

VillageView

WATERMEAD'S *FREE* QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

Summer 2019 Vol.26 Issue 2

**Watermead has
a new Post Office**

Larks by the Lake

Sunday 26th May 2019

FUN DOG SHOW

Photographic Competition 2019

See inside for details

Photograph taken by Ben Kinsh



News from Watermead Parish Council & more!
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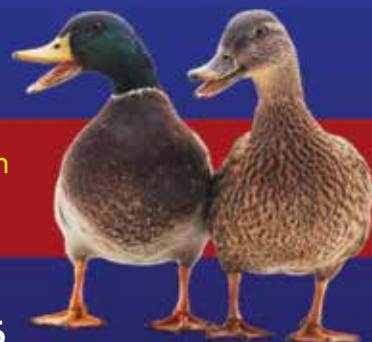
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Parish Chairman's Annual Report 2018/19

Once again, the year has had its share of challenges and some high points. Watermead remains a unique place to live and to visit. We welcome visitors to enjoy our open spaces, the landscape and opportunities to view wildlife, nesting birds, well maintained fields and trees. Everyone is welcome. As with all years, the increase in population of Aylesbury means Watermead is frequently full of visitors in the Balloon Meadow and round the lakes as well as at the Watermead Inn. Inevitably this makes the land more expensive to maintain. Visitors are simply asked to respect our environment, take their litter home, pick up dog poo and don't allow dogs to disturb wildlife. Leave nothing behind when you leave.

Policing

Watermead remains a very safe area in which to live. The Neighbourhood Policing Team has not been much in evidence this year. This is an indication of our failure to report suspicious activity and crimes. The message from Thames Valley Police is clear. If you see a crime taking place call 999; if you are concerned about a possible crime, have some intelligence, including drug dealing, suspicious activity, CCTV footage then call

101. Without information the Police do not know how much policing is actually required. They do not monitor Facebook - please go to them directly.

Events

May Fair: It is great to be able to report that a thriving Events Committee has now been set up, under the chairmanship of Karen Collett, consisting of a core team of volunteers who gave up considerable time to make the May Fair and Film Night enormous successes last summer. Our sponsors, a number of local companies, didn't need much persuasion from Graham Howse to advertise but would like you to show your appreciation by using their services. The May Fair offered something for everyone with a fairground, stalls, dog show, displays, raffle, games, tombola and a selection of catering. This year's May Fair promises to build on this success, with all the old favourites and much more. Don't miss it on **Sunday 26th May**. The event raised a lot of money for the charities, as well as providing the funds needed to secure National Lottery funding for the balance of money for the trim trail behind the outdoor gym which has proved very popular - Watermead's first play area for our young residents.

Outdoor Film Night:

was much enjoyed by all, organised by the Events Committee who worked hard to bring this new event to Watermead. **This year's Film Night is on 14th September.** Bring a chair, relax and enjoy the film with excellent catering and bar on site. Glowsticks and sweets, which proved very popular last year, will once again be available to buy. It's hoped to build on this success this year. Do come along and support the charities and community fund. Thank you to all the organisers. Your work is much appreciated and enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

Photographic Competition

Last year saw the re-launch of the Watermead Photographic Competition. Eric Rose worked with Noreen Shardlow to mount the exhibition of entries, and he and Ron Adams had the very difficult job of deciding the winners. The overall winner is awarded the Sandra Landy Memorial Trophy, donated in Sandra's memory.

Following the exhibition it was decided to produce a Watermead Calendar featuring the best photographs of Watermead. This proved popular and a calendar will be produced for



Chairman:
Cllr Sue Severn
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Michelle Jackson
T: 481554
michelle.jackson@watermead-pc.gov.uk

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...page 03

2020. The number of calendars is limited so make sure you order yours in good time. This year's competition details:

Entries are invited in 3 categories:

- Watermead landscape
- Watermead wildlife
- Open category (photographer's choice)

Entries must be delivered to Noreen Shardlow at 11 Ayleswater by Monday 16th September. The Exhibition will be on Saturday 21st September in the Village Hall from 10.30am with the prize giving at 1.30pm. More details can be found on page 10.

Christmas Craft Fair and Carol Concert

The Craft Fair on the first Saturday of December, along with the Carol Concert the following Saturday, remain established and much-loved events where we can meet our neighbours, do a little shopping and enjoy a delicious lunch cooked by Dot Toler. Graham Severn's organisation of the Fair, with Noreen's assistance means it is popular with stallholders and shoppers with this year's stalls already sold out.

