reporting

As from February 1st, the County Council is encouraging all residents and Parish Councils to use its online reporting system to make them aware of potholes and defective street lights. Significant improvements have been made to this tool which allows customers to receive updates direct to their inbox on how the council is resolving the issue. If a customer who phones in feels that a pothole or streetlight defect presents a risk of serious injury, they will be put through to the council's Emergency Team.

In addition, online 'contact us' forms have been created on the County Council's website, making it easier to deal with enquiries. These forms will direct people to the appropriate page to assist them, alternatively there is a general enquiry form to complete if they cannot find the answer or page they are looking for.

The forms are designed to gather the appropriate information required to answer enquiries at the first point of contact as they ensure all the necessary information has been logged right from the start. Currently many emails sent to the council contain incomplete information, causing delays in response.

From March 1st, residents and parish councils will only be able to contact the council for Transport for Bucks-related queries via the Transport for Buckinghamshire online Contact us form, our Online Reporting System or telephone.

These upgrades are part of a wider plan to improve the customer experience for residents and parish councils.

John Chilver, Cabinet Member for Resources, said: "These new online forms will save residents and parish councils time, by preventing delays due to missing information, while also allowing them to track the progress of their report. They will also save the council thousands of pounds, as it is much cheaper to respond to web forms than emails or phone calls."



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Lakeside tales

It was a lovely Spring afternoon and Prince and his two best friends, Pippa and LV, were walking around and around the lake. Usually, they would be having fun sniffing and yelping but not today. Oh no, today they were on a mission. They were determined to track down and find their other best friend, Lorenzo, the Bengal Cat, who had been missing for almost a whole week.

Prince, the massive, black, long-haired German Shepherd, led the way with Pippa and LV walking side by side just behind him. Pippa was a beautiful white lady Maltese Terrier and LV a rather handsome coffee and cream coloured Yorkshire Terrier. They called themselves 'The K9 United Nations.'

They had walked around the lake three times already when Prince came to an abrupt stop, just by my table outside the Watermead Inn where I was enjoying a cup of tea. I could not help bursting out into laughter for Pippa and LV were in such deep concentration, sniffing for any sign of Lorenzo, that they banged into the backside of Prince. As each of the little terriers were about an eighth of his size, they toppled over simultaneously, Pippa to the left and

LV to the right of Prince's rear. They both quickly got back on their paws and the three of them sat on the ground and looked in my direction. I became conscious of my laughter and stopped immediately for I did not want to appear rude.

After composing myself, I gave each one an affectionate stroke on the head and asked, "What are you three up to?" Prince, the obvious leader, told me in his charming German accent that they were looking for their best friend Lorenzo, the Bengal Cat, and Pippa explained that he had been missing for almost a whole week.

"Yeh, and we really miss him!" LV followed up quickly. Before I could react, a beautiful white swan waddled gracefully out of the lake and joined the three dogs and they went into a huddle. Obviously they were in conference and I, being human, was not to be included; but after a minute or two, Pippa the Maltese Terrier walked four steps to my side and said, "Don't worry Gary, we will let you know what is going on after we complete our deliberations."

"Oh Ok," I said in total surprise by which time the four of them were huddled together again deep in conference.

After another five minutes, the beautiful white swan waddled back into the lake and Prince lifted his head and looked directly at me with his soulful brown eyes.

"Gary," he said, "the swan told us that he saw a tall, skinny figure dressed in a sort of monk's cowl running away from the lake a few nights ago and he swears he was holding a cat in his arms."

I did not say a word for I did not want to further upset the already distraught animals. But, there could only be one person matching the description given by the swan..... 'Watermead Ted!'

If you see any sign of this evil man dressed in a cowl or the beautiful Bengal Cat that answers to the name of 'Lorenzo,' please email any information to, garyzambas@yahoo.co.uk. Any information leading to the return of Lorenzo will be most appreciated. I thank you in anticipation.

by Gary Zambas

Advertising Manager appointed

We are delighted to announce that Phil Toler will be taking over the management of Village View advertising with immediate effect. Phil has a history of volunteering in our community and we are sure that he will do a great job for us.

We are happy to expand our team further so, if there are any budding journalists out there, or anyone who finds they have some extra time on their hands and would like to join us in our quest to provide residents with all the latest news in Watermead, please contact Noreen Shardlow in the first instance. We provide an update on what the council is doing as well as report on what has happened over the previous three months. We keep our ears to the ground and gather information which may be of interest to the residents of Watermead. We also encourage people to write articles and help them to do this if necessary. We meet on a quarterly basis for a couple of hours to discuss content of the next issue of the magazine.

We also have a wonderful team of distributors and there is always space for more. So if you have half an hour to spare once a quarter and would like to get some fresh air and exercise please let us know.

The Editor

Stroke Association

Resolution Run

5k/10k/15k

**Black Park
Slough**
11:00am
Sunday 5 March

**Watermead
Aylesbury**
11:00am
Sunday 12 March

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Get fit and have fun in 2017
Enter online: stroke.org.uk/resolution
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Together we can conquer stroke

Stroke
association

The Editor and Parish Clerk will be joining the runners on 12th March although we might be walking!

bio

2nd December - Back to Hampden Vets
– this time the culprit was lilies, although the humans didn't realise this until after I had a very stinging injection, had to drink a special type of water and was only fed rice and then some chicken until I almost starved to death! Remember humans please: No lilies near cats and dogs - they're not good for us.

Oh, and I did eat some stamps; that caused a bit of a fuss too. Apparently this is all that could be used from a book of 12.

My favourite Christmas present and my view on training - My friends Sarah and Roger brought me a toy pheasant. Of course, they hadn't heard about my exploits at gundog training. Someone asked my mum the other day whether I was picking up yet – they must be joking; if the humans throw something, they can jolly well pick it up themselves! Perhaps they can get some of the dog training fees back, although it's their fault - they haven't made me practice enough apparently.

20th January - watched the Inauguration of President Trump. Thought his speech was boring; nothing for dogs as far as I could see The last President had a 'First Dog' perhaps Mr T is not keen on dogs. How odd.



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Competition 2010

The consensus was that this year an impressive number of Watermead residents had made a great effort, the result being a diverse and interesting array of illuminations and decorations. We could not fail to notice that icicles and inflatable decorations were the trend in our village.

This year the champagne and first prize goes to 3 Watermeadow. The proud couple, who year after year display a complex intertwining of red and white string lights, were quite surprised, but very happy, to accept the prize and this year's title. We had listened to other residents' opinions and quite a few mentioned the same light arrangement that impressed the judges to award this year's First Prize..

