

VillageView

WATERMEAD'S *FREE* QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

Spring 2019 Vol.26 Issue 1

Christmas at Watermead 2018

The Annual Parish Meeting
Thursday 16th May at 7pm

Larks by the Lake
is back! Sunday 26th May 2019



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

Welcome to our spring edition of Village View. Last year's Christmas festivities were great fun. The Craft Fair and Carol Concert were much enhanced by the new lighting and Christmas trees in the Piazza, partly funded by the Events Committee and by a donation from Avanti Hairdressing.

It looked very pretty and children enjoyed adding baubles to the tree which was a focal point in the centre of the Piazza. Our thanks to Father Christmas for joining us at the Carol Concert, along with Father Doug Zimmerman, who kindly deputised while we are without a Vicar. The craft fair was well attended with stallholders offering a really good selection of home-made craft items, with much money being raised for their charities. The proceeds from the donations given for mulled wine and mince pies at the Carol Concert were donated to CHAT Charity who pass on their sincere thanks for the much-appreciated donations.

After Christmas our thoughts turned back to more mundane matters with the thorny issue of the crematorium planning front of mind.

Aylesbury Vale District Council's Planning Department decided to approve Westerleigh's

application albeit subject to a large number of conditions despite our having presented hundreds of pages of factual documents with planning reasons to object, hundreds of letters of objection, expert QC's Opinion, Legal Advice, Landscape assessment, Sequential Test, Environmental reports, etc containing sufficient reason for them to refuse this planning application, quite apart from the moral and other arguments about building a crematorium on designated leisure land in full view of the community.

To say we were shocked is an understatement. The PC and parishioners truly believed that AVDC would listen to us, particularly having won a quashing in the Court of Appeal. They have let our community down.

The planning permission is subject to a large number of conditions, most of which the Parish Council and residents know cannot be met particularly those relating to Highways, landscape and environment which are key.

I regret to inform readers that despite our having written to AVDC more or less every day during January, and very regularly since permission was granted in November, the District Council refused point-blank to meet us. They haven't listened to our views, do not understand the issues fully,

and officers particularly within Highways have condemned us to what can only become traffic chaos if the crematorium opens.

Despite all our efforts, over four years, our community has been totally ignored. Sadly, this example of truly appalling planning means we will be condemned to have this facility in full view of homes and leisure facilities in the village, thanks to AVDC's reluctance to listen. They could have stopped this early on, but our perception is that nothing we said or did was going to make any difference. Shame on them.

I cannot tell you the depth of my personal disappointment, nor the huge debt of gratitude the parish owes to Noreen Shardlow, our Parish Clerk, Irina Schwab a councillor and our solicitor, to our fellow councillors who have stood firm throughout the extremely unpleasant experience of dealing with the applicants, who threatened councillors and put out constant messages in the press with misinformation about us. The community has stood together and we have appreciated the quiet support and encouragement from residents, thank you.

We should have expected to be treated with the courtesy and respect we have displayed in connection



Chairman:
Cllr Sue Severn
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...page 03

with this matter within the legal and planning processes. How sad that AVDC does not see us an elected Local Council in their District, and colleagues, but as an irritant standing in the way of their decided course of action. Watermead residents have similarly been treated with the same level of disdain.

At the time of writing we have just been advised by Westerleigh that they intend to open during week commencing 25th February. The Environment Agency requirements are not part of the planning Conditions and they are now allowed to open.

Without the support of District Councillors and the Planning Committee, getting the permission back to committee for further consideration was always going to be difficult. Despite all our efforts since 2014, we never had the support of district councillors and the planning department were deaf to our submissions, despite our having won our case in the Court of Appeal.

Financial Our work is funded via the Parish Precept (tax) which is decided by councillors, having given due regard to budgetary constraints, obtaining best value and prudent management of our funds. For the financial year 2019/20 the Precept will be £76,500 which is an increase of 2.23% for a Band D property which equates to £79.39 for the year, or £6.52 a month giving an increase of £1.73 for the year. (Precept for the current financial year is £75,000 giving the cost for a Band D property of £77.66 this year).

The Parish Council is

conscious that other elements of the Council Tax such as County, District Councils, Police and Fire Brigade are expected to increase, therefore resolved to keep costs as low as possible.

The parish council took the difficult decision to raise the cost of hiring the village hall by 2.5% and the cost of an allotment for Watermead residents to £30 a year, both of which reflect increased costs.

Unitary Council It has now been confirmed that we are to have a single unitary council which will be called Buckinghamshire Council. Elections will take place in May 2020 with a shadow council operating during 2019/20 with members drawn from the district and county councillors chaired by Martin Tett Leader of Bucks County Council. Three councillors will be elected for each ward initially with a full review and expected reduction in number of councillors in following election years. It remains to be seen whether the ambitious plans for synergies and savings will be realised but my personal experience, having worked with officers from both councils, is that they are determined to continue to provide the services we need, while working to integrate the councils. No easy task. We wish them well and will ensure Watermead's interests are represented at all levels and at every opportunity.

There may be opportunities for more services and management to be devolved to parishes which will be positive. Every opportunity can be evaluated and councillors will decide on a case by

case basis but we need to be open to new ideas.

Parish Council will not be elected this year as planned but wait until May 2020. Your councillors have decided to remain and will serve another year until the next ordinary election. I provided details of how to stand for the Parish Council and a little about the work and qualifications/person specification in the last edition of Village View. This will be re-published before May 2020.

Summer events I am delighted to report that the Events Committee has decided to run Larks by the Lake and the Film Night once more this year, building on the success of last year. This time there will be the usual stalls, funfair and activities including a dog show but more is planned. Announcements will be made throughout the period until the event on Sunday 26th May. If you would like to help by volunteering to do anything from manning the car park, setting up, collecting litter at the end, or anything in between please get in touch with the committee via Noreen

Shardlow – noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk. I look forward to seeing you there!

The film night will take place on 14th September when the nights begin to draw in and details will be published in due course.

Last year's events raised enough money to pay the parish contribution to the children's trim trail behind the outdoor gym which is popular, and much appreciated. As mentioned earlier the Christmas lights were improved last year and we hope that more can be achieved next time. Proceeds from Larks by the Lake are divided between the chosen charities but it is felt that Watermead should also benefit, as last year.

Our thanks go to Karen Collett and her team of dedicated helpers; you are a great asset to our community.

Very best wishes for Easter and the coming months.

Chairman Sue Severn

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A note from our Vice Chairman

I would like to add that what our Chairman, Sue Severn, has written in the Chairman's View really does demonstrate her dedication and commitment to the best interests of Watermead.

One normally associates a Parish Councillor as primarily dealing with general neighbourhood matters, highways issues, residential planning applications, fetes, etc and not representing their parishioners in the highest civil court in the UK! There is no Parish Councillor training for this scenario and no guidance. In such circumstances they might expect the local district council to help. In this case we had to rely upon the leadership of our Chairman to drive us forward by showing determination and courage and an overriding sense of duty to fully represent the views of the Watermead Village parishioners despite all the many obstacles set against her.

Sue has literally lived and breathed this on-going battle with Westerleigh for around 5 years. We had their planning permission quashed in the Court of Appeal, and then had to fight with our very own district council (AVDC) when Westerleigh continued building and put in a new planning application "as built". We had hoped that AVDC would address our genuine concerns or even at the very least listen to us.

Sue leads our parish council by example through her own behaviours which demonstrate a sense of duty, dedication and courage, the virtues of a true leader.

I would like to formally recognise and thank, Sue, on behalf of Watermead Parish Council, for the tremendous amount of work she does each and every day for our village and for being so committed to keep on fighting!

Adrian Schwab, Vice Chairman

The Bell at Hardwick

The Bell at Hardwick, just off the Buckingham Road, a couple of miles north of Aylesbury, is a picturesque, beautifully refurbished, 17th Century freehouse. Originally two lacemakers cottages, the building dates back to 1678 and still boasts the original oak beams, inglenook fireplaces (with an open fire and a wood burning stove) and delightful walled garden you might hope for in a traditional country pub. The pretty hostelry was beautifully renovated in 2014 - the original oak beams were sandblasted and now look fabulous and the attractive bar area sports a new flagstone floor, while the cosy dining snug has been comfortably carpeted. Outside a courtyard patio and barn to the rear gives al fresco dining options or space for functions, while inside a new extension provides pleasant and airy restaurant space. The Bell closed briefly last year but new landlords Tom Horton and Andrew Sewter, who lives in Hardwick, took over in November freshening up the place once again and bringing in a new team, headed up by chef Nick Porter and general manager Cullum Boland. *“It’s a lovely pub,” says Tom, “in a great setting. We are gradually developing the restaurant menu and can also cater business events, wedding receptions, parties, functions and wakes in our dining room or, when warmer, on our patio. There is also space for a small marquee at the front or back, should we need it. We are*



family friendly and dog friendly and have Sky Sports and free WIFI.” Being a freehouse The Bell is able to keep beer prices reasonable whilst stocking a varied selection of beers, lagers and cider from St Austell Tribute, Sharps Doom Bar (£3.25 pint), Hellweathers IPA and Watling Street to Peroni, Pravha, Guinness (£3.80 pint) and more, there’s a special gin menu and a reasonable wine list. The Bell’s menu is still in development but sports a good choice of tasty fare from Burgers, Fish & Chips and Steaks to Cured Pork Belly with Bubble ‘n’ Squeak Croquette, Baked Apple & Red Wine Jus; to Roast Fillet of Hake with Chorizo, Chick Peas & Coriander; or Spelt, Barley & Butternut Squash Risotto with Pistachios & Pea Shoots, plus there’s a good vegetarian and gluten and dairy free selection and the lunchtime sandwiches include a fishfinger butty - ‘yes please!’

