

VillageView

WATERMEAD'S *FREE* QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

Autumn 2022 Vol.29 Issue 3

Watermead Film Night
17th September
Balloon Meadow, from 5pm

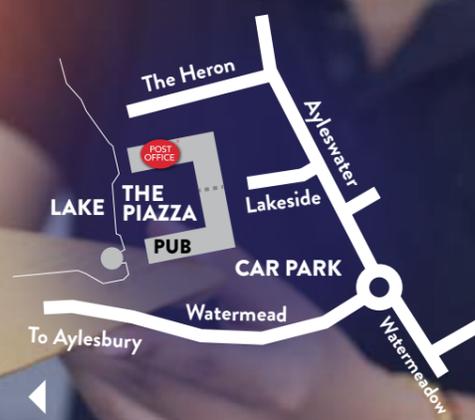
Photography Competition
See page 19 for more details



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

I can hardly believe we are already heading towards the end of summer as I write. The weather has been amazing, although the long, hot spell has its own difficulties in keeping cool, despairing of the garden, and actually looking forward to rainy days. They will probably be here by the time you read this!

This year we are so privileged to be back to normal, with open-air events, concerts, galleries, visits to friends and family and the 'normal' things we took for granted in the past reappearing and offering much fun and delight. With the difficult economic times it is not always possible to travel or go on outings but there were many free activities for children this summer, which is great. Our own modest playground with its new basket swing is very popular. Let's hope we can upgrade it soon with more equipment and improved gym.

There are many who are isolating and some unable to get out and about, but our community continues to support them and the Roman Park Trust, working with volunteers from other Aylesbury villages in providing food for an ever-increasing number of families every week. Food donations are still needed; there is a box outside the village hall or you can leave them with Watermead News. The Trust is keen to help, just

ask. There is no doubt that we are heading for a difficult period but our community will do its best to look after everyone; there is so much goodwill here. It's wonderful.

The Neighbourhood Plan is moving forward thanks to the team led by Cllr Mick Morgan. Mick's report on progress to date can be found in this edition. Do get involved and attend public consultations and tell us what you think. The Plan is about the future of Watermead. We all need to continue to make it a special and fit place for residents, families and businesses to enjoy and thrive making all possible improvements in our unique community.

After many delays from funding to planning, our improved walkway at the top of the large lake will shortly be open (writing in August) as phase 1 of the project to improve access for everyone. Costs increased a great deal between the original concept plan and work starting and the first phase will make a difference. We are very grateful to FCC Communities Foundation and the Buckinghamshire Council Community Board for their funding and making this project possible. It was the single most requested item in our first neighbourhood plan survey and we are pleased to have made a start. The second phase, completing the path by the crematorium onward has been delayed by the Environment Agency who

have not approved the plans for the bridge close to the river. We hope that this can be done in the near future.

The front garden competition has been judged. The Open Gardens event for Florence Nightingale was a bit later than usual this year and most of our gardens were past their absolute best. Next year we will hold the event in the middle of June which should enable us all to get everything in bloom – just like Chelsea. Well, we can all dream!

The Open Air Cinema is back this year and we very much look forward to seeing you there. The event is free, sponsored by advertisers, and the Events Committee have kindly decided to support Roman Park Trust this year. Please do come and support the event – it's always great fun. I will leave the committee to advertise the films but would like to formally thank them for their hard work in putting this event on for the community - it is much appreciated.

The next social events to put in your diary are the Christmas Fair which will take place in the village hall on Saturday 3rd December and the Carol Concert (with guaranteed visit from Father Christmas who will have a small gift for each child!) on Saturday 10th December. We hope you will come along and enjoy our traditional start to the festive season in Watermead.

Cllr Sue Severn, Chairman



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

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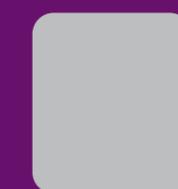
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(Weekdays 10am to 2pm)



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T: 395211 or 792137
(Weekdays 10am to 2pm)



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Watermead Platinum Jubilee event

Our Parish Council planned a community picnic on the Balloon Meadow on the afternoon of Sunday 5th June for the residents of Watermead to enjoy music and dancing to celebrate HM Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Picnics, blankets, chairs and gazebos were encouraged, and snack vans, gourmet burgers and ice cream were available to buy. Phil Gomm was our DJ and MC for the afternoon and live music was provided by local bands, The BBs and The Decades.

The highlight of the day was the Freedom of Watermead being finally presented, having been awarded during the pandemic. Our first Freeman are Albert Stevens (Stevie) 98, and David Lang. The honour has been awarded by the Parish Council to recognise the outstanding achievements of both gentlemen.

Stevie is a Chevalier de Légion d'honneur in recognition of his service to France during the D-Day Landings. Dave has been responsible for keeping Watermead litter-free for many years. He picks litter every day from our land and verges, keeping us looking our best. This would not be possible without Dave's contribution, for which we are most grateful. The Freedom includes the Freedom of the Village Hall and we sincerely hope that both Freeman will enjoy a celebration in the Hall soon.

We were so pleased that Roger Jefcoate, CBE, who recently retired as a Deputy Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, presented the awards. Roger is a great friend of Watermead and we enjoy his 'phantom planting' of black poplars as well as his support and help. Thank you, Roger.

The weather had been lovely during the special long weekend, however the forecast for Sunday was not so good. It was overcast and rather windy but thankfully we escaped with just a short,

light shower, but the cooler, overcast weather inevitably affected attendance. Sadly, both sets of dancers booked to perform decided to cancel due to the weather which was very disappointing. Phil Gomm encouraged children to come forward to have a go at limbo dancing which was a great success. Children of all ages took part and so did some of the parents! They were surprisingly competitive! He also organised dancing "the Twist" which was a lot of fun. Kelvin Wong and his vintage Airstream trailer provided drinks to quench everyone's thirst.

Children attending received a commemorative medal marking the Jubilee. Cllr Diana Blamires and Rob Butler MP joined us during the day. It was good to see them.

Finally, one of our commemorative coins and a banner are being included in a special Platinum Jubilee exhibit in Aylesbury Museum.

Cllr Sue Severn, Chairman



The Decades



Dave Lang receiving his award of the "Freedom of Watermead" from Roger Jefcoate CBE with Adrian Schwab, Deputy Chairman of Watermead Parish Council.



Stevie Stevens receiving his award of the "Freedom of Watermead" from Roger Jefcoate CBE with Adrian Schwab, deputy Chairman of Watermead Parish Council.



04 Dave Lang proudly showing his certificate with his wife, Marcia.



Kelvin Wong, Cllr Irina Schwab, Cllr Mary Singleton, MP Rob Butler, BC Cllr Diane Blamires.



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Children compete at limbo dancing



The BBs performing at the Jubilee Event



Dot Toler sheltering from the rain!



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What's on

...around Watermead

September 2022

7th Watermead Pub Lunch	The Watermead Inn
10th Neighbourhood Plan Open Day	Village Hall
15th Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7:30pm
17th Watermead Photographic Competition	www.watermead-pc.gov.uk
17th Watermead Film Night	Balloon Meadow, from 5pm

October

20th Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7:30pm
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November

2nd Watermead Pub Lunch	The Watermead Inn
17th Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7:30pm

December

3rd Watermead Christmas Fair	Village Hall, 11am to 4pm
7th Watermead Pub Lunch	The Watermead Inn
10th Watermead Carol Concert	The Piazza, 6pm

Our regulars in the Village Hall...

