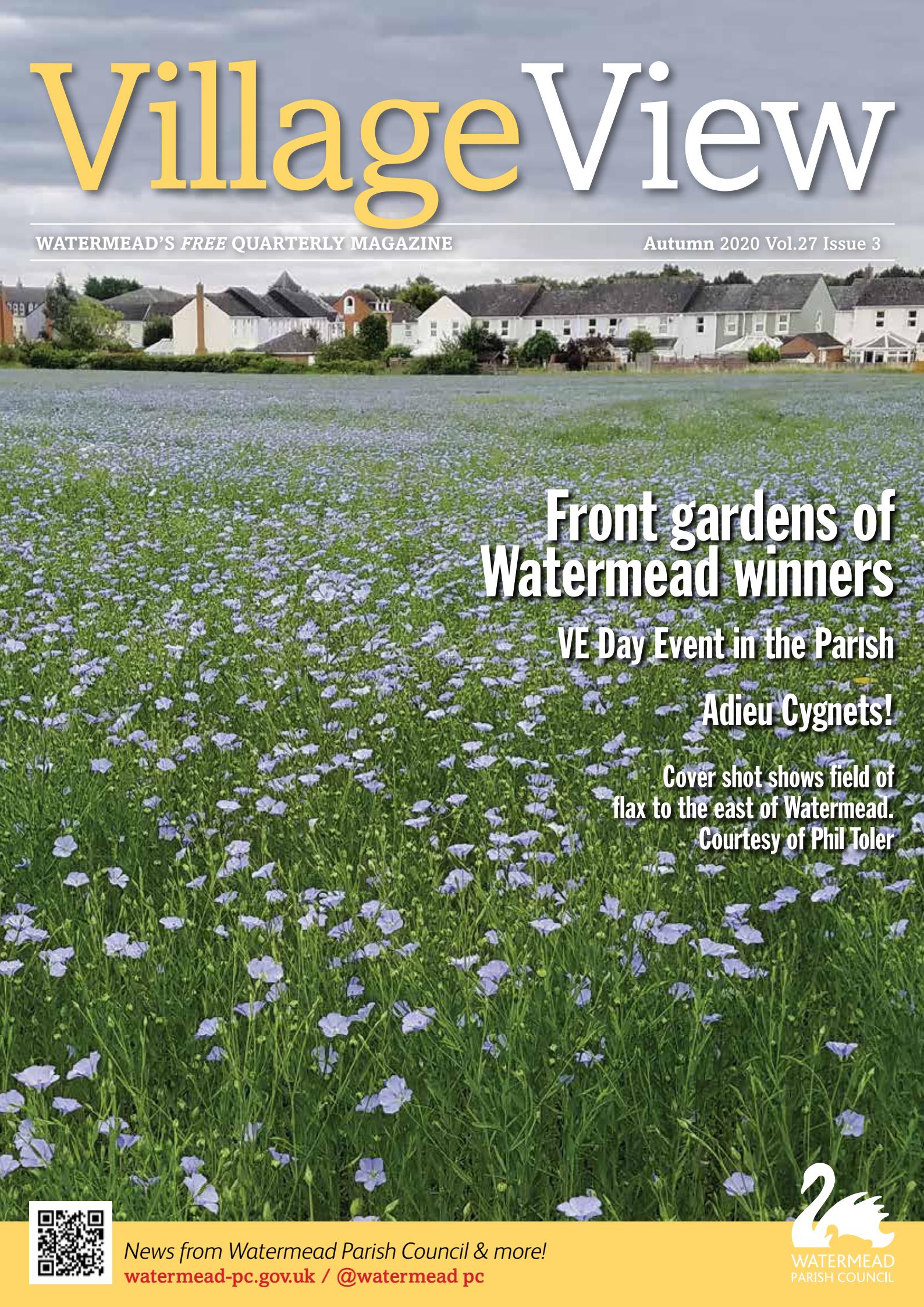


VillageView

WATERMEAD'S FREE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

Autumn 2020 Vol.27 Issue 3



**Front gardens of
Watermead winners**

VE Day Event in the Parish

Adieu Cygnets!

Cover shot shows field of
flax to the east of Watermead.
Courtesy of Phil Toler



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





Watermead Wilderness Working Group Day

Wednesday 9th September 2020

9:45am-15:00pm

Volunteer Information – Managing Watermead's Wild Side

Vale Countryside Volunteers is a working party set up to care for and protect the wildlife and countryside of Aylesbury Vale. We are pleased to announce that this organization has agreed to have another working day at Watermead. They will bring tools and a core of skilled members but we also need some local volunteers to help them.

To register your interest in helping on the day, please contact the Parish Clerk 01296 395211

Watermead events update

Watermead Events Committee has reluctantly decided to postpone this year's outdoor cinema until 2021. We are hoping by then that there will be no need for a ban on mass gatherings and that we would not have to manage social distancing measures which would just be impossible for us.

To our sponsors who have already paid the sponsorship fee for Larks by the Lake, we will be in touch with you all to ask if you would like to carry this over to Larks 2021 or if you would like a refund which we would be happy to give.

Here's hoping for a better 2021 for all.

Karen Collett



...page 03

including schools re-opening, we are all somewhat concerned but it is marvellous to see businesses re-opening.

Please remember our local shops and businesses and continue to support them. Watermead News, Watermead Inn, Watermead Dental Surgery, Chinese Takeaway, our Florist and Avanti Hairdressing are all open for business. Hampden Veterinary Surgery is open but not yet in Watermead. We can take our pets to the hospital in Aylesbury. Thanks to Mo for helping to keep us supplied during lockdown with all the things we couldn't get elsewhere, and for giving us a safe place to shop with a Post Office, which is much appreciated by your customers in Watermead. Kelvin and his team at Watermead Inn were instrumental in providing food packages for NHS and key workers at the start of lockdown. He also provided a storage facility for all the food donations. Thank you.

We are pleased to welcome our latest member, Peter Dean, who has been co-opted to the Council filling the Casual Vacancy following Julian Gent's resignation. Peter and his family have lived in Watermead for twenty one years. He has attended many Parish Council meetings, supporting our work. He has developed an understanding of the many very challenging issues faced in recent years. Peter told us that he feels that Councillors have really done their very best to work in the interests of the parishioners. With his relatively recent retirement he feels that he can now offer practical support by serving on the Council and we look forward to working with him.

Thank you!

The Parish Council's work has continued thanks to our office team led by Noreen Shardlow, our Parish Clerk, who has worked throughout lockdown to ensure services

continued and offering help and advice to parishioners and visitors. Councillors have been helping our Volunteer Army. Thank you too to Mary Singleton and her team for producing a fantastic edition of Village View during lockdown. It was uplifting and interesting.

We are pleased to welcome our latest member, Peter Dean, who has been co-opted to the Council filling the Casual Vacancy following Julian Gent's resignation.

Peter and his family have lived in Watermead for twenty one years. He has attended many Parish Council meetings,

supporting our work. He has developed an understanding of the many very challenging issues faced in recent years. Peter told us that he feels that Councillors have really done their very best to work in the interests of the parishioners.

With his relatively recent retirement he feels that he can now offer practical support by serving on the Council and we look forward to working with him.

Youngest sailor

Congratulations to Timothy Long, a Watermead resident aged 15, who is currently embarked on an incredible challenge to become the

youngest person to sail solo around Britain! He has, at the time of writing, raised £2,500 for the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust and continues towards his goal of sailing the 1,600 miles around the British coast. Tim is also a member of the Volunteer Army. Well done Tim, we are super-proud of you and your achievement to date. Sailing single-handed is a huge challenge for anyone, but at 15 it is truly exceptional.

Goodbye Cygnets

This summer we said goodbye to The Cygnets. Dot Toler set up Cygnets in Watermead 24 years ago.

She and her colleagues have introduced so many Watermead children to learning and socialising in the gentle and fun environment of our own village nursery school. Many have now graduated from University! We are fortunate that the facility will continue with Footsteps taking over from September. We are sure they will be equally successful and

extend a warm welcome to Watermead.

Photo competition

Don't forget to capture your favourite images for our photographic competition – see details of how to enter and relevant dates on the back cover.

Front gardens

Members of the Parish Council have been admiring your lovely front gardens and putting nominations forward to Irina Schwab to be considered for the best front gardens in Watermead. See the outcome on page 10.

I hope that everyone continues to be safe and keep well. Whatever challenges we face in the coming months we can be certain of our community's support and kindness.

Cllr Sue Severn, Chairman

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

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

04

05

Don't be a tosser

Litter is a constant struggle for parks and urban areas and has previously followed a predictable pattern. COVID-19 and the lockdown has shifted this radically. Usual hot spots in Town Centres are much quieter whilst parks and green spaces are busier than ever. Lots of people are also visiting these areas for the first time, and using them to eat, drink and socialise. The litter produced is a result of a mixture of careless discarding of waste and people doing "the right thing" without awareness of the unseen impacts. For example, leaving a carrier bag next to a full litter bin may seem a sensible thing to do, but animals may rip it open and spread the rubbish all over the park.

What is the Council doing?

- Street Cleansing teams are continuing their clean ups trying to react to the different hotspots, but it's hard to move with the speed necessary to stop build ups of litter.
- Country parks and beauty spots are communicating to visitors the issues with litter by using posters, social media and also by stepping up their cleaning routines.
- Promoting anti-litter using Keep Britain Tidy messages.

This is what the Council is planning for the future:

- Dedicated Communications plan to deliver joined-up anti-littering messages across the County.
- Focus on the impacts on wildlife of littering in our green spaces with a clear call to take litter home. The "don't be a tosser" campaign is useful in the right areas, but we feel working with Buckinghamshire's beauty spots and local wildlife will work best.
- Produce a toolkit for Parish/Town Councils and community groups to promote the same messages (posters, social media posts, etc.).
- Promote community litter picks.
- Equipment to be provided to allow groups to organise litter picks in local areas (provided by Waste Collection teams in each area).
- Residents will be able to either bring collected waste to local Household Recycling Centres or, by arrangement, have the waste collected by the local waste collection team.
- Work towards the deferred "Great British Spring Clean" which has moved to September. This will be a nationwide

campaign used to promote local activities and focus minds on eradicating litter from our local areas. Details of this event will be on our website soon as it has just launched - www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean

*Angela Macpherson
Deputy Leader Buckinghamshire Council
Cabinet Member Adult Social Care
Councillor for Grendon Underwood ward
angela.macpherson@buckinghamshire.gov.uk*



FREE
FRIENDLY
ADVICE
AND
ESTIMATES

Acorn Kitchens & Bathrooms Ltd

Luxurious kitchens and bathrooms in Aylesbury and surrounding areas

- Fully insured
- Kitchens and bathrooms
- Plumbing
- Design, fitting and installation service
- All tiling, flooring and decorating
- Showers, en-suites and cloakrooms

We also offer a fit only service and undertake general carpentry and minor alterations



01296 586342 / 077764 576090
info@acornkitchensbathroomsld.com
www.acornkitchensbathroomsld.com

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

Tea Break Quiz



1. What was the name of the boat on which Robert Maxwell was last seen alive?
2. Who painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel?
3. Which nuts are used in marzipan?
4. In which European city can you find the home of Anne Frank?
5. How many time zones are there in the world?
6. In which city was The Titanic built?
7. What does the name of the Russian newspaper Pravda mean?
8. Which book did Mary Shelley write when she was 19?
9. What was Elvis Presley's middle name?
10. In what year did John Major become leader of the Tory party?
11. In computing what does RAM stand for?
12. What colour are the seats in the House of Commons?
13. What is Keir Starmer's constituency?
14. In what year was the Chernobyl disaster?
15. Into which sea does the Nile flow?
16. Who was US President before Barack Obama?
17. Table Mountain overlooks which city?
18. How many yards are there between the wickets in a game of cricket?
19. Which famous artist cut off part of his own ear?
20. What is the dish of battered deep fried squid known as?