Last year's winners, Mr and Mrs Glynn of 3 Mallard Close, found favour with their decorations again, and secured the Chairman's prize. Well done! Their

Inspired by the success of this initiative, we plan to have a Best Front Garden Competition this summer. More details will be provided in the next issue of Village View due to be published at the beginning of June. Judging will take place at the end of July which is the best time to admire the village's grand flower arrangements; so get ready, steady, start planting!

Cllr Irina Schwab



Call Sergio on:

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WATERMEAD RESIDENT FOR 24 YEARS



Do you need a Will? Should you make a Will?

Irina Schwab, Principal Solicitor and Legal Executive at Schwab and Co, encourages everyone to make a Will. She says “Families suffer a lot of emotional distress as a result of their loved one dying intestate. I have many close friends who went through similar experiences recently. It's hard enough coping with loss, so you don't want the extra heartbreak which can result when people die intestate and it is impossible to carry out your loved one's wishes. It is so simple to write a Will, and we can help you do this and store it safely. Storing your Will with us is free. We can also advise you how to deposit your Will with the Probate Service and/or register it on the National Will Register.”

According to the Office for National Statistics almost two thirds of the adults in the UK have not made a Will and a third of us will die intestate. Dying intestate means dying without leaving a valid Will. If this happens the 'intestate person' will have their property shared out according to the 'rules of intestacy'.

The general rule is that if your estate is worth more than your debts and the cost of your funeral, then it will be shared out with your registered legal partner (wife, husband or civil partner) getting the first £250,000, your personal possessions, plus life interest in half the rest. The balance goes to the children upon reaching the age of 18. If there are no children, however you have parents, brothers or sisters of whole or half blood, then the spouse/civil partner gets the first £450,000, your personal belongings, plus half the rest. The balance goes to your parents or brothers and sisters or descendants of whole blood and then half-blood if both parents are dead. If you are not married, then everything is shared equally between your children. If no spouse or civil partner and no children, then, if your parents survive you, they get everything. And so on. The general order of entitlement on intestacy is as follows (although sums due may vary or conditions apply according to the value of the Estate): your surviving spouse/partner, your issue (children or descendants), your parents, your brothers or sisters of whole blood or their descendants, brothers or sisters of half-blood or their descendants, your grandparents, paternal and maternal uncles and aunts or their descendants, paternal and maternal half aunts and uncles or their descendants. If

you have no relatives at all, then everything passes to the Crown, Duchy of Lancaster or Duchy of Cornwall. Please note that the rules of intestacy are a lot more complex and the information above is provided as a guide only. Your personal circumstances will dictate how your legacy is shared.

However, it is easy to see from this illustration that, if you die without leaving a Will, some of your closest family members could be left with no right to inherit anything. Those who could miss out on inheritance include unmarried partners, close friends, carers or relations by marriage. It can be very upsetting to see close family left behind struggling and subsequently having to apply to the Court for financial provision from the Estate.

To avoid being one of the thousands of people who die intestate in the UK we recommend that you contact a specialist Will Writing Solicitor to help you to make sure that it is valid. Writing a Will is not as easy as it seems and it is hardly ever a “Will writing kit” exercise. Everybody should be made aware that small errors in the wording can cause problems.

For example, “I leave my Degas painting hanging in the hallway to my hard-working accountant” or “I leave my classic car to my nephew George”. Imagine the problem an executor of these wills faces if, for instance, the Degas painting had been sold before testator's/testatrix's death. Or, if he/she changed his/her accountant one year prior to his/her death. Or, in the second example, the testator/testatrix sold the classic car and replaced it with a new car or, even, with another classic car. A specialist writing solicitor can help you avoid making Will writing mistakes. Moreover, they can advise on why registering your Will is so important.

Making a Will is particularly important if: You have young children

The Will should be used to nominate a legal guardian, and set up financial arrangements for the children should both you and your partner die.

You and your partner are not married or not in a civil partnership

According to the intestacy rules summarised above, the law as it currently stands would leave your partner with NO bequest at all, unless the assets are held in joint names.

Your Estate is significantly over the current nil rate band

If you do not make a Will your Estate may not all go to your spouse.

Types of Wills

Single Wills

Anyone over the age of 18 can make a Will.

Mirror Wills

A pair of Wills which reflect the wishes of each other. Most suited to married couples or those in a Civil Partnership.

Living Wills or Advance Directives

Many people wish to have a document drawn up which will take effect whilst still living but which sets out certain medical treatments which can or cannot be administered.

Protective Will Property Trusts

Wills which contain a trust which protects the family home from residential care fees or for protection of the family home on a second marriage. Please email us if you would like to know more about Protective Property Trusts: office@schwablegal.co.uk.

At Schwab & Co, we also deal with Lasting Powers of Attorney (both Property and Financial Affairs LPA, and Health & Welfare LPA). Please note there is a fee of £110 for every LPA application; however, if the donor qualifies, we can apply on his/her behalf for a partial or total exemption provided that all the supporting documents are made available.

As a Village View reader, you can benefit from our special offer, £100 for a single will or £150 for mirror wills. To claim these special rates please email office@schwablegal.co.uk with “Village View Wills Offer” in the email subject line. The offer is valid until 30/04/2017 midnight.

Please note that Schwab & Co Legal will see and/or advise clients by appointment only.

Answers to Tea Break Quiz on page 04

1. Spencer Perceval, 2. George C. Scott, 3. 12, 4. Eire and Denmark, 5. Onion, 6. Valerie Hobson, 7. Branch, 8. Petula Clark, 9. Let the buyer beware, 10. The Speaking Clock, 11. Yo-yo, 12. Salt Lake City, 13. Tony Blackburn, 14. Buffalo, 15. Palindrome, 16. Ear, 17. Fred and Rose West, 18. 12, 19. Blue Peter, 20. Mercury

Watermead Cygnets Pre-School

Happy New Year to you all and a big welcome to our new intake of children.

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 the children enjoyed making Christmas cards, Christmas crackers, tree decorations and Christmas sacks.

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

The new term started on the 9th January and one of our learning themes this half term is winter - we have discussed the weather changes and what clothing we wear. We have also been looking at space, discussing the atmosphere and the planets, how we travel to space, and what astronauts wear; the children all liked pretending to be on the moon and learning about gravity.

We have also been looking at science and technology where the children explored magnets, magnifying glasses, circuits and took part in experiments to find out which materials floated and which sank. Technology involved laptops, cameras, telephones, Inotabs and toys that have motors and moving parts.