<p>Parish Council 3rd Thursday of the month (excluding August & December) Public meeting - 7.30pm Council meeting - 8pm</p>	<p>Kumon Maths Monday & Thursday 2.30 - 6pm Susan Jones 747469</p>
<p>Footsteps Pre-School Monday - Friday 7.30am to 2pm Closes 12.30pm Tuesdays 07743 871369 watermead@footsteps-nursery.co.uk</p>	<p>Jo Jingles Tuesdays - Music & Movement 1.30 - 2.15pm 18 months upwards 2.30 - 3.05pm 6 months to walking (approx 18 months) Debbie Bird 625599</p>
<p>Scrapbooking/Card Making Any Craft Of Your Choice Crafty Chicks 4th Friday of the month from 6.30pm Contact Kate 07952 477702 kate@boltweb.net</p>	<p>Castielli Dance School (for children) Monday 6-7.30pm Janet Castielli 433956 www.luv2dance.co.uk</p>
<p>Aylesbury & District Philatelic Society Second Wednesday of the month 7.30 - 10pm Peter Barnes 612913</p>	<p>Bring Your Own Crafts Afternoon Every Wednesday 2.30-5.30pm Judith Muston Noreen 01296 39511</p>
	<p>Inkstampshare Paper Craft Class 07952 477702 kate@boltweb.net Inkstampshare.ink</p>

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 / 792137

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View from Westminster



As the summer draws to a close, MPs are preparing to return to Parliament. It has been a particularly eventful past few months in Westminster, with the Prime Minister announcing his resignation and the Conservative Party selecting our new leader. I believe that Boris Johnson was right to decide to step down. He has achieved a tremendous amount for our country - securing Brexit to respect the referendum result, steering us through Covid and out of lockdown, and leading the international response to Russia's illegal and inhumane invasion of Ukraine. But questions over his personal leadership, particularly details of the circumstances that emerged about the appointment, behaviour and departure of the former Deputy Chief Whip, showed me that the necessary lessons had not, after all, been learnt in Downing Street - despite the repeated reassurances I had received. That is why I resigned as Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Foreign Secretary and colleagues across the Parliamentary Conservative Party made

it clear to the Prime Minister that he could not continue. Loyalty in politics is very important, and so this was not an easy decision for any of us given Boris Johnson's huge mandate from both Party membership and the electorate, but it was ultimately the right thing to do.

Conservative Party members have been voting over the summer and the new leader - and Prime Minister - will be announced on 5th September. I am confident that we will then be able to move on and deliver our commitments to the British people, nationally and locally.

While the Party leadership contest has gripped headlines recently, the summer recess was also a busy time for my team and me in the constituency. I visited many local organisations, such as manufacturers Gibbs Gears and LundHalsey. But best of all has been spending time with local residents and hearing about the issues that matter most to them. As Parliament returns, I will continue to provide a strong voice for people across the whole of the Aylesbury constituency, ensuring our area becomes an even better place to live, work, visit and invest.

Robert Butler MP

Remember, remember, the fifth of November!

Are you familiar with the laws around fireworks?

- It is illegal to sell fireworks to under 18s,
- It is illegal for a person under 18 to possess an adult firework in a public place. This excludes sparklers, caps, cracker snaps, novelty matches, party poppers, serpents and throw downs,
- It is illegal to set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am except 5 November - extended to midnight.

When celebrating Bonfire Night this year, please continue to follow the legislation around Coronavirus to stop the spread of the deadly virus and help keep people safe. Police officers will be conducting extra patrols around Bonfire Night.

As an emergency service, we will always prioritise 999 calls so you may experience a delay when making a non-emergency call on 101. If your call is not an emergency, you can report a crime or anti-social behaviour to us online. A dedicated team of operators work 24/7 to read and act on reports that are submitted, meaning you don't have to wait on hold for your 101 call to be answered.

- Report a crime,
- Report anti-social behaviour,
- Report a possible breach of Coronavirus.

Please remember that fireworks can legally be set off between 7am and 11pm, and on Bonfire Night between 7am and midnight. We will not respond to reports of fireworks during these hours.

Remember:

- Fireworks are noisy which can upset very young or elderly people as well as pets,
- Fireworks can cause damage and serious injuries if not used properly,
- Small fires should be reported to the Fire & Rescue service on 999. Small fires can quickly escalate and firefighters are better equipped to deal with these situations,

As always, if a crime is in progress or if you feel your life is in danger, then call 999. For non-emergencies, you can report crimes and anti-social behaviour online or by calling 101.

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





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Autumn Recipes

SCANDINAVIAN MEATBALLS WITH MASH AND CRANBERRY SAUCE

Serves 6

Ingredients:

1kg minced pork (or veal, or a mixture of both)
2 small eggs
15ml cream
72gm fine dry breadcrumbs
60gm onion, finely chopped
6gm allspice
3gm nutmeg powder
12ml vegetable oil
salt
cracked black pepper

Method:

1. Mix the first 7 ingredients and season well.
2. Scoop out tablespoons and roll each into a ball weighing around 35gm.
3. Heat oil in a frying pan and fry the meatballs in batches for about 10 minutes, shaking the pan to brown them on all sides.
4. Take out of the pan and drain on kitchen paper. Keep warm.

RED WINE SAUCE

Ingredients:

30gm shallot, finely chopped
12ml olive oil
1 garlic clove, lightly crushed
7gm fresh rosemary
9ml balsamic vinegar
240ml red wine
480 ml beef stock
9gm butter
Salt and Pepper

Method:

1. Saute the shallots in a medium saucepan with the oil over a high heat for about 3 minutes until lightly browned, stirring often.
2. Season with ground black pepper and add the garlic and rosemary.
3. Continue cooking for a further 3 minutes, stirring often to prevent the shallots burning.
4. Pour in the vinegar and cook until evaporated away to a syrup, then pour in the wine and cook until reduced by two thirds.
5. Pour in the stock and bring to the boil. Turn down the heat and simmer until reduced by two thirds again.

6. Remove the rosemary. Add a little salt to taste and finally a knob of butter.

MASHED POTATO

Ingredients:

1kg potatoes
350ml hot milk
60gm unsalted butter, at room temperature
Salt and pepper to taste

Method:

1. Place potatoes in a large pan with a little salt and add enough cold water to cover potatoes.
2. Bring to the boil and cook, partially covered, until easily pierced with a knife (20-25 minutes depending on the size of the potatoes).
3. Drain well and mash with a fork or electric whisk on a low speed and slowing drizzle in hot milk.
4. Then add softened butter, a little at a time, waiting a few seconds between each addition. Potatoes should be whipped and fluffy.
5. Finally add salt and pepper to taste.

CRANBERRY SAUCE

Ingredients:

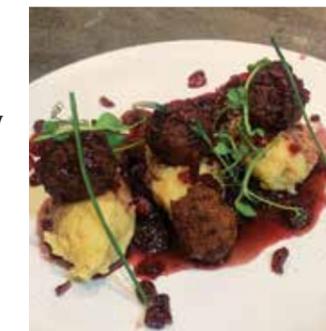
350gm frozen cranberries
240ml water
40gm sugar

Method:

1. Place berries in saucepan. Add water and bring to the boil.
2. Add sugar and stir to dissolve. Simmer for 20 minutes.

Serve as per the photo.

Provided by Susan McCabe who was impressed with this dish when served on board her recent cruise to the Fjords.



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Remembrance Day

As November begins, bright red poppies start appearing on people's clothing, in shops, in train stations, on cars, and more, as the UK observes Remembrance Day. Throughout the month Britain honours the lives that were lost in service of the country and thanks the Armed Forces of Britain and the Commonwealth. Tributes are also paid to the families of the Armed Forces community and the emergency services, and the lives of innocent civilians who were lost in conflict. Acts of terrorism are also acknowledged.

Remembrance Day, also known as Armistice Day, falls on 11 November, as it does every year. The occasion is also marked on the second Sunday of November, known as Remembrance Sunday, with a minute's silence at 11am. The National Service of Remembrance is held each year on this day at the Cenotaph on Whitehall, London, commemorating "the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women in the two World Wars and later conflicts".

What does the red poppy symbolise?

The red poppies are worn as a show of support for the Armed Forces community and is a symbol of "both Remembrance and hope for a peaceful future", says the Royal British Legion (RBL).

During World War 1, parts of the UK's countryside were destroyed amid bombing and fighting. But bright red poppies flourished in the muddy fields and inspired a poem by Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae. This now-famous poem, "In Flanders Fields", then inspired American academic Moina Michael to adopt the flower in memory of those who were lost in the war.

