

VillageView

WATERMEAD'S *FREE* QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

Winter 2015 Vol.22 Issue 4

Best Christmas decorated house competition

see inside for more

Christmas Fair

Saturday 5th December 11am - 5pm

Carol Concert

Saturday 12th December from 6pm



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



BEST CHRISTMAS DECORATED HOUSE COMPETITION



A COMPETITION OPEN TO ALL WATERMEAD RESIDENTS FOR ALL OF THOSE WHO ARE BRAVE ENOUGH TO ADMIT THEIR ADDICTION TO THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS!



Every Christmas in recent years sees more Watermead residents getting wrapped up in the spirit of Christmas and adorning their houses and front gardens with the most beautiful Christmas lights and decorations. I, for one, enjoy walking around admiring our neighbours' winter wonderland creations. For some people this is the highlight of their Christmas!

Running to the window, he opened it, and put out his head. No fog, no mist; clear, bright, jovial, stirring, cold; cold, piping for the blood to dance to; Golden sunlight. Heavenly sky; sweet fresh air; merry bells. Oh, glorious. Glorious! (Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol)

It gives a warm feeling to drive or walk around our beautiful village, seeing more and more residents entering into the spirit of celebration and peace. Garlands of sparkling stars guard the houses' brows, trees light up driveways which come alive in the night, luminous deer walk out of the cold darkness of a late December night, the occasional Santa climbs on a dormer with his sack being blown by the winter night breeze. Dried citrus, holly glowing stars and gilt berries intertwined in a beautiful wreath and candied angels guarding the windows. Oh, how we love it all. The Christmas we dream of!

"What is the matter?" asked the Spirit. "Nothing," said Scrooge. "Nothing. There was a boy singing a Christmas Carol at my door last night. I should like to have given him something: that's all." (Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol)

Watermead Parish Council will launch the "Best Decorated House" competition on 1st December 2015. Your councillors will be judging between Christmas and New Year and the winner will be announced on our noticeboards and on our website on New Year's Day.

The winner will receive a gilded Watermead's Best Christmas Decorated House Certificate and a bottle of Champagne. We will publish a photo of the winner's decorated house along with the runner(s) up (subject to their permission) in the Spring Village View along with the winner's tips for success (if they have any!).

Amaze us with your creativity! Our judges will be looking for the most eye-catching combinations of lights and decorations. Plan, dig through your long lost Christmas decorations gathering dust in your loft and create a masterpiece!

The kind hand trembled. "I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. (Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol)

Good luck, everyone, and I cannot wait to see your decorated houses welcoming the most wonderful time of the year!

Cllr Irina Schwab

"As far as I am concerned, I will "put up some of the Christmas spirit in jars and open a jar of it every month." Harlan Miller.



Parish Chairman's News

Following a wonderful summer we are now preparing for Christmas and our usual round of festivities including our Craft Fair and Carol Concert taking place on Saturday 5th December and Saturday 12th December respectively.

This year we also have a wreath making class on Sunday 13th December from 10am to 3pm in the Village Hall. Participants will create a wreath and decoration for their home during the day.

We all look forward to this time of year and spending time with loved ones and friends. We aim to keep Watermead looking its best during the festive season, particularly this year when we will be holding our 'Christmas Lights competition' to choose the best decorated house in the village. See page 02 for more information.

Christmas trees

We will be collecting discarded (real) Christmas trees by the entrance to the Balloon Field after Christmas. The purpose of this is to create and protect wildlife habitats over winter. We have taken advice from environmental experts and your trees will be placed in copses, beside the lake and in other areas. This is a sustainable way of disposing of your tree and we hope that as many people as possible will help with this project.

Litter and dogs

This summer has been a very busy one. We have seen an increase in visitor numbers, particularly those with dogs. Our volunteer litter pickers have worked tirelessly to deal with an immense amount of litter and to mark dog poo left on the ground with pink antibacterial spray. The reason for doing this is to prevent people and children stepping in it, and to render it as harmless as possible.

To the few irresponsible dog owners: Please pick up the poo; keep your dog on its lead if requested or within wildlife areas. Not everyone likes dogs around them. Please be considerate.

Clean for the Queen

Working in partnership with Buckinghamshire County Council we have been asked to circulate the information on 'Clean for the Queen' campaign as part of the suggestions to inspire people to volunteer and clean up their communities as a run up to the Queen's 90th Birthday in April. See the letter from the Chief Executive of Keep Britain Tidy (see page 05). Please contact Noreen Shardlow, our Parish Clerk, if you would like to volunteer to be part of our "clean up" group.

Planning matters

The major issues facing Watermead from the planning perspective

include the Hallam Land plan to build on land to the East of Watermead. The Inspector's report is expected in the spring. Cllr Roger Cooling attended every day of the hearings, spoke to the inquiry and held face to face meetings with the Inspector when he visited Watermead. Other councillors and parishioners spoke at the hearing and many written representations were made. We now await the Inspector's report.

The other issue is the proposed Crematorium on the site of the Riviera. Following outline planning permission with conditions being granted in June, the Parish Council contacted the Secretary of State at the Department of Communities & Local Government (DCLG) and enlisted the help of David Lidington, our MP. Sadly they were unable to help. Watermead residents wrote 480 letters stating the planning reasons for our opposition to the plan; our online petition collected 800+ signatures within a week of being online and still the local authority refused to bring this matter back to its planning committee.

We then took advice from our own environment, planning and legal consultants. We concluded that our only redress was in the High Court through a Judicial Review. Our first written application was refused but on 3rd November we won



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Michelle Jackson
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michelle.jackson@watermead-pc.gov.uk

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permission from His Honour Judge Allan Gore QC for a Judicial Review of our case. The hearing heard evidence from Watermead Parish Council, Aylesbury Vale District Council and Westerleigh Crematoria (interested party). Watermead Parish Council has now applied to the High Court for the Judicial Review. The matter therefore remains one for the Court. Watermead Parish Council, mandated by an overwhelming majority of its parishioners, and others, remains determined to fight the proposed Crematorium. We are extremely grateful for the many messages of support and offers of assistance from residents and others outside the Parish. We are pleased that the Judge agreed that this matter could be openly and properly considered at a Judicial Review. We are in the hands of the Court and sincerely hope that sense will prevail. This proposal is the wrong development, in the wrong place. We do not believe that there is any need for two crematoria close to Aylesbury, let alone within 2½ miles of one another. The originally proposed Crematorium at Bierton, for

which planning permission has been given twice, is the logical and right choice, made after extensive public consultation. Although the issues in the case are technical, they are vitally important and show that Watermead continues to be wrong choice of site, quite apart from it being within a residential area and the Crematorium would be in full view of homes and leisure land.

Peter Stocker (‘Peter the potter’)

I am very sad to report the death of Peter Stocker on 29th October, after a long illness. Peter and his family moved to Watermead from Brighton and quickly became active members of our community. Peter was a very talented potter, working from his studio at home in Watermead, and many of us have pieces of his work. He produced the plaques for the War Memorial, making it a unique memorial in keeping with our times, the plaques being a modern representation of the poppy and Flanders fields.

Peter’s plaques for the walkway on the small lake were much enjoyed by all. The plaques were mounted on the

last piece of wood from the old walkway. Unfortunately, the original post was stolen and Peter immediately made new tiles, fixed to the walkway. Peter’s stall at our Craft Fair, which he supported from the beginning, was one of the most popular. His work ranged from simple spoon rests depicting items such as leaves and dogs to pottery models of local landmarks including our Bandstand, one of which was presented to the winner of the raffle in aid of Help for Heroes. The winner was absolutely delighted and treasures his prize.

Our sincere condolences to Sally, Peter’s wife and their family. We will miss Peter.

Vale Lottery

The Vale Lottery has the potential for local organisations to raise much-needed money, while giving supporters the chance to see the proceeds making a difference on their doorstep. They will also be in with a chance to win a £20,000 jackpot! Tickets cost just £1 per week. If you choose a particular cause, they will get 50p in the pound and 8p will go to the general good cause fund; the rest goes to running costs and

prize fund – AVDC does not take a penny. If you do not already have a “cause” that you support, may I suggest CHAT (Children, Health & Therapy) as your chosen “cause”.

And finally

It only remains for me to say that we now look forward to Christmas and hope you will join us for the Craft Fair, Carol Concert and wreath making day on Sunday 13th December. Our Village Hall will be decorated for the festive season at the end of November and the Piazza Christmas Tree will arrive in early December.

Season’s greetings and best wishes for the new year.