We are organising a sponsored obstacle course to raise money for the pre-school. Next half term the children will be learning about the Chinese New Year, lifecycles, growing and planting together with shapes and Easter!

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 to Maree on 07563 783464.

Bye for now, *The Cygnets Team*



Mink spotted in Watermead

Ashley Jones snapped a picture on her mobile of a black mink which she spotted at the top end of Watermead lakes on 22 January 2017.

Unfortunately the image was blurred but here is a picture taken from the website of The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust. Our Parish Chairman, Sue Severn also witnessed it – she said the mink frightened Sally, the Cocker Spaniel.

Mink are small carnivores of the mustelid family. They are predators, killing a wide variety of principally water-side animals - anything from small frogs and fish to water voles and moorhens.

The mink we have in Britain are not native here. They are American mink (Neovison vison), which originated from mink brought here for fur-farming. It was an accidental addition to the British fauna in the 20th century, the result of animals escaping

from fur farms in quite a few different regions. Mink are still farmed for fur in other European countries, where escapes still occur, but since 2000 fur-farming has been prohibited in the UK (2002 in Scotland).

Mink were first shown to be breeding in the wild in Britain in the late 1950s, but were very likely established before then. Subsequently, the species has spread along watercourses and along rocky coastlines into almost all of lowland Britain. Despite their recent introduction, mink are now relatively common - unlike some of our native carnivores. In 2000 there were estimated to be roughly 110,000 in Britain - but one should add that there is no easy way to estimate the population!

In continental Europe, there is also a European mink (*Mustela lutreola*), a somewhat different species and now endangered. The European mink has

apparently never existed in the British Isles.

More information can be found at www.gwct.org.uk/wildlife/research/mammals/american-mink/mink-in-britain/



Canine Vector-Borne Disease (CVBD)

Vector-borne diseases are transmitted by the bite of infected arthropod species such as ticks, mosquitoes and sand flies. As these species are cold-blooded, their distribution has previously been limited by climatic conditions.

However with the increased transportation of pets under the Pet Travel Scheme, people obtaining rescue dogs from abroad and changes in climate, their area of distribution has increased. One notable example was the outbreak of Canine Babesiosis in a small number of dogs in Harlow (Essex) last year. None of these dogs had travelled abroad. The Pet Travel Scheme replaced quarantine in February 2000 but its primary role of protecting human health (rather than animal health) has remained the same. This was emphasized with the discontinuation of the re-entry requirement for tick treatment,

whilst the regulations to prevent Rabies and Echinococcus tapeworm (the cause of hydatid disease in people) remained in place.

A small but significant number of cases of vector-borne disease have been reported in pets that have not been abroad or even in contact with pets that have travelled outside the UK. The implication is that the vectors of these diseases may already be able to survive for periods in the UK. Ixodes is our most common indigenous tick species and the host for Lyme Disease. However there are established pockets of the Meadow Tick (Dermacentor) and occasional identifications of the Brown Dog Tick (Rhipicephalus) which are the vectors for Canine Ehrlichiosis and Babesiosis respectively.

Although pets travelling abroad are exposed to the greatest risk of CVBD, those which have not travelled are

still at risk (albeit much lower). These "exotic" diseases include Babesiosis and Ehrlichiosis (transmitted by ticks), Leishmaniasis (transmitted by sand flies) and Heartworm (transmitted by mosquitoes). They are potentially fatal and in the case of Leishmaniasis, can be transmitted to people. Infected pets can be treated although the diagnosis can be difficult, compounded by their infrequent occurrence in the UK and the possibility of infection by more than one organism simultaneously. The time between infection and clinical signs of illness can be many months as is the case with Leishmaniasis.

Ehrlichiosis can be transmitted within 3 hours of tick attachment but other infections can take 2-3 days. Through targeting the vectors of disease, it is possible to minimize the risk of infection and this is particularly important when

pets travel abroad. There are a variety of products licensed for this purpose including repellent collars and topical preparations which are available through your veterinary surgery. Manually removing any ticks from your dog as soon as they are detected will also reduce the risk of contracting diseases carried by them. The correct way of doing this is with a "tick hook" which is designed for the purpose. Other popular methods of tick removal can stress the tick causing it to regurgitate stomach contents via the feeding attachment site and this accelerates the transmission of any infections which it is carrying.

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.

Christmas Fair and Carol Concert

Many thanks go to Graham Severn for organising the Christmas Fair in the Village Hall on 3rd December 2016. There were lots of stalls selling traditional and quirky gifts, hand-crafted jewellery and scented candles, homemade Christmas cards and tree decorations, and sweetmeats being sold in aid of charity. There was also Santa's post box and the opportunity to plan your 2017 holiday with GoCruise.

Dot Toler, ably assisted by our Parish Clerk, Noreen, slaved in the kitchen to provide delicious toasted sandwiches and hotdogs, tea, coffee and cakes to our shoppers and stallholders.

We mustn't forget the "Name the Dog" competition which raised £52 for CHAT. The dog was won by Holly Button of Puffin Way who was delighted with her new cuddly canine friend. She guessed the name, which had been picked out of the hat, which was 'Holly'!

For the first time ever it was pouring with rain on the night of our Carol Concert. We had had rain before but it stopped between 6 and 7pm while we sang our carols. It once snowed which was magical. However, this time we had to retreat under cover! Nevertheless a large number of people turned out to help kick off our Christmas here in Watermead.

Thanks go to Phil Toler for setting up all the electricals before the event and to Mo from WM News for providing music prior to the concert along with disco-type lighting.

The service was led by Reverend Mark Ackford and, as usual, he included the chocolate-adapted Christmas story for the children – always causing much hilarity and enjoyment.

Safe Sax returned to provide the live music to accompany the singers and brownies from the 11th Aylesbury Brownie Group led the carol singing. Many thanks to Jane Rennie, Brown Owl.

Once again we were lucky enough to be visited by Father Christmas who, assisted by his Brownie elves, distributed presents to the children while the grown-ups carried on singing. Refreshments were also provided in the form of mulled wine with mince pies made by our own WI ladies; donations adding up to £80.84 were raised for CHAT.

A TOTAL OF £167.84 WAS RAISED FOR THE CHARITY CHILDREN'S HEATH AND THERAPY (CHAT) FROM OUR CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Finally, a big vote of thanks go to Noreen Shardlow, Parish Clerk, who arranged for the Christmas tree in the Piazza and for decorating it and without whom the above events would not have taken place. She played a large part in organising both the Fair and the Carol Concert.



