

VillageView

WATERMEAD'S *FREE* QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

Winter 2016 Vol.23 Issue 4

Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday 3rd December,
from 11am, Village Hall

Carol Concert

Saturday 10th December,
6pm in the Piazza

Residents & businesses revolt
after a million pound bill
See inside for details



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



Best Christmas Decorated House COMPETITION 2016

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

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

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

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

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

Parish Chairman's News

This has been a busy year for Watermead Parish Council during which we have continued to manage devolved services from Bucks County Council, managed and improved our own land and assisted individual parishioners with issues and questions. In short, a typical year in the life of Watermead! The summer was exceptional with hot, dry weather which was preceded by very wet periods. This challenged the ability of **grounds maintenance** companies to keep up. Our contractor did very well and Watermead looked its best this year, enhanced by hanging baskets along the spine road.

Watermead is privileged to own its amenity land, originally purchased by residents many years ago. However, this means that we pay for its maintenance and improvements directly from our precept (village tax) with no additional funding from the local Authority. The land is visited by many people from the wider area throughout the year and this increases wear and tear, including litter removal, dog bins and so on.

The Piazza is another such area. Residents of the flats and businesses which occupy the Piazza pay for its maintenance via their service charge, and the area is used by many visitors to Watermead. Many visit the businesses but some come to feed the ducks, or simply to look at the area or take a walk. A great many residents visit the Piazza frequently to shop, eat, have their hair done, visit the dentist or vet. The Parish Council has been advised by residents that a **major programme of refurbishment** is now required following many years during which major maintenance was not carried out. It is estimated by the managing agents that the cost will be in the region of £500,000 initially with more to come in future years, amounting to some £1 million. The PC is most concerned about this. It would be a great shame if we lost any of our businesses, which are important and of benefit to all residents. We have been asked to make a contribution to legal costs and survey fees on behalf of the community, which councillors have agreed to do in an effort to assist Watermead Lakeside Residents' Association to find out their legal rights and the options available to them.

Budget cuts at Bucks County Council have resulted in **reduction in services** including weedkilling and clearing gutters 'siding out'. The Parish Council sought estimates, and is considering

the possibility of taking this work on. It is helpful if parishioners can keep the area outside their own homes clear; we would like to convey a sincere thank you to those of you who have already done this. Evidence of the challenges faced by Bucks CC is plain with a reduced programme of roadworks; they only repair where the road or pavement is in a dangerous condition. As residents of Lark Vale have reported, for many months the **rising bollards** which were installed for the Water Rider bus have been stuck in the down position. This has meant that, illegally, motorists have been using this route as a short cut. Watermead was designed to have only one road in and out which greatly increases the peace and safety of its residents. We hope that the bollards will be in working order soon but ask that you do not use this route; it is not safe and it is illegal to do so. We were also disappointed to hear that the engineer examining the bollards was subjected to abuse from motorists as he worked. Please remember council officers are doing their job, particularly when it involves safety, and this behaviour is unacceptable.

The biggest single challenge has, of course, been in the planning permission granted by AVDC



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

In this issue:

- 02 Best Christmas Decorated House competition
- 06 O Come O Come Emmanuel
- 07 Lakeside Tales
- 10 Display and you will pay
- 10 Join a cyclist touring club
- 11 Tree of Light celebrations
- 13 Passionate about dancing
- 14 Too many cooks
- 15 Bootcamp at Relfexions
- 15 Thank you!
- 17 Our beautiful wildlife
- 21 Respect our workforce campaign
- 23 MacMillan Coffee Morning
- 26 Christmas Carol Concert sheet
- 26 WI visit to Hindu Temple

Plus our regular features:

- 03 Parish Chairman's News
- 04 Tea break quiz
- 08 What's on
- 15 Sally's Blog
- 15 Watermead Cygnets Pre-school
- 17 The ins and outs of gastroenteritis
- 19 Watermead allotments
- 20 Random person
- 21 Christmas Party Recipes
- 24 Letters to the Editor - Revolt after £1m bill
- 26 Watermead & Weedon WI
- 30 View from Westminster

page 05



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



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



Cllr Eric Rose
T: 486735
ericrosewpc@aol.com



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



Cllr Phil Toler
T: 432405
philtoler3@gmail.com



Cllr Irina Schwab
T: 338118
irinaschwablegal@gmail.com



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



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

Watermead dental centre

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

Denplan
Registered

New residents to
Watermead are
warmly welcome.

We offer quality care
at affordable prices.

Telephone: 01296 330700

The Village Piazza, Watermead HP19 0FX

Lythan Davies BDS LLM and Associates

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

Dental excellence in the centre of your village

For NEW customers

£10 off

1 voucher per customer

For NEW customers

£10 off

1 voucher per customer

Tea Break Quiz

- 1 What date is St Stephen's Day?
- 2 In Charles Dickens' novel 'A Christmas Carol', who was Scrooge's dead business partner?
- 3 The song 'White Christmas' was first performed in which 1942 film?
- 4 London's Trafalgar Square Christmas tree is traditionally given by which country?
- 5 In the song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas', '...my true love brought to me nine....' what?
- 6 Name the original eight reindeer from the 'Twas the night before Christmas' poem.
- 7 Which Christmas carol includes the lyrics '...to save us all from Satan's power, when we were gone astray....'?
- 8 The character Jack Skellington appears in which 1993 Tim Burton film?
- 9 What colour are the berries of the mistletoe plant?
- 10 In the 1946 film, 'It's a Wonderful Life', what is the name of George Bailey's guardian angel?
- 11 What are the names of the three wise men said to have brought gifts to the baby Jesus?
- 12 What is New Year's Eve called in Scotland?
- 13 What Christmas item was invented by London baker and wedding-cake specialist Tom Smith in 1847?
- 14 In what year was Band-Aid's 'Do they Know it's Christmas' the UK Christmas chart topping record?
- 15 In which modern country is St Nicholas's birthplace and home town?
- 16 Who wrote 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas'?
- 17 From which country does the poinsettia plant originate?
- 18 Who is officially credited as the author of Auld Lang Syne?
- 19 How many points does a snowflake have?
- 20 What is the name of the cake traditionally eaten in Italy at Christmas?

Answers on page 20

...page 03

for the crematorium in our village. The Parish Council, mandated by parishioners, have continued to oppose and fight the permission culminating in the Appeal Court hearing on 22nd November. The outcome will be reported in due course – I am writing this before the hearing date.

The Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) is now almost ready to go to government for approval and it is hoped that there will be a positive response expected during next year. Local government in Buckinghamshire looks as if it will change in future years with both the County and District councils offering separate and different proposals and views on a unitary council for the county. Full details of their proposals, the current state of play, and detailed plans are available from their website, as they become available. Please visit www.futurebucks.co.uk to see the plans proposed by Bucks County Council, the business case and other information. AVDC's website is www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk where you can find more information. Representatives of the Parish Council attended consultation meetings with Bucks CC during the summer at which we were helped to understand which council provided which services from education, health and welfare to dustbin emptying and car parks. It was interesting and underlined how complex this is. It is obvious that something will change. We will keep a watching brief and respond to

requests for consultation/views as they are made. If you have a view or any questions on these issues please let our County and District Councillors know which you can do by emailing noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk and we will pass on comments and questions, but will also be able to keep a central record of views expressed.

During the summer it became clear that the lake banks beside the memorial garden have been seriously eroded and if not repaired the path would eventually disappear. We have now received estimates and are urgently seeking grant funding for this project which we hope to have more news of by spring. As soon as funding is secured the work can be done which will include making safe the memorial, reinstating the banks and provision of a ramp for birds such as Canada Geese who have contributed to the erosion by scrambling up and down the banks, as have dogs jumping in and scrambling out of the lake.

Watermead Cygnets celebrated their 20th anniversary this year. The Cygnets is valued by Watermead residents with many ex pupils now at university or starting their careers; congratulations to The Cygnets - long may your success continue.

Watermead residents remembered the lost from all conflicts on Remembrance Day and again on Remembrance Sunday with members of the Model Boat Club. Once again, the sun shone over the lake

and even the birds were silent.

The Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday 3rd December from 11am in the Village Hall. As ever the tables sold fast and we hope for a good turnout. Please come and support the stalls. You will be able to have coffee and tea, cake, lunch or snacks during the event.

The Carol Concert on Saturday 10th December starts at 6pm in the Piazza. There will be mulled wine, mince pies (made by ladies from our WI) and other warming treats available as usual in exchange for a small donation towards a charity. The carols will be played by Safe Sax returning for the second year, and the service conducted by Reverend Mark Ackford. Father Christmas has promised to include our children in his busy schedule; he is expected to visit and give presents to children during the evening.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Chairman Sue Severn

An email was received by Noreen Shardlow, Parish Clerk, from Craig Chantler (Piazza resident) which read:
Many thanks for your support Noreen. This gesture will be much appreciated by the lessees. (This refers to the donation made by Watermead Parish Council as explained in the Chairman's news on page 3). See also page 24 for more information.