Following a campaign to have the flower adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the US, Michael worked with others who wanted to do the same in Canada, Australia and the UK. Today, the red poppies are worn across the country in tribute to the Armed Forces and the RBL's Poppy Appeal raises funds to help veterans with housing and jobs. Around 40,000 volunteers now distribute 40 million poppies each year.

WATERMEAD REMEMBRANCE DAY 2022

Friday 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



Tea Break Quiz



1. Which element is found in shells, bones and teeth?
2. Which flower is also called the Woodbine?
3. Which is further west, Bognor or Bournemouth?
4. In which century was the Battle of Agincourt?
5. Ronald Reagan was in which political party?
6. What is on top of the Mona Lisa's left hand?
7. Where is the Sea of vapours?
8. Who did Jackie Kennedy marry in 1968?
9. What kind of vessel was the Torrey Canyon?
10. What can be a short jacket or a dance?
11. The dish Eggs Florentine contains which vegetable?
12. What did MGM stand for?
13. In which country is Chernobyl, scene of a nuclear leak when it was still part of the USSR?
14. Andy Warhol's 60's exhibition featured cans of which product?
15. Who was British Prime Minister when World War 2 broke out?
16. Which country took the name Myanmar officially in 1989?
17. Who wrote The Great Gatsby?
18. Who presented the first edition of Top of the Pops?
19. Who or what did Barbara Woodhouse train?
20. 'Love apple' is an archaic term for what?

Answers on page 29

Lindengate Charity – better Health and Wellbeing for all through Nature

It's been an incredible year so far at Lindengate. Our 6-acre site has never looked more stunning with new areas including our Heritage Orchard, Forest Walk and Yurt and Gardens, attracting more wildlife and creating additional, biodiverse environments. We continue to grow (excuse the pun!) our wildflower, plant and tree collections and a wide selection are available to purchase. In addition, our team of expert volunteers work tirelessly to craft hand-made wooden items including wildlife boxes, benches and planters details of which can be found on our website.

Having recently been awarded the Green Flag Community Award for green spaces, along with our Queens Award for Voluntary Services and Gold Award for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR-A), we are incredibly proud of our team, community of volunteers and supporters who have helped Lindengate become a multi award winning charity.

Our programmes have never been more needed by our community with a variety of wellbeing programmes which are all fully-integrated with regard to age, ability, etc including our open gardens, free for all, on

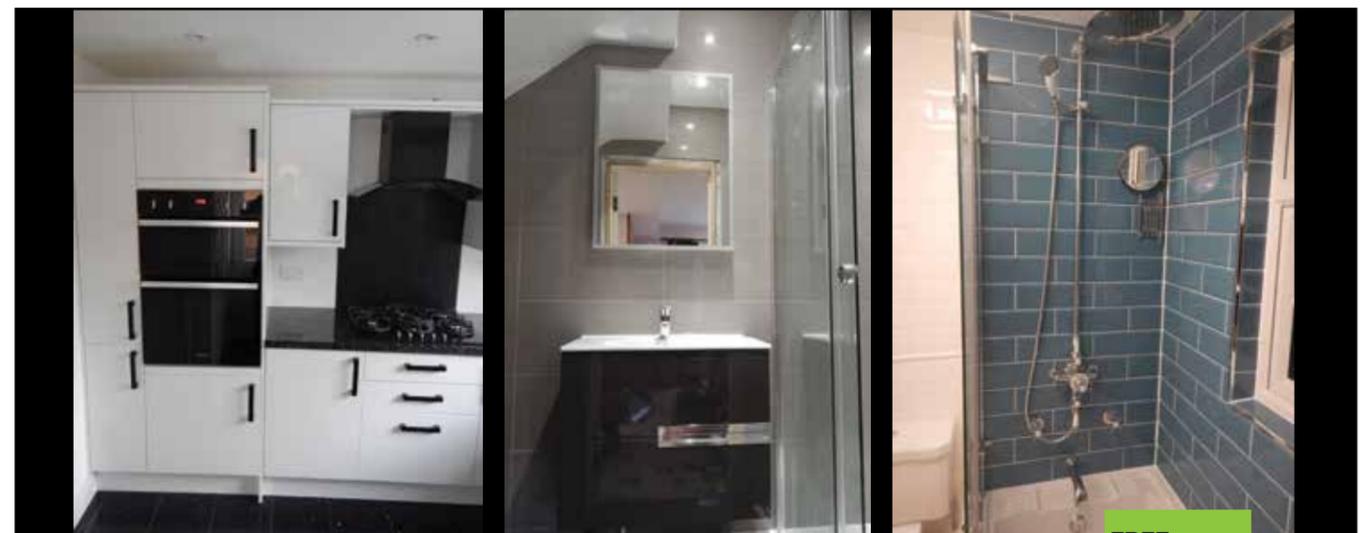
Wednesdays 4.30 – 7.30pm and Saturdays 1.30 – 4.30pm. Green Volunteers, for those who are 13-18 years, work with our team weekly in our Nature Reserve, and Memory Pathways for anyone living with dementia or memory loss and their carers.

If you're looking for that unique venue to hold your special event, whether a birthday afternoon tea or a team meeting, our Yurt and Gardens are available for hire.

Lindengate welcomes new volunteers; so if you would like to join a warm and friendly Community and meet new friends who work together to support the wellbeing of people and the environment and help us maintain the beautiful 6-acre Lindengate gardens, go



to our website www.lindengate.org.uk where you'll find full details of volunteering, our programmes, items for sale and venue hire.



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Neighbourhood Plan Update

Following on from the previous full update in February 2022, which was duly communicated via the Parish Council meeting, Village View and various other media outlets, the latest progress can be seen as follows. Following positive feedback and advice from our 'expert' retained consultant, the agreed next steps are:

1. The NP Team has re-engaged Sally Chapman, Planning Consultant, to develop final wording for the 'Aims, Objectives and Vision' in relation to the Neighbourhood Planning Document. Sally Chapman is now finalising.
2. Completion of the Land Assessment Survey is now at the final stage and will follow the formal process which is set out in the NP guidelines. It is important that all 'pockets' of land are identified and assessed against the criteria. This will enable the RAG report to be completed and subsequently communicated within the Plan.
3. Sally Chapman has now given members of the team subject matters to include within our plan and this includes:
 - Concept/History of Watermead (S Mackay)
 - Sustainability (I Schwab)
 - Village Amenities including Highways and

- Transport (NP Team)
- Wildlife and Biodiversity (TBD)
- Completion of Land Assessment (P Dean and N Shardlow)
- 4. Through the Ministry of Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Neighbourhood Planning Programme led by Locality, AECOM has been commissioned to provide design support to Watermead Parish Council.

This document seeks to support Neighbourhood Plan policies that guide the assessment of future development proposals and encourage high quality design. The team had their initial meeting and a Design Code will be developed in due course.

What is a Design Code?

The Governments Planning Policy Guidance defines design codes as: "A set of illustrated design requirements that provide specific, detailed parameters for the physical development of a site or area." I am reading this, as any new development would need to complement the existing design/concept.

Content also needs to be informed by the 10 characteristics of good places as set in the National Design Code, which are:

1. Identity
2. Built Form
3. Movement
4. Nature
5. Public Spaces
6. Uses
7. Homes
8. Buildings
9. Resources
10. Lifespan

A design code can be appended to the Neighbourhood Plan.

The next phase of engagement with both Residents and Businesses will take place; through publicly open events and communications through agreed media platforms. It was agreed at the June Parish Council meeting that an Open Day will take place at the Watermead Village Hall on Saturday 10th September 2022.

Whilst 1, 2 and 3 take place, the Neighbourhood Plan Team will continue to gather the required Technical Evidence which will be included to support the content of the Plan.

Mick Morgan

awa
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Would you like to volunteer?

The number of children and young people aged from 4 to 17 involved in Scouting is increasing. Numbers recently released from The Scouts show increases in all the different sections. Across Buckinghamshire there has been an increase of over 11%. The number of children in Beavers (boys and girls aged 6 to 8) has increased by over 22%, with the numbers in Scouts (boys and girls aged 10 to 14) increasing by nearly 12%. However, the number of children on the waiting list is nearly 3800.