The Carol Concert run by Mary Singleton was again a huge success. With better weather and more children than ever the carols were sung with great gusto. Following the sad departure of the Reverend Mark Ackford, and the interregnum at Bierton Church, Father Doug Zimmerman from St Mary's Aylesbury took the service, ably stepping into Mark's shoes. The WI provided mince pies, gluten free Christmas cake and sausage rolls, together with the traditional mulled wine to keep us warm. Thanks to everyone - all the work is worthwhile. (In case you were wondering Father Christmas will be joining us again this year - he has the date in his diary).

Village Hall

The village hall continues to be a large contributor to life in Watermead. We are very fortunate that a parishioner volunteered and has re-decorated the hall to a very high standard. We are really grateful to him. We will now ensure that nothing is put on the walls - we need to keep it looking its best. We are in

the process of applying for grant funding to replace the flooring which is very worn.

Planning

Our disappointment with the decision to allow the crematorium to be built and to open cannot be over-stated. It is a highly visible presence, totally out of keeping with Watermead and unwanted by far the majority of residents. However, the crematorium has been foisted on us by a planning Authority determined to allow it, despite our ceaseless efforts to stop it, and without any consideration of our views. We must now make certain we hide it from view and continue to enjoy our leisure land and activities. Bierton is now open, in a beautiful secluded setting, more suited to the purpose.

The Piazza flats application has not been decided. We continue to monitor the situation.

Other planning applications have been for extensions, conservatories etc, as would be expected in a place with no spare land for development.

On the wider scale, the Aylesbury Vale Local Plan is nearing completion, but with the new unitary Buckinghamshire Council from 2020, comprising all 4 District Councils and Buckinghamshire County Council, it is difficult to know whether it will be retained. The Oxford-Cambridge Expressway, HS2, East-West Rail are among major projects which will impact the wider area. All are controversial, will result in considerable local disruption, and will be likely to involve much development. Local Authorities are working together with environmental groups and others to mitigate the effect of these but the reality is that local communities have little say.

Financial

Our work is funded from the Parish Precept (tax) which is decided by councillors, having given due regard to budgetary constraints, obtaining best value and prudent management of our funds. For the financial year 2019/20 the Precept is £76,500 which is an increase of 2.23%. For a Band D property, this equates to £79.39 for the year, or £6.52 a month, giving an increase of £1.73 over last year. In deciding its Precept, the

Parish Council was particularly conscious that other elements of the Council Tax such as County and District Councils, Police and Fire Brigade were increasing considerably, and resolved to keep costs as low as possible.

We also took the difficult decision to raise the cost of hiring the village hall by 2.5% which reflects increased costs.

Land

The land beside the crematorium drive has been fenced and hedging planted by volunteers from BBOWT led by Marcus Militello whose knowledge and expertise is welcome. Our thanks to them. Access to this land has been secured by a pedestrian gate; please take care near the river bank when walking in this area. We hope that another nature walk, led by Eric Rose, to explore the area to the north side of the crematorium will be organised in future. Details will be posted on the All About Watermead Facebook page and on our website.

Special thanks to:

Dave Lang and Graham Severn (ably 'assisted' by Sally the Spaniel) who clear litter and spray dog poo, picking up items which could be dangerous to others. Without their daily litterpicks we would not be able to keep Watermead as clean and tidy. It is very encouraging to be able to report that new volunteers have come forward to assist. We provided litter picking equipment recently to a teenager who was so disappointed and shocked when she saw the quantity of litter left over a weekend that she decided to join in the effort. Dot Toler for her lovely lunches at the Craft Fair and much else. The Village View team, led by editor and Cllr Mary Singleton, who manage to produce a new and different magazine every single time. Cllr Phil Toler has managed to recruit many new advertisers and their support helps us to produce the View. Please support these local businesses.

Noreen Shardlow continues to work very hard for the village, and has worked tirelessly on the crematorium case, taking up countless hours of time. She and Michelle Jackson ensure that the Parish is managed effectively, offering excellent service to

parishioners. Thank you both. Karen Collett and the events team who show that with support and volunteer time, much can be achieved. Thank you to everyone on the committee. We are looking forward to this year's 'Larks by the Lake' and the 'Film Night.' It's a pleasure to work with this committee.