Suppliers and installers of the highest quality

Windows, Doors & Conservatories

Visit our Showroom or contact us for a free no obligation quote:

Junction Retail Park, 138 Cambridge Street,
Aylesbury, HP20 1BB

Tel: 01296 422842

enquiries@premwindowsanddoors.co.uk

www.premwindowsanddoors.co.uk



WATERMEAD CHRISTMAS FAIR

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

An arrangement of traditional and quirky gifts - there's a unique Christmas gift for everyone!

Plus 'Name the Dog' and Santa's Postbox!

Refreshments available too.

and don't forget:

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



TSM

Electrical & Security

INTRUDER ALARMS / CCTV / ACCESS CONTROL / DOOR ENTRY SYSTEMS / GATE AUTOMATION
SECURITY LIGHTING / DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS / PAT TESTING / HOUSE RE-WIRES
LANDLORD INSPECTIONS & CERTIFICATION / CONSUMER UNITS / ELECTRIC SHOWERS

We carry out new installations as well as maintenance. For a free no obligation quote or consultation
www.tsmes.co.uk **Freephone: 0800 689 1037**
 Offering a friendly personal service and delivering the highest standards

O Come O Come Emmanuel

On the last Sunday in November St James the Great Church Birtton will begin to celebrate the season of Advent, and out and about in our local communities preparations for Christmas are well underway. But, in all our rushing around to get ready for the big day, it's easy to 'miss' advent itself, a season of spiritual as well as practical getting ready. One of the things I love about Advent, and which gives it a distinctive character, are the hymns, which we only get to sing at this time of year - rousing classics such as 'Lo, he comes with clouds descending' and 'Hills of the North Rejoice' or the more reflective 'Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus' and of course, 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel'.

But did you know that 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel' is more than just a great advent hymn? Written originally in Latin, each verse refers to one of the Advent Antiphons. These are seven short prayers traditionally used in the last seven days before Christmas. They each begin with the exclamation "O". Each of them ends with a plea for the Messiah to come. As Christmas approaches the cry becomes more urgent.

The antiphons were composed in the seventh or eighth century when monks put together texts from the Old Testament which looked forward to the coming of our salvation. They form a rich mosaic of scriptural images. They became very popular in the Middle Ages; while the monastic choirs sang the antiphons the great bells of the church were rung.

A curious feature of these antiphons is that the first letter of each invocation may be taken from the Latin to form an acrostic in reverse. So the first letters of Sapientia, Adonai, Radix, Clavis, Oriens, Rex, and Emmanuel, provide the Latin words: ERO CRAS. The phrase spells out the response of Christ himself to the heartfelt prayer of his people: "Tomorrow I will be there."

And tomorrow arrives with the celebrations of the Christmas season, a season which 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 the 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; and what better friend could anyone have than God himself.

Please join us for our Advent and Christmas services and celebrate God's wonderful gift of friendship and love to us. Details of which can be found on our website www.birttonhulcottchurches.org.

Wishing you a hopeful advent, a joyful Christmas and a very peaceful and happy New Year.

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

Lakeside Tales

Back in August, a strange fellow called 'Watermead Ted', threw a gigantic egg into the lake and swore that from it would hatch a monster that would terrorise the inhabitants of Watermead. Well, it did hatch and this is what happened: It was Christmas morning and I was strolling around the lake as I did on most days. Perhaps because it was Christmas Day the lake seemed quite magical. There was a wonderful calmness in the air and I remembered my father's words: "Peace be to all men," which he would utter every Christmas, but totally forget for the rest of the year.

The lake was as calm as the air, but as I walked on I noticed some quite violent ripples, almost like waves, coming towards the bank where I stood in amazement. I could not help asking myself if this was Watermead Ted's monster coming towards me beneath the ripples. I convinced myself that it was about to lurch out of the water and sink its teeth into my neck. All that beautiful calmness had disappeared and I am not ashamed to say that my imaginings scared the hell out of me. After all, I was present when Watermead Ted threw the

giant egg into the lake and said that a monster would hatch and tear apart anybody that crossed its path.

Up until then I thought of myself as quite a brave person, but I have to confess, I was just about to run the four minute mile when that wonderful calm and peace came over me again. I looked down towards my feet and there it was, looking up at me with its beautiful doleful eyes and a smile on its face that I can only describe as magical.

"Yes," I heard in my head, "I am Watermead Ted's monster, but perhaps not quite as ferocious as he would have liked."

"But you are a beautiful creature." I heard myself say.

The lovely being's smile did not move from its face, but I heard again in my head, "Thank you, that is very kind, but I doubt if Ted would appreciate me as you do. You see, he was once a good man, but as many humans seem to make a habit of doing, he turned bad. The giant egg that he showed you was given to him by a good being who had known Ted when he himself was the personification of goodness. Ted hid his badness and managed to give off an air of kindness as he accepted the egg. You see,

the benevolent being put his trust in how Ted had once been, not as he is now. He had to find a keeper for the egg as he had to travel to a faraway land, where he would do all he could to stop the people from killing and maiming each other."

"But," I heard myself ask, "why did Ted say that you would be a monster and rip people up?"

"Because," thought-transferred the being, "that is how an evil person would wish me to be, but good is more powerful than bad and the thoughts of the one that gave up my egg to Ted in good faith are far stronger than Ted's. Hence the creature you see before you. I seek no harm to anybody, even him. Hundreds of my kind are born somewhere in the world every day and we seek only to do good, but humanity has become very difficult to help. However, we cannot give up. In the end good will overcome evil". And with that the lovely creature simply vanished.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year but most of all I hope the creature is right.

Gary Zambas

the
easy living
.company
live your life your way



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

Specialists in 'tilt in space' riser recline chairs

Lightweight wheelchairs

Wide range of mobility scooters

Extensive range of three/four wheeled walkers

Bath and shower solutions

Aids for daily living

Profiling beds and stairlifts

Discreet professional advice on continence management

Advice and guidance on all aspects of mobility and personal care

Equipment Hire

Excellent after sales service and customer care



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

What's on

IN AND AROUND WATERMEAD

December

3rd	Watermead Christmas Craft Fair	The Piazza, 11am-5pm
10th	Watermead Christmas Carol Concert	The Piazza, 6-7pm
11th	Festive Family Fun	Aylesbury Town Centre, 11am to 4pm
11th	Carolfest	St Mary's Church, Aylesbury, 6pm

January

5th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7.30pm
19th	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7.30pm

February

2nd	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7.30pm
8th	Aylesbury College Open Day	
16th	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7.30pm

Village Hall

PARISH COUNCIL

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

CYGNETS PRE-SCHOOL

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

SCRAPBOOKING/CARD MAKING ANY CRAFT OF YOUR CHOICE CRAFTY CHICKS

4th Friday of the month
from 6.30pm
Contact Daphne 393131

KUMON MATHS

Monday & Thursday
2.30 - 6pm
Susan Jones 747469

AYLESBURY & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Second Wednesday of the month
7.30 - 10.00pm
Peter Barnes 612913

WATERMEAD & WEEDON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

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

JO JINGLES

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

DRAWING FOR FUN - ART CLASSES

Every Wednesday 2.30-5.30pm
Avril Nurse 580495

CASIPELLIDANCE SCHOOL

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

YOGA

Tuesdays 6.00 - 7.00pm
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

Advertise in the Village View

50% discount for Watermead residents

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

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

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

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

The Team:

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

Read by over 1,200 homes

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

Christmas party recipes

Christmas Cup (Serves 10)

Ingredients:

1 x 750 millilitres bottle of prosecco (or other dry, white, fizzy wine)
125 millilitres cherry brandy
500 millilitres dry ginger ale

Method:

1. Chill the fizzy wine and ginger ale and pop a glass jug big enough to hold all the ingredients to chill in the fridge.
2. Pour the bottle of wine into the jug. Add cherry brandy and then the ginger ale. Give a gentle stir to mix but do not remove any fizz.
3. Pour into glasses of your choice. You may wish to add ice to glasses before handing out.

