

# VillageView

WATERMEAD'S *FREE* QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

Spring 2022 Vol.29 Issue 1

**HM Queen Platinum  
Jubilee event**  
Save the Date: 5th June

**Annual Parish Meeting**  
19th May, page 4

**Christmas Lights  
Competition Results**

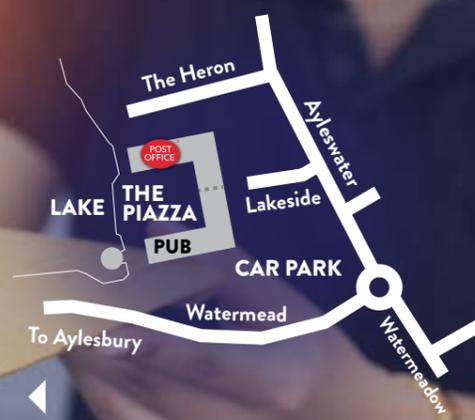
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# Parish Chairman's News

**Spring is just around the corner and we have much to look forward to this year. Thanks to the vaccination programme we are so fortunate to now at last be able to plan for events. We can see our families and friends again and travel without too many restrictions. We hope that this situation continues.**

The Christmas festivities included our traditional carol concert with great music, carol singing, mulled wine and mince pies with the service conducted by Reverend Dan. Thanks to the generosity of those who attended we raised over £160 for Roman Park Community Trust. This money will be put to very good use. Sadly, the Trust is still called on each week to feed families in need. Thank you for your continued support.

**HM Queen's Platinum Jubilee** will be celebrated in Watermead on Sunday 5th June with a village picnic. We have waited a long time during the pandemic for an opportunity to enjoy time

together. There will be catering, an ice cream van and a bar for those who don't wish to bring a picnic. Just bring your chairs and rugs, join your friends and neighbours and enjoy an afternoon of music, entertainment and celebration of this fantastic national event. Residents' children attending will receive a Jubilee medal to mark the occasion. (Details of how to reserve a medal will be given later). Our website [www.watermeadevents.com](http://www.watermeadevents.com) will be updated with further details but please **SAVE THE DATE!**

This year we hope that the wonderful Events Committee will be able to arrange their popular **Film Night** later in the year. Our Christmas Fair, on the first Saturday of December, and Carol Concert on the second Saturday are already in the diary.

The Parish Council is conscious that we are all stretched with bills set to increase this year. We have kept the Precept this year at the lowest possible level increasing by 1.76% which is an

actual payable increase of £1.49 per annum or 2 pence per week for a Band D property. We hope to be able to continue with existing services and planned improvements. It would be much appreciated, if residents are able, that they keep their hedges cut back so that they are not overhanging footpaths; also that they clear the edges of the roadside outside their homes. These small things make a real difference to the appearance of Watermead.

**The Neighbourhood Plan** team have now started work on the next stages of the Plan. With restrictions lifted they will be able to hold public consultations in person and will have the information boards and updates at the Jubilee event and at other times. If you would like to know more, or if you would like to get involved, please let Noreen Shardlow know. As part of the Plan we are required to identify various areas in the Parish for potential commercial or private development.



**Chairman:**  
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The Parish Council has been contacted by a potential developer who wants to apply for **planning permission** for a small development off Kestrel Way of mainly larger, detached houses. This was communicated to those who attended the public exhibition last year. They have now come back and asked to attend a Parish Council meeting since they are getting ready to apply for planning permission. They will be invited to attend at 6pm at a suitable PC meeting and this will be communicated by them via leafleting and on the All About Watermead Facebook page, our website and noticeboards. The PC has no view on this; the reason for mentioning this here is to ensure that parishioners are aware and will be able to attend, ask questions and let us know what you think, then, when we are consulted we know your

view. Your views are those we are here to represent. We hope that we continue to enjoy our new freedoms and the return to a more normal way of life. Watermead's community has been greatly enhanced by the pandemic. We have all pulled together to help those who need it; neighbours have joined together to keep an eye on the older or more vulnerable residents, and we have cared for people in the greater area. We should be very proud of this achievement, and I sincerely hope that we continue to enjoy this wonderful community spirit. I look forward to seeing you during the spring and summer – it's great to see gardens beginning to wake up and let's hope for a bumper year for our Front Garden Competition! Perhaps we could try to include a Jubilee theme with some purple plants included?

*Cllr Sue Severn, Chairman*

### The Annual Parish Meeting of Watermead Parish Council will take place in the Village Hall (in the Piazza) at 7pm on Thursday 19th May 2022

You are invited to hear reports from the Chairman and District Councillor and you will have the opportunity to ask questions and express your opinions on what the council is doing. No votes taken at this meeting are binding on the Parish Council, however they should be considered at the next meeting of the Parish Council. Only members on the electoral roll can vote on an issue. Other members of the public can attend but cannot vote.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will follow and this is where the Chairman and Vice Chairman are elected. They may make other annual appointments and review insurance, risk management, policies, etc.

### Front Gardens Competition

Due to the success of our Front Gardens Competition in past years, we will be running this again in 2022. Our judges will be out and about in Watermead looking for lovely front gardens during the coming months and expect to announce a winner at the end of July. If you would like to nominate a front garden, either your own or someone else's, please send an email with the number and road name of your nomination to [mary.singleton@watermead.pc.gov.uk](mailto:mary.singleton@watermead.pc.gov.uk) who will pass them on to the judges for their consideration.



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# What's on ...around Watermead

## March

2nd Watermead Pub Lunch  
17th Watermead Parish Council Meeting

The Watermead Inn  
Village Hall 7:30pm

## April

6th Watermead Pub Lunch  
21st Watermead Parish Council Meeting

The Watermead Inn  
Village Hall 7:30pm

## May

4th Watermead Pub Lunch  
19th Annual Parish Meeting  
19th Annual Parish Council Meeting

The Watermead Inn  
Village Hall 7:00pm  
Village Hall 7:30pm

## June

1st Watermead Pub Lunch  
5th HM Queen's Platinum Jubilee picnic  
16th Watermead Parish Council Meeting

The Watermead Inn  
Balloon Meadow  
Village Hall 7:30pm

## Our regulars in the Village Hall...

**Parish Council**  
3rd Thursday of the month  
(excluding August & December)  
Public meeting - 7.30pm  
Council meeting - 8pm

**Footsteps Pre-School**  
Monday - Friday 7.30am to 2pm  
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Contact Daphne 393131

**Aylesbury & District Philatelic Society**  
Second Wednesday of the month  
7.30 - 10pm  
Peter Barnes 612913

**Kumon Maths**  
Monday & Thursday  
2.30 - 6pm  
Susan Jones 747469

**Jo Jingles**  
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2.30 - 3.05pm 6 months to walking (approx 18 months)  
Debbie Bird 625599

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Noreen 01296 39511

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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

## Advertise in the Village View 50% discount for Watermead residents

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## View from Westminster



As I write in late January, hopes are arising that we can finally see light at the end of the tunnel in the fight against Covid-19. The extraordinary rollout of the vaccination booster programme has allowed us to inch ever closer towards normality. Since my last update, I've had a helpful meeting with local councillors Ashley Bond and Diana Blamires to discuss traffic problems affecting Watermead residents. Just before Christmas, I attended the carol service at the Aylesbury Vale Crematorium. It was a very moving event, joining families who had lost loved ones during the year.

