

# VillageView

WATERMEAD'S *FREE* QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

Summer 2014 Vol.21 Issue 2



## Annual Parish report

**Lidington's view on solving  
traffic congestion**

Watermead remembers  
**100th Anniversary of  
World War I**

30th & 31st August 2014

**EXORCISE YOUR  
INNER SUPERHERO**

Watermead Garden Society  
**Plant & Produce Sale**  
7th June 2014

News from Watermead Parish Council & more!  
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# Parish Chairman's Annual Report

**Watermead Parish Council has been involved in many and varied activities during the year 2013/14. We have concentrated our efforts on preserving Watermead's unique environment by improving the land, infrastructure and wildlife environments.**

## The walkway

Following public consultation and extensive research of the solutions we commissioned 'Environments for People' to design and construct our new walkway across the small lake. The walkway is built of recycled plastic and has zero environmental impact. It is proving a great success and being used by many parishioners and visitors. Given that the walkway was under water for so many months we are delighted we chose this material.

## Flood levels

We experienced high water levels after Christmas with businesses at The Riviera and Reflexions Gym being completely cut off on several days. Alternative access arrangements had to be made but obviously the flooding caused them business problems. We have

many photographs of the flood levels from residents and these have been retained for future reference.

## Planning

**Hallam Land Management – Round 1:** The Parish Council, with the Save Watermead Village group has fought the proposal from Hallam Land Management to build 1,500+ houses on land to the east of Watermead. The proposal was originally brought to the District Council in May 2013 when it was refused.

The developer tried to persuade the Inspector to 'call in' the application as part of a bundle of planning applications for other sites. Watermead residents reacted decisively and quickly by leafleting every home, sending social media and website messages, and mounting email campaigns and we succeeded, between us, in sending 280 individually signed letters to Eric Pickles and the District Council fighting the proposal. The application was refused.

'Save Watermead Village' is a positive development. Volunteers and interested members number over 480 residents and it is fantastic to have a group of committed volunteers who are willing and able to do their bit to disseminate

information, get support, deliver leaflets and hold banners at meetings, when required. The Hallam proposal has led to a growth of community spirit and engagement with the whole community, with the added benefit of having strength in numbers and many different talents.

**Round 2:** Notwithstanding the earlier refusal, Hallam Land Management again applied, at very short notice, to AVDC for the same land and plan; they had not done any significant additional work. There has been no consultation, no additional surveys or environmental work and they didn't even attend the AVDC planning committee to hear our case and to state theirs. We must assume they were just 'ticking the box' of getting refusal once more to take it to appeal, due to be heard in November 2014. We will continue with the fight.

We believe this to be the worst kind of speculative development. Hallam Land has not carried out consultation with Watermead or Bierton which is equally affected. In order to ensure our objections are both valid and heard we have worked with neighbouring parishes, Bierton and



**Chairman:**  
**Cllr Sue Severn**  
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# What's on IN AND AROUND WATERMEAD

## June

6th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall 7pm
4th	Little Sunshine Cakes Adult Cupcake Decorating	Village Hall 7:30pm
5th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall 7pm
7th	Plant and Produce sale	Balloon Meadow 10am - 1pm
12th	FIFA World Cup begins	
14th	England's first World Cup game	6pm
15th	Father's Day	
18th	Little Sunshine Cakes Children's Cupcake Decorating	Village Hall 7:30pm
19th	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall 7:30pm

## July

2nd	Little Sunshine Cakes Adults Cupcake Decorating	Village Hall 7:30pm
3rd	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall 7pm
5th	Roald Dahl Festival	Aylesbury Town Centre 11am 3pm
5th	Little Sunshine Cakes Adults Cupcake Decorating	Village Hall 10am
16th	Little Sunshine Cakes Children's Cupcake Decorating	Village Hall 7:30pm
17th	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall 7:30pm
23rd	Commonwealth Games begin	

## August

6th	Little Sunshine Cakes Adults Cupcake Decorating	Village Hall 7:30pm
7th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall 7pm
14th	Little Sunshine Cakes Children's Cupcake Decorating	Village Hall 7:30pm
28th	Little Sunshine Cakes Adults Cupcake Decorating	Village Hall 7:30pm
30th	Watermead Commemoration Events	Balloon Meadow
31st	Unveil memorial plaque/planting of memorial trees at an ecumenical service of remembrance	Balloon Meadow 2pm

## Village Hall

### PARISH COUNCIL

3rd Thursday of the month  
Public meeting - 7.30pm  
Council meeting - 8.00pm

### CYGNETS PRE-SCHOOL

Monday - Friday 9.15 - 12.15pm  
Lunch Club: Monday,  
Wednesday-Friday  
12.15pm-1.15pm  
Maree Van Danzig  
maree-cygnets@hotmail.co.uk  
07563 783464

### SCRAPBOOKING/CARD MAKING ANY CRAFT OF YOUR CHOICE

**CRAFTY CHICKS**  
4th Friday of the month  
from 6.30pm  
Contact Daphne 393131

### KUMON MATHS

Monday & Thursday  
2.30 - 6pm  
Susan Jones 747469

### AYLESBURY & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Second Wednesday of the month  
7.30 - 10.00pm  
Peter Barnes 612913

### NEIGHBOURHOOD

**POLICING  
ACTION GROUP**  
3rd Thursday on selected months

### WATERMEAD & WEEDON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

First Thursday of the month  
7.30 - 9.30pm  
Carol Hiett 485385

### JO JINGLES

Tuesdays  
Music & Movement 1.30 - 2.15pm  
18 months upwards 2.30 - 3.05pm  
6 months to walking  
(approx 18 months)  
Debbie Bird 625599

### DRAWING FOR FUN - ART CLASSES

Every Wednesday 2.30-5.30pm  
Avril Nurse 580495

### CASTELLIDANCE SCHOOL

(for children) Monday 6 - 7.30pm  
Janet Castielli 433956  
www.luv2dance.co.uk

### YOGA

Tuesdays 6.00 - 7.00pm  
7.15 - 8.15pm  
Gale Smith 747900

Watermead Village Hall is the ideal venue for young children's birthday parties, meetings or christenings, etc. If you are an organisation looking for a regular venue, the Village Hall or the Bandstand could be the perfect place. Please contact Noreen Shardlow on 01296 395211 / 07739 755411

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

Resident Rates - 1/4 page - £25 1/2 page - £50 full page - £100

Non-resident Rates - 1/4 page - £50 1/2 page - £100 full page - £200

Colour is extra - £30 - 1/4 £60 - 1/2 £120 - full page.

Special prices apply for back, inside front and inside back cover.

Please call the Advertising Manager for further details.

### The Team:

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Distribution Manager	Dot Toler	Tel: 432405	dot_toler@hotmail.com

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### PUBLICATION DATES

2014/15

### AUTUMN

6th September

### WINTER

6th December

### SPRING

7th March

### SUMMER

6th June



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Weedon since we all agree that this development would be disastrous.

The Parish Council and Save Watermead Village are working to fight speculative planning and irresponsible development. We are advised by a Chartered Town Planner and have engaged a flood risk expert who is preparing an independent flood risk assessment. We call on other experts as required and have the backing of our local councillors and David Lidington, MP, for which we are grateful. We are also most fortunate to have Pam Stocks on the council who is a Chartered Town Planner; her advice is invaluable.

**Proposed crematorium on site of Riviera Restaurant, Watermead**

The proposed developers held an exhibition on Friday 2nd May. The Parish Council has received 100+ comments from its website contact form and by email to the clerk plus 70 completed comment forms on the day. To date we have only received one response in favour of the proposal. We will be analysing the responses shortly and these will be published on the website.

The Parish Council will represent the views of parishioners to AVDC at the planning meeting if and when this proposal becomes a formal planning application.

**Community Garden**

Last autumn we managed, at last, to close off the copse opposite the Piazza with the co-operation of Mr Pardis. Many children attended our bulb planting day and we all enjoyed the spring bulbs earlier this year. The next blooms are summer flowering bulbs which should shortly start to appear. Other plants donated by parishioners are also thriving and the battle to keep the copse closed continues. There are birds nesting there this year for the first time and we expect to see grebe chicks and others soon. The swans tried to use the copse to nest but were beaten by the fishermen who illegally fished and camped from the banks – we saw, with the bird officer, swans trying to reach the bank past fishermen and their lines. The Police were unable to help despite the fact that it is

illegal to disturb nesting birds.

I am sorry to report that many flowers from the bulbs planted along the link road to be enjoyed by residents were stolen as soon as they appeared. This is sadly an indication of the selfishness and thoughtlessness of some. The flowers were cut using scissors so there is no doubt that this was intentional theft. How sad.

The next area to be planted will be the lake bank between the copse and the hedge by the slipway. We will be planting our four trees as part of our commemoration of the outbreak of World War I. We have also started succession sowing poppy seeds and we hope to have a sea of poppies for remembrance this summer – and sincerely hope that nobody will be so selfish as to cut them. These flowers are intended to raise awareness amongst the young in particular of the centenary, for remembrance.

If you have any plants which have become too large for your own garden we would love to use them in other parts of Watermead for everyone to enjoy. The plants donated in the autumn are thriving despite their watery environment during winter. Just give Noreen Shardlow (Parish Clerk) a call and she will arrange for the plant to be moved and planted.

The purchase of flowering memorial trees was delayed due to the flooding but we should be able to plant those ordered shortly.

**Anyone wishing to have a memorial tree or flowering shrub planted to remember a friend or relative should contact the Parish Clerk. We are short of flowering trees in Watermead but the choice is yours. We can obtain a small plaque to mark the tree if you wish.**

**2013 Summer event**

We ran a poll on the website last year to ask parishioners (a) whether they wanted a summer event, and (b) would they help? The answer was (a) yes, possibly but (b) no. It was felt that councillors and our usual volunteers were unable to plan and manage a large event so we decided not to hold an event last summer.

**Carol Concert and Christmas Fair**

The Carol Concert was a huge success last year with a record number of attendees, a visit from Father Christmas, mince pies and mulled wine underpinning the carols led by our Rector, Mark Ackford as usual, accompanied by the Thame Concert Band. Cllr Mary Singleton was very grateful for the help of all and particularly for Dot and Phil's assistance on the mulled wine front!

**The Carol Concert raised £200 for CHAT Charity in Aylesbury.**

The Christmas Fair was held the week before the Carol Concert this year which proved a popular change of date with stallholders and customers. Once more we were treated to a display of real craftsmanship from Watermead residents.