Dill Scones with hot smoked salmon and Horseradish cream

For the scones:

175g (6oz) self-raising flour, plus extra for rolling
1 tsp baking powder
50g (2oz) cold butter, diced
1 tbsp fresh dill, finely chopped, plus extra sprigs to serve
75ml (3fl oz) buttermilk
1 tbsp milk

For the topping:

60ml (2½fl oz) whipping cream
1 tbsp hot horseradish sauce
100ml (3½ fl oz) crème fraîche
½ lemon, finely zested
1 x 180g pack hot smoked salmon fillets, flaked into small chunks

Method:

1. Preheat the oven to gas 7, 220 degrees C/fan 200 degrees. Sift the flour, baking powder and ½ tsp salt into the bowl of a food processor. Add a good grind of black pepper and the butter, then whizz to fine crumbs. Tip the crumbs into a large bowl and stir in the dill and buttermilk to make a soft, non-sticky dough.
2. Turn out the dough onto a lightly floured surface and flatten with your hands to about 1.5cm (¾in) thick. Dip a 4cm (2in) pastry cutter in flour and stamp out 10 rounds, re-rolling the pastry as needed.
3. Put the rounds on a baking tray lined with nonstick paper. Brush with the milk and then bake for 10 minutes or until risen and golden. Remove

- from the oven and leave to cool on a wire rack.
4. Meanwhile, whip the cream to soft peaks. Fold in the horseradish sauce, crème fraîche, lemon zest and a little ground black pepper and set aside.
 5. Cut the scones in half and spread with the cream mixture. Top with a piece of the salmon and a sprig of dill. Arrange on a plate and serve.

NB. Scones can be frozen for up to 1 month or kept in an airtight container for 3-4 days. The cream topping can be chilled for up to 48 hours.

Chorizo and Gruyere Puffs (makes 30)

Ingredients:

75g (3oz) butter
110g (3¾ oz) plain flour
3 medium eggs
75g (3oz) Gruyère, diced
75g (3oz) skinless chorizo, cooked and diced

Method:

1. Preheat oven to gas 4, 180 degreesC, fan 160 degrees C.
2. In a pan combine the butter, 175ml (6fl oz) water and ½ tsp salt. Bring to the boil, remove from the heat and stir in the flour until smooth.
3. Return to a medium heat and beat for 1 minute. Remove from the heat and leave for 1 minute.
4. Beat in the eggs, one at a time, until glossy. Add the Gruyère and chorizo. Season with black pepper.
5. Spoon 2cm (¾in) balls of the mixture onto 2 greased baking trays. Bake for 30 minutes or until puffed and golden. Pierce to allow the steam out. Serve warm.

NB. Cooked puffs can be frozen for up to 1 month or chilled for up to 3 days. Defrost before reheating.

Spanish-style Chicken Skewers with spicy yoghurt dipping sauce (Makes 16, takes 40 mins plus marinating time. Can be prepared the day before)

For the marinade:

1 tsp sweet paprika
1 tsp ground cumin
1 tsp ground coriander
2 fresh thyme sprigs, leaves picked
2 garlic cloves, finely grated
2 tbsp olive oil

2 tsp sherry vinegar
1 x 600g pack mini chicken fillets

For the dipping sauce:

200g (7oz) Greek-style yoghurt
1tbsp sweet chilli sauce
½ lime, zested and juiced, plus extra wedges for serving
¼ tsp smoked paprika
½ tsp ground cumin
½ tsp ground coriander

Method:

1. Make a marinade by combining the paprika, cumin, coriander, thyme, garlic, oil, vinegar and some seasoning in a large bowl. Add the chicken and toss to coat. Cover and chill overnight or for at least 2 hours.
2. Combine all the dipping sauce ingredients in a bowl. Cover and chill until needed.
3. Soak 16 wooden skewers in water for 30 minutes (this will prevent them from catching fire during cooking).
4. Preheat the grill to medium-high. Thread the chicken on to the skewers and arrange in a single layer on a large baking sheet. Grill the chicken (in batches if needed) for 5 minutes on each side or until cooked through.
5. Arrange the chicken skewers on a platter and serve with the dipping sauce and extra lime wedges.

Cranberry and Almond Tart (Serves 8)

Ingredients:

375g pack sweet dessert pastry, defrosted from frozen
100g butter
100g caster sugar
2 eggs, beaten
25g plain flour
100g ground almonds
3 tbsp raspberry jam
200g fresh cranberries
Icing sugar for dusting

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 200 degrees C/180 degrees C Fan/Gas 6
1. Roll out the pastry and use to line a 23cm round, deep flan tin. Place a circle of baking parchment on top of the pastry and fill with baking beans. Bake for 10 mins then remove from the oven and carefully remove the paper and beans.
2. Beat together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs a little at a time then fold in the flour and almonds.
3. Spread the jam over the base of the pastry case, spoon in the almond mixture and spread over. Sprinkle with the cranberries.

Bake for 30-35 mins until golden brown and the filling is firm to the touch. Cool for 5 mins in the tin then turn out and dust with icing sugar.

VillageView needs you!

Would you like to join our vibrant team of volunteers in the production of our award-winning, quarterly village magazine, Village View?

We urgently require an Advertising Manager

Our publication is provided *free* to all households in Watermead and beyond. We rely on our advertisers who provide the funds to do this. The job involves liaison with our advertisers regarding positioning of their ads and relevant costings, finding new advertisers and managing renewals.

This could be your next big challenge! Training will be provided.

To apply for this position please write to our Parish Clerk, Noreen Shardlow at noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk

Inspired design & print



If you look good, we look good

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

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

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

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

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

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



Would you like to join us?

We are a branch of Cyclist Touring Club (CTC), now part of Cycling UK, and run regular rides often starting from Watermead. Some of our members live in Watermead.

Sunday 11th December
Start 9.30am Watermead Inn, Watermead, Aylesbury HP19 0FX

Aylesbury Cyclist Touring Club (CTC) invite you to an Easy Paced circular cycle ride starting at the Watermead Inn with a coffee stop Jenny Wren's Café in Winslow MK18 3AB. Rides are normally about 30 miles.

More details of our club can be found on www.aylesburyctc.org.uk
Find Aylesbury CTC on Facebook and the South Bucks website www.southbucksycling.org.uk

Jeremy Scothern

Display and you will pay

Dear Resident,

If you leave items on display, including loose change or a jacket, it's an invitation to an opportunist thief. At this time of year more people are visiting the shops and local towns, so ensure you protect your vehicle and belongings by following a number of simple ways to do this, all of which will help reduce the chance of your vehicle becoming a target.

- Trust locks, not luck – double check your vehicle is secure
- Keep keys safe and out of sight
- Perfect parking – if you have a garage, use it or try to park in a well lit location
- Display and you will pay – don't tempt thieves – take your belongings with you
- Be alarmed – this could deter thieves
- Sat Nav – would you be lost without it? Remove it and make sure you wipe the sucker mark off the windscreen
- Your number's up – number plates can be easily removed, secure them with security screws. Contact police if stolen.

Receive free local crime alerts and crime prevention advice by signing up to Thames Valley Alerts today at www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk

You can also follow us on Twitter @ThamesVP (or can localise this), alternatively you can give us a 'like' on Facebook at www.facebook.com/thamesvp

For further crime reduction advice you can also visit our website www.thamesvalley.police.uk or call and ask to speak to a Crime Reduction Adviser via the 24 hour Police Enquiry Centre on 101.



Ian Whittome Grasscutting Service

Mowing
Strimming
Scarifying
Lawn treatments
Regular or one-off cuts

(01296) 68 23 61
07885 031 431



Craft your holiday experience with GoCruise



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

Let us help you find it!



Ideal cruise itineraries at top value prices.

Sarah & Bjarne Thelin
01844 390 203

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

Tree of Light celebrations provide focus for remembering loved ones

Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity is inviting everyone who has lost friends or family, whether they were cared for by Florence Nightingale Hospice or not, and regardless of religion or faith, to join them at the Tree of Light Celebrations and to honour and celebrate their loved ones by sponsoring a Christmas light in their memory. Christmas is a time when we particularly think of those who are no longer with us, and the Tree of Light Celebrations and Books of Honour provide a focus for families and friends to mark this in a variety of different ways.

People can sponsor a light to honour someone special and write a dedication or tribute to them to appear in the Books of Honour which will be available to view at the two Tree of Light events to be held this December. The names of those included in the Books of Honour can also feature in a Roll of Honour to be published in the Bucks Herald in December, if requested. Everyone who dedicates a light will receive a personal card of acknowledgment and an invitation to whichever Tree of Light Celebration they would like to attend.

The Tree of Light ceremonies will be led by the Hospice Chaplain, the Revd Carole Hough, and will include festive carols, music provided by the Leighton Buzzard Salvation Army Band and a selection of readings.

"Tree of Light gives us that moment of opportunity to come together, away from all the frenetic activity, to remember those who we love," said Reverend Hough. "As the lights are switched on, so we cherish their memories and hold them in our hearts in a special and meaningful way."

To sponsor a light in memory of someone, please call our Fundraising Team on 01296 429 975 to request a Tree of Light Form or find out more at www.fnhospice.org.uk/tree-of-light-2016



There are two
Tree of Light events:
the first will be at the Head Office of Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity at Walton Lodge, Walton Street, Aylesbury, on Sunday 4th December at 5pm.

The second event will take place at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Buckingham on Saturday 10th December at 3.30pm.