Answers on page 14

What's on

...around Watermead

Our regulars in the Village Hall...

The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 ("the 2020 Regulations") came into effect on 4th April 2020. The 2020 Regulations enable local councils to hold remote meetings (for a specified period) to attend the Watermead Parish Council meeting via video conferencing on the third Thursday of the month commencing at 7:30pm for the purpose of transacting the following business. Members of the public who wish to join/attend the meeting will need to request a link from the Parish Clerk. Please email noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk or call 01296 395211. In the event you wish to ask a question we will ask for a copy in advance to ensure inclusion.

Events later on this year:

12th September	Film Night, Balloon Meadow CANCELLED
12th October	Photographic Competition photos due in by 5pm
17th October	Photographic Competition Exhibition & Prize Giving 1-4.30pm

Are you looking for a venue? Watermead Village Hall is the ideal venue for young children's birthday parties, meetings and christenings, etc. Or are you an organisation looking for a regular venue? If so, to book the Village Hall or the Bandstand 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.

Advertising Manager	Phil Toler	Tel: 432405	philtoler3@gmail.com
Editor	Mary Singleton	Tel: 428569	mary.singleton@watermead-pc.gov.uk
Assistant Editor	Carolyne McKee	Tel: 435096	carolynemckee@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. 3 month shelf life!

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. Designed by Rachel Seago Designs. Published by Watermead Parish Council. 2020 ©

A new way to tackle the issues that matter most to our community

There is a new way to tackle the issues that matter most to our community – through Buckinghamshire Council's new Community Boards. The boards will connect local people, organisations and groups with the council to improve our local areas. Wing and Ivinghoe Community Board covers the Wing and Ivinghoe area and held an introductory meeting in July, to start this conversation. Over the next few weeks organisers will be getting people, groups and organisations in the community involved and helping to identify our key priorities ahead of the official launch in September. Everyone is welcome - read on to find out more about what the board will do, how it will work and how you can get involved.

What is a Community Board?

Wing and Ivinghoe Community Board will identify the themes and issues that most need to be addressed for this area and create an action plan to do this, with working groups to look at specific projects and issues. The board will:

- represent the voices of local people;
- capture thoughts, ideas and suggestions in new ways;
- enable local conversations about priorities;
- identify needs within local communities and work to produce creative solutions;
- explore areas of interest;
- influence how decisions are made and public services are delivered.

How does it work?

Partnerships created in response to Covid-19 are enabling the new Community Boards to quickly get up and running. All boards have a leader, as well as a coordinator who makes sure local people, groups and organisations feel connected with the boards and the council, ensuring information is shared and views are heard.

There will be a mixture of core meetings and working groups who will focus on a specific issue or local project. Core meetings will agree priorities; allocate funding and feed back on the plan of action. Anyone who wants to get involved won't need to attend every session. You'll be able to read the agendas and minutes online and can participate in the issues that you feel passionate about. You can join meetings, or take part in a specific priority or project working group. You can complete surveys, take part in polls or share your views.

Who is in the Wing and Ivinghoe Community Board?

The chairman for Wing and Ivinghoe is Councillor Anne Wight who, like all of the boards' chairs, is a member of Buckinghamshire Council. The Wing and Ivinghoe vice chair is Councillor Peter Cooper and its dedicated coordinator is Katrina Kelly.

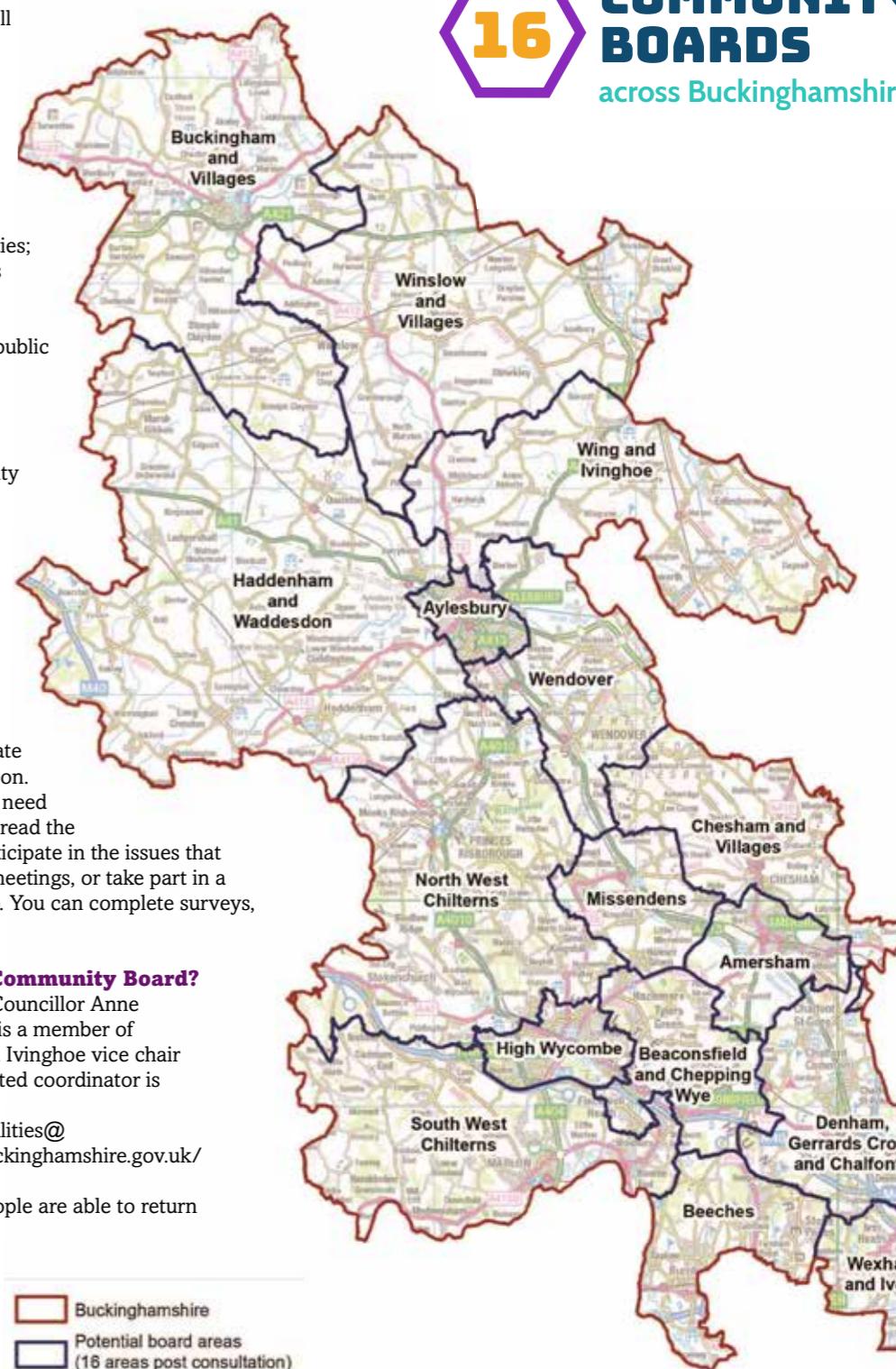
If you'd like to get involved, email localities@buckinghamshire.gov.uk or visit www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-boards

As summer draws to a close, many people are able to return to work and school. This is an important step in our road to recovery. Of course, many people still need the support of their community, and I am grateful that the Watermead Volunteer Army

maintains its tireless efforts to help. My own team and I continue to spend much of our time assisting constituents with the impact of coronavirus, but over the summer we've also helped with queries ranging from employment to housing, HS2 to visas. Many of life's challenges remain alongside coronavirus and I remain committed to helping my constituents in whatever way I can - through this crisis and long after.

If you have an issue that you feel I may be able to help you with, please email me at rob.butler.mp@parliament.uk

Robert Butler MP



Front gardens of Watermead

On a previous occasion Mirabell Gardens (Salzburg) was suggested as inspiration for our front garden competition. However, this year, it became obvious that our residents did not need any exterior source to inspire beautiful gardens. The extra time on our hands and the long hot summer has been reflected in beautiful, well looked-after gardens. We are grateful to our community for the support offered through the social media. Many of us had time to re-landscape our front or back gardens, paint the front doors and generally carry out house maintenance jobs. Moreover, we also shared tips on where to find DIY supplies and order plants. The plan worked well, as this year we had plenty of gardens to admire.

I have personally learned from my mistakes, as I ordered my hanging basket in April, and by mid June I had to replace it. More careful and savvy neighbours waited and chose well, ensuring plants that bloom throughout the summer. If anyone would like to share any tips with us, we will be more than happy to publish them in the next issue of Village View.

These are the gardens that stood out this summer:

The first garden to be photographed was at 30 Kestrel Way where there was an abundance of colour around the front door and a beautiful fuchsia to the side of the pathway.

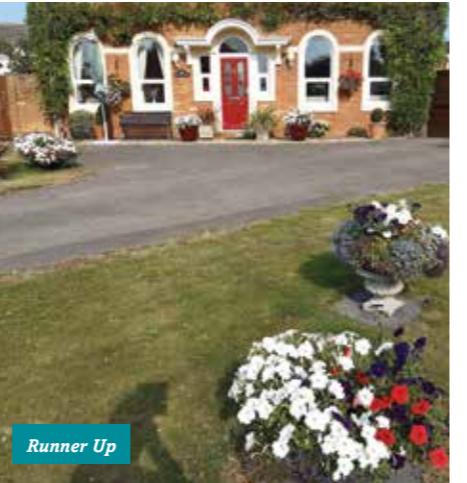
7 Nuthatch has once again come up trumps with a wonderful display of colourful plants and hanging baskets and some innovative



18 Brambling - In the Spring the porch is covered by clematis and as we go through the seasons the hanging baskets and window boxes are replenished with pretty flower displays.



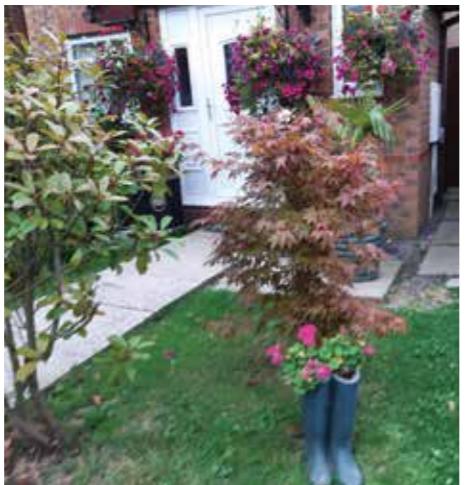
11 Osprey - The front garden at 11 Osprey is so neat and full of colour. There is a different arrangement in the Spring. At the moment, it is full of colour both in the flower bed, pots and hanging baskets. A real delight.



16 Ayleswater - I first noticed a fantastic display of roses all across the front of 16 Ayleswater in the Spring. Now a very different scene with pretty hanging baskets and large pots containing various summer flowers.



59 Lark Vale - A neat arrangement of colourful pots and hanging baskets at 59 Lark Vale.



7 Nuthatch - 7 Nuthatch has once again come up trumps with a wonderful display of colourful plants and hanging baskets and some innovative planting eg. geraniums in a pair of wellie boots.



Osprey Walk - The fragrant roses along Osprey Walk.

Lockdown recipes

Hungarian Goulash

Serves 6, Preparation time 20 minutes, Cooking time 2 hours 35 minutes

Ingredients

1kg good braising steak, preferably chuck steak
1 tbsp sunflower oil
3 medium onions, cut into 12 wedges
3 garlic cloves, crushed
2 tsp hot smoked paprika
1 tbsp paprika
1 beef stock cube (Oxo works well here)
600ml cold water
400g can of chopped tomatoes
2 tbsp tomato purée
2 bay leaves
1 red pepper
1 green pepper
1 orange pepper
flaked sea salt
freshly ground black pepper

4. While the beef is cooking, remove the core and seeds from each pepper and chuck them away. Cut each pepper into chunks of about 3cm. When the beef has cooked for 1½ hours, carefully remove the dish from the oven. Stir in the peppers, put the lid back on and put the goulash back in the oven for a further hour or until the beef is meltingly tender.