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Tea Break Quiz



- What is the collective name for a group of frogs?
- The illness pertussis is more commonly called what?
- The Bee Gees were born on which island?
- How many bridesmaids attended Princess Diana?
- Which two countries was the Cold War of the 70s between?
- Which bird is India’s national symbol?
- What was the former name of Turkey?
- What nationality was the spy Mata Hari?
- Which musical was based on the play Pygmalion?
- Which triangular shaped Indian pastry contains meat or vegetables?
- Which magazine, established in 1922, claims to be the most widely read in the world?
- What term defines the fineness of yarns?
- Which drink was advertised by Joan Collins and Leonard Rossiter?
- Which fashion designer opened a shop in 1957 called Bazaar?
- What material does a topiarist work with?
- In which month do the French celebrate Bastille Day?
- What does the abbreviation GDP stand for?
- Which animal has the longest pregnancy?
- In which town were the March Farm riots in July 1995?
- Who wrote Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory?

Answers on page 18

What's on

...around Watermead

March

7th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
17th	Lavender Lane Vintage/Shabby Chic Fair	Village Hall 10am-3:30pm
21st	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7:30pm
31st	Mothering Sunday	

April

4th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
6th	Florence Nightingale 80's Fun Run	The Piazza, 10am
18th	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7:30pm
21st	Easter Sunday	

May

9th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
16th	Annual Watermead Parish Meeting	Village Hall, 7:00pm
16th	Annual Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7:30pm
19th	Lavender Lane Vintage/Shabby Chic Fair	Village Hall 10am-3:30pm
26th	Larks by the Lake	12:30pm-5pm

June

6th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
20th	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7:30pm
	Films on the Field	Saturday 14th September

Are you looking for a venue? 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 call Noreen Shardlow 01296 395211

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Graphic Designer	Rachel Seago	Tel: 712545	rachelseago@sky.com
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3 & 4 yrs: Breakfast: Monday -
Friday 8.30 - 9.00am
Lunch: Monday, Wednesday -
Friday. 12.00 - 1.30pm
Dot Toler
cygnets.leader@gmail.com
07563 783464

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4th Friday of the month
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Contact Daphne 393131

**Watermead & Weedon
Women's Institute**
First Thursday of the month
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Julia Morgan 487650
julia-morgan@sky.com

**Aylesbury & District
Philatelic Society**
Second Wednesday of the month
7.30 - 10.00pm
Peter Barnes 612913

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Susan Jones 747469

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**PUBLICATION
DATES
2019/2020**

**SPRING
9th March**

**SUMMER
8th June**

**AUTUMN
7th September**

**WINTER
30th November**

2018 Christmas Lights Competition



The standard of Christmas decorations on houses in Watermead this year had definitely gone up a level making judgement extremely difficult. Starting from early December the village transformed gradually into a beautiful display of festive lights even Waddesdon Manor would be envious of! The weather around Christmastime was quite mild and better than last year allowing the judges to take numerous "tours" in order to see all the decorations and lights on the houses on more than one occasion. One of the participants said that they had had people knocking on their door to ask permission to see the lights close up.

We saw string lights, flashing lights, lit up Santas, reindeer and sledges, a blown-up igloo and penguin, and garage and front doors wrapped up as if they were parcels. The favourite colours remain cool and warm white, red and blue and sometimes a combination of colours.

We finally decided that the following two houses deserved to be overall "winners" as we loved them both and they were so different from all the others:

11 Willowherb: We loved the simplicity of the gently lit nativity scene which brought us closest to the spirit of Christmas. We were quite surprised to find out that these residents only moved into their house in October 2018, and the award was least expected. We were glad to hear that the whole family took part in decorating the house and we thought they had done a wonderful job. I was personally inspired to "follow that star"! The Christian theme was found in every single detail and, yes, we did notice the Christmas stocking doormat!

We could not fail to miss probably the most elaborate and postcard-worthy display at **22 Kingfisher**. They used a combination of innovative giant-bauble lighting, glowing candy sticks, a sleepy fox, a parcel wrapped garage door and huge bow on the front door. The central piece was a beautifully lit tree worthy of a big town's central square. Amazing. What a show! Very well done. Your combination of string lights and choice of shapes really was one of the best we have seen so far and my personal favourite.

As the judges felt that the following residents had obviously put in a lot of effort and ingenuity in creating fabulous displays on their houses and in their gardens prizes and certificates were also presented to:

3 Watermeadow: Their arrangement was so symmetrical and well distributed using all available space with lights and shapes almost forming perfect harmony. We loved the mushrooms, by the way! Congratulations again!

4 Kingfisher: This was one of the Chairman's and my favourites and definitely lots of fun and different as the display involved a number of blown-up animals and a Christmas tree. We recall seeing Santa on a motorbike battling with strong winds in 2017. This year the weather was a lot kinder, allowing us to properly take our time and admire the display. The igloo, penguin and polar bear brought a cold icy feel to our village. Such a shame we had no snow, not even a single snowflake to complete the picture. Anyway, well done!

Every year we mention the understated, simple yet beautiful lights at **28 Ayleswater**. This goes to show that the biggest or the brightest does not necessarily mean the best when it comes to Christmas lights. Your string lights looked palatial.

We would also like to congratulate **Kestrel Way** residents for their almost entire participation in displaying their Christmas lights. It was, without doubt, the road in Watermead that showed the best Christmas spirit - the lights were almost continuous from one end to the other.

We did, of course, take a look at last year's winners and they did not let us down this year either. It didn't escape our notice that their displays had got bigger and bolder. Thank you **3 Sparrow Close** and **3 Mallard Close** for bringing our competition up a level and for continuing to enchant us with lovely Christmas displays.

Congratulations to all our "winners" in 2018 and also to everyone who took part in decorating their houses over Christmas and New Year period. Certificates and a bottle of champagne were presented to the winners on the 2nd and 3rd of January 2019.

We look forward to next Christmas (only nine months to go!) for more resident participation. Thank you for cheering up our dark winter days and nights with more lights and new ideas on the Christmas theme!

Christmas 2018 at Watermead

The village hall was made ready for the Christmas Fair thanks to Noreen, Sue and Graham. They spent the Friday evening hanging decorations, blowing up balloons, and putting out tables ready for the stallholders who would be arriving early on 1st December to sell their Christmas wares. Dot Toler set up her kitchen and made the best hot dogs and toasties ever along with cakes, teas, coffees, etc keeping both stallholders and shoppers fed and watered. She raised £35 profit for charity over the course of the day.

Mary Singleton made £83.00 (also for charity) with "Name the Bear". The lucky winner was Ben Kinch and his wife, Lucy, who were delighted with Ben the Bear and immediately made him welcome and comfortable in their home in Waterlily – see photo below. Incidentally, you can see Ben Kinch's photo published in the Watermead calendar in June.

It was a nice day and there was a steady flow of customers throughout the day. Stallholders were happy with the sales they made. A profit of £90 was made from table sales which will be spent on new Christmas

lights for next year.

The following week we held the Christmas Carol Concert. The weather was OK although it did start to rain when the children were singing 'Away in a Manger'; thankfully it only did so for a few minutes. This did not deter the many carollers who came along with their children to enjoy an hour's singing and making merry.

Our service this year was led by Father Doug Zimmermann from St Mary's Church in Aylesbury – many thanks to him for coming along. Some great live music was once again provided by The Early Birds sax band, and brownies from the 11th Aylesbury Brownie Group led the carol singing. Many thanks to Jane Rennie, Brown Owl.

Father Christmas managed to fit Watermead into his busy schedule and he distributed presents to a large number of children ably assisted by several elves from the brownie pack.

This event relies on a number of volunteers, namely:

- Phil Toler for setting up all the electricals before the event
- Dot Toler for helping Father Christmas source presents for the local children

and also for manning the kitchen making mulled wine and heating the mince pies.

- Sue Severn for decorating the Christmas tree in the Piazza.
- Mo from Watermead News for providing the warm up music system with flashing lights in the Piazza for the Carol Concert.
- Sue Potomia who helped serve mulled wine and the mince pies which were made by the ladies from Watermead & Weedon WI. £108.79 was raised for charity.

Many thanks to all those who took part and helped to make the carol concert a success once again. A total of £316.79 was made over the two Christmas events. £226.79 was donated to the charity, CHAT (Children, Health & Therapy).

Finally I take this opportunity to thank our Parish Clerk, Noreen, who arranged for the Christmas tree to be delivered to the Piazza and without whom the above events would not have taken place. She plays a large part in organising both the Christmas Fair and Carol Concert.

Mary Singleton

Be a responsible dog owner

Watermead Parish Council is very concerned about continuing dog-related problems within Watermead Parish. We know that most dog owners and dog walkers behave responsibly and respect our land and neighbouring fields but there are some who do not. You will no doubt have noticed that some dog poo has been sprayed neon pink. This spray draws attention to the dog owners who do not bag and bin it. It also draws attention to the general public so that they can avoid it. It is non-toxic and bio-degradable.