James Palin, Lead volunteer for Buckinghamshire Scouts said, "Since the restrictions were lifted, we have been inundated with requests for children to join. During lockdown many children were unable to participate in activities. We were able to meet during the pandemic although many of these meetings were virtual. However, our brilliant volunteers were able to come up with some innovative ways of keeping the children entertained. These included virtual camps, reptiles via zoom, lego building, again via zoom along with lots of games and scavenger hunts in people's own houses. We have also been able to do walks in the woods, bike riding, athlete badge, local knowledge, pioneering, water rockets and lots of other activities."

James added, "We provide a wide range

of activities for children and young people and from these activities they will learn lots of skills that will help them throughout their lives. These will range from helping others and team building skills, cooking, budgeting, leading a team and planning activities. We know that many of our younger volunteers have used their experience of being in Scouts to help them get into university, get apprenticeships, and job interviews."

James went on to say, "We are looking for volunteers so more children and young people can get involved in numerous activities. Not only are we looking for people to work with children and young people, we are also looking for people to work in the background. These roles can include being Treasurer of a Group, looking after the HQ or helping with fund raising." He finished by saying, "Whatever time you can give us, we will find a role for you."

For further information about getting involved with The Scouts, go to www.scouts.org.uk



Regarding 31st October: Hallow's Eve - Not Halloween

*No witches on broomsticks flying around,
Or ghosts and goblins floating off the ground,
No trick or treat to play and run,
Satan makes you think that is fun.
That's how he works in your mind.
Prowling round, the innocent to find.*

*The truth is far from this you see,
It's a night of prayer for you and me,
The eve before All Saints Day
Is a time for worship and to pray
To rid the evil from our shore
It is what's needed more and more.*

*So don't be deceived or misled
Turn to the earth's creator instead.
As followers of Christ we must stand fast
And Halloween's darkness out it is cast.
Dedicating the time to love and light
And not to the horrors of a spooky night.*

Beverley Harris, Aylesbury Vale U3A

NO TRICK OR TREAT

please do not disturb, thanks



Film Night

We are really looking forward to our first open air cinema night since 2019. Preparations are underway and the committee is very busy planning what is set to be a fantastic night with two films, *Encanto* and *Dirty Dancing*. This year we have the added entertainment of live music from Callum and Jodie (Watermead residents) to play until the sun goes down and we are able to start the films. Music starts from 5pm and food vendors will also be serving from then so please come down as early as you can and enjoy the evening.

We are incredibly lucky to have our sponsors without whom this event would not be possible:

Amersham Insurance Broker/Samella Travel, Stem Group Technologies, The Flower House, Sandy's Plumbing, GK Plumbing, Angela Payne, Avanti Salon, Fextra Limited, Howse Electrical, Dalesford Plumbing, I-Mop Clean Ltd, Legacy Funeral, Grant & Stone, Darren Smith Builders, Salt Kitchen, Martin Bence Castra Solution, Dave Lucas, ACC, Thermacell, Total Recool, Note 2 Note Accountant, Foster Kemp, Grazeys Days, Brown & Merry, Shared Creative, Miya Japanese Restaurant and Grill, The Watermead Inn

A special thank you to George David estate agents who have given us a larger donation this year.

If you would still like to sponsor us please get in touch via Watermeadevents@gmail.com. Our posters and banners are in the process of being printed but we can advertise your company on the night.

This year with the cost of living affecting everyone we are so pleased to offer a free event for all the family. If you can donate on the night with cash (we will be shaking buckets!) our chosen charity is Roman Park Community Trust who have helped so many in our community and surrounding area and continue to do so.

Thank you to our committee for all their hard work as ever. A special thanks to Noreen Shardlow who does all the nitty gritty and boring paperwork which I'm sure you'll believe is quite extensive! Now all we need to do is pray for good weather!

Karen Collett, Watermead Events Committee

Councillor Vacancies

A Notice of Vacancy has been placed on Watermead Parish Council Notice Boards. There are two vacant positions on the Parish Council. Please send enquiries to our Parish Clerk noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk or telephone 01296 395211

If you don't want to be disturbed by Halloween callers cut out the notice on the left and display it in a prominent position by your front door.

This is a Thames Valley Police Community Safety Campaign to:

- Protect the elderly and vulnerable
- Protect unsupervised children
- Reduce trick or treat vandalism

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Dirty Dancing
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A summer's day on Watermead's allotments

We are living in weird times; take for instance our weather. I, like many of you, find solace or peace and quiet in gardening but just recently it has been far too hot to stay working for long. In this heat a good wide umbrella, a comfortable chair and a good book seem more appropriate. The hot weather also plays havoc with planting plans. This year gardeners are complaining about different crops not growing or growing later or early etc. The berries seem to have done well though this year, so much so shopkeepers are saying they have a glut. I have frozen at least three one-litre plastic tubs of raspberries for enjoyment during the winter months.

Every year the Gardening Society has a competition to find the best allotment, and every year it is guess when to hold the competition because of various weather factors slowing or speeding up the growing process. This year matters were made harder because the two judges from the Aylesbury Gardening Society could not take part. Brian Saunders stepped in at the last minute and we owe a debt of thanks to him for doing such a good job.

To make the competition as fair as

possible marks are given for all the normal groups of British vegetables, for example beans, brassicas, etc. Extra marks are also given if the plot number is displayed, there are signs of composting, and the general appearance and cleanliness of the plot. It was obvious that many had worked hard on their plots. They had added flowers to add a touch of colour or had laid clear paths between beds using the free chippings. Despite the wild animals availing themselves to free meals there was a great variety of vegetables displayed. The winner was Alison May on plot 9/10, with runner-up Ray Smith on plot 58. Congratulations to them both. They each had a wide variety of vegetables, flowers and fruit and the plots were clean and well laid-out.

Both Alison May, Ray Smith and the rest of us can now enjoy the fruits of our endeavours. I have had an extremely good crop of potatoes this year with very little evidence of worm damage. The beans are delicious and, as ever, the courgettes and squashes are growing quicker than we can eat them.

Over the last couple of years, a group of very enthusiastic allotmenters have joined us and have taken an interest in making

the site better for all. We now have two colourful large tubs of flowers and small shrubs either side of the entrance. The grass has been kept trimmed and litter removed. The group, more importantly, have started a "WhatsApp" group to encourage allotment-holders and help keep in touch with each other. When you sow seeds, you always end up with more plants than you need so I was pleased to see people having the means to give away their surplus plants. The group have also encouraged newcomers with advice or help. We all get overcome in June and July by the rate the weeds grow and occasionally take over; that's when a word or the offer of help really helps.

I hope I stirred your interest in this fascinating hobby enough for you to think about renting an allotment plot. If so, please contact the Parish Clerk, Noreen, for more information. The start of the year is January. So, whether we get a hose-pipe ban, no rain or even more sunshine, I hope you are enjoying the fruits of your garden or allotment, if not enjoy your book.