5. Serve with small portions of rice and spoonfuls of soured cream if you like, but don't be too generous – soured cream contains less fat than double cream but still has 30 calories per tablespoon!

www.hairybikers.com/recipes/view/beef-goulash

NB: The Editor always serves this dish with dumplings. Make according to the recipe below and add to the casserole 15 minutes before the end of the cooking time, allowing room for them to expand.

Dumplings (Makes 8)

Ingredients 4 oz self-raising flour (or plain flour and 1½ level teaspoons baking powder)
¼ level teaspoon salt
4 oz shredded suet
5 fl oz water (approx)

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 170°C/Fan 150°C/Gas 3½. Trim any hard fat off the beef and cut the meat into rough 4cm chunks. Season well with salt and freshly ground black pepper.
2. Heat the oil in a large flameproof casserole dish. Add the steak and fry over a high heat until nicely browned all over, turning regularly. Tip the onions into the pan and cook with the beef for 5 minutes until softened. Add the crushed garlic and cook for a further minute, stirring regularly.
3. Sprinkle both paprikas over the meat and crumble the beef stock cube on top. Add the water, tomatoes, tomato purée and bay leaves. Season with salt and pepper, stir well and bring to a simmer. Cover with a tightly fitting lid and transfer the dish to the oven. Cook for 1½ hours.

Method

Sift the flour (and baking powder if plain flour is being used) and salt into a bowl. Add the suet. Using a round-bladed knife stir in the water to form a light elastic dough. Turn the dough onto a lightly floured surface and sprinkle it with a little flour. Knead the dough lightly with the fingertips and divide into 8 equal pieces and shape these into balls.

Apple crumble with walnuts

Serves 6

Ingredients

1.5kg/3lb 5oz cooking apples
½ lemon, juice only
100g/3½oz light muscovado sugar

For the topping

50g/1¾oz plain flour
50g/1¾oz porridge oats
150g/5½oz light muscovado sugar
150g/5½oz walnuts, roughly chopped
50g/1¾oz sunflower seeds
100g/3½oz softened butter

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4 (160C fan).
2. Peel and core the apples, then cut them into thin slices. Place in a small flameproof casserole with the lemon juice, sugar and six tablespoonsfuls of water. Bring to the boil, then place in the oven and cook for about 20 minutes, or until the apple is tender but has not fallen to a pulp.
3. Put the dry topping ingredients in a mixing bowl and rub in the butter until it is evenly distributed and the mixture has formed small clumps. Spread the mixture evenly over a baking tray and bake for about 20 minutes, or until golden-brown and crisp.
4. Stir to break up the crumble and sprinkle over the hot apple.

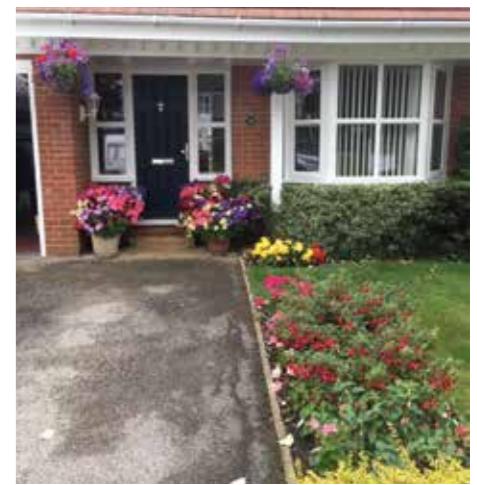
www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipe



59 Lark Vale - The occupant has arranged colourful pots and hanging baskets along the side of the building to great effect.



18 Kingfisher - One of our judges commented that this garden at 18 Kingfisher is "very Watermead". It is, in my opinion, a minimalist, neat garden arrangement with lovely paving, flower baskets and big flower tubs.



30 Kestrel Way - The first garden to be photographed was at 30 Kestrel Way where there was an abundance of colour around the front door and a beautiful fuchsia to the side of the pathway. It stood out from the rest.

Watermead & Weedon WI

To say that 2020 has been an unusual year for us all would be an understatement and it has been no different for WWWI.

We last met in March when we were introduced to yoga and meditation which was probably a very good session in preparation for the weeks that followed. I'm sure there will be some members who attended that night who have used some of the basic techniques we learned to help them through the weeks of lockdown.

Since then, we have communicated by phone, email, WhatsApp and chance meetings walking round the lake on Watermead. We have done quizzes and some members have plunged into the wealth of meetings, demonstrations and activities organised online by the Bucks Federation, Denman College and other WIs in the county. The Committee members have kept in touch with each other and sampled the delights of a Zoom Committee meeting last month. At present, that looks as if it might become the preferred form for our Committee meetings and it seems to work quite well. It certainly concentrates our minds, knowing that we only have a certain amount of time to get through the business.

At present, we do not know how the immediate future will unfold for WWWI. All our meetings have been cancelled up to the end of August which means we have had to cancel our cream tea afternoon at Denman. Much of what happens next depends upon whether or not we can access the Village Hall from September and if so, what safety precautions we need to put in place to keep all our members and speakers safe. We have a full programme prepared and we plan a further Committee meeting to discuss the way forward as soon as we know about the availability of the hall.

Julia Morgan

Get onboard WaterRIDER 66A

- Commute
- Shop
- Relax

- Frequent buses running between Buckingham Park, 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 £8.00*
(2 adults and 2 children or 1 adult and 3 children)
- Adult Weekly £10* • Adult 4 weekly £34*



*Also valid for travel on Aylesbury town services 1,2,4,4A,6,6A,7,10,11,13,14,17,50** and 55**

**Valid on these routes between Aylesbury town centre and Elm Farm Estate only



www.redlinebuses.com



Book review

Lonely Courage: Rick Stroud

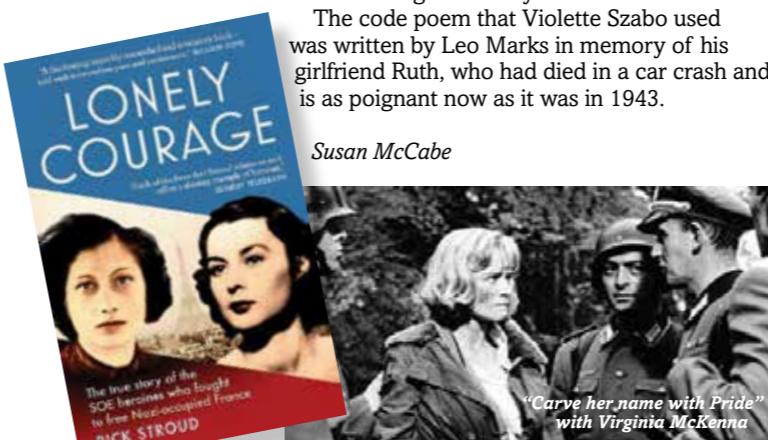
This is the true story of the SOE heroines who fought to free Nazi-occupied France. Written by Rick Stroud, it is a fascinating and sometimes heart breaking read about many of the extraordinarily courageous women from all walks of life who were sent undercover to work for the Resistance in France during World War II.

Maurice Buckmaster, an old Etonian was the Commander of the Special Operations Executive (SOE) an organisation created by Churchill in 1940 "to co-ordinate all action by way of subversion and sabotage against the enemy overseas". The women he recruited ranged from a London shop assistant to a Polish aristocrat. All had knowledge of France, were fluent in French and were willing to sacrifice everything to defeat the enemy. The book focuses on seven women and covers their lives and bravery.

Possibly, the most well-known woman in this book is the English war widow Violette Szabo. I remember watching the 1958 film "Carve her name with Pride" with Virginia McKenna in the title role at a young age and it having a lasting, profound effect on me. The author Rick Stroud also remembers reading the serialised story in the Eagle comic when he was a young boy and his fascination with the women of SOE lead to him writing their story.

The code poem that Violette Szabo used was written by Leo Marks in memory of his girlfriend Ruth, who had died in a car crash and is as poignant now as it was in 1943.

Susan McCabe



*The life that I have
Is all that I have
And the life that I have
Is yours.*

*The love that I have
Of the life that I have
Is yours and yours and
yours.*

*A sleep I shall have
A rest I shall have
Yet death shall be but
a pause.*

*For the peace of my years
In the long green grass
Will be yours and yours
and yours and yours.*

Does the hedge on your property overhang a public footpath?

During the summer, depending on weather conditions, we tend to see the grass, plants, bushes and trees grow more vigorously. Indeed, with the heat and wet weather this spring and summer, this has been the case. There has also been an increase, it seems, in brambles overhanging our pathways. So, this plea is to anyone who has vegetation that overhangs the pathway to cut it back. The reduced pathway can be a hazard to blind or partially sighted people, people in wheelchairs or mobility scooters, children in pushchairs and prams. Please do your bit to keep our pathways clear.

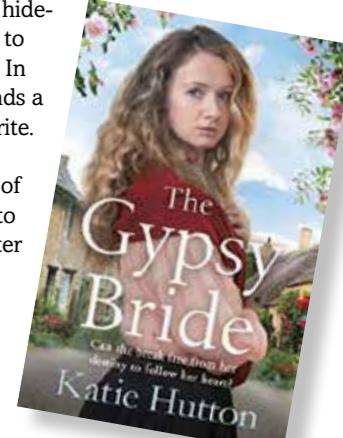
The Gypsy Bride: Katie Hutton

It's 1917. In Oxfordshire's Chiltern Hills beautiful young Ellen Quainton has been brought up in the austere Primitive Methodist faith. Grieving for a fiancé lost on the Western Front, she begins secretly 'walking out' with Sam Loveridge, one of a group of gypsies helping to bring in the harvest. Sam has an ill-tempered wife who has failed to give him any children.

Ellen recklessly surrenders to wooing and seduction by the handsome gypsy. Romany culture is as hide-bound as the "Prims" and Sam is made to serve jail-time for another man's crime. In prison he is brutally flogged. He befriends a parson who teaches him to read and write. Meanwhile, in the Chilterns, an elderly widower rescues Ellen from the shame of pregnancy, but her heart has been lost to Sam, who knows he will look for her after his release.

Passion and tragedy are combined by Katie Hutton into a rich powerful saga. If you watched the recent re-showing on BBCtv of Tess of the d'Urbervilles, you may like me find welcome echoes of Thomas Hardy, one of our greatest writers of fateful love stories. The Gypsy Bride has a fine pedigree; romance readers will find this deeply absorbing. And a sequel is promised next year!

David Gee



ARBOCARE TREE SURGERY LTD

Qualified and Experienced Arborists

- Established over 25 years
- Contractors to the National Trust
- Crown reductions
- Thinning
- Felling
- Hedge Trimming
- Stump Grinding
- Decay Detection & Tree Reports

Free phone: 0808 1555815

Mobile: 07778811136

www.arbocare.co.uk

Independent Living

There is a not so new kid on the block in New Road, Princes Risborough. Independent Living has relocated back into the town and the increase in customer numbers confirms that we have made the right move.

We are celebrating our return with a new logo and are currently working on long overdue improvements to our website - www.ilcmobility.co.uk.

Everything else remains as it was: our fully trained team continue to be led by our retired health and social care professional with over thirty years' experience working in our local acute hospitals and the surrounding community.

We carry a wide range of mobility and personal care products; our friendly trained staff are available to assist our customers in making an informed choice when seeking a solution to a temporary or long-term mobility or personal care need.

To date our customer age range stands at 6-106 years; our emphasis is on enablement and wellbeing, so if you or your loved ones need advice, guidance or assessment with regard to specific care or mobility needs, we at Independent Living, Princes Risborough are here to help.