In Westminster I've had the opportunity to raise a wide range of topics both with individual ministers and on the floor of the House of Commons. These have included traffic problems caused by HS2 Ltd's constructions, intermediate care as a step between hospital and home and the mustering of Russian troops on the border with Ukraine.

I'm very pleased that my Private Members Bill has completed its passage through the House of Commons. The Approved Premises (Substance Testing) Bill will introduce compulsory drug testing for high-risk ex-prisoners staying in special accommodation before returning to their homes. By helping prisoners steer clear of drugs, I hope the bill will contribute to a cut in crime.

Looking ahead to the spring months and entering the next chapter in our fight against Covid-19, it's important we continue to exercise caution but also use the benefits of the booster programme to build

back better. I'm grateful to all residents in Watermead and across the constituency for your contribution to getting life back to normal, whether it be by working in key roles, volunteering or getting jabbed. You have shown tremendous resilience and compassion in the face of uncertainty. Let's keep up the good work!

As ever, if you need to contact me please email rob.butler.mp@parliament.uk.

Robert Butler MP

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### Kimble

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### Kingston Blount

Sunday 8 May - first race at 1pm

### Kingston Blount

Sunday 13th May, first race 2pm

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Sunday 29 May - first race at 2.30pm

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## Christmas Carol Concert

**We were so pleased that we were able to have a Carol Concert on 11th December in the Piazza. The weather forecast was not good and it rained all day so we weren't expecting many people to come along, but we were wrong. The rain abated for a while and we had one of the best turn outs ever.** The Piazza had been suitably decorated with lights and a large Christmas tree was dominant. The Great Horwood Silver Band produced some lovely Christmas music and accompaniment for the carols which were sung with gusto!

After the children came to the front to sing 'Away in a Manger', the Reverend Dan engaged them by asking them questions about the birth of Jesus in order to help him with his Sermon on Christmas Day. The children responded well, some with some very amusing answers.

Despite all the pandemic restrictions, Father Christmas was able to join us and he was grateful to have the help of one of his elves, Dominic Schwab. Louise Rees was also a great help on the day sorting the presents and helping Dominic. They were kept busy distributing presents to the many children who had come along while the grown ups carried on singing.

Many thanks to Dot Toler for making the mulled wine and to Stuart and Lorraine Mackay for serving it. Sadly our WI has closed but that didn't stop us serving mince pies and sausage rolls. A total of £148.82 was raised from the generous donations for the Roman Park Trust.

Thanks also to Phil Toler for setting up the sound system and various electricals required for the event. Finally, many thanks to Noreen Shardlow and Sue Severn who also helped to make the evening a big success.

Two dates for your diaries: We are already planning a Carol Concert for this year which will be on Saturday 10th December 2022 at 6pm in the Piazza. We also hope to resume having the Craft Fair on the previous Saturday 3rd December in the Village Hall.



## Easter Recipes

### Dill herrings and quails' eggs canapés

Preparation time less than 30 mins - no cooking required. Makes 24 canapés

#### Ingredients:

4 small slices rye bread  
100g/3½oz cream cheese  
1 tsp lemon juice  
1 tsp chopped dill, plus extra sprigs for garnish  
freshly ground black pepper  
50g/1¾oz dill herrings, from a jar, cut into small squares  
6 quails eggs, hard-boiled and peeled

#### Method

1. Slice each bread slice into 6 small squares and place on a board.
2. Put the cream cheese, lemon juice, dill and pepper into a bowl and mix.
3. Spread a thin layer of the mixture over each square and top with a dill herring. Slice each quail egg into quarters and place a quarter on each square. Garnish with a sprig of dill and serve.

### Roasted vegetable quiche

Preparation time: 30 mins to 1 hour  
Cooking time: 1 to 2 hours  
Serves 10-12

Filled with colourful chunky vegetables and large enough to serve a crowd, this would make a decorative addition to an Easter feast. Roasting the vegetables, and including Gruyère with its distinctive flavour, ensures that it is very moreish too. For this recipe you will need a 28cm/11in loose-bottomed fluted tart tin and some baking beans.

#### For the pastry:

225g/8oz plain flour, plus extra for dusting  
175g/6oz cold butter, cubed  
1 free-range egg, beaten

#### For the filling

2 onions, quartered, then halve each quarter lengthways  
200g/7oz baby courgettes, halved lengthways  
260g/9½oz spinach  
1-2 tbsp olive oil  
300ml/10fl oz double cream  
4 free-range eggs  
180g/6½oz gruyère cheese (or vegetarian alternative), grated  
salt and freshly ground black pepper

#### Method

1. Put the flour and butter in a food processor and pulse until they take on the texture of bread crumbs. (Or place in a mixing bowl and rub the butter into the flour with your fingertips). Add the egg and 1 tablespoon cold water and pulse until combined and a dough forms (or mix by hand).
2. Roll the dough on a lightly floured, cold work surface into a circle large enough to line the tart tin and roughly 3mm thick, leaving a generous edge to allow for shrinking in the oven. Lay the pastry in the tin and push it gently into the corners where the base meets the sides. Prick the base and sides of the pastry with a fork and chill in the fridge for 15 minutes.

3. Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4.

4. Line the chilled pastry with baking paper and fill with baking beans. Bake for 10 minutes. Remove the beans and paper and put the pastry case back in the oven for another 10-15 minutes. Remove from the oven and set aside to cool.
5. Increase the oven temperature to 200C/180C Fan/Gas 6.
6. Put the onions and courgettes in a large sandwich bag, drizzle with olive oil and season generously with salt and pepper and shake the bag to coat. Tip onto a large baking tray. Roast for 30-40 minutes, turning the vegetables over halfway through cooking, until tender and golden-brown. Remove from the oven. Reduce the oven temperature to 180C/160C/Gas 4.
7. Meanwhile, bring a small amount of water to the boil in a wide lidded pan. Once boiling add the spinach, clamp down the lid and turn off the heat. After 5 minutes, drain the spinach and leave to cool. Gather the spinach into a ball and using a clean tea towel squeeze as much water out as possible. Once the spinach is as dry as you can get place it on a chopping board and roughly chop. Whisk together the cream, eggs and half the cheese and season well with salt and pepper.
8. Once the vegetables are roasted you are ready to assemble the quiche. Sprinkle the remaining cheese onto the base of the pastry case. Pile in the vegetables, spreading them out so that they are evenly distributed, and pour over the cream mixture.
9. Bake the quiche for 25-35 minutes or until the filling is set and golden-brown on top. Take out of the oven and leave to cool slightly before removing from the tin and transferring to a serving plate. Serve warm.

*Above recipes are taken from Mary Berry's Easter Feast*

### Mini egg cheesecake

Preparation time overnight  
Cooking time less than 10 mins  
Serves 12.

This mini egg cheesecake is topped with a cute chocolate nest, but if you want to keep it simple there are lots of lovely mini eggs mixed through the cheesecake, too. It's a no-bake recipe, so very simple to make, but it needs a few hours to set (or ideally overnight).