Money was raised for our local charity, CHAT by the 'Name the Bear' competition and Dot Toler's marvellous catering operation. Many stallholders were raising money for their own charities. The proceeds from the Fair will be used to replace and improve the Christmas lights in the Piazza. Thanks to Noreen and Graham for their organisation of this event which has become an annual event with the support of stallholders and shoppers.

**Financial**

There was no increase to the Parish Tax for Watermead in the current financial year. This has been achieved by careful financial management and surplus created from our commercial operations such as hall management. We actively seek opportunities to increase our income from sources other than the precept. With only a small staff and two particularly willing volunteers we have been able to undertake the same amount of work with no reduction to land management. We actively seek opportunities to increase income which helps us to keep the precept as low as possible.

**Volunteers**

At this point I would like to offer our sincere thanks to David Lang and Graham Severn, both of whom undertake the most

unpleasant litter clearance most days on an entirely voluntary basis. They pick up and dispose of an enormous quantity of rubbish left by people using the land. Items in last week's haul included a broken lounge chair and BBQ left by a fisherman camping at the top of the lake, many empty alcohol bottles, food containers, bags of rubbish and other extremely unpleasant things along with fire making materials. Several bags of rubbish are collected in the Piazza car park weekly and it is true to say that warm sunny weather makes us all apprehensive. We know the resultant mess that will need to be cleared. Without their help we would be forced to increase the precept to deal with the rubbish clearance. It is a sad reflection that a minority of people cannot simply enjoy the environment without ruining it for others.

**The Piscatorials** continue to do a marvellous job of running the fishing on the small lake, ensuring that fishermen abide by the rules, maintaining fishing pegs and generally ensuring that the environment is maintained. Our thanks to them.

**Village View**

Other volunteers are involved in Village View, led by their editor Mary Singleton. They do a terrific job from selling advertising (David Niman) and distributing the magazine via Dot Toler's distribution team. The magazine, which this year celebrates its twentieth birthday, goes from strength to strength always giving us something new and is a much anticipated and enjoyed key aspect of our Watermead community. New advertisers are always welcome, since their business allows us to distribute this really high quality publication free of charge on a quarterly basis.

**Save Watermead Village**

This group centres around the planning application from Hallam Land Management and was originally formed from a small group who distributed the first leaflets to neighbours. The number of members has grown over time to 480+ and continues to grow. Volunteers continue to help, using social media led by Helen Cook, to raise awareness of the issues,

and attending meetings to speak and demonstrate our concerns in a really effective way. Everyone is important and there is strength in numbers. Do let Noreen Shardlow know if you would like to receive communications from the Parish Council to keep you up to date with issues and action required.

**NEW WEBSITE**  
**www.watermead-pc.gov.uk**  
**Helen Cook designed our new website and found software that is simple to update and manage. The site is proving popular and in March had over 800 unique hits which is very encouraging. We have plans to increase the facilities via the website, so please keep clicking. We are keen to hear your views, so please respond to polls and complete comment forms on the website; it's a simple and effective way to communicate with everyone quickly. Social media is another very important communication channel and is used extensively by Helen to update on planning matters. We are grateful to her for this work.**

**Parish Clerk's office**

The Clerk would respectfully ask Parishioners to note that the Parish Office is open from 10.00am to 2.00pm on weekdays. Outside these hours please leave a message on the answering machine and your call will be returned at the earliest opportunity. You can email the Clerk at noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk

We would very much appreciate your courtesy in observing these hours. Meetings are held at either the Gatehouse or Village Hall, as appropriate.

The Clerk lives in Watermead, frequently works outside of office hours, does enjoy meeting residents and is always happy to help. However, she and her family will appreciate your consideration. Any urgent matters will be dealt with immediately.

If you wish or need to report a matter to the police please call 101. The Clerk can only pass information second-hand and the police have asked us to request that you call direct to ensure

they get correct information and are able to act on it.

**Dog Control Orders**

This year has seen a huge increase in dog walkers in Watermead. It is a great place to walk dogs but we were asked by five residents to consider how best we could control the dogs being exercised on our land. They reported incidents of dogs being out of control, two of whom had had dogs attacked by other dogs and one was worried by dogs jumping up when they were nervous of dogs. We explored the possibilities and decided to hold public consultation on the provision of Dog Control Orders. Two orders were considered: That dogs be kept on leads in Watermead and that Dogs but must be kept under control together with the proper disposal of dog waste.

The overwhelming response was that we were not in favour of Control orders but did want dogs kept under control. We discussed this with the police who were not able to enforce Dog Control Orders, which would have meant they were of little use. Many thanks to all who responded for their detailed responses which have informed the Council's decision.

The majority of respondents were concerned about dog poo which has increased over recent months. Even if your own dog is perfectly trained, some are not. People are not keen on dogs jumping up and children are nervous when dogs run towards them, however friendly. Owners who do not clear up after them, or who do not put the bags into the dog poo bins were, quite rightly, most criticised. Putting this waste into ordinary rubbish bins is, quite simply, unacceptable. Dog poo is unpleasant and presents health risks.

The Parish Council provides posters, leaflets and poo bags to dog owners – please join us in advocating the use of the bags and proper disposal, as well as making sure your dog is obedient, or kept on a lead. If someone asks you, please put your dog on a lead immediately. Dog public relations need a little brushing up in Watermead.

**The Piazza**  
Maria Schembri has now

taken over Avanti hairdressing salon in the Piazza. We also welcome The Lily Pot florist to Watermead. Please support our local businesses - many villages are not so well served by local services. The Piazza also contains The Aeglesburgh, Watermead News, Dental Surgery, Chinese Takeaway and Veterinary Surgery; there are also Riviera Restaurant, Reflexions Gym, Nursery Time and Lakeside Care Home elsewhere in Watermead.

**Watermead's commemoration of the outbreak of World War I**

After much discussion it has been decided that we should provide a series of commemorative activities to increase awareness, for remembrance of all those lost from all countries, to raise funds for service charities and to provide us with a lasting reminder of the sacrifice made by so many millions in the War.

Throughout spring and summer we will be sowing poppy seeds in various areas of our land. We hope that these will give us a carpet of poppies for remembrance and for everyone to enjoy. We started this activity over Easter and we will be asking children to come and help with this regularly.

**The main commemorative events will take place over the weekend of 30th to 31st August. On Saturday 30th August we will be holding an event on the Balloon Meadow, proceeds from which will be donated to The Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes. The events are registered with and supported by both organisations, and registered with the Imperial War Museum. Our ecumenical service of remembrance will take place on Sunday 31st August.**

The Saturday event will comprise a funfair, concert with two local bands and a brass band playing tunes from 1914, with historical displays provided by RAF Halton, Air Cadets, other youth groups and will be attended by those currently serving. Visitors will be able to learn about recruitment, training and the daily life of

soldiers serving in the trenches and elsewhere during the war. They will have the opportunity of examining uniforms and equipment. There will be a prize for the best dressed 1914 family. Local charities will be in attendance, together with traditional sideshows and craft stalls. Bring a picnic or enjoy the catering provided. Please note: No alcohol will be served at this event.

If you have any memorabilia, personal memories, photographs or family documents from 1914 we would love to hear from you. Please let Noreen Shardlow know and she will arrange for copies to be made for the exhibition or for stories to be written up for the Watermead scrapbook.

On Sunday 31st August at 2.00pm, Councillor Netta Glover will unveil the memorial plaque marking the planting of our four memorial trees at an ecumenical service of remembrance conducted by our Rector, Mark Ackford.

Our thanks to Netta who arranged for the funding for the trees to be made available from the community leaders' fund.

*It only remains for me to thank our councillors for their contribution during the year. The Vice Chairman, Adrian Schwab has supported all of our activities, and has, in particular, contributed his legal knowledge to support our work.*

*The Parish Clerk and Assistant Clerk, Noreen Shardlow and Michelle Jackson do a terrific job and we are really grateful for their very efficient and friendly service enjoyed by our community which is frequently complimented by parishioners and other key stakeholders. Thank you.*

Cllr Sue Severn



More on page 10



# The Artfully Reliable Theatre Society (TARTS)

## Search for a star – local musical society embraces new talent.

Local amateur musical society, The Artfully Reliable Theatre Society (TARTS), was founded in 2011 by Watermead resident and musician/songwriter, Rebecca Taylor and her colleague, Nina Gregory, a teacher at Aylesbury High School. They had written a musical together and, despite many positive comments, found it impossible to find a theatrical company prepared to take the risk of performing an unknown show in a depressed economic climate. So they decided to do it themselves. What was expected to be a one-off show has turned into Aylesbury's newest musical theatre society. TARTS is now poised to begin

weekly rehearsals for its 7th production, *Godiva*, about the feisty lady who rode the streets of Coventry on horseback. Past productions have included a mixture of new and established musical works. TARTS especially welcomes enquiries from local composers, looking to try out their own compositions with them.

As well as holding auditions for the role of Lady Godiva and some secondary male and female roles, TARTS is also keen to recruit more members of all ages (16+), both performers and technical/production staff. "We want to let the people of Aylesbury and surrounding areas know of our existence and hope to develop a vibrant amateur musical theatre culture in the town," says Rebecca. "No experience is required and we audition

only for principal roles, not to join the chorus or the society itself. Most of our members come to us with no experience, and a number are now leading lights in the society. More experienced people, too, are very welcome.

We participate in many social occasions together, and with our families. Joining TARTS is not just about exercising your artistic inclinations. It's about discovering a new camaraderie. Above all, we have fun."

**Anyone wishing to audition as Lady Godiva, or join TARTS in general, can call Rebecca Taylor on 07713 708667 or 01296 422645 [www.tarts-theatre.org](http://www.tarts-theatre.org)**



# Don't rely on reputation, come and be surprised by reality



**Elmhurst has been transformed. The school has moved from strength to strength and continues to improve at a rapid pace.** Staff are dedicated and ensure that every child succeeds. Pupils are challenged and supported to reach their full potential. Learning behaviours are good and pupils enjoy being a part of our school and want to succeed.

**Elmhurst Open Evening: Thursday 5th June at 7pm**  
We will be holding a presentation evening on Thursday 5th June in the school Hall. Come and meet us, hear our vision for the school, learn more about our Early Years curriculum, see examples of children's work from across the school and have a chance to question us.