*Peter Smith,
Chairman of Watermead Garden Society*



First prize went to Alison May on plot 9/10



Second prize was awarded to Ray Smith on plot 58

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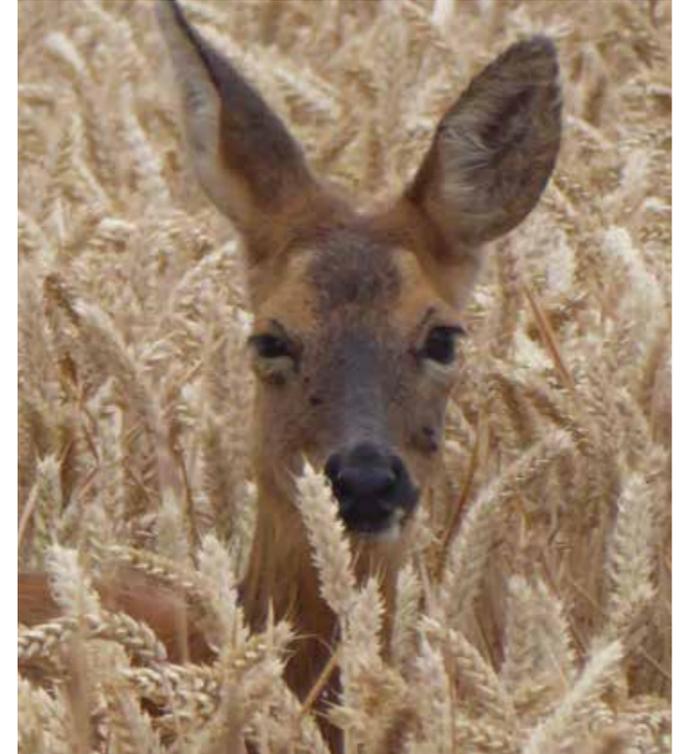
There were a pair of Egyptian Geese on the big lake for a while and they are intermittent visitors. Photo by Ron Adams - June '22



Black Headed Gull



Eric Rose spotted this juvenile Black-Headed Gull on the morning of 9th July.



A roe deer in the wheat field behind Watermead taken by Eric Rose in July.

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Juvenile Great Spotted Woodpecker with an adult male, which flew off as soon as I opened the window was spotted in my garden. Taken by Eric Rose on 18 June.



Bill Dennis took this photo of a lovely green, female Banded Demoiselle. Willow Emerald is much more delicate with clear wings and usually perches facing upwards.



A Green Woodpecker spotted in Eric Roses's garden in August.

Watermead Village - a brief history

Plans for Watermead Village were made by Royco in the 1980s with the idea of creating a self-contained, executive village that would bring new sports facilities, accessible green spaces, and a better quality of housing to the town of Aylesbury. The estate is built on green belt land. At the planning stage the designers were required to pay heed to the ecology of the local area to help protect the environment. Central to the plans therefore was an extensive lake that would become a haven for wildlife and many wild birds. The lakes also provided a flood defence which was essential given the fact that the fields on which Watermead were built were a flood plain.

Around eighty bones from a 152-million year-old, 25 foot long Pliosaur, a top predator of the Jurassic seas, were discovered when the lakes were being excavated at Watermead.

The Watermead Pliosaur lived 152 million years ago, when today's Vale of Aylesbury was under the sea. These are now exhibited in Aylesbury Museum.

Soil dug from the lakes was used to make an artificial Ski Slope, and a Ski Lodge was built to provide space for specialist equipment hire on the ground floor, with a bar and club room on the first floor.

The developers also built a Cricket Pitch along with a Cricket Pavilion, and a floodlit jogging track around both lakes.

The central point of Watermead is the Piazza which boasts a fountain in the centre

and is surrounded by a variety of shops. These include a Newsagent and Store, a Chinese Take Away, a Hairdressers, a Dentist and a Vet as well as our Village Hall.

There is also a large restaurant/bar with a bandstand over the lake. Above the shops are an assortment of one, two and three bedroomed flats.

With steps leading down to the lake it is an extremely popular place to meet, and to admire the lake and its wildlife.

Blocks of individual homes were built to the north of the development, and in the early days (1986) houses were auctioned off before being built as they were so much in demand.

However, towards the end of the 1980s the economy slowed and Royco started selling off plots of land to other builders to try and stay afloat (they even sold the Cricket Pavilion), but to no avail and they finally had to cease trading.

Building companies purchased various plots of land and developed them, and over the next few years, the rest of Watermead was completed, although not as it been originally planned by the original architects John Evennett Associates.

Over its short lifetime Watermead has changed. The Ski Lodge became a Restaurant and then (after great resistance from the majority of Watermead residents) was replaced by a Crematorium. The Ski Slope is now landscaped with a walkway going to the top. With the loss of the Cricket Pavilion and an ongoing legal dispute over

the cricket pitch, the Cricket Club is sadly no more.

However, we now have a thriving Fishing Club, The Piscatorials, based on the small lake, and we have a waiting list for our Allotment plots. The old Cricket Pavilion is now a Day Nursery, which is used by many Watermead residents as well as others from a wider area.

We are lucky to have two gyms, one indoor facility complete with a swimming pool, and an outdoor gym. We also have a Great Western Hotel at the entrance to our village, and a Nursing Home that looks out over the small lake.

The jogging track around the lakes is still being used and is currently undergoing a complete refurbishment.

And with the years has come more beauty, with once young trees growing into maturity and with the variety of wildlife expanding and becoming more established year after year.

Watermead became a Parish on 18 June 2001 which has helped enormously with the Parish Council now running the village and its amenities, as well as arranging some social events throughout the year.

Every three months we publish the Village View Magazine which is paid for by its advertisers and has been going in one form or another from not long after the first residents moved into Watermead. It was originally called 'The Bluster'.

Stuart Mackay



TOP LEFT: The Piazza under construction.

TOP RIGHT: The road into Watermead taken from the bridge.

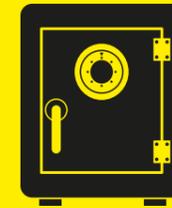
BOTTOM LEFT: The skeleton of a Pliosaur, which was 25ft long.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Watermead's first birthday party by the original Ski and Sail (which burnt down).

BOTTOM RIGHT: A copy of 'The Blusterette' which is now called 'Village View'.



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Take part in this year's Watermead Photo Competition

Open to all Watermead Residents

Following on from our previous successful events we will be holding another Photo Competition this year. The Exhibition and judging will be in September.

You can submit up to 2 photos in each of 3 categories:

Beautiful Watermead - Landscapes and Wildlife.

People and Events* - We would particularly like to see photos of this year's Jubilee celebrations in this category.

Open Category - shots of anything you want.

NB Entries in the "People and Events" category can include photos taken before activities were restricted due to Covid-19. The first two categories are open to

anyone who enjoys Watermead whilst the third category is only open to Watermead residents.

It is not necessary to have an expensive camera - some of the winners in previous years have been photos taken with phones. Get shooting now and save some of your best shots for the competition.

Your entries should be sent digitally to noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk. The exhibition will be available on the Parish Council website: www.watermead-pc.gov.uk from Saturday 17th September.

The closing date for submission of photos for the competition will be 5pm on Monday 12th September 2022.

Watermead Open Gardens

Several Watermead residents opened up their gardens in the afternoon on Sunday 10th July as part of Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity's annual floral fundraiser. Maps showing the location of the properties to be visited were sold at WM News and the Watermead Inn at £6 for individuals and £10 for a family.

There were cold drinks, plants and advice being offered in exchange for a donation towards the charity.

There was a steady stream of visitors to the gardens despite the immense heat on one of the hottest days of the year.

We raised £176.79 for FNHC during the afternoon.

If you're really passionate and proud of your garden and want to share it with your local community, then why not be part of this event next year which is expected to take place in June.

Whatever the size, location or theme of your garden, if you're interested in opening up yours to the public and help raise much needed funds for this worthwhile Charity, then please get in touch with our Parish Clerk at noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk and she will add you to the map.

FNHC fund over £1,000,000 of specialist palliative care services each year for patients across Buckinghamshire and its borders, both at Florence Nightingale Hospice in Aylesbury and in the community.

Every year the Hospice supports over 1,100 patients and their families, and we expect the number needing our care to grow each year with a growing and ageing population in the county. Thank you for supporting this event to ensure those in the future have access to the same high quality hospice care and support as patients today.



Sue & Graham Severn, 19 Curlew



Mary Singleton, 6 Redwing



Platinum Jubilee comes to 28 Ayleswater



Winner of Front Garden Competition

Despite the very hot weather and lack of rain this summer, many Watermead residents managed to produce some beautiful front gardens, some with large pretty hanging baskets and lots of pots and others with lovely flower arrangements. As always it was a difficult decision to choose a winner but, after much consideration, our judges decided on just one this year which has been awarded to Pat Stevens and her son, Giles, who live at 12 Ayleswater. Well done!