#### For the base:

250g/9oz chocolate digestives  
80g/2¾oz unsalted butter, melted, plus extra for greasing

#### For the filling:

680g/1lb 8oz full-fat cream cheese, at room temperature  
90g/3¼oz icing sugar  
1½ tsp vanilla bean paste  
320ml/11fl oz double cream  
320g/11½oz sugar-coated chocolate mini eggs, roughly chopped, plus extra to decorate

#### For the chocolate nest:

30g/1oz Shredded Wheat cereal  
70g/2½oz dark chocolate, broken into small pieces  
15g/½oz salted butter

#### Method

1. To make the base, line the bottom of a 20cm/8in springform or loose-bottomed cake tin with baking paper and lightly grease the sides. Add the biscuits to a food processor and blitz until fine. Alternatively, add them to a food bag, seal and bash with a rolling pin. Pour the biscuits into a bowl and stir in the melted butter. Tip the biscuit mixture into the tin and use the back of a spoon to press down firmly and evenly. Place the tin in the fridge to chill.
2. To make the filling, place the cream cheese, icing sugar, vanilla and half of the double cream in a large bowl and beat until smooth and thick. Stir in the chopped chocolate eggs. In a separate bowl, whip the rest of the double cream until it forms stiff peaks. Fold this into the cream cheese mixture. Pour the filling into the tin and level the top. Leave to chill in the fridge for at least 6 hours or overnight.
3. To make the chocolate nest, crush the wheat cereal in a bowl and set aside. Set a heatproof glass bowl over a saucepan of gently simmering water, making sure the water does not touch the bowl, and add the chocolate and butter. Stir occasionally until the chocolate is completely melted. Pour the chocolate onto the wheat cereal and stir until completely coated. Line a small bowl with cling film and spoon in the chocolate nest mixture, pressing firmly up the sides to create a nest shape. Place in the fridge to chill until solid.
4. When ready to serve, remove the cheesecake from the tin. Unmould the chocolate nest and place it on top. Fill the nest with mini chocolate eggs, letting some spill over onto the cheesecake before serving.

*NB Low-fat cream cheese doesn't set as well, which is why the full-fat version is recommended. By Benjamina Ebuehi www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes*



# Warrior Women

**We know of countless stories of men fighting in wars, either local or international, and their bravery has, rightly, been honoured. In modern times we are used to seeing women in the military in one capacity or another and an increasing number of countries are beginning to use them in combat. Britain allowed women in combat in 2016.** There is evidence going back to ancient times that women have fought on the battlefield such as archaeological remains, where DNA has confirmed the sex of the skeleton; also written evidence and even from myths which might lead us to believe that women fighters were not unknown in some ancient cultures. What follows explores just some of the roles of women in war, whether on the battlefield or supporting the war effort in industry, in medicine, in food production or in safeguarding the nation's children. In all cases they faced hardship, danger and even torture and death for their beliefs.

In the 5th century BCE, Artemesia of Caria, was a naval commander, an ally of Xerxes, King of Persia. The historian, Herodotus tells us she was highly intelligent and decisive.

Boudicca, Queen of the Iceni, is perhaps the best-known British female warrior. After Roman soldiers raped and tortured her daughters and flogged her, she and her tribesmen attacked the then capital, Camulodunum, now Colchester. They also attacked Londinium and Verulamium, now St. Albans, killing between 70 and 80 thousand people. She is said to have died in 61AD. Her monument can be seen to the north side of Westminster Bridge.

Known as the Vietnamese Joan of Arc, although one thousand years before her, Lady Trieu Thi Trinh raised 1,000 troops to rebel against Chinese forces. On the battlefield she carried two swords, wore bright yellow and rode an elephant. Despite her valiant efforts, and after beating back the Chinese in thirty actions, her side lost the war and she committed suicide aged twenty-three.

Saxon remains of two women buried with knives, swords and a spear near Lincoln are also evidence of female warriors.

Historian Saxo Grammaticus, tells us that shield maidens fought for the Danes at the Battle of Bravellir in 750 AD. The Norse sagas also bear witness to their existence.

Joan of Arc (Jeanne d'Arc) persuaded Charles VII to allow her to raise an army to relieve Orleans from the English after she had had visions telling her to do so. She led the army to victory but having failed to take Paris was captured by the English. She was executed on 30 May 1431. She is a national symbol of France and a Saint.

Lady Lucy Hay, Countess of Carlisle, at first a Royalist in the English Civil Wars (1642-51), turned against Charles I after he had allowed Parliament to execute the Earl of Strafford. She became a spy for Parliament warning John Pym, the Parliamentary leader at the time, that the King was about to arrest him and five other members. The King, breaking Parliamentary privilege, stormed the Commons with his troops but, as he said at the time, "I see the birds have flown".

Lady Jane Whorwood, possibly Charles's mistress, helped him escape twice. She was friendly with many Parliamentarians which is probably where she got her information. Other women defended their homes during the Civil Wars. Lady Mary Banks patrolled the battlements of Corfe Castle in Dorset during a siege by Parliamentary troops. Women are also known to have fought as soldiers in the Civil Wars. Major General Poyntz, whilst leading the New Model army, came across a Royalist female corporal among his prisoners. Another Royalist soldier was Nan Ball. Ann Dymocke disguised herself as a man in order to be near her lover, as many other women did. She was publicly shamed and her lover, a lieutenant, was dismissed from the service. Charles I was vehemently against women soldiers, describing the practice as an "abomination", leading us to believe it was reasonably common.

Many women served as medics during conflicts, even before nursing became a valued profession. Florence Nightingale was asked in 1854 to set up a group of nurses to go out to tend the wounded in the Crimea. Within a few days she had done so. There was uproar in England about the terrible conditions men were treated under. Nightingale changed all that. On her return home in 1856 she was awarded a brooch by Queen Victoria and a financial settlement by

Parliament. Her care for the troops earned her the title "The Lady with the Lamp" and one can just imagine her checking on the wounded at night. Her sister, Parthenope, was married to Sir Harry Verney of Claydon Manor. He gave her some rooms at Claydon to write her books on nursing and receive important visitors.

Mary Ann Bulkley lived her adult life as a man. She trained as a doctor when the profession was not open to women. As Dr James Barry she joined the army in 1813 and by 1857 was Inspector General of Hospitals. She fought for better conditions and medical care for soldiers and their families. On her death certificate her physician described her as male but the postmortem found she was a woman.

Edith Cavell was another British nurse. In the first two years of World War I she worked in Belgium tending both allied and enemy soldiers. She also helped 200 allied soldiers escape from Belgium. She was arrested by the Germans and executed despite even some high-ranking German officers asking for clemency. The Military Governor of Belgium, General von Sauberberg, ordered her immediate execution to forestall that. She had been arrested for "war treason" despite not being a German national. Her remains were returned to England after the war and she was interred in the grounds of Norwich Cathedral. Monuments to her were erected in England and Belgium.

Russia accepted women into the military in fighting capacities more readily than other nations. In 1917 after the March revolution and months before the Communist take-over, Maria Bovhkareva convinced Prime Minister, Alexander Kerensky, to allow her to form a women's battalion. They fought during the June offensive against Germany in that year. Of the 2000 women aged from 13 to 25 years old only 250 survived the war.

Sofia Alexandtevena Dolgoverkova was a pilot during World War I. Her duty was as an artillery and reconnaissance pilot. Princess Eugene Shakobsjksya was also a pilot at that time.

In World War II, Russian women were deployed as medics, snipers, machine gunners and tank crew, however, none were ever made officers. Zoya Kismodomynskaya was 18 when she was executed for guerilla activities in World War II. She had volunteered for a group known as the Red Army Western Front Sabotage and Reconnaissance Force. Her unit was sent behind enemy lines to set land mines and cut off German supplies. She was caught and tortured and marched around naked in the cold. She did not betray anyone and was hanged and her body was left hanging for a month.