Call: 01844 273050, info@ilcmobility.co.uk, www.ilcmobility.co.uk

Answers to Tea Break Quiz on page 07

1. Lady Ghislaine, 2. Michelangelo, 3. Almonds, 4. Amsterdam, 5. 24, 6. Belfast, 7. Truth, 8. Frankenstein, 9. Aaron, 10. 1990, 11. Random Access Memory, 12. Green, 13. Holloway and St. Pancras, 14. 1986, 15. Mediterranean, 16. George W Bush, 17. Cape Town, 18. 22, 19. Van Gogh, 20. Calamari

The screenshot shows the homepage of Watermead Garden Innovations. At the top left is a Google 5.0 star rating icon. At the top right is a search bar labeled "Search WatermeadGi" with icons for Instagram and Facebook. The main title "WATERMEAD GARDEN INNOVATIONS" is in a large, decorative font. Below it, a subtitle reads "From Garden Maintenance to Total Redesign." Two columns of services are listed: "MAINTENANCE" (Grass Cutting & Mowing, Hedge Cutting, Pruning, Weeding, Edging, Jet Washing, Shed Roofs, Gutter Repair & Clearance, Garden Clearance) and "REDESIGN" (Fences & Decking, Garden Furniture, Raised Flower Beds, Sheds, Greenhouses, Ponds, Water Features, Woodwork, Outside Painting). Contact information T: 07947 691018 E: info@watermeadGi.co.uk and website www.watermeadGI.co.uk are provided. Below the contact info are three small images: a wooden deck, a lawn, and a garden bench, with the text "Love Your Land" underneath.

Your Local Mobility Centre

Sales Service Repair



Independent Living Consultants

You Talk, We Listen – Since 1998
Home visits by appointment



- Scooters • Power Chairs • Wheelchairs • Bath Aids
- Rise & Recline Chairs • Pressure Relief Cushions
- Continence Supplies • Grab Rails • Reachers • Wider Fit Shoes



FREE PARKING

On the 300 bus route High Wycombe to Aylesbury

MOBILITY CENTRE
New Road
Princes Risborough
Bucks. HP27 0JN

www.ilcmobility.co.uk

Call us:
01844 273050
or email info@ilcmobility.com

Opening Hours
Weekdays 10 -5pm
Saturday 10 -2.30pm

Hampden Veterinary Hospital
Watermead Branch Surgery
10-11 Lakeside, Watermead, HP19 0FX



New House! New Vet!

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

- ✓ **Highly Recommended** – 98% of clients said they would recommend us
- ✓ **Pet Healthcare Plan** – spread your costs over 12 months and save on all products and services.
 - ✓ **Cat Friendly Clinic** – At our recently refurbished Watermead branch
 - ✓ **High Standards** – we pride ourselves in being RCVS Accredited practice.
 - ✓ **Our own client out of hours emergency service** – at our hospital in Aylesbury.
 - ✓ **24 hr Care** – as a Hospital we have vets and nurses onsite to care for your pets 24/7.

01296 745 373

www.hampdenvets.co.uk

smallanimal@hampdenvets.co.uk

Hampden Vets in lockdown

Like all other businesses, we have had to adapt to the "new normal" brought about by COVID-19. Our staff and clients' safety has been paramount during lockdown. We are now starting to catch up with routine appointments that were postponed during lockdown.

We are open

With the relaxing of government guidelines, we have now opened up 2 of our branches to see boosters and routine appointments. Currently we have our Elm Farm and Haddenham branches open for boosters and routine appointments, and our hospital open for emergencies, operations including neutering, and other consultation appointments. At our hospital and Elm Farm branch, we are asking owners to wear a face covering when coming into the buildings, and to allow the vet and nurse to exam your animal while you maintain a safe distance. At our Haddenham branch, due to its size, we are asking owners to kindly wait outside as it is not possible to safely social distance in the smaller building size.

Remote prescribing

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) have temporarily permitted the remote prescription of veterinary medicines in order to follow the UK government's guidance on reducing the transmission of coronavirus. As of March, we have been able to prescribe medication over the phone if possible. Usually, we have to physically see an animal before we are allowed to dispense any prescription medication, so this has helped us stick to government guidelines while still providing care for our patients. If the most appropriate course of action would be a face-to-face consult, then this would still be the preferred option. Telemedicine, where we can diagnose and discuss conditions over the phone with a teleconsult or with photos/videos sent over to us, has helped us continue to care for your pets.

Catching COVID off your animals

Currently, there is no evidence that animals play a significant role in spreading the virus that caused Covid-19. We know that cats, dogs and a few other species can be infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus, however this is rare and only a small number have been reported and confirmed to be COVID-19. Based on the limited information to date, the risk of animals spreading coronavirus to people is considered very low.

Medical detection dogs (MDD)

Medical detection dogs, a charity we work closely with here at Hampden, is working intensively to train some of their dogs to detect Covid-19. With over 300 million scent receptors in their nose (compared to 5 million in humans) and their quick ability to learn, MDD already have dogs picking up biosensors for drugs, explosives and other medical conditions. It is hoped that their dogs will be able to passive screen up to 250 people an hour, providing a quick and non-invasive test to help prevent a second wave of the disease.

Going forward from here

We would love to open our other 2 branches (Watermead and Fairford Leys), however while we are needing both a vet and a nurse for each appointment, we are limited by staff numbers. Hopefully, as guidelines continue to relax, we will be able to have owners in the building to hold their pets, and be able to offer more appointments. We would like to thank all of our lovely clients for their patience at this challenging time, and we look forward to seeing you all again. We rely on the kindness of hundreds of thousands of people to support our vital services, but in the current crisis our ongoing services could be at risk.

This information is given by Dr Kelly Gore at Hampden Veterinary Hospital. For any information or advice contact 01296 745373 or call in to see them in The Piazza or in Aylesbury.



01296 706008

www.masonplumbing.co.uk



We can offer a 10 year guarantee
on all new Worcester Bosch boilers and
can also offer 0% payment options

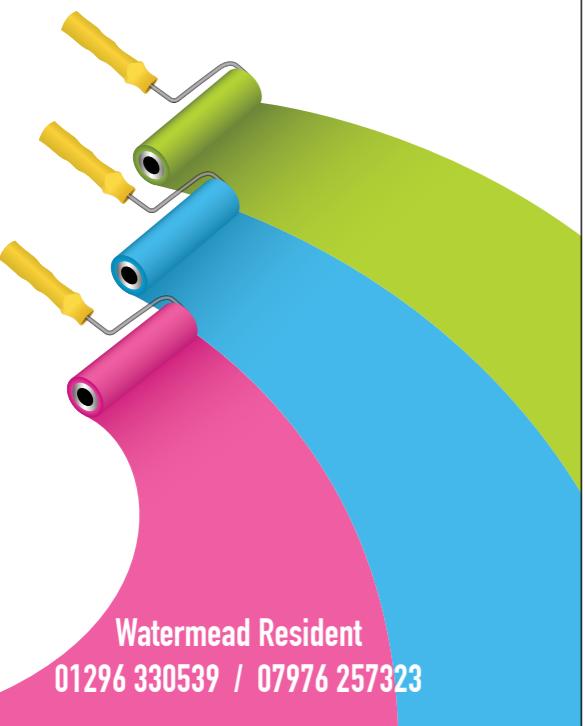
Boiler serviced from £60 plus VAT
and we can also carry out repairs

Whether you are looking for a full central heating installation,
landlord gas safety certificate or just someone to fix a dripping tap
Mason Plumbing & Heating Ltd will complete your job to a very high
standard and at a very competitive price.



MYLES GREEN

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



Watermead Resident
01296 330539 / 07976 257323

GRAPHIC DESIGN SERVICES

First time clients receive
15% discount!

- Videography
 - Layout Design
 - Photography / Photo editing
 - Flyers / Posters / Leaflets / Booklets
 - Brand Design
 - Business Stationery
 - Large Format designs
 - Animation
 - SMS Marketing
 - E-Mail Campaigns
 - Website Layout
 - Social Media Content
 - Merchandising
 - Illustration
- ✓ On time, on trend
 - ✓ Print & digital designs
 - ✓ High quality finishes
 - ✓ Competitive rates
 - ✓ Industry standard software trained
 - ✓ Versatile experience
 - ✓ Multitude of services available
 - ✓ Professional & approachable with a can-do attitude

For a **FREE** consultation get in touch today!

tesni1996@hotmail.co.uk 077637 63452 <https://vimeo.com/user68437232>
www.tesni-williams.squarespace.com www.linkedin.com/in/tesni-williams-771957131/

2020 Watermead Garden Society Best Allotment Competition

What did you do during lockdown? In these difficult times our allotment was the one thing that kept all the adults in my household sane. That and the fine weather, which meant we could walk to the site and carry out the weeding, watering or all the other tasks in enjoyable conditions. It became the highlight of our day, so a big thank-you to the Parish Councillors' for continuing to support such a valuable community amenity. The wildlife continues to thrive; for example we have seen a harmless garden snake around plots 12/19, Red Kites and pheasants still abound, but we have not seen many deer recently.

Before announcing the winner of the Best Allotment Competition I must say a big thank you to Ken Keasley and Ray Powell for giving us the competition marking criteria and then using it to judge the allotments. Dr Eric Rose has carried out this role in the past, so when he stood down Ken and Ray were recommended. Both have their own

allotments and are members of the Aylesbury Gardening Society, Ken being the Chairman. Judging day was overcast but the rain held off and I thoroughly enjoyed showing the judges the innovations people had used to gain the most from their plots.

As a plot owner I recognise the effort many of the allotmenteens have expended to achieve the wide variety of produce seen. A good example is last year's winner Diane Lee, plot 46. It is worth walking over to see the scarecrows; they always bring a smile to my face. One item we decided to add to the marking guide was for the number of the plot to be clearly displayed. Thank you to those who did so and that gained you an easy ten marks out of a total of 140. The clear winner was Roger and Marion Mills, plot 42. It was packed with a wide variety of vegetables and was well laid-out, neat and tidy. Well done Roger and Marion who are both great supporters of the Society. Second came Lisa Smith and her little team of helpers on plot

13. Overall the judges were very impressed by the variety of plants grown (one unknown to us) and the tidiness of most of the plots.

One aspect that impressed me was how some have adapted their plots to meet a wide variety of needs, such as family areas complete with a fire-pit, or safe play areas for children. All achieved within a plot measuring no more than 25 x10 metres. With this in mind I am awarding plot 50/51 a "Highly Commended", complete with a bottle of wine. Well done the Szydio family - your hard work has produced a place that is a joy to sit in and contemplate the lovely countryside that surrounds the site. In fact, well done all of you, the site looks really good. The winners will be awarded their prizes at our Autumn meeting.

Peter Smith
Chairman Watermead Gardening Society



More pets of Watermead



This is Zero who lives in Willow Herb and is 10 months old. His favourite thing is his paddling pool, and catching tennis balls.



This is Jerry. She is passionate about fashion. She goes to toilet only in her cage. Very well behaved and lives in Lark Vale.



Barney is 7 and Indie 3. They live with John and Chris in Kestrel Way.



My name is Aphrodite. I'm 2 years old and I enjoy a complete life of luxury with the other 7 guinea pigs in my herd. We live with Olivia in Peregrine.



My name is Teddy. I'm a 6 year old Cocker Spaniel. My strangest habit is running away from the microwave every time it beeps! I also live with Olivia in Peregrine.



Mr Freddie B has lived in Watermead for 4 years. He is a very laidback old man aged 12 and lives with Yvonne.



Alfie the Shih Tzu is 2. He lives in Lark Vale with Gail. He thinks he's a cat by sitting on the back of the sofa. He's a fluffy bundle of fun!



Lily and Leo are the pets of Miya, daughter of Nikki and Kelvin Wong.



This is Missy who lives with Karen Collett and family who live in Swan Close.