Despite having more dog bins that many other villages in the area there are dog owners who are ignoring them and not picking up after their dogs defecate.

PLEASE pick up your dog poo and put in the dog bins located throughout the parish.

Concerns that dogs off leads can cause traffic accidents and intimidate people and other animals are still being reported. Dog walkers are encouraged to keep their dog on a lead particularly around the streets of Watermead and around our lakes. If you do let your dog off the lead please ensure the dog is kept under control at all times does not bother people, other dogs or our wonderful wildlife.

We are very fortunate to have such lovely walks within and surrounding Watermead and this should be enjoyable for all. We were very concerned to be informed of incidents along the fields to the rear of Watermead. Dog owners allowing their dogs to foul directly outside the rear of residents' properties, not being cleared up and, more distressing, dog walkers allowing their dogs to enter these properties and a further report of a resident's dog being attacked whilst in his own garden. Please respect these properties and these wonderful walks we are so lucky to have. See a copy of the public rights-of-way map to the right.

In light of these reports the Parish Council will be installing new message boards received from 'Keep Britain Tidy', the "we're watching you campaign" (above right).



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



Sally's Blog

Happy new year to all my doggie friends and their humans. I hope you enjoyed Christmas. I am sorry but I wasn't allowed to attend the carol service, despite having learned to



howl, in my view in tune. This is unfair, I would have enjoyed it. Never mind, Christmas was fun with my friend Ronnie, Dachshund friends and plenty of fun. I love the Christmas decorations, wrapping paper and cards. As you may know, I am particularly efficient at shredding. I was in my element helping out with the wrapping. It took longer than usual, but

I don't think it was anything to do with me, the humans were just being slower.

Immediately after Christmas I helped choose new carpet. It was very interesting I was able to pull out large pieces from a big book, on the ground, and actually sit on them! Little did I understand that this was simply the start. Last year it was the kitchen, this year all the furniture was taken out of the sitting room, decorating took place. (Yes, I did manage to paint my nose and ears white). This was followed by much banging and noise while the said carpet was fitted. Never mind, we are now back to normal I am pleased to say. Quite frankly it's time the humans realised if this is to be what happens in January I need to be warned.



Since Christmas it has been rather quiet. The days are short so we have to walk quite early and sometimes it has been muddy and wet, but mainly ok. The recent snow was a highlight. Ronnie was staying with us so we went out to see what was happening. My coat is perfect for camouflage - it's interesting that when it snows you can hardly see me. We met lots of people and were invited into a fantastic igloo which some children had constructed. It was warm and cosy and even had a window at the back so we were able to run in and out very easily.



We also saw quite a few snowmen, including a lovely one near our house with pink hat and scarf and a big nose which looked suspiciously like a carrot to me. I love carrots - had I thought about it at the time Ronnie and I could have shared that. Never mind, too late now, it's melted. Next time!

I am delighted to say there is going to be another dog show at Larks by the Lake. Apparently all the details needed by humans will be available soon. Keep a look out and don't forget to take part. It's all for fun, with best child dog handler, fancy dress for human and dog

and much more. There will be rosettes for the winners and prizes, I know this because they are beginning to appear in our house. Very exciting. Only problem is I won't be allowed to take part because

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my humans are organising it. Never mind, I shall look forward to meeting as many dogs as possible at Larks, it is always a really lovely day.

Talking of being out and about, I am really sad to hear humans complaining about dogs. They say things like we leave poo on the path, we are out of control, and more. The problem isn't the dogs I'm afraid, it's the humans. Please humans, if you have a dog, take a bag and pick up the poo and don't let your dog off the lead or jump up around humans unless they say it's ok. It gives us a bad name. I assure you, if I could pick up myself, I would.



Speeding traffic is becoming a real problem in Watermead. Especially in the early morning and evening cars speed along Watermead. They make dogs and humans very nervous. Please, slow down, don't speed and, if you see a dog trying to cross, we appreciate it if you stop and

let us cross. I know that the humans are planning to have Sentinel speed camera teams out and about from now on. All speeding vehicles/drivers are reported to the Police who will write to the driver. Don't let this happen to you, please just slow down.

Anyway, I hope you all enjoy the spring weather when it comes soon. I am really looking forward to meeting my friends out and about in Watermead. There are always more dogs around in spring and summer.

Lots of love from Sally, (my cousin Ronnie sends his as well)

Watermead Cygnets Pre-School

Christmas has come and gone and Easter eggs fill the shelves in the shops. In our nativity play back in December, 'Humph the Camel' found his way to Bethlehem. He met angels, wise men and a melee of animals on the way before witnessing the birth of the special baby. The children sang quietly to an appreciative audience, glad to be out of costumes at the end of the photo shoots. In January our 'new' children settled in quickly, making new friends, learning about sharing and taking turns through play. Winter arrived with a dusting of snow, much to the delight of the children who spent part of the morning scraping and scooping the white stuff into bowls - a lot better than the artificial snow we played with earlier in the week.

The cold mornings have not deterred us from playing or taking walks outside when the sun is shining, observing the evergreen/deciduous flora and the wildlife on the lakes. How do birds swim in the freezing cold water? One of the many questions asked.

Space, the final frontier! To infinity and beyond! A topic involving activities like moulding planets from clay, sponge printed representations of the solar system, creating space vehicles from recyclable

materials and, rocketing to the moon and back (pretending of course!). Even 'Gravity' was mentioned.

Dark/light, right/wrong, good/bad, black/white, sharp/blunt, clean/dirty, rough/smooth...many 'opposites' kept us busy before the half term break. Roll on Spring - we are looking forward to frogspawn hunting and planting vegetables and flowers.

Have you been to the new Trim Trail by the outdoor gym near the small lake? Our children tested the equipment and gave it all a thumbs up. Remember to have wellies on as it can be rather muddy! This term the children will take part in the 'Nursery Rhyme Challenge'. They learn ten rhymes over a few weeks culminating in a performance using props.

Why is rhyming important?

- Rhyming teaches children how language works. It helps them notice and work with the sounds within words.
- Rhymes help children experience the rhythm of language. As they recite nursery rhymes they learn to speak with animated voices. Someday they'll read with expression too.
- When children are familiar with a nursery rhyme or rhyming book, they learn

to anticipate the rhyming word. This prepares them to make predictions when they read, another important reading skill.

Cygnets accepts children from 2½ to 5 years old. We are open Mon – Fri, 38 weeks per year. For all 3 to 4 year olds: Daily 8.30am to 1.30pm except Tuesday to 12.30pm

For 2½ year olds: Daily 9am to 12pm except Tuesday to 12.30pm.

If you would like your child to attend Cygnets, please visit us and ask to be added to our waiting list. For further details, call Dot Toler on 07563 783464 or cygnets.leader@gmail.com

The Cygnets Team



Watermead Pub Lunch Club

The Watermead Inn was beautifully decorated for Christmas and Kelvin and his team had also decorated the tables and provided crackers for our December pub lunch. The menu included traditional turkey and Christmas pudding which proved to be most popular with our members. Many of our diners wore their Christmas jumpers or other seasonal adornment and thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.

In January, 25 people came along to enjoy either sausages and mash, scampi and chips or mushroom linguini and a choice of 3 delicious desserts costing only £8 – such good value! At the time of writing there are over 30 people booked for our lunch in February and we will be joined by a couple of ladies from Ridgeway Nordic Walking who will give a brief presentation.

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.

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.

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

NB There will be a Discovery Day when you can learn about the benefits of Nordic walking on 16th March 2019 between 10am and 3pm at the Watermead Inn. Information will be available on the courses available, and you can join a taster session and chat with the instructors. See more at www.ridgewaynordicwalking.co.uk or contact Karen at karen@vivo-shapehealthlife.co.uk or on 07766 366388 or Sally on 07933 315617.



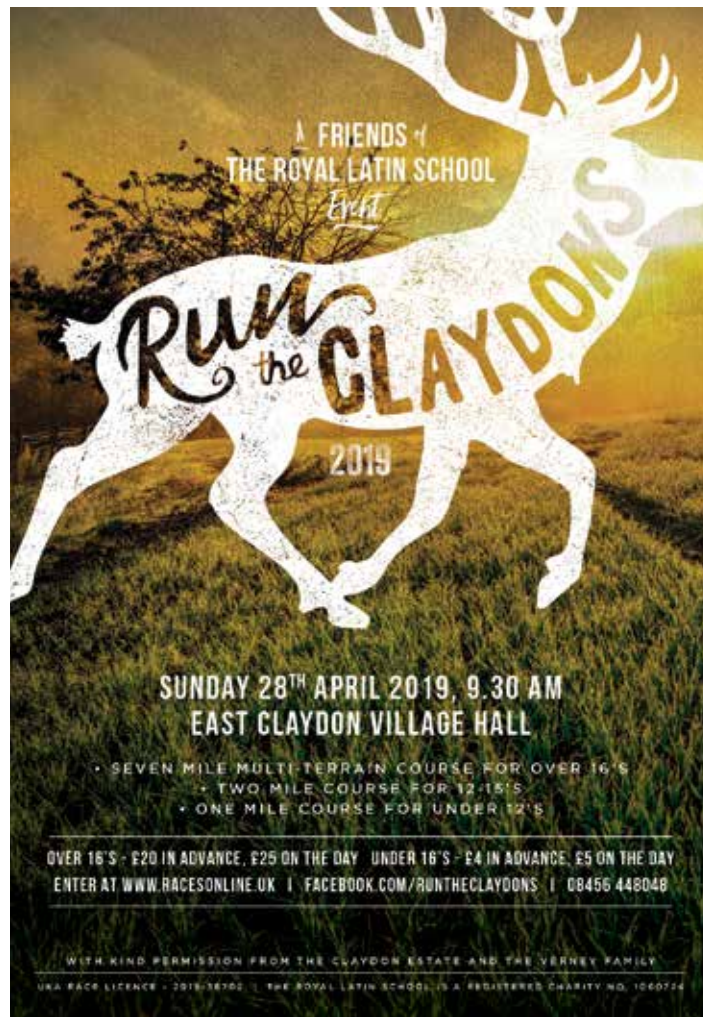
80s Family Fun Run supporting Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity

Join us to celebrate the 1980s and the birth of Florence Nightingale Hospice at our Family Fun Run in Watermead, Aylesbury on Saturday 6th April 2019.