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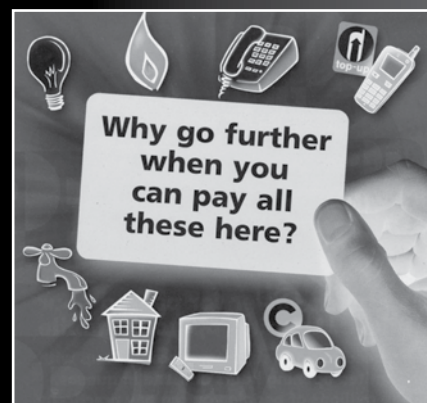
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The comprehensive A-Z guide of everything in fashion - part two



L) Central Saint Martins, the London based design school which Volkova attended.



(H) The Saint Laurent store in Harrods redesigned by Hedi Slimane.

Hedi Slimane - French born fashion designer recently left his role as Creative Director of seminal Parisian fashion house Saint Laurent. Prior to this he was head of Christian Dior's menswear collections (Dior Homme) for seven years. Albeit unpopular with critics, most notably The New York Times' Cathy Horyn who was ultimately banned from his shows at Saint Laurent, Slimane was popular with the people. Prior to Slimane's appointment financially the house was struggling, Slimane introduced a commercial and accessible style to the house and sales sky rocketed. Now Slimane, 48, focuses on his photography career and his secondary interest to fashion, music.

Inès de la Fressange - the Parisian aristocrat everyone in the fashion industry wanted to be. Her quintessential chopped bob is just one of her signature style motifs which triggered her accession to international style icon and in 1998 she was inaugurated into the International Best Dressed List Hall of Fame. Fressange was the Chanel poster girl of the 1980s and was the first model to sign an exclusive contract with Lagerfeld, the Creative Director. Fressange seduced designers, fellow models and socialites with her charm, wit and charisma.

Jacquemus - born Simon Porte Jacquemus is one of the young designers trying to shake up the stiff scene in Paris fashion at the moment. A contender for the prestigious LVMH prize in 2015 he's creating collections based around growing up in France. Jacquemus describes the girl who wears his clothes as "your typical French girl". Collections heavy in shades of pastel blue and stripes are prevalent but he brings something new to the heavily repetitive French fashion scene.

Kate Moss - cliché but deserving of an honourable mention. It would be foolish to write an A-Z of contemporary fashion and not mention the Queen of tabloid scandals herself, Kate Moss. Thrust onto the cover of now defunct "The Face" in 1990 at the tender age of 16, Moss encapsulated the look of 1990s. Waif-like almost childish figures became the sought after look and Moss' career went from strength to strength, modelling for everyone from Galliano at Dior to Calvin Klein. Now in 2017 she still remains one of the most influential figures in fashion today.

Lotta Volkova - born in Russia, stylist Volkova is causing a quiet revolution amongst the fashion industry. Her Eastern European gang of designers Demna Gvasalia and Gosha Rubchinskiy are taking international runways by storm and taking the rising underground subcultures to the forefront of fashion. Bringing a new layer to contemporary punk, the Central Saint Martins alumnus' (where I am currently studying) work focuses largely on various subcultures and their everlasting influence on fashion.

Maharishi - designer Hardy Blechman noticed the potential usage of camouflage in a contemporary fashion sense and in 1994 started his cult label "Maharishi" and he began to use repurposed military fabrics in his work. Blechman distorted traditional associations with camouflage such as violence and warfare by incorporating characters synonymous with peace into his work such as the Om symbol. By the late 1990s Maharishi became the cult streetwear label. Essentially a predecessor to brands such as BAPE or Supreme, Blechman won streetwear designer of the year at the British Fashion Awards in 2000. From the Beckhams to Jennifer Aniston everyone was wearing Maharishi. Soon Arena Homme Plus magazine was declaring Blechman's trousers as "the most copied pants of the decade".

Sandra Landy 1938 - 2017

Sandra Landy, a former resident of Watermead and Parish Councillor, has died in Hove, West Sussex.

Sandra moved to Watermead to take up a role with the English Bridge Union in Aylesbury. Sadly her husband Peter passed away in 2005 and she moved back to Hove in 2009. Sandra's enormous energy and determination to get things done were of real benefit to our community and the wider world.

Her huge contribution to British Bridge as a player and teacher is well documented and acknowledged. She represented her country in 27 major international competitions, winning 7 gold medals amongst many other awards. She mentored young players to develop the next generation of players and received the English Bridge Union's Diamond Award in 2016 in recognition of her excellence and success over a sustained period for England's international teams. A worthy recipient of this honour.

Away from Bridge, Sandra's academic record was also quite unique - she was a graduate of both Oxford and Cambridge universities, playing in the Varsity Bridge match for both universities during her time at each! She took up teaching at Brighton University becoming head of the Information Systems Division having taught, as she said, "just about every computing topic along the way, including some I knew nothing about!"

Sandra's family were of great importance to her. Her children Joanna and Richard and their families as well as her sister June and her family all lived nearby in Hove and Shoreham. Her last years were spent in the town she had lived in for so much of her life, near the sea, with much time spent playing and teaching Bridge, and with her grandchildren.

Sandra's voluntary work in Watermead was always undertaken with energy and enthusiasm. She took over editorship of Village View in 2000; it had originally been the 'Blusterette' parish newsletter printed on two sides of A4. Whilst previous editors had made improvements, Sandra made it into the much-loved colour magazine we have today. The current editor had a tough act to follow! Village View won the National Newsletter the Year Award in 2003 - which was duly presented at a ceremony during the National Association of Local Councils' Conference in Cardiff. The plaque was inscribed to 'Village Vice' which amused her enormously. The corrected plaque is now hanging in the Village Hall.

Sandra led fundraising for Larks by the Lake and single-handedly raised many thousand pounds by literally knocking on every door in Watermead selling raffle tickets - an amazing effort. She similarly managed to collect completed questionnaires when we ran a survey from a large proportion of houses...working on the principle that if she annoyed people enough they would buy raffle tickets or fill in the questionnaire...she was quite right!

Sandra also took an active part in Junior Wildlife Watch and organised "bat walks" around the lake which attracted 50+ followers.



Sandra helping out with the Junior Wildlife Watch, 2006



Sandra selling raffle tickets at Larks by the Lake in 2009



Sandra's 70th Birthday with Paul Wilson our previous advertising manager and Edith Awadzi, 2008

Her enthusiasm for the Parish Council, English Bridge and teaching was highly valued by colleagues and parishioners in Watermead. She made a difference, as she did, famously in the world of Bridge and in her professional life.