Sunny patio in Mick & Alison Morgan's back garden, Kingfisher



Peter Dean, Pintail

Cleveland Park Playground

If you do not already know there is a wonderful children's playground on the southern boundary of Watermead in Cleveland Park, just off Avocet Way where is a pathway leading to Cleveland Road, Elmhurst. There has always been a playground in Cleveland Park but, when we moved into Avocet Way over 20 years ago, it was a very scrappy affair and was hardly used. However recently Bucks Council completely updated it and now it is a lovely area.

It is entirely enclosed and has benches for mums and dads to sit and chat and keep an eye on their children. It is fully equipped with a large sand pit, tunnels, a zip wire, slides, swings and other fun items. Adjacent to the playground there is another enclosed area set out as a small football pitch which also can be used to play basketball.

Cleveland Park can also be accessed from Lark Vale, and if you walk down the field past the children's playground it will take you to the footpath around the small lake.

Stuart Mackay



Places to Eat

THE HALF MOON

60 Tring Road, Wilstone HP23 4PD
Tel: 01442 826410
www.whatpub.com/pubs/MCH/949/half-moon-wilstone

This classic village pub set in the heart of Wilstone offers a warm welcome to all. It is close to the Aylesbury canal arm and popular with walkers. The pub has a strong local following with many black and white photographs featuring village scenes and personalities past and present. This two room pub has an inglenook fireplace to one side and exposed wooden beams. Meals are served every day except Sunday and Monday evenings. Dogs are welcome.

WHITE BRASSERIE

The Black Horse, 11 Cornmarket, Thame OX9 2BL
Tel: 01844 219050 thame@whitebrasserie.com

Located in the heart of the historic market town of Thame, The Black Horse is a beautiful pub and brasserie that is simply brimming with character. Cosy snugs in the bar make for a perfect spot to enjoy a pint with the papers whilst the airy conservatory and stunning barn brasserie are gorgeous spaces in which to spend a leisurely lunch with friends and family. Serving a menu of seasonal home-cooked favourites with a French twist, we also offer a carefully curated wine list, expertly-mixed cocktails and a wide range of ales and beer so there is something for everyone. A sun-trap courtyard garden and private dining spaces make this pub a truly special place to visit.

THE BELL AT HARDWICK

Lower Rd, Hardwick, Aylesbury HP22 4DZ
Tel: 01296 640005 infothebellathardwick@gmail.com

The Bell is a welcoming, picturesque village freehouse full of rural charm and rustic character. The pub offers wonderful locally sourced and freshly prepared food, served up alongside locally brewed cask ales.

Today the Bell is a hub for the community offering a family friendly atmosphere, roaring log fires in winter, and a warm welcome for dogs and muddy boots in the bar. In the warmer months, we have plenty of seating in the sun or at shaded tables in our rose garden, or on our patio. We offer freshly cooked, locally sourced British food, complimented by our specially selected wines by the glass, carafe or bottle. Our menus change seasonally and are complimented by daily specials prepared by our talented chefs.

THE PHEASANT

39 Windmill Street, Brill HP18 9TG
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“Since moving, I’ve saved money as my overall bills and costs have reduced”

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Sally's Blog

I've had an exciting time since I last wrote. I have had my portrait painted by a famous equestrian artist who's a friend of my humans.



It's very special for Gabrielle to have painted a dog but then of course... she couldn't resist the challenge of getting me to sit still for long enough – it was very difficult!

In addition, my portrait was used as the topper for my Dad's birthday cake – a great honour. How they could bear to cut the top right across my nose is completely beyond

me but humans are very odd!

Out walking before it was so hot I was very interested to see the turtle balancing on one of the tree trunks in the small lake. How it does it I'll never know but it keeps very still and seems to be asleep. It's caused much comment and interest all summer – he's a bit of a star.

I'm hoping that once the weather is a bit less hot we can get back to our long walks, especially around the large lake which has been cut off for some work to be done. Looking forward to seeing what's happened. My cousin Ronnie, who is very curious (well, quite nosy really!) can't wait to find out. He always notices what's going on and reports back so I don't have to look.

I hope you all enjoy the rest of the summer and then we can look forward to autumn and the leaves on the ground and Christmas, of course. It's an exciting time of year, but please do remember to pick up after us, if we could do it ourselves we would.

Love Sally x



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Farewell Midnight Walk 2022

Edith and Solo Awadzi of Watermead completed a 5-mile Farewell Midnight Walk on 16th July to raise money for the Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity. The walk was attended by hundreds of people who had a lot of fun en route. First pit-stop was at the Aylesbury Waterside Theatre where we were served with ice-cream, water etc. In attendance were Bucks Radio photographers for willing walkers to have photos taken. We finished at Aylesbury College where we were presented with our medals and breakfast was served to the walkers.

The Walk was sponsored by Buckinghamshire Freemasons and T-shirts sponsored by ASM Metal Recycling.

We raised £751 and still counting..It is not too late to donate. Feeling generous? Then visit: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Edith-Awadzi1



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Personal bests achieved at life changing wheelchair sports event

Between 28th June and 1st July 115 disabled children came together at Stoke Mandeville Stadium in Buckinghamshire for the annual WheelPower National Junior Games. They travelled to the Birthplace of the Paralympic Movement alongside parents, carers and school groups from right across the UK to take part in this life changing sports event which returned to the calendar for the first time following the Covid-19 pandemic. Hosted by WheelPower, the national charity for wheelchair sport, this weeklong event provides new and exciting opportunities to discover and try 15 different wheelchair sports, that this year included basketball, tennis, powerchair football, boccia, fencing and canoeing.

Supported by a fantastic group of volunteers and coaches from the various governing bodies the event was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who took part. Young disabled people like 17 year-old Ayden from Surrey had a week to remember. "I've been in a wheelchair for a year and I never thought I would be able to do all of these different types of sport and activities, and the Junior Games has shown me that I can actually do everything a walking person can do. Sport makes me feel independent and free, so finding out about this event has been life changing. My mum said she hasn't seen me this happy since 2018."

Sue from High Wycombe is mum to 10 year-old Orla who has Cerebral Palsy. She said, "It's been an emotional and amazing event to be involved in. To see all these children doing their best across



all these different sports has been fantastic and so inspiring for Orla. After this week she is going to take away so much more awareness of what can be achieved, which will be great for Orla in the future. I would highly recommend coming along next year. Thank you WheelPower."

Latest research from Activity Alliance shows that disabled people have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic so the return of events such as the WheelPower National Junior Games are now of even greater importance in providing opportunities to be more active and playing sport, and helping to improve health and wellbeing of disabled people across the United Kingdom.

Natalie Taylor from Sir William Ramsay School, Hazelmere: "We brought five disabled students aged between 11-15 to the Games this year and it's great to see our students get the opportunities they don't get every day. The students absolutely love coming along and go on about it the whole year and, of course, really missed it during the Covid years. The hand cycling has been their favourite sport and after an hour here they just keep going around the track. It's the best day of the year so far!"

Martin McElhatton WheelPower Chief Executive: "After the last few years, it was emotional to see our National Junior Games back at Stoke Mandeville Stadium and I can honestly say that it made me so very proud. When we measure the impact of sport and physical activity it is vital that we see the wider impact on the disabled person, their family and their lives and it has been lovely to hear so much positivity about the Games from them all. WheelPower would like to say a huge thanks to all involved, our wonderful volunteers, the sports associations and governing bodies and donors including our new partner The Kentown Wizard Foundation."



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Watermead Piscatorials

Summer is going well with some excellent fishing as we're seeing more variety of fish. You may have noticed that we've been busy repairing and raising the fishing swims using some paving slabs as shown in the pictures. This will give a longer life to the swims, and we'll continue these works next year. We will be continuing, along with the Parish council, to remove fallen and overhanging trees, which you've probably noticed.

Looking ahead, longer term plans may include dredging the lake, planting some lily's, and securing the islands. But for now, we will just enjoy the fishing.