Celebrate the days before iPods, Spotify, Bluetooth headphones and Fitbits, when running was running and Walkmans were new – welcome to Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity's brand new 1980s Family Fun Run.

Choose between our 2.5 km course for littler legs or 5 km course for those wanting more of a challenge, alongside the beautiful Watermead lake in Aylesbury on Saturday 6th April. Registration will take place at 10am in the Watermead Village Hall situated in the Piazza (HP19 0FU). Free parking is available. At 10.45am there will be a warm up in the Piazza and at 11am the run begins.

Adult £10 and child £6 (includes medal and a bottle of water).



CLAPA - a personal story

Following the kind donation to CLAPA (Cleft Lip and Palate Association) after the success of 2018 Larks on the Lake, I wanted to share with the local community the story of our son, Barney, who was born with unilateral cleft lip and palate in January 2015. In simple terms this means his lips, gum and the roof of his mouth didn't meet together at the right time while he was forming inside the womb.

When we found this out at our 20 week anomaly scan our world just stopped. How could this happen? We had already been blessed with a beautiful daughter. My body knows what to do. But life has a funny way of making you stop and think. We live a charmed life, we are fit and healthy, we have a happy, healthy, vibrant daughter, a house with views across the countryside, a successful business built from scratch and wonderful family and friends; how could something like this happen to us?

Well it does. Around 1200 babies are born each year with a cleft in the UK. Around 45% of these will have a cleft palate on its own, 24% will have a cleft lip on its own, and 31% will have a cleft lip and palate. Bilateral cleft lip and palate (where the cleft is on both sides of the lip) is the least common, at just 9% of all cleft babies born. Nobody really fully understands all of the reasons why. So why not us? We are no different and certainly no more special.

CLAPA suddenly became part of our lives, along with lots of soul searching, extra scans during pregnancy, shattered dreams of a home birth and lots of worrying. However, CLAPA was always there. The stories and pictures they have on their website are just so reassuring and their Facebook community page is a constant source of help and support.

We are fortunate, as apart from the obvious, everything about Barney was text book. Following a pretty tough end to the pregnancy and birth, the not so small bundle placed in our arms was perfect. We were far more concerned that he had the right number of fingers and toes than about his lip; we barely registered this as we were too busy cuddling his lovely warm body and savouring his baby smell.

Some parents of cleft children need a bit more support. Their children may not feed as well or may have other complications which need extra support or equipment. Some parents blame themselves and CLAPA is there for these children and their parents. It can be a long arduous road for children born with this condition. Barney has had

3 operations so far and is undergoing continuous intensive speech therapy. He will shortly be having a videofluoroscopy x-ray to determine if his palate is working correctly (the result of which will determine if he needs an operation to lengthen his palate), lots of ENT appointments and, in the future, a bone graft and potentially substantial orthodontic work.

When you first find out your child is going to be born with a cleft lip and palate, all you ever focus on is how they are going to look. You take it one operation at a time. But once you get the initial lip and palate operations done, you move on to the non-cosmetic journey. This is somewhat harder as you have more explaining to do. For example, why your child can't speak clearly, gets frustrated easily and why they appear to be behind in their development compared to other children of the same age. And then there is school to be concerned about. We are at this stage now but I know, if and when we need it, we will have the support of CLAPA.

For further information go to www.clapa.com where you can also make a donation if you wish.

Thank you for reading our story.
Kelly & Gareth Knell



Paul to run in the London Marathon in aid of MPS Charity

It was two years ago that my son completed the London Marathon for the Mucopolysaccharide diseases Charity (MPS) which has urged me to get my running shoes on and overcome some unbelievable running milestones. This will be the biggest running challenge I am undertaking to support such a close to home charity.

My training has consisted of weekly local runs in and around my home town of Aylesbury. I'm incredibly lucky to have a number of idyllic routes to choose from which test my strength and stamina such as Watermead lake and Wendover Woods. With my training already well underway and the completion of some local organised runs, I am excited to be raising money towards my chosen charity, MPS.

I am immensely pleased and proud to have been given a great opportunity to participate in one of the most remarkable events hosted in the UK. This is one of the toughest challenges both mentally and physically but I'm loving every minute of my journey!

Any donation great or small, would be greatly appreciated. You can donate at www.uk.virginmoneygiving.com/ PaulBrown127

Paul Brown



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Pet Emergencies

There are several occasions where prompt treatment can mean the difference between life and death. If you are ever concerned at all, we are always at the end on the phone. Below are listed the most common emergencies we see in our small animal department.

Trauma – including road traffic accidents, bites and wounds. Some internal injuries can't be seen immediately, such as bleeding inside the abdomen or chest. Wounds can be deep (even if you can only see a small opening) and secondary infection is common. Most require good pain relief and antibiotics. Collapse – usually due to heart/vascular disease, bleeding (internal or external), anaemia, toxins or neurological disease. Supportive care and tests are needed to find the underlying cause.

Breathing problems – commonly seen as wheezing or weak, shallow, raspy breathing. Cats who are open mouth breathing is also a concern. Cause of breathing issues include allergic reactions, asthma, heart/lung disease causing fluid on chest and foreign bodies. Block cats – unable to urinate, or straining and little urine produced, most common in males. The urine accumulates in the bladder and causes pressure on the kidney causing damage. If left too long the bladder can rupture and cause peritonitis, needing surgery.

GDV – stands for gastric dilation and volvulus. This occurs when the stomach bloats and twists on itself. Most common in deep chested dogs, signs include trying to be sick but unable, distended stomach and they are very uncomfortable. Surgery is needed to untwist the stomach and assess for any damage. We usually stitch the stomach to the

inside of the body wall to prevent it from happening again.

Seizures – signs include uncontrolled shaking, tremors, loss of consciousness, legs paddling and passing of urine/faeces. Most last a couple of minutes and animals come out of the seizures by themselves. As long as they are in a safe area, you do not need to do anything. If prolonged, they must be seen by a vet to stop them seizing before any brain damage occurs.

Poisoning – most commonly include chocolate, grapes and raisins, human medication and rat poison in dogs, and lilies and antifreeze in cats.

Labour – If you are expecting puppies or kittens, please contact us with advice of what to look for etc. We need to see the mother if there is unsuccessful straining or more than 2hrs between puppies/kittens or green discharge/bleeding from vulva.

Allergies – commonly hives over the skin, although can affect breathing when airways swell. Most common in summer due to insect stings.

The list goes on – there is always a vet and nurse awake at the hospital for any emergency or advice calls. We also have extended opening hours for emergencies on weekends (with normal charges) at the hospital 9 am till 5 pm on Saturdays, and 9 am till 4 pm on Sundays. In addition, we now have more convenient clinics for routine cases 9 am till 11.30 am at our Elm Farm branch, 2 pm till 5 pm at the hospital on Saturdays, 10 am till 12 pm at our Watermead branch, and 2 pm till 4 pm at the hospital on Sundays.

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.

Watermead Events Committee receive £8,095 National Lottery Grant for play equipment

On Sunday 6th January Watermead residents were invited to the opening of the new 'Trim Trail' equipment. All the children in attendance cut the ribbon and were the first to enjoy the new equipment. Kelvin Wong, Landlord of the Watermead Inn also had a go too!

The equipment was built using money received from the National Lottery 'Awards for all' scheme. The Watermead events committee used £1,000 raised from 'Larks by the Lake' and 'Films by the Lake' as the required contribution and were lucky enough to obtain the grant.

National Lottery grants are only obtained by meeting specific requirements, therefore this equipment had to be for community use and have benefit to children's agility and fitness. Huge thanks to Noreen Shardlow who filled out the onerous amounts of paperwork so meticulously. These grants are not issued without an awful lot of work and precision.

The installation of the equipment was kindly agreed by the Parish Council and is situated by the outdoor gym by the side of the small lake. It has not replaced the gym. The equipment is of a high-quality standard and was bought from and installed by Pentagon Play who

install play equipment in schools all over the country. The equipment has a 20 year guarantee.

There was some question on the Watermead Facebook page about the suitability of the equipment and why it was not swings, a see saw or roundabout. The grant requirements are extremely specific and only certain pieces of equipment can be purchased. Swings, etc also have mechanisms which require more maintenance. If we did receive a grant for swings we could purchase one set which two children would be able to use. It was felt by the committee that more children could use this equipment and this would be 'a start' for better facilities for children in Watermead. Rome wasn't built in a day and neither are playgrounds!