Sally's blog



collie and a Labrador. I tried to talk to them but my humans said they weren't actually real – how weird is that? Here are their photographs, see what you think.... An easy mistake to make in my opinion.



23rd October

My mum and Auntie Mary left me at home and went to somewhere called Excel in London to an exhibition called Discover Dogs. The reason for this was that my breeder, Debbie, was exhibiting my cousins and she needed some help. They got back quite late and were very tired and hungry. Quite naturally spaniels turned out to be among the most popular breeds and their stand was surrounded by visitors from 9.30am until the show ended at 5pm.

Above is a picture of Auntie Mary with Summer – (not a relation of mine as you will see from her colour).

I don't think I've introduced you to my friend DOG. Below is him on the washing line – I can explain! Every night since I came to Watermead DOG has slept in my crate with me and helps look after me.



25th October

To Wendover Garden Centre, which is one of my favourite outings. I was in a funny mood and couldn't seem to stop barking, which seemed to annoy my humans. They tried to have a coffee but gave up and went and sat outside. I think it was cold for those without a fur coat. I wasn't offered any dog treats or tiny bit of cake during the visit – can't imagine why. While there I met some interesting friends - lambs, a

I have suffered a chapter of accidents in recent weeks:

- I ate some lily leaves which were in a vase I could reach by jumping up carefully. They tasted lovely but unfortunately during the night I found out why I probably shouldn't have eaten them. Suffice to say my mum and I had a sleepless night, with many visits to the garden, much laundry being done at 3am, and a visit to the lovely Hampden Vets in the morning where I had to have an injection which really stung and was not allowed any food for 24 HOURS – imagine that!
- The following week I managed to get attached to the bottom dishwasher basket. My collar caught on the rack while I was assisting with pre-washing. I was so scared I jumped back; the basket loaded with dirty plates, pans and cutlery came with me and it ended up across the hall with plates scattered. Amazingly nothing was broken, my collar tag was pulled off and I ran upstairs and hid.
- After this I decided to stick to helping with the cooking, so when the oven door was opened I put my nose inside very quickly and sniffed – it was really hot so I licked my nose and managed to lick the oven shelf at the same time. I am certain there was a sizzling noise when I drank lots of cold water from my bowl.
- You may think that this run of accidents should have ended there with better discipline. Unfortunately last week I found a jade pendant of my mum's which had a central gold filligree centre. After chewing it for some time I was seen and much fuss was made until I dropped the thing on the floor. It was only then that the humans noticed the centre part missing. Despite feeling inside my mouth in a very officious way they still couldn't find it. There was only one things for it yes, you've got it, two days later the thing was retrieved. Can't imagine what all the fuss was about.

Anyway, hope you all have a lovely Christmas. As this is my second, I am used to it and know I will see lots of friends and family dogs which I'm looking forward to. I am also about to choose a new Father Christmas outfit so I can wear it to the Carol Concert – can't wait!

MYLES GREEN

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



Passionate about dancing

I moved to Watermead in November 1999. In 2008 I decided to learn to dance with professional teachers and only London could offer the sort of professional dance lessons I was looking for. So I travelled to a Dance Academy in London every day for two weeks to take private lessons with a top professional teacher. The idea was to stop at the end of these two weeks as I would have learnt a variety of basic Ballroom and Latin steps so that I could enjoy social dancing. Today I am still dancing with the same teacher!.... Yes, dancing gets you in a big way! I mostly enjoyed dancing Stage Argentine Tango, participating in some shows in London and Naples; I am now spending more time learning social Argentine Tango. There is still plenty to learn!.....

I am now retired and continue dancing in London once a week. At the same time I am attending a Ballroom and Latin dance class in Wing, also once a week at The Adrian Marsh School of Dance. In addition, I attend various Jive, Swing, Rock and Roll, Salsa and Milongas (social Argentine Tango) dance venues in London and locally. So dancing remains my main hobby!

Why dancing?

Dancing benefits us on all levels of the body, mind, emotions and spirit. Dancing is a way of leaving our worries behind as we focus our attention on the music and movement of our bodies. As we relax into the dance and the joy it gives us, we release resistance to the flow of wellness through our being. Dancing can be a form of

fieldstead insolvency

Debt problems?

Cash flow problems?

Creditors demanding payment?

Demands from HM Revenue & Customs?

Pressure on the overdraft?

Call us on 01296 433303
for a FREE initial consultation

www.fieldstead.co.uk

LEADING INDEPENDENT
INSOLVENCY PRACTICE

therapy; it boosts our mood, makes us feel good, benefits our brain, and keeps our body flexible.

Dance is effective for people of all ages and backgrounds. It helps relieve physical and mental stress, freeing mind, body and soul. Dancing improves your confidence, self esteem, quality of life, and it provides an outlet for built up mental tension that gets left behind as you walk onto the dance floor. Dancing greatly improves your muscular function and posture and expands your energy.

Dancing has a magical way of bringing joy into our lives!

Celine Baker, Redwing

We have had a few responses to our request for contributions from Watermead residents but we'd like more. We are looking for personal anecdotes – funny, poignant, unusual. Here are some suggestions: **Your first job, Retiring, Taking in a lodger, 'Empty nest' syndrome, The 'boomerang' effect – adult children returning, A first-date with a now long-term partner, A DIY disaster, Moving house, Starting University, or maybe you have a Literary leaning and would like to offer a short story or poem you have written?** If you're interested contact the Editor, Mary Singleton. Contact details on page 2.

Too many cooks

“Today I’ll get some peace – no interruptions” Gladys thought to herself. She settled down in her armchair, feet up on the footstool, TV remote in hand. And even though it wasn’t yet quite noon she poured herself a glass of sherry and opened the digestive biscuits. Flicking through the channels she found the Carol Concert and started to sing along, happily remembering her younger days when her voice was strong and beautiful.

It wasn’t too long before her enjoyment was interrupted by someone knocking on the door. It was Janet from down the road. “I knew you’d be here all on your own. We can’t have that on Christmas Day!”

“I’m fine, really I am. I’ve had enough merry Christmases to see me through.” “No. I won’t hear of it. We eat at 1 o’clock sharp – turkey, stuffing, all the trimmings and plum pudding to follow. Man cannot live by bread alone – or even digestive biscuits. One o’clock now, I’ll be expecting you.”

With that she left. Gladys sighed. Janet was a good neighbour, regularly looked in to check on her, have a cup of tea. She did a bit of shopping if Gladys had a cold, changed the occasional light bulb, but she could be a bit overpowering at times. Still, it would be churlish to refuse.

“I’ll just stay for an hour, that should do it” she thought to herself.

She went upstairs to freshen up and change out of her comfortable trackie bottoms into a dress.

The meal was excellent. Janet was a good cook, but her children were over-excited and Gladys was relieved to make her excuses and leave, giving Janet a big hug on her way out. It really was very kind of her to include Gladys.

Back home she changed back into her trackie bottoms and settled down in her armchair again, with the television on low so as not to intrude too much on her post-prandial doze.

She was awoken by an urgent banging on the living room window. Startled, it took her a moment or two to get her bearings. She looked around, confused. Then she saw the face at the window, it was Carol from up the road.

“Are you alright, Gladys? What’s wrong?” She let Carol in.

“Are you alright? I telephoned earlier and got no reply. I left a message but you haven’t got back to me.”

Gladys looked over at her phone, she hadn’t seen the light flashing.

“Oh, I must have been in the loo, I didn’t see the light.”

She didn’t want to say that she had been to Janet’s for lunch. For some reason that Gladys didn’t understand, there was a bit of rivalry between Janet and Carol; they were constantly trying to outdo each other in the favours and help they offered Gladys. Gladys sometimes felt a bit overwhelmed by it, so she kept quiet about Janet’s lunch.

“Well that’s a relief. Anyway, listen, we can’t have you all alone here on Christmas Day, you must come and have lunch with us.”

“I’m fine...” Gladys began, but Carol continued. “We can’t eat until Jim gets back from the pub, you know what he’s like, but he shouldn’t be long now. Half past three okay? Go and get your glad rags on and we’ll see you then.”

Gladys opened and shut her mouth, but couldn’t think of anything to say.

Three thirty. Not long. She dared sit down again, she’d be bound to fall asleep as her body tried to recover from the ‘pig-out’ at Janet’s.

She splashed her face with cold water and, once again, changed out of her trackie bottoms, with their comfortable elastic waistband, into the dress, which didn’t seem to fit her as well as it had a few hours ago.

It was turkey and all the trimmings again at Carol’s. Just as nice as Janet’s, but Gladys’ reluctance to eat heartily could not be disguised.

“What’s up Gladys” said Jim, “eat up.”

He put his arm around her and squeezed, kissing her on the cheek. His beery breath did nothing to encourage her appetite. But Gladys had been brought up in a time when clearing one’s plate was obligatory, so she struggled on.