Apart from her work, Sandra was a very valued and loyal friend. She didn't suffer

fools, but was compassionate and generous in her friendship. My family came to know her very well and respected, loved and valued her as did so many others. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

Cllr Sue Severn

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 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.



Grow your own courgettes

From mid-April - Sow, sow, sow. Gently push each seed into a small pot of multipurpose compost so it stands vertically. Water, allow to drain, then place indoors on a warm windowsill.

Late May to June - Grow, grow, grow

After about four weeks you'll be ready to plant out. Don't do this until all threat of frost has gone! First harden them off by standing them outside in a sheltered spot during the day and bringing them in at night for at least a week.



Plant each young plant into:

- a football-sized hole filled with a mix of soil and well-rotted manure or compost. Position each plant one metre away from its nearest neighbour.
- a growing bag from your local garden centre.
- a patio pot that is at least 30cm wide filled with multipurpose compost.

Choose a sunny spot. Courgettes are thirsty veg, especially when in flower and the veg are starting to swell. Give them a good soaking once a week in dry spells. If growing in pots or bags you'll need to water more often.

July to September - Grub's up

To keep plants productive you need to harvest courgettes at least once a week at the height of the season. Once they're around 10cm, use a sharp knife to cut the veg from the plant. Courgettes are best eaten fresh or can be stored for a few days in the fridge.

More information at www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/digin/vegetables/courgette.shtml



Charity Ball in aid of CHAT (Children's Health and Therapy)
How often do we have occasion to have a great evening out, get dressed up, and also contribute to a worthy cause? Get out your best dress and come along and enjoy popular local band, The Dung Beatles, one of the top Beatles tribute bands who will be playing for CHAT-Charity ball on 20th May at Rivets, Aylesbury. This is a unique opportunity to dance to the band and enjoy a delicious dinner at this glamorous fundraising event (see advert on right).

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Orange Rain? I moved to Watermead in May 2013. That Summer I developed what my GP called a 'T-shirt rash' – affecting the areas of skin exposed when wearing a t-shirt. She gave me some cream, suggested I cover up when gardening and hoped it would diminish as I adjusted to my new environment. Alas, this was not to be! Things have gone from bad to worse. My allergic response seems to have been woken up and refuses to go back to sleep. Sometimes I am able to make a connection between something specific and the rash, but mostly they just appear for no discernible reason. Hardly a week goes by without a rash somewhere on my body and I await an appointment with an allergy clinic.



Could it be caused by 'something in the water'?

I can't remember when I first noticed the 'orange rain'. But the lid of my water butt, which is a rubber concave disc, always has a deep orange residue coating it when rain has sat undisturbed in it. (See picture.) I have noticed the same thing in an old white cereal dish, which I use for odds and ends sometimes when gardening. I have mentioned this to a few people and one of them said that the bottom of the bird bath in her garden has turned orange.

Has anyone else noticed this phenomenon? Does anyone know what it is? If so please drop me an email with your experiences and ideas. Many thanks. carolynnecmckee@btinternet.com

Carolynne Mckee

Dear Editor,

Our little black swan was taken to Tiggywinkles today by two of his/her rescuers and they'll take him to the Swan Sanctuary in Shepperton sometime soon where he can be with other black swans on a large lake.

It was very sad to see him go and a little traumatic watching him be caught, but he's fine and it is for the best. Even today he was being chased relentlessly by the aggressive white swans - they eventually chased him on to the waste ground by the islands and wouldn't let him back in the water which would have put him at risk of attack by loose dogs there too! But it did make it slightly easier for Tiggywinkles.

We are going to sponsor our little feathered friend for life at the Swan Sanctuary (they can live 30 - 40 years in a protected environment!) and we're donating to Tiggywinkles today to say thank you for their help.

Will miss seeing his cute little beak poking over the bank!

Tricia Lane (Received on 7th December 2016)

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Netta Glover’s report

Unitary Council for Bucks
The proposal is to abolish all five county and district authorities and replace them with two new unitary councils, one in the north alongside the existing unitary council of Milton Keynes, and one in the south to cover the area of the three southern district councils, saving tax payers almost £58million over a five-year period. Under the new proposals each unitary council would be responsible for the delivery of all council services. The proposal was approved by members of the council at each of the four districts on Monday 16th January 2017. It will now be submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 17th January. A meeting to discuss the proposal with the SoS will take place on Thursday 19th January. A copy of the executive summary and the full report can be accessed from our website www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/mlg

Speeding in Villages – Community Speed Watch
The three chairmen of our local area forum took the opportunity at the last county council meeting to challenge the Police and Crime Commissioner on the lack of activity in prosecuting people speeding in villages. The Chief Constable has given us a two page response. One of the points he makes is that reducing the harm caused on our roads is a priority so they prioritise opportunities to reduce casualties through enforcement, education and engineering opportunities. He claims that our force has one of the highest levels of enforcement activity in the country. He says that there are some technology challenges in the database used by the Community Speed watch at the moment. The person who looks after the system is “on the case”. Watermead Parish Clerk has a copy of the entire letter.

Fly Tipping - Huge fines for pair behind massive tyre dumping operation
A massive tyre dumping operation taking place across South Bucks was brought to an end when enforcement officers and police pounced on the perpetrators right in the middle of a midnight dumping spree. After a brief car chase, a man abandoned his van and was traced by police dog handlers who found him hiding up a tree.
Sentencing duly took place at Aylesbury Crown Court, when Mr Ahmed and his sister were each fined £5,000 and ordered to pay £5,195.50 in costs, on top of which was a victim surcharge. Mr Ahmed was also sentenced to 200 hours’ unpaid work and his sister to 110 hours.
Though the Waste Partnership for Buckinghamshire enforcement officers who brought the prosecution collected evidence for nine offences, it is believed that in total Mr Ahmed may have been responsible for over forty dumping incidents across South Buckinghamshire, each involving 50-60 tyres. The tyres were usually dumped across unlit roads in the middle of the night.
No evidence of Mr. Ahmed’s identity was

ever found with the dumped tyres, and all his activity took place late at night when there were no witnesses. Waste Partnership for Buckinghamshire enforcement officers, with police support, were instead able to catch the criminal red-handed after building up intelligence from surveillance cameras. Sentencing the pair, Judge Francis Sheridan expressed strong opinions about the blight caused to Buckinghamshire by illegal dumping, calling fly tippers “the scourge of the countryside” who are “robbing the county of its money” through clear-up costs – money which could otherwise be used to provide much-needed services for local people. He also made it clear that he would always strictly enforce the environmental law, and wouldn’t hesitate to hand down a custodial sentence if either of the Ahmeds came before him for dumping offences again.