The Watermead events committee is a group of 12 volunteers who have come together to organise events for their local community and raise money for local charities and community enhancement. They really do hope that the children, grandchildren and visiting children of Watermead have a lovely time using this equipment.

Karen Collett



The history of the Simnel Cake

The word simnel probably derived from the Latin word simila, meaning fine, wheaten flour. A popular legend attributes the invention of the Simnel cake to Lambert Simnel; however, references to the cake were recorded some 200 years before his birth. Simnel cake is a light fruit cake eaten during the Easter period in the United Kingdom, Ireland and some other countries. It is distinguished by two layers of almond paste or marzipan, one in the middle and one on top. The top layer is capped by a circle of "eggs" made of the same paste, and is lightly browned under a grill. It was originally made for the middle Sunday of Lent (when the forty-day fast would be relaxed), although in more recent times it is also eaten throughout the pre-Easter period, particularly on Refreshment Sunday (also known as Laetare Sunday), Easter Sunday, Sunday of the Five Loaves, and Simnel Sunday – named after the cake.

Ingredients

Simnel cake is a light fruit cake, generally made from these ingredients: white flour, sugar, butter, eggs, fragrant spices, dried fruits, zest and candied peel. Sometimes orange flower water or brandy is used, either in the cake batter or to flavour the almond paste. In most modern versions marzipan or almond paste is used as a filling for the cake, with a layer laid in the middle of the mix before the cake is cooked, and it is also used as decoration on the top. Most recipes require at least 90 minutes of cooking, and advise using several layers of baking parchment to line the tin, and sometimes brown paper wrapped around the outside to stop the marzipan burning.

Decoration

Conventionally eleven, or occasionally twelve, marzipan balls are used to decorate the cake, with a story that the balls represent the twelve apostles, minus Judas or Jesus and the twelve apostles, minus Judas. An early reference to decorating with marzipan balls appears in May Byron's Pot-Luck Cookery (1914), but with no mention of the modern story, and her version may well be derived from earlier styles, which were sometimes crenelated.



History

Simnel cakes have been known since at least medieval times. Bread regulations of the time suggest they were boiled and then baked, a technique which led to an invention myth, in circulation from at least 1745 until the 1930s, whereby a mythical couple, Simon and Nelly, fall out over making a Simnel. One wishes to boil it, one to bake it and, after beating each other with various household implements, they compromise on one which uses both cooking techniques. It is not the only myth which has become attached to the Simnel cake. They are often associated with Mothering Sunday, and in the twentieth century it was frequently said that young girls in service would make one to be taken home to their mothers on their day off.

However, this was by no means the norm, and by the late twentieth century the cake had simply become an Easter cake. The word simnel probably derived from the Latin word simila, meaning fine, wheaten flour. The meaning of the word "simnel" is unclear: there is a 1226 reference to "bread made into a simnel", which is understood to mean the finest white bread, from the Latin simila – "fine flour" (from which 'semolina' also derives). John de Garlande felt that the word was equivalent to placenta cake, a cake that was intended to please. A popular legend attributes the invention of the Simnel cake to Lambert Simnel; however, references to the cake were recorded some 200 years before his birth.

Different towns had their own recipes and shapes of the Simnel cake. Bury, Devizes and Shrewsbury produced large numbers to their own recipes, but it is the Shrewsbury version that became most popular and well known. See more at www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simnel_cake

1&2 June - The Big Lunch

The Big Lunch is the UK's annual get together for neighbours. Every year in June since the idea began in 2009, millions of people stop what they're doing and get together with neighbours in a nationwide act of community and friendship. People share food, have fun and get to know each other better. It can be anything from a small gathering in a garden, park or driveway, to a larger party with trestle tables down the middle of your street. A simple idea - that for a few glorious hours, cars stop, shyness stops and neighbours come together in the street to meet, greet, share, swap, sing, plan and laugh. Join in! www.edenprojectcommunities.com/stuff-to-do/organise-big-lunch

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Answers to Tea Break Quiz on page 07

1. An army or a colony, 2. Whooping Cough, 3. Isle of Man, 4. 5, 5. Iceland and Britain, 6. Peacock, 7. Asia Minor, 8. Dutch, 9. My Fair Lady, 10. Samosa, 11. The Reader's Digest, 12. Denier, 13. Cinzano, 14. Mary Quant, 15. Hedges and Shrubs, 16. July, 17. Gross Domestic Product, 18. Elephant, 19. Luton, 20. Roald Dahl

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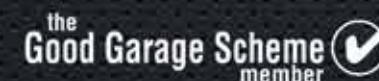
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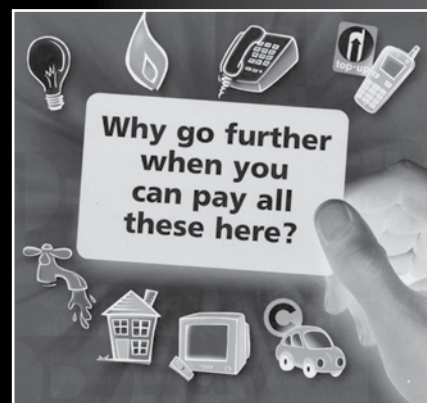


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Watermead Allotments

Hello from Compost Corner. Nothing. Absolutely nothing. Zilch. Nil. Nada! That's what we do over Winter. We can't wait another minute for the season to change. Roll on the Spring.

Some others plant onions or brassicas. We drink too much and eat cake.

Only now are thoughts turning to what seeds we're going to start on the window sill.

It's ages away from putting stuff in the soil - the ground is too cold to start off germination. It's all about a chance to rest and think about if the shed will survive another year. It only needs the slightest touch before the floor falls through and the side fall over. I hope it doesn't all fall down. The roof will be fine - that's had new felt.

The trees we planted five years ago have grown up and are as strong as steel. They all have produced produce. We'll have to learn how to prune them to maximise fruit if we can find the time. They're probably too tall. A few more years and I'll be able to build a tree house in one of them. It's a proud feeling to know they're there. We planted something that will be there long after we've gone to the big Compost Heap in the sky. And that's a nice feeling!

If you'd like a nice feeling I suggest you contact Noreen Shardlow of the Parish Council (at Noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk or call 395211 weekdays between 10 am and 2 pm) and get your own allotment. It's very cheap and very rewarding. We'll be there in all weathers - rain or shine. Happy Digging!

Graham and Kelie-Marie, plot 19

From September 2018 the WaterRider bus service changed it’s timetable to the below:

Aylesbury - Watermead - Buckingham Park



Route 6 calls at: Bus Station, Exchange Street, High Street, New Street, Buckingham Road, Dunsham Lane, Cleveland Road, Lark Vale, Watermeadow, Watermead, Prince Rupert Drive, Colonel Grantham Avenue, Jubilee Square

Route 7 journeys will either travel from the town centre straight down the Buckingham Road to Buckingham Park and then Watermead, back to town via route 6; or will follow route 6 from town, but after serving Buckingham Park will travel back to town via Buckingham Road.

MONDAY TO FRIDAY										FROM: 22 December 2018				
Service number:	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	6	6	6	6	
Aylesbury, Bus Station	0625	0645	0705	0725	0745	0805	0825	0845	0925	0940	1000	1020	1040	
Aylesbury, High Street	0627	0647	0707	0727	0747	0807	0827	0847	0927	0942	1002	1022	1042	
Buckingham Road, Horse & Jockey	0633	0653	0713	0733	0753	0813	0833	0853	0933					
Dunsham Lane, Hilton Avenue										0946	1006	1026	1046	
Watermead, Watermeadow										0951	1011	1031	1051	
Buckingham Park, Prince Rupert Drive South	0635	0655	0715	0735	0755	0815	0835	0855	0935	0954	1014	1034	1054	
Buckingham Park, Jubilee Square	ARR	0637	0657	0717	0737	0757	0817	0837	0857	0937	0957	1017	1037	1057
Buckingham Park, Jubilee Square	DEP	0640	0700	0720	0745	0800	0820	0840	0900	0939	0959	1019	1039	1059
Watermead, Watermeadow		0648	0708	0728	0753	0808	0828	0844	0908	0945	1005	1025	1045	1105

MONDAY TO FRIDAY													
Service number:	6		6	6	6		6	7	7	7	7	7	7
Aylesbury, Bus Station	1100	then	20	40	00		1620	1640	1700	1715	1730	1745	1800
Aylesbury, High Street	1102	these	22	42	02		1622	1642	1702	1717	1732	1747	1802
Dunsham Lane, Hilton Avenue	1106	mins	26	46	06	until	1626	1646	1706	1721	1736	1751	1806
Watermead, Watermeadow	1111	past	31	51	11		1631	1651	1711	1726	1741	1756	1811
Buckingham Park, Prince Rupert Drive South	1114	each	34	54	14		1634	1654	1714	1729	1744	1759	1814
Buckingham Park, Jubilee Square	1117	hour	37	57	17		1637	1657	1717	1732	1747	1802	1817

MONDAY TO FRIDAY						
Service number:	7	7	7	7	7	7
Aylesbury, Bus Station	1820	1835	1905	1935	2005	2035
Aylesbury, High Street	1822	1837	1907	1937	2007	2037
Dunsham Lane, Hilton Avenue	1826	1841	1911	1941	2010	2040
Watermead, Watermeadow	1831	1846	1916	1946	2015	2045
Buckingham Park, Prince Rupert Drive South	1834	1849	1919	1949	2018	2048
Buckingham Park, Jubilee Square	1837	1852	1922	1952	2020	2050