After the meal Carol and Jim fell asleep at either end of their settee. Their teenage children silently stared at the tiny screens on their Christmas presents, flashing fingers the only evidence of consciousness.

“Thank mum for me” she whispered as she tiptoed out.

For the third time that day she settled into her armchair, feet up, TV remote, but no sherry and biscuits, she couldn’t face another crumb.

She’d missed the Queen’s speech, but one of her favourite films was about to start and

she looked forward to the familiarity of the mildly amusing tale of romance with no swearing or violence.

More than an hour of peace and quiet passed before a knock came to the front door.

Gladys stood up, incredulous that this should be happening again. She looked at the clock – just gone six. She couldn’t imagine who it might be. The knock came again and reluctantly she went to the door.

It was George, a fellow member of the pensioner’s club at the local church.

“Hello Gladys” he said, looking sad and anxious.

“Hello George.”

“Um. It’s taken me all day to pluck up the courage to come round, but I thought you’re probably on your own, like I am.”

He stood there, waiting, holding a supermarket carrier bag.

Reluctantly, Gladys invited him in. He took out the contents of the bag.

“I’ve brought us some mince pies and sausage rolls – oh and some pieces of Christmas cake we were given at the lunch club. I thought even though we haven’t had a proper Christmas lunch, we could still have something a bit Christmassy.”

“Well actually...” Gladys started, but when she saw the expression on his face, she couldn’t disappoint him. His face had ‘cup of tea’ written all over it.

She warmed up the sausage rolls and mince pies in the oven. When she brought the tea tray into the living room George was almost childlike in his pleasure and appreciation. She felt really sorry for him and ashamed that she had been irritated to see him on her doorstep.

He enthusiastically munched on the sausage rolls and mince pies, talking non-stop all the time. Gladys was relieved that he was so focused on the food and conversation that he didn’t notice that she had been gently nibbling on the same sausage roll for 15 minutes. She managed one mince pie, but when it came to the fruit cake she wrapped it in a serviette.

“I think I’ll save this for tomorrow.”

It was an hour and a half later that George thanked her profusely for her hospitality and left.

Gladys burped loudly and said aloud to no-one “I think I’ll have an early night – and next year I’ll book myself in to the Travelodge for Christmas.”

Carolynne McKee

Watermead Cygnets Pre-School

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

We managed to take advantage of the good weather this year and the children had a great time in the Cygnets garden. They also took part in our 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, families and senses. They also learnt all about their 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 their mums and dads!

October 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 18th October and we would like to extend 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 needy people.

During next term the children will be learning about autumn festivals such as Guy Fawkes - bonfire night, Diwali and

Christmas. 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 11th November.

The Watermead Inn had a Halloween party which the children thoroughly enjoyed! We would like to say a big THANK YOU to Kelvin and Nikki Wong for all the donations given to us. £265 was raised and we plan to use the money to buy some physical equipment.

Upcoming events include parent’s consultations; Children in Need, scheduled for 18th November, when the children will dress up and we will be collecting

donations; a trip to Zoomania on 14th December; parent and staff Christmas evening on 9th December and the Christmas Play on 13th December.

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

The Cygnets Team



Bootcamp at Reflexions Health and Leisure

Start the Grind Personal Training

- 21 Days of Bootcamp for £50!
- Starts Monday 28th November
- 5 x sessions per week (Mondays – Thursdays at 7pm and 10am on Fridays)
- Food plan, weight/inch loss and weekly consultations
- Booking deadline Saturday 26th November!

lou@startthegrind.co.uk
or call 07791 128834
www.startthegrind.co.uk

Thank you!

Further to my plea for help to find my missing cat, Jimmy, in the Autumn issue of Village View, I would like to say thank you to all those who called me to advise of potential sightings. I would especially thank members of the Model Boat Club. Jimmy was found, but unfortunately he was not alive – it is likely that he had been hit by a vehicle. He was found on the grassy patch behind the gatehouse next to the entrance to the building site that was Riviera Restaurant.

Some readers may recall my story in Village View some 8 years ago when I gave Jimmy a home after finding him next to the outdoor gym by the small lake. His previous owner had lived in Whinchat and moved into Aylesbury; Jimmy loved Watermead so much that he had returned on several occasions and she decided to leave him for fear of him being run over on the busy roads he crossed to get there. He was chipped so I was able to find out all his history. He had lived ‘rough’ for about two years and knew Watermead intimately. In recent times he spent more time at home so I was surprised to find he had wandered so far. I miss him very much. He was a beautiful cat!

Mary Singleton



The ins and outs of gastroenteritis

The term 'gastroenteritis' implies inflammation of the stomach and intestines.

It is a descriptive term rather than a diagnosis and can be applied to any situation where one of our pets has vomiting and/or diarrhoea. Some episodes are acute and spontaneously resolve with or without treatment whereas others can last weeks or months. If gastroenteritis has lasted more than two weeks and there has been no identified cause or prolonged response to treatment, this is referred to as a 'chronic' case.

In younger animals, under a year old, vomiting and diarrhoea are more commonly caused by dietary indiscretion (eating things in the garden or out on a walk) and infections. The latter can include viruses, bacteria and protozoa (such as

Giardia). In older animals or those with a history of chronic gastroenteritis there can be an underlying disease. This may relate to the gastrointestinal tract or other organs such as the liver or pancreas and if there is significant weight loss, the possibility of a tumour or cancer can not be excluded without investigation.

A sudden change in diet or a different treat can also precipitate a bout of sickness or diarrhoea. Obstructions of the intestine can occur if a swallowed object is too large to pass through and typically becomes lodged in the outflow valve of the stomach or the small intestine due to the relatively narrow diameter in these locations. These 'foreign bodies' can range from stones to chewed pieces of toy or bedding to food items such as bones and corn on the cob kernels.

As no food or water can pass the blockage, the pet usually becomes acutely unwell and will often vomit many times in a 24 hour period.

Diarrhoea can affect the small intestine or large intestine. The former results in large volumes, low frequency and often colours such as green or orange whilst the latter will result in urgency, frequent small volumes and sometimes fresh blood or mucus in the faeces.

Once the vet has taken a clinical history and performed a physical examination, they may advise symptomatic treatment such as anti-sickness medication, electrolytes (like Dioralyte for people), probiotic pastes and a bland diet for 48 hours. However they may advise further investigation is necessary. Faecal tests can help identify infectious organisms; blood tests will inform the vet

about the health of organs such as the liver and pancreas and whether there is evidence of damage to the permeability of the intestines. Diagnostic imaging with x-rays or ultrasound can be used to help identify foreign bodies or other abnormalities.

Christmas is on the horizon again and vets often see an increase in cases of gastroenteritis due to the prevalence of seasonal treats. Although vets are open throughout the festive period, there are probably more fun ways to spend your Christmas break!

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.

Our beautiful wildlife

Monday 17th October 2016 We were out for our walk this morning and saw the cormorant in his usual place on the small lake. Luckily I took my camera today, and was pleased to capture this shot. I was fortunate to get a picture of two together, the first time we have seen two.

Friday 28th October 2016 Out with my camera again this morning when we got shots of these three birds on the bandstand island. We are fairly certain they are Egyptian Geese. Such a variety of birds visit the lakes here.

Angela Dorrell

EGYPTIAN GOOSE Related to the shelduck, this pale brown and grey goose has distinctive dark brown eye-patches and contrasting white wing patches in flight. It was introduced as an ornamental wildfowl species and has escaped into the wild, now successfully breeding in a feral state.

There are 1,100 breeding pairs and 3,400 birds spending the winter in the UK. They eat seeds and grass.

They can be seen year round frequently on ornamental ponds where they were originally brought. Now they can be seen on gravel pits and lowland lakes and wetlands. The north Norfolk coast holds the highest number; also seen in areas like the Norfolk Broads (Information taken from the RSPB website).





Hampden Veterinary Hospital

Watermead Branch Surgery

10-11 Lakeside, Watermead, HP19 0FX





Local care from dedicated professionals

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

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

01296 745 373

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

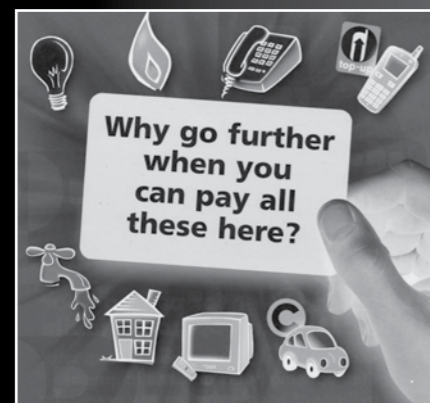


Image taken by Eric Rose

Your local convenient shop...