Cllr Sue Severn, Chairman

Vale Lottery

Vale Lottery is a weekly lottery that directly supports good causes which benefit the Aylesbury Vale community. Lotteries are a fun and effective way for

causes to raise much-needed funds in these difficult times. By getting more people on board, they don’t just raise funds, they also raise awareness.

When you play the Vale Lottery you know that 58% of your ticket price goes to good causes (more than DOUBLE what the National Lottery gives) AND the money raised is going to good causes that benefit your local community.

Players will get the chance to win prizes of up to £20,000 for just £1 per week. Every ticket has a 1 in 50 chance of winning a prize every week! That’s better than the National Lottery and the Health Lottery.

The first Vale Lottery draw is on Saturday 28th November at 8pm.

The draw will take place every Saturday night with results posted on the Vale Lottery website, Facebook and Twitter. Winners will be advised directly. For more information go to www.valelottery.co.uk

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Clean for the Queen!

Dear Chris Williams,

We’d love to have the support of your Local Authority in the biggest ever clean-up of the country, which will be taking place in March 2016.

In the run up to The Queen’s 90th birthday on 21st April 2016, we aim to inspire a million people to take action and enjoy a few hours together litter-picking to make the places where we live more beautiful. For Her and for us all, we want to attack the blight of litter and reclaim our beautiful countryside, our fabulous cities, our world class parks, our wonderful beaches and waterways.

All of the litter charities across the country have come together in support of this campaign together with a growing range of companies, land managers and associations.

There will be ‘Clean for The Queen’ litter blitzes throughout the UK in January, February and March, and the most monumental of all litter clear-ups from Friday 4th to Sunday 6th March 2016.

We’d love to have your support in making this event truly spectacular. We will shortly be sending through a downloadable resource pack for your teams to use. It’d be great if they could encourage as many local community groups as possible to sign up to organise a clean-up through the ‘Clean for

The Queen’ website. Furthermore, it would be fantastic if your Authority could stage its own local clean-up to allow individuals to come together and clean up a local grot spot.

Lots more will be announced over the coming weeks and months, as we build up a head of steam.

But it’d be great if you could respond to the address below indicating your willingness to engage in the campaign – and we’ll be back in touch shortly with more details.

Join us! Let’s Clean for The Queen.

Allison Ogden-Newton,
Chief Executive, Keep Britain Tidy
Adrian Evans LVO, Campaign Director

www.cleanforthequeen.co.uk
adrian@cleanforthequeen.co.uk

Clean for The Queen was launched in association with Country Life magazine and is supported in part by the Garfield Weston Foundation.

Mercia Group hold WI Centenary Event

On Friday 18th September we gathered for a special evening at the Quainton Railway Centre organised by the Mercia Group which is a group of local WI's including Watermead & Weedon. The evening was hosted by Quainton WI.

We were greeted with a glass of Bucks Fizz and canapes and were then able to stroll along the original platform which had trolleys with old style suitcases and trunks waiting to be loaded; we could admire carriages of the old steam trains which were decorated inside some with tables laid for dinner, etc.

A singer and guitarist entertained us and we were served a delicious meal. One of the ladies had made a cake, actually three cakes in the form of 100, which was cut and served with coffee after our meal. All-in-all, a very pleasant evening.

The Buckinghamshire Railway Centre is a 25 acre working Steam Museum with one of the UK's largest collections of locomotives, rolling stock and railway memorabilia. A re-created country station in the heyday of steam travel, offers steam train rides on certain days.

Quainton Road railway station was opened in 1868 in under-developed countryside near Quainton, Buckinghamshire, 44 miles (71 km) from London. Built by the Aylesbury and Buckingham Railway, it was the result of pressure from the 3rd Duke of Buckingham to route the railway near his home at Wotton House and to open a railway station at the nearest point to it. Serving a relatively unpopulated area, Quainton Road

was a crude railway station, described as "extremely primitive".

The Duke of Buckingham built a short horse-drawn tramway to transport goods between his estates at Wotton and a terminus adjacent to the station. He extended it soon afterwards to provide a passenger service to the town of Brill, and the tramway was converted to locomotive operation, known as the Brill Tramway. All goods to and from the Brill Tramway passed through Quainton Road, making it relatively heavily used despite its geographical isolation, and traffic increased further when construction began on Ferdinand de Rothschild's mansion of Waddesdon Manor. The plan of extending the Brill Tramway to Oxford, which would have made Quainton Road a major junction station, was abandoned. Instead, the Aylesbury and Buckingham Railway and the Brill Tramway were absorbed by London's Metropolitan Railway (MR), which already operated the line from Aylesbury to London. The MR rebuilt Quainton Road and re-sited it to a more convenient location, allowing through running between the Brill Tramway and the Aylesbury and Buckingham Railway. When the Great Central Railway (GCR) from the north of England opened, Quainton Road became a significant junction at which trains from four directions met, and by far the busiest of the MR's rural stations.

In 1933, the Metropolitan Railway was taken into public ownership to become the Metropolitan line of the London Passenger Transport Board's London Underground, including Quainton Road. The LPTB aimed to move away from freight operations, and

saw no way in which the rural parts of the MR could be made into viable passenger routes. In 1935 the Brill Tramway was closed. From 1936, Underground trains were withdrawn north of Aylesbury, leaving the London and North Eastern Railway (successor to the GCR) as the only operator using the station, although Underground services were restored for a short period in the 1940s. In 1963 stopping passenger services were withdrawn but fast passenger trains continued to pass through. In 1966 the line was closed to passenger traffic and local goods trains ceased using the station. The line through the station was singled and used by occasional freight trains only.

In 1969, the Quainton Road Society was formed with the aim of preserving the station. In 1971, it absorbed the London Railway Preservation Society, taking over its collection of historic railway equipment. The station was fully restored and reopened as a museum, the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre. In addition to the original station buildings, the museum has also acquired the former Oxford Rewley Road railway station and a London Transport building from Wembley Park, both of which have been reassembled on the site. Although no scheduled trains pass through Quainton Road, the station remains connected to the railway network. Freight trains still use this line, and passenger trains still call at the station for special events at the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre. More information can be found at websites www.bucksrailcentre.org/ and www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quainton_Road_railway_

Watermead & Weedon WI

It has been a very busy year for the WI generally because of the Centenary.

Members from WWWI have participated in the events at Buckingham Palace, Waddesdon Manor, and Quainton Railway Museum.

At the end of last month, we provided our banner, made by one of our members, Carol Hiatt, to the display of Bucks WI banners at the Museum in Aylesbury. The banners have now all been returned to their respective WIs but the small exhibition, detailing the history of the WI in Bucks, will remain

until the new year.

This year we have made efforts to publicise WWWI and encourage new members to join us. We have been successful in attracting some new members from Weedon which has been particularly pleasing since we are Watermead and Weedon WI but had no members from Weedon.

Our programme for 2016 is almost complete and will be available to members at our December meeting. We shall also display the programme on the Watermead notice board and email it to our contact in

Weedon so that anyone can see what we are up to each month. There will not be a Christmas meal this year because we departed from tradition and had a lovely lunch in August this year instead. Our December meeting will take place in our usual venue, the Village Hall, on Thursday and we shall be in a party mood with food, drink and some games and competitions.

We will be participating in the Carol Concert in the Piazza on 12th December and some of our members will be making mince pies which will be served with mulled wine.

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

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GEORGE DAVID



What's on IN AND AROUND WATERMEAD

December

3rd	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall 7.30pm
5th	Christmas Fair	Village Hall 11am-5pm
12th	Christmas Carol Concert	The Piazza 6pm
13th	Wreath Making Class	Village Hall 10am-3pm
19th to 23rd	Gift Wrapping Service for charity	Friars Square
	Homework Help every Tuesday during term time	Aylesbury Library 4.30-6.30pm

January

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

February

4th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall 7.30pm
14th	Valentines Day	
15th	Half Term	
18th	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall 7.30pm

March

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

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING ACTION GROUP

3rd Thursday on selected months

WATERMEAD & WEEDON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

First Thursday of the month
7.30 - 9.30pm
Julia Morgan 487650
julia-morgan@sky.com

JO JINGLES

Tuesdays
Music & Movement 1.30 - 2.15pm
18 months upwards 2.30 - 3.05pm
6 months to walking
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Debbie Bird 625599

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Avril Nurse 580495

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Janet Castielli 433956
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7.15 - 8.15pm
Gale Smith 747900

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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Tea Break Quiz



- Where in the body is the cochlea?
- Who was Marilyn Monroe's co-star in Gentlemen Prefer Blondes?
- In which European city is Wenceslas Square?
- Which forgery did Konrad Kujan almost get away with in 1984?
- In which English cathedral is the whispering Gallery?
- What did Rebecca Stephens become the first British woman to do on 17th May 1993?
- What was the short-lived name of the UK post office in 2001 - 2002?
- What was Private Pike's civilian occupation in Dad's Army?
- Who bought Virgin Radio from Richard Branson in 1997?
- The Latin phrase 'caveat emptor' means what?
- Which former chairman of the Tory Party was appointed governor of Hong Kong in 1992?
- Who invented the rocking chair?
- What license cost 37p when it was abolished in 1988?
- In which city was Martin Luther King assassinated?
- What did the initials of DH Lawrence stand for?
- Where is the poet Robert Browning buried?
- In which English county is Rugby?
- Which nerve forms the link between the eye and the brain?
- Who is the oldest man in the Bible?
- What is the capital of Australia?