SATURDAY													
Service number:	6	6	6	6		6	6	6		6	6	7	7
Aylesbury, Bus Station	0800	0820	0840	0900	at	20	40	00		1720	1740	1810	1840
Aylesbury, High Street	0802	0822	0842	0902	these	22	42	02		1722	1742	1812	1842
Dunsham Lane, Hilton Avenue	0806	0826	0846	0906	mins	26	46	06	until	1726	1746	1816	1846
Watermead, Watermeadow	0811	0831	0851	0911	past	31	51	11		1731	1751	1821	1851
Buckingham Park, Prince Rupert Drive South	0814	0834	0854	0914	each	34	54	14		1734	1754	1824	1854
Buckingham Park, Jubilee Square	0817	0837	0857	0917	hour	37	57	17		1737	1757	1827	1857

SATURDAY				
Service number:	7	7	7	7
Aylesbury, Bus Station	1910	1940	2010	2040
Aylesbury, High Street	1912	1942	2012	2042
Dunsham Lane, Hilton Avenue	1916	1946	2016	2046
Watermead, Watermeadow	1921	1951	2021	2051
Buckingham Park, Prince Rupert Drive South	1924	1954	2024	2054
Buckingham Park, Jubilee Square	1927	1957	2027	2057

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Buckingham Park - Watermead - Aylesbury



Route 6 calls at: Colonel Grantham Avenue, Jubilee Square, Prince Rupert Drive, Watermead, Watermeadow, Lark Vale, Cleveland Road, Dunsham Lane, Buckingham Road, White Hill, Friarage Road, Railway Station, Bus Station

Route 7 journeys will either travel from the town centre straight down the Buckingham Road to Buckingham Park and then Watermead, back to town via route 6; or will follow route 6 from town, but after serving Buckingham Park will travel back to town via Buckingham Road.

MONDAY TO FRIDAY													FROM: 22 December 2018
Service number:	6	6	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	6	7
Buckingham Park, Jubilee Square	0600	0620	0640	0700	0720	0730	0745	0800	0820	0840	0900	0919	0939
Buckingham Park, Prince Rupert Drive South	0604	0624	0644	0704	0724	0734	0749	0804	0824	0844	0904	0922	0942
Watermead, Watermeadow	0608	0628	0648	0708	0728	0738	0753	0808	0828	0848	0908	0925	0945
Dunsham Lane, Hilton Avenue	0614	0634	0654	0714	0734	0744	0759	0814	0834	0854	0914	0929	0949
Aylesbury Railway Station	0621	0641	0701	0721	0741	0751	0806	0821	0841	0901	0921	0935	0955
Aylesbury Bus Station	0622	0642	0702	0722	0742	0752	0807	0822	0842	0902	0922	0936	0956

MONDAY TO FRIDAY													
Service number:	6	6	6	6		6	6	7	7	7	7	7	
Watermead, Watermeadow								1651	1711	1726	1741	1756	
Buckingham Park, Jubilee Square	0959	then	19	39	59		1619	1639	1659	1717	1732	1747	1807
Buckingham Park, Prince Rupert Drive South	1002	at	22	42	02		1622	1642	1702	1721	1736	1751	1811
Watermead, Watermeadow	1005	these	25	45	05		1625	1645					
Buckingham Road, Horse & Jockey		mins				until			1703	1722	1737	1752	1812
Dunsham Lane, Hilton Avenue	1009	past	29	49	09		1629	1649					
Aylesbury Railway Station	1015	each	35	55	15		1635	1655	1707	1726	1741	1756	1816
Aylesbury Bus Station	1016	hour	36	56	16		1636	1656	1708	1727	1742	1757	1817

MONDAY TO FRIDAY					
Service number:	7	7	7	7	7
Watermead, Watermeadow	1811	1846	1916	1946	2015
Buckingham Park, Jubilee Square	1822	1852	1922	1952	2020
Buckingham Park, Prince Rupert Drive South	1826	1856	1926	1956	2024
Buckingham Road, Horse & Jockey	1827	1857	1927	1957	2025
Aylesbury Railway Station	1831	1901	1931	2001	2029
Aylesbury Bus Station	1832	1902	1932	2002	2030

SATURDAY													
Service number:	6	6	6	6		6	6	6		6	6	6	7
Watermead, Watermeadow													1821
Buckingham Park, Jubilee Square	0759	0819	0839	0859	then	19	39	59		1719	1739	1759	1827
Buckingham Park, Prince Rupert Drive South	0802	0822	0842	0902	at	22	42	02		1722	1742	1802	1831
Watermead, Watermeadow	0805	0825	0845	0905	these	25	45	05		1725	1745	1805	
Buckingham Road, Horse & Jockey					mins				until				1832
Dunsham Lane, Hilton Avenue	0809	0829	0849	0909	past	29	49	09		1729	1749	1809	
Aylesbury Railway Station	0815	0835	0855	0915	each	35	55	15		1735	1755	1815	1836
Aylesbury Bus Station	0816	0836	0856	0916	hour	36	56	16		1736	1756	1816	1837

SATURDAY

Service number:	7	7	7	7
Watermead, Watermeadow	1851	1921	1951	2021
Buckingham Park, Jubilee Square	1857	1927	1957	2027
Buckingham Park, Prince Rupert Drive South	1901	1931	2001	2031
Buckingham Road, Horse & Jockey	1902	1932	2002	2032
Aylesbury Railway Station	1906	1936	2006	2036
Aylesbury Bus Station	1907	1937	2007	2037

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Spring recipes

Roast Lamb with Bacon Cabbage Serves 6

Ingredients

- 1 bulb garlic,
- 1 bunch (30 g) fresh rosemary, olive oil,
- 1 (2.5 kg) shoulder of lamb, bone in,
- 3 onions,
- 1½ kg potatoes,
- 1 bunch (30 g) fresh mint,
- 1 tsp golden caster sugar,
- 3 tbsp white wine vinegar,
- 4 rashers smoked streaky bacon,
- 1 large Savoy cabbage,
- 1 tbsp plain flour,
- 500 g frozen peas

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 170°C/325°F/gas 3. In a pestle and mortar, bash 4 peeled garlic cloves, half the rosemary leaves and a pinch of salt and pepper into a paste, then muddle in a good lug of oil. Stab the lamb ten times, then stick your finger in each hole and massage the marinade in and all over. Peel and quarter the onions and place in a snug-fitting roasting tray (this is important), with the lamb on top. Add 50ml of water, cover tightly with tin foil and cook for 3 hours. Remove the foil, pour away all the fat (save as dripping) and add another 200ml of water to the tray. Cook for 1 hour more, or until the meat falls away from the bone, adding another good splash of water, if it starts to dry out.
2. Meanwhile, peel the potatoes, halving any larger ones, and parboil in a large pan of boiling salted water for 12 minutes. Drain and shake to fluff up, then tip into a roasting tray. Strip in the rest of the rosemary leaves, drizzle with oil, bash and add the remaining unpeeled garlic cloves, and toss with salt and pepper. Place in the oven under the lamb tray for the final 1½ hours. With 20 minutes to go, pick and very finely chop the mint leaves, scrape into a small jug and mix with the sugar, vinegar

and 1 tablespoon of boiling water. Chop the bacon and cook in a large frying pan on a medium heat until golden. Trim, roughly slice and throw in the cabbage with a splash of water, cook for 10 to 15 minutes, or until softened, then season to perfection.

3. Remove the lamb from the oven, transfer to a platter and cover. Put the tray on a medium heat on the hob and stir in the flour, then pour in 600ml boiling water and any lamb resting juices. Stir well and simmer until you're happy with the consistency. Pour the gravy into a jug, or if you prefer it smooth, pour and push it through a sieve first. Quickly blanch the peas in a pan of boiling water for a couple of minutes, then drain. Serve everything in the middle of the table, with all the usual trimmings.

Tip: If you're not going to use all the leftover lamb within 2 or 3 days, simply portion it up and freeze for making meals in future weeks. Defrost in the fridge for 24 hours before cooking.

Giant Vegetarian Rösti with poached eggs, spinach and peas Serves 4

Ingredients

- 600g potatoes,
- 3 large carrots,
- ½ teaspoon Dijon mustard,
- ½ a lemon,
- extra virgin olive oil,
- olive oil,
- 100g frozen peas,
- 100g baby spinach,
- 4 large free-range eggs,
- 50g feta cheese

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C/350°F/gas 4.
2. Peel the potatoes and carrots, then coarsely grate them in a food processor or by hand on a box grater. Add a good pinch of sea salt, toss and scrunch it all together, then leave for 5 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, mix the mustard,

a good squeeze of lemon juice, and a couple of lugs of extra virgin olive oil with a little pinch of salt and black pepper in a medium bowl and put aside.

4. Drizzle a really good lug of olive oil into a large bowl and add a good pinch of pepper. Handful by handful, squeeze the potato and carrot mixture to get rid of the excess salty liquid, then sprinkle into the bowl.
5. Toss in the oil and pepper until well mixed, then evenly scatter it over a large oiled baking tray (roughly 30cm x 40cm). Roast for around 35 minutes, or until golden on top and super-crispy around the edges.
6. Meanwhile, blanch the peas for a minute in a large pan of boiling salted water, then scoop out, add to the bowl of dressing and pile the spinach on top.