**Open Morning: Friday 6th June at 9:15am**  
Come and spend time in our classrooms. Our pupils will take you on a tour of the school and give you the opportunity to see it in action and give you their perspective on what it is like to be a pupil at Elmhurst.

**Rising 5 Parents Meet and Greet Session: Friday 23rd May and Friday 20th June at 1:30pm**  
Come and have a cup of tea or coffee and a cake in the Harding Room (our Community Hub). Meet other prospective Rising 5 parents and have a chance to get to know each other. Meet Katie Rumble, our Early Years Foundation Stage Leader, Maryam Khan, our Parent Engagement Officer and some parents of current pupils at the school.

Come and visit and see for yourselves.

Rachel Kirk - Headteacher

## Watermead Model Boat Club (WMBC)

**The club has been running since 1995 and caters mainly for yachting and electric scale.**

The yachting section hosts a number of regattas during the year including local and national events. Although competition plays a significant part, WMBC chairman Tony Taylor commented that the club strongly encourages family participation and offers family membership at the very reasonable cost of £28 per year. Standard membership covers affiliation to the MPBA or MYA which includes public liability insurance.

Regular club scale and sailing activities take place every Sunday from 10am to

1pm on the main lake, from the jetty near the Riviera. Although members can sail at any time, the club encourages members to attend in numbers of no less than two for water safety reasons. Due to wildlife considerations, noisy and/or fast models are not permitted on the lake.

The club welcomes new members and anyone interested in joining is warmly invited to come along and speak to members and officials of the club at any regular Sunday morning meeting. Further information can be found on the club's very good website: [watermeadmbc.wordpress.com](http://watermeadmbc.wordpress.com)

Watermead remembers

## 100th Anniversary of World War I 1914-1918

**Saturday 30th August 2014 - Balloon Meadow**  
Funfair, local bands, traditional sideshows, craft stalls and a brass band playing music from 1914.

Historical displays provided by RAF Halton, Air Cadets and other youth groups.

Prize for the best dressed 1914 family.

Bring a picnic or enjoy the catering provided.

**Sunday 31st August 2014 at 2.00pm - Balloon Meadow**  
Cllr Netta Glover unveils memorial plaque marking the planting of four memorial trees at an ecumenical service of remembrance.



# Roy Hutchings 1930 - 2014

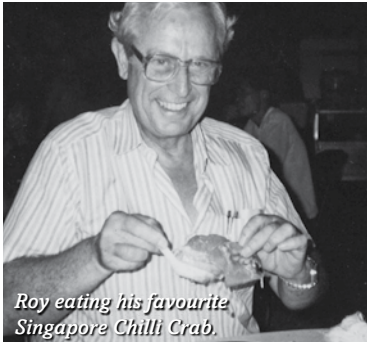
## A man of many parts



Watermead's groundsman



Roy and his wife, Sally.



Roy eating his favourite Singapore Chilli Crab.

**Roy Hutchings lived on Watermead in Sandpiper for the last 18 years and played a very active role in the community.**

The son of a butcher he was born and brought up in Hampstead and at the age of 13 won a scholarship to the William Ellis School. Although the war had ended by the time he left school, like nearly all young men at that time, he had to do National Service which for Roy meant serving with the Royal Military Police.

Having decided he wanted to be a pilot he attended night school and took flying lessons and even acquired his own 1939 Tiger Moth. This much loved biplane was for many years the RAF's basic trainer and a number of them can be seen at an Annual rally at RAF Halton.

In 1953 he became a second officer with BOAC, the national long haul airline, which later became part of British Airways and it was during this time that he met and married Sally who was a member of Cabin Crew. They had two children Mark and

Victoria who now live in Texas and London respectively with their own families.

Roy flew a variety of aircraft including propeller driven Doves, Argonauts and Britannias and then Jet 707s and 747s. He retired from British Airways in 1983 but didn't enjoy retirement as he said he was qualified only to fly aeroplanes or sweep the streets. So he joined Singapore Airlines flying for them until 1990.

He once told me proudly how in the Middle East on the way back from Singapore he had achieved the perfect landing putting his 747 onto the runway so gently that the passengers were unaware they had touched down. He was also active in the British Airline Pilots Association (BALPA) and its chairman for 3 years and then the Singapore Pilots Association.

In 1973 Roy and Sally bought the run down Rosall Farm at Grendon Underwood which they turned into a thriving 50 acre farm before finally "retiring" to Watermead in 1996. It was, however, a very active retirement as he worked with

the BA Pensioners Association and the Confederation of Occupational Pensioners.

Part of the original plan for Watermead was large area of recreational land. Unfortunately in the financial crash of the late 1980s the development company, Royco, went out of business and the land passed into the hands of the Official Receiver. Shortly after Roy and Sally moved to Watermead the community was faced with a threat to convert the disused ski-Lodge (now the Riviera) into a full-blown night club. Residents bought shares in a new company called Lakeside Land set up to buy land from the Receiver to prevent its development. Roy joined the board and later became its Chairman until the company was wound up and the land passed to the new Watermead Parish Council.

He also acted for a number of years as Watermead "groundsman" cutting the grass on the meadows and the cricket field on his own ride on mower. He loved doing practical things whether it was tinkering with the aforesaid mower, going up

a ladder to fix his neighbour's drainpipe, re-gravelling the whole of Sandpiper or taking loads to the dump in his trailer. One year at Christmas Roy set out lines of lights across his front lawn so that it resembled an airport runway.

Sadly a few years ago Sally became disabled as the result of a stroke and was eventually admitted to a nursing home. Roy had struggled initially to care for her at home including single-handedly installing a stair lift. Unfortunately Roy himself became increasingly frail with Alzheimer's disease in the last two years of his life. With the support of some close and longstanding friends and latterly his full time carer and others he remained at home almost until the end.

Roy had a very full life contributing much to others for which we are grateful. He in turn valued his friends and family. We extend our sympathy to all of them.

*Eric Rose (neighbour)*

## Thanks to our Chairman

**Our Chairman, Sue Severn has reported on all the work and initiatives undertaken and carried out by the Parish Council over the past year. I note a few below:**

**The Walkway –** incorporating a new concept by using recycled plastic, and the fact it survived so well despite being under water for a number of months.

**The Hallam Land Development –** this threatens both our identity as a village and would greatly increase the flood risk to Watermead if successful. This application was rejected by AVDC. We will be ready to oppose the appeal in November!

**The Community Garden –** a wonderful concept for all to plant various plants in harmony with our natural environment.

These are just few of the projects and activities undertaken this year which

have been inspired by Sue. She has risen to the challenges and, at times, distractions that could have meant we as a Parish Council may have lost our focus on what matters the most – representing the people of Watermead to the best of our ability.

Sue has shown strength of character and through her leadership ensured that we, as a Parish Council, did remain focused and not only met the many challenges we faced but exceeded them.

On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to say a heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all the hard work and dedication our Chairman, Sue Severn, has given; her dedication, drive and initiative makes her a much respected and valued leader.

*Cllr Adrian Schwab, Vice Chairman*

# The view from Westminster

## What do you think can be done about the appalling traffic conditions in Aylesbury?

This isn't a problem unique to Aylesbury and I don't think that there's some easy answer out there just waiting to be discovered.

While some recent academic studies suggest that car use in the UK and other developed countries has levelled off, it's not yet clear whether this is a temporary phenomenon or a long-lasting trend. In any case, almost all of us rely on the car far more than did previous generations. We value the freedom car ownership gives to travel when and where we choose. We as customers have chosen to use supermarkets and retail parks rather than high streets. Complex distribution systems for manufacturers and retailers alike connect suppliers and customers in supply chains that stretch throughout this country and often throughout Europe. Lorries and vans are vital to keep that trade going.

Many people travel to work and Aylesbury Vale's travel patterns are complex. Figures published by the Bucks Local Enterprise Partnership show that about five thousand people from the Vale work in London (including Heathrow and the suburbs) and the same number in both Milton Keynes and Oxfordshire. Hertfordshire provides work for roughly four thousand AVDC residents, Bedfordshire about three thousand and the rest of Bucks six thousand. At the same time, Aylesbury Vale is the workplace for 14 thousand people from Windsor and Maidenhead, Slough, Central Beds and Dacorum combined.

Social change too has played a part. There are more families where both partners work and more single parents struggling to hold down a job as well as bring up a family. That adds up to less time to walk to the shops or accompany children to school.

## So, what can be done?

Part of the answer is to plan infrastructure and employment at the same time as new houses. A key reason why, despite my acknowledgement that Aylesbury needs more homes, I objected to the development plans for Watermead East and Hampden Fields was the lack of adequate transport provision. I do think that an Aylesbury by-pass is needed. In transport terms, especially since both MK and Leighton Buzzard are, like Aylesbury, due to expand further, it would seem logical to link the A41 Aston Clinton bypass to the Leighton Linlade bypass, bypassing Birtton, Rowsham and Wing and providing a direct link between the M25 and Milton Keynes. Cost is a problem and I think we'll need both developer finance and some central government help.

At the same time, we need to make other modes of local travel more attractive. The colour coded bus services in Aylesbury were designed to encourage people to leave their cars at home and I'd be interested to know what Watermead residents think of the current service or how it might be improved.

Local councils have tried hard to improve the safety and attractiveness of cycling locally. Of course, it's a lot harder to fit provision for cyclists into an old road network than to build it in to new developments at the design stage. Having seen what happens in Amsterdam and Copenhagen, I think we can raise our game further and

again I'd be interested in local residents' ideas.

We can look forward to an improvement in the local rail network, with the link between Aylesbury and Bletchley likely to open in 2019 and East-West Rail making it possible for trains to run from Aylesbury direct to MK Central.

Finally, I suppose we all (and I include myself in this) need to think whether we do really need to use a car for some of those relatively short, local journeys.

## What does the government's localism agenda actually mean for residents of Watermead?

It means that a number of important decisions about how public services are run locally are now taken locally rather than in a regional or national government office.

For example, the budget for NHS hospital treatment is now spent by the Aylesbury Vale Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). Their board includes local doctors, nurses and other professionals. The local budget should be spent on addressing local needs which can sometimes get hidden by a regional or national statistical average.

In local government, the Localism Act gave local councils a "general duty of competence". In plain English, that means that councils, like individuals, are free to act in any way they judge right (and be held accountable by voters) provided that they don't breach any other laws.

The law has also been changed to make it clear that councillors are entitled to speak and act in council affairs on issues about which they have campaigned. Previously, a misguided interpretation of impartiality and fear of legal challenge had led to some councillors being gagged on the

very issues that mattered most to their ward.