By the way the membership has now closed for this year and there's a waiting list for new members, but guest tickets are available for fishing the lake. Please Contact Steve, our Bailiff, on 07843 787918.

For any information about events, you can find us on Facebook (1) Watermead Piscatorials and for Membership contact our Secretary, Don Smith at don.smith33@hotmail.co.uk

Martin Mynott (Work Party Officer)



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Realise your potential at TVP: New police officer recruitment campaign

Thames Valley Police is launching a new Police Officer recruitment campaign, aimed at attracting people to the force who want a career where they can make a real difference and realise their full potential. As a Police Officer, once confirmed in post you have a variety of career opportunities and specialisms available that will enable you to realise your career potential. From an initial start on Incident & Crime Response (ICR), options open up to include an investigative career as a Detective (Child Abuse Investigation, Domestic Abuse Investigation, CID, Major Crime, Family Liaison Officer), Firearms, Dog handler, Mounted section, Counter Terrorism, Surveillance, Drone Pilot, Rural Crime, Roads Policing, Public Order, Negotiator, Intelligence and many more.

Thames Valley Police offers entry routes to those interested in becoming a Police Officer for both those with or without a degree. The starting salary for all new recruits is £26,780 (which includes

£2,000 South-East allowance). On the current system, officers can expect to be earning a salary in excess of £40,000 per annum by your seventh year in the job.

Ready to apply today to become a Police Officer? To learn more and to apply via the entry route best suited for you, please visit: www.tvpcareers.co.uk/police-officer. Would you like to speak to us in person about a career in policing? Join our TVP Job Fairs this summer: as part of this new recruitment campaign, two job fairs are being organised throughout summer, one in Slough, on 25 June, and one in Buckinghamshire (date to be confirmed). To register your place and learn more about these events, please visit our TVP Events page.

Thames Valley Police's dedicated careers site also has a wealth of information about Police Officer and Police Staff roles, benefits and open vacancies.



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As we reflect on another great Summer term at Footsteps, we are enjoying some beautiful sunshine. Something that certainly makes our free-flow setting that much brighter. And it's certainly been a Summer term full of fun, laughter and lots of learning here at Footsteps Watermead. Our free-flow setting means there is plenty going on inside and out. There have been puzzles, science experiments and lots of role play from fairies to builders. We've loved cooking with pitta pizzas, sandwiches and biscuits. We enjoyed talking about healthy food and tasted and printed with some of our favourites. We learnt how to take care of our teeth too.

We explored numbers, letters, shapes, measurements, senses and feelings as we continue to build on concepts the children will use as they move on. We have loved getting creative and have made kites, boats, zoos and teddy bear picnics amongst many others, as well as lots of practice of our fine motor skills with scissors, glue sticks, crayons and paints galore!

Out in the garden the fun continued as we planted flowers and vegetables as well as some herbs in our sensory garden. We were really brave picking up wriggly worms and went on plenty of bug hunts. We climbed, balanced, ran, splashed, pedalled, kicked and dug as we enjoyed developing all our physical skills. We had lots of

messy play fun and learnt how to use tools safely – mixing cornflour and water certainly required lots of clearing up!

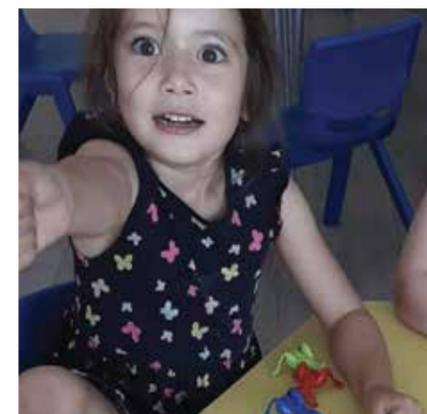
We had a Sunflower growing competition with entries exceeding well over 2 metres! Thanks to all the parents for taking such an active role at home to help them grow!

Of course there were plenty of celebrations too. With Jubilee parties, Father's Day and birthdays with cakes, cards and lots of decorations to be made.

We ended the term with an amazing Graduation Ceremony for our Class of 2022. Our lovely Spanish teacher, Ornella, joined us for the celebrations to help give out certificates, photos and gifts to the children leaving us.

We are so proud to see the changes in our children over the year and will be very sorry to see some of them leave us for "Big School". But we know that they leave us as children full of confidence, empathy, creativity and armed with all the skills they need to thrive. We wish them well on their next big adventure. A huge thanks as ever to our incredible team who make it all possible.

There are just a couple of spaces left to join us in September. To enquire please contact Natasha Hamer Tel: 07865 94529 Email: watermead@footsteps-nursery.co.uk



Thank you Jim!

Watermead resident, Jim Chignell, has cleared our Welcome to Watermead sign which was no longer visible as you turn into Watermead. He said that it was bothering him, when waiting at the traffic lights to turn right, that the sign was covered in weeds! He contacted Noreen, our Parish Clerk beforehand, who contacted Len Bone, the owner of that piece of land, to obtain permission to do the work. Well done, Jim. You've done a great job!





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Book review

NOEL FITZPATRICK: Listening to the Animals

‘If you work hard enough and believe enough, any dream can come true,’ says Noel Fitzpatrick in this eloquent autobiography, a motto which has served him well. Relentlessly bullied at school, he took refuge in dreams of becoming a vet, dreams that were magnificently fulfilled. Growing up on a sheep farm in Ireland, he suffered an early heartbreak when two newly-born lambs froze to death. But this tragedy, an everyday occurrence in the lives of farm folk, launched him on a journey that led to the surgical and prosthetic ‘miracles’ that he now produces almost routinely at his practice in the Surrey Hills.

It has been a long and arduous journey that would have defeated lesser men. Decades of intense study, years of surgery small and major, months of pressuring banks into lending him the funds to create and expand his amazing facility Fitzpatrick Referrals, which TV viewers have come to cherish through a dozen series of the *The Supercat*.

The detail he provides of his long apprenticeship and the philosophy that drives him is lightened by the stories of the animals he (almost but not always) saves and the people he befriends. His writing is gloriously Victorian at times: ‘February frost had starched the fields in silent rigidity’ – and that’s only on page 3.

‘The love of an animal makes us the very best we can be,’ he says in the final chapter – a sentiment we can all endorse, I’m sure. A man who has dedicated himself to saving lives has written a life-affirming book.

David Gee



Watermead Pub Lunch Club

Our Watermead Pub Lunch Club continues to meet on a monthly basis on the first Wednesday of the month at the Watermead Inn. Over 40 people attended in June, July and August. They enjoyed a limited menu for a very reasonable price and convivial company. It’s a great opportunity to meet people and make friends. Exceptionally there will be no lunch in October.

Kelvin provides us with a varied menu with a choice of three main courses including one vegetarian, and a choice of delicious desserts, or you can have a tea or coffee. Due to recent increases in food and energy prices, we have had to increase the cost of the lunch to £12, but this is still very good value.

The Club is aimed at anyone within our community especially those who may have been missing out on regular social contact. We now have a mixed group of over 60 members and everyone appears to enjoy the food and the company.

If you would like to join us the Pub Lunch is held on the first Wednesday of the month at 12:30pm in the restaurant of the Watermead Inn. If 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.

This is a Community Impact Bucks initiative and bookings can only be made through the local organiser whose contact details are given above.

Answers to Royal Break Quiz on page 11

1. Calcium, 2. Honeysuckle, 3. Bournemouth, 4. 15th, 5. Republican, 6. Her right hand, 7. The moon, 8. Aristotle Onassis, 9. Oil tanker, 10. Bolero, 11. Spinach, 12. Metro Goldwyn Mayer, 13. Ukraine, 14. Soup, 15. Neville Chamberlain, 16. Burma, 17. F Scott Fitzgerald, 18. Jimmy Saville, 19. Dogs, 20. Tomato

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Haunted Buckinghamshire

I have had a number of “ghostly” experiences throughout my life starting as a small child so, when I found reports of happenings here in Buckinghamshire, I was intrigued but hardly surprised. A couple of incidents I have experienced might serve to convince you that it is not in the mind especially when so many people have experienced similar phenomena. I have no doubt that there is more to life and death than we imagine.