Lise Borsum was a Norwegian housewife who smuggled Jews out of Nazi-occupied countries. She and her husband were arrested in 1943. He was released but she was sent to Ravensbruck concentration camp. She was liberated by the Red Cross in 1945.

Violette Szabo was brought up in England in a British/French family. In 1943 she was recruited into the Special Operations Executive. Her first mission in 1944 was to organise a resistance group, sabotage roads and bridges and send back radio reports. On her second mission she was arrested and interrogated under torture. She gave away no information. She was sent to Ravensbruck in 1944. In January 1945 she and two other SOE operatives were executed by an SS officer. She was awarded, posthumously, the George Cross and an MBE by Britain and the Croix de Guerre by France.

In 1974 a book entitled 'The Ultra' was published. It brought to light the Enigma code crackers at Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire. The people who had worked there had been sworn to secrecy. The author Frederick Winterbottom had also worked there. Joan Zeevat, a colleague of the writer of this article, saw a TV programme on the subject and was shocked to see her old boss, Professor Jones, on the programme. It was then she realised what she and others had been doing there during the war. If I remember correctly, Joan was a talented artist who had been involved in drawing maps.

Our present Queen, then Princess Elizabeth, was photographed in 1943 digging allotments at Windsor Castle, encouraging the "Dig for Victory" campaign. Aged 18 in 1945 she joined the ATS with the lowly rank of subaltern. She began training as a mechanic and was dubbed "Princess Auto Mechanic" by the Press.

During the World War II, the government was concerned about a possible decline in population after the war. It took many steps to improve maternity care, opened more delivery beds in hospitals

## Tea Break Quiz



1. If you were using a tambour what needlecraft would you be doing?
2. The word 'ketchup' comes from which language?
3. What colour is the tongue of a giraffe?
4. Which country has the shortest coastline in the world?
5. What was a gulag in Russia?
6. Variola is the proper name for which killer disease?
7. What was the name of A A Milne's son?
8. Which pier featured in a George Orwell book title?
9. In which city was the painter L S Lowry born?
10. Who remarked that 'every Prime Minister needs a Willie'?
11. What does the letter C stand for in ACAS?
12. What does Blitz mean?
13. What is the correct name of 'laughing gas'?
14. Which country was the first in the world to issue parking tickets?
15. Who was the first woman to make a solo flight across the Atlantic?
16. Which jazz trumpeter hosted radio's 'I'm sorry I haven't a clue'?
17. What was the name of the family that led the suffragette movement?
18. Who won a Booker Prize for Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha?
19. Who wrote 'He who can does. He who cannot teaches.'?
20. In 1954 what was tested at Bikini Atoll?

Answers on page 13

and provided more free milk, olive oil capsules and orange juice to mothers and children. Despite deaths in the war on the battlefield, air raids, illness and natural causes, the UK population increased from just over 46,000,000 in 1940 to nearly 49,000,000 in 1945. 384,000 UK men died in combat and 70,000 had been killed on the Home Front.

Throughout both World Wars women supported the war effort by working in factories, as ambulance drivers, as ARP wardens, fire-fighters, pilots delivering planes, in the Land Army and in numerous other walks of life.

Whenever they lived, these are just some of the women who, against tremendous odds including torture and death, gave the lie that women were ever the "weaker vessel".

Val Edwards

## Watermead Dental Centre

Lythan Davies, who founded Watermead Dental Centre, has recently announced her retirement. She has, together with her colleagues, looked after the dental health of several generations of families in Watermead. We wish her all the very best after 28 years at Watermead and hope she enjoys her retirement.

Congratulations to Laura Davison who has taken over the practice after working there for the past 8 years.

Cllr Sue Severn

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# Watermead Christmas Lights Competition 2021

**It was a shame that this year was virtually snow-free in Watermead; not a single flake to complement our Christmas lights. The stiff competition we had last year will probably remain unparalleled.** The lockdown might now seem like a distant memory, however the investment many parishioners made in 2020 into luxurious, intricate and super-luminous Christmas lights and decorations definitely paid off. The number of visitors to Watermead appeared to increase around the period of our winter celebrations, a sign that the word has spread about the wonderful light show in Watermead.

As you may recall, in 2020 the lights went up a lot earlier, well ahead of the Christmas holidays, and stayed on for a longer period into the New Year, in some cases they were left on for most of the year. As most of us gradually returned to work towards the end of 2021, many people put up their decorations later and the lights were on display for a shorter period of time as the focus shifted from working-from-home to returning to the workplace and to normality. Nevertheless there was quite a show and made it feel a lot like Christmas. Thank you all for brightening up the Covid-tainted year.

It was therefore difficult to exceed the expectations this year given that most parishioners who entered the Christmas lights "game" had already gone above and beyond the previous year.

The usual "main players" sparkled again this year. We loved the lit-up walkway next to 7 Ayleswater with the addition of swans in the garden and robins on the fence. Kestrel Way certainly deserves

a mention as almost all the properties put up an array of different light arrangements and garden decorations. We also loved the biblical scene at number 42.

Number 15, on the corner of Kestrel and Ayleswater, was out of this world with the large tree completely covered in coloured lights and the small tree at the front with lit up birds on the tree and various other animals on the ground. This attained 'Highly Commended'.

However, one decorated house stood out as the best to our judges, and this was 3 Mallard Close. They managed somehow to improve on their own previous performance and managed to make a fantastic mini winter wonderland within our village.

Well done everyone. Thank you for brightening up our Christmas/ New Year and for making our village look beautiful.

*Irina Schwab*



# Watermead Pub Lunch Club

**We had a very delicious Christmas lunch at the Watermead Inn on 1st December 2021. 52 people attended many wearing their Christmas jumpers and/or other Christmassy adornments. A good time was had by all.** The January lunch was cancelled due to the uncertainty at the time of the Covid pandemic. However we did meet in February when 40 people came along and enjoyed a tasty Chilli con Carne, Chicken Schnitzel or Veggie Quesadilla followed by a range of desserts or tea/coffee.

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 50 members and everyone appears to enjoy the food and the company.

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 tea or coffee, all costing just £10 per person which includes a tip for the staff.

If you would like to join us the Pub Lunch is held on the first Wednesday of the month at 12:30 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 Tea Break Quiz on page 11

1. Embroidery, 2. Chinese, 3. Blue, 4. Monaco, 5. A prison, 6. Smallpox, 7. Christopher Robin, 8. Wigan Pier, 9. Manchester, 10. Margaret Thatcher, 11. Conciliation, 12. Lightning, 13. Nitrous oxide, 14. France, 15. Amelia Earhart, 16. Humphrey Littleton, 17. Pankhurst, 18. Roddy Doyle, 19. George Bernard Shaw, 20. Hydrogen Bomb



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# Our beautiful wildlife



**OTTER:** On 2nd January, whilst most sensible people were inside sheltering from the rain, I saw an Otter out and about during the day in Watermead. I had fantastic views as it swam and dived for fish in the Thame a few metres from me then got out onto the bank a bit further upstream. I was too mesmerised and 'in-the-moment' to think about taking photos, though did get a couple of record shots just before it slinked away.



**CHINESE WATER DEER:** Alongside our Reeves's Muntjac and Roe Deer, we also have a few of the much more elusive Chinese Water Deer, usually well hidden in reeds and wet woodland. I have managed some decent close-up photos at Watermead, but there's something I like about this recent shot I took of one quite literally flying across the fields to reach cover.



**GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER:** The male Great Spotted Woodpecker started drumming to attract his mate early this year. It can often be seen in trees on the balloon field where it will most likely breed again this spring - that's if the Green Woodpeckers that also bred there last year don't push them out.



**RED KITE and BUZZARD:** Though commonly seen around Watermead, it's not often we get a good view of a Red Kite or Buzzard perched. During the winter these two raptors spend far longer sat around so keep a look out for them perched in bare trees or on fence posts.



**WATER RAIL:** We are lucky to have at least two Water Rails wintering at Watermead this winter as they have done for the last two winters. They are notoriously difficult to see, let alone photograph, spending most of their time skulking between emergent vegetation along the reedy margins of the River Thame and feeder channel into the large lake.



**JAY:** Seeing a handsome Jay out in the open always manages to brighten up a dull day and I've enjoyed watching this one collecting acorns along the spine road most days this winter.

Here's a selection of more unusual wildlife I've seen and photographed in Watermead recently, with a couple of bonus common species thrown in which I thought were worth a mention.



**SISKIN:** Siskins are beautiful green and yellow finches closely related to the Goldfinch and Greenfinch, which they almost look like a cross between. They are winter visitors to Watermead and have been giving good views this year in Alder trees around Robin's bench.



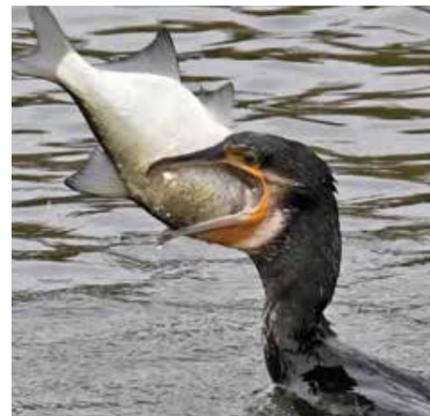
**SIBERIAN CHIFFCHAFF:** Each winter I search through the few wintering Common Chiffchaffs in Watermead hoping to find a Siberian Chiffchaff from Eastern Russia. On 29th November I hit the jackpot finding one feeding in trees near Robin's bench, in the same area as the individual I found last winter. As well as having a slightly different call to Common Chiffchaff, they also have a 'colder' appearance, with no yellow or olive-green tones, and even blacker legs. There are only just over 100 records of Siberian Chiffchaff in the UK each winter (rarer than the Yellow-browed Warbler of last winter).



**GOLDCREST:** Goldcrests aren't easy to see being the joint-smallest UK bird species with the Firecrest. During the winter they are a bit easier to find with less foliage on the trees. We are lucky to have up to four individuals that spend the winter at Watermead.



**ROBIN:** It would just feel wrong not to include a wintery photo of one of our Robins that bring joy to so many who walk around the lakes, so here's one on a cold, frosty morning...



**CORMORANT feeding on BREAM:** One day I looked out across the small lake from my balcony and saw a Continental Cormorant attempting to swallow a sizeable Bream. Like most fish-eating birds, Cormorants swallow their prey whole. I watched it for a good five minutes at least, repositioning the fish over and over again until it found the perfect angle to successfully swallow it down.



**KINGFISHER:** Our Kingfishers are certainly much more shy than others in the region, more often heard than seen, and when they are it's usually just as a flash of blue or orange as they speed past. I've been trying to get an OK photo of a Kingfisher since I moved to Watermead two years ago and I finally had some luck recently when one landed on a pole ahead of me for just a few seconds but long enough to take a snapshot.



**PINTAIL:** On 9th December there were three male Pintail on the large lake - an exquisite duck that is scarce in Buckinghamshire. This group were the highest count on the water so far at Watermead.



**GOOSANDER:** I've seen a few Goosanders drop into the large lake so far this winter - at least one male, one female and one juvenile visiting the large lake, as well as small flocks flying over, though prior to this there was only one record of this species here.



## Watermead photography competition 2021

We must apologise for an error in our last issue. We included a photo on page 23 of a photo of a Banded Demoiselle which was credited to Dan Forder but actually entered by Nicky Pearse and Jason Webb.

Left is the beautifully sharp Macro shot of a Broad-bodied Chaser Dragonfly showing the intricate details submitted by Dan Forder which was highly commended in the Open Category.



Phil Toler managed to catch the stunning photo of two Goldfinches in his garden in late January.

# Easter around the World

If you've always celebrated Easter in the same way, it can be difficult to imagine that the holiday's traditions are different anywhere else. And while the more Western traditions of decorating Easter eggs and the Easter bunny certainly make for a lot of fun, those traditions are only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to different ways to celebrate Easter.

Though the holiday has become quite commercialised over time, the reason for the season is, indeed, the Christian religion and the resurrection of Jesus.

Knowing how other countries reflect on Easter is not only interesting, it's also a good way to feel connected to other people and places. You may not do the same things during the spring season when it comes to church, decorations or food but, if you celebrate Easter too, then that's something that connects you. From Bermuda to Guatemala there are so many rich and meaningful Easter traditions that go beyond your own experience and traditions. Here are 20 examples:

**1. BERMUDA** - Celebrating Easter is a weekend affair on this beautiful British island. The festivities begin on Friday with the Good Friday Kite Fest enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. People who want to celebrate take to parts of the island to show off and fly their homemade kites which often have bold geometric designs. Throughout the weekend people eat cod and traditional hot cross buns. On Easter Sunday Bermudians attend sunrise services held on different beaches across the island.



**2. ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA** - Antigua in southern Guatemala covers its streets in colourful carpets throughout Holy Week in preparation for its Good Friday procession. The long carpets are made from flowers, coloured sawdust, fruits, vegetables and sand. They're often covered in scenes that are important to the artists who make them ranging from religion and Mayan traditions to nature and Guatemalan history.



**3. SAN PEDRO CUTUD, THE PHILIPPINES** - The Philippines is a mostly Catholic country so it makes sense that its inhabitants take Easter very seriously. Each year on Good Friday, a few people in the northern Philippines are nailed to crosses to honour Jesus' crucifixion. Though the Catholic Church has frowned upon these practices, it's an annual tradition that brings in thousands of tourists.

**4. MEXICO** - Easter celebrations in Mexico vary by region over a span of two weeks, the week leading up to Easter and the week following it. In very devout regions like Taxco, there are physical re-enactments. Another Mexican tradition is the Burning of the Judases in which people make giant Papier-mâché Judases and blow them up with fireworks. Some regions prefer more low-key celebrations like a silent procession through town or visiting 12 churches in 12 days.

**5. AUSTRALIA** - In 1991 Rabbit-Free Australia launched a campaign to replace the Easter bunny with the Easter bilby or rabbit-eared bandicoot. Why the switch? In Australia rabbits are widely considered as pests for destroying crops and land. Companies now make chocolate bilbies for Easter with proceeds benefiting the endangered animals.



**6. FLORENCE, ITALY** - In Florence locals celebrate a 350-year-old Easter tradition known as Scoppio del Carro or "explosion of the cart". An ornate cart packed with fireworks is led through the streets of the city by people in colourful 15th century costumes before stopping outside the Duomo. The Archbishop of Florence then lights a fuse during Easter mass that leads outside to the

cart and sparks a lively fireworks display. The meaning behind the custom dates back to the First Crusade and is meant to ensure a good harvest.

**7. PAPUA NEW GUINEA** - It is so warm in Papua New Guinea that it's difficult to keep chocolate from melting inside eggs. Instead, they sometimes use tobacco or cigarettes.