Parish councils and neighbourhood community groups have been given a new legal power to ask a council to transfer to them responsibility for a local service and a right to buy a key local amenity like a village pub, shop or meeting room.

There are some policy areas though where there is still a vigorous debate about how far it is right for localism to go.

One is housing. Watermead, like other parishes, now has a right to draw up its own neighbourhood development plan and to have that built in to the District Council's plan for AVDC as a whole. But not only does the District Council have a duty, while taking account of parish views, to draw up a plan for the District as a whole, it also has to demonstrate to the satisfaction of a planning inspector (who also hears objections to the draft plan) that its plan is sound. And as we know, AVDC's plan was rejected by the inspector.

Another controversy is over taxes. Councils would like central government to transfer more revenue-raising from Whitehall to town hall, so councils could decide and raise locally what they spend. What do Watermead residents think?



*Rt Hon David Lidington, MP for Aylesbury*



# Animals and vets during World War I

**Pigeons proved to be an extremely reliable method of sending messages during the First World War**, with over 100,000 used and a success rate of 95% at delivering their message.

In addition to their homing instinct, their great speed made it almost impossible to shoot them down. However, birds of prey such as falcons were occasionally used with success on the front line. Of particular note was a pigeon called Cher Ami who successfully delivered the co-ordinates of a trapped group of 194 American soldiers back to their headquarters enabling them all to be rescued. Despite being shot through the chest by the Germans, Cher Ami completed the 25 mile journey in 25 minutes.

By 1918, Germany had deployed 30,000 dogs; Britain, France and Belgium 20,000 and

Italy 3000. The native German breeds Doberman Pinschers and German Shepherd Dogs were especially popular due to their agility, strength, territorial nature and trainability. Terriers were used as ratters in the trenches. In addition to sentry dogs, scout dogs were used to detect enemy scent up to 1000 yards away; casualty dogs were trained to find injured soldiers and equipped with medical supplies to enable soldiers to help themselves or provide comfort (Mercy Dogs) to the dying. Messenger dogs were faster runners than soldiers and a smaller target when taking important orders across the battlefield. A dog training school was established in Scotland and a recruit from this school travelled over 4km of difficult battlefield terrain in less than 60 minutes to deliver a vital message to headquarters.

Mascot dogs also performed an important role in improving the psychological welfare of soldiers in the trenches.

More than a million horses and mules were used by the British army to carry supplies and pull ambulances and artillery guns as well as form Calvary units. The biggest killer of horses was not the enemy's guns but a combination of exhaustion, hunger, illness, mange and gas attacks. Approximately 15% of the British Army's horses died each year.

**At the outbreak of World War I there were 364 Army Veterinary Corps officers.**

During the war a further 1306 were commissioned and by 1918 almost half the veterinary surgeons in Great Britain were serving in the Army Veterinary Corps (AVC). There were a

further 27,000 men serving in the AVC, who supported the medical treatment of horses. The horse hospitals in France had a high success rate – out of 2.5 million animals hospitalised, 2 million were returned for duty. A typical horse hospital could treat 2000 animals at any one time. In Egypt there were also separate camel hospitals under the control of AVC officers with specialized knowledge of camels. On the 27th November 1918 King George V conferred the "Royal" prefix to the Corps in recognition of their work during the war.

*This information is given by Richard Rallings at Hampden Veterinary Hospital. For any further information or advice about your pets contact: 01296 745373 or call in to see them in The Piazza or in Aylesbury.*

## Tea Break Quiz



1. In which month of 1914 did the First World war begin ?
2. Which 'new' weapon was introduced into battle in 1916 ?
3. In which year did the USA enter the war ?
4. In which city was Archduke Ferdinand assassinated ?
5. Germany's attack on which country provoked Britain into the war ?
6. Who was the commander of the US forces in Europe ?
7. What disease took lives on both sides of the conflict in the latter stages of the war ?
8. Where was the formal peace agreement signed ?
9. At which battle was poison gas first used ?
10. What was the area between the opposing trenches called ?
11. What was the final allied offensive on the Western Front called ?
12. Which nation invaded Serbia in 1914 effectively starting the conflict ?
13. Which FOUR nations made up the Central Powers ?
14. What was the real name of the German flying ace known as The Red Baron ?
15. Which two Admirals commanded the British fleet at the Battle of Jutland ?
16. Which battle stopped the German advance on Paris in 1914, beginning trench warfare ?
17. What was the common nickname for the US troops in WWI ?
18. Which battle on the eastern front in August 1914 seriously damaged Russia, making them less of a threat to Germany ?
19. Remembered as ANZAC Day every year, which battle was the first major battle to be fought by Australian and New Zealand forces ?
20. When did the Armistice finally occur ?

Answers on page 25

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water rider 6

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Heineken (330ml)	5 for £5.50
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Becks (330ml)	6 for £5.00
Corona Extra (330ml)	5 for £6.00
WKD Blue/Iron Brew(275ml)	4 for £5.00
Becks	6 for £5.00
WKD Blue/Iron Brew (275ml)	4 for £5.00
Bacardi Breezer (275ml)	4 for £5.00
Peroni (330ml)	5 for £6.00
Vodka Red Square (275ml)	4 for £5.00
Vodka Reef (275ml)	4 for £5.00
Smirnoff Ice (275ml)	4 for £5.00
Polish Beers (500ml)	4 for £5.00

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Kronenbourg 1664	6 for £5.50
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Holstein Pils	6 for £5.50
Grolsch	6 for £5.50
Fosters Export	6 for £5.50
Red Stripe	5 for £5.00
Old Speckled Hen	4 for £6.00
Boddingtons	5 for £5.00
Budweiser	5 for £5.50
Carlsberg	8 for £6.50
Draught Guinness	5 for £5.50
John Smith's Extra Smooth	5 for £5.00

**Wines:** Italian Wines (Villa Radiosa), Frascati, Soave, Pinot Grigio, Chardonnay, Valpolicello, Cabernet Veneto, Merlot, Bardilino  
Any 2 for £5.00. Echo Falls any 2 for £8.00

MONDAY TO THURSDAY 3PM – 10.30PM FRIDAY 2PM – 11PM  
SATURDAY 12 NOON – 11PM SUNDAY 12 NOON – 10.30PM

158 Buckingham Road (Opposite Charles Douglas - the Land Rover showroom) **Tel: 436705**

## Nightcap

A nightcap is an alcoholic beverage consumed right before going to bed. The alcohol content is higher than a wine or beer drink, usually a liqueur or spirit. Traditional nightcaps are brandy or bourbon or a cream-based liqueur such as Irish cream. However wine or beer can often be considered a beverage of choice before bed as well.

The origin of the word “nightcap” is not fully known,

but there are two theories. First, the warming and dizzying sense of alcohol before bedtime may help some sleep, thus putting a “cap” on the night. Another theory is related to the actual clothing “nightcap”, which was a garment worn to keep the head warm, in times when there may not have been sufficient heating. The same way that the garment kept the wearer's head warm, the alcohol “nightcap” had a similar effect.

## Commemorative Plinth installed on new walkway

When the high water levels subsided early in March we were able to have the wonderful handmade plinth installed at the end of the walkway. Peter Stocker of Kestrel Way kindly designed and created these beautiful pottery pieces which are attached to original timber from the old wooden walkway. It was installed by Steve Hunt, Bucks Home Improvements.



## Dash for Dad on Father's Day!

**Child Bereavement UK supports families and educates professionals when a baby or child of any age dies or is dying, or when a child is facing bereavement.**

Every year we train over 4,000 professionals helping them to better understand and meet the needs of bereaved families. **On 15th June 2014, Child Bereavement UK is holding its fourth annual ‘Dash for Dad’ running event in the beautiful grounds of West Wycombe Park, Buckinghamshire.**

A fun morning out for all the family. Dash for Dad will consist of a 1K, 2K and 5K running event for children and adults. All runs will be held within the park, with the 5K using a challenging hilly route.

There will be lots of fun, family activities to take part in after the races, or you can enjoy a lovely walk around the picturesque grounds.

Proceeds will go to Child Bereavement UK. The Saunderton-based charity

supports families and educates professionals when a baby or child of any age dies or is dying, or when a child is facing bereavement.

Emma Riley, Fundraising Officer at Child Bereavement UK, said: “*Bereaved children and families often tell us that they find Father's Day and Mother's Day particularly difficult. For children who don't have a dad, or dads who have experienced the death of a baby or child, Father's Day can take on a very different meaning, especially when others are celebrating. We organised Dash for Dad as a positive way for people to run in memory of someone or to support bereaved families whilst having a fun day out for a good cause. We are really grateful to Sir Edward and Lady Dashwood for providing stunning West Wycombe Park as the perfect location. Please come along and help support our vital work.*”

**For more information and to register please go to [www.childbereavementuk.org](http://www.childbereavementuk.org) call 01494 568912.**

## The Dung Beatles help raise thousands for cancer charity

**A well over-subscribed turnout of around 120 guests danced and sang the night away with the DBs at Buckinghamshire's historic Missenden Abbey.** The dance floor was filled from the first song to the last. Elaine Ball from the charity said “*We would like to say a huge thank you to the Dung Beatles for putting on such a great night for us at Missenden Abbey on 29th March. I don't think there was anybody who didn't get up and have a dance to the irresistible tunes of the Beatles, performed so brilliantly by the band. All comments from our guests have been positive and in addition to this we raised an incredible £2,800 for our charity that will be used to benefit very sick children who are suffering from cancer. We couldn't have achieved this without your help and we are very grateful that you chose to support us. Thanks guys, we really appreciate your*

*kindness and can't wait to hear the Dung Beatles again in the future!*”

### **Watermead World War 1 Commemoration Event**

The DB's are very pleased indeed to have been invited to support this event. We are looking forward to performing as part of a music festival program taking place in the balloon meadow, running throughout the afternoon and early evening. Further details will be announced in due course.

### **Other major gigs coming soon:**

*The Cavern, Liverpool on Sunday 8th June.*

*Beaconfest, Watlington Farm, Oxfordshire, 21st June.*

For further details about the band and our full gig schedule please see: [www.thedungbeatles.co.uk](http://www.thedungbeatles.co.uk)

## AYLESBURY CHURCH OF CHRIST

The small hall in the Buckingham Park Community Centre, Jubilee Square.