Answers on page 12

So what can I give?

What do you enjoy most about Christmas - the anticipation, the decorations, time spent with friends and family, singing carols, eating lots of lovely food, opening presents? Well if it's opening presents that's no bad thing as it reminds us that Christmas is all about a very special gift - God's gift to the world. God's gift wasn't a voucher or socks or even the latest iPhone. It didn't come in exciting wrapping paper, and couldn't be returned or exchanged. God's gift to the world was, of course, a baby.

In lots of ways this baby was much the same as any other baby - he slept and cried and ate and needed his nappy changing. But he was a special baby because he was not just a tiny, vulnerable human being; he was also Emmanuel, God with us, Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

And this special baby grew up to be a very special man. A man who loved people and healed them and taught them to love one another and try to make the world a better place; best of all, he helped us to be friends with God and what do friends do? They help us, they challenge us, they listen to us and they laugh with us and cry with us. What

better friend could anyone have than God himself.

The thing is though, that when you are given a very special present, and Jesus was a very special present, it's nice to give something in return. Think of the wise men - they gave gold, frankincense and myrrh. Three very special presents for a very special baby. But what about us, as we look for Jesus this Christmas, what can we give him? I certainly don't have gold, frankincense or myrrh to offer. So what can I give?

One of my favourite carols is 'In the bleak midwinter' based on the poem by Christina Rossetti. The words of this carol draw out the contrast between heaven and its glory, and the experience of Jesus, the Son of God, born into life on earth, en-fleshed like one of us. In its last verse we find the answer to the question of what can I give?

*What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.*

Christina Rossetti concludes in this verse

that what is asked of us as Christians, in response to the sight of the Christ child, is the gift of "my heart" and not the extravagance of our credit card account. The greatest gift you have to offer is yourself. It is the gift of relationship in a form that enriches the life of others, and deepens our own sense of having something to give.

Each and every one of us has something very, very special that we can give to Jesus this Christmas. That is our heart. Because the thing that Jesus wants most in the world from us is that we love him with all our heart, just as he loves us. So please come along to one of our services here at St James or at All Saints during Advent and Christmas (details and times can be found by visiting our Parish website on www.biertonhulcottchurches.org) and allow the Christ child to become a part of your festive celebrations this year.

With every blessing for a Happy Christmas and a peaceful and rewarding 2016.

*Rev'd Mark Ackford,
Vicar of St James the Great Berton*

Eat the World ideas to use up left-over turkey

Few of us nowadays have time in our lives to make real home-made soups with proper stock. But Christmas does provide a rare opportunity, and it can provide quite a therapeutic exercise after the pressures of pre-Christmas. This recipe is taken from Delia Smith's Complete Cookery Course, Delia Smith's Complete Illustrated Cookery Course and Delia Smith's Christmas.

Turkey Soup

1 pint (570ml) stock and 1lb (450g) vegetables will make enough soup for 4 people

Ingredients:

Stock

1 turkey carcase (including the skin and debris, like bits of stuffing),
1 carrot, peeled and split lengthways,
1 onion, peeled and cut in half
2 celery sticks, cut into chunks,

2 sprigs thyme,
2 bay leaves,
12 black peppercorns, salt

Soup

1lb (450g) vegetables (any combination of carrots, leeks, swede, celery and onions) chopped, per 1 pint (570ml) turkey stock,
1 heaped teaspoon turkey dripping or butter per 1lb (450g) vegetables,
salt and freshly milled black pepper

Method:

1. To make the stock, take your largest cooking pot and break the turkey carcase into it (along with all the bits that cling to it), then add the rest of the ingredients.
2. Cover with water, bring up to simmering point, skim off any scum that rises to the surface, then simmer for 2 hours.
3. After that strain the stock and discard all the debris.
4. For the soup, sweat the

chopped vegetables in dripping or butter in a large pan (lid on) for 10 minutes over a low heat.

5. Measure in the stock and leave to simmer, again with the lid on, very gently for 1½ hours. After that, purée the soup either in a food processor or liquidiser, or through a sieve.
 6. Taste to check the seasoning, and re-heat before serving.
3. When the sauce begins to bubble add the apple, sultanas, mango chutney and grated coconut, plus some seasoning.
 4. Turn the heat down to a gentle simmer and let it cook for 30 minutes.
 5. After that, add the turkey pieces and a squeeze of lemon juice, stir well, put a lid on and simmer gently for a further 10 minutes to reheat the turkey.
 6. Serve with basmati rice, poppadoms, mango chutney and lime pickle.

English Colonial Curry with Turkey

There is something about an uncomplicated, old-fashioned curry-powder curry after all the Christmas feasting. Its sheer simplicity offers a much-needed change of gear. It is also equally good made with leftover chicken or beef. This recipe is from Delia's Happy Christmas.

Ingredients:

600g cooked turkey, chopped into chunks,
1 tablespoon turkey dripping,
1 large onion, finely chopped,
2 sticks of celery, chopped,
1 clove garlic, crushed,
1 heaped tablespoon plain flour,
1 teaspoon turmeric,
1 teaspoon ground ginger,
1 heaped tablespoon, Sharwood's Hot Curry Powder (for Madras),
725ml hot stock (made with Marigold bouillon),
1 medium dessert or Bramley apple, cored and chopped (no need to peel),
25g sultanas,
1 heaped tablespoon mango chutney,
2 tablespoons grated creamed coconut,
a squeeze of lemon, seasoning

Method:

1. Heat the dripping and fry the onion and celery over a medium heat, tossing them around till softened and well browned at the edges, then add the garlic and toss that around for a minute.
2. Now stir in the flour, turmeric, ginger and curry powder to soak up all the juices, and after that gradually stir in the stock.

Rum Butter Tarts

These delicious spicy fruit tarts make a change from the usual mince pies.

Ingredients:

8oz rich shortcrust pastry,
2-3oz 'no soak' dried apricots (finely chopped),
2oz raisins,
1 tablespoon dark rum
2oz butter
2oz dark soft brown sugar,
1 egg, beaten,
1oz ground almonds,
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon,
pinch grated nutmeg,
pinch ground cloves,

Method:

1. Set oven to 375 degrees F/ Mark 5.
2. Mix the apricots and raisins with the rum and leave to stand for about 15 minutes.
3. Meanwhile roll out the pastry thinly on a floured surface and cut into 12-15 rounds with a pastry cutter.
4. Line 3 inch greased patty or bun tins with the pastry rounds.
5. Cream the butter and sugar in a bowl until light and fluffy, then beat in the egg, ground almonds and spices. Stir in the rum-soaked fruit.
6. Place a spoonful of filling in each pastry case and bake for 15-20 minutes.
7. Cool the tarts in the tins for a few minutes before transferring to a wire rack until cold.
8. Serve warm or cold dusted with a little icing sugar.

Watermead MacMillan Coffee Morning 2015

Watermead's Macmillan Coffee Morning was truly exceptional this year.

Donated raffle prizes and items for sale; 'Name that Bear' competition; the sale of my grandchildren's 'pre-loved' toys and books; all contributed to the raising of £800 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

There was a fantastic spread of food - a great variety of sandwiches, sausage rolls and a huge supply of cakes of all sorts, the sale of which also contributed to the sum raised. Many thanks to all who played a part in the catering.

For the first year ever we ran out of places to sit, despite which everyone had a really good time. People who usually only say "hello" to each other had a chance to have a really good chat. It was simply wonderful!

The Village Hall had been decorated to look its best. We are very grateful for the use of it, so a big 'thank you' to the Parish Council and of course our Parish Clerk, Noreen Shardlow.

Thanks are also due to Aylesbury Community at Tesco for helping for the fifth year running.

