

Village View

WATERMEAD'S *FREE* QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

Autumn 2018 Vol.25 Issue 3

Watermead Outdoor Cinema Event

See page 6 for details

Photographic
competition

Watermead
Remembrance Day
See page 6

Image by James Bates



News from Watermead Parish Council & more!
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Parish Chairman's News

Welcome to our autumn edition. At the time of writing, we are enjoying the longest, hottest summer in many years. It has been a fantastic summer for staycations and outdoor activities, including Larks by the Lake, organised on Kelvin and Nikki Wong's behalf by a group of volunteers led by Karen Collett. We also had a unique experience with a huge gathering of Morris Men who danced in the Piazza on a Sunday afternoon in late June. An enjoyable afternoon spent watching the Morris Men (and women) dancing and enjoying each other's company at an event to mark the 70th anniversary of the Whitchurch Morris Men. See page 26 for more.

There's still much to look forward to in Watermead: The welcome return of Larks by the Lake, including the dog show, was very much enjoyed. The event was such a success that the committee has 'volunteered' to help with an outdoor cinema evening at Watermead on Saturday 15th September 2018. There will be free admission and two films will be shown, The Lion King and singalong to Mamma Mia! We hope to see many there. Bring a chair and prepare to sing as if nobody is listening! There will be food and a bar, or bring a picnic.

Larks by the lake raised money for a selection of local charities, including a donation towards provision of a children's trim trail which is planned to be built behind the outdoor gym. We hope that grant funding will top up the donation of £1,000 from Larks by the Lake, so that the facility can be in place as soon as possible. Other beneficiaries included Smiles, Cygnets, CHAT Charity, Buckingham Park Scouts and CLAPA.

Photographic competition

A photographic competition is being held in October, with entries invited from Watermead residents. The competition, organised by Eric Rose, will include an exhibition in the Village Hall. Details can be found on page 09.

The original photographic competition, organised by the late Sandra Landy was very popular. Many fantastic photographs have been put on the 'All About Watermead' Facebook page so we hope for plenty of entries. Graham Severn has donated the Sandra Landy Cup to be presented to the overall winner, in Sandra's memory.

Lunch Club

The lunch club, started by Mary Singleton, goes from strength to strength, meeting on the second

Wednesday of each month at the Watermead Inn. Kelvin provides a varied menu, with a two-course lunch costing a very reasonable £8. Those attending enjoy meeting friends and meeting new people. It is always a convivial gathering. Call Mary Singleton on 01296 428569 if you would like to book a place.

Remembrance Day 2018

On 11th November we will hold our usual quiet act of remembrance at the Memorial Garden at 11am. The Parish Council has installed two 'Silent Soldiers' beside the lake in the Memorial Garden, and in the Village Hall garden, as part of the Royal British Legion's Silent Soldier Campaign remembering with gratitude and respect the more than 1.1 million men and women who gave their lives from Britain and its territories alone.



Why a Silent Soldier? At the end of the World



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

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



Assistant Parish Clerk:
Michelle Jackson
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Tea Break Quiz

- 1 Emphysema affects which part of your body?
- 2 Where were the Elgin Marbles originally from?
- 3 How long must a person have had to be dead to qualify for a Blue Plaque?
- 4 What Latin words did the Queen use to describe the year 1992?
- 5 Where do cars with the international vehicle registration SF come from?
- 6 What name does spy-writer David J Cornwell write under?
- 7 Which county is Eton School in?
- 8 Which drug takes its name from the Greek god of dreams?
- 9 What was the former name of Sellafield?
- 10 What is the metric word for a million?
- 11 Which dessert is named after a famous ballerina?
- 12 Which chess piece can only move diagonally?
- 13 Before Winston Churchill went bald what colour was his hair?
- 14 What is the real name of the criminal dubbed The Yorkshire Ripper?
- 15 In which year did the TV 'soap' EastEnders first appear?
- 16 In which country do soldiers wear skirts called fustanella?
- 17 Which word can describe a listening device, an illness or an insect?
- 18 How many kilometres per hour is 30 miles an hour?
- 19 Which politician said 'A week is a long time in politics'?
- 20 Which organisation was founded in 1953 by Reverend Chad Varah?

Answers on page 17

War I, in November 1918, demobilisation and discharge took a long while. On arrival in England returning men were taken to a dispersal centre where they were given a rail ticket to their home station. From there they were on their own and were seen across the country walking back home, down the roads and across the fields, returning to their families. Most had returned by the end of 1919. Our Silent Soldiers will remain in place until the end of 2018.

On the evening of 11th November Berryfields Parish is taking part in the National Chain of Beacons, 'Battle's Over' commemorations, which will start with HM Queen lighting the first beacon, followed by more than 1,000 others throughout the country. The beacon will be lit at Roman Park, Berryfields (next to Aylesbury Vale Parkway station) which is one of the highest points locally, at 7pm. There will be a short service. Children from local schools, scouts, cubs and other organisations will take part. Everyone is very welcome. Parking will be available in the station car park.

Best front garden

The winner of this year's Best Front Garden competition is to be congratulated. It's been a difficult year for keeping flowers in bloom while trying to conserve water. We have all enjoyed the lovely displays in front gardens throughout the summer. Watermead residents have tried very hard to keep us looking our best. See page 31.

The Christmas Lights

competition is scheduled again. Irina Schwab will be organising a small prize for the winner. We are looking forward to the light displays and the Christmas fun which will include the Craft Fair and Carol Concert as usual.

Reverend Mark Ackford

It is with real sadness that we say goodbye to Mark, who moves from St James the Great at Bierton in September. He will be nearby. I hope we will be able to persuade him to officiate at the Carol Service, as usual. His contribution is always much enjoyed and anticipated.

If not, I know that you will join me and many others in Watermead in saying how much we will miss him. Mark and his late wife Suzanne have

made a real difference to the Bierton, Buckingham Park and Watermead parishes during their tenure. Mark, please accept our very warmest best wishes to you and your family.

Nature Walk

During summer Eric Rose organised the first nature walk around the former ski slope. The day chosen was very hot and there was a small turnout but it is hoped to arrange further walks and these will be advertised well in advance. Once more, all welcome.

Speeding

'Speedy' our MVA speed warning sign, has needed repair during the summer, but is now back and working. We also have a Sentinel speed camera which is being set up in various locations in Watermead where we know there is a speeding problem. Volunteers operate the camera, speeds are recorded and speeders are reported to the Police, who take action. Please drive carefully; it is very dangerous to drive too fast. The

elderly, children, animals and wildlife are unable to move out of the way when confronted by speeders. Please, keep us all safe. We have recently seen a spate of cycling on pavements and footpaths. If you ride on pavements please be courteous and do not get in the way of pedestrians, slow down and ensure they are safe.

Planning

We are still waiting to hear whether the Secretary of State will call-in the crematorium planning application.

We are also waiting for AVDC's Planning Officer to determine whether or not to recommend approval, or refuse the application by the freeholder to built flats in the Piazza car park. Once again, there is huge opposition to this plan. Any updates will be provided on the Parish Council's website, including dates of any meetings or other news.

Chairman Sue Severn



WATERMEAD CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 1st December 2018
Village Hall, The Piazza 11am - 5pm

To book a table at this year's fair please contact
Graham for further information

01296 336575
graham.severn@yahoo.co.uk

and don't forget:

WATERMEAD CAROL CONCERT
Saturday 8th December 2018. From 6pm

Watermead Parish Council put up notices around both lakes in Watermead on 20 July 2018 to warn residents and visitors about high levels of blue-green algae:

"Please be aware that due to high levels of blue-green algae visitors and their dogs are advised to stay out of the lake and follow the advice on signs at the site.

Visitors can still enjoy the site and its facilities which remain open as usual.

Contact with water containing high levels of blue-green algae can cause illness in humans including skin irritation. Swallowing the water or algal scum can cause vomiting, diarrhoea, fever, and pains in muscles or joints. The algae can be toxic to dogs so please keep them out of the water.

If you have been in contact with the water at the lake you should wash your hands well before eating, drinking or smoking. Shower as soon as you can after exiting the water. If you have any signs of skin rash, stomach pains or vomiting after being in the water please seek medical advice.

We will continue to work alongside the Environment Agency to monitor the levels of blue-green algae and will let you know as soon as it's safe to enter the water.

Thank you for your co-operation, Watermead Parish Council"

There will be sunny days and rainy seasons

At weddings at St James and All Saints I have on occasions in my short address to the Bride and Groom used an extract of a poem called 'Us Two' from 'Now We Are Six' written by A.A. Milne (1882-1956).