### FAMILY SERVICE

Join us for services that are especially for the children on:

Sunday 1st June at 11.00am

Sunday 6th July at 11.00am

Sunday 3rd August at 11.00am

Sunday 7th September at 11.00am

And stay and enjoy a fellowship lunch with us afterwards.

### MORNING WORSHIP & COMMUNION (not on family service days)

Sundays at 11.00am.

Bible Club for children aged 5 and over at 10.15am

### BIBLE DISCUSSION

Informal, mid-week in homes in Aylesbury.

Contact: 670568 or via our website: [www.aylesburychurchofchrist.org](http://www.aylesburychurchofchrist.org)



# The changing face of the award winning Village View newsletter which records the history of Watermead

Thanks to Paul Wilson who tackled the arduous task of going through the archive of 'Village Views', 'Blusterettes' and 'Blusters' making a record of their contents so that we can find previous articles more easily in the future. Paul chose 18 covers; the cornerstone of the collection are the changing designs of the cover and then the others are either striking covers or events of significance to Watermead. He said "As a result of doing this project, I must say that I'm impressed with the wide range of substantive material that has been put in the Views over the years. Although I've been aware of what's been going in on an issue by issue basis, it's only when you go through the collected set that you realise just how extensive and comprehensive our coverage has been. Remember all

the articles that Stuart Thornley did for us? - about 20 I think!! And I did note that Mary, David and Heather have all contributed quite a bit of the material."

A huge thanks to my predecessors, Jason Bray and Sanda Landy. Sandra edited VV for several years including 2003 when our Parish Newsletter won the prestigious award for Best Parish Newsletter. Also many thanks and goodbye to Heather Wallace who has been providing the recipes and quizzes and also has been a stalwart proofreader for many years. We are still looking for her replacement so if you feel you would like to contribute to this award winning magazine please contact me.

I would also like to thank Solo Azwadi, the first resident to move into Watermead, for sorting and distributing



Village View was preceded by 'Blusterette' which was published from 1992-1994; and before that 'Bluster' which we believe was first published in October 1990.

The first issue of Village View was published in November 1994 by the Watermead Village Residents Association. The editorial thanks Anne King for her hard work over several years on Blusterette; and notes that a company called Lakeside Land is being setup with the aim of purchasing land from the Receivers to prevent a nightclub being built next to the ski slope.

May 1997: another of the many planning matters that have concerned Watermead residents over the years; with a deliberately alarmist headline of "Juggernauts on Watermead" Lakeside Land published this Emergency Issue to mobilise Watermead residents to oppose the possibility of a by-pass being built behind the Village.

Summer 1999: saw a slightly larger banner introduced on the cover to accompany the eye-catching photo of a car in the lake next to the Watermead Inn!

Winter 2000: Watermead becomes a separate Parish with

the ability to raise its own precept and to elect a group of Parish Councillors to decide how the money is to be spent.

Summer 2001: Travellers pitch camp on the cricket pitch on 19th June and stay there until they are evicted by the police on 27th June. This was the first of a number of visits until the various ditches and wooden piles that are in place today, were installed.

Winter 2001: the Village View became the official magazine of the Watermead Parish Council. This issue included one of the many excellent Wildlife Watch articles by Linda Jones who diligently chronicled the comings and goings and doings of the birds on the lake in words and photos.

Autumn 2002: The first colour cover. This issue reported the Golden Jubilee celebrations on Watermead, as well as including the Watermead map commissioned by the Parish Council, on the back cover.

Autumn 2003: Village View wins the national award for 'Local Council Publication of the Year'.

Summer 2005: Watermead's Larks by the Lake had become a regular annual event and that year had attracted a record

5,000+ people and nearly 300 entries in the dog show. Over 4,000 raffle tickets had been sold contributing to the £5,000 that had been raised for the Village Hall Renovation Fund.

Winter 2006: issue reported on the start of the WaterRider bus service from Watermead to Aylesbury Town Centre. The cover of the same issue headlined a change of ownership for the Watermead Inn (from Spirit to Punch to DPP).

Spring 2008: Lakeside Land transferred all its assets to the Parish Council including the small lake, the Balloon Meadow and the land around the banks of the large lake. A map showing the land concerned appeared in the centre pages.

Spring 2009: The spectre of development behind Watermead rears its ugly head again and the View publishes the plans on the front cover under the headline "Stop the Eastern Arc" and a more detailed map of the proposed development in a double page centre spread.

Winter 2009: Articles disappeared from the front cover and were replaced by colour illustrations. This issue described

how students from the National Film School in Beaconsfield came as they wanted to shoot some scenes supposedly set in a perfect archetypal American suburb – so they came to Ayleswater and Kingfisher!

Spring 2011: The first issue with a full page colour photo on the cover. Inside, on a double page centre spread, are the results of an ecological survey superimposed on a map of Watermead and the surrounding land.

Autumn 2012: The View records aspects of a famous and memorable year which included Diamond Jubilee celebrations, the Olympics with the passage of the Olympic Torch Relay through Aylesbury and the week that the circus came to Watermead!

Autumn 2013: This rubbish photo on the cover introduced the report inside the View that the replacement walkway next to the Nursing Home was to be built of recycled plastic, and that work would commence shortly.



Bluster 1990



Winter 2000



Summer 2005



Spring 2011



Blusterette 1993



Summer 2001



Winter 2006



Autumn 2012



The first Village View, November 1994



Winter 2001



Spring 2008



Autumn 2013



May 1997



The first in colour, Autumn 2002



Spring 2009



Summer 1999



Autumn 2003



Winter 2009



Your new look Village View magazine 2014!



# NisaLocal

Here at Nisa Local we have lots of great promotions and special offers instore on a regular basis.

There's a great range of household items, fresh and frozen foods - *many brands cheaper than the big supermarkets.*

*making a difference locally*

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seven days a week.

## Save the day' (in your diary) and be a Superhero!

**Get ready to 'Exorcise' your inner Superhero, as Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity's (FNHC) annual fun run returns to Watermead on Sunday 12th October.**

The popular 5k run, saw over 200 runners of all ages and abilities taking on the challenge last year – helping to raise over £7,000.00 for the Florence Nightingale Hospice.

This year's event will see a new twist with a multi-start option – one start for those serious superhero runners who want to whizz around the course in a speedy time, and the second start for those superheroes who want to save some of their super powers for the afternoon's activities as well!

Participants are encouraged to dress as their favourite original or newly-invented superhero on the day. You are not confined to running though – walking, flying and crawling in true superhero style is also permitted!

The course follows a circular scenic route around Watermead Lake, after an energy-boosting warm-up courtesy of Nuffield

Health Aylesbury, and culminates at the Aeglesburgh Watermead Inn for post-event refreshments and well-deserved rest for worn-out superheroes.

Aylesbury Superhero, now in its fourth year, attracts superheroes of all ages, and is a great event for the whole family to enjoy whatever the weather! Commenting on the challenge, FNHC's Frankie Munden said: "We're very excited to be hosting Aylesbury Superhero in Watermead again. Last year's event was simply fantastic – a real sense of community superhero spirit, and with the new little tweaks to this year's event in our 25th Anniversary year, we hope that the local community will really get behind us to help raise vital funds in our very special year."

You can register to take part via [www.aylesburysuperhero.co.uk](http://www.aylesburysuperhero.co.uk). Entry includes a souvenir superhero medal and refreshments at both the start and finishing line.

So why not join the party and be 'an incredible' this year! For more information or a registration form please contact the Fundraising Team on

01296 429975 or email [25@fnhospice.org.uk](mailto:25@fnhospice.org.uk)

**October also heralds the ending of the official 25th anniversary celebrations for the Florence Nightingale Hospice, which poignantly takes place in Hospice Care Week running from 6th – 12th October. The Hospice has been providing specialist palliative care for local families since 1989.**

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## What is peace?

The following was written by a ten year old Latin American child:

*I had a box of colours,  
But it didn't have the  
colour red  
for the blood of the  
wounded,  
Nor white for the hearts  
and faces of the dead,  
I didn't have yellow  
either for the burning  
sands of the desert.*

*Instead it had orange  
for the dawn and  
the sunset,  
And blue for new skies,  
And pink for the dreams  
of young people,  
I sat down and painted  
Peace.*

**What does peace mean to you as we remember this year the outbreak of the First World War?**

As we recall those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for peace we should reflect on the monstrosity and terror of all war and conflict past and present. In the upcoming months there will be many opportunities to stop and give thanks for the peace we now appreciate due to the willingness of others to give their lives to defend the justice and freedom we enjoy in this country.

However the word peace has other connotations perhaps; for instance we may think of peace simply as the absence of noise. No one likes their eardrums to be assaulted for too long. We all long for that sense of calm and peace and this is certainly one aspect of God's peace.

Another may be an absence of quarrelling; we are not happy

when people are in conflict, physical and verbal, and the world seems a better place when the matter is settled and relationships are restored to normal. This is an important aspect of God's peace and his love can overcome all obstacles that we may create.

The Old Testament word for peace is shalom and it is not just an absence of something - noise, quarrels. But is a gift from God, a state of harmony and wholeness. Jesus died to bring us peace in this sense, so that we can enjoy again a relationship of love and trust with our heavenly Father. His peace and love comes into our lives and we can never be separated from them.

I will leave the final thought to the renowned theologian, Dr Karl Barth; he was spending an evening with friends, when one of them asked him: "What is the most profound thought that ever entered your mind?"

**Dear Watermead residents,**

My name is Ian and I live in Watermead Village. On the 7th of September I will be riding from Blackheath, London to the Eiffel Tower in Paris in memory of my daughter who passed away from cancer at the age of 3. All proceeds will go to MacMillan Cancer Charity.

I was 27 at the time Natasha passed away and it completely devastated us all. I never thought anything like this would happen to my family, I was wrong! It took 7 months for the Cancer to claim Natasha's life and there is not one day that passes that the images don't haunt me.

Cancer does not discriminate! It can happen to any of us at any time at any age! I understand that people won't really want to think about Cancer, it's truly a scary thought and not an experience any of us would want to go through. If it wasn't for the support and guidance that my family and the MacMillan Cancer Charity gave me I hate to think where I would be today. It's for this reason that I'm asking for your support by donating what you can afford to help me reach my target of £1,000. The challenge is over 24 hours and I will be covering 280 miles. I have been training every day since February to be physically fit enough to undertake the challenge.

You can donate through my Just Giving page [www.justgiving.com/ian-best1](http://www.justgiving.com/ian-best1)

I will also be holding a raffle at Watermead Community event on Saturday August 30th ... Hope to see you there!