Some time ago at a National Trust property in Gloucestershire I was going down some back stairs when I had a feeling that I was falling. I knew I wasn't but the feeling persisted. When I reached the bottom of the stairs, I waited, looking upwards. Gradually I got colder and colder and I knew something had happened in that stairway, the echo of which still lingered. I asked the guide about it and she appeared alarmed. Eventually she told me it was on that staircase that a housekeeper had fallen to her death.

I was at a restaurant in Tewkesbury with a group of history buffs. While our guide was speaking to us a Civil War soldier appeared next to me. No one else seemed to notice him. When I told the guide about him, she said he is often seen in that part of the building.

The Civil War has been an interest of mine since I was at university. I remember going to one of the Claydons with my husband and children years ago and seeing two soldiers from that time hiding in a barn. They were not part of a re-enactment. Civil War soldiers are said to haunt Chenies Manor.

The ghost of Sir Edmund Verney of Claydon Manor, Standard Bearer to Charles I, haunts his house. He was killed at the Battle of Edgehill at the beginning of the Civil War. It is said that when captured by Parliamentary soldiers, he refused to be parted from the Standard, so they hacked off his hand. The rest of his body has never been found and he is said to walk the corridors of the house searching for his hand holding the Standard.

When I moved to an old house in the centre of Buckingham in 1991, I was sitting in an armchair facing towards an inner hall between the sitting room and the kitchen, when a boy, about eleven years old, appeared by the telephone. He seemed to be from the 18th century, wearing a white shirt and black breeches and a waistcoat. He just stared at me then vanished. I lived there for a number of years and never saw him again. Maybe he was checking out the new owner.

Missenden Abbey dates back to the 13th century. The original building had burned down in 1985. Monks from the 13th century are said to haunt the site. While doing some research into the Abbey, I found “evidence” that some monks were known for having adulterous relationships with women of the village. I was rather inclined to believe that it was propaganda dreamed up by those who carried out the visitation for the Valor Ecclesiasticus compiled for Henry VIII to aid the dissolution of the monasteries. However, a monk is said to haunt the grounds as a punishment for his sins.

I have taught at the Abbey and attended courses there, sometimes staying overnight, but have never experienced anything. I do wonder, though, why I am so drawn to the ponds as if I were looking for something - or someone!

At Castle house in Buckingham the body of a priest was found concealed in a priest hole. One can only imagine the horror of being

entombed in a confined space whilst soldiers hunted for you, never to survive the enforced incarceration. A phantom of the priest has been seen walking at the house.

A young woman in Edwardian dress has been seen walking close to the Combe Hill monument at Butler's Cross. She glides across a pathway before vanishing. Another similar woman has been seen walking there with a child, both dressed in white; they also vanished after being seen.

At the White Hart in Chalfont St. Peter, a former landlord can be heard playing his violin. Ghostly footsteps can also be heard. A phantom stagecoach is said to appear on the Amersham Road near the Greyhound in the same village.

One of those implicated in the trial and execution of Charles I was Simon Mayne of Dinton Hall, Aylesbury. He was an MP who had spent many years worrying about losing his assets and his life should a Stuart regain the throne.

Charles II was thirsty for revenge and, despite promises to many if they gave themselves up, sent regicides to the cruel and lingering death of hanging drawing and quartering. Mayne, a sickly man, died of fever, gout and other conditions before that could happen. His ghost is said to haunt a folly at Dinton. There are those who believe that the real executioner was Richard Brandon who was the original choice and is said to have refused. As he would have been masked, it is impossible to say.

Public houses seem to be prone to ghostly sightings, probably because they used to be very dangerous places. The sound of a drum, heard from the car park, has spooked many at the Royal Standard of England at Fortey Green, Beaconsfield over its long history. In 1643 a young drummer boy was killed there by the Roundheads and it is thought to be his ghost that perhaps wants to cry out against his murder. A shadowy figure has also been seen disappearing into the wall in the Candle Room.

At the 16th century pub, The Crooked Billet at Marlow, the ghost of a highwayman hanged from a tree there is reputed to walk from time to time.

The Crown at Amersham was once a coaching inn. Five spectres are said to haunt it, one of which shouts “Get out!” If you are a young man you might feel the ghostly hands of a Victorian housekeeper who enjoys tucking young men into bed. All part of the service!

A grey lady has been seen many times at the King's Head in Aylesbury, a pub dating from 1450. She is possibly a nun and has been seen near the fireplace. Also a very tall figure appears inside a cupboard. It wears a black coat and hat.

Amersham saw years of confrontation between Catholics and Protestants and, in the time of Mary I, some people were burned at the stake. At Chequers a hooded figure has been seen in an upstairs bedroom and the ghost of a chimney sweep also haunts the building.

Sukie, an 18th century servant girl at the George and Dragon in West Wycombe, had three suitors, but Sukie was looking for a more elevated love than local lads. She found one when a young gentleman came to the Inn and he soon became besotted by her beauty. The three lads decided to play a trick on her. They sent her

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a letter purporting to be from her gentleman suitor. She was to meet him in the notorious Hell Fire Caves nearby and come wearing a white dress. With the aid of a flaming torch she entered the caves. Then the boys jumped from behind a rock, frightening Sukie and causing the torch to go out. The young men chased her in the darkness and Sukie slipped on a rock, hitting her head. The lads summoned help and she was taken back to The George and Dragon. She died from her injuries and possibly also from fright. Over time, several sightings of her ghost have been reported. In 1966 an American staying at the Inn experienced a strange light in his room and felt a growing coldness all over his body. He initially jumped out of bed but, as it got colder, jumped back into bed and under the covers.

Another phantom at the George and Dragon is of a man murdered at the Inn in the 18th century. His footsteps have been heard descending the main staircase.

The Ivy House Tavern in Chalfont St. Giles was where a young stable lad slipped and fell and was said to have been trampled to death by horses. There have been several sightings of him at a window in the attic which used to have been one of the servant's rooms. Another ghost of a murderer, who was executed there after he tried to escape, has been seen.

A county such as ours with its long, turbulent history is riddled with ghostly happenings. Maybe you will be haunted by one of them. Perhaps this Halloween?

Val Edwards

Watermead Wilderness Working Group Day

Wednesday 5th October 2022

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



Avocet Way	J3-G2	Grebe Close	J2	Nuthatch	J5	Sandpiper	G8	Thrush Close	L3
Ayleswater	J6-H10	Guillemot Court	G5-G4	Osprey Walk	G8-G7	Sheerwater	G9	Turnstone Way	G2-G3
Bittern Way	G2-H2	Guillemot Way	G5-G4	Owl Close	L3	Shelduck Close	H3	Waterlily	J8
Brambling	H3-G3	Gull Way	K4-L4	Partridge Way	L3	Sparrow Close	L4	Watermead	B5-J6
Bullfinch Gardens	K3	Harrier Close	M3	Peregrine	H4	Stonechat	J5-H3	Watermeadow	J6-L3
Chaffinch	J6-K6	Hawfinch	J4	Pintail Close	G11-H11	Stork Close	K5	Waxwing Close	F3-G3
Corncrake	J4	Kestrel Way	H9-E12	Pipit Gardens	J7	Swan Close	L4-K5	Whinchat	H5-J5
Curlew	K4-K3	Kingfisher	F10-G9	Pipit Walk	J7	Swift Close	L4	Willow Herb	H8-J8
Dove House	J6	Kittiwake	G10	Plover Walk	H8	The Comfrey	J8-H9		
Dove Place	J6	Lakeside	H6	Puffin Way	L4-M2	The Falcon	K6		
Fieldfare	J6-J7	Lark Vale	J2-K1 & J3-L2	Raven Close	K4	The Heron	H7		
Fulmar Place	J6	Mallard Close	H10	Redwing	J5-G5	The Osprey	H8-G8		
Goldcrest	J7	Moorhen Court	J5	Robin Close	L5	The Plover	H7		



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- 1 Offices
 - 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
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