This of course is a poem about a certain bear called Pooh and his friend Christopher Robin and this got me thinking about the various other things that this famous bear got up to. Poohsticks immediately come to mind; if you visit Pooh Corner in Hartfield in East Sussex, you can visit the famous Poohsticks Bridge and have fun finding little sticks to throw over one side of the bridge, to then run to the other side to see whose are floating fastest down-stream. I am sure that there will always be great joy for the winners but for the losers it may be outright emotional despair for the rest of the day!

This led me to thinking about gloomy old Eeyore who was often pictured with a storm cloud hovering over his head. Such an image reminds us of sayings like "I've got the blues" or "He's under the weather". These are called "figures of speech", ways to describe something that have become so common that everyone understands.

You can think of figures of speech as tiny parables. The dictionary says that a parable is, "a story or phrase that uses familiar things to explain something." Jesus told

many parables in the Bible. He used things that his listeners understood to teach them about God whom they could not see.

In Matthew 7, Jesus tells the story about a wise man who built his house on a rock. Another man, a foolish one, built his house on the sand. Then, mighty storms came. The wind blew and the rain pounded on both homes. The wise man's house stood firm. But when the storms came and the water washed away the sandy foundation, the foolish man's house collapsed.

Jesus used this story to explain that when we build our lives on Him, on the truth of His Word, we can stand strong and the sad and difficult things in life will not destroy us. However, if we set our hopes, dreams and future on a worthless foundation like wealth, popularity or faith in a false god, when the storms of life come, we will fall apart.

However, when it comes to the storms of life, there is a benefit in them too. When the storm passed, and the wise man's house was still standing, he knew that he had built in the right place. He knew that foundation on which he built his house was strong.

It's the same way for us in life. When we go through sad and hard times, God proves Himself to us. He proves that He is strong, faithful, wise and loving.

Just like in nature, we face seasons in our lives. There will be sunny days and rainy

seasons; times of happiness and joy as well as times of discouragement and sadness. Remembering the purpose of rain in nature can help us look for God's goodness and purpose in the hard times of our lives. Our struggles help us to see God's faithfulness and strength for us and they help us to remember to bow down and trust God.

With every blessing, Revd Mark Ackford, Vicar of St James the Great Berton and All Saints Hulcott

Editor's note: This will be Revd Mark Ackford's final contribution to Village View as he will be leaving the parish in September to take up a new position as the Team Rector (designate) of the South Chilterns Team Ministry based around Stokenchurch and Lane End. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all our readers to thank him for his regular contribution to our village magazine over many years, which we have learned from and enjoyed so much. We will also miss his contribution to our Christmas Carol concerts which will not be the same without the children's chocolate-related Christmas story. I am sure that you will all join me in wishing Mark every success in his new role.

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Outdoor Cinema Event

OUTDOORS: BALLOON MEADOW

The Lion King

6.30PM

Mamma Mia

8.30PM

SATURDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2018

The 'Larks by the Lake' committee had such a great time organising the summer fete and raising money for charity that they have decided to now organise an outdoor film night on Saturday 15th September 2018 on the Balloon Meadow.

The committee are looking for businesses to sponsor the event by buying advertising space, which will be projected on the screen, at a cost of £50 per advert. All proceeds raised will go to charity. There will be a licensed bar, food, ice creams, etc available to buy. The best bit is that entry is FREE!

Karen Collett

WATERMEAD REMEMBRANCE DAY 2018

Sunday 11th November
at 10.45am

Join members of our community to remember the fallen from all conflicts, from all countries. Meet at the Memorial Garden to observe the two minutes' silence together in quiet contemplation.

If you need any assistance with mobility issues or need to drive on to the field we will be pleased to help. Contact Noreen Shardlow 01296 395211 or email noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk



Places to eat

Here are some more good places to eat that have been recommended in and around Aylesbury:

The Dog House

1 Broughton Crossing, Aylesbury
HP22 5AR, 01296 485228
www.doghouseinn.co.uk

In the 1840s, a branch railway was constructed linking Aylesbury to the Midlands; this crossed the road linking Broughton with Berton. A public house and signalmen's cottages were constructed at the level crossing and the area became known as Broughton Crossing. Situated only a ¼ mile from the Aylesbury Arm of the Grand Union Canal, which is great for a walk and bit of wildlife spotting.

The newly refurbished premises offer a comfortable location for patrons to relax and enjoy high quality food. We had our annual WI lunch at this restaurant. There is a varied menu to suit all tastes at reasonable prices and the portions are generous. Sunday roasts and children's menu are also available.

The Garage Restaurant & Wine Bar
3 Well Street, Buckingham, MK18 1EW
01280 832300
www.wellstgarage.co.uk

The Garage was just that – a Buckingham garage. It's located in the cleverly branded 'Hidden Quarter', an area that was often overlooked until Secret Message Interiors moved in and rebranded the stretch of shops around them. Wells Street is still fairly innocuous, but the frontage of The Garage will leave you in no doubt that you're in the right place – with its original petrol pumps and glass windows (it was also a Presbyterian church in a former incarnation), it looks properly cool.

Various interesting menus are available including fixed prices for 2 or 3 courses. The menu is relatively limited and elegantly presented. There's an open grill so rib eye steaks, swordfish, halloumi and beefburgers are offered at both lunch and dinner. For light bites you can get everything from fish finger sandwiches through to Korean beef steak skewers, so they definitely have an eye to their eclectic local market.

Mole & Chicken

Easington, Nr Long Crendon
HP18 9EY, 01844 208 387
www.themoleandchicken.co.uk

The Mole and Chicken is a wonderful country pub and restaurant with five beautiful letting rooms set high on the border offering outstanding views across Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

The restaurant offers a blend of British and Mediterranean food using classical cooking techniques and fresh local produce. A well-chosen wine list accompanies the light lunch and a la carte menus and there is also a finer wine and drinks list for the connoisseur.

In the winter months relax by the open log fire or enjoy the views from the terrace in the summer, whatever you choose the Mole & Chicken is certain to please!

Please keep sharing your good experiences of eating places you have enjoyed. Contact the Editor at mary.singleton@watermead-pc.gov.uk

Mary Singleton

What's on IN AND AROUND WATERMEAD

September

6th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
12th	Vale Countryside Volunteers - Watermead Wilderness Working Group Day	Meet Balloon Meadow, 9:45am
15th	Watermead Outdoor Cinema Event	Balloon Meadow, 6:30pm & 8:30pm
16th	Lavender Lane Vintage Fair	Village Hall, 10am - 3:30pm
20th	Watermead Parish Council	Village Hall, 7:30pm

October

4th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
13th	Watermead Photography Competition & Exhibition	Village Hall, 12 - 4:30pm
18th	Watermead Parish Council	Village Hall, 7:30pm
31st	Halloween	

November

1st	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
5th	Bonfire Night	
11th	Remembrance Day Service	Memorial Garden, Ilam
11th	National Chain of Beacons, 'Battle's Over' commemorations	Aylesbury Vale Parkway Station, 7pm
15th	Watermead Parish Council	Village Hall, 7:30pm
18th	Lavender Lane Vintage Fair	Village Hall, 10am - 3:30pm

December

1st	Watermead Christmas Fair	Village Hall, 11am-5pm
6th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
8th	Watermead Carol Concert	The Piazza, 6pm

Village Hall

PARISH COUNCIL
3rd Thursday of the month
(excluding August & December)
Public meeting - 7.30pm
Council meeting - 8.00pm

CYGNETS PRE-SCHOOL
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Susan Jones 747469

**AYLESBURY & DISTRICT
PHILATELIC SOCIETY**
Second Wednesday of the month
7.30 - 10.00pm
Peter Barnes 612913

**WATERMEAD & WEEDON
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**
First Thursday of the month
7.30 - 9.30pm
Julia Morgan 487650
julia-morgan@sky.com

JO JINGLES
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7.15 - 8.15pm
Gale Smith 747900

Watermead Village Hall is the ideal venue for young children's birthday parties, meetings or christenings, etc. If you are an organisation looking for a regular venue, the Village Hall or the Bandstand could be the perfect place. Please contact Noreen Shardlow on 01296 395211

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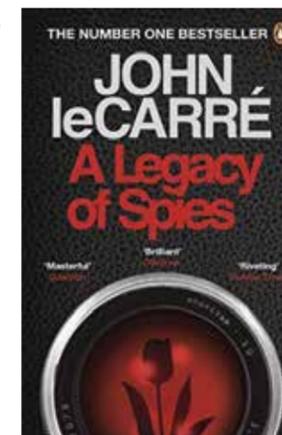
Book review

John Le Carré: A Legacy of Spies

Crafty John Le Carré - after 55 years he produces a sequel to the book that made his name. Peter Guillam, one of George Smiley's dogsbodies, long retired to Brittany, is summoned back to London to face an enquiry into the operation that ended at the Berlin Wall with the death of Alec Leamas, *The Spy Who Came In From the Cold* (1963). Leamas's son Christoph and the daughter of Leamas's mistress Liz Gold are demanding 'reparations' for the death of their parents in a mishandled Cold War mission. The story is narrated by Guillam, who recalls his work with Smiley and 'Control' (Le Carré's version of James Bond's 'M') and re-reads stashed files from the 1960s. His interrogators at MI6 still talk in that stilted, slightly camp way we are familiar with from the plays of Alan Bennett. This is also a sequel to Smiley's *People* (1980), with the return, if only in memory, of 'Circus' friends and a few old enemies from those Glory Days. Bill Haydon (Le Carré's version of Kim Philby) is talked about. The 'spectre at the feast' is George Smiley, who became a father figure to Guillam. Along with Peter we are kept guessing for much of the book as to whether 'owlish' George is still alive.