Queens Police Medal for Jason Thelwell – Bucks and MK Fire Chief.
Jason has headed up some very innovative work at the Fire Authority leading the way towards co-locating the blue light services in MK and taking on apprentices. Firemen trained as first responders, sometimes beating the ambulance to a heart attack victim and saving a life. While I am talking about the Fire Authority you might be interested to hear that the planning application for the co-location of the three blue light facilities to be located in Milton Keynes has received permission to go ahead.

Survey: Tackling Crime; Protecting People 2017-20
The agencies who work together in Buckinghamshire to tackle crime and protect vulnerable people (eg councils, police, probation, voluntary services, etc) are looking for your views on what we believe should have extra focus for the next three years, April 2017 to March 2020. Some of the work we already do includes:

- Working with young people to educate them in how to stay safe and keep away from serious harm.
- Reducing the number of young people who become involved in criminal activity.
- Supporting those who feel isolated or targeted because of who they are or where they live.

Please consider taking part in this short survey, and please forward to your networks. It is ‘multiple choice’ with an optional space at the end for you to provide any comments or thoughts in your own words. It should take no more than 5 minutes.
Last year we were really pleased that over 1,300 people responded from all over the county and represented those under 17 years old right up to those over 70 years old. Please help us to hear from even more people than last year so we are even better informed. To take part in the survey log on to www.research.net/r/saferbucks.

Garden Town!
BCC statement: “This is great news for Aylesbury and for Buckinghamshire. We are very pleased to be a joint partner in the Aylesbury Garden Town initiative and are delighted that the bid has been successful.
The Garden Town status will help to provide some of the modern, high-quality facilities needed by local people in Aylesbury and surrounding areas with iconic design, public art and open spaces all delivered through partnerships of councils, organisations and individuals across the public, private, voluntary, community and faith sectors in the town. There will also be a boost for the Bucks economy generally in terms of jobs and cultural and retail growth. “The County Council gives its full commitment to working collaboratively and closely with Aylesbury Vale District Council and other partners to deliver this strong future vision for Aylesbury.”

Neil Blake has penned an open letter to Aylesbury where he addresses several misconceptions about Aylesbury’s new garden town status.
“There have been a few misconceptions about what Garden Town status means for Aylesbury and I’d like to set the record straight. The status, confusingly I’ll admit, has little to do with gardens. It comes from the Garden City movement of urban planning created back in the late 1890s and into the 20th Century. The concept is based on well-planned, sustainable and self-sufficient towns, highly accessible with significant green spaces. This ideal applies to our modern world just as much as it did in the past and the name has stuck.
It’s important to stress that this status won’t bring more housing to Aylesbury but will let us better develop the growth already set out in our emerging local plan. Developers will have to take our Garden Town status into account when proposing new developments through the local plan process. They’ll need to include more affordable housing, green spaces, trees, walking and cycle ways and we’ll do the same whenever we renovate and improve an area.
Traffic is an area of concern for many people. Garden Town status will let us tackle traffic issues more effectively as we’ll have extra funds to invest. The housing set out in the draft local plan is committed with transport improvements incorporated and the Aylesbury Transport Strategy is being created to better provide for the town’s transport needs.
This status will let us fine tune our long-term masterplan and delivery framework for Aylesbury’s growth with detailed proposals for transport, green and community infrastructure improvements.
Our ambition is quite simple – to ensure the developments across Aylesbury offer the best of town and country living, creating truly desirable communities with new affordable housing, in an environment to make us proud.”

A new occupation

About 18 months ago I mentioned on an internet forum that I was feeling at a loose end since retirement. Despite being active as a gardener, photographer and walker, and being a member of the Parish Council, I was looking for another challenge which would use some of the skills developed in my working life.

I had spent 45 years working in the NHS, mainly as a GP, so was very used to talking to people. I’d also been involved in medical politics at local and national level which involved public speaking and acting as an advocate for colleagues.
For a time I was a Trustee for a Counselling Service, which unfortunately closed when funding was withdrawn, and was looking for a similar thing to do. I was rather surprised therefore when a retired medical friend from the North of England suggested I might follow him into becoming a Humanist Funeral Celebrant.
However after reading his blog and doing some more research it did seem something worth exploring. In the last few years I had attended an increasing number of funerals of friends and family. A few were good and did justice to the deceased but in others the minister or celebrant had little knowledge of the person and seemed just to be going through the motions.
So, following several interviews, I was accepted on a course run by the British Humanist Association. The other members of the course came from varied backgrounds and included another doctor, a teacher, a Head of Social Services, the Chief Executive of an NGO and even a lapsed catholic priest.
After an initial day in London, there

were two residential weekends at Warwick University. These sessions were interspersed with a lot of practical and written work. We had to attend and observe funerals in a variety of settings and also to meet Funeral Directors and crematorium or cemetery staff and understand their roles.
We learned how to conduct an interview with the, sometimes very distressed, family of the deceased person to put together a picture of their life. In addition we studied appropriate poetry and literature and how to use music in the ceremony. One of the tutors was a drama lecturer who reminded us the art of public speaking and voice projection.
The key task of the course was to learn how to write and conduct a funeral ceremony. We did this on the basis of real but anonymised case histories. Finally we spent a Sunday at a crematorium with each of us going through a full practice funeral under the watchful eye of the tutors and the Head of Ceremonies of the British Humanist Association.
As Humanists we believe that we only have one life and it’s what we do in this life that is important. As well as mourning the death of someone, it is important to celebrate the fact that they lived and what they did in their life. Every funeral

ceremony is unique and constructed around the life of the deceased person. This requires an in-depth discussion with the family and often some email exchange to make sure what is said is appropriate and correct.
Generally we don’t have hymns or prayers but instead readings or poetry and music which the person liked. This can range from Bach to Heavy Metal. We do however accept that, even for those who don’t attend church, some things are embedded in our culture and so the music might include a hymn where this was of special significance.
I am now an accredited Funeral Celebrant and, in the small number of funerals I have conducted so far, have been struck by the rich and varied lives lived by many outwardly ordinary people. It is a privilege to be able to speak about their lives and bring out their personality in the short time allowed for a funeral. Often one of the most poignant moments in the ceremony is where mourners are reminded of funny episodes in the deceased person’s life or little quirks in their character. It is very rewarding when, as happened recently, someone says afterwards “ you got him to a T”.
Eric Rose (including photograph)

1st Buckingham Park Scout Group

This Scout Group (including children from Watermead) have been going from strength to strength this last 6 months growing in size and enthusiasm! We officially split from 9th Aylesbury Scout Group to form our own new group, '12th Aylesbury (1st Buckingham Park)' last year. We now have 24 Beavers, 22 Cubs and we are aiming to start the Scout section in the spring. We have waiting lists so, if you are interested in joining, please contact our Group Scout Leader, Iain Stanley at gsl@12thaylesbury-scouts.org.uk.