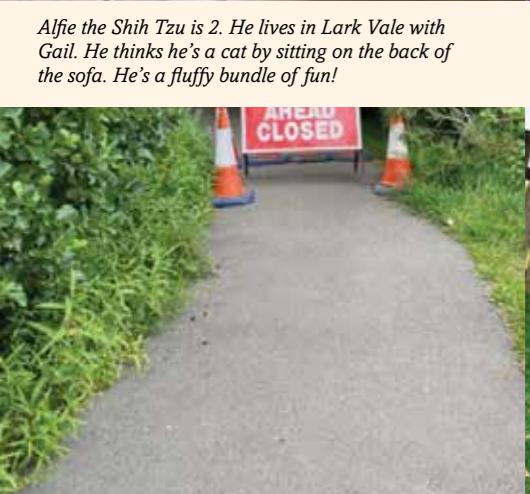
Hugo is 6½ years old and was sadly neglected when he was a puppy. A kind lady in Bedford rescued him but was unable to keep him. When Nicole and her partner bought their first property they felt it wouldn't be complete without a dog and that's when they found Hugo. He suffered terribly with separation anxiety - whenever they had to leave him he'd howl and chew anything in sight. They had been told that he wasn't a cuddly or affectionate dog but with lots of love and patience he soon overcome this and is now the most affectionate and happy go lucky dog! They have spoilt him over the years and will continue to do so! Nicole said "he is a completely different dog to when we first got him and it warms our heart every day that we helped him".



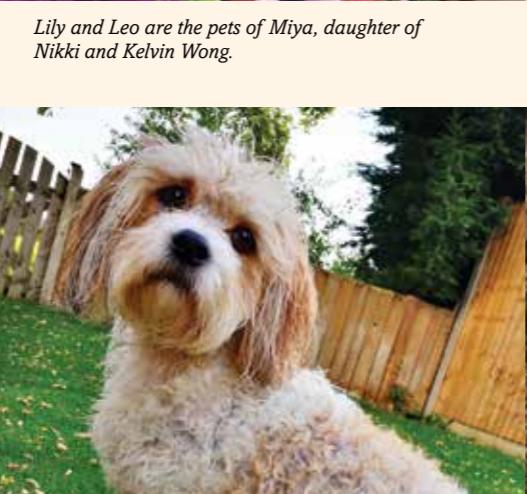
Eugene lives with the Pearces and will be two in October. He is polydactyl which means he has an extra toe on each paw. He is also very friendly, even with dogs!



3 lazy cats Chilli, Coco and Noiraud. Noiraud turned up one day and despite sending him back to the farm he came from he ended up staying! The Thompson's.



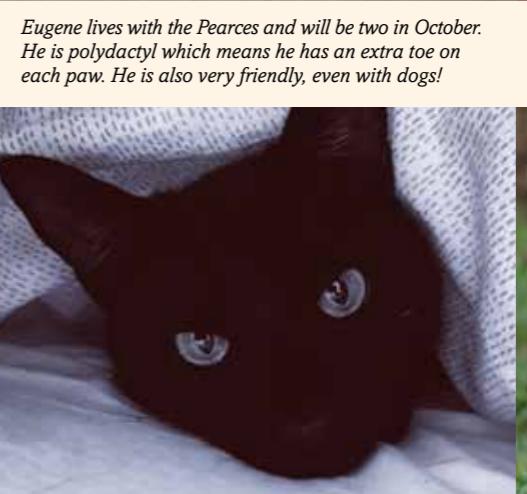
Mr Chumley lives with Helen in Osprey Walk. Most people know him for his enthusiastic barking as he reminds them that he is on guard duty!



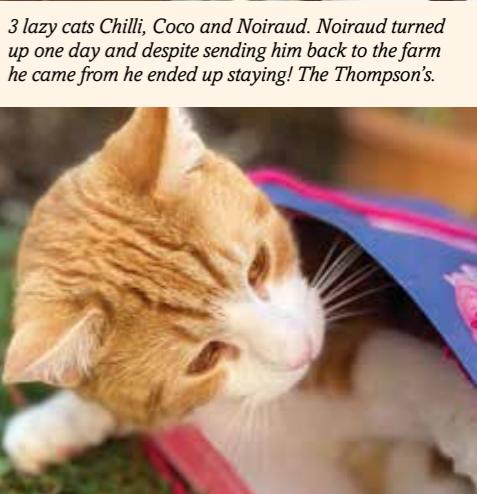
Cassie lives with the Browns in Chaffinch. She's a 5 year old Bichon/Tibetan cross who is always happy to see her doggy friends on Watermead.



"Luna, I am so tired." said Betsy the French bulldog to her best friend, the gorgeous lab. They live with Sarah in Watermead and love their morning walks.



Brothers Joey (black cat) and George (ginger cat) are 12 months old. Joey is so chilled with a beautiful personality. He likes to be tickled under his arms and sitting with his paw on our hands. So sweet. He loves sleeping in the laundry basket!!



Sophie and Mo are West Highland Terriers and both aged 12. They live with Sandra and John in Redwing.



Rizzo is a 1 year old Bull-Pei. She tries to eat your slippers. She loves people and kids. She lives with Tonya, Tim, Alice and George in Mallard Close.



Bailey is a 2½ year old Sproodle so has the energy of a Springer Spaniel and attitude of a poodle. He's hard work but wouldn't swap him! Neil.



Chewie, a 1½ year old Lhasa Apso, lives with Grace and David in Kingfisher. He is a cheeky little lad who is always happy.



Dolce (Chocolate Fawn) & Diesel (Blue & Tan) 1 year old French Bulldogs and belong to Angel. Diesel loves attention Dolce will 'play dead'. They can be found at Avanti Salon.



Teddy is a rescue. He's about 15. He is prone to being aggressive towards strangers and makes 19

Netta's Report

First on-Line Full Council Meeting: We ran into some technical issues which is not surprising given that there were nearly 200 people taking part in this meeting but we got there – it was a long slog! We agreed to target zero carbon emissions by 2050. The UK is responsible for 1% of emissions.

Community Boards: We had our first meeting last week and agreed our terms of reference and objectives. The creation of 16 Community Boards will make sure our new council connects with groups, organisations and local people in communities across the county to improve our local areas. With the chairmen and coordinators for each board now appointed, throughout July the boards are holding introductory meetings to start this conversation. Thank you to those of you who have attended the meetings that have already taken place, which have been very positive and enthusiastic so far. Over the next few weeks lots of people, groups and organisations in the community will be contacted about getting involved in the boards and helping to identify key themes ahead of the official launch of Community Boards in September. Information about Community Boards can be found at www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/community/localism/community-boards/

Family Support Services: We are working towards restarting some targeted support services. Information is available online at www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

LOCK & KEY CENTRE

01296 422123

Please call us or visit our showroom at:
20 Bridgegate Business Park, Gatehouse Way, Aylesbury, HP19 8XN

Adult learning: We are now able to resume safe face-to-face teaching of our adult learning courses, following strict COVID-19 guidance. Adult learning courses have been taking place online for the last few months but with social distancing in place, course venues are opening their doors again.

A broad programme of more than 1,500 courses and workshops are being delivered online and from multiple locations across the county. You can find out more at www.adultlearningbc.ac.uk.

Highways: When roads are closed during road works problems are sometimes experienced when drivers just lift the barriers and drive over freshly finished work which then has to be re-done. Another problem occurs where a long stretch of road is being worked on - cars can find themselves face to face with nowhere to go.

Working collaboratively with Eurovia Specialist Surfacing, we trialled 'Intelicones' the world's first smart safety cone.

'Intelicones' were used to alert the workforce of any traffic entering onto the site through a road closure. The workforce is alerted by flashing red cones if a vehicle enters the site without authority. If an emergency vehicle enters the closure, the beacons flash blue. On long road closures, such as the Wendover Bypass, a gateman is positioned at either end of the closure and will trigger the cones to flash. On shorter sites if a cone is disturbed by a motorist entering the work zone, amber lights are activated.

Award winning winter driving online workshop: TfB was successful in winning the Chartered Institute of Highways and Transportation award for this online winter training workshop. The workshop is free and takes just 10 minutes to complete. www.buckinghamshire.edrivingsolutions.com/ModuleList.aspx

After years of delivering the winter driver workshop sessions at locations across Buckinghamshire, the online workshop tool was created in order to increase the number of people receiving this potentially life-saving training. Within weeks of its launch the e-module has been taken over 1000 times; this is a 700% increase on the number of people who had attended the workshops previously.

The Network Safety Team presents the 'Safe Drive, Stay Alive' show aimed at young people. The programme is well received by those who take part and they tell us that it has directly affected how they would drive in future.

Data Collection using Artificial Intelligence

Intelligence: A project to collect road condition data on the network via a smart phone camera system is being developed by Ringway Jacobs who do our roads for us. The data will be processed and converted to industry standard visual inspection data.

Netta Glover

Age UK Bucks services and support



We help older people throughout the county live independently

- * Information and advice
- * Welfare benefits home visits
- * Befriending
- * Help-in-the-Home
- * Hairdressing

- * Garden Maintenance
- * Handyperson
- * Computer Training
- * Toenail Cutting Service

Call 01296 431911

www.ageukbucks.org.uk

145 Meadowcroft, Aylesbury HP19 9HH
Registered charity 1139423

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 15 years

Avocet
DECORATING

ANDY DALE
Painter & Decorator

Interior & exterior work
FREE ESTIMATES

T: 07980 684919
E: andy@avocetdecorating.co.uk



Random Person

Probably the first thing you notice about Nigel Woy is his name – not one you come across very often – and if you do it's probably a relative of his. One of Nigel's hobbies is genealogy and he has discovered that several generations ago members of his family moved from Poland to London via Genoa, Italy. Woy is a shortening and Anglicisation of the family's very much longer Polish name, Wojciechowski.

Nigel was born in Malta in 1952 (his father was stationed in Valetta in the Royal Navy), grew up in Harrow and by the age of 15 had got bored with school. So, with his parents' blessing, he launched himself



onto the job market. He had several jobs, including working at the Evening Standard in Fleet Street. He also worked as a 'kennel boy' at Wembley Stadium Greyhound Kennels. In those days there was a greyhound track circling the stadium and it was Nigel's job to exercise the dogs on leads, 12 at a time, six in one hand, six in the other. He also led dogs in the pre-race parades before loading them into the traps. Despite the fact that the races were attended by only a couple of thousand people, when the stadium could hold many, many more, the income from the twice weekly race nights – including rent paid for bookmaker's stands and profits from the restaurant – paid for the rent and rates of the whole stadium!

For a while Nigel was in the Navy and after that became a London mini-cab driver, a role which he took to enthusiastically, later doing 'the Knowledge' and becoming a black cab driver. Altogether he spent 35 years as a cab driver in London and has a list of the many famous people he escorted on their journeys.

In 2002 he moved to an administrative role, managing a busy operations centre, still serving the needs of the taxi service. This evolved into acquiring IT skills and developing a software programme to enable large corporations to have full control over their staff ground transport bookings, utilising complex business rules. Initially, this was developed for the BBC but expanded to other large corporations. Three years ago

the company was bought out by Gett, an Israeli Taxi Company. Nigel wasn't really comfortable working with the new company as an office relocation resulted in a two hour each way commute. So after a couple of years he negotiated his redundancy and left. He hadn't planned to stop working at that point in his life, so wondered what to do next. His taxi driving years meant he had lots of experience behind the wheel, but he didn't really want to go back to that, so he became a driving instructor. But Covid-19 lockdown has put paid to that, as the necessary decontamination of the car and himself between clients make it unviable. At the moment he is occasionally helping out at the Print Lab where his son and son-in-law both work, printing T-shirts, work wear and school uniforms etc.

One of the upsides of lockdown for Nigel has been all the extra time he can devote to his second career in the music business. He is a member of a band called Bandana. There are three members of the group, himself, Alan and Dan. Before lockdown they were working on producing an LP, having already released an EP. Nigel describes their style as Bluesy/rock. Some people describe them as sounding a bit like The Eagles.