Recreating old service files is like rummaging through a dusty attic, except that these are matters of life and death - and treachery. When Guillam briefly meets the son of agent 'Tulip', whose defection from East Germany's notorious Stasi he and Alec Leamas masterminded, Le Carré reminds us that the bleakness of Cold War lives on in the children of that era, children who are now old and still bitter.

David Gee



Alex Guinness as George Smiley in the BBC TV series

Watermead photographic competition & exhibition

Up to two entries per person invited in each of 3 categories:

Watermead Landscape Watermead Wildlife Open Category

The competition will be restricted to Watermead residents although non-residents are welcome to submit photos for the exhibition.

It isn't necessary to own an expensive camera; photographs taken on phones are welcome.

Entries must be submitted as prints of approximately 8 x 10 inches or A4 size and delivered to our Parish Clerk, Noreen Shardlow at 11 Ayleswater by no later than 5pm on Thursday 11th October.

If printing at home, Photographic Paper is ideal but 'Photo Quality Inkjet Paper' is a good cheaper alternative. Or you may wish to use an outlet such as Snappy Snaps who offer a printing service.

Please mark all entries with your name, address and telephone contact number on a sticky label on the back of each photo.

All entries will be on display in the Exhibition on Saturday 13th October from 12 noon to 4.30 pm in the Village Hall in Watermead Piazza.

Watermead Pub Lunch Club

How would you like to go out to lunch once a month, meet friends and make new ones whilst enjoying an inexpensive but tasty lunch? The Club is aimed at the more mature members of the community and especially those who may have been missing out on regular social contact. We now have a mixed group of 50 or so members of different ages and everyone appears to enjoy the food and the company. We usually see about 30 of them each month.

Kelvin and his team make us very welcome and provide a menu with three choices of main course, including one for vegetarians, and three delicious desserts for just £8. You should advise if you have special dietary requirements and they will do their best to accommodate you. There is always someone there to greet you and take your money so please don't worry about coming along if you are on your own.

If you would like to come to the monthly lunch which is held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 12.30pm at the Watermead Inn, or you know someone who might benefit from getting out and about a bit more, then please do get in touch. All you have to do is book at least a week in advance by calling Mary Singleton on 07986 582903 or text her on that number providing your email address and she will provide you with all the information you need.

Please note that bookings can only be made through the local organiser whose contact details are given above.

Please note that bookings can only be made through the local organiser whose contact details are given above.

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David Lidington's Statement on the Bucks Unitary Authority decision

"As you know, the Secretary of State has announced that he is minded to agree to the proposal of a single unitary authority to replace both Buckinghamshire County Council and the four District Councils. Milton Keynes would remain as a separate unitary council in its own right.

"I share the view of both the County and District Councils that the present two tier system should be replaced by unitary local government. Money in local government is and will continue to be tight. It should be used to spend on front-line public services rather than on supporting five different hierarchies of officials, personnel systems, maintenance contracts and so on. I have also come increasingly to the view that the current distribution of responsibilities is confusing. For example, the District Council is responsible for collecting our bins, but the County Council for managing and disposing of the waste. The District Council takes planning decisions about new housing, but the County Council has to deal with the consequences for roads, schools and social services.

"My approach to this debate has been to try and start with an open mind and judge which of the unitary options, one or two authorities, will best deliver improved public

services at least cost to local residents.

"Having studied both proposals, and while I respect the case that the District Councils have made for having two authorities, my own preference is for a single unitary Council.

"There were a number of reasons that led me to this view.

"First, the saving to local residents would be significantly greater with one authority rather than two: £18.2 million a year compared with £10.3 million. That's nearly £8 million extra each year to spend on local services or to return to local residents through a lower rate of Council Tax.

"Second, I discussed the proposals with the local NHS organisations who were concerned that social services for children, elderly people and people with disabilities, currently the responsibility of Buckinghamshire County Council, should not be split up as a consequence of local government reform. Indeed, the two NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups, the purse holders for local NHS spending, that cover North and South Bucks respectively have decided to federate in order to work more effectively on a County-wide basis.

"Third, local business, especially as represented by Bucks Business First and

the Bucks Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership, argued strongly for a single unitary council.

"A lot of work has been done by both County and District Councils to support the different cases that they have made to the Secretary of State. He made his "minded to" decision having taken account of detailed submissions by both the County and the Districts as well as responses by other organisations and individuals. Both the County and District Councils are now entitled to make their case again to Mr Javid ahead of his final decision. However, I hope that this will be done without spending large amounts of taxpayers' money and I regret the decision by some Councils to spend residents' money on door to door leaflets."

*David Lidington,
Chancellor of
the Duchy of
Lancaster and
Minister for the
Cabinet Office.*



Swimming and hydrotherapy

There are many benefits of swimming for our pets. Swimming is great exercise for dogs, giving a good cardiovascular and muscular workout whilst being low impact on joints. It's also an easy way for them to cool down in the hot summer months and it's a good way to burn excess energy and tire out boisterous dogs. There are many options for swimming from pools or underwater treadmills in specific hydrotherapy centres, to natural bodies of water such as lakes, rivers or even the sea.

Swimming can be especially beneficial after surgery (after the skin has healed) such as that for cruciate ligament injury, or to help arthritic dogs maintain muscle mass without being in discomfort, as there is less stress on the joints. It's also good for weight loss due to the resistance and buoyancy in the water

Not all dogs can swim. It is therefore important to make the introduction to water a positive experience, with plenty of encouragement, but allowing them to go in in their own time.

A life jacket is useful, especially for animals who are overweight, senior, or those

with short legs who may find it difficult to keep themselves above the water on their own. It is especially advised in open or rough waters.

Most importantly dogs should not be left unsupervised especially in strong currents or cold water. Another important point is not to allow your dog to get too tired as they often don't restrict themselves, and there's an increased risk of drowning.

If your dog suffers from any infections or skin conditions, it is advisable to wait until these have cleared up before going swimming. Water itself can cause or make skin and ear conditions worse so if you are worried please contact your vet before taking your dog in the water.

Blue-green algae is common in summer months in lakes and stagnant water; it can be seen clumped together in green flakes or brown bundles/dots. Some types can be toxic to dogs, producing toxins that can damage the liver, either if they drink from the lake directly, or if they clean their fur after swimming. It can cause vomiting and diarrhoea, and eventually liver failure, so early treatment is advised if you suspect your dog may have ingested any.

Salt toxicity can be common in dogs that

swim in sea water. There must be plenty of fresh water to combat the amount of salt consumed, otherwise the body uses its own water to help causing dehydration which can lead to death. Treatment to slowly bring down the level of salt is optimal in a veterinary hospital to avoid brain swelling or other complications.

Water intoxication can occur when too much water is consumed, such as retrieving toys from water or playing with the hose. It causes too little salt in the body, resulting in loss of coordination, lethargy or, in the worst case scenario, a coma.

Leptospirosis is found in bodies of water contaminated by rat urine. Sometimes there are no symptoms, but on other occasions dogs can have a fever, sickness, muscle pain or lethargy. When the infection spreads to the liver or kidneys, it can be fatal. Leptospirosis is also zoonotic which means that it can be transferred to humans. Vaccinations are effective to prevent against four leptospirosis strains of infection.

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.

Netta Glover's report

Freight Strategy

A four-year action plan has been launched to look in detail at ways to solve lorry hotspot problems and better manage freight around Buckinghamshire's roads. It comes with the approval of the County Council's new freight strategy by Mark Shaw, Deputy Leader and Transport Cabinet Member. At the centre of the action plan are proposals to set up freight focus groups in the County Council's 19 Local Area Forum areas drawn from parishes, community groups and businesses.