Finally, and very importantly, following the Secretary of State's decision to change Buckinghamshire into a Unitary Authority, comprising the four District Councils and Bucks County Council, all Councillors were asked to serve for a further year. Watermead Councillors all agreed to stay on, which is much appreciated. The new Council for Buckinghamshire to be elected next May will be called Buckinghamshire Council and it is hoped that significant synergies will be achieved, resulting in considerable cost saving. We keep a watching brief on this, offering support to officers and looking out for potential opportunities to further Watermead's ability to manage its own affairs.

My councillor colleagues faced challenges this year from planning matters, particularly in pushing very hard for AVDC to listen to parishioners about the crematorium. Despite our huge disappointment with the outcome, nothing more could have been done, the District Council has simply let us down by making an appalling and totally unreasonable planning decision. However, the site is monitored, and any concerns reported immediately to AVDC. However, we remain determined to keep Watermead at its best.

The council works as a team, each councillor generously contributing their own talent and experience, resulting in a professional, highly motivated council which achieves much. I am very proud to be a member of Watermead Parish Council and thank my colleagues for their continued efforts and support for the community. Thank you all, very much.

With our very warmest wishes for a lovely summer, and looking forward to seeing many of you at the summer and Christmas events.

Chairman Sue Severn

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The Bell at Hardwick

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



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

The Bell at Hardwick, Lower Road, Hardwick, Bucks HP22 4DZ
Call: 01296 640005 enquiries@thebellhardwick.co.uk
www.thebellathardwick.com
 Open: Monday to Thursday 10am - 11pm,
 Friday & Saturday 10am - Midnight, Sundays 11am - 10pm.
 Restaurant: Wednesday & Thursday 12 noon - 9pm,
 Friday & Saturday 12 noon - 9:30pm, Sundays 12 noon - 6pm.

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- Which Bond film shares its name with Ian Fleming's Jamaican home?
- Which country celebrated its bicentenary in 1998?
- What name was given to the first antibiotic?
- Who wrote the novel Where Eagles Dare?
- Which castle is the largest in Britain?
- What nationality is Salman Rushdie?
- What is the badger's system of burrows called?
- Which Cambridgeshire hospital is famous for its transplant surgery?
- What type of hat took its name from a novel by George du Maurier?
- In which Dickens novel did Uriah Heap appear?
- How many years was Nelson Mandela held in prison?
- In which London park is Rotten Row?
- Who supposedly brought about the downfall of Barings Bank?
- What is a Wessex Saddleback?
- How many bits are there in a byte?
- What does the E stand for in 'E-numbers'?
- In which year did the TV soap opera EastEnders first appear?
- What was Bing Crosby's real first name?

Answers on page 27

What's on ...around Watermead

May

19th Lavender Lane Vintage/Shabby Chic Fair Village Hall 10am-3:30pm
12:30pm-5pm
26th Larks by the Lake

June

6th Watermead & Weedon WI Village Hall, 7:30pm
20th Watermead Parish Council Meeting Village Hall, 7:30pm

July

4th Watermead & Weedon WI Village Hall, 7:30pm
18th Watermead Parish Council Meeting Village Hall, 7:30pm
21st Lavender Lane Vintage/Shabby Chic Fair Village Hall 10am-3:30pm

August

1st Watermead & Weedon WI Lunch Venue TBC, 12:30pm
26th Bank Holiday

September

3rd Watermead & Weedon WI Village Hall, 7:30pm
14th Films on the Field TBC
19th Watermead Parish Council Meeting Village Hall, 7:30pm

Our regulars in the Village Hall...

Parish Council

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

Cygnets Pre-School

2.5 - 4 yrs: Monday, Wednesday -
Friday. 9.00am - 12.00pm
Tuesday 9.00 - 12.30pm,
3 & 4 yrs: Breakfast: Monday -
Friday 8.30 - 9.00am
Lunch: Monday, Wednesday -
Friday. 12.00 - 1.30pm
Dot Toler
cygnets.leader@gmail.com
07563 783464

Scrapbooking/Card
Making Any Craft Of
Your Choice Crafty Chicks
4th Friday of the month
from 6.30pm
Contact Daphne 393131

Watermead & Weedon Women's Institute

First Thursday of the month
7.30 - 9.30pm
julia-morgan@sky.com

Aylesbury & District Philatelic Society

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

Kumon Maths

Monday & Thursday
2.30 - 6pm
Susan Jones 747469

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
Contact Judith Muston

Castielli Dance 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

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

Advertise in the Village View 50% discount for Watermead residents

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**PUBLICATION
DATES
2019/2020**

**AUTUMN
7th September**

**WINTER
30th November**

**SPRING
7th March**

**SUMMER
6th June**

People have all sorts of reasons to take part in the Midnight Walk

According to most people who have done it, the **Midnight Walk is not just a fundraising event for Florence Nightingale Hospice.** It can also be a time-out from busy lives to reflect and remember loved ones; a way to say thank you to the Hospice for support in difficult times or an opportunity to catch up with friends. For many, it's a goal to aim for when trying to lose weight or get fit, as well as a way to raise money to support local people.