Obviously, the lockdown prevents them from getting together, but modern technology allows them to record their parts individually at home, which they then send to Alan to combine. Alan is a recording engineer and has been in the business since leaving school; he has a room in his house dedicated as a recording studio.

All the tracks are original material. Eight of them were already written before Nigel joined the band, but he took his part in the musical arrangement of them. One of the tracks called "And Now" Nigel wrote 46

years ago but updated for this album. Alan and Dan have written the others. The band have a FaceBook page, www.facebook.com/bandanadudes, a YouTube page and a recently created website www.bandanamusic.com. Bandana are hoping to release the album called "Semaphore" within the next couple of months.

Nigel met his wife Penny when he lived in Harrow and they have three children, two girls, Holly and Amy, and a boy, Tom, now all grown up of course. It was the arrival of the third child that prompted them to look for a bigger house. They had their house on the market but struggled to find an affordable four-bedroomed house nearby. It was on a visit to Penny's mother in Wingrave that they saw an advertisement in the local paper offering part-exchange deals on new build houses. Nigel went to have a look and left his details with the lady in the sales office.

And so, in 1995 they moved into the house in Watermead in which they still live. At the time most of the houses were still under construction so they were literally living on a building site. Twenty-five years on there are three of the original owners still living there. Penny worked at Watermead Cygnets Pre School in the village hall for 23 years until its closure at the end of July. Many of those young 'cygnets' grew into swans that Nigel has since taught to drive.

Despite his wife's reluctance, in 2005 they added a black Labrador/Collie cross to their family. It is less than a year since Chester became so poorly and frail that he could no longer be expected to survive. Nigel feels his loss significantly but accepts that now is not the time of life that one should take on a new dog. But you never know!

Carolynne McKee



Travel Safe Bucks

Travel Safe Bucks promote safety campaigns with information and advice for road users including drivers, passengers and motorcyclists. There will be information provided throughout the year on campaigns for speeding, drink and drug driving, seatbelts, mobile phones and distracted driving. In addition to this we will share interesting news and stories in relation to road safety via the dedicated Travel Safe Bucks website and social media platforms: Twitter - www.twitter.com/travelsafebucks Facebook - www.facebook.com/TravelSafeBucks

Should you wish to report a street light that's not working, a pothole or problem on the road go to www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk

Sharing the roads!

Recently a joint letter was written by Transport for Buckinghamshire, Thames Valley Police and Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue, about how we should all be sharing the roads safely. Please see below a copy of the letter:

"During the pandemic we have all had to accept some restrictions and guidelines that differ to the normal freedoms that we have in this country. The country has largely responded with great community spirit and acted more considerately towards others with acts of kindness and respect.

Now, as some restrictions are eased, we should remember that certain laws regarding driving and driver behaviour have always been in place, and will continue to be in force when the pandemic is a distant memory.

As once-empty roads fill up again, with more cars, lorries and motorcyclists, and with more people now enjoying cycling and walking, the roads and pavements may all be busier. So it's even more essential that we all slow down and watch out for each other. Please keep yourself and others safe:

- Wear your seatbelt.
- Don't drink and drive or take drugs and drive.
- Stop your car somewhere safe if you need to use your mobile phone when driving.
- Drive within the speed limits.

Whether you have been using the roads during the lockdown or not, now is the time to think about other road users and how they may be affected by your actions.

We, Transport for Buckinghamshire, Thames Valley Police and Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue all ask you to look out for each other by being a responsible and considerate road user and keep watching out for other people as you did during the pandemic. Thank you!

Watch your speed!

During the first two weeks of June, Thames Valley Police (TVP) ran a speed awareness campaign with #slowdownsavelives across social media. Now that traffic levels are rising again, children are beginning to go back to school and more cyclists on the roads, we urge the public to abide by the speed limit.

Slowing down and not speeding, makes the roads safer for everyone. The more you speed, the higher the risk of a collision and the consequences that comes with it. Speeding doesn't just affect other motorists, it also affects pedestrians, cyclists and any other road users. The slower you are going, the less time it takes for the vehicle to stop when you hit the brakes.

With speed in mind, have you had the chance to take our online speed e-learning module yet? It takes about 15 minutes to complete and is free to do.

Online Speed e-learning module: www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/transport-and-roads/road-safety/managing-speed/speed-awareness-e-learning-module/

Link to Highway Code www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code

Don't Drink and Drive!

During lockdown, there has been an increase in alcohol sales and now that pubs are opening again the temptation to socially drink is increased.

It's important to remember that alcohol can slow your response time down, even a small amount of alcohol can affect the functions needed to drive safely. The brain takes longer to receive messages from the eye, processing information is difficult and instructions to the body's muscles are delayed. This is as well as blurred vision and decreased inhibitions mean you may act on urges that you normally wouldn't.

There is no fool-proof way of drinking and staying under the limit. It can depend on your weight, age, gender, metabolism, type and amount of alcohol, what you've eaten and your stress levels. Even small amounts of alcohol can affect your ability to drive, so the best thing to do is avoid it completely if you will be driving.

If you are caught drink driving, you face a number of penalties (<https://www.drinkaware.co.uk/facts/alcohol-and-the-law/drink-driving-penalties>) depending on the seriousness of the offence. Anyone caught over the limit when driving would be banned from driving for at least 12 months and face an unlimited fine. You may also be sent to prison for up to six months.

Rather than face the consequences of drink driving, there are an increasing number of alcohol-free alternatives out there including mocktail recipes and even

non alcohol gins and prosecco. Just because you're driving, doesn't mean you can't join in.

If you do decide to have a couple of drinks and need to travel the next day the Morning After Calculator at www.morning-after.org.uk/drink-drive-calculator can help you to calculate roughly when it will be safe for you to drive the next day. It can also help you calculate when to stop drinking alcohol if you have to drive the following morning.

Belt Up!

Over the last five years official Government figures have shown that over 20% of car occupants killed were not wearing a seatbelt. In a crash, you're twice as likely to die if you're not wearing your seatbelt. Drivers and passengers between the ages of 17 and 34 have the lowest seatbelt wearing rates, combined with the highest accident rate. People are less likely to use a seatbelt on short or familiar journeys, putting them at serious risk of injury or fatality in a crash.

There are penalties involved in not wearing your seatbelt, even as a passenger! If you are caught not wearing your seatbelt you could be fined £100 on-the-spot. You could also be prosecuted which could result in a maximum fine of £500.

Ready for the Road?

An app has been launched to help companies prepare their drivers and vehicles so they are 'ready for the road' after lockdown. The app was created by Highways England's Driving for Better Business (DfBB) programme, in partnership with FleetCheck, TyreSafe and Mercedes-Benz Vans.

The app has been designed to help drivers ensure their vehicles are roadworthy and includes a 20-point checklist and information showing how to properly sanitise the vehicle. The app also includes 12 short animations to help drivers understand how different the roads will be post lockdown, including higher traffic levels as more commuters avoid public transport.

A management portal is available for employers using the app, to help manage vehicle maintenance and repairs that could be needed and send any changes in policies directly to their drivers. The management portal will include links to Government guidance relating to vehicles during Covid-19 and resources created for the DfBB Transport Toolkit.

The package is free to use for employers with more than 10 vehicles.

The Road Safety Team: www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/your-council/contact-us

Don't go with a bang this bonfire night

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

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

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

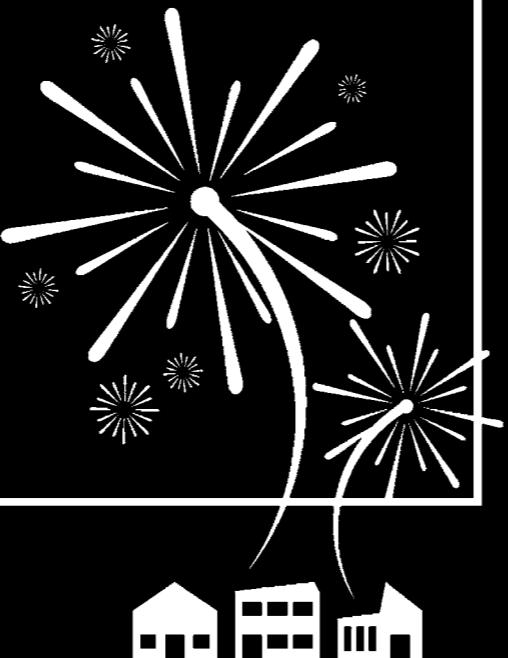
Please think of others and remember that fireworks shouldn't be let off between 11pm and 7am.

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

Always remember to follow the fireworks code

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

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



Halloween

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



NO TRICK OR TREAT

**please enjoy your
night without
disturbing ours**



Please cut this out and stick in your window/door



Our local Vicar

It has been a very strange, difficult and blessed time for the start of my ministry in the parish. Having become Vicar of St James early in December, I was just starting to get to know local places and people. I was starting to plan for the future of what the ministry of St James looked like during my time here. We were also going to take our Family Service weekly. Everything seemed to be just right, then...

Well then came along 'the virus' as my daughter also calls it. Suddenly like a lot of other parents I became a teacher, my wife was furloughed from her job, I was told by the Church of England that I couldn't go into the church even by myself to pray and that I must stay at home as an example of following the Government's guidelines. All of this was incredibly frustrating at times, even though it was all the right thing to do at the time.

So now we are entering into the latter half of the year, I don't know what will happen but I do know that this is the place that I am meant to be in. As Christians we believe in God calling us to certain places and at certain times; my being called to St James is for a time

such as this. I work half-time for the church and the other half I do social media and YouTube; this experience has enabled me to keep the church services going online and to engage with more people, which is really exciting.

For the rest of this year we will be providing services in church which are a traditional communion service and a contemporary family-oriented service, and these will be reflected online. The church is growing during this every unique time, which has been a real blessing. We have also been there to help people during their time of need which has also been such a blessing.

So, it has not been the start to my time here that I had expected but I trust God in my calling here and I can't wait now to see what the future brings.

*Many blessings, Revd. Dan Beesley
www.stjamesbiertonandhulcott.com
Interim Priest-in-Charge of Bierton and Hulcott
Christian YouTuber @ bit.ly/2I43bpI*

watermead cygnets pre-school

Good morning!...Through the back gate...wait outside the door...temperature scan... Sanitize hands...hang coat/bag...play.... Good bye!...Get coat/bag...sanitize hands...out through the back gate...hello mummy/daddy!

This was our routine every day for the 7 weeks of the summer term from the 1st June in our Covid-19 safe environment. Many children returned and everyone adapted to the new rules with ease, especially the children. They were really good at washing their hands regularly making soapy spiky hedgehogs with their interlocked fingers.

The young ones were not able to keep social distancing when playing together but regular 'Not too close!' calls were heeded. The adults did adhere to the rules as much as possible. Toys were sanitized daily and used on a rota basis. Unfortunately, there was no 'dressing up' and 'huddles' under rugs and in tents. Snacks were no longer self-service. We didn't even get a chance to use the trim trail by the small lake.

With great disappointment we also had to cancel our trips to the Green Dragon Eco-Farm in May and Gulliver's in Milton Keynes in June. Nothing however stopped us from having a 'spectator-free' Sports Day with challenging races and medals for every child at the end.

On our last day we celebrated 13 'Cygnets' becoming 'Swans', all hopefully looking forward to going to their 'big schools' in September. The ceremony was held outside with 1 adult per family allowed in, all seated apart. We also said goodbye to our 11 'Cygnets' - some will join the new 'Footsteps' Pre-school and others will go to other preschools/nurseries in September. We wish them the very best - it has been a pleasure nurturing them and seeing them go forward with confidence and skills.