My family are always so supportive especially my daughter, Paula Heyes, so they deserve a 'thank you', along with Graham Severn, Collette O'Brien, Maria Schembri and Barbara Swanell. We couldn't have done it without you - or all the people who come along and buy!

Marcia Lang

Ms M Lang
5 Lakeside
AYLESBURY
Buckinghamshire
HP19 0FX

2 November 2015
Supporter reference: 3535787

Dear Ms Lang,

A big thank you from Macmillan

Thank you so much for raising a fantastic £800.00 for Macmillan by hosting a World's Biggest Coffee Morning. We hope that you enjoyed it, and that you'll pass our thanks on to everyone who helped to make it a success. Your effort and enthusiasm will help us to be there for people affected by cancer and their families, and help them feel more in control of their lives.

How your support helps

No one should face cancer alone, and the money you raised will help fund the work of people like Charmaine, a Macmillan Breast Cancer Nurse Specialist. 'My main role is to provide information', she says, 'because information is power, and helps people make informed choices. But sometimes it's just letting them offload their worries. They feel like they can't talk to partners or family members because they don't want them to see a chink in their armour. So I tell them they can talk to me about anything they want.'

Thank you again for being part of the Macmillan team.

With best wishes,

Sarah Neville

Sarah Neville
Supporter Donations team
0300 1000 200
fundraising@macmillan.org.uk

PROTECTION STATEMENT: By submitting your donation and personal information you agree to us recording your details in our database, so we can provide you with the best possible support every time you contact us. We will also contact you in time to time by phone, email, text or post to tell you about how we can support you and how you can get involved in our team. Your details will be kept securely and only shared with our suppliers or partners who work on our behalf or with us. We never sell or swap your details with third parties. If you ever wish to refer us not to use your details in this way, you can email contact@macmillan.org.uk, telephone 0300 1000 200, or write to Macmillan Cancer Support, 89 Albert Embankment, London, SE1 7UQ.

Questions about living with cancer? Call the Macmillan Support Line free on 0800 1000 100 or visit macmillan.org.uk

Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (604). A company limited by guarantee. Registered company in England and Wales (2400969) and the Isle of Man (4694F). Registered office: 89 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7UQ.



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Wishing you could see your grandchildren?

While many grandparents enjoy wonderful happy moments with their grandchildren so many grandparents are denied contact with their grandchildren.

It is officially estimated by The Grandparents' Association (a national registered charity), that at least 1 million grandchildren are denied contact with their grandparents and over 68,000 children are in the care system, many of whom are denied all or reasonable contact with their grandparents. Both of these statistics are growing year after year, hence so very many grandparents in the country are experiencing heartbreaking pain and loss. The members of The Grandparents' Support Group for Aylesbury Vale help support each other during this extremely distressing time in their lives.

The Aylesbury based support group for grandparents' denied contact with their grandchildren has been running for almost five years. Grandparents are denied contact as a result of divorce, family rifts, bereavements, 'the care system' or for absolutely no apparent reason at all. Consequently many grandparents are suffering great

loss and pain every day of their lives. We would like to see grandchildren having the right to contact their grandparents (as long as it is safe to do so) but in the meantime our group offers information, support, advice and friendship in a confidential environment and helps grandparents to manage their loss as best they can.

We regularly invite guests to our group meetings such as Family Law Specialists, mediation lawyers and Family Therapists, amongst others all of whom have valuable input and help to increase awareness of our support group and this growing issue. We also have an in-house library of helpful support books, as well as help sheets on a variety of matters that relate to grandparents being denied contact with their grandchildren.

So grandparents if you are denied all or reasonable contact with your grandchildren please do get in touch and come along and meet us from 7pm on the second Wednesday of the month at The Holiday Inn Hotel, Aston Clinton Road, Aylesbury, or for further information call 07949640156. Look forward to seeing you soon.

Christmas events in Aylesbury Town Centre

Santa's Parade has become a firm family favourite, and he will be joined by all his friends as they parade through the town on Sunday 29th November from 10.45am.

The parade will begin in the High Street, and go around Market Square. After the parade there will be a small funfair, activities and entertainment.

Looking for that special gift? Then come and browse the array of unusual present ideas on offer at the Christmas Craft and Gift fair on Sunday 6th December from 11am until 3pm in the historic Market Square.

If you want to do some late night Christmas shopping then take advantage of free parking in AVDC owned Aylesbury town centre car parks every Thursday from 4.30 p.m. from 19 November to 24 December inclusive.

Answers to Tea Break Quiz on page 09

1. Ear, 2. Jane Russell, 3. Prague, 4. Hitler's Diary, 5. St Paul's Cathedral, 6. Climb Mount Everest, 7. Consignia, 8. Bank clerk, 9. Chris Evans, 10. Let the buyer beware, 11. Chris Patten, 12. Benjamin Franklin, 13. Dog licence, 14. Memphis, 15. David Herbert, 16. Westminster Abbey, 17. Warwickshire, 18. Optic nerve, 19. Methuselah, 20. Canberra.

Random people Calling all knitters

Marjorie Hiron has lived in Watermead since the early days of the development and in the Aylesbury area for most of her adult life. Despite having just celebrated her 80th birthday she leads a very busy and active social life, but still finds time to organise a group of knitters to supply the premature baby unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital with tiny garments for their patients.

A small army of volunteers spend their spare time clickety-clacking away and are in constant need of replenishing their wool supplies. So if you have any unwanted balls of 4 ply or double knitting taking up space in your sewing box Marjorie would be very grateful to receive them and will happily come round to collect. (All colours welcome, not just pastels).

Or maybe you'd like to join the volunteers creating the tiny caps, booties, jackets and blankets. Marjorie can supply you with patterns and wool. Marjorie would like to give thanks to all those people who have knitted garments or supplied wool. If you would like to be one of them please call Marjorie on: 01296 426706.



Important changes to bin collection days at Christmas

This year every household across the district will have at least one change to their bin collection days over the festive period.

The date changes are included in the latest issue of AVDC's news magazine, the Aylesbury Vale Times and will appear in local media and on the parish council notice boards.

If residents are uncertain of their collection date or which bins to put out, they can check

the bin calendar on AVDC website www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/bins or download bin app 'avdc bins' on their phones.

Bad Weather and bin collections

The wintery weather sometimes causes problems for collections, so to keep up to date in extreme conditions, check our website homepage for the latest news www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

Active Vale

The Communities team at AVDC have been successful in a bid to Sport England to run a three year project engaging women and girls aged 14 – 40 years across the Vale in sports and physical activity. We're calling it Active Vale.

There will be a range of different activities available over the three years in the towns and areas across the Vale that residents have told us they want to see.

The project will start in January 2016 with girls and women only swimming lessons and expand in to other activities such as Nordic walking, running, team sports and gym class taster sessions over the three years.

For more information please call Helen White on 01296 585195 or check out the AVDC webpage.

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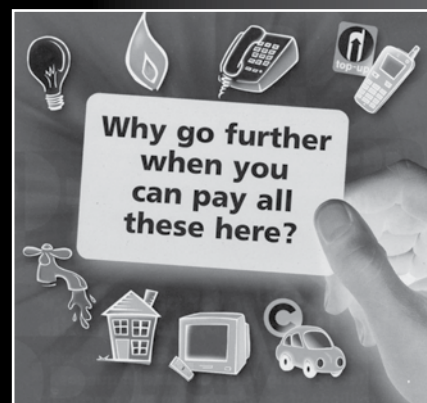
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Old age or arthritis?

As our pets age, most of them begin to take life at a more leisurely pace.

Often this is a natural part of getting older but it can be symptomatic of osteoarthritis or degenerative joint disease. The age of onset can be variable from middle-aged to elderly dogs and cats with initially subtle but gradually progressive clues. Now that rabbits are living to be nearer 10 years old than 5 years old, they too can suffer with arthritis. The signs differ between dogs and cats and the most commonly affected joints are the hips, knees and elbows.

Dogs may become slower on walks, pant more frequently and have difficulty jumping into the back of the car or manage stairs. They can be restless and pace at night, take longer to sit or lie down and can be stiff after rest although improve somewhat when they start to move around. Occasionally they will stumble, trip or drag a leg. Cats are better at hiding

the problem although 90% of cats over the age of 12 have some degree of osteoarthritis. They may sleep in different locations and choose to lie stretched out rather than curled up. Instead of using their hind legs to jump up onto surfaces and spring up stairs they rely more on using their front legs to pull themselves up. Rabbits tend to spend more time in the hutch and adopt an abnormal hind limb movement rather than hopping. They are also less able to clean themselves and tend to suffer from dirty bottoms. In all cases, degenerative joint disease causes progressive discomfort and shouldn't be ignored.