David Watts took part in the Midnight Walk in 2018 in memory of his wife Barbara, who was cared for and died in the Hospice in 2013.

"Like most people, I assume, we had a vague idea of hospice care but until it became necessary we had no idea of what it involved," David says. "Indeed I suppose if the idea of Barbara leaving home to stay in a hospice had been suggested earlier we would have resisted but, once we knew what was possible, we would not have had it differently."

"The hospice system seems to be a necessary and humane part of the system as it can provide a more personal and intimate level of care at the time when both the ill, and their families, need an especially high level of support and kindness."

"I took part in the Midnight Walk as a way of making some effort to thank Florence Nightingale Hospice for making Barbara's final days as comfortable as was possible."

Whatever your reason might be, why not put on a pair of bunny ears and join hundreds of other ladies, gentlemen and children for an amazing night on **Saturday 22nd June? Go to www.fnhospice.org.uk/midnightwalk** to find out more and register.

Choose the 5 mile or 10 mile circular route - both starting from Aylesbury College at midnight with entertainment along the way. All participants will receive a souvenir 10th Anniversary Midnight Walk T-shirt and Finisher's Medal.



WM News & Food is 20!

WM News, our local newsagent and Londis shop, is celebrating its twentieth year at Watermead.

To mark the occasion the owners, Mo and Adil, are implementing a major refurbishment of the shop. To further mark an auspicious year, they have been granted

a licence to operate a Post Office! In these days of high street closures that is a major achievement, and a great new service for residents of Watermead.

*Cllr Phil Toler,
Advertising Manager Village View*



Larks by the Lake 2019

The newly named 'Watermead Events' committee have been busy planning 'Larks by the Lake 2019' on Sunday 26th May, since January and before that really! This year's event seems set to be bigger and better with a very full entertainment programme which will be not only in the main ring but also on the Bandstand by the pub. The provisional timetable is as follows:

Balloon field

12.30pm Fete opens with Tae Kwon Do demonstration
1pm Ukie Toones
2.15pm Bollywood dancing
3pm Demonstration from the Pauline Quirke Academy
3.30pm Aylesbury School of Dance
4pm Katie's Jumping Fleas

Bandstand

1pm Beacon Community Choir
2.45pm Ukie Toones
4pm Bollywood Flash mob!!!

We are also still confirming other acts. Also on the Piazza throughout the day we have fabulous fun with 'Lil Riders'.

Watermead 'Bake Off'

If you would like to enter, there are the following categories:

- Large cake
- 12 cup cakes
- Savoury bake or pie

Over 16 years of age and under 16 categories for each. The produce will then be sold at the fete.

Bring your fabulous 'bakes' to the marquee on the field by 12 noon. There will be a trophy awarded to the winner of each category.

Also on the field back again this year we have the fabulous fun dog show, funfair, zorbs, vintage teas, burgers, ice creams, licensed bar, traditional games, bottle tombola and bric a brac. New additions this year are a colour maze and an extended food and shopping court with over 30 shopping stalls and many types of food for everyone to enjoy. Come and see the collection of 'super cars' too - Lamborghini, Ferrari, Maserati!

We are extremely grateful to our generous sponsors who make this event possible. A list of them can be found on the back cover.

Raffle

The prizes we have instore for you this year look amazing - we have:

1st Prize £200 Amazon voucher (donated by Quanta Berkhamsted)
2nd Prize Champagne balloon flight
3rd Prize £50 Marks and Spencer voucher

We also have many more prizes to be won such as Avanti vouchers, nail and beauty vouchers...

Tug O' War team

If you would like to put together a team please let us know. A traditional team is 8 people but we can work around this.

We are looking for donations please

Cans/bottles (wine, spirits, beer, soft drinks, mixers), Toys & Games, Books, DVDs/CDs and unwanted gifts.