There are many groups of people that I would like to thank:

- Present staff (Penny, Sharon, Lynsey and Marian) and also previous members - without your dedication and hard work, Cygnets would not have been able to provide the excellent care and education for the children. We were a great team and it has been my privilege to work with you all. I will cherish our times together.
- And lastly - the parents, children and their families. Without you, Cygnets would not have existed.
- The past, and especially, the present Committee of Danielle, Fezana, Beckie, Kym and Martyn - your diligence and loyalty to keep the pre-school running efficiently even though your children were no longer with us (oh, except for Kym) was beyond the call of duty.
- Watermead Parish Council - for letting us hire the premises. Noreen (parish clerk/hall manager) has been a stalwart in keeping our environment clean and safe, especially in the recent months, and supporting us.
- Early Years Bucks - in their various roles including advisers, quality controllers, funding dispensers and professional development providers.
- The businesses in the Piazza who have willingly donated prizes and money to our fund-raising events.

1996 – 2020

*There's a sad sort of clang
from the clock in the hall,
And the bells in the steeple
too,
And up in the nursery an
absurd little bird,
Is popping out to say "cuckoo"
Cuckoo, cuckoo.
Regretfully they tell us,
But firmly they compel us,
To say goodbye,
Cuckoo!
To you.*

Adieu!

Dot Toler



Class of 2020



Keeping our distance



Medals on Sports Day



Our last party



Certificates given outdoors



Creating our sea collage



Harvest of potatoes

Ian Whittome Grasscutting Service



Mowing
Strimming
Scarifying
Lawn treatments
Regular or
one-off cuts

(01296) 68 23 61
07885 031 431

Suppliers and installers of the highest quality

Windows, Doors & Conservatories

Visit our Showroom or contact us for a free no obligation quote:
19 Bridgegate Business Park,
Gatehouse Way, Aylesbury HP19 8XN

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



View from Westminster

This has undoubtedly been an unusual summer in Watermead. Coronavirus has continued to dominate our lives. Sadly, people are still suffering from Covid-19, although together we have made huge progress to slow the spread of the virus. While this has allowed many family, friends and colleagues to be reunited, we are still a long way from normality – holidays have been cancelled or changed at the last-minute, A' level and GCSE results have been based on assessments rather than exams, and we now carry a face covering everywhere we go.

There have been specific challenges in Watermead as a result of the increased number of visitors to the lovely lakeside environment. The litter that was left was quite appalling, and I am grateful to Sue Severn for bringing this to my attention. Unfortunately as an MP there is not a great deal I can do directly but I have highlighted the problem to Buckinghamshire council. This month, Keep Britain Tidy is organising the Great British September Clean, and I shall be doing all I can to reinforce the message that people should take their rubbish home, not leave it for others to clean up.

Our local environment is all the more important during the current crisis, and I again want to thank you all for adapting to incredibly difficult circumstances in the face of this horrendous pandemic. It's because of your efforts that over the past few weeks village hubs and high streets have been able to start to come alive

again. It was great to see so many people "eat out to help out" last month to support our local pubs, cafes and restaurants and I was impressed by all the work done to keep customers safe.

As summer draws to a close, many people are able to return to work and school. This is an important step in our road to recovery. Of course, many people still need the support of their community, and I am grateful that the Watermead Volunteer Army maintains its tireless efforts to help. My own team and I continue to spend much of our time assisting constituents with the impact of coronavirus, but over the summer we've also helped with queries ranging from employment to housing, HS2 to visas. Many of life's challenges remain alongside coronavirus and I remain committed to helping my constituents in whatever way I can - through this crisis and long after.

If you have an issue that you feel I may be able to help you with, please email me at rob.butler.mp@parliament.uk

Robert Butler MP



Sally's Blog

Hello everyone, I don't like to state the obvious, but isn't it hot?! This summer has been very strange, I don't know what's going on but everyone is behaving rather oddly. My humans have been at home most of the time and haven't been away at all so I haven't been able to visit my lovely friends at Penn Wood Stables so I've had no break from house guarding, barking and being on the alert for treats and lots of hugs.

Talking of hugs, we go for lots of walks but in new areas where there aren't too many people. My usual haunts, around the lakes have been far too crowded and full of litter. Everyone is supposed to keep two metres away from everyone else. Hah! Cyclists have been rushing round the footpaths and scaring me. We can't see or hear them coming and they don't always give way to pedestrians and dogs, which they are supposed to do.



Since everyone has been stuck at home we have had to make our own entertainment. It's sad for everyone that we haven't been able to go to my favourite horse shows, County Show, Larks by the Lake with great Dog Show event, Chiltern Hills Rally, or anywhere else with lots of people and dogs to meet. The humans were going to Wimbledon but I don't like tennis so they didn't get me a ticket. I read the racing pages to see what happened at Ascot although race going was virtual! We did go to a couple of birthday parties including Ronnie's Mum's which was nice.

I do miss the socialising. As everyone knows, I am a very friendly dog and people are always keen to talk to me. Apparently, some people think I am far too keen to talk to them, but this is rubbish. People want to know what I think. When the humans stand around talking for ages and ages during what are, after all, my walks, I often join in the chat. I start with a low growl and if they don't take any notice I bark loudly and won't

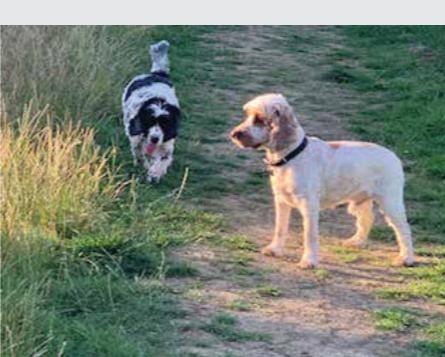
be quiet. This usually works and we move on. To say I have my humans trained is really an understatement. Now that I am five I can honestly say I feel quite grown up, but I am not above having a bit of puppy fun if I can get away with it!



During lockdown we have had a few people round to sit in our garden to enjoy a BBQ. I like BBQs - the humans always drop something on the ground and it's usually delicious. As my readers will know I am fond of chocolate eclairs (well, I once managed to eat one, but not since), but steak is also a favourite and I have developed a taste for lobster having had it for the first time when I attended my humans' wedding anniversary dinner which they held in the garden with only me for company. I already like a tiny drop of champagne so obviously I am developing a taste for the high life as all good dogs should. I had to look very appealing at the table, but I'm quite good at that.



As well as my cousin Ronnie I have another new cousin, her name is Peya and she is really cute, but very keen to get her own way, she is a very small dog with a huge personality – I think we will have trouble with her!



I hope that everyone keeps safe and well. It seems a hard time. I am not sure I like seeing people in masks, especially those which depict a dog's face. I do know you have to wear them to keep everyone safe, please do. Maybe then we can look forward to some socialising at Christmas and beyond.

Love Sally



15 year old Watermead resident sails around Britain

Young sailor Timothy Long is on an incredible challenge this summer as he aims to become the youngest person to sail solo around Britain, at the age of 15. He is sailing on "Alchemy", his Hunter Impala 28, covering around 45 miles a day, with some longer passages up to 100 miles. With a total distance of about 1,600 miles, the trip is expected to take at least 6-8 weeks, possibly longer.

"Everything depends on the weather, but I hope to be back in time for the start of my GCSE year in September."

Tim has been sailing since the age of 9, but this is by far his biggest challenge yet, as the British coastline presents some formidable hazards, ranging from the busiest shipping lane in the world in the Dover Straits, to huge tidal ranges of up to 15 metres in the Severn Estuary, not to mention numerous other navigational obstacles all the way round!

You can find out more about his challenge on his website www.timothylongsailing.co.uk and track progress through updates on his Facebook page @roundbritain2020

Throughout his challenge, Timothy will be fundraising for the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust, a charity which supports young people aged 8-24 to rebuild their confidence after cancer through sailing and adventure. "It's a cause that's very close to my heart", says Tim. Please support them at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/roundbritain2020



Footsteps Pre-School Watermead

Opening September - Spaces NOW Available

Footsteps are thrilled to be opening the Watermead Pre-School in 2020, based in the grounds of The Piazza. The bright welcoming space will have a strong ethos towards a caring and nurturing setting, where children can thrive.

Throughout all Footsteps Nurseries and Pre-Schools, a strong sense of community is a part of everyday life. The Footsteps approach keeps parents and children fully engaged in all aspects of learning and development.

From 2 years + with only 28 places
Open 7.30am - 2.00pm
(closes 12.30pm on Tuesdays)

Term time only sessions
15 & 30 hours childcare funding
Positive outdoor experiences
Lots of space for exercise
Flexible childcare
Fully qualified staff
Forest school



Find us at:
Footsteps Pre-School,
The Piazza, Watermead
Aylesbury, Bucks.
HP19 0FU

"Like
most new
mums and dads
we were so anxious about leaving our
daughter for nursery but we needn't
have worried. She absolutely loves it
there: the activities, the food, the
playtime and the friendships she's
made – it's all been fantastic. You
really do feel like it's a home from
home for them and they treat her
as if she were their own"



For more information or to apply for your place:
Visit Footsteps-nursery.com/watermead
Watermead@footsteps-nursery.co.uk
T: 0845 5198776 * / 07743 871369



Whatever the occasion, we have an impressive collection to make the perfect bouquet for you to express your sentiments

To order visit our online shop www.theflowerhouse.me or call: 07515 359982 email: kerrie@me.com

Hand delivered flowers to Aylesbury and surrounding villages
Based in Watermead, Aylesbury



Our wildlife...



This photo of a Black-Tailed Godwit was taken by Eric Rose in Watermead in July.

In summer these large wading birds have bright orangey-brown chests and bellies, but in winter they're more greyish-brown.

Their most distinctive features are their long beaks and legs, and the black and white stripes on their wings. Female black-tailed godwits are bigger and heavier than the males, with a noticeably longer beak (which helps the sexes to avoid competing with each other for food).

They're very similar to bar-tailed godwits, which breed in the Arctic. Black-tailed godwits have longer legs, and bar-



Red Kite

tailed godwits don't have striped wings. As the names suggest, the tail patterns are different, too.

They mainly eat insects, worms and snails, but also some plants, beetles, grasshoppers and other small insects during the breeding season.

Black-tailed godwits can be seen in estuaries and coastal lagoons at almost any time of year, though they also visit wetland sites inland. We also have a small, vulnerable breeding population, on a select few wet meadows and marshes. They migrate to west Africa for winter. Birds from Iceland spend winter in the UK.



Our swan on the small lake with her 7 cygnets which was taken recently by Sonia Whiteman.

Please use the dog pooh bins!

One morning recently, a resident who lives in a house bordering the field to the east of Watermead (as featured on our front page) saw a man throw his dog poo in the bag into her hedge. She was rather shocked but didn't have time to catch him to say anything at the time. The following day it happened again and she then ran to her window and shouted at the man. He said he thought it was the farmer's hedge! The homeowner explained that it was their hedge and, anyway, he should be disposing of his dog poo in one of the many bins provided by the Parish Council.

A few days later she saw a couple, who also live in a house bordering the field, walking their dog and they also picked up the dog poo and then threw the bag into her hedge. On this occasion the homeowner's husband ran round to apprehend the couple and told them not to throw the dog poo into their property. The woman responded by saying there were no bins nearby. How inconsiderate!!!! SHAME ON YOU!

There were 10 filled dog poo bags found in the hedge which is not only extremely unpleasant but they also attract flies and emit a horrible smell particularly in the hot weather. It's also littering! There are plenty of dog poo bins provided within Watermead that are not far from any property. Don't be lazy - use them!