Management of this problem can involve adaptations to make life easier such as anti-slip mats for dogs in homes with tiled or wooden floors or a ramp to allow them to walk into the back of the car. Placing a stool or box for a cat to jump onto as a stepping stone to a higher surface can also be helpful.

Shorter, more frequent dog walks are preferable if time permits and ensuring your dog is properly dry after a walk in the rain can help reduce stiffness once they have rested after the walk.

Glucosamine supplements are popular despite the mixed evidence base for their efficacy (both in people and animals). There are many products to choose from and they can be obtained from a wide variety of retail outlets as they are not a prescription medication. They should be used for a minimum of 6 weeks to determine if they are of benefit. Vets often prescribe medication called non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (these are not the same as steroids). These drugs have anti-inflammatory and pain-relieving effects and usually have significantly positive impact on the pet's mobility and quality of life. Their use needs to be regularly reviewed as they can conflict

with other conditions such as liver or kidney disease. Opioid analgesics such as tramadol are sometimes used if non-steroidal anti-inflammatories alone are not enough to control the discomfort.

Other options which provide symptomatic relief include physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, osteopathy, acupuncture and other physical manipulation therapies. These should be undertaken by a suitably qualified person (or veterinary surgeon with additional training in the case of acupuncture). Several pet food manufacturers also produce prescription diets specifically formulated with ingredients to improve joint mobility.

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



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Watermead Carol Concert

6-7 PM SATURDAY 12th DECEMBER 2015
THE PIAZZA, WATERMEAD

Welcome by Sue Severn, Chairman,
Watermead Parish Council

	Carol Nos
<i>O Come all ye Faithful</i>	12
<i>Joy to the World</i>	11
<i>Silent Night</i>	13

Children to gather near the stage -
Rev Mark Ackford address
Children to sing Away in a Manger

6

Thame Concert Band will play a tune to welcome
Father Christmas. Father Christmas will distribute
presents to children.

<i>It Came Upon the Midnight Clear</i>	14
<i>Once in Royal David's City</i>	19
<i>On Christmas Night all Christians Sing</i>	20
<i>While Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night</i>	7

Sue Severn - thanks and finale

<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	10
-------------------------------------	----

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies or Sausage Rolls
Donations To Chat (Children, Health & Therapy)

“Wishing you a very Merry Christmas
and a Healthy and Happy New Year”
from Watermead Parish Council

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
Come ye, oh come ye to
Bethlehem
Come and behold Him,
born the King of Angels

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of
heaven above
Glory to God in the highest
O come, let us adore Him,...

O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
born this happy morning
Jesus, to Thee be glory given
Word of the Father, now in
flesh appearing
O come, let us adore Him,...

God of God, Light of Light
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's
womb;
Very God, begotten, not created
O come, let us adore Him,...

JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the World, the Lord
has come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare
Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven and
nature sing.

Joy to the World! The Saviour
reigns;
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks,
hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth
and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His Love,
And wonders of His Love,
And wonders and wonders of
His Love.

SILENT NIGHT

Silent night, holy night.
All is calm, all is bright
Round the Virgin mother
and Child;
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night.
Shepherds quail at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia:
Christ, the Saviour is born,
Christ, the Saviour is born.

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, Love's pure Light
Radiant beams from Thy
holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming
grace:
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down
His sweet head
The stars in the bright sky looked
down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on
the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby
awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying
he makes,
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look
down from the sky
And stay by my side until
morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask
Thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love
me, I pray
Bless all the dear children in Thy
tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with
Thee there.

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the
earth,
To touch their harps of gold;
'Peace on earth, goodwill to men,
From heaven's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies
they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music
floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lonely plains
They bend on heavenly wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Yet, with the woes of sin and
strife,
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angels' strain have
rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
The man, at war with man,
hears not
The love-song which they bring:
Oh, hush the noise, ye men
of strife,
And hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When, with the ever circling
years,
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the
earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world send back
the song
Which now the angels sing!

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle-shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from
heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall:
With the poor and mean and
lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all His wondrous
childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden,
In whose gentle arms He lay.
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as He.

For He is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feeleth for our sadness,
And He shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see
Him,
Through his own redeeming love;
For that Child, so dear and gentle,
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him, but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars His children
crowned
All in white shall wait around.

ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT ALL CHRISTIANS SING

On Christmas night all
Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring
On Christmas night all Christians
sing
To hear the news the angels bring
News of great joy, news of great
mirth
News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should we on earth be
so sad
Since our Redeemer made us glad
Then why should we on earth be
so sad
Since our Redeemer made us glad
When from our sin He set us free
All for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before His grace
Then life and health come in its
place;
When sin departs before His grace
Then life and health come in its
place
Angels and we with joy may sing
All for to see the new-born King.

All out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this
night
All out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this
night
'Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and for evermore, Amen.

WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT

While shepherds watched their
flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The Angel of the Lord came
down
And glory shone around.

'Fear not,' said he (for mighty
dread
Had seized their troubled mind).
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

'To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord
And this shall be the sign:

'The heavenly Babe you there
shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in
swaddling bands
And in a manger laid.'

Thus spake the Seraph,
and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heaven
to men
Begin and never cease.

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

Christ, by highest heaven adored
Christ, the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, the Incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to
dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark, the heral d angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

Hail, the Heaven-born Prince of
Peace!

Hail, the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild, he lays His glory by
Born that we no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth.
Hark, the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

Watermead Dentist raising money

Watermead Dental Centre’s Relay for Life team ‘The Dolly Mixtures’ held a very successful quiz night on Friday 9th October in aid of Relay for Life Cancer Research. The team, who are entering Relay For Life next July are dedicating their time to raising as much money as they can between now and then.

Ten teams entered the quiz, answering general knowledge questions through the evening and enjoying coffee, tea and cake donated by the team. There was also the chance to win a bounty of great raffle prizes and a ‘guess the weight of the cake’ competition to win an amazing chocolate sweetie covered cake.

The evening was most enjoyable for all. Everyone joined in a special Happy Birthday song to our youngest entrant Finn who was eight that day and the winning team ‘the Pilgrims’ donated their chocolate winnings to him.

The Dolly Mixtures would like to thank everyone who came and supported them on the night. Also a big thank you to the Lily Pot Florist, WM News & Food, Jack Murgatroyd and everyone else who donated prizes and refreshments.

Finally a special thank you to Jon Spargo our quiz master extraordinaire!
The Quiz Night was The Dolly Mixtures first event and was a great success raising over £550 for Relay for Life Cancer Research.
Keep an eye out for future Dolly Mixture events in the coming months!!!

Council tax scam

Fraudsters have been phoning victims telling them that they have been placed in the wrong council tax bracket for a number of years and are entitled to a rebate. They normally say that this rebate should be worth about £7,000. Once the victim is convinced, the fraudster tells them that in order to receive the rebate they will need to pay an administration fee in advance. The payment they ask for varies between £60–£350. The victim provides the details and makes the payment, but then is no longer able to make contact with the person they spoke to on the phone. When they phone their council about the rebate and the fact that they are in the wrong tax bracket, the council will confirm that they know nothing about it and that they have been contacted by fraudsters.
The fraudsters have mainly been targeting both male and female victims who are aged 60 and over and live in the Sussex area, but it is likely that the fraudsters will also start to target victims in other areas.

- Protect yourself:**
- Never respond to unsolicited phone calls.
 - Your local council won’t ever phone out-of-the-blue to discuss a council tax rebate. If you receive a call of this nature, put the phone down straight away.
 - No legitimate organisation will ask you to pay an advanced fee in order to receive money, so never give them your card details.
 - If you think you have been a victim of fraud, hang up the phone and wait five minutes to clear the line as fraudsters sometimes keep the line open. Then call your bank or card issuer to report the fraud. Where it is possible use a different phone line to make the phone call.

If you believe that you have been a victim of fraud you can report it online www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud or by telephone 0300 123 2040.

Saturday 6th December 2014
Village Hall, The Piazza 11am - 5pm

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Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity

The lights have been switched off on another successful Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity (FNHC) Midnight Walk, an annual event now in its sixth year.

The event continues to be popular and well-supported. Five hundred and seventy pink-eared ladies took to pounding the streets of Aylesbury this year raising over £50k for the Charity in just one night!

Despite several light rain showers, each lady proudly showed off her brightly decorated t-shirt as they strode with pride on either the six or 13-mile route, starting and finishing at Aylesbury College, proud sponsor of the walk since the event started in 2010.