AMAZING VALUE

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



**MY HERMES
PARCEL SHOP
COLLECT OR SEND
YOUR PARCELS HERE**

WE NOW SELL NATURAL CHOICE DUCK FOOD

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

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



Freshly ground Italian coffee machine now in store!

PP Zone
So much easier

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

* Subject to local availability

**FREE CASH
MACHINE
NOW IN
STORE**

News Watermead allotments

I visited the allotment site in the company of Peter Smith on 19th August. I am a former allotment holder myself and still enjoy growing vegetables. I was also the lead councillor for Watermead Parish Council when the allotments were set up in 2011/12. The site was far from ideal; having been originally a rough pasture prone to flooding, it had been left untended for more than 20 years and was overgrown with weeds. I warned everyone at the time that there would be a lot of hard work involved.

I am therefore very impressed with what has been achieved in just 5 seasons. The allotmenters have had to contend with flooding, wild animals including badgers and deer and vandalism by humans. There is also a constant battle against weeds. A few weeks absence due to illness or other factors can result in a well cultivated plot becoming overgrown. This year there has also been lack of rain during a crucial part of the growing season. Some of the initial plot-holders have given up; nevertheless the letting figures remain healthy.

Overall judging therefore needed to be against this background. Compared to some long established allotment gardens Watermead is not the prettiest. Most plot holders have gone for some form of contained bed and a number have used plastic matting to keep down weeds. But there is evidence of a lot of hard work and some excellent crops. (I was particularly impressed to see that some had grown asparagus). Most of all there is evidence of a thriving community.

I walked around the whole area several times and bearing in mind my overall impressions I thought there were five plots which stood out for various reasons and, even after a further look at these plots, deciding between them was difficult. My judgement is purely personal and I would stress that I did not know the identity of the plot-holders at the time of judging.

1. My winner was Plot 19: Graham Howse & Kelie Marie

There was a great sense of enjoyment on this plot from the gaily decorated shed with its signs, the brick barbecue pit and the chairs. In addition it was well cultivated with a good variety of crops.

2. Second Place went to Plot 42: Roger Mills

This was very neat plot with some nice crops. Plastic matting has been used extensively and effectively to suppress weeds. I would like to see less matting and more beds in due course particularly in the area on the lower right of my photo but this is work in progress.

3. Highly Commended Plots 28-29: Sheree & Colin Smith

2 plots together entailing a great deal of hard work and a variety of excellent crops. Their runner beans were the best of all.

4. Highly Commended Plots 40-41: Sheena Hudson

Good use made of raised beds. The netting used for protection slightly detracted from the overall impression but contained some very healthy crops.

5. Highly Commended Plot 46: Matthew Whincup and Claire Andrews

Nice clean beds with some very healthy looking crops.

Thank you for inviting me to judge and I look forward to following progress next year.

Eric Rose (August 2016)



Random Person

In the late 1980s a group of people attended a get-together for champagne, bacon butties and raffle tickets. The raffle prizes were the opportunity to buy a house on the newly developed Watermead Village. Among those

attending were Carolyn Gibbins and her husband Paul, but on that day they were not one of the lucky ones. So they moved to Bishop's Meadow in Berton



instead. (It's only recently that Carolyn has discovered that one of her friends in Watermead lived in the same road at the same time, but they didn't know each other! I think that is testament to the well-developed community spirit in Watermead.)

Several years later Carolyn and Paul saw that more houses were being planned to extend Watermead. By then both their daughters had left home and one of them was living in Watermead, which made Carolyn and Paul even more keen to live there. They took the plunge and bought 'off plan', which meant that they could request alterations to the design and make the house exactly the way they wanted.

Sadly, less than a year after moving in Paul became seriously ill and passed away the following year.

Carolyn overcame her initial desire to leave the house in which she had nursed her husband throughout his illness and she is still there – the only one of the original residents of Kingfisher.

Carolyn has always been a lady who likes to keep busy. Prior to Paul's illness she had a 17 year history with the

WRVS (Women's Royal Voluntary Service) as a volunteer in the early years, then employed by them, progressing to being County Finance Organiser for the Meals on Wheels Service. Carolyn has a mine of entertaining anecdotes from her time at the WRVS!

She was born in Stewkley and lived there until 1977 but moved house many times before finally settling in Watermead in 1994. It

was not long before Carolyn persuaded her mother to move to Aylesbury and then to Watermead to care for her in her later years. At one point five generations of Carolyn's family lived in Aylesbury and were the subject of an article in the Bucks Herald.

A while after Paul passed away Carolyn met someone that she felt she could welcome into her life and so began a new and different style partnership. He has been her close companion for many years now. They manage to combine a loving and supportive relationship with a busy and enjoyable social life, while maintaining an element of independence by retaining their individual homes. He is

a Freemason at the Masonic Lodge in Aylesbury and a large part of their activities revolve around the social life attached to Freemasonry. They also belong to a small Watermead based social club called Over 50s Friends and Carolyn belongs to the Women's Institute as well.

How often do we say 'We must keep in touch' when we move house or job – but it often doesn't happen. Not with Carolyn. She has many groups of friends from virtually all the places she has lived or worked and she meets up with them regularly.

Despite all this socialising; looking after mum; getting together with her two daughters, their partners and four grandchildren, last year Carolyn trained for and took part in the Florence Nightingale Midnight Walk to raise money for their hospice. You may have seen her picture in this magazine with her 'Spring Chicken' team-mates.

I don't know how she does it. Just writing about her has left me breathless!

Carolynne Mckee

Answers to Tea Break Quiz on page 04

1. 26th December, 2. Jacob Marley, 3. Holiday Inn, 4. Norway, 5. Ladies dancing, 6. Comet, Cupid, Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner and Blitzen, 7. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, 8. The Nightmare Before Christmas, 9. White, 10. Clarence, 11. Balthazar, Melchior and Casper, 12. Hogmanay, 13. Christmas Cracker, 14. 1984, 15. Turkey, 16. Dr Seuss, 17. Mexico, 18. Robert Burns, 19. Six, 20. Panettone

McCOY'S

Traditional Fish & Chips

We cater for large orders and parties

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

**Jubilee Square, Buckingham Park
Aylesbury HP19 9DZ**

01296 427648

September BULLETIN

Respect our Workforce campaign

Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB) launched its 'Respect our Workforce' campaign, amid increasing concerns about abuse directed at its employees by some road users. Incidents of abusive behaviour, or dangerous driving on road works sites, are unfortunately common for the road workers and TfB staff whose job it is to keep the roads safe. Since January this year, 30 incidents of dangerous or abusive driver behaviour have been reported by our road workers, all of which endanger lives and make Buckinghamshire's roads less safe. Abuse aimed at parking officers, and call centre staff is also frequent.

In an open letter to local press, County Councillor Mark Shaw - Cabinet Member for Transportation, said: "All of our workers out on the roads are there to do a job, and without them, the roads would be less safe. Instances of abuse will not be tolerated by us, and we have the full support of Thames Valley Police. Road workers are perfectly within their rights to phone the police if they are abused, threatened, or endangered on the job. Just think – would you put up with this?"

Acting Inspector David Washington, from Thames Valley Police's Aylesbury Neighbourhood Team said: "Nobody should have to tolerate abuse or violence in the work place. Thames Valley Police is committed to working with our partner agency Transport for Buckinghamshire to ensure we are preventing and robustly investigating crime; supporting victims and bringing offenders to justice."

Campaign posters and case studies give details on some of the worst incidents, and give insight as to why this campaign is – sadly – necessary. Keep up to date with the campaign on TfB's social media pages on Twitter at [@TfBAlerts](#), [facebook.com/transportforbucks](#), and news blog [tfblatestnews.blogspot.co.uk](#).



www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport
Live twitter feeds [@tfbalerts](#)



Do you own a 4x4?

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

Delivery/
collection or
loan car free
of charge

Servicing
MOTs
Repairs
Parts, Tyres
Diagnostics
and more

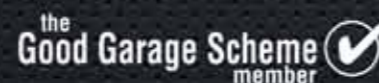
4x4 used car
stock list now
available,
please contact
us for details



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



LAND ROVER SPECIALISTS



Which?
Trusted trader

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

MacMillan Coffee Morning



Dear Village View readers,

Thank you so much for making my fifth MacMillan coffee morning another great success. We have raised £767 which is quite a lot of money for cake!

Firstly, I would like to thank Nicole from Community at Tesco who has helped me every year so far by helping to raise more money by turning just coffee and cake into a high tea.

Secondly, I would like to thank Maria from Avanti who sung the praises of MacMillan Cancer Support helping persuade lots of

people to buy raffle tickets. She also donated a fantastic raffle prize and is fast becoming the best tea lady this side of Oxford.