Thank you for taking the time to read this and hope you find it a worthy cause,

Ian Best, Watermead resident

After a brief moment of reflection Dr Barth replied simply. "The most profound thought I have ever known is the simple truth: Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

So let us thank God that Jesus loves us as we remember the events from a hundred years ago and celebrate the peace that this brings into our lives.

Revd Mark Ackford,  
Vicar of St James the Great,  
Bierton



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## Dig for victory Watermead allotments

**As we are an island, in both wars it was important we grew what we could as space was needed in the cargo ships for the more important ammunition.**

In direct contrast Mary Berry remarked on her TV cookery programme recently that shopping for ingredients was easier today compared to when she first started cooking.

**So why bother with the hard work of digging when there is a plentiful supply of fresh vegetables in our shops?**

There are many answers to this simple question. The first for me is that there is much wider choice to cultivate, eg rainbow beetroot, or runner beans that

have been developed so they retain their flavour after being frozen. Tanya (Chair for the last 3 years) showed me a giant radish she had grown. I was so impressed we are going to try growing them this year – they were white but really delicious. Some varieties may suit your soil type better, or offer a choice not found in shops. Variety does not mean it has to be expensive as seeds can be bought cheaply through the Aylesbury Horticultural Society (joining is free for allotment holders). Alternatively many supermarkets and DIY stores sell seedlings comparatively cheaply at this time of the year.

**Why bother with an allotment?** My answer is

that many of our gardens are relatively small; we do not have the long gardens seen in older properties around Aylesbury. Making room for all the other activities such as children's play areas, Bar-B-Qs, etc, can squeeze out the necessary room for a veg plot. An allotment solves these problems. Our plots measure ten metres by twenty-five and that seems huge at first. The secret is to tackle the necessary steps slowly; for instance I covered half of my plot in a tarpaulin for the first year. This cut down the weeds but also cut the amount of work needed to get started. Secondly, choose the length of time you wish to spend on the allotment; I found an hour suited me, others work for longer. This way

it does not become a drudge but something you enjoy doing. You would be surprised how much you can achieve in such a short time especially if you can rope in your partner or family members.

**Still not convinced?**

I could mention the friendly people you will meet, the quiet, the satisfaction when seeds start to grow, or the sense of achievement when you pick your first crop. If you are interested in trying out your gardening skills please contact the Parish Clerk Noreen Shardlow on 01296 641423 or [noreen.shardlow@watermead.pc.gov.uk](mailto:noreen.shardlow@watermead.pc.gov.uk)

*Peter Smith*

Do come along to our  
**PLANT and  
PRODUCE SALE**  
on the **Balloon Meadow**  
on **Saturday 7th June**  
between **10am & 1pm.**



*I covered half of my plot in a tarpaulin for the first year which cut down the weeds.*





# Eat the World

## Food of the trenches

**At the start of the war, British soldiers at the front were allowed 10oz of meat and 8oz of vegetables per day, a luxury compared to what would be provided in the years to come.** Parcels from home loaded with chocolate, tins of sardines, and sweet biscuits would be a welcome but irregular source of extra nourishment. For day-to-day meals, soldiers' options were limited. By 1916, the meat ration was down to 6oz a day, and later, meat was only provided once every nine days. The winter of 1916 saw a major shortage of flour. It was replaced by dried, ground-up turnips which produced unappetising, diarrhoea-inducing bread. At this time, the staple food of the British soldier was pea-soup with horse-meat chunks. One widely-used and equally widely-disliked ration was the canned soup, Maconochie. A thin, watery broth containing sliced turnips and carrots, Maconochie was tolerated by famished soldiers, and detested by all.

Here is a modern day version (and hopefully far more tasty and filling).

**Making Maconochie**  
*Normally prepared in a dug-out or reserve trench, in a modern kitchen Maconochie stew should not be difficult to make. Here's how:*

**Ingredients:**  
 340g beef (or one can corned beef)  
 140g waxy potatoes  
 30g onions  
 30g carrots  
 30g beans, cooked (white beans such as navy or great northern)  
 60ml beef stock or water  
 15ml flour  
 15ml fat (lard or rendered beef fat)  
 Salt to taste

**Method:**  
 1. If using fresh beef, cut into 1 cm to 2 cm pieces.  
 2. Thinly slice potatoes, onions, and carrots.

3. Steam or boil the beef, potatoes, carrots, and onions until tender.  
 4. Heat the fat in a pan.  
 5. Add cooked potatoes, carrots, onions, beans, and beef over medium heat.  
 6. Make a batter of the beef stock or water with flour.  
 7. Add batter to the stew.  
 8. Cook until thickened.  
 9. Salt to taste.

**1916 Trench Cake**  
*Whilst on the Home Front, a eggless cake called 1916 Trench Cake was baked and then sent to loved ones on the front line.*

**Ingredients:**  
 225g plain flour  
 110g margarine  
 75g currants  
 2 teaspoons cocoa  
 1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
 75g brown sugar  
 1 teaspoon vinegar  
 1/4 pint milk

Suggested extra flavourings - nutmeg, ginger, grated lemon rind (I used a pinch of ground nutmeg and 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger).

**Method:**  
 1. Preheat oven to 180C/350F/ Gas 4. Grease and line your cake tin (don't use anything too large as the above quantity of ingredients makes up a fairly scant volume of mix - my tin was 18cm diameter and this was a bit too big).  
 2. Rub the margarine into the flour. Add the other dry ingredients and mix well.  
 3. Add the soda to the vinegar and milk, and then quickly add to the dry ingredients. Beat well and then turn into the tin.  
 4. I found my cake was baked in about an hour, but the recipe suggests up to 2 hours.

Heather Wallace

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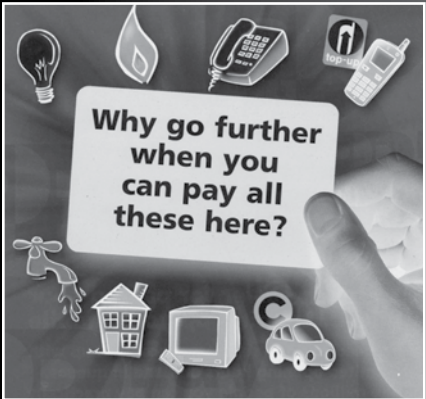


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# Watermead Cygnets Pre-School

Spring has finally arrived and Cygnets Pre-school have taken the opportunity to explore the outdoors and look at the wonders Mother Nature has to offer. In particular we looked at the life cycles of butterflies and frogs. The children's experience was enhanced further when they found frog spawn and tadpoles in the Watermead stream.

Continuing on with the Spring theme, we looked at all the animals that are traditionally born around this time of year; the children thought the baby chicks, lambs and rabbits were very cute!

We have also looked at old and new toys, dinosaurs and people who help us. Some pre-school parents came in to talk to the children about their roles as a Nurse, a Mum with a new baby, a policeman and a fire fighter. Dawn the local PCSO also came to speak with the children – unfortunately we couldn't get hold of any soldiers from World War II!

We celebrated Pancake Day, supported Sport Relief by collecting £80.00 from local businesses, and held a Mother's Day assembly where the children made cards and sang songs, thanking their Mums for being there for them.

Mix96 visited Watermead and we showed them around and talked about what Cygnets pre-school has to offer.

The children have explored the world of mini-beasts, looking at ladybirds, bees, worms, snails and centipedes.

The Children were excited during the build up to Easter, which culminated in the children putting on an Easter Hat Parade and an Egg rolling competition. All the children made their own hats and decorated their own eggs, which they paraded in front of their parents/carers along with some very well rehearsed Easter songs. A lot of hard work was put into making the hats and there were lots of fantastic colourful creations.

Next half term we will be looking at shopping, food, musical instruments, and science.

Cygnets accepts children from 2½ years to 5 years old. We open from 9.15 am to 12.15 pm, Monday to Friday, and we provide a lunch club most days from 12.15 to 1.15 pm. If you would like your child to attend Cygnets, please visit us and ask to be added onto our waiting list. Please call Maree on 07563 783464.

The Cygnets team



Easter Hat Parade winners



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## Mix 96 Tour De Vale bike ride

**WheelPower helps disabled children and adults improve their lives through sport.**

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changing facilities at the start and finish.

**Entry Fee: Adults £12.50**

**Under 16 FREE (must be accompanied by an adult)**

**Entry Fee on the day £25.**

To download an entry form or enter online go [www.tourdevale.com](http://www.tourdevale.com) or call WheelPower on 01296 395995.

### Answers to Tea Break Quiz on page 13

1. August, 2. The tank, 3. 1917,
4. Sarajevo, 5. Belgium, 6. John J. Pershing, 7. Influenza [Spanish Flu],
8. Versailles, 9. Ypres [1915],
10. No-man's land, 11. 100 day offensive,
12. Austria-Hungary, 13. German Empire, Austria-Hungarian Empire, Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria, 14. Baron Manfred Von Richthofen, 15. Admirals Jellicoe and Beatty, 16. The First Battle of the Marne,
17. Dough-boys, 18. The Battle of Tannenberg, 19. The Battle of Gallipoli,
20. 11th November 1918.

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# Concerts at St Mary's Church in Aylesbury June to July 2014

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### MUSIC AT LUNCHTIME

Every Thursday  
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Please allow an hour – we will indicate if it's likely to be longer.

### THURSDAY 5th JUNE

PETER O'HAGAN (piano).

It says quite a lot about St Mary's when a pianist, writer and scholar of this distinction is happy to play for us. Peter is renowned particularly as a fearless advocate of contemporary piano music, especially that of Pierre Boulez – as a collaborator, writer and performer. However, he is also a fine Bach player, and is offering today one of the peaks of western keyboard music, the Goldberg Variations. With selective repeats, Peter expects his performance to last between 65 and 70 minutes. Something very special.

### THURSDAY 12th JUNE

LONDON LITHUANIAN TRIO  
Antanas Makštutis (clarinet),  
Ugne Tiškute (viola), Morta  
Grigaliunaite (piano).

Describing themselves as 'vibrant and enthusiastic' these musicians are dedicated to exploring the possibilities of this unusual combination of instruments and in the two years of the ensemble's existence with considerable success. Mozart's sublime E flat Kegelstatt Trio is the work for clarinet, viola and piano, and here it is – along with Bruch's late Romantic Eight pieces and a buoyant Trio by Jean Françaix.