**8. FINLAND** - Children in this Scandinavian country dress up like witches and go begging for chocolate eggs in the streets with made-up faces and scarves around their heads and carrying bunches of willow twigs decorated with feathers. In some parts of Western Finland people make bonfires on Easter Sunday, a Nordic tradition stemming from the belief that the flames ward off witches who fly around on brooms between Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

**9. NEW ZEALAND** - There is a New Zealand tradition of hunting for rabbits at Easter. The goal is to cut down the rabbit population which is an introduced species and negatively affects the biodiversity of the environment.

**10. POLAND** - Pouring water on one another is a Polish Easter tradition called Smigus-dyngus, National Water Fight Day. On Easter Monday people try to drench each other with buckets of water, squirt guns or anything they can get their hands on. Legend says girls who get soaked on Wet Monday will marry within the year.

**11. CZECH REPUBLIC** - In a particularly unique tradition, Czech boys tie ribbons to willow branches on Easter Monday and gently "whip" girls to wish them good luck and health. Though some Czech women disagree with the tradition, others say it's an important piece of folklore and culture.

**12. HAUX, FRANCE** - Each year a giant omelette is served in the town's main square. The omelette uses more than 15,000 eggs and feeds up to 1,000 people. The story goes that, when Napoleon and his army were travelling through the south of France, they stopped in a small town and ate omelettes. Napoleon liked his so much that he ordered the townspeople to gather their eggs and make a giant omelette for his army the next day.



**13. CORFU, GREECE** - On the morning of Holy Saturday, the traditional "pot throwing" takes place on the Greek island of Corfu. People throw pots, pans and other earthenware, often filled with water, out of their windows, smashing them on the street. Some say the custom derives from the Venetians who on New Year's Day used to throw out all of their old items. Others believe the throwing of the pots welcomes spring symbolizing the new crops that will be gathered in the new pots.

**14. NORWAY** - Easter in the country is a popular time to read crime novels and ski. The tradition is said to have started in 1923 when a book publisher promoted its new crime novel on the front pages of newspapers. The ads resembled news so much that people didn't realise it was a publicity stunt, so it received massive attention. And so the tradition was born.

**15. VATICAN CITY** - On Good Friday the Pope commemorates the Way of the Cross beginning at the Colosseum. People attending the procession hold candles and make their way around the amphitheatre and up to Palatine Hill stopping 14 times along the way to represent the 15 Stations of the Cross. Mass is celebrated on the evening of Holy Saturday and on Easter Sunday thousands of visitors congregate in St. Peter's Square to await the Pope's blessing from the church's balcony, known as "Urbi et Orbi" ("To the City and to the World").

**16. VERGES, SPAIN** - On Holy Thursday in the Medieval town of Verges, Spain, the traditional "Danza de la Muerte" or "death dance" is performed. To re-enact scenes from the Passion, everyone dresses in skeleton costumes and parades through the streets. The procession ends with frightening skeletons carrying boxes of ashes. The macabre dance begins at midnight and continues for three hours into the early morning.



**17. WASHINGTON DC** - For over 130 years the White House has hosted the Easter Egg Roll on its South Lawn. The main activity involves rolling a coloured, hard-boiled egg with a large serving spoon but now the event boasts many more amusements like musical groups, an egg hunt, sports and crafts.

**18. HUNGARY** - "Sprinkling," a popular Hungarian Easter tradition, is observed on Easter Monday which is also known as "Ducking Monday". Boys playfully sprinkle perfume or perfumed water on girls after getting their permission to do so. Young men used to pour buckets of water over young women's heads but now they spray perfume, cologne or just plain water and ask for a kiss. People used to believe that water had a cleaning, healing, and fertility-inducing effect.

**19. JERUSALEM, ISRAEL** - Taking place in the city where it is believed Jesus was crucified, Christians celebrate Good Friday by walking the same path Jesus did on the day he was nailed to the cross. Taking note of his pain that fateful day, some of those who participate carry a cross with them in remembrance. On Easter Sunday many pilgrims attend a church service at Garden Tomb, the area it is believed Jesus was buried.

**20. PRIZZI, SICILY** - In Prizzi, Sicily "the Abballu de daivuli is a representation of devils by locals wearing terrifying masks of zinc and dressed in red robes. Those dressed in costume pester as many "souls" as they can (which really means making them pay for drinks) before the afternoon when the Virgin Mary and the risen Christ save the day by sending the devils away with angels.

Mary Singleton

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Further information on volunteering and all our programmes, can be found on our website: [www.lindengate.org.uk/programmes](http://www.lindengate.org.uk/programmes)



# Three new rules added to The Highway Code

An update to The Highway Code has introduced a hierarchy of road users, which creates 'clearer and stronger priorities' for pedestrians. The Department for Transport claims that the changes, which are split into three main rules, ultimately aim to improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. The changes came into force on 29th January 2022.

## Rule H1: hierarchy of road users

The first (and most significant) rule in the refreshed The Highway Code sets out the hierarchy of road users. Road users who can do the greatest harm (those driving large vehicles) have the greatest responsibility to reduce the danger they pose to other road users. Pedestrians (children, older adults and disabled people in particular) are identified as 'the most likely to be injured in the event of a collision'.

Here's a look at what the hierarchy of road users looks like:

1. Pedestrians
2. Cyclists
3. Horse riders
4. Motorcyclists
5. Cars/taxis
6. Vans/minibuses
7. Large passenger vehicles/heavy goods vehicles

As you can see, cyclists and horse riders will also have a responsibility to reduce danger to pedestrians. Even so, the updated The Highway Code emphasises that pedestrians themselves still need to consider the safety of other road users. The Department for Transport says this system will pave the way for a 'more mutually respectful and considerate culture of safe and effective road use'.

## Rule H2: clearer and stronger priorities for pedestrians

This rule is aimed at drivers, motorists, horse riders and cyclists. The Highway Code now states clearly that, at a junction, you should give way to pedestrians crossing or waiting to cross a road that you're turning into. Previously, vehicles had priority at a junction. Drivers should also give way to pedestrians waiting to cross a zebra crossing,

and pedestrians and cyclists waiting to cross a parallel crossing (a combined pedestrian and cycle crossing). Meanwhile, cyclists should give way to pedestrians on shared-use cycle tracks, and are reminded that only pedestrians (including those using wheelchairs and mobility scooters) can use the pavement. Pedestrians are allowed to use cycle tracks unless there's a road sign nearby that says doing so is prohibited.

## Rule H3: drivers to give priority to cyclists in certain situations

The updated The Highway Code urges drivers and motorcyclists not to cut across cyclists when turning into or out of a junction or changing direction or lane. This rule applies whether the cyclist ahead is using a cycle lane, a cycle track or simply riding on the road ahead. Drivers are meant to stop and wait for a safe gap when cyclists are:

- Approaching, passing or moving away from a junction
- Moving past or waiting alongside still or slow-moving traffic
- Travelling on a roundabout

## The Dutch Reach

The 'Waiting and parking' section of The Highway Code has also been updated to describe the 'Dutch Reach'. This suggests you should open your door using your hand on the opposite side to the door you're opening. So, you would use your left hand to open a door on your right side – this naturally makes you turn your head to look over your shoulder.

See more at [www.which.co.uk/news/2022/01/new-2022-highway-code-changes-are-you-aware-of-the-new-rules/](http://www.which.co.uk/news/2022/01/new-2022-highway-code-changes-are-you-aware-of-the-new-rules/)

NB: With regard to the new road rules about drivers waiting for pedestrians to cross, I have this from a lady pointing out something I wouldn't have thought of...