Thanks also go to our businesses on Watermead for their generosity, namely Watermead Dental Centre, The Flower Box, WM News and Reflexions for their superb raffle prizes. I very much appreciated Noreen's assistance, our Parish Clerk, and also thanks to our Parish Council who allowed us to use the Village Hall for free.

Thanks to all the people who baked or faked

their contributions who helped to turn our wonderful afternoon into a great social event.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my wonderful family for all their help in every aspect; without their support I simply couldn't have done it.

Finally, thank you to all those who came along for afternoon tea and contributed so generously.

Marcia Lang

Painting & Decorating

Andy Dale



Interior Paintwork
Exterior Paintwork
Wallpapering
Lining Walls
Coving

07980 684919

andydale177@btinternet.com

Watermead Resident for 15 years

Howse Electrical Part P Approved Electrician

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

Reliable
Reasonable
Fully Insured

07878 235185

grahamhowse@hotmail.com

Watermead resident
for over 10 years

Letters to the Editor

Residents & businesses revolt after a million pound bill for Watermead Piazza repairs

Dear Editor,

Everyday Watermead Residents may pop in to the Newsagents, Takeaway, Florists, Hair Dressing Salon, Dentist, Mobility Shop, Vets or the pub for a drink not realising that the Piazza area is maintained by the Businesses and Residents of the Lakeside Property. All the lighting, car parking maintenance to clearing up after feeding the ducks is down to 33 premises. For a long time the Property was managed by a company whose director had a company in the Piazza and its proprietor visited regularly. Though not maintained perfectly it was kept in a reasonable state. In 2013 the property was sold to a company in Wales who due to distance have not been maintaining the property as expected. Some areas have become seriously dilapidated and unsafe to use through neglect. Mrs Marcia Lang, Chair of the Watermead Lakeside Residents Association, told how the association sent numerous emails, photos and even video of the damage requesting that the Property Management Company come down and

inspect the site.

The response was a colossal refurbishment plan, rather than repairing the damaged areas, involving an initial half a million to be paid in 30 days of issue of invoices and a follow up bill in less than 5 years. Service charges were also expected to rise. The site could be under scaffolding for approximately 6 months.

This means that residents and businesses are being asked to pay thousands of pounds due to a failure of the property management company to maintain the site. In a heated meeting on the 31st August 2016 residents and businesses were angered by an acceptance of failure by representatives from the Property Management company but they were still demanding half a million pounds in charges from small businesses and pensioners.

The businesses have been hit by a double whammy as new business rates were unveiled by the government increasing day to day costs of running a business.

Just imagine if you can no longer pop

in for a newspaper or your favourite take away. You may want your hair prepared for a wonderful night out or just popping in for a quick check up at the dentist or to bring your pet to the vets. Many use the mobility shop, pop in for flowers or a drink at the pub. Yet if these charges go ahead then these businesses may go for good.

Next time you walk through the Piazza remember it is a few residents and businesses that make it possible. If big business has its way soon this may change as they rip out the centre of Watermead Village. We will be left with dilapidated centre with boarded up shops and Watermead will become a sad memory of when it was first built in 1988.

Joseph Irwin, WLRA. 21st October

The views and opinions expressed in the Village View Magazine do not necessarily represent those of the Watermead Parish Council ('the Council') Therefore, we the Council cannot be held responsible for the accuracy or reliability of information posted by external parties.



Age UK Bucks services and support

We help older people throughout the county live independently

- * Information and advice
- * Welfare benefits home visits
- * Befriending Plus
- * Phone-a-Friend

free

- * Help-in-the-Home
- * Garden maintenance
- * Handyperson
- * Computer training
- * Toenail cutting service in your home
- * Home hairdressing

pay for

Call 01296 431911

www.ageukbucks.org.uk

145 Meadowcroft, Aylesbury HP19 9HH

Registered charity 1139423



WISHING YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
from Watermead Parish Council

WATERMEAD CAROL CONCERT, THE PIAZZA
6-7PM SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2016

Welcome by Sue Severn, Chairman, Watermead Parish Council 6pm

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL
THE FIRST NOWELL
GOOD KING, WENCESLAS, LOOK'D OUT

Carol Nos:
12
5
15

Children to gather near the stage - Rev Mark Ackford address

CHILDREN ONLY: AWAY IN A MANGER 6

Safe Sax Band will play a tune to welcome Father Christmas
Father Christmas distribute presents to children

GOD REST YOU MERRY, GENTLEMEN 16
ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY 19
ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT ALL CHRISTIANS SING 20
WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE 21

Sue Severn – thanks and finale

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING 10

Mulled Wine and a Mince Pies
(Made by Watermead & Weedon WI) or Sausage Rolls
Donations to Chat (Children, Health & Therapy



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

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

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,...

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,...

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,...

THE FIRST NOWELL
The First Nowell the angel
did say
Was to certain poor shepherds
in fields where they lay;
In fields where they lay,
keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that
was so deep.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the East,
beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave
great light,
And so it continued both
day and night.
Nowell, Nowell...

And by the light of that same
star,
Three Wise Men came from
country far;
To seek for a King was their
intent,
And to follow the star wherever
it went.
Nowell, Nowell...

This star drew nigh to the
North-West;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest.,
And there it did both stop and
stay,
Right over the place where
Jesus lay.
Nowell, Nowell...

Then entered in those Wise Men
three,
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in His
presence
Their gold and myrrh and
frankincense.
Nowell, Nowell...

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly
Lord,
Who hath made heaven and
earth of naught,
And with His blood mankind
hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell...

GOOD KING WENCESLAS
Good King Wenceslas looked
out
On the feast of Stephen
When the snow lay round about
Deep and crisp and even;
Brightly shone the moon that
night
Though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight
Gathering winter fuel.

'Hither, page, and stand by me
If thou know'st it telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?
'Sire, he lives a good league
hence,
Underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence
By St Agnes' fountain'.

'Bring me flesh and bring me
wine
Bring me pine logs hither;
Thou and I will see him dine
When we bear them thither.'
Page and monarch, forth they
went
Forth they went together
Through the rude wind's wild
lament
And the bitter weather.

'Sire, the night is darker now
And the wind blows stronger
Fails my heart, I know not how;
I can go no longer.'
'Mark my footsteps, good my
page,
Tread thou in them boldly
Thou shalt find the winter's rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly.'

In his master's steps he trod
Where the snow lay dinted
Heat was in the very sod
Which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christians all, be sure,
Wealth or rank possessing.
Ye who now will bless the poor
Shall yourselves find blessing.

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.

GOD REST YOU MERRY,
GENTLEMEN
God rest you merry, gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born upon this day,
To save us all from Satan's
power
When we were gone astray:

O, tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
O, tidings of comfort and joy

At Bethlehem in Judah
The holy Babe was born;
They laid Him in a manger
On this most happy morn:
At which His mother Mary
Did neither fear nor scorn:
O, tidings of comfort and joy ...

From God our heavenly Father
A holy angel came;
The shepherds saw the glory
And heard the voice proclaim
That Christ was born in
Bethlehem
And Jesus is His name:
O, tidings of comfort and joy ...

Fear not, then said the angel,
Let nothing cause you fright;
To you is born a Saviour
In David's town tonight,
To free all those who trust in
Him
From Satan's power and might:
O, tidings of comfort and joy ...

The shepherds at these tidings
Rejoiced in heart and mind,
And on the darkened hillside
They left their flocks behind,
And went to Bethlehem
straightway
This holy Child to find:
O, tidings of comfort and joy ...

And when to Bethlehem they
came
Where Christ the infant lay:
They found Him in a manger
Where oxen feed on hay,
And there beside her newborn
Child

His mother knelt to pray:
O, tidings of comfort and joy ...
Now to the Lord sing praises,
All people in this place!
With Christian love and
fellowship
Each other now embrace,
And let this Christmas festival
All bitterness displace:
O, tidings of comfort and joy ...

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.

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.

WE THREE KINGS
We Three Kings
We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we travel afar,
Field and fountain, moor and
mountain,
Following yonder star:

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still
proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's
plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again:
King for ever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.
O star of wonder...

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh:
Prayer and praising, all are
raising,
Worship Him, God most high.
O star of wonder...

Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering
gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding,
dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
O star of wonder...

Glorious now, behold Him arise,
King and God and sacrifice.
Heaven sings, 'Alleluja!'
'Alleluja!' the earth replies.
O star of wonder...

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 & Weedon WI

Since our last report in Village View our WI spent an evening in October with Frances Benton who talked about her love of pearls. 'A Passion for Pearls' is a lively and entertaining talk about the history, the science, myths and legends of the world's most secretive and only living gemstone, the pearl. Going back over 5,000 years, pearls have been associated with wisdom, power, wealth and beauty. The talk was very informative and was illustrated by letting you handle pearls of all colours, shapes and sizes. She brought along a huge collection of pearl jewellery, which she sources and makes herself, which was offered for sale after the talk at a fraction of shop prices. She donates her net profits to charity. At present the charity which she supports is called the Jabulani Project, which looks after some of the world's poorest orphans in Durban, South Africa.