### THURSDAY 19th JUNE

MAKSIM ŠTŠTURA (piano),  
JUNNAN SUN (clarinet),  
SOH-YON KIM (violin),  
ARTHUR BOUTILLIER (cello).

A truly international line-up of prize-winning musicians – Maksim is from Estonia, Junnan from China via South Africa, Soh-Yon from Korea and Arthur is French. The main work in their programme will be Messiaen's visionary masterpiece Quartet for the End of Time, composed when he was interned as a German prisoner of war.

### THURSDAY 26th JUNE

EMMA HALNAN (flute),  
DANIEL KING SMITH (piano).

Some of you may remember Emma playing the Reinecke Concerto in the final of the Young Musician of the Year in 2010, and she hasn't looked back; she must be judged one of the best flautists of her generation in the UK. That she has had Daniel King Smith as her pianist since 2008 speaks oceans, for he appears throughout the world as accompanist, as well as a chamber musician and concert soloist. The programme starts with a sonata by CPE Bach composed for Frederick the Great, and proceeds through Romantic to contemporary music.

### THURSDAY 3rd JULY

ANNA LE HAIR (piano).

This Tring-based pianist has quite a reputation locally and way beyond as a busy soloist, chamber musician and teacher. Her recital is beautifully constructed, and will surely bring immense pleasure: a set of Beethoven Variations, Bridge's Three improvisations, a choice from Grieg's Lyric Pieces, and the four Opus 119 Pieces by Brahms.

### THURSDAY 10th JULY

VATCHE JAMBAZIAN (piano).

This will be Vatche's farewell UK performance for the time being, as visa regulations enforce a return to his native Australia. We do not have the programme yet, but this pianist deserves a full house for Chopsticks.

### 17th JULY

MANDEVILLE SCHOOL:  
Choirs, Orchestra and Baroque  
Orchestra.

This is an Aylesbury school with a thriving musical life, and they invite you to sample it. The School will sing and play music from the World War 1 period and religious music that reflects the emotion of the time. The repertoire is then being taken to Belgium the following week for performance at the Menin Gate and Brussels Cathedral. There will be an opportunity for some audience participation, so bring your best vocal cords.

A free concert but with the opportunity to make a donation.

### THURSDAY 24th JULY

SALLY QUANTRILL (flute),  
LYDIA BOSWELL (piano).

This duo has visited St Mary's for longer than probably either Sally or Lydia care to remember. The musicianship is a pleasure, the programmes always beautifully chosen – perfect for a summer lunchtime.

### THURSDAY 31st JULY

AN-TING CHANG (piano).

Our season ends with another exceptional pianist, this time from Taiwan. Starting life as a chemist, as a musician An-Ting is also involved in numerous enterprising theatre projects. Anyone who attended the evening concert she gave with American violinist Margaret Dziekonski will need no urging to come along. The programme is around the theme of Water and Image: Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata, Debussy's Estampes (complete), Ravel's Jeux d'eau, Liszt's Les jeux d'eau à la Ville d'Este, and Chopin's Barcarolle. Lovely music, beautifully played. What could be better?

### EVENING CONCERTS

7.30pm (doors open 7.00),  
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### WEDNESDAY 11th JUNE

SKAZKI PIANO TRIO  
Maria Razumovskaya (piano),  
Patricia Tomes (violin), Alisa  
Liubarskaya (cello).

The eyes of quite a few will light up at the thought of another visit by Maria, she is such a remarkable musician. But all three will make this a very special evening of Haydn, Beethoven and Tchaikovsky: this will be playing at a very high level indeed.

### SATURDAY 19th JULY

TAKE2 Andrea Pfenniger,  
(soprano), Adrian Boorman,  
(counter-tenor), Jonathan  
French (piano). MR HANDEL'S  
HEROES AND HEROINES

A lunchtime version of this recital was very popular. An entertaining hour of opera and oratorio scenes, painting vivid pictures of besotted lovers, battle-scarred heroes and feisty heroines. Adrian is an old friend and very generous supporter of our concerts and a great 'presence'. Andrea, unbelievably, is coming over from Zurich to sing for us. And Jonathan does Handelian wonders with the piano.

You will be presented with a special free full-colour souvenir programme. Please note that we may have to make programme changes as circumstances may force a cancellation. The only way of keeping really updated is by joining our emailing list: [mikebutterworth@waitrose.com](mailto:mikebutterworth@waitrose.com)

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# Memories of the First World War 1914 - 1918

## POPPIES

Why are they selling poppies, mother?  
Selling poppies in town today?  
The poppy, my child, is the flower of love  
for the men who marched away.

Why did they choose a poppy, mother?  
Why not a beautiful rose?  
Because, my child, men fought and died  
in the fields where the poppy grows.

But why is the poppy so red, mother?  
Red is the colour of blood, my child,  
the blood that our soldiers shed.

The heart of the poppy is black, mother.  
Why does it have to be black?  
Black is the symbol of grief  
my child for the men, who never came back.

But why mother dear, are you crying so?  
Your tears are like winter rain.

*This poem was written by John F. Willcocks  
(1918-2007). Maybe he was thinking of his  
father, when he composed it, as he was only  
9 months old, when his father died as a result  
of being gassed on the Somme.*

## In Celebration of two brave men.

In this centenary year I  
would like to celebrate my  
two grandfathers. They both  
served in the infantry in  
two famous theatres of war  
between 1914 and 1918.

### Hugh Crawford 1899 - 1973

My maternal grandfather,  
Hugh Crawford, was  
born in Cockburnspath  
Berwickshire in 1899 to  
Hugh Crawford a coachman  
and his wife Isabella Yule.  
He was the eldest of five  
children growing up in the  
Scottish Borders. He joined  
the Royal Scots Fusiliers in  
June 1915 aged fifteen and  
a half.

In 1915 the Royal Scots  
Fusiliers were assigned  
to 155th Brigade and  
formed part of the 52nd  
Lowland Division. The  
52nd Lowland Division took  
part in various battles in  
the Crimea including Gully  
Ravine, Achi Baba Nullah,  
Krithia Nullah. They also  
took part in the evacuation  
of Helles in January 1916.  
At some point during this  
period Hugh was mentioned  
in despatches and later  
awarded the bronze oak  
spray of oak leaves.

In 1916 the Royal Scots  
Fusiliers were moved to  
Egypt and then to the No

3 Sector of the Suez Canal  
Defence. In 1917 they took  
part in the Battle of Gaza  
and the Battle of Jaffa.  
In March 1918, the 52nd  
Lowland Division saw  
action in France, taking part  
in the Battle of Vimy Ridge,  
the Battle of the Somme,  
the Battle of Arras and the  
Battle of the Canal du Nord.  
They were finally demobbed  
in 1919, when Hugh was  
sent to Fort Matilda at the  
Port of Glasgow.

While located on the  
west coast of Scotland he  
met a girl from Ayrshire,  
Jessie Gibson, my maternal  
grandmother. They married  
and had ten children, nine  
of whom survived. Hugh  
and Jessie went to live  
on a farm near Drem in  
East Lothian where Hugh  
maintained and serviced  
farm vehicles for a living.  
Hugh died in 1973. I have  
many memories of him,  
the way he spoke in a very  
broad Borders' accent, that  
he always had a border  
collie called Jess and that  
he wore a tweed cap - his  
'bunnet' but I never knew  
about his WW1 service until  
after he died.

### Horace Richards

My paternal grandfather  
Horace Richards, known  
as Harry, was a London  
boy having been born and

raised in the East End  
of London. Harry joined  
up in 1915 aged 19 and  
was assigned to the 13th  
Middlesex which was part  
of the K3, Kitchener's  
3rd Army of volunteers.  
K3 came under the 24th  
Division of the 73rd Brigade  
and landed in Boulogne on  
2nd September 1915; they  
were a significant part of  
the action on the Western  
Front. In 1916 they suffered  
a gas attack by the Germans  
at Wulverghen and took  
part in the Battle of the  
Somme. In 1917 they were  
sent to Vimy Ridge and the  
Battle of Ypres, St Quentin  
and Cambrai. Throughout  
the First World War 35,362  
men from the 24th Division  
were killed.

Harry was a battalion  
runner who ran messages  
from the main office which  
was behind the trenches to  
the front of the trenches  
where the message would  
be passed down the line.  
It was a dangerous job as  
many runners were killed.  
He also spent nearly two  
months in hospital as a  
result of 'trench foot'  
and throughout his life  
he suffered from lung  
complaints as a result of  
the gas attack in 1916.

At the end of the war  
Harry was placed on the  
Z-list, the army reserves,

**My grandfather was a baker at the  
Co-op in Lewes.** The Great War was  
the only time he went outside Sussex,  
apart from one visit to London when my  
mother moved there. He was so frightened  
the Tube train doors would close on him  
that he didn't get on till the last minute,  
and the doors did close on him!

After his call-up he was put on a bus  
which took the men to a port (he couldn't  
remember which port) where they were

put on a boat that took them to a French  
port. Then a convoy of trucks delivered  
them to the trenches. He remembered the  
noise and the mayhem and seeing men die  
beside him. What he mostly remembered  
was the mud: he once saw a man take off  
his boots and shake out a couple of his  
toes that had rotted off from trench-foot.

He also recalled that the man in front  
of him at the medical exam when he was  
called up had what looked like a tail: two

or three extra vertebrae protruding at the  
base of his spine. My German teacher at  
high school said his father heard a man  
tell the medical examiner he was unfit for  
military service because he had one leg  
shorter than the other. *"That's all right, son,"*  
said the examiner. *"Where you're going, the  
ground's pretty uneven!"*

David H

in case of further outbreaks of  
war. He was later a policeman,  
but spent most of his working  
life at Augustus Helmer's wine  
merchants in Bermondsey. He  
married Florence Rowson and  
went on to have four children.  
He was a quiet, courteous man  
who was a lifelong supporter of  
Tottenham Hotspurs. He never  
spoke of the First World War,  
except to persuade his two sons,  
not to join the army when the  
Second World War broke out.  
Accordingly, my father Harry  
became a pilot in the RAF and  
his brother Ronnie joined the  
Royal Navy. My grandfather  
Harry died in 1966.

I was young when my  
grandfathers died but I wish I  
had got to know them better  
especially now that I have  
researched their wartime  
records. They must have  
seen some terrible sights and  
experienced the loss of friends  
and comrades. We took them for  
granted but maybe that is how  
they wanted it - to forget the  
horrors of war and get on with a  
normal life.