One of the priorities is to appoint a Freight Officer to liaise between parishes, districts, businesses and County Hall, and manage focus groups. They will examine heavy goods vehicle (HGV) movement data, along with original strategy consultation feedback from more than 1,600 residents and businesses, to help identify areas that need targeted action and investment. This could include measures ranging from HGV route signs to installing noise and air quality measures to liaising with neighbouring councils over HGV bans that affect Buckinghamshire.

The first three focus groups will be set up during the coming weeks in the Wing/Ivinghoe area, the Iver/Denham area and the Haddenham/Waddesdon area. Others will be set up during the following nine months.

Deputy Transport Cabinet Member Paul Irwin, who is overseeing the Action Plan, said it was vital that the work that groups do help the County Council to strike a balance between getting goods and services around the county efficiently and the impact it has on roads and the environment.

"It's a fine balance. We rely on lorries to bring in our food and drink, and take away the waste we produce," said Paul. "But we also have a responsibility to control the impact HGVs have on our roads and the environment."

Around 17% of lorries coming into Buckinghamshire deliver foodstuffs and about 14% of HGV movements are related to taking away waste from residents and businesses in the county. The increase in online shopping - up 23 per cent in the past year - has pushed up the number of delivery van miles by 46% in the past 10 years and this trend is expected to continue.

"When it comes to freight management nothing stands still," said Paul. "We're kidding ourselves if we think there's a fix-it-once-for-all solution, which is why our freight strategy is a live document. We want focus groups to highlight local issues to help us consider the trends and the changing nature of HGV movements, so we can take the right decisions in the future to balance the need for the efficient distribution of goods and services with the needs of Buckinghamshire's environment and residents. A huge number of residents and business people have helped get Buckinghamshire's Freight Strategy to where it is now, and we are very grateful for their help."

Log onto Buckscc.gov.uk and look for Freight Strategy for full details.

Bucks residents achieve impressive increase in food waste recycling

A campaign running since summer 2017 which aims to encourage people to recycle more food waste appears to have borne fruit, that is rotten fruit, mouldy veg, used tea-bags, broken egg shells, chicken bones, banana skins, coffee grounds, etc.

In the six months from October to March an extra 639 tonnes of food waste was recycled in Buckinghamshire compared to the same period the previous year. On average that's an extra 2.9 kgs of food waste from every household in the county.

The Fighting Food Waste campaign is run by the Waste Partnership for Buckinghamshire (WPB), which is made up of the four district councils which collect household waste and Buckinghamshire County Council which disposes of it. The campaign has funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. By using advertising, social media, and direct contact with residents, it aims to get people who already recycle food waste to do it more, and to get other residents to start for the first time.

A Love Food Hate Waste section on the Recycle for Buckinghamshire website (www.recycle4bucks.co.uk) gives tips on making the most of leftovers and reducing waste, but some food waste is unavoidable. By recycling as much of it as possible through the dedicated weekly kerbside collections carried out by the districts, the waste can be turned into energy by a process of anaerobic digestion (AD).

In Bucks, food waste is sent for processing in AD plants at Westcott (Bucks) and Wallingford (Oxon). At the AD plants the food waste is digested by bacteria in special tanks to produce methane-rich biogas; this is used as fuel to generate electricity and also as a chemical-free fertiliser that can be used by farmers to enrich their soil. AD is far more cost efficient than sending food waste to the county's Energy from Waste (EfW) site at Greatmoor where other non-recyclable waste is sent. In Bucks, around 16,000 tonnes of food waste are collected from homes each year, but there is still more to be done to reduce food waste and to recycle unavoidable waste.

People with Learning Difficulties

An estimated 1,200 people with a learning disability die from preventable illness every year. On average women with a learning disability die 18 years sooner, and men with a learning disability die 14 years sooner than the general population in England. So this Learning Disability week (18-24 June) events are happening across the country to focus on improving healthcare for people with a learning disability.

As part of the county's 'Transforming Care Partnership' group (made up of GP's, the County Council, Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group, and many other health and social care professionals in Buckinghamshire) are backing Learning Disability Week by encouraging anyone with a learning disability or autism to register with their GP for an Annual Health Check.

Dr Sian Roberts, Mental Health and Learning Disability Clinical Director, said: "Annual Health checks are one way of making sure that people with a learning disability stay as healthy as possible. The checks can pick up early signs of a problem, and even prevent problems arising in the first place. It's easy to arrange - just contact your surgery and ask how you can make an appointment for this important health check. We know that there are over 6,000 people in Buckinghamshire who have a learning disability, yet around only 2,000 are accessing services. So if you, or someone you know has a learning disability, even if you are not already receiving health or social care, please make sure you stay that way by looking after your health and registering for a FREE Annual Health Check.

Cllr Netta Glover

Events at Stowe National Trust

**Saturday 8th September
10am-5pm**

Heritage Open Day

The gardens & house will be open for free to discover. Head to the Gothic Temple and catch a rare glimpse of the inside of the monument which is normally a holiday cottage. Free

**Friday 14th - Saturday 15th
September, 8-9.45pm**

Lost Cinema

Bring a picnic along for a chilled, outdoors viewing with friends and family by the Temple of Venus. Choose from The Lost Boys showing on Friday night or Pretty Woman on Saturday. Adult £12 www.thelostcinema.co.uk

**Monday 17th September - Sunday
4th November, 10am-6pm**

Autumn Rambles

Pick up one of our self-led walks from our visitor centre to enjoy a ramble around the gardens and park to discover more about the stories of Stowe. In autumn, they'll be a bright display of autumn colour to admire across the Grecian Valley. Free NAA

**Tuesday 10th September -
9th November**

"Aren't We Worthy?"

The winners Join us as we celebrate our winning worthy women, as voted for by you, in a modern day representation of Stowe's famous Temple of the British Worthies. Free NAA

**Saturday 6th - Sunday
7th November**

Apple weekend

There'll be an array of apple goodies on sale from our orchard; taste freshly pressed juice; identify your rare variety and chat to the gardens team. Free

Watermead Cygnets Pre-School

This term the children explored in the pre-school garden and the children found lots of mini beasts such as worms, woodlice, and snails. They also learned about sea-life and beaches, including holidays. We finished off the term with an 'I Can' week where the children thought about all the things they had learned and achieved throughout the year. We had a busy and fun Dad's day when fathers spent the morning with their children and accepted the challenges set for them: to build a duplo construction which the children then voted the best. We concluded with the children playing charades with their fathers. Dad's day is a great opportunity for fathers to interact with their children in a learning environment and it is beneficial for the children too.

Our end of term trip was a day at Gullivers, made possible by the parents and children who were sponsored earlier in the year for our obstacle race.

We were fortunate to have wonderful summer weather for our Sports day when races included a scooter race, bean bag and bucket race, running race, and a pushchair race. The parents and carers had a beanbag relay race. The fun day ended with stickers and lollies.

We were very lucky to have a special visitor to pre-school. We welcomed back Adam a former Cygnet, who led a fantastic physical activity group session with the children. He was impressed with their listening skills, teamwork and participation. Thank you Adam who you can see in the picture.

We finished off the summer term with our graduation afternoon with a presentation of some dancing, games and presentation of certificates. Eighteen children left Cygnets this year to start their full time education and one left for another setting. It is always sad to see the children leave but we all feel proud to have played a part in preparing

them for school and we wish them every success in the future as they start their academic career.

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all our staff for their continued hard work over the year and would like to say a big thank you to our Committee for their commitment.

Cygnets accepts children from 2½ years to 5 years old. We open from 9 am to 12 am from Monday to Friday. We provide a

breakfast session from 8.30 to 9 am for all 3 to 4 year olds and a lunch session most days from 12 to 1.30 pm for all 3 to 4 year olds. If you would like your child to attend Cygnets, please visit us and ask to be added onto our waiting list. To avoid disappointment please call and ask to speak Maree on 07563 783464.

The Cygnets team



Watermead allotments Winners 2018



As most members will already know I have a special interest in allotments. I have in the past had two allotments of my own elsewhere in Aylesbury and as a Parish Councillor helped set up the allotments in Watermead. I was pleased to be asked to be judge again this year. I visited on July 2nd with Peter Smith. As in previous years I judged blind without knowing who owned the plots.

At the outset I warned everyone that this was not an ideal site. Having lain fallow for many years, there was a massive growth of weeds on poor soil. In addition, plots have been subject to flooding, crops have been eaten by wild animals, and there has also been repeated vandalism on the site. This year a very wet start has been followed by weeks of hot sunshine and drought.

I take my hat off therefore to all the plot holders who have worked really hard to overcome the odds. These allotments are not the prettiest; unlike traditional allotments with long neat rows most people have opted for some form of raised bed and, many are protected from predators by nets, plus there is widespread use of plastic matting to suppress the weeds. So I judged mainly on the quality and variety of crops grown.