7. Just before your rösti is ready, with the water gently simmering, crack in the eggs, poach to your liking, then carefully remove with a slotted spoon.
8. Serve the rösti with the eggs on top. Quickly toss the salad together to dress it and scatter on the rösti, then crumble over the feta and serve.

Tip: Poached eggs can be a little tricky to get right, so use the freshest eggs you can get your hands on. You can tell whether an egg is fresh by cracking it on to a saucer. If the yolk stands up and the white isn't watery, it's fresh as a daisy. And don't worry if they look a little messy round the edges, it's all part of it!

Jamie Oliver's 12 Best Easter Recipes www.foodnetwork.co.uk



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Book review

Matthew Parker: GoldenEye

Sex, snobbery and sadism were the key ingredients in a James Bond novel, according to a review of Dr No in the New Statesman in 1958. Yes, he

was probably right, but the reviewer seems to have missed out the outlandish thrills that Ian Fleming always delivered (well, almost always: The Spy Who Loved Me was unforgivably awful). Plus, he gave us some of the most colourful villains in the history of pulp fiction: Mr Big, Rosa Klebb, Dr. No, Goldfinger and, that toothsome twosome, Ernst Stavro Blofeld and Irma Bunt!

Matthew Parker's lively new contribution to the 007 'canon' is a history of Fleming's long love-affair with pre- and post-Independence Jamaica, where he spent two months of every year from 1946 until his death in 1964 and where he wrote all the Bond books. Before Barbara Broccoli recycled it as a movie title, Goldeneye was the name of the boxy little bungalow Fleming built overlooking a beautiful and almost private lagoon on the north coast of the Caribbean island. Here he entertained the great and the good (including Evelyn Waugh, Anthony Eden and, of course, Sean Connery) together with a far from modest selection of married ladyfriends, one of whom, Viscount Rothermere's wife Ann, divorced her husband to marry Fleming. Ann had to put up with a "three-people marriage" when Fleming took another Jamaican expat as his long-term mistress. Tit for tat, Ann Fleming became Hugh Gaitskell's lover for the last years of his life.

Fascinating as this book is, it's filled with dislikable characters. Fleming himself is a curmudgeon, sometimes genial, more often sulky. Ann is a snobbish pill-popping neurotic who dismisses her husband's novels (largely without reading them) as

'pornography'. Even their neighbour Noel Coward comes across as little more than another of the old colonial bores. Fleming largely detested the idle rich and retired who made up most of his wife's social circle both on the island and in London, and yet, as the New Statesman observed, James Bond was very much a product of the supercilious 'imperialist' mindset.

Parker confirms what we have heard before, that there was a lot of Fleming in 007: the naval background, a love of fishing and snorkelling as well as lethal levels of smoking and drinking. Fleming hated Germans (Hugo Drax and Goldfinger were both Germans), despised Americans (Felix Leiter was practically the only American friend Bond had and his relationship with Tiffany Case - erroneously called Chase in Parker's book - was one of his least passionate). His attitude towards black people was noticeably patronizing: think of Quarrel in Live and Let Die and Dr No.

From this account Fleming does not seem to have been a very happy man, but his books, however snuffy some of the critics, have brought pleasure to millions. I've read all of them (some several times) - and most of the 'sequels' in the hands of a very mixed bunch of copycat authors. From Russia With Love and Dr No are clearly the greatest of the 'founder's' output; of his heirs I would rate the first one, Kingsley Amis (Colonel Sun, 1968), the closest to the calibre of the originals. William Boyd's Solo (2013) was also excellent. Anthony Horowitz is getting a second bite of the cherry: Forever and a Day will be out in May, a 'prequel' to Casino Royale.

Fleming was toying with killing off 007 at the end of From Russia With Love when (unlike in the movie) Rosa Klebb strikes

home with the poisoned blade in her toecap. Luckily for us, this was Fleming's break-through book and he contrived a way to 'resurrect' Bond at the beginning of Dr No. Today, in real time, Bond would either be long since despatched to the rest home for old spies or, more likely given his alcohol and tobacco intake, would have made the trip to the crematorium which he narrowly escaped in the movie of Diamonds Are Forever. Despite the up-and-down quality of both the book and the movie franchise, long may he go on living!

David Gee



Our beautiful wildlife

One day in early February I looked out of my kitchen window and I saw a ball of feathers sitting on my dill plant. It looked like the "bobble" on my pull on hat and for a few seconds I wondered how it had got onto the plant!

Anyhow it was a tiny bird puffing out its feathers which they do to trap air to keep them warm. I then watched it hop down and peck at the seeds. I just wish I'd managed to get a photo. Having looked in my bird book it was, I believe, either a long-tailed tit or a coal tit.

And on 7th February at lunch time while walking my cocker spaniel around the small lake I saw a black mink - it was startled when I walked past with Ronnie (who amazingly didn't see it!) and it climbed up the tree next to the one that the woodpecker had babies in last year. I waited for a bit and it then came down and ran along into the bushes.

Do you have a story to tell? Contact the editor on marysingleton@watermead-pc.gov.uk

Mary Singleton

Watermead Photography Exhibition & Competition 2019

Following last year's successful event The Photography Exhibition will be on Saturday 21st September 2019 The Competition will be open to all residents.

- A good eye is more important than an expensive camera. In fact several of last year's winning shots were taken on phones. The categories will be as before;
- Watermead Landscape: we would especially like to encourage seasonal shots taken throughout the year which might be used in next year's Watermead Calendar.
 - Watermead Wildlife
 - Open for photographs of any subject of your choice.

Further details including the competition closing date will be in the Summer edition of Village View

A View from Westminster

National Health Service - the first big government announcement of 2019 was about the future of the NHS. NHS leaders have themselves drawn up the service's long-term plan and the government has committed all of us as taxpayers to provide the funding: £115 billion this financial year, rising every year to £148 billion in 2023/24. To ensure that that money is well used, the NHS has to embrace reform.

The NHS is facing unprecedented levels of demand. Every day, it treats more than 1 million people. Last year, NHS staff carried out 2 million more operations and saw over 11 million more outpatients compared with 2010. A lot of treatments are more specialised. There was understandable disquiet in Aylesbury when stroke and cardiac treatments in Bucks were concentrated at Wycombe. But the outcomes in terms of patients surviving and making a good recovery have improved as a result of creating specialist wards.

The challenges today are very different from those when the NHS was first proposed. At that time infant mortality was 10 times today's rate, two-thirds of men smoked and average life expectancy was just 66. The structure of DNA, the key

to understanding genetic conditions was unknown. The first MRI scans were years in the future.

At the heart of the new plan is the principle that prevention is better than cure. In the future, the NHS will do much more to support people to stay healthy, rather than just treat them when ill. So the biggest increase in funding – at least £4.5 billion – will go to primary and community care, because GPs are the bedrock of the NHS. That means patients will have improved access to their GPs and greater flexibility about how they contact them.

Next, the principle is that organisations across the NHS, local councils, innovators, and the voluntary sector, will all work more closely together so that they can focus on what patients need.

The Long Term Plan commits to major reforms to improve working conditions for NHS staff, because morale matters. The Plan focuses on the most common causes of mortality, including cancer, heart disease, stroke and lung disease. The health service will take a more active role in helping people to cut their risk factors: stopping smoking, losing weight and reducing alcohol intake.

Other priorities include improving maternity services, better care for children

and young people with learning difficulties or autism, and a £2.3 billion boost to mental health budgets. Waiting time targets will for the first time be introduced to community mental health treatment.

It's an ambitious programme, but one I believe most people will welcome warmly.

Local Government Reform

The government has now decided to legislate to replace the County and District Councils with a single unitary authority covering the whole of Buckinghamshire. The first elections to the new Council should be held in 2020. I hope both County and District Councils will now focus on making this change happen as smoothly and successfully as possible.

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



Larks by Lake 2019

We are already praying for good weather for May 26th when we hold the second 'Larks by the Lake' organised by the Watermead events committee, a group of twelve volunteers who organised last year's 'Larks', 'Films by the Lake', The Christmas quiz and the very relaxed new year quiz. We are busy organising 'Larks by the Lake' 2019 and hoping that it will be even more successful than last year's event when we raised over £4,000; all of this money went to local charities and provided us with £1,000 which enabled us to apply for the National Lottery grant which paid for the children's trim trail near the outside gym.

We are planning for this year's event to be bigger and better (please weather be ok) with more attractions than last year. We will have more than two months to organise it! Last year was all a bit of a rush but we

managed to pull it off and this year we even kind of know what we are doing.

We would love for this event to have real community participation with everyone working together so this is how you can help:

- Volunteer on the day (eg stall manning, setting up, clearing up).
- Enter your dog in the dog show!
- Enter your child in the children's talent show!
- Get together a 'Tug of war' team.
- Let us know if you are in a band or can provide some entertainment (must be of good quality and clean!!!).
- Provide bottles for bottle tombola (collection points advertised nearer to event).
- Provide items to sell on the Bric-a-Brac stall (collection points advertised nearer to event).

- Provide a raffle prize.
- Bake a cake.
- Let us know if you have a food stall that you would like to bring along.
- Let us know if you would like to have a stall in the shopping area.
- Let us know if you would like to sponsor the event for £50 in return for advertising on posters and banners.
- Or anything else that you can think of to help.