At our Annual Meeting in November we voted for our new committee, including the mandatory President, Secretary and Treasurer roles. We are fortunate to have a marvellous committee who work very hard on behalf of the members to provide an interesting programme of events throughout

the year. This meeting also included a fun interactive game, socialising, tea/coffee/biscuits and a Christmas craft sale.

The Women's Institute is well known for its campaigning zeal. Resolutions are ideas put forward to suggest new campaigns in fitting with our times. Each year the National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI) calls for suggested resolutions from individual branches. The resolutions are whittled down to a shortlist. All branches vote as to how their representative should vote at the Annual Meeting. The resolution will then become a NFWI campaign. In 2016, two resolutions were passed so two new topics are becoming the subject of WI campaigning and lobbying. Individual members, branches, as well as the national body will all be very much involved.

Avoid food waste, address food poverty. The WI calls on all supermarkets to sign up to a voluntary agreement to avoid food waste, thereby passing surplus food onto charities thus helping to address the issue of increasing food poverty in the UK. - Snailbeach WI, Shropshire Federation.

Appropriate care in hospitals for people with dementia. We call upon HM Government and the NHS to provide facilities to enable carers to stay with people with Alzheimer's disease and dementia that have been admitted into hospital. - Norley WI, Cheshire Federation.

In order to find out more about these and other recent campaigns go to www.thewi.org.uk/campaigns

If you want to know more information on Buckinghamshire Women's Institutes (BFWI) do check their website www.bucksfwi.org.uk

At our December meeting we will be having a Christmas party with drinks and food provided by our members.

Sound interesting? Why not join us? Watermead & Weedon WI hold regular meetings on the first Thursday in the month, from 7.30 to 9.30pm, in the Village Hall, The Piazza, Watermead. We welcome any ladies who are new to Watermead, Weedon and Buckingham Park or any women who would just like to see what we are all about. For further information please contact Julia Morgan – details under "What's On" on page 08.

WI visit to Hindu Temple

Four members of Watermead & Weedon WI joined a group from Aylesbury Town WI in a visit to the Hindu temple in Neasden, north-west London, on the 17th October 2016. It was a beautiful sunny day and we had an "awesome" experience.

BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, popularly known as the 'Neasden Temple', is Europe's first traditional Hindu temple. It is a place of Hindu worship designed and constructed entirely according to ancient Vedic architectural texts using no structural steel whatsoever.

Not in modern times had a traditional stone mandir of this scale and intricacy been created outside of India. It was the first time ever in the western world. Almost 5,000 tonnes of Bulgarian limestone and Italian Carrara marble were shipped to India, hand-carved by over 1,500 skilled artisans, and then shipped to London. In all, more than 26,300 carved pieces, including intricate designs made from Indian Ambaji marble, were meticulously assembled like a giant jigsaw within three years. The Mandir was a labour of love for over 3,000 volunteers, and is the vision and inspiration of His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj, the fifth spiritual successor of Bhagwan Swaminarayan.

The ground floor of the Mandir hosts "Understanding Hinduism", a permanent exhibition using 3D dioramas, paintings, tableaux and traditional craftwork. It provides a valuable insight into the wisdom and values of the Hindu faith. Aum – the primordial Hindu sound and sacred symbol provides a peaceful and auspicious welcome into the exhibition.

- **Worship** - where a consistent pattern of devotional rituals, ceremonies and practices is observed throughout the day, every day.
- **Learning** - where young and old can engage with and learn about Hindu beliefs, values and practices to kindle a spiritually uplifting and fulfilling lifestyle.
- **Celebration** - where year-round Hindu festivals allow for vibrant and joyous celebrations for the whole community.
- **Beauty** - where exquisite art and architecture are offered as a



WATERMEAD BASED PLUMBING & HEATING SPECIALISTS

Call Gareth on:
01296 434785
www.gkplumbing.net
[@GKPlumbing1](https://twitter.com/GKPlumbing1)

Find us on Facebook

GK Plumbing & Heating...

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

Our team are Gas Safe registered and our services include:

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

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

Boiler Service includes:

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

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

193600

humble tribute to the inexpressible majesty and unbounded glory of the Divine.

- **Community** - where dialogue and understanding help foster greater respect, harmony and cooperation among people of different faiths, races, ethnicities and cultures.
- **Charity** - where the selfless spirit of volunteerism reaches out to serve the wider community and contribute meaningfully to our country.
- **Peace.**

Enshrined in the sanctum sanctorum of the Mandir, above the exhibition are the murtis – the marble and metallic images ceremonially infused with the divine presence of God. These sacred images are attended to with the utmost care and devotion and are worshipped daily with five artis and other ceremonies. They form the very soul of the Mandir, helping Hindus enhance and develop their loving relationship with the Divine.

We were fortunate enough to attend one of the ceremonies - Arti, Rajbhog at 11.45am. The men gathered in the front section and the women segregated further back, all seated on the marble floor. We were able to take a look at the murtis close up after the ceremony.

Adjacent to the stone mandir is a unique cultural centre intricately designed in traditional Haveli architecture. Exquisite traditional wood-craftsmanship has been combined with modern environment-friendly techniques to create this hub of activity for all who come to learn, worship and celebrate at the Mandir.

While we were there we could see the preparations being made for the forthcoming Diwali celebrations to which 40,000 visitors were expected.

After visiting the temple we went to their restaurant for a traditional vegetarian meal which was delicious. We also had the opportunity of some retail therapy in their specialist supermarket!

Lots more fascinating information can be found on their website: www.londonmandir.baps.org

Cllr Mary Singleton

RJW Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Ltd



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

For A Cleaner Home, Just Pick Up The Phone

For A Free No Obligation Quote Call Tony On

01296 482536 07850130536
rjwcarpets@yahoo.co.uk

The View from Westminster

Most legislation is drafted and promoted by the government of the day, but every year a set number of days are set aside for Private Members' Bills brought forward by backbench MPs. A ballot is held to decide which lucky 20 MPs should get this chance.

The lucky ones are inundated with suggestions from charities, lobby groups and government departments to take on this or that Bill. Because the time allotted to Private Members' Bills is limited, they can normally succeed only if they enjoy both widespread and cross-party support. Otherwise it is easy for opponents, whether from the government, the opposition or simply a group of backbenchers who disagree strongly with the Bill to spin out debate until time runs out.

In practice, that means that an MP who is successful in the ballot has to make a choice. He can take a controversial subject close to his heart and have it debated, but in the knowledge that it is never likely to reach the statute book. Or he can pick a good cause where a consensus already exists or can be built, and know that he has a good chance of his Bill becoming law.

Only once in my 24 years in Parliament have I been lucky in the ballot. My Bill became the Chiropractors Act which established a national regulatory framework for chiropractic. It set up the General Council of Chiropractic and made it illegal for anyone to practise as a chiropractor unless they were registered and had met standards of professional education and training laid down by the General Council.

This year, my colleague, Harrow MP, Bob Blackman is taking forward a Bill to reduce homelessness by requiring local councils to offer advice and support before a crisis develops rather than wait

until the bailiffs arrive.

An initiative of this kind was needed. While homelessness is significantly below its peak in 2004/5, the figures in the last few years have been rising again and there is a particular problem with young people leaving local authority care.

Housing and homelessness is also often a controversial political topic, so Mr Blackman knew that he had to work hard to get cross-party agreement. He talked to both housing ministers and opposition parties. He worked with homelessness charities, discussed his ideas with local councils, and had a draft Bill examined and tested by the Communities and Local Government Select Committee before beginning its formal legislative stages. He adapted the Bill in the light of discussion.

As a result, the Bill passed its Second Reading on 28th October without a division, with strong cross-party support, and the Government promising new money to enable councils to carry out their new responsibilities. There's still a long way to go before the Bill becomes law but the omens are good, and it is a real lesson in how one MP can still make a difference.



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

Get onboard



water rider 6

• **Commute** • **Shop** • **Relax**

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

Save money with our great value multi-journey tickets:

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



www.rainbowroutes.co.uk



Avanti

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

CELEBRATE
A NEW YEAR
WITH A NEW STYLE
20% OFF*

**WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OUR LOYAL CUSTOMERS
FOR A GREAT 2016,**

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AMONG NEW FACES IN 2017

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

*OFFER VALID THROUGHOUT JANUARY 2017.

CANNOT BE USED FOR BARBERING & NOT TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS.

L'ORÉAL
PROFESSIONNEL

KÉRASTASE
PARIS

ghd
good hair day, every day

PAUL MITCHELL



Connells

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



LETTINGS

T: 01296 337 739

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

SALES

T: 01296 395 111

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

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

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

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