Cllr Pam Stocks

### Austin George Plumbly

My sisters and I were terrified  
of my father's father - he used to  
say *"children should be seen and  
not heard"* and used to send us  
out to play in the air-raid shelter  
at the bottom of their garden  
in Waterlooville, Hampshire. It  
was always covered in brambles  
which we had to remove before  
we could get in it, and then  
it was full of spiders some of  
which were very big! We were  
still quite small then, but I  
have good memories of it so  
it couldn't have been that bad!  
Well, better than being inside  
with a scary person.

Austin George Plumbly  
was born in 1879. He had been  
a Regimental Sergeant Major  
in the army and had served  
in India during World War 1.  
Unfortunately we know little  
about his background apart  
from the fact that his family  
originated from the Isle of  
Wight and he met Nina Mabel  
Stuchbury; they had three  
children, Nina, Raymond and  
Cecil who all played a part in  
WW2. Nana, known as Mabel,  
was a marvellous cook and  
homemaker.

### Harold Benjamin Hale

My mother's father, Harold  
Benjamin Hale was born on  
30th November 1889 and grew  
up in Meldreth, Cambridgeshire.  
His father had a blacksmith and  
carpenters business and was  
also the village postmaster and  
a beekeeper. Harold was village  
educated initially and then sent  
to a private school. He was  
apprenticed as a chemist at the  
age of 16 (1905) in Royston,  
Hertfordshire. He joined a  
volunteer group in 1913 which  
was similar to the Territorial  
Army and he was a staunch  
Liberal.

When the WW1 broke out  
in 1914 he was called up and  
was sent to Egypt and then  
to Gallipoli (Turkey) in 1915.  
- I have photos that he took  
on board the troopship and  
at Gallipoli - he was a keen  
photographer. He was wounded  
early on by artillery known as  
whizbangs - a small, high-speed  
shell whose sound as it flies  
through the air arrives almost at  
the same instant as its explosion.  
He was hit in the back and was  
shipped back to UK. Fortunately  
he missed the catastrophe which

occurred in Gallipoli after that.  
(When he was 72 he had an  
operation to remove a kidney -  
several pieces of shrapnel were  
found embedded there!)

Harold was able to ride a  
horse and he joined the Royal  
Horse Artillery and was then  
sent to France at the end of  
1915/beginning of 1916. He  
was again wounded by artillery  
and shipped back to the UK for  
treatment - his wrist this time.  
He was commissioned as an  
officer at Aldershot, Hampshire  
in 1917 and was returned to  
France. He was wounded for  
a third time just before the  
Armistice in 1918. He went to  
convalesce in Cambridgeshire  
(his home county) where he was  
nursed by Sarah Ward Langton.  
They married in Hertford on  
8th February 1921 and had four  
children over the next four years  
including a set of twins! Harold  
was a Sergeant in the Home  
Guard during WW2.

The eldest son, my Uncle  
Peter (now aged 91), told me  
that he remembers his Uncle  
Douglas, Royal Engineer during  
WW1, telling him about how he  
would go in front of the front

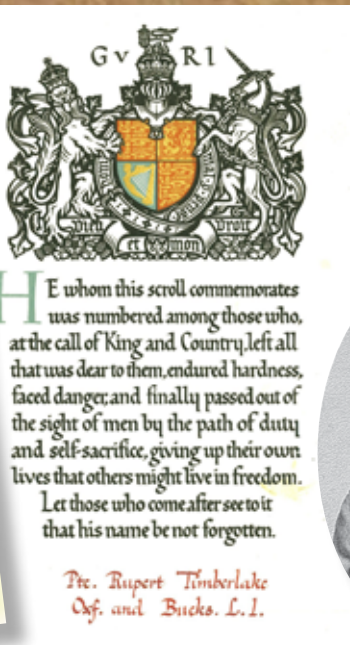
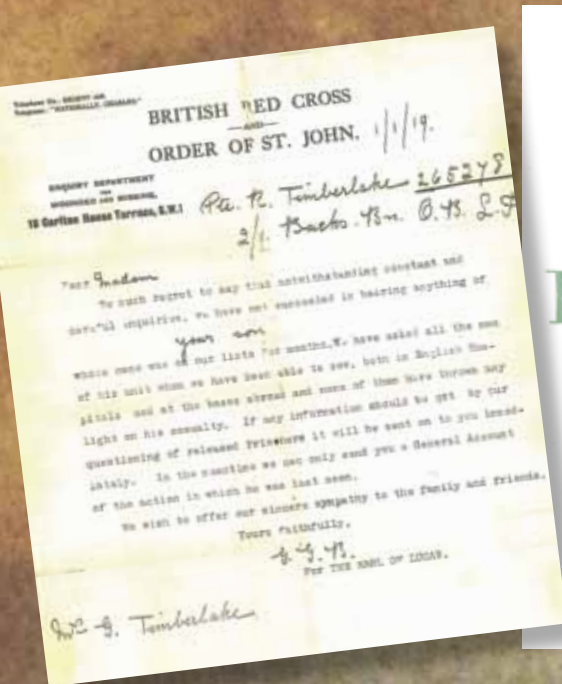


Harold Benjamin Hale commissioned in 1917  
at Aldershot into the Royal Horse Artillery



Harold Hale - first left





Below: Private Rupert Timberlake, Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry  
These items were provided by Barbara Matthews of Brambling



months' fighting, with many casualties on both sides, the land campaign also failed and the invasion force was withdrawn to Egypt.

The campaign was one of the greatest Ottoman victories during the war and a major Allied failure. In Turkey, it is regarded as a defining moment in the nation's history: a final surge in the defence of the motherland as the Ottoman Empire crumbled. The struggle formed the basis for the Turkish War of Independence and the founding of the Republic of Turkey eight years later under Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, who first rose to prominence as a commander at Gallipoli. The campaign is often considered as marking the birth of national consciousness in Australia and New Zealand and the date of the landing, 25th April, is known as "Anzac Day". It remains the most significant commemoration of military casualties and veterans in those two countries, surpassing Remembrance Day (Armistice Day).

line ie into "no-mans land" to cut the barbed wire so that their troops could get through to attack the enemy. Douglas Parr's profession in civilian life was a Gilder - he specialised in steeples and college roofs!

Cllr Mary Singleton

The Battle of Gallipoli was a World War I campaign that took place on the Gallipoli peninsula in the Ottoman Empire between 25th April 1915 and 9th January 1916. The peninsula forms the northern bank of the Dardanelles, a strait that provides a sea route to what was then the Russian Empire,

one of the allied powers during the war. Intending to secure it, Russia's allies Britain and France launched a naval attack followed by an amphibious landing on the peninsula with the eventual aim of capturing the Ottoman capital of Constantinople (modern-day Istanbul). The naval attack was repelled and, after eight

# First World War inspires country women

**The Women's Institute Movement in Britain started in 1915.** During the First World War it was formed to encourage countrywomen to get involved in growing and preserving food to help to increase the supply of food to the war-torn nation. The Women's Institute (WI) in Britain was formed in 1915 to revitalise rural communities and encourage women to become more involved in producing food during the First World War.

**The first Women's Institute was formed in Stoney Creek, Ontario, Canada in 1897** as a branch of the Farmer's Institute. Inspired by a talk given by Adelaide Hoodless at a meeting of the Farmer's Institute, local farmers, Erland and Janet Lee,



were instrumental in setting up the new organisation. They were supported by Ontario government who appointed Laura Rose to be the first organiser in 1899. The movement brought women from isolated communities together and offered training in home economics, child care and those aspects of farming that were traditionally done by women, such as poultry keeping and small farm animal husbandry.

**The first WI in Britain was formed under the auspices of the Agricultural Organisation Society (AOS).** AOS Secretary, John Nugent Harris, appointed Canadian Madge Watt to set up WIs across the UK. The first one was at Llanfair PG, on Anglesey, North Wales on September 16th 1915.

The first WI in England was Singleton WI in Sussex. Mrs Watt formed the group with her friends in Sussex, so there was a degree of luck that Singleton became the first English WI group. That said, the women of the village were a determined bunch. They owed much to the landlady of the local pub, The Fox, Mrs Lashley who gave them a place to meet. At that time it was almost unheard of for women to enter public houses. But this wasn't normal life. This was a reaction to the Great War. Men were not around to do their usual tasks and the ladies needed to take action. They dug the ground and planted vegetables, they kept chickens and pigs, and they had to carry water to the fields. They also made shirts and knitted jumpers for wounded soldiers in nearby Chichester. The WI movement was born and set about tending the land and keeping a war-torn nation going.

**In 1916 the AOS set up a Women's Institute sub-committee** to oversee the work and Lady Denman was appointed Chairman. By the end of the year, 40 WIs had opened, the earliest in Wales and subsequently in England.

**By 1917, 137 WIs had been opened.** When neighbouring WIs in Sussex decided to meet together, they formed the first Federation. Because the WI movement was growing so fast

the Government decided it would be more appropriate for the responsibility for opening WIs to be handed over from the AOS to the Women's Section of the Food Department of the Board of Agriculture. At the same time, although the Board of Agriculture continued to fund the formation of WIs, the organisation became independent. The National Federation of Women's Institutes was formed on October 16th, when the rules were adopted and an executive committee elected. Lady Denman was elected Chairman and Grace Hadow Vice Chairman. Alice Williams was appointed Honorary Secretary and Treasurer. The annual subscription was set at two shillings.

**By the end of 1918 there were 199 WIs and seven county federations.** The paid organisers were unable to keep up with the demand to form new WIs and so the first training school for WI Voluntary County Organisers was held. In order to fund the new organisation, and to promote the handicraft work being done, the First National Handicrafts Exhibition was held at the Horticultural Halls in Westminster.

At the AGM the first resolution was passed urging local authorities to take advantage of the government scheme for state-aided housing. The first annual report of the NFWI was published.

**When the war was over in 1919,** the Board of Agriculture handed over all responsibility for the formation of WIs to the NFWI, and the Government gave a generous grant for the work though the Rural Development Commission. The Consultative Council was set up, comprising representatives of every Federation and the members of the national executive committee, who met twice a year. Inez Ferguson was appointed as the General Secretary.

Home and Country, the monthly NFWI magazine, started in March with Alice Williams as Editor.

The first WI market opened in Lewes, East Sussex.

Madge Watt formed a WI at Sandringham and Queen Mary became the President.

By the end of 1919, there were 1,405 WIs across the UK.



Lady Denman c 1919



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