Against these criteria this year's winner is Plot number 42, Roger and Marion Mills, with a wide variety of crops in excellent condition (above right)

A close second was Plot 4. A lot of work has been put in with imported topsoil and compost in the raised beds resulting in some fine crops. The owners are Kate Bolt, Charlotte Eardly & Daphne Reid aka the Crafty Chicks (middle right).

There are a number of other promising allotments. The double plot 5 & 26 (inset) is superb but as much of the work was done by the previous owner who retired last year I thought it unfair to give an award this year. However, I hope the new owner maintains this standard for next year. A lot of work has been put into constructing raised beds on Plot 8 (below right). I look forward to seeing them filled with crops

Cllr Eric Rose



News Watermead allotments

Hello from Compost Corner! **H**SCORCHIO - Well the Summer turned up and gave the grey weather a damn good kicking.

It was hard work over at the allotments - the ground was parched and to keep seedlings alive it needed a daily visit to water. Daily visits almost turned into nightly or morningly (it's a word and I'm the inventor) visits as the noon sun would cause the water in the watering can to catch fire before it reached the ground.

We suffered from greenhouse envy as Alyson, our next plot neighbour, turned up with a greenhouse the size of the ones at Kew. We look forward to seeing crops of mangos, coconuts and Dorian fruit out of her Crystal Palace - even though she's a Hammer.

There were new animals spotted this

year to join the managerie of hungry beasts. We now have Thumpers and Basil Brushes eating our crops and each other!

We welcomed new plot holders over the summer who have very enthusiastically thrown themselves into turning bare plots (not bear plots- they haven't been spotted yet) into lovely beds of produce. It's good to see them building and digging areas for their children to plant their own stuff and also bring toys and games to keep them amused. Well done - I think we'll soon have a winner from the newbies.

Cue the fanfare - this year's winner of the Allotment of the Year goes to Roger and Marion who have in my very humble opinion produced the best-looking plot every year. Their patch is always immaculate with perfect borders and the largest veg of anyone. They must have a diary of what

to plant and when because walking around their plot reminds us what we should have planted the month before. Well done and congratulations on your soon-to-be-presented trophy donated by Sue Severn.

We get married next year and now know what flowers we can grow for our wedding decorations. Our tables will look lovely dressed in grass and thistles. We've learnt that to provide enough flowers we need to start the seedlings earlier or hope Marion and Roger are on holiday at the end of July next year.

If you'd like a plot - I'm not going to pretend it's not hard work but the rewards can be amazing, please contact Noreen of the Parish Council

Happy Digging from Graham and Kelie-Marie



Managing Watermead's wild side - call for volunteers

Vale Countryside Volunteers is a working party set up to care for and protect the wildlife and countryside of Aylesbury Vale. Last year we had a very successful working day with them clearing excessive shrub and tree growth on some of the Parish Council Land on the far side of the lake.

We are pleased to announce that this organisation have agreed to have another working day on Watermead on Wednesday September 12th. They will bring tools and a core of skilled members but we also need some local volunteers to help them. Anyone who would like to help and enjoy a day working in the fresh air improving our environment should contact Noreen 01296 395211 or noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk

Report on National Federation of the Women's Institute (NFWI) Annual Meeting in Cardiff

On Tuesday 5th June 2018, we, the delegates, Bucks Federation Officers and some observers, boarded our coach at 11.50am at Bedgrove; it had made its first pick up in Buckingham. We then proceeded to Princes Risborough, Amersham, and High Wycombe – we were 48 in total on our coach.

We stopped at Chieveley services for lunch en route and arrived at our hotel in Cardiff, The Copthorne, at 5 pm. We all ate together in the evening – a buffet which we enjoyed.

After breakfast the following morning we were collected at 9am to be taken to the Motorpoint Arena – what a sight when we arrived there! Hundreds of women walking along to join a massive queue waiting for doors to be opened at 9:30 – the conference was starting at 10:30. We joined the queue and I chatted to some very nice ladies from Derbyshire while waiting and eventually got inside at around 10am. There were lots of commercial stands selling goods from handbags and scarves to holidays and special chairs (HSL); this was in addition to those stalls related to the WI.

Then to find one's seat. There were stewards to direct you, however with over 4,000 women all wanting to be seated in time, it took a little while to find the right seat. Delegates were in the 'stalls' and we were pretty tightly packed.

The first thing we did was to sing Jerusalem - I love the song - it was my school anthem (Thames Valley Grammar in Twickenham). Then Lynn Stubbings, NFWI Chair, opened the meeting by introducing all the Officers on the stage. She also pointed out that they were wearing purple, green and white corsages as a tribute to the suffragette movement. The floral arrangements on the stage were also of the same colours. She then talked about the roots of the WI in the UK; the Women's Institute Movement in Britain started in 1915 during the First World War; it was formed to encourage countrywomen to get involved in growing and preserving food to help to increase the supply of food to the war-torn nation. The first WI was formed in Wales at Llanfair on Anglesey, North Wales on September 16th 1915.

We were told that 19,000 new members had joined the WI in the past year making a total of 220,000 and 63 new WI's had formed.

The NFWI coat of arms was embroidered on a table cloth which is still used at NFWI meetings. The cloth was made by WI members from West

Kent and was first used at the AGM in the Albert Hall in June 1976. The Royal School of Needlework at Hampton Court have recently restored it. The WI motto is "For Home & Country".

It was mentioned that there will be a one off quiz show on BBC Radio 4 called 'WIQ'. The show will be presented by Jo Brand with Manchester WI and Cambridge Ladybirds WI taking part...It was being recorded on 11th June.

Julia Roberts then presented a financial report and announced that there had been a 6% increase of total income on the previous year. The majority of the WI's income comes from annual membership subscriptions, which is supported by funds raised by our trading arm, WI Enterprises. Other sources of revenue include grant-making bodies, educational trusts, commercial sponsors and investments.

Then, the Resolution: Mental health matters as much as physical health. The NFWI urges all members to recognise the importance of parity between mental health and physical health, and take action to make it as acceptable to talk about mental health issues as much as physical health issues, and to lobby government for better support for mental illness. This resolution was moved by Callow End WI, Worcestershire Federation.

The procedure was explained and then the speakers took to the stage for limited time to put their case for the resolution including an expert on the subject who spoke for 10 minutes. There was no speaker against, however one of the officers read out a statement. Points from the floor were then taken and these people were each limited to 2 minutes. There were some very emotional people making the case for the resolution. Voting then took place but the results were not given until the afternoon. The Resolution was passed with 5,945 WI's voting for and only 103 against.

After the voting we were treated to the first guest speaker, Dame Stella Rimington. She gave a very interesting and often humorous talk about her life and how she came to work for MI5. She had started her career with no real ambition or idea as to what she wanted to do but had done a secretarial course after finishing university.

After getting married her husband was posted to Kabul as First Secretary; she was bored and took a job as a part time clerk typist. She talked about how she came to be a "spy" and the changes in intelligence services that had taken place since that time. Most significant was that women were recruited as intelligence officers and

Watermead & Weedon WI

Programme for Autumn 2018:

6th September
"Sidney da Kidney"
Who? What? Come and find out
Cake sale for Six Counties Kidney Patients Association

4th October
A talk about the work of Aylesbury Town Chaplaincy

1st November
Annual Meeting and mince pie tasting

6th December
Christmas Quiz and Food

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

the training was geared up for males. She gave an example whereby she had to enter a public bar to make contact with an agent and she stuck out like a sore thumb! There were lots of other examples and anecdotes which were very amusing.

During the lunch break she was selling and signing her autobiography and one of her novels. After queueing for my lunch box I joined that queue and was lucky enough to get a copy of both personally signed by Dame Stella. After that I joined a queue for the ladies (which was actually a gents!) and then got in a queue for a coffee. In all queues I chatted to ladies from WI's around the country – all very friendly and pleasant. All with a story to tell. You actually did not feel on your own as everyone was in the same "boat". (I was representing not only Watermead & Weedon WI but also Berryfields and Aylesbury Town.)

After lunch there were some constitutional matters that were dealt with and then our second speaker, Huw Edwards, took to the stage. He said that he was very nervous speaking to such a large number of women despite his 30 year career as a newscaster and having broadcast to millions around the world, for instance, for the Royal

Wedding recently. He was state educated and had attended the University of Cardiff and spoke a bit of Welsh!

He talked about the WI campaigns including equal pay and related it to BBC employees, plastic pollution which has become a global campaign. He mentioned the BBC series on the subject by David Schukman. He also talked about mental health and how he had been affected at one point in his life. He also mentioned technology and addiction to mobile phones and how this affects social interaction. After Huw's talk there were a number of other talks including the success of 100 years of campaigning by the WI and the state of current campaigns such as end plastic soup, alleviating loneliness, food matters, care not custody, SOS for honey bees.