Our Beavers and Cubs attend our weekly meetings at the community centre in Buckingham Park and have earned lots of

badges recently, covering a wide range of new skills and topics such as emergency aid, disability awareness, martial arts, household jobs and archery. We have also been out on orienteering trips and adventure days which were thoroughly enjoyed by the children, leaders and parent helpers alike! Our Cubs made some fantastic personal achievements, conquering their fears and learning to work in teams and supporting each other. The camp fire at Phasels Wood was fantastic! (See photos). Please see our website www.12thaylesbury-scouts.org.uk/ for further information. We are looking for new helpers in all areas of the group, so please get in touch if you're interested!



Oving Paths Action Group steps out

On Wednesday 18th January a group of concerned villagers met in the Black Boy pub in Oving to form the Oving Paths Action Group (OPAG) and plan their first steps to improve the lot of walkers in and around the village. Instigators Rachel and David Barnett presented their survey of paths and stiles to a number of parish councillors and Jerry Michell of North Bucks rRIPPLE, who had called the meeting. More than 50 problems were identified, from broken and dangerous stiles, damaged gates and overgrown paths, to poorly maintained

Many villages face a similar dilemma, and the solution involves cooperation between volunteers, residents, land owners and both parish and county councils. The Ramblers and its team of local volunteer fixers, North Bucks rRIPPLE (ramblers Repairing & Improving Public Paths for Leisure & Exercise), survey paths and recommend action to Bucks County Council, and then repair or replace broken stiles, usually with self-closing pedestrian gates. Funding can come from the parish council, or from local residents and walkers giving through the Ramblers' Donate a Gate scheme. The goal is to provide attractive and

safe walking routes for all, encouraging responsible leisure use of the working countryside. Oving is setting the pace by targeting its first ten sites for action and raising the necessary money. The parish council has promised funding and a local resident has already donated a gate, which was installed on the same day as OPAG's first meeting. Local businesses and land owners also have a role to play, and it is hoped that work will start in earnest over the next few months to make Oving a place where walkers can step out with confidence. Details of Donate a Gate scheme www.bucks-wmiddx-ramblers.org.uk

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It takes special people to walk all night for the Hospice

Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity's annual Midnight Walk has moved to the end of June for 2017, kicking off at midnight on Saturday 24 June at Aylesbury College. FNHC's largest charity fundraiser, raising on average over £55,000 each year for the Hospice, the Midnight Walk attracts hundreds of women dressed in pink bunny ears and dayglo accessories to walk the 6-mile or 13-mile route.

"The Midnight Walk has its own special magic," says FNHC's Event Organiser, Michelle Merrison. "It's a very real physical challenge to walk all night, but also an emotional experience for many of the Walkers, because as they walk, they remember friends or family who were cared for in the Hospice, and the difference it made having the specialist support of the Hospice team who know just how to care for people who are in pain or at the end of their lives, and also how to help families cope."

Florence Nightingale Hospice is only partly funded by the NHS, and the Charity is dependent on donations from the community to pay for Florrie's Children's Team, Bereavement Support, Nightingale 24/7 Care at home, the Day Hospice and other services to patients with life-limiting illness. The sponsorship money raised by Midnight Walkers is essential.

Entry to the Midnight Walk is £18 which includes a free souvenir Midnight Walk 2017 T-shirt, as well as a medal and complimentary breakfast at the end of the Walk.

For more information and to sign up, please visit www.fnhospice.org.uk/midnight-walk

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Watermead & Weedon WI

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2017

5th January	'A Holiday Memory' Your Chance to recollect a childhood or more recent holiday event. Competition – A Box Fit for a King.
2nd February	'Challenges' - Join in some fun challenges and activities.
2nd March	'Make it and Take it Home' – create a spring gift or decoration with Michelle Last from 'stampin' up'.
6th April	'The Romans in Bucks' - A talk by archaeologist Jill Eyers.
4th May	Annual council meeting at the Waterside Theatre.
11th May	Resolutions Evening - with food – starters and puddings.
1st June	A talk by Steve Adamek from Diabetes UK, Aylesbury Group bring and buy in aid of Diabetes UK.
6th July	A treasure trail around Watermead. Let's hope the weather is good!
3rd August	Our 25th anniversary summer event.
7th September	Quiz Evening.
5th October	A talk by Alistair Borland from 'Serv Obn' the Rapid Response Medical Transport Service. Cake Sale in aid of Serv Obn.
2nd November	Annual meeting. Plus 'Guess The Baby' competition.
7th December	Christmas Craft – Decorate a bag, for a gift or your own shopping.

Creating positive changes with yoga

I am a Yoga Alliance E-RYT 200 Registered Yoga Teacher with over 17 years and in excess of 2,500 teaching hours' experience. My first

class in the Village Hall in Watermead was just over 13 years ago and during that period my class members have experienced the many styles of yoga I have studied and practiced over the years. I explore various styles of yoga as I believe a yoga teacher's path is like that of the individual practicing yoga - it's an ongoing process, a path to travel and not a destination.

In the classes we practice yoga, mindfulness, self massage and use other tools and techniques to help balance the physical, mental and emotional stresses created by our fast-paced, ever changing, modern day lifestyles. Adding this blend of mindful movement, therapeutic alternatives and restorative yoga to a session helps relax and balance the nervous system, reinforce muscle memory, release tension and stress

held in muscle and tissue, deepen mental calm, facilitate relaxation and promotes restful sleep. It is also a highly effective means of immune system enhancement and promotes injury rehabilitation.

It's my belief that Yoga is a powerful, easy to learn and portable method of attaining good health, wellbeing and transformation. Anybody and every BODY can practice yoga. My passion is to teach in a way that builds body awareness and educates people about their body; also to counsel how the things we do in our daily lives can create stiffness, illness, injury and how through simple practices we all have the opportunity to do something for ourself to create positive change. To me this way of practicing is empowering! It also has a beautiful way of spilling off the mat and into day to day life where the real opportunity for transformation can develop.

Gail Smith

By the time you read this, we shall have stopped wishing each other "Happy New Year" and be well on our way towards Spring and lighter nights. As you can see from our published programme, at Watermead and Weedon WI, we shall have heard our holiday reminiscences, experienced some challenges and activities, and we shall be turning our attention to making spring gifts and learning about the Romans in Bucks. The Committee will already be thinking about where we might hold our summer lunch and sampling the food at likely venues. Well someone has to!