For all of the above please let us know by sending an email to watermeadevents@gmail.com

Please also put the date for 'Films by the Lake' in your diary: **Saturday 14th September 2019.**

Karen Collett

Sean Connery's Bar

My closest friend for the past 50+ years, Susan, lives in Sotogrande, Spain, not far from Gibraltar. She has lived in Spain since 1986 when she met her husband, Robert, who had a building company.

One of his contracts was to do maintenance work on Sean Connery's property in Marbella. Apart from the main house, Malibu, there were four other buildings on the site: a house for Sean's manservant, Hassan, a house for his chef, a studio where he learnt his lines, and a pool house for guests. His pool was Olympic size.

Susan was very good friends with Sean Connery's Personal Assistant.

When Sean and his wife, Micheline, decided to leave Marbella they sold many pieces of furniture and items from these houses. Susan and Robert acquired a number of items including a sofa and his bar (pictured below left) along with a painting of Sean which he had hung in his office. The sofa is long gone but the bar is now situated on an outside terrace of their house which they refer to as "the jungle room" because it overlooks their beautiful tropical garden. Sean Connery had very heavy red/gold curtains in his bar and all the walls of the room were covered in the same material.

Among many more of Sean Connery's possessions, they bought a couple of open

fire backs and grates which are now installed in the hearths of their two lounges. They also acquired some things from his office including a filing cabinet (which still had files in it) and a heavy metal box with an iguana handle in which Sean kept business cards – Robert now keeps his business cards in it!

Micheline liked to paint and my friends have a number of her paintings in their house including one of a pretty courtyard where she used to like to sit and paint – the one shown here is an example of her work.

Mary Singleton







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Hedgerow Havens

Aslightly belated happy new year to you! Hope you've had a fantastic break and are now getting back into the swing of things. The Hedgerow Havens Project is now nearing 9 months old. In that time the project has grown from an idea to one which now runs numerous schemes benefitting wildlife in the villages and farms around Aylesbury.

Over the past two months since our last newsletter we have started to create 1 acre of floodplain meadow in Watermead, teamed up with Greenways and Cyclerroutes to plant 1.2km of hedgerow along the new Waddesdon Greenway, dug a pond near Berryfields, carried out over 300m of hedgerow planting on local farms, and begun pond maintenance and the installation of hedgerow trees in Quainton.

Much of this is thanks to you, the volunteers. So let me say a huge thanks to everyone who has been out to lend a hand on projects so far!

Over the next few months we have a number of exciting projects lined up both on private and public land. Projects include: hedge laying, tree planting, hedgerow surveying, bird surveying, hedge planting, pond management and creation, and the establishment of wildflower verges. If you're interested to know what's going on locally please do get in contact.

We have one large project in particular coming up. On February 13th where we'll be starting to plant a small band of species rich woodland near Aylesbury at the Bucks Conservation Trust site: Quarrendon Leas and we need your help! If you'd like to come along, get your hands muddy and engage in some planting, then do please get in contact for further details - it would be great to see you out there.

Very Best Wishes, Marcus Militello

Hedgerow Havens Project Officer, Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust, Meadow Farm, Thame Road, Blackthorn OX25 1TW
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Buckingham Park Scout Group



Chief Scout Bear Grylls challenges us to 'put down our phones and see what we're left with' - do we have the courage, strength and skills to succeed? The Scouting movement encourages young people all over the country to learn new skills, have fun and rise to their own challenge. At 12th Aylesbury (1st Buckingham Park) we're proud to offer local young people fun and adventure on their doorstep each week. From first aid and science experiments to knife skills and orienteering our young people continue to benefit from learning and trying new things at each meeting.

Our Beaver, Cub and Scout sections are thriving and growing. We have an exciting itinerary planned for the year ahead, with a high point to place in May when our Group will participate in the biggest jamboree ever to be held in Bucks! Scouts and Girlguiding have teamed up to produce what promises to be a spectacular event for all sections within the Scouting and Girlguiding movements.

As with all voluntary movements we're extremely grateful to our Leaders and adult volunteers. Could you be part of the fantastic movement that is Scouts? Our group is growing and we're in great need of adult leaders. Could you help at the Beaver Colony, Cub Pack or Scout Troop? It is highly rewarding and great fun. Contact Iain Stanley (Group Scout Leader) for more details gsl@12thaylesbury-scouts.org.uk

Watermead & Weedon WI

Programme 2019 New members are always welcome. Our meetings are held in Watermead Village Hall on 1st Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. Please contact Julia 01296 487650 or Joyce 01296 381106 to find out more.

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| 7th March | Quiz Night. |
| 4th April | 'Lindengate' Anne Mills chatting about this local charity. |
| 9th May | Resolutions evening. |
| 6th June | 'Silk for Sundays' Yvonne Bell will show us how she paints on silk to make church vestments. |
| 4th July | 'My travels in the USA' a talk, appropriate for the date, by Kareen Stuart. |
| 1st August | Summer lunch, venue tbc. |
| 5th September | 'Bagels and bacon-growing up in the post war East End' a talk by Jeff Rozelaar. |
| 3rd October | a talk about the work of Thames Valley Air Ambulance. |
| 7th November | Annual Meeting and then we'll have a Stollen tasting session. |
| 5th December | Make a christmas table decoration. |

Random Person

Do you know Steve? He's lived in Watermead for the last 11 years and has walked with his dog, Lucky, a black and white Staffie and his daughter's dog, Sasha, a black and brindle Staffie Cross most days. He now walks with the family dog, a black and tan Frenchie. He talks to many of you on his walks, but I wonder if you really know him. Steve was born Albert Stephens in Wiltshire during the summer of 1924. He's seen many changes through his life, not least his name. He was called Jim by his brothers and sisters from an early age.

In 1942, at the age of 18, he joined the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, and after only six weeks training he was sent to fight in the war.

At the start of Operation Overlord Jim



took part in the D-Day landings on the 6th June 1944, jumping from the landing craft into waist high water to wade to a beach covered in barbed wire, other defences and under heavy fire. It's impossible to imagine what the reality of that day must have been like, especially for a lad not yet out of his teens.

Jim landed on Gold Beach at Arromanches les Bains, one of the five assault beaches targeted that day. By the end of the day the combined naval, air and land assault had established footholds along the coast, but at the cost of many thousands of lives of allied troops, particularly paratroopers. And so began the advance to liberate France from occupation.

Jim was then deployed to Caen where he was involved in holding Pegasus Bridge over the Caen canal. The bridge was a key target that was taken by a night time landing of a unit of glider infantry led by Major John Howard. Control of this bridge played a large part in limiting the effectiveness of the enemy counter-attacks in the following days and weeks, contributing to the success of the D-Day landings, and the establishment of the Mulberry harbours.

For three and a half years Jim fought through France, Belgium and Holland. During that time Jim and his colleagues endured the stresses of risking their lives every minute of every day and witnessing unspeakable carnage.

Back at home Jim's family had no news of him. Two of his brothers-in-law had been

taken as prisoners of war, one of them spending some time in the infamous Kolditz. It was a year before he was able to communicate that he was safe, and even then, only with a brief message written on the back of a Woodbine cigarette packet saying, "Dear Mum, I'm okay".

At the end of the war Jim returned home on a boat from Antwerp to Dover and was given three weeks leave, only to be immediately called up for his National Service in Wimborne, Dorset!

Home at last in Wootton Bassett he joined a building company where he learned bricklaying and every other aspect of house building. He spent three years in the building trade before he went to work with horses. They already had someone called Jim, so they called him Steve, and the name has stuck for most people who have met him since then.

His work was with race horses, working horses, horses that pulled milk wagons, any kind of horse you can think of. He rode them, sold them and exhibited them at fairs all over the country. There were no horse boxes in those days, so Steve walked them or rode them to wherever they needed to be. He thoroughly enjoyed working with horses and did so for many years until he went to work on the printing machines at Hazel, Watson and Viney, where he stayed until he retired.

Steve married Frances in December 1951 and they enjoyed 63 years together until Frances passed in 2015. They have one child and two grandchildren.

On retirement Steve went to live with Frances on the Isle of Wight. However, they were only there for about three years, moving back to Bucks because they didn't



want to miss out on the experience of seeing their grandchildren grow up. They lived in Monks Risborough until Steve's wife became ill. Their daughter, Sarah, was already living in Watermead when a house nearby with a 'granny annexe' came on the market at just the right time. She bought it, and Steve and



Frances moved in so that they could benefit from family support while still retaining some independence.

For many years Steve could not bring himself to attend any of the D-Day anniversary commemorations in France. Then, a few years ago, a close friend of Steve's organised a family trip and Steve went with his wife, his friend and grandson to Arromanches, Pegasus Bridge and other memorial sites in France. He found it a very emotional experience and was humbled by the gratitude and love with which he was received by the French people he met. He has been again once since then, but he still found it quite a traumatic experience, bringing out memories of those wartime days that, like many old soldiers have done, he has suppressed without the benefit of the counselling support that would be available these days.

Last year Steve's family heard that soldiers who had taken part in the liberation of France were to be honoured with a medal, and so his son-in-law applied on his behalf. Last November Steve was awarded Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur, the highest honour the French bestow on those who have done service for France, and he received a beautiful medal.

Steve will be 95 in July and is still very active, walking the family dog every day and driving his car to do his shopping and visit friends around Buckinghamshire.

I wonder if he is the oldest person living in Watermead. If he isn't I'm sure you will let me know!

Carolynne Mckee



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*Let's lark about
by the lake!*