Mix96 has supported the Midnight Walk for the last three years and for the first time this year a live broadcast was undertaken during the walk.

Breakfast presenter Katy Brown walked 13 miles alongside FNHC’s PR & Marketing Manager and Watermead resident, Sam Heggie. Sam spoke to various people along the route and commented: “*It was absolutely wonderful to speak to some of the walkers along the route and hear about their personal reasons for walking with us. There was a very poignant story from a Mum, who was walking in memory*

In January, make the most of an ‘early ears’ bunny offer for the **Glo4Flo Midnight Walk on Saturday 9th July 2016**, raising vital funds for Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity. Simply go to www.gemstonewalk.co.uk and sign up to take part at a special offer price of just £15! Get a team together, join the fun and be part of Aylesbury’s biggest Midnight Walk event now in its seventh year. Offer closes Midnight, January 31st.



Annual Tree of Light Remembrance Service

This year’s Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity (FNHC) Tree of Light service will take place within the grounds of the charity office located at Walton Lodge, Walton Street, Aylesbury, on Sunday 6th December, 5.00pm; providing a tranquil setting whilst ensuring links to the Hospice are evident throughout the service of remembrance.

Trees will be lit at both Walton Lodge and outside Florence Nightingale Hospice to shine throughout the festive season and into New Year.

The traditional service of remembrance will be led by Florence Nightingale Hospice Chaplain Carole Hough, and will include festive carols and an opportunity to reflect and remember loved ones. The Leighton Buzzard Salvation Army will once again be performing as part of the service, and warm mince pies will be served after the service.

“*Our annual remembrance service is a very poignant occasion for families and friends to gather today in memory of loved ones,*” said FNHC’s Sam Heggie.

You are invited to sponsor a shining light to honour someone special and to place a dedication in a special Book of Honour, which will be available to view on the night. Every light sponsored will receive a personal card of acknowledgment and invitation to the service.

As in previous years, the Charity is also pleased to be hosting an additional service at St Laurence’s Church, Winslow, on Sunday 13th December, 4.00pm, for a second chance to remember and honour loved ones during the festive period in a service of carols, readings and prayers.

For more information please call the FNHC Fundraising Team on 01296 429975 or visit www.fnhospice.org.uk


VIRTUAL TREE – A special online dedication can be added at any time during November and December to the Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity’s Virtual Tree at www.fnhospice.org.uk - an easy way to instantly share your dedication and memories with family and friends. *Please note a card will not be issued for these dedications but you are very welcome to join us at either service.


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Pump hunt for sewage station owners

Thames Water is appealing to customers to help identify privately owned sewage pumping stations.

- **Thames Water to take on the responsibility of 4,000 sewage pumping stations from property owners and managers.**
- **Utility will take over electricity and maintenance costs under new legislation, potentially saving customers thousands of pounds.**
- **Firm appeals for help tracking 1,800 'missing' stations.**

Thames Water is appealing to customers to help identify privately owned sewage pumping stations.

The utility, which serves 15 million customers across London and the Thames Valley, will take responsibility for around 4,000 pumping in October 2016, but needs to track down 1,800 currently off its radar.

New legislation means sewage pumping stations, which power wastewater away from properties and out into the public sewer pipe network, currently owned and maintained by customers will become legally owned and operated by the local water company.

The pumping stations are found in all shapes and sizes, and can be in places where there are a number of properties needing to connect to the public sewer network. Customers will know they have one as they'll be paying to maintain and power them.

Jerry White, of Thames Water, said: "This is really good news for customers. We'd urge anyone who thinks they may have one to get in touch so we can check they are eligible for the transfer of ownership. In some cases, as well as electricity savings, maintaining and replacing pumps can cost thousands of pounds so it's an excellent deal for them."

"We believe we know where approximately half of the stations we need to take over are, but really need help to find the other 1,800. Please get in touch if you think this applies to you and we can take on the responsibility forever."

Anyone with a private pumping station can make Thames Water aware at www.thameswater.co.uk/pumphunt

- NB A sewer pumping station is likely to be 'adopted' by Thames Water if it:**
- **was in use before July 2011 (and)**
 - **serve a single property, and is outside the property boundary (or)**
 - **serves two or more properties**

Wintertime Burglary

The Aylesbury Vale Community Safety Partnership is urging residents to take simple steps to secure their properties as the winter approaches.

Operation Arctic runs from October to January. The campaign focuses on providing advice to people on how to keep their properties safe during the winter months as homes can remain in darkness for much longer periods. This makes them easier to target, especially if there are no obvious signs there is anyone home.

For more information please visit: www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/burglary-wintertime and www.thamesvalley.police.uk/

Filming in Watermead

On driving in or out of Watermead on the morning of Saturday 16th October 2015 you may have been slightly inconvenienced by traffic control and noticed a film crew on the pavement just by the Balloon Meadow. This was Mind Eye productions filming the latest Bisto advert!

At last, Betty enjoys her raffle prize

Betty Plumbley won first prize in last year's raffle at the Parish Council summer event to commemorate the outbreak of the First World War – a hot air balloon flight which had been donated by Stuart Seager of Champagne Flights.



Once an air-hostess, always an air-hostess, mind you even I've never worked a cabin this small!



After many unsuccessful attempts due to wet and/or windy weather Betty got up on her balloon flight on the last day of the season, Saturday 31st October. Her flight was scheduled for Friday morning but, alas, due to inclement weather her flight had once again been cancelled. So Stuart offered her an opportunity the following afternoon which promised to be sunny with little wind but instead of Watermead the takeoff was to be near Little Brickhill, Milton Keynes.

Betty, 92 in November, chose to fly with her daughter, Mary who drove her to the launch site. There were eight passengers who all helped prepare for the flight by laying out the balloon and holding it open in order to inflate it with cold air. Then before hot air is introduced some passengers climb inside – see Betty here with Mary crouched inside one of the compartments in the basket to act as ballast! When hot air enters the balloon the basket gradually lifts to the upright position when the other passengers have to climb in quickly before take-off.

The flight was 1 hour 10 mins and passed over gorgeous, green countryside. From Betty's side of the basket there was a clear view to the horizon and the late afternoon sun cast long shadows in the fields below. Golfers, dog walkers, sheep, horses, birds, even deer were clearly seen from the 1,500 feet high balloon. The

passengers enjoyed a glass of champagne inflight and Stuart pointed out places of interest en route.

The balloon was heading towards Cranfield Airport and one plane taking off passed by at very close quarters! The balloon almost landed in a field but it wasn't clear if there was access for the vehicle meeting the balloon to enter, so it was onto the Airport where a very smooth landing was made. For Betty and Mary getting out was easier said than done!

Betty said that it was a shame that they were not able to take off from Watermead, however, it was an exciting experience and a great way to spend a Saturday afternoon!

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Cllr Mary Singleton (and Village View Editor) with her 92 year old mother, Betty.



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The fallen few Christian Dior



Raf's ability is to combine luxury and sportswear and still create a highly sought after product was just one of his many attributes. Here his "Fusion sneaker" is on display in Harrods

As soon as the news broke that the Belgian designer Raf Simons had stepped down from post of Creative Director of Christian Dior I knew I had to write about it.

"Raf! How could you leave!" I cried somewhat hysterically, with visions of tailored jackets and chrysanthemums circling in my head. Admittedly I have been upset before at a designer's departure from a fashion house. When Marc Jacobs left Louis Vuitton I felt somewhat betrayed. However, the difference here is that Marc Jacobs worked at Louis Vuitton for 16 years; Raf's tenure at Dior was a mere three. Similarly, back in July Alexander Wang stepped down as Creative Director for the Spanish luxury brand Balenciaga after a run of three years, where he was scathed by critics for the duration.

But Simons was loved. He managed to win over everyone, from the women stitching his

clothes to the toughest critic of them all, Cathy Horyn. There was a remarkable aura surrounding Simons. The 47 year old Belgian had a background in interior design before bursting onto the scene with his eponymous label in 1995. From there Simons' career in fashion reached breathtaking heights, his early presentations gathering speculation and acclaim and in 2005 he was appointed Creative Director of the minimalist German fashion house Jil Sander. It was in 2012 that Simons joined Christian Dior. His arrival at the brand was the subject of the documentary "Dior & I", released early this year.

So here's my question. If Raf was so cherished why did he leave? When Bernard Arnault, one of the richest people in the world, specifically picks you to manage the beloved Christian Dior you don't flee after three years. Do you? Further delving into what exactly it means



The original Dior store on Avenue Montaigne, Paris which I have visited many times. The design studio and atelier is directly above.