We were informed about the new My WI website which requires your email address and a password to access it. This was described as a 'one stop shop' for WI members. Here you will find everything you need to get the most from your membership – from essential information and advice for running your WI to campaign action packs and special interest projects for you to try.

One project that was highlighted was Walking Netball which has been described as "a wiggle and a giggle". Set up by Sport England following sports week we were shown a video of some WI members playing

walking netball; this has been featured on Breakfast News on TV. Apparently 350 WI's are interested in setting up teams.

The big finale included the anthems – we sang Jerusalem again and this time I felt quite emotional. We also sang Land of my fathers in Welsh!

I thought we were to return on Thursday but, oh no, why did I think that the WI would pay for so many people to stay over another night in a hotel? We returned after the meeting on Wednesday. For a start the meeting went on longer than planned and then there was a scramble for coaches. Some roads had been shut in Cardiff due to a pop concert taking place at the Millennium Stadium. So we were not allowed out of the building until our coach was outside ready to load!!! At last, at just after 6 pm, there was a big cheer when our driver pulled up outside. I eventually got home at just before 11 pm. It had been a long day but "an experience" I won't forget!

Mary Singleton

Answers to Tea Break Quiz on page 04

1. Lungs, 2. Greece, 3. 20 years, 4. Annus Horribilus, 5. Finland, 6. John Le Carre, 7. Berkshire, 8. Morphine, 9. Windscale, 10. Mega, 11. Pavlova, 12. The Bishop, 13. Red, 14. Peter Sutcliffe, 15. 1985, 16. Greece, 17. Bug, 18. 48, 19. Harold Wilson, 20. The Samaritans

Waterside Festival - a brand new event for Aylesbury!

This September, Aylesbury town centre will be awash with a vibrant mixture of stalls, activities and treats to suit everyone as Waterside Festival celebrates the past, present and future of Aylesbury's two-hundred-year canal history. The event will host a continental market, a floating market, canal boat trips, live music, street entertainment, water-based activities including kayaking and paddle boarding, arts & crafts, food tasters, refreshments and lots more. So save the date, Saturday 8th September 11am-6.30pm and visit the website for more information.



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At present they play in two leagues: The Bobi League which is played in Oxford City's ground and the Middlesex PAN Disability League in Ruislip. We are fortunate to have our own minibus to transport the teams.

We do a lot of fundraising events, including any at Buckingham Park and always welcome donations and are actively seeking sponsors for the 2018/2019 season.

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Another avian encounter

Pigeons are a pain aren't they? Pooing everywhere, waking me up at 5 o'clock in the morning. They seem particularly fond of my and my neighbour's roofs.

Last Spring my neighbour's solar panels stopped working properly, so, with much scaffolding and expense a team of experts investigated. Guess what! Three pigeon's nests were under there with babies in them. All but one of the babies were rescued and despatched to Tiggywinkles, solar function was restored and mesh put around the panels to prevent further squatters invading.

The remaining baby seemed due to fledge at any time and we both hoped that once it was airborne the adults would seek more appropriate accommodation.

Fast forward a week; I was hanging out some washing when I heard a bit of a clatter behind me. I looked round and saw a small white pigeon sitting outside the door to the conservatory. The door is at the side so does not open directly onto the main garden so it would not have seen me. It just stood there, looking around with that stupid expression pigeons have.

Despite their nuisance and my regular fantasies of despatching them from the roof with my Karcher pressure washer, I could not bring myself to frighten it off, so I busied myself in the garden. I wasn't really kitted

out for gardening – carpet slippers and no gloves – but it doesn't need much kit to pull up dead bluebells.

I kept sneaking a peep to see if it was gone, but it seemed to stay for ages. At last it was gone – or so I thought. As I approached the door I saw it sitting inside the conservatory, again just standing there looking around. Back to the bluebells and the occasional peep to check on its presence/absence.

At last it seemed to have gone. Wrong again. In the dining room now. 'This is getting too much' I thought. But I didn't want to frighten it in case it flew further into the house.

Since my encounter with the Jay last October (Winter 2017 edition) I have become much more interested in birds and I provide a vast buffet in the garden for their delight. So there were peanuts to hand and I ventured into the house with some and gently laid them down in the conservatory. Pigeonette ignored them and moved further indoors. I laid some on the dining room floor, but it turned its back and wandered up the hall. That gave me an opportunity to arm myself with a tea-towel from the kitchen. It must have seen me, but didn't seem at all alarmed. I crept up the hall behind it, waiting for the right moment to pounce. It stopped for a moment to investigate my handbag on

the hall floor, but nothing interesting there so made a right turn into the living room. Phew. That gave me an opportunity to get at my keys and unlock the front door. It didn't seem all that interested in the great outdoors and it took a bit of shooing to get it to leave.

Encounter over and only two little poos to clear up.

Carolynne McKee

PS. Birds in the house are supposed to bring bad luck, but that was the day before, when some daft taxi driver drove into the side of my car in Hemel Hempstead – and my daughter's car burst a tyre on the M25 in such a potentially dangerous place that the police closed the motorway and escorted them to safety! Well it was the 13th.

PPS. About ten days later a newly fledged starling entered my son's bedroom through an open window at 5 am. It wasn't nearly as laid back as the baby pigeon and caused quite a commotion before being encouraged to leave.

Is it just me – or do other people have uninvited feathery visitors? If you do, put pen to paper and tell us your story. Send it by email to mary.singleton@watermead-pc.gov.uk or address to the Parish Clerk and post at the Village Hall in the Piazza.



Have you spotted the Oystercatcher?

The Oystercatcher is a large, stocky, black and white wading bird. It has a long, orange-red bill and reddish-pink legs. In flight it shows a wide, white wing-stripe, a black tail and a white rump that extends as a 'V' between the wings.

Because it eats cockles, the population is vulnerable if cockle beds are overexploited. They breed on almost all UK coasts. During the last 50 years, more birds have started breeding inland. Most UK birds spend the winter on the coast where they are joined on the east coast by birds from Norway.

They eat mussels and cockles on the coast, mainly worms inland. However, they have found mussels in Watermead lake which is evidenced by the empty shells left on the bank!

More information can be found on the RSPB website.



Great Spotted Woodpecker

This youngster was about to fledge from a tree on the west side of the small Watermead lake. The photo was taken by Angela Dorrell at the end of May. She also saw a frog/toad swimming, and a snake swimming, probably a grass snake*, it was quite small.

Great Spotted Woodpeckers are the most widespread and numerous woodpeckers in the UK. They have a large range covering almost the entire Palearctic from Britain in the west to Japan in the east and reaching North Africa and the Canary Islands in the south-west. They are not found in Ireland or the far north of Scotland.

It is about blackbird-sized and striking black-and-white. It has a very distinctive bouncing flight and spends most of its time clinging to tree trunks and branches, often trying to hide on the side away from the



Our local Grey Heron
Photo taken by Eric Rose

observer. Its presence is often announced by its loud call or by its distinctive spring 'drumming' display. The male has a distinctive red patch on the back of the head and young birds have a red crown. They eat insects, seeds and nuts. Read more at www.rspb.org.uk.

*The grass snake, sometimes called the ringed snake or water snake, is a Eurasian non-venomous snake. It is often found near water and feeds almost exclusively on amphibians.

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

The Lackey Moth

A Watermead resident was rather worried when he found this in his apple tree in May. He sent a photo to the Forest Research lab in Farnham Surrey to find out what it was. He received the following response: These strange caterpillars are one of our native species, called the lackey moth, *Malacosoma neustria*.

Lackey moths are moderately common across the southern half of England and Wales. Groups of larvae can be found between April and June feeding on a variety of trees and shrubs, but are most often encountered on fruit trees and in hedge species, such as native roses, blackthorn and hawthorn. They don't present any human health risk but can cause considerable defoliation of the host plant if present in large numbers. However, even extensively defoliated shrubs usually recover by growing a second flush of leaves, so I don't see any cause for concern at the moment with your apples.

Lackey moth larvae live in colonies for most of their lives. Newly hatched larvae spin a small web between two or three leaves, but these larger larvae have built a more substantial 'nest' by spinning together twigs and branches in a thick web of silk. A large colony may form a nest up to 30cms long and 15cms wide which can be a conspicuous object on the host tree, especially if a lot of the foliage has been eaten. The larvae grow rapidly and by mid-June most will be about 50-55mm long and ready to disperse and find sheltered spots to pupate. The flight period of the adult moths, which are relatively dull brown in colour, is July to August.

So fortunately, no cause for alarm here. They can just be left in peace so continue doing their thing.

Dr Max Blake, Tree Health Diagnostic and Advisory Service



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.