*"Can I please point out that those of us working Assistance Dogs and Guide dogs have our dogs trained to wait at kerbs until NO cars are present. Our dogs won't cross with us until cars drive on past. This new rule means drivers may stop and try to wave us across. Please be aware we won't cross the road and you will only hold us up. Best to drive on past if you see a vested working dog knowing this is more helpful to us. Thank you." Jane Ekins*

# The Yellow Dog Project

As a dog owner have you heard of the Yellow Dog Project? Would you be able to recognise why an approaching dog is wearing yellow? Well... 'Some Dogs need Space' - for a variety of reasons.

The registered charity was created to bring awareness to dogs who need space either whilst training, recovering from surgery, or being rehabilitated.

You may see an approaching dog wearing a yellow ribbon, bandana, vest or similar, either on the dog or its lead. It indicates that this dog needs some space and to refrain from approaching with your dog, or person. The dog may need space for many reasons:

- Have health issues
- Be a rescue dog being rehabilitated
- Experienced a dog attack and may be hurt
- Recovering from surgery
- Wary of lunging dogs
- A bitch that may be in heat
- Be in training
- Be very old and arthritic
- Be nervous or shy

Some elderly dogs do not like young lively dogs around them which is very common. My own dog Bella, as you can see, wears a yellow harness and lead to show owners that she doesn't want unfamiliar dogs or puppies lunging at her following an extremely harrowing large dog attack which nearly left her for dead. She went straight in for surgery and the operation showed the vicious attack was millimetres away from bone and tissue had been bitten away.

Amazingly, within two months, she was back competing in her frequent dog agility competitions and training. Being now elderly with a health condition she needs space if she doesn't know the dog.

The aim of the campaign is to encourage dog owners to recall their dogs when they see a dog wearing the yellow marker. It's not about aggressive dogs! If the dog bites it must wear a muzzle. [www.yellowdoguk.co.uk](http://www.yellowdoguk.co.uk), Facebook: YellowDogUK

Louise Riddough



# 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.

If conditions improve and we are again able to have an exhibition in the Village Hall entries will need to be in print form, otherwise we will call for digital files and the exhibition will be on the Parish Council website.

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

# Remember a loved one this spring with a Forever Snowdrop

**Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity has partnered with Waddesdon Manor to launch a very special event to remember loved ones and raise funds for local hospice care this Spring.** In March a stunning temporary display of 500 bespoke 3-headed metal snowdrops will be installed at the Aviary Gardens at Waddesdon Manor. Each Forever Snowdrop will represent the life of a loved one and has been uniquely designed and hand crafted by British Ironworks.

The Charity are offering you the opportunity to be a part of this event by purchasing one of these limited Forever Snowdrops, which also includes an invitation to a private viewing of the display on Monday 21st March whilst the grounds are closed to the public. The Forever Snowdrop installation will then remain on display to the general public for two weeks. And once the installation is removed, you will be able to take the flower home to display as a Forever Snowdrop keepsake.

The money raised from the display will help to raise vital funds for hospice care, ensuring that the Florence Nightingale Hospice team

are there to support patients and their families through the toughest times.

Dedicate your Forever Snowdrop at [www.fnhospice.org.uk/foreverflowers](http://www.fnhospice.org.uk/foreverflowers) or call 01296 429975 for more information.



# Book review

## Lady in Waiting by Anne Glenconner

**When her memoir first came out, Lady Anne Glenconner was a frequent presence on chat-show sofas, high-lighting two incidents from her long and hectic life. She was a friend as well as a lady-in-waiting to Princess Margaret for many years.**

And Colin Tennant, Anne's husband, took her to see a live sex show on their Parisian honeymoon.

Growing up on a Norfolk estate near Sandringham, Anne was a childhood playmate of the Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret. She is careful not to gossip about Our Sovereign Lady, and what she reveals about Margaret is not exactly hot news: Tony Snowdon was bisexual and prodigiously unfaithful; Roddy Llewellyn, more than Peter Townsend, was the great love of the Princess's life. From TV documentaries we know that Margaret was haughty and demanding; Lady G. suggests that she could be (selectively) a kind and supportive friend.



*A party on Mustique in the 1980s: Mick Jagger, Lady Anne and Rupert Everett*

Colin Tennant, Lord canny purchase of the island of Mustique in 1958 (for £45,000) and the parties he hosted there and elsewhere. He was not the best choice of husband – unstable, decadent, flamboyantly camp – but their marriage lasted for decades and ended with his death, not divorce. Busy with their social lives and developing Mustique, the Tennants largely left their children to be raised by nannies and servants, as they themselves had been. Silver spoons turned to dross when tragedy struck their three sons: HIV/Aids, drug addiction and a devastating motorbike accident. Anne had to mother her boys more as adults than she had as children.



These family dramas are the most appealing

element of the book, more than the celebrity/royalty tittle-tattle. The book has been dictated rather than written, which gives it a chatty readability. At its worst, there are gushing echoes of Barbara Cartland. At its best, Lady in Waiting vividly – and not always attractively – reinforces Scott Fitzgerald's observation that "The rich are different from you and me." Very different.

*David Gee*

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# Time to get walking again!

**At this time of year we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?**

Walking in Buckinghamshire [www.walkinginengland.co.uk/bucks](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/bucks) has hundreds of walks to download and print, free. It also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (the custodian of the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Bedfordshire (part of the Walking in England website – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy. So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

*John Harris, [www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk), [john@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto:john@walkinginengland.co.uk)*



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\*carehome.co.uk review scores are based on independent reviews with a maximum score of 10. Review quoted and rating correct as of 14/09/2021.

# Sally's Blog

**W**elcome to my first BLOG of 2022. We had a lovely Christmas even though I wasn't allowed to go to the Carol Concert to join in the singing. I had been practicing really hard with my woofing and howling too. I just know I would have added a certain 'something'.

Anyway it was lovely to see family and friends coming to visit us at home at last. Dogs and cats have missed the company too. I met a neighbour's dog last week who lives alone with his human and he was so excited; he doesn't see many people. We forget how hard it is for dogs who are responsible for a single human - they need us to be friendly and play when we meet if they want.

Pictured here I am in my crate which is really my bed and special place. I have had my friend 'Dog' since I was a small puppy and I still sleep with him - some humans think dogs have no feelings. Yes we do!

Talking of dogs and behaviour I heard of a brilliant scheme for nervous dogs that tells everyone to give them a bit of space. Not all of us are naturally friendly and keen to meet

other dogs and humans... if you see a dog with a yellow ribbon on its lead, or a yellow harness, just give it a wide berth.

I am really looking forward to the summer. The humans cannot, possibly, refuse to let me attend HM Queen's Platinum Jubilee parish picnic. There will be no dog show, nothing other than fun, people and, of course, food. Picnics are great - so much food lands on the ground. If you see me, please remember I love smoked salmon, cooked meat and pretty much every scrap of attention! I hope that my friends will be there too and we can enjoy the day with our families.

In writing my BLOG I do have to consult my editor, Mary Singleton. Here she is helping me with ideas and telling me that she is enjoying my work. Thank you, Mary. I hope you do too and look forward to seeing you out and about this spring.

Love Sally x



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# Watermead Piscatorials

**W**ell as you would expect there has not been a lot going on around the lake which is mainly due to high water levels, not to mention the cold weather! Having said that, we have been having meetings ahead of an AGM in March (no date as yet) which have included planning of work in managing the swims, overhanging trees and future dredging of the lake.