Monsieur Dior has a penchant for flowers. When Raf joined Dior he believed it was important to bring this back. Millions of flowers have been used for Dior fashion show sets over the past three years and here at the brand new store in Harrods.

to be a "Creative Director" would show life is not a bunch of roses, or in Raf's case, hydrangeas. The work of a Creative Director has never been easy and for Raf it was even worse. He was creating six collections a year for Christian Dior, not to mention still managing his own menswear label and bi-annually releasing collaborations with Adidas.

Raf isn't the first example of a designer being overworked and we should be grateful that he left Dior before his foreseeable demise. Surely the big bosses at the LVMH and Kering (the conglomerates who own super brands such as Christian Dior and Balenciaga) have noticed this pattern? I think John Galliano has become synonymous with the term "overworked". At the peak of his reign he was creating six

collections a year for Dior. Ultimately this led to a downfall into hard partying and even harder drugs, which culminated in the tabloid scandal we really don't need to go over again. If Galliano's fall from grace wasn't enough to make the fat cats realise designers are people too, then what is? When will we stop and realise that they aren't machines and need time to rest just like we all do.

I hope the departure of Raf, a universally revered designer, is a lesson to companies like LVMH that everyone needs a break. I'm certain that whatever Raf pursues next will be a raging success. To quote the godfather of minimalism himself "the future is romantic".

Phoebe Shardlow

Sally's blog

I have been trying to find time to write my BLOG since the beginning of this week. I never seem to

have time. My humans are very busy and I do need their help to type and to spell. I am now 7 months old, I can hardly believe how quickly time passes, and I think I have more or less reached the size I will be. My blue roan colours are coming out and I was very hairy indeed until recently but I got caught in some long grass when I was out walking and unfortunately I have to have some of my fur trimmed. My paws are also trimmed because apparently I had feet 'like dinner plates' whatever they are, and the paws brought a great deal of something called 'mud' into the house, causing great consternation to humans and big marks on the floor. Anyway, I am now slightly tidier but waiting for a session of stripping my fur.

I have grown and can now whizz up and down stairs at will, only trouble is the stair gate. Sometimes they forget to close it. Bliss. I am able to go upstairs to the office and help – my best thing is shredding - I was actually told to do filing but apparently I misunderstood. Quite honestly it's me that's misunderstood, but that seems to be a recurring theme in puppy life.

I am a keen newshound. I am interested in all newspapers but believe The Times to be the most tasty with crispy pages which tear into masses of pieces quite easily (provided nobody is looking, I think I heard the word 'opportunistic' recently about my dashing up to things and picking them up). It's probably true - I do seem to get in trouble quite frequently - it's because I'm a puppy. Give it another couple of years, dear humans, and I will settle down!

During the summer I have been on various family days out including the County Show, Thame County Show, family lunches and dinners and walks in Wendover Woods, all of which I have enjoyed. It is lovely to see my friends the swans and cygnets and the ducklings. I am kept on my lead and I'm not allowed in the water, or to bark at the birds because this frightens them. During the nesting season apparently it is illegal to disturb the birds and I don't want to be arrested. I know I am noisy but I wouldn't want to harm another creature.

One of the interesting things I have discovered is that not every human is the same as mine. They don't chase after their dogs holding poo bags and then rushing around finding a red poo bin. Some of them just leave it where their dog makes the mess so that other dogs, children and adults can step in it, which is very dangerous. Dog poo is the unpleasant part of owning a dog, but responsible owners must pick it up and put it in the bin. I hate seeing it and I am very proud of my humans and their friends who go round with pink spray to make it show up and to make it as safe as possible to save anyone catching any nasty diseases. Come on humans.... You can do better than this, PLEASE, from Sally the spaniel, (proud to be a Watermead puppy). You can see my daily blog at

www.sallythespaniel.com???

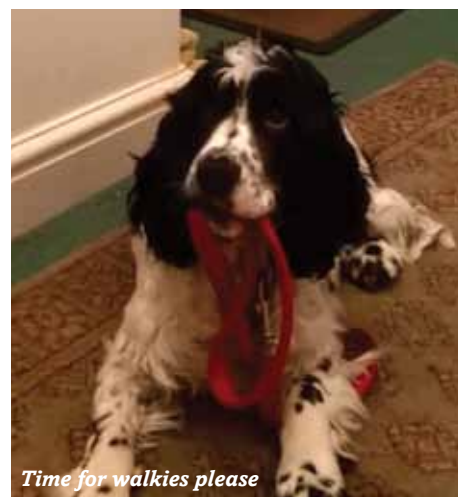
I will be at the Carol Concert this year dressed as Santa's helper, (I will be helping him by generally making a nuisance of myself I expect, while looking very pretty in my Christmas outfit). Do come and say hello, I love people!



Me at three months



Me at three months



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10 years of Jo Jingles in Watermead

Jo Jingles, run by Debbie Bird, is a music and movement group for babies and children aged three months to five years.

Debbie is celebrating running her business 'Jo Jingles' for 10 years.

The weekly classes are held in Aylesbury, Stoke Mandeville and Wendover as well as special pre-schools and church group sessions running during term time. The classes are age specific and involve having great fun with music whilst learning along the way.

Debbie said: "We use quality music, instruments, colourful and tactile props. and enjoy wiggling, jumping and dancing too".

"I can't believe 10 years have passed so quickly. Our lovable character 'Jo Jingles' and I have met so many wonderful families and love sharing music and singing with them."

"It's such a rewarding job watching the children come alive when the class starts."

Jo Jingles have been approached this term by the makers of 'In The Night Garden' who are collaborating with them. The characters of Iggle Piggle, Upsy Daisy and Makka Pakka have been introduced in classes so far this term as Jo's new friends and the children have been learning their songs and dances. Children have been given special 'In The Night Garden' goodie packs, with weekly stickers.

To join in the fun in Watermead Village Hall on Tuesday afternoons contact Debbie on 01296 625599 or mobile: 07851 041204, email debbiebird@hotmail.co.uk or visit the website www.jojingles.com/aylesbury



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The View from Westminster

Everyone in Watermead knows only too well that our area is under pressure to provide more housing.

Aylesbury is a relatively prosperous area, with low unemployment and within easy travel-to-work distance not only of London but Milton Keynes, Oxford, Bicester, Luton and Watford. People want to move here.

In addition, demographic and social change is driving up housing demand. People are living longer; the number of over 75's is set to nearly double over the next 25 years. Divorce and separation mean that there are more families divided between two households, each needing somewhere to live. Even with a static population, there would be more separate households than a generation ago. And of course the population itself, partly due to migration, is growing.

We need more homes. I can't be the only parent who worries about how his children will be able to afford to get onto even the first rung of the housing ladder. The real challenge is how to decide where homes

should go and how to plan for jobs and infrastructure alongside housing.

This is why Aylesbury Vale District Council's work to draw up a new Local Plan is so important. The Local Plan will determine where and on what scale new development should take place. Once a plan has been agreed, it becomes much easier for the Council to resist speculative applications.

So it is really important that the Council gets this right. There are lots of details on their website www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk. Among the options being looked at are: a new settlement along the proposed East/West railway across the North of the Vale, an extension of Milton Keynes and Bletchley south into the AVDC area, further expansion of Aylesbury and growth shared out pro rata between all the towns and villages in Aylesbury Vale. Probably we shall end up with a blend of two or more of these approaches.

This is the opportunity for local residents to have their say on the future of our area. The decisions that the Council takes about

the location and scale of new building, about infrastructure and jobs, will have set the pattern in Aylesbury Vale for a generation.

I hope that Watermead residents will make their voices heard. Tell the Council and your local representatives what you think.

Rt Hon David Lidington, MP for Aylesbury



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News Watermead allotments

**Size Matters.....Or Does It ?
Hollywood Hunk.....Or Tomato
Duck - Allotments Have Them All**

Allotments have been in the news again with the focus being on the size of plots. Celebrity gardener Charlie Dimmock feels that smaller plots should be available, while others think they should stay at the standard 250 square metres as advocated by regulatory bodies. There are approximately 330,00 plots in the UK, but the National Allotment Society say that at least 90,000 more are needed. Waiting times can be as little as six months, but in desirable areas, such as London, they have been known to be over ten years. It is claimed that originally the standard plot size was determined by that needed to feed a family of four for 12 months. But these days people have more demands on their time and some end up having to leave part of their allotments unused and covered with matting to suppress weeds.