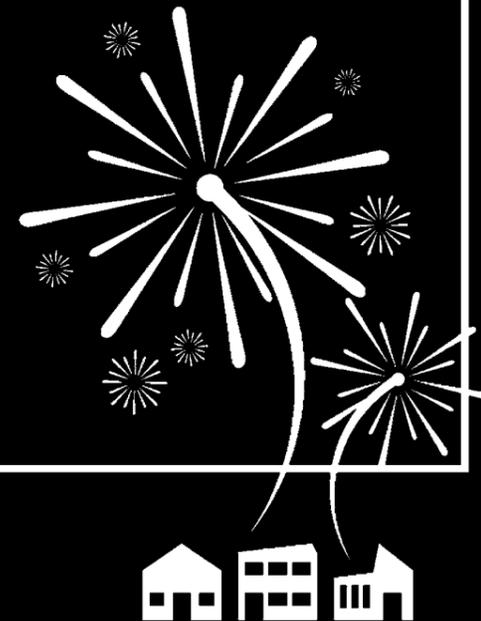
Please think of others and remember that fireworks shouldn't be let off between 11pm and 7am.

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



THAMES VALLEY POLICE





Larks by the Lake

We are delighted to announce that 'Larks by the Lake' 2018 made a grand total of £4,068 going over and above the target figure of £3,000 that we had hoped for. Below

is a schedule of how this has been divided among the charities voted for by the fete committee. Thank you all for making this event such a fabulous success including the organisers, the volunteers on the day, those who donated, and to those who came. All your money is going to some great causes:

Smiles	£1,000
Cygnets Pre-school	£1,000
Children's Play Equipment	£1,000
Scouts	£356
Cleft Lip & Palate Association (CLAPA)	£356
Children's Health & Therapy (CHAT)	£356

The money allocated to the children's play equipment is an amount that we are aiming to put towards a grant scheme that will hopefully bring in £10,000 to provide some children's play equipment to be situated near the outdoor gym. I have applied for this grant three times through my work and have been successful each time so fingers crossed this will be fourth time lucky! We don't lose any money either way. I hope you will all agree that the children and grandchildren of Watermead would love some outdoor play equipment to keep them all entertained for five minutes!

Thank you everyone. And a big thank you too to the Parish Council for their support. We have now organised an outdoor film night which we hope you enjoy (see page 06 for more details). And we are looking forward to next year's 'Larks by the Lake' too!

*Karen Collett
(on behalf of the Larks by the Lake committee)*



Autumn recipes

Roasted autumn vegetables with Lancashire cheese

Ingredients
1 large butternut squash (about 600-700g/1lb 5oz - 1lb 9oz in weight)
1 medium red onion,
1 large sprig fresh sage,
1 large courgette,
1 tbsp balsamic or sherry vinegar,
100g Lancashire cheese

- Method**
1. Preheat the oven to fan180C/conventional 200C/gas 6. Using a sharp knife, cut the squash in half and scoop out the seeds. Cut the halves into smaller pieces so you can peel them more easily. Chop the flesh into big bite-sized pieces – they don't have to be neat.
 2. Halve the onion and trim the root end leaving a little on to hold the segments together. Peel and then cut each half into four wedges. Scatter the squash and onion in a large roasting tin so they have plenty of room to roast. Drizzle over 5 tbsp of the oil and toss together. Strip the sage leaves from the stem and roughly chop – you should have about 2 tbsps. Scatter over the vegetables and season. Roast for 20 minutes, stirring once halfway through.
 3. Meanwhile, slice the courgette thickly and toss with the remaining oil. Remove the roasting tin from the oven and push the partly cooked squash and onion to the side. Put the courgette slices flat on the base and season. Roast for a further 10 minutes, until all the vegetables are tender.
 4. Remove tin from the oven, sprinkle the vinegar over the vegetables and toss. Crumble over the Lancashire cheese. Toss lightly so the cheese melts a little and serve.

Chicken Cacciatore

Ingredients
1 x 3lb (1.35kg) traditional free range chicken, jointed into 8 pieces,
1 tablespoon white wine vinegar,
salt and freshly milled black pepper,
1 tablespoon olive oil,
2 large-ish onions, peeled and thickly sliced,
1lb 8oz (700g) ripe red tomatoes,
2 large cloves garlic, peeled and crushed,
1 level tablespoon tomato purée,
1 level tablespoon fresh rosemary leaves, bruised and finely chopped,
1 bay leaf,
10 fl oz (275 ml) dry white wine

- Method**
1. First of all heat the oil in the casserole over a high heat and season the chicken joints with salt and pepper.
 2. Then, when the oil gets really hot and begins to shimmer, fry the chicken – in 2 batches – to brown it well on all sides: remove the first batch to a plate while you tackle the second; each joint needs to be a lovely golden-brown colour all over. When the second batch is ready, remove it to join the rest.
 3. Now add the onions to the casserole, turn the heat down to medium and cook for 8-10 minutes, or until they are softened and nicely browned at the edges. Meanwhile, skin the tomatoes. To do this, pour boiling water over them and leave them for exactly 1 minute before draining and slipping off their skins (protect your hands with a cloth if they are too hot), then chop them quite small.
 4. When the onions are browned, add the garlic to the casserole, let this cook for about 1 minute, then add the tomatoes, tomato purée, rosemary, bay leaf, white wine and white wine vinegar. Now add some seasoning and bring it up to the boil, then let it bubble and reduce (without covering) to about half its original volume, which will take about 20 minutes.

5. Now add the chicken pieces, stir them around a bit, then put the lid on and allow to simmer gently for 40 minutes, until the chicken joints are cooked through. This is good served with green tagliatelle, noodles, rice or a simple vegetable.

Plum & almond crumble slice

Ingredients
250g butter (this must be very cold),
225g caster sugar,
300g ground almond,
140g plain flour, plus 25g/1oz,
2 eggs,
1 tsp cinnamon,
1 tsp baking powder,
approx 6 plums, stoned and cut into sixths,
50g flaked almonds

- Method**
1. Heat oven to 180C/fan 160C/gas 4. Butter and line a 20 x 30cm baking tin with baking paper. Put the butter, sugar and ground almonds into a food processor, then pulse until the mixture resembles very rough breadcrumbs. Spoon out half the mix into a bowl and set aside.
 2. Add 140g flour into the mix in the processor and whizz until it just forms a dough. Tip into the tin and press down with the back of a spoon. Bake for 15-20 mins until golden. Leave to cool for 10 mins.
 3. To make the filling, put the remaining butter and the sugar and almond mix back into the processor, saving a few tbsp for the topping. Add the eggs, the 25g flour, cinnamon and baking powder and whizz to a soft batter. Spread over the base.
 4. Top with the plum pieces and a little extra caster sugar and cinnamon. Bake for 20 mins, then sprinkle with the remaining crumble mix and flaked almonds. Cook for another 20 mins or until golden. Leave to cool in the tin before slicing.

The 'Chaffinch' Community

The summer was marked by the 'Big Lunch' on 3rd June when the cul de sac was decked in banners and bunting and all were invited for a celebratory lunch, part of an initiative run by the Eden Project to promote neighbourliness. It was rightly borrowed in 2017 to commemorate the life and work of Jo Cox MP, tragically murdered in her prime. Turnout was fantastic and everybody had a wonderful time in the sun – a great advert to promote good neighbours and increase community feeling.

In the same vein, the community also came together to clear part of the overgrown area in the road. It was wonderful as more and more people appeared to help keep our locality clean and tidy. Perhaps this could be expanded to other parts of the village in an effort to maintain the standards we all love.

The photos show the fun had by all at the 'Big Lunch' and the clean up team (below) in full flow, results for all to see. It is a wonderful community to be in and with nearly all residents involved - let's hope we can expand it to everybody's benefit.

Lawrence, Chaffinch resident



Whitchurch Morris Men



to make this the main show of the day. Transport on that day was one coach and two cars, one loaned from the Vicar of Whitchurch; nowadays they use two or three 50-seater coaches. They have only missed one day of dance when this clashed with a London Ring meeting which was lucky as it poured with rain without letting up all day.

The side was admitted into the Morris Ring at the Thaxted Ring meeting on 27th to 29th May, 1949.

They still regularly dance with the Thaxted Morris Men each year at their Ring meeting which is held around the end of May/beginning of June each year.

Back to the present. Most of the members of the Whitchurch Morris Men come from around Aylesbury but there are others who have moved away to West Wales, Somerset, Cumbria and even Scotland but still dance with the group when they can.

They meet weekly on Tuesday evenings to practice in the winter (in Wilstone Village Hall) and to dance at local pubs in the summer. They also perform at fetes and festivals, and accept private bookings.