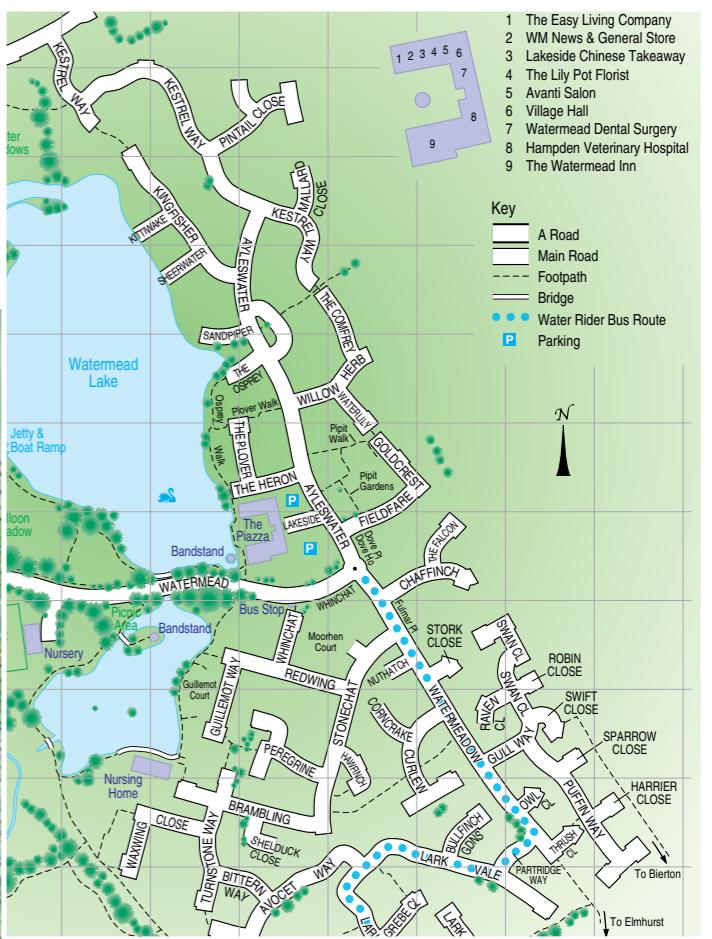
Cllr Mary Singleton



The Tortoiseshell butterfly was taken by Graham Clarke in June and the Red Kite was flying over his garden during lockdown.



9 out of 10 dog owners clean up after their dog. Are you the one who doesn't?



- 1 The Easy Living Company
- 2 WM News & General Store
- 3 Lakeside Chinese Takeaway
- 4 The Lily Pot Florist
- 5 Avanti Salon
- 6 Village Hall
- 7 Watermead Dental Surgery
- 8 Hampden Veterinary Hospital
- 9 The Watermead Inn

Key

- A Road
- Main Road
- Footpath
- Bridge
- Water Rider Bus Route
- P Parking

This lovely dragonfly flew into our kitchen on the morning of 26th June 2020, in Kestrel Way. I managed to rescue her and, after a short rest on one of our sunflower leaves, off she flew. I believe this is a female emperor dragonfly.

Michael Burridge



VE Day in the Parish

It was a beautiful, warm, sunny day on Monday 8th May 2020 when many residents in Watermead celebrated 75 years since Victory in Europe (VE) Day in their front gardens.

Everyone had to observe the Government regulations on social distancing and limiting the number of people in each gathering to no more than six. Bunting and flags were put up along with gazebo's and barbeques.

There was a timetable for the day set out and various ceremonies on television including a speech from The Queen. And we were fortunate enough to have the Red Arrows fly past Watermead! There was a special celebration for Steve Stephens – see his daughter Sarah's account below, with images of him just to the left.

Kevin from the Watermead Inn prepared wonderful baskets of afternoon tea which were beautifully wrapped and very reasonably priced. The contents included not only traditional sandwiches and scones, jam and clotted cream, but also snacks such as pork pies, cakes, fruit, wine or beer etc which were much enjoyed by many people. Some ladies from Guillemot Court made their own afternoon tea and set up their tables on the lawns outside.

Celebrations went on into the evening and one resident in Ayleswater projected films of the era onto his garage door. Other residents in Waterlily each celebrated in their front gardens and in the evening a Bingo session was held!

Cllr Mary Singleton

The picnic arranged by the Parish Council could not go ahead because of Covid 19, so instead we decided to hold a front garden afternoon tea for my dad, Steve Stephens. He was one of the many brave young men who landed on the beaches on D-Day. For his contribution to the liberation of France he was awarded the Legion d'Honneur and because the parish plans were put on hold we wanted to make it a special day.

We decorated the front of the house with flags and bunting along with our neighbours in Chaffinch and the Falcon ready to enjoy the day's festivities.

At 11 o'clock we stood on the front drive for a minute's silence. It is always a time for my dad to reflect on his time spent in the war and the friends he lost. After a lovely afternoon tea his friend Sue Elder came to sing some of the songs from that time. Dad really enjoyed her singing. Later on, when it was time to make a toast to the neighbours, most of the neighbours from Chaffinch and the Falcon came to our drive to make the toast to Dad. Dot read a poem, Tribute to the Millions, then we all had a bit of sing song. It was a very emotional day for him and he was overwhelmed by all the attention he received.

Sarah Goodridge



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Born in Salzburg, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart showed prodigious ability from his earliest childhood. Already competent on keyboard and violin, he composed from the age of five and performed before European royalty. At 17, Mozart was engaged as a musician at the Salzburg court but grew restless and travelled in search of a better position. While visiting Vienna in 1781, he was dismissed from his Salzburg position. He chose to stay in the capital, where he achieved fame but little financial security. During his final years in Vienna, he composed many of his best-known symphonies, concertos, and operas, and portions of the Requiem, which was largely unfinished at the time of his early death at the age of 35. The circumstances of his death have been much mythologized.

He composed more than 600 works, many of which are acknowledged as pinnacles of symphonic, concertante, chamber, operatic, and choral music. He is considered among the greatest classical composers of all time, and his influence is profound on subsequent Western art music. Ludwig van Beethoven composed his early works in the shadow of Mozart, and Joseph Haydn wrote: "posteriority will not see such a talent again in 100 years."

Mozart's birthplace was the birthplace of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart at No. 9 Getreidegasse in Salzburg, Austria. The Mozart family resided on the third floor from 1747 to 1773. Mozart himself was born here on 27 January 1756. He was the seventh child of Leopold Mozart who was a musician of the Salzburg Royal Chamber.

Now a museum, Mozart's birthplace introduces visitors to the early life of the composer, his first musical instruments, his friends, and his passionate interest in opera. The third floor exhibits Mozart's childhood violin as well as portraits, documents, and early editions of his music, and the second floor is devoted to Mozart's interest in opera and includes the clavichord on which he composed *The Magic Flute*. The structure is owned by the Mozart Foundation.

The house was built in the 12th century on ground which had been part of the garden belonging to the Benedictine monks of St Peter's, Salzburg. Otto Keutzel, a merchant, is mentioned as the owner in 1408 while Chunrad Fröschmoser, the court apothecary, purchased the property in 1585. On the doorway, the coiled serpent in the lion's mouth, the symbol of Asclepius, still testifies to his ownership. In 1703, the house came into the ownership of the Hagenauer family who had arrived in Salzburg around 1670. Specifically they included Joseph Matin Hagenauer and Johann Laurenz Hagenauer who became Leopold Mozart's landlord.

After marrying Anna Maria Pertl on 21 November 1747, Leopold Mozart rented the apartment on the third floor which consisted of a kitchen, a small cabinet, a living-room, a bedroom and an office. It was their residence until 1773 and their seven children were born here; only two, Maria Anna and Wolfgang Amadeus, survived. Leopold Mozart was in constant touch through letters with his landlord during the Mozart family grand tour between 1763 and 1766; he moved out of the

premises in 1773.

The Mozart family grand tour was a journey through western Europe, undertaken by Leopold Mozart, his wife Anna Maria, and their musically gifted children Maria Anna (Nannerl) and Wolfgang Amadeus from 1763 to 1766. At the start of the tour the children were aged eleven and seven respectively. Their extraordinary skills had been demonstrated during a visit to Vienna in 1762, when they had played before the Empress Maria Theresa at the Imperial Court. Sensing the social and pecuniary opportunities that might accrue from a prolonged trip embracing the capitals and main cultural centres of Europe, Leopold obtained an extended leave of absence from his post as deputy Kapellmeister to the Prince-Archbishopric of Salzburg. Throughout the subsequent tour, the children's Wunderkind status was confirmed as their precocious performances consistently amazed and gratified their audiences.

The first stage of the tour's itinerary took the family, via Munich and Frankfurt, to Brussels and then on to Paris where they stayed for five months. They then departed for London, where during a stay of more than a year Wolfgang made the acquaintance of some of the leading musicians of the day, heard much music, and composed his first symphonies. The family then moved

Young Mozart playing with his family



on to the Netherlands, where the schedule of performances was interrupted by the illnesses of both children, although Wolfgang continued to compose prolifically. The homeward phase incorporated a second stop in Paris and a trip through Switzerland, before the family's return to Salzburg in November 1766.

The material rewards of the tour, though reportedly substantial, did not transform the family's lifestyle, and Leopold continued in the Prince-Archbishop's service. However, the journey enabled the children to experience to the full the cosmopolitan musical world and gave them an outstanding education. In Wolfgang's case this would continue through further journeys in the following six years, prior to his appointment by the Prince-Archbishop as a court musician.

The Mozart children were not alone as 18th-century music prodigies. Education



Mozart

recognised by honours which included a papal knighthood and memberships in leading philharmonic societies.

One of the longest adulthood journeys of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was a visit, beginning in Spring 1789, to a series of cities lying northward of his adopted home in Vienna: Prague, Leipzig, Dresden, and Berlin. The journey took place during a difficult period of Mozart's career when he was no longer earning much money from concerts, and his income from the composition of operas had not made up the difference. He was borrowing money, for example from his friend Michael Puchberg, and the financial situation was very worrisome. Mozart's passage to Berlin was free of charge; he accompanied his aristocratic patron and fellow Mason Prince Karl Lichnowsky, (a patron of both Mozart and Beethoven) who had his own reasons for visiting Berlin and had offered Mozart a ride.

There is no question that the Praguers of the late eighteenth century exhibited a special appreciation for the music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, even though, as recently pointed out by Daniel E Freeman, confirmations of this fact attributed to Mozart himself in sayings such as "Meine Prager verstehen mich" ("My Praguers understand me") have only come down to

posternity second or third hand. Perhaps the most valuable direct testimony that attests to the discernment of the musical public in Prague with regard to Mozart's music comes from Lorenzo Da Ponte, the librettist of Mozart's opera *Don Giovanni*, which was first performed in Prague:

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart died after a short illness on 5 December 1791, aged 35. His reputation as a composer, already strong during his lifetime, rose rapidly in the years after his death, and he became (as he has remained to this day) one of the most celebrated of all composers.

Shortly after Mozart's death, biographers began to piece together accounts of his life, relying on the testimony of those still living who knew him, as well as surviving correspondence. The creation of Mozart biographies has been an activity of scholars ever since.

The Mozart Monument is in the Burggarten in the Innere Stadt district of Vienna, Austria since 1953. It is dedicated to composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791).

Further information can be found at www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wolfgang_Amadeus_Mozart



Mozart's piano

A new children's play area has been constructed on the green area between Elmhurst and Watermead, bordering Lark Vale and Avocet Way.



Lakeside

CHINESE TAKEAWAY

Peking - Szechaun - Thai

10%
off
on all online
orders



All dishes
served in
large
containers

order online and earn loyalty points

www.lakesidechinese.co.uk

Tuesday - Thursday & Sunday 5pm - 10pm,

Friday & Saturday 5pm - 11pm

33 Lakeside, Watermead, Aylesbury HP19 0FX



01296 339364

Take part in this year's Watermead Photo Competition

Open to all Watermead Residents

EXHIBITION AND PRIZE GIVING SATURDAY 17th OCTOBER, VILLAGE HALL, 1.00 - 4.30pm

No special photographic equipment is needed.
Previous winners have used mobile phones.

Start shooting now and save your best
shots for the competition.

Submit up to 2 photos in each of 3 categories:

- Beautiful Watermead - landscapes and wildlife
- Watermead people and events
- Open category - choose your own subject

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5PM ON MONDAY 12TH OCTOBER

11 Ayleswater, Watermead HP19 0FB

Entries should be prints of A4 size.

Please add your name, phone number and category on the back.