As for the fishing, well it's a bit quiet although some fish have been caught including Pike (which I'm told there are a lot of), Roach, and some Perch but sadly no Carp. This is something that we would like to see a better response to and of course there's always the 30lb one that Steve our Bailiff caught last year (his personal best). We're hoping that the removal of the netting between the two lakes at the end of last year will encourage a good balance of fish and fishing between both lakes. We'll have to wait and see.

We will be having some working parties in May 2022 around the lake to carry out necessary works to improve the swims and cut back any overhanging trees and shrubs, so any help with this work would be much appreciated.

For any information about events, you can find us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/watermeadpiscatorials](http://www.facebook.com/watermeadpiscatorials)

For Membership contact our Secretary, Don Smith, [don.smith33@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:don.smith33@hotmail.co.uk). Membership is from 1st June to 30th May, and there are also Guest tickets available for fishing the lake.

*Martin Mynott (Work Party Officer)*



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## Time to Talk

**I**ntroducing the Anne Robson Helpline - If you or someone close to you is dying, you can talk to us. At the Anne Robson Trust we aim to be there to listen to anyone who is struggling with the imminent death of someone they care about. We know that facing the end of life can leave you isolated and alone.

Calls are free and confidential – call us on **0808 801 0688**

Being able to access support whilst a loved one is dying is really important for a number of reasons. Gaining knowledge of what may happen towards the end and having a sense of 'preparedness' helps both the person dying and their family gain as much control as possible.

Please visit [www.annerobsontrust.org.uk/helpline-service](http://www.annerobsontrust.org.uk/helpline-service) to find out more.



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## Places to Eat

**THE AKEMAN**  
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[www.theakeman.co.uk](http://www.theakeman.co.uk)

There is a nice homely feeling when entering this Victorian building in the centre of Tring. The varied menu offers Mediterranean-inspired food which is served from 8am, Monday to Saturday, and from 9am on Sunday. Dishes include breakfasts, steaks and fish cooked in their charcoal-fuelled Josper grill, as well as pizzas, pasta dishes and home comforts, like their 12 hour roasted pork belly. Seating is arranged in different areas including a large outside patio. The service our group of 16 received was excellent. I would certainly like to go back for more!

**THE CROWN**  
Winslow Road, Granborough, MK18 3NJ ·  
(01296) 670216  
[www.thecrowngranborough.co.uk](http://www.thecrowngranborough.co.uk)

The Crown in Granborough has existed on the same site for centuries and parts of the ancient coaching inn remain. It is now under new ownership and combines a traditional pub with an excellent restaurant. The food offering is excellent as everything is homemade that can be, ingredients are

sourced locally and seasonality is taken into consideration.

**MIYA**  
23b Walton Street, Aylesbury HP20 1TZ  
(01296) 399428  
[www.miyarestaurant.co.uk](http://www.miyarestaurant.co.uk)

There is a sumptuous lounge and cocktail bar downstairs and restaurant upstairs and the décor is beautiful. Their food offering is modern Japanese cuisine that is authentic but not traditional. The menu showcases a variety of dishes from its four kitchens: the main kitchen, the Sushi counter, the Robata grill and Teppanyaki.

Takeaway service is also available. Not open on Mondays and Tuesdays.



**THE FIRECREST**  
London Road, Wendover, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP22 6QG  
(01296) 628041  
[www.vintageinn.co.uk/restaurants/south-east/thefirecrestwendover](http://www.vintageinn.co.uk/restaurants/south-east/thefirecrestwendover)

The Firecrest was fairly recently renovated and the layout changed creating a more intimate ambiance. Their restaurant offers a very varied menu during the week which should suit everyone and their portions are generous. On Sundays their focus is on the Sunday Roast but other mains are available. There are also plenty of delicious desserts for those with a sweet tooth! There is a large car park.



# Have your say on a new political map for Buckinghamshire Council

**A** new pattern of wards is being developed for Buckinghamshire Council. Following a public consultation on proposed council size for the authority, the Local Government Boundary Commission has decided that the number of councillors in Buckinghamshire should be 98. The Commission wants to hear what residents and organisations think about their local area. A 12-week consultation on the proposals will run until 4 April 2022.

The Commission is the independent body that draws these boundaries. It is reviewing Buckinghamshire to make sure councillors represent about the same number of electors, and that ward arrangements help the council work effectively. It wants to be sure that its proposals reflect community ties and identities.

The Commission is interested in views on which communities should be part of the same ward.

- What facilities do people share, such as parks, leisure centres or schools and shopping areas?
- What issues do neighbouring communities face that they have in common, such as high numbers of visitors or heavy traffic?
- Have there been new housing or commercial developments that have changed the focus of communities?
- And are there roads, rivers, railways or other features that people believe form strong boundaries between neighbourhoods?

The Commission will use local views to help it draw up proposals for new ward boundaries. There will be a further round of consultation once the Commission has drawn up those proposals.

Launching the consultation Professor Colin Mellors, Chair of the Commission, said: "We want people in Buckinghamshire to help us. We are starting to draw up new wards for Buckinghamshire. We want our proposals for new electoral arrangements to reflect communities. We also want them to be easy to understand and convenient for local people. Residents and local organisations can help us understand community ties and identities at this early stage of the process.

It's easy to get involved. Go to our website. Or you can e-mail or write to us. Just tell us what you think and give us some details on why you think that. It's really simple, so do get involved."

The Commission has a dedicated section on its website where people can give their views: [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk/have-your-say/29857](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk/have-your-say/29857)

People can also give their views by: email at [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk), on mobile via <https://lgbce.beezer.com>, and by post to: Review Officer (Buckinghamshire) LGBCE PO Box 133, Blyth NE24 9FE



**C**hristmas is well and truly over and after all the festive fun we care back with a bang this term. We have had a great start to the term as we strive to create an environment of fun, learning and community and the children have settled back beautifully. They have thrown themselves into all the activities on offer which have been out of this world – literally – as we explored our very popular Space theme. With rockets, spacemen and planets all to be explored; it was one small step for Footsteps and one giant leap for ways to get creative. We love to help our children shoot for the moon and it has been lovely to watch language and friendships develop as we make, play and imagine.

We have certainly seen some chilly weather so far this January but that has not stopped us from getting outside in our beautiful garden. We have enjoyed using scooters, our vehicle chute, hoops, balancing beams and running around to burn off lots of energy. We have a free flow approach to our play and we love to get plenty of fresh air no matter what the weather.

We are, as ever, totally in awe of our children's imaginations.

We have seen some stunning artwork and also enjoyed looking at books, building with blocks and storytelling. At Footsteps we love to take a theme for our learning and see just how many ways we can incorporate it into our huge range of activities. As ever our amazing team of staff have come up with a whole host of ways to excite, amaze and engage our children.

We are busy planning for the next few months of this term. We will be looking at families and people we love in February for Valentine's Day, as well as other national celebrations such as Chinese New Year. This is always a wonderful opportunity to explore colour, food and traditions. We will also be taking the backdrop of the Winter Olympics as the perfect springboard to look at sports and how we keep our bodies healthy.

We have just a couple of spaces available. If you would like to contact us to see if Footsteps Watermead would suit your family, then please get in touch at 07865945297 or email [www.watermead@footsteps-nursery.co.uk](mailto:www.watermead@footsteps-nursery.co.uk)

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