Allotments have also made the national newspapers with stories about celebrity plot holders. Prior to being elected, leader of

the Labour Party, Jeremy Corbyn, said if he failed in his bid to become leader he could always go back to his allotment. Film star Noah Huntley, (best known for roles in The Royals; Snow White and the Huntsman and 28 Days Later) says it's not the glamour of Hollywood he 'digs' but his allotment near his home in the London suburbs.

Watermead allotments, (which have no waiting time at present) are now offering smaller plots for those that have a limited amount of free time to tend their plot. Many young married couples - and older people - do not have the time, energy or resources to look after a full size plot. Smaller sizes should result in areas not becoming overgrown and the task becoming too daunting. If all allotment societies did this it would also cut down on the waiting lists for allotments.

Produce from allotments comes in many shapes and sizes; this photograph shows a tomato in the shape of a duck that grew on our plot!

Colin Smith



Got the Christmas bulge?

Too much food and stress at Christmas? Reflexions might have the solution.

Reflexions has been in Watermead for over 20 years and for the past couple of years I have been driving past it on a regular basis without giving a moment's thought to what goes on inside. So when I paid a visit recently and was given a guided tour by the manager, Lou Harrison, it came as quite a surprise to find a warm and welcoming atmosphere, not a bit 'intense' as I imagined most gyms to be.

The exercise areas are all open plan, adding a touch of 'togetherness' to the friendly atmosphere. Upstairs are more exercise areas and an intoxicating smell of rubber – well it's one of my favourite smells anyway – and no, not for

any 'Shades of Grey' reasons.

We excused our way past some ladies in the swimming pool changing areas to reach the pool side. I could feel the heat coming from it and Lou explained that it is heated to a higher temperature than most pools to offer maximum comfort to all users.

As you would expect, all areas have clean angular lines with much metal in evidence. But then we entered the massage room and were suddenly in a different world, cocooned in pastel shades, soft linen, flowers and relaxing aromas.

Reflexions is privately owned, not part of a chain, and is different to a lot of gyms in that it does not tie you in to a contract. There are different types of membership: Peak, Off Peak and Over 50s starting at

£25 a month or you can have Swimming Only membership as well. You can pay monthly by Direct Debit, but cancel at any time by giving a month's notice without any financial penalty. If you want to pay for a year upfront, you will get three months free. Membership entitles you to attend all the classes and use of all the equipment. It even includes your induction, which is often extra at other places. The only things you would pay extra for are swimming lessons, the beauty/massage treatments or a personal trainer. Classes include spinning, Zumba, pilates, boxercise, bodycombat, bodypump, and aqua aerobics.

If you're not sure if it's for you, you can get a Free Day Pass to spend some time there and check it out.

Have a look at their website www.reflexionsaylesbury.co.uk or give them a call 01296 330311

Carolynne McKee

Win 6 months free peak membership by answering the following question:

How many years has Reflexions been open?

Please send your answer to Lou Harrison at lou.harrison@reflexionsaylesbury.co.uk or by writing to her at Reflexions Health & Leisure, Buckingham Road, Watermead, Aylesbury HP19 0FY. The winner will be drawn "out of a hat" at Reflexions at 2 pm on Friday 18th December 2015.



Watermead Cygnets Pre-School

When the new term started in September we at Cygnets gave a big warm welcome to the new intake of children. We are delighted that they have all settled in so well and are enjoying all of the activities.

We managed to take advantage of what good weather we had at the end of September and early October; the children had a great time in the Cygnets garden and they took part in an Autumn walk to collect conkers, acorns and fir cones.

Our learning theme this term is "All about me". The children have been learning about themselves, their homes and families; also about their senses, bodies and healthy eating.

Families play a huge part in the early stages of a young person's life and we feel it is important the children learn all about their families especially when it comes to helping out Mummy or Daddy. October always includes the Harvest Festival

- we taught the children all about different types of food and the importance of ensuring that everyone eats healthy food. Our Harvest Festival took place on Tuesday 20th October and a massive thank you to everyone who donated food. All the items were given to the Aylesbury Vineyard Storehouse which distributes free food, clothing and furniture to people.

We are looking forward to next term when the children will be learning about Autumn festivals such as fireworks, bonfire night, Diwali and Christmas activities. We will also be setting the children a "Nursery Rhyme Challenge" where the children will learn 10 new rhymes to recite at our sing-off on Friday 20th November.

Activities this term:

- Parents consultations will take place on Tuesday 24th November.

• Children in need is scheduled for 13th November when the children will dress up and we will be collecting donations.

- Tuesday 17th November - photographer.
- Friday 20th November Stay and Play Session/ Nursery Rhyme sing-off.
- Tuesday December 16th – trip to Zoomania.
- Friday 11th December - Parent and Staff Christmas evening.
- Tuesday 15th December – Christmas Play

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

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The Watermead Inn update

Just three months after re-opening following extensive refurbishment business at The Watermead Inn has gone from strength to strength, far exceeding expectation or forecasts.

All the old regulars are back and lots of new people are becoming regulars. Particularly noticeable is an upturn in visits from groups of ladies, who seem more comfortable in the new 'ambience'. The most frequently used comment is that the place is 'more classy'.

Kelvin and his staff welcome feedback from their customers, either on their Facebook page or when visiting the Inn. The Watermead Inn website should be up and running soon, which will also give an opportunity to give feedback. They don't want anyone to go away dissatisfied, so even negative feedback is welcome. They can't change things if they don't know!

The new daily menu has proved to be very popular. The Sunday lunch menu is still available, as before, with Saturday and Sunday morning 'full English' breakfast an addition to weekend options.

A cocktail specialist was employed to train all staff in the art of cocktail making. The craft beers are also becoming a regular choice for many customers. You can order a set of all four of the craft beers available – served on a tray nick-named 'the cricket bat' because of its shape – so you can sample a third of a pint of each beer and at the

same time learn about their origins and the microbreweries that produce them.

Another innovation at the new Watermead Inn is coffee to take away – popular with parents who come with their children to get the grains/seeds to feed the ducks. The success of the duck feed has taken everyone by surprise. All profits go to charity and in the first five weeks £135 was raised. Now that the summer weather has left us and the children are back at school sales have dropped somewhat – but this is the time of year when the birds need feeding most, as naturally occurring food supplies are diminishing. So please – carry on feeding our wild birds (but please bring back the plastic container).

One of the knock-on effects of the duck feed initiative that Kelvin and his staff have noticed is that there are far less 'droppings' on the piazza than previously. An improved diet has clearly improved the birds' digestive function. There is less pollution in the water as well.

Kelvin continues to organise entertainment to suit the seasons and the recent children's Halloween party was attended by 150 children! With lots of interactive dancing and jumping it was an exciting time for all. You can see pictures on the Watermead Inn's Facebook page. In fact, it was a bit too successful and Kelvin may need to think of a way to control numbers

in future years. Even if this means a small charge it would be passed on to the Cygnets Pre-school nursery, whose staff help to run the event.

There is plenty planned for the forthcoming festive season. The usual Christmas Quiz Night will take place in the week before Christmas. The Christmas party will be on 19th December with live music provided by Ed Cusick – well known to all regulars.

On New Year's Eve there will be live music again. An admission charge of £15 will include a glass of champagne and an extensive buffet. Or you can book a table in the restaurant if you prefer.

The festive menu covering the Christmas period is similar to previous years – not from the daily menu – and is the same price as last year. (Except for Christmas Day which does have a slight increase).

It's good to see enterprise and investment rewarded and benefitting the community, when so many pubs are struggling and closing down. Keep up the good work Kelvin!

Carolynne McKee

Better acoustics in the Village Hall

2015 saw another very busy year for our Village Hall. The hall is very well supported by the local community and beyond and is used by groups such as: The Watermead Cygnets Pre-School, after school clubs Jo Jingles and Kumon Maths plus many adult groups, including the Watermead & Weedon WI, Art for Fun, Gail Smith Yoga, the Aylesbury & District Philatelic Society and Watermead's very own Crafty Chicks. Most weekends we are fully booked with birthday, christening and wedding celebrations and charity events.

Feedback about our venue has always been very positive, except for one thing – the poor acoustics; especially noticeable during meetings. So in Spring 2015 the Parish Council decided to see what funding and options were available to them.

In August 2015 the hall closed for 10 days and a new lower ceiling was installed

by Paul Green, a ceiling and acoustics specialist. This project has been made possible by funding received from the Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation/Luton Airport Operations Fund, for which we are all extremely grateful.

The Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation is an award/grant maker supporting local community groups and charities. Its skills and local knowledge are recognised in the form of philanthropic donations from local businesses, individuals and national charities and organisations, one of which is the Luton Airport Operations Fund.

To enquire/book the Village Hall please call 01296 395211.



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