In the wider context, WIs across the county will be thinking about the Annual Council Meeting to be held at Aylesbury Waterside Theatre where the audience will be addressed by Gyles Brandreth, writer and broadcaster, Rose Hill, artist and illustrator, and Lindsay Boswell, CEO of Fareshare.

Any WI welcomes all women who think they may enjoy meetings and activities, join in a wide variety of events locally and county-wide, and discuss all kinds of issues with their fellow members. There really is something for anyone and we would love to welcome you to Watermead and Weedon WI on the first Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Watermead (located in the Piazza between Avanti Hairdressers and the dentist).



Aylesbury Cyclist Touring Club CTC (part of Cycling UK)

Here are some details of rides starting in Watermead in March and April 2017. Rides are normally around 30 miles or so.

Sunday 12th March - 9.30am

Watermead Inn, HP19 0FX
Easy-paced circular cycle ride starting at the Watermead Inn car park with a coffee stop at Claydon House.

Sunday 2nd April - 9.30am

Watermead Inn HP19 0FX
Easy pace/longer circular cycle ride starting at the Watermead Inn car park with a coffee stop at Lakers Garden Centre, Winslow. This is longer than our normal rides and is about 40 miles.

Sunday 30th April - 9.30am

Watermead Inn, HP19 0FX
Easy-paced circular cycle ride starting at the Watermead Inn car park with a coffee stop at Lakers Garden Centre, Winslow.

More details of other rides and about our club on www.aylesburycyc.org.uk
Find Aylesbury CTC on Facebook and the South Bucks website www.southbuckscycling.org.uk
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The View from Westminster

Every year, the Holocaust Education Trust (HET) opens a book of remembrance for MPs to sign in the approach to National Holocaust Memorial Day, which fell this year on 27th January, the anniversary of the day that Allied forces liberated the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau. I always try to make time to sign and to remember. I was born 11 years after the war ended. For me, the memory that sticks in my mind is discovering, when I was 11 or 12, that two boys in my class at school had fathers who had survived Auschwitz. I remember going to tea with one friend and his dad pulling up his shirt sleeve to show the camp tattoo he still bore as a reminder never to forget.

Last year, on holiday in Prague, I walked round the old Jewish Quarter. I visited the oldest surviving synagogue in Europe, marvelled at the beauty of the Spanish synagogue and made myself study an at times heartbreaking exhibition of how a Jewish community which had been at the heart of Prague's civic life and culture for centuries was systematically persecuted and exterminated.

It is only two generations since Germany, seen by so many, including its own Jewish community, as the embodiment of European tolerance and civilisation, succumbed to the cancer of Nazism. It is to the credit of modern Germany that every child is taught in school about the horror of that past. That searing historical

experience also helps explain why German leaders are mistrustful of nationalism and look to European identity and institutions to temper the excesses of national passions.

More recently still, we have seen the genocides in Cambodia and Rwanda, savage “ethnic cleansing” in Bosnia, and attempts in other countries too to demonise and persecute people of a different race or religion.

Yet despite that, the passing of the years emboldens the holocaust deniers. Each year now, there are fewer survivors living to testify to what happened. That's why the work of the HET, organising visits each year by British schoolchildren, including from schools in Aylesbury, to Auschwitz is so important.

In my view, it is through deliberate remembrance that we both confront the horrors of the past and prepare ourselves mentally to rebut the deniers and challenge those who make light of racism today.

Let us never forget.

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



Valentine's Day 14th February

There are lots of early Christian martyrs called Valentine, but two of them are favourite contenders for the ‘honour’ of being responsible for the fact that millions of people throughout the world feel moved to buy cards, roses and chocolates for their partners.

Valentine of Rome was martyred in 269 and many legends surround his life and death. It is said that, at the time, Roman Emperor Claudius II had forbidden his soldiers to marry, in the theory that worrying about wives and children would distract them from their soldierly duties. But Valentine of Rome conducted marriage ceremonies for them in secret – and generally ministered to the persecuted Christians at the time. Legend has it that he cut heart shapes from parchment and distributed them to the soldiers and Christians to remind them of God's love – possibly the origin of the widespread use of heart symbols on Valentine's Day.

It is claimed that, despite this activity, Claudius II was impressed by Valentine and tried to convert him to Roman paganism to save his life. But Valentine in response tried to convert Claudius to Christianity, thereby sealing his fate – execution.

It is claimed that while in prison he performed a miracle by curing his jailer's daughter of her blindness, resulting in her family converting to Christianity. The night before his execution he wrote a letter to the now fully-sighted daughter and signed it ‘Your Valentine’. The first Valentine card?

This legend has been embellished and added to over the years and no-one really knows the true facts.

The other favourite contender is Valentine of Terni. He converted to Christianity and was made bishop of Terni when only 21 years old. Legend has it that on hearing two lovers quarrelling he gave them a rose and told them to both hold it without getting pricked by its thorns. In another version of this story he makes several pairs of pigeons fly around them making gestures of affection – supposedly the origin of the expression ‘lovebirds’. There are plenty of other stories about Valentine of Terni, some of them remarkably similar to those around Valentine of Rome – indeed some historians think they are the same person.

Why February 14th?

Some legends have it that February 14th was the date of the execution of one or other of the Saint Valentines. But I prefer this version. In ancient Rome on 13th, 14th and 15th February the festival of Lupercalia was celebrated. Faunus (Lupercus in Latin) was the half man, half goat god that bestowed fertility on animals and plants. The ritual involved lots of naked young men running through the street spanking the backsides of young women with leather whips made from goatskin, supposedly to improve their fertility.

With the rise of Christianity the Church wanted to put an end to such pagan rituals and replaced it with the cult of Valentino

as the patron Saint of lovers. Even so, the celebration of St Valentine did not have any romantic connotations until Chaucer's poetry about ‘Valentines’ in the 14th century.

Red roses were believed to be favoured by Venus, the Roman Goddess of Love, and have therefore become to represent love. This representation was affirmed in the early 1700s when Charles II of Sweden brought the Persian poetical art known as the ‘language of flowers’ to Europe.

What better way to end than with what is perhaps the most famous love poem of all time.

Shakespeare's Sonnet 18

*Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date:
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance or nature's changing course
untrimm'd;
But thy eternal summer shall not fade
Nor lose possession of that fair thou owest;
Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st in
his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou growest:
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.*



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