For further information visit www.whitchurchmorris.org.uk



This year the Whitchurch Morris Men celebrated their 70th anniversary. Other groups of Morris Men from around the country, including Devon, Cornwall and Leeds, joined them and they graced us with their presence in the Piazza on Saturday 30 June 2018. It was a very hot day but they still entertained us with their wonderful dance routines in the late afternoon. It was truly a spectacle.

In 1948 some of the men who danced with the country dance group at Whitchurch and Princes Risborough became interested in Morris dancing. They had no instructor, but they started to teach themselves using a book and records. Whitchurch six as they were known in the early days were the two Alderman, and four Hogston brothers.

The first class on record was held at Queen's Park School, Aylesbury, on 5th November 1948 and they were then joined by (the late) Jack Newton with his wife at the piano and Lionel Bacon as instructor (he had just moved into the area). Jack later became the fiddler of the team.

The first Whitchurch day of dance was Saturday 8th July 1950 when they were joined by clubs from Bedford, Headington, Oxford and St Albans. They danced all day round the villages north of Aylesbury, ending up with a massed show in the upper half of the Market Square in Aylesbury; an estimated 400 people watched this show.

Their log records that "the cobbles were not ideal". Over the years the Whitchurch men have got used to them, and still continue

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Sally's blog

What a hot summer we've had. Last time I wrote to you I had just had a clip. Thank goodness I had - if my fur had been left I think I would have spent the summer lying in cold water.

My cousin Ronnie is a constant companion, and he agrees with me that being a spaniel is sometimes quite difficult. We are constantly groomed, given preventative flea treatments, having to have burrs removed from our long silky ears, having our claws clipped, visiting the vet for inoculations and so on. Apparently all of this means our humans love us and look after us, so we count ourselves lucky.

I was telling you last time that there was going to be a dog show at Larks by the Lake. There was. Were Ronnie and I allowed to be in it? No! Our humans were organising the show, and since our lovely breeder, Debbie Bayliss, was judging it was not allowed. I don't know why. I appealed to the management (my friend Noreen) but she didn't overrule the decision. Never mind, I wasn't allowed to compete in the Berryfest Dog Show either, for similar reasons. The dogs taking part did enjoy it though I'm pleased to say.

This summer has seen me endure much, apart from the heat.

I was injured quite seriously in May by a piece of glass which a selfish person dropped and left on the pavement. It went into my paw and I couldn't walk properly. The lovely vet decided she needed to give me an operation to take the glass out so I had to go to the hospital and have an anaesthetic which made me feel most wobbly when I had apparently 'come round'.

I had a huge bandage on my leg and a scarf to wear saying I was a brave patient. I must say I was a very upset patient, how



dare humans not think of animals when behaving so selfishly. It could also have happened to a child or adult.

Other indignities suffered by pet dogs looked after by caring humans is the need to have a



treatment to prevent fleas and ticks which needs doing EVERY MONTH! Ridiculous! It means I must have my collar removed, some smelly stuff put on my neck which takes ages to dry. To be honest, I've never had a flea or tick so perhaps it works?

Us spaniels also need regular appointments with the groomer. Another indignity which involves bathing, clipping or other treatment after which our delightfully shaggy appearance is altered...but only for about 6-8 weeks when the whole process is repeated. Instead of worrying about the fleas and ticks, why not invent something to stop our hair growing in the first place?

Once my paw was better I was able to go out and enjoy running in the fields around Watermead, often joined by my cousin Ronnie, who stays with us quite a lot. I love Ronnie - he is younger than me, but much

more sensible apparently and much gentler, whatever that is. Perhaps I shall consider being that, when I find out how to do it as it seems popular with the humans.

We attended a number of social events together, including two birthday parties for my human dad and Ronnie's mum. We were given a champagne cork each. I had a small lick of champagne which I like very much.

Other treats include outings with Ronnie, my dachshund cousins and on my own to various places and events.

Us dogs are looking forward very much to the County Show at the end of August when we will be fielding four dogs between the humans. The humans have the cars sorted out with travelling arrangements in place. We hope they will still have room for their picnic lunch. We won't worry, we only have breakfast and dinner!

Lots of love, Sally



Aylesbury Aerial Photography

What is a 'drone'? Arguably any flying mechanical device which does not have a pilot. There are well established classes of military and commercial drones over which the Civil Aviation Authority exercises strict control via the Air Navigation Order 2016, which also applies to manned aircraft. Personal leisure use of a drone is covered by the same body of law. Individuals have been prosecuted for breaking it, and with rapidly growing use there is a proportionate increase in drone hazards to aviation and public safety. This year the government has announced plans to strengthen the regulations for an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) weighing more than 250g, involving registration, safety tests and increased powers to levy fines.

Having worked in the field of media production for many years, aerial photography seemed like the logical next step for me. But, as you will have gathered from the aforementioned comments, doing so legally and 'properly' has proved to be far from straightforward! Following some considerable thought and research I decided to take the plunge, acquire some quality equipment, do the full training course, and get a licence from the CAA.

My contact details on the right hand page.

Phil Toler

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Last chance to become human rainbow for the Hospice

Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity will be holding its 4th Colour Rush at Green Park, Aston Clinton on Sunday 7th October. The Charity urges Colour Rushers (new and old) to sign up quickly as this will be the last year for local people to get covered in colour for their Hospice.

"Each year that we've done the Colour Rush around 600 people have had a hilarious time running through clouds of incredible colour at this hugely fun event," says the Charity's Head of Fundraising, Jo Turner. *"Sign up very soon to help us make this event the most colourful ever!"*

Like last year, the money raised will support Florrie's Children's Team, providing respite care for children with life-limiting conditions in their own homes. Colour Rush has created fantastic memories for families who have done it, and children love it.

"It's the perfect thing to do with all the family, and you're allowed to bring your parents," says Hannah, aged 10. *"When you come out at the end, you have colours all over you."*

"You should do Colour Rush for the charity of Florence Nightingale because it's great to help and you can get covered in paint," says Aidan, aged 13. *"My favourite bit about Colour Rush was paint being chucked at me!"*

"Don't miss out on the fun," says Jo Turner. *"If you participated before and want to do Colour Rush again, or have been meaning to do*

Colour Rush and haven't got around to it yet, get registered this year, or miss out!"

To keep their events programme fresh the Charity will be introducing a new family fun event in 2019 as one of the ways of celebrating the Hospice's 30th birthday.

Colour Rush 2018 is a 5k romp through five colour stations and around Green Park in Aston Clinton at 11am AND 2pm on Sunday 7 October 2018. See website for more details at www.fnhospice.org.uk/colourrush



Watermead front garden competition

Our main issue last year was finding a single day without rain or heavy clouds, to be able to photograph the winning front gardens in their full glory. We have had an incredible summer this year, and the real challenge has been keeping our lawn green and the flowers colourful and perky. Quite a tough job, taking into consideration the overwhelming, unrestricted sun making our plants gasp for a drop of water.

Probably many of us can safely confess that we have not seen our grass and the grand balloon meadow change its colour from a deep green to a patchy "scorchy" yellow.

However, with great effort (read "many buckets of water") comes great satisfaction and a blooming front garden.

Of course, when we say "garden" we mean any type of floral or green, or even manufactured arrangement adorning the front of our houses. Given the restricted space for many of the local properties, we hope that you allow us to enlarge the meaning within the definition of a "garden".

All in all, it has been a much easier job this year judging the front garden competition. I personally managed to turn one of the many Sunday afternoon strolls we had the chance to have this summer into the decision-making tour combined with a photographic session.

Most of the properties nominated last year did not fail to enchant us this year, too. However, we thought it would be fair to give others the opportunity to feature, too.

Amongst our "regulars", we should, perhaps mention last year's winner of "best small front garden arrangement", **59 Lark Vale** (below). Their elaborate arrangement looked just as great this year, too. And we know for a fact that a lot of work goes into cleaning, tidying up and colour matching those gravel stones.



46 Lark Vale – Overall winner

The overall winner of the Watermead Front Garden Competition this year must be 46 Lark Vale. Their front garden is a floral triumph of colour and we hope you had the chance to walk past and admire the arrangements, too.



Another impressive display was also discovered along Waxwing Close. And the front garden of **3 Waxwing Close** must be this year's runner up for the overall best garden award. The garden mentioned is simply fascinating, and tells a story. The mosaic pot blends in the floral display and gives away a lot of hard work and dedication. The main arrangement we recognised a variety of Busy Lizzies and Begonias.

We have also revisited last year's overall winner, "The Red House" at **1 Plover Walk**. Their cottage garden looked just as beautiful and inviting. The secret could, be, perhaps, a little bit more shade and a lot of water, care and attention.

Big congratulations to all winners and to those featured, here's to a great summer! Irina Schwab



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