Contact: watermeadevents@gmail.com
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We can arrange collection if you wish.

CAN YOU HELP?

To run or assist the stalls - 1 hour slots if enough people help.

Contact: watermeadevents@gmail.com

We'd like to thank everyone who has helped in anyway they can and the least everyone can do in Watermead is hope and/or pray for good weather!

Watermead & Weedon WI Climate Change

The WI has a proud history of taking action to protect the environment. Find out how you can get involved in our campaign to tackle climate change. Over the years the WI has cleaned up our beaches, stood up for the honeybee and campaigned for wide areas of special beauty. In recent times, this concern for our natural environment has seen members rally against climate change.

Climate change is already affecting the things we love. It can be seen through increased flooding, summer heatwaves and the decline of bee populations. It is changing the seasons, disturbing the journeys of migrating birds and affecting crops and flowers.

In the past few years the WI, along with hundreds of other organisations, has worked to raise awareness of this issue and lobby politicians to prioritise tackling climate change.

Be part of 'The Time is Now' mass lobby for climate and environmental action

Let's go further and faster to protect our planet. Join us in Westminster on 26 June from 1pm to 4.30pm to speak to your MP about protecting the climate and environment. Organised by the Climate Coalition, the mass lobby outside parliament is part of Speak Up Week. It aims to highlight the breadth of people who care about leaving a legacy that we can be proud of for future generations.

We are the last generation that can realistically limit warming to climate-safe levels. The onus is on our MPs to take a lead in ensuring the UK remains at the front of global efforts to reduce emissions and pollution. Politicians will only increase their ambition if they see that we care. They will act if their constituents tell them they want change.

We will be joined by a coalition of organisations that represent millions of people across the UK. From surfers to scientists, bird watchers to doctors, everyone has a stake in the state of our environment. Join the conversation online by using the hashtag #thetimeisnow.

You don't have to live in Watermead or Weedon to join us. We welcome members from all over Aylesbury. You are welcome to come as a prospective member or as a visitor to a particular talk and you will be made most welcome. We meet at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of the month in Watermead Village Hall. Our programme is displayed on the Watermead notice board and contact details for the Committee members are printed in Village View. We look forward to welcoming some of you.

WI programme for the next four months

6th June 'Silk for Sundays' - Yvonne Bell will show us how she paints on silk to make Church Vestments.
4th July 'My travels in the USA' - a talk, appropriate for the date, by Kareen Stuart
1st August Summer lunch - venue tbc
5th September 'Bagels and bacon - growing up in the post-war East End' - a talk by Jeff Rozelaar

Calling all girls aged 10-14

1st Whitchurch Guides now has a few spaces available for girls aged between 10 and 14 who would enjoy taking part in a host of different activities. You'll create your own campaigns, learn and share new skills, and fly down the occasional zip wire. You'll explore new places - Guides go on camps, holidays and trips, enjoy exciting events like our star-studded concert, the Big Gig, and our music festival, Wellies and Wristbands.

Girls at Guides won't be your average friends. They'll be the girls who want to go on adventures with you, encourage you to try new things, and who celebrate when you've pushed yourself to achieve something special. As you progress through Guides you'll have a chance to lead small groups and support younger girls to have fun and make friends. You could even get involved in our leadership opportunities.

We have recently undergone a complete overhaul of the programme to include activities, badges and experiences that are relevant to young women in 2019. You can work towards a badge in things such as vlogging, human rights, fitness and meditation as well as history of Guiding, backwoods cooking and confectionery. There are many more, so the choice is yours!

Why not join us for a session and see what we do? You would be very welcome! We meet on Monday nights in Whitchurch Methodist Church Hall from 7 to 9pm. Contact Nicky Batson 07590 686023 whitchurchgr@gmail.com

NB A video blog or video log, usually shortened to vlog, is a form of blog for which the medium is video, and is a form of web television. Vlog entries often combine embedded video with supporting text, images, and other metadata. Entries can be recorded in one take or cut into multiple parts. Vlog category is popular on the video-sharing platform YouTube.



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Prevent isolation in your community become a befriender. We all need a helping hand or listening ear - sometimes more so due to health, isolation or recovery following an operation. Local charity, Connection Support, are looking for volunteer befrienders to support their Prevention Matters clients to build a more fulfilling life in Amersham, The Chalfonts and Beaconsfield.

Prevention Matters help adults regain confidence, maintain independence and help them get out and about. The Community Support Workers support clients by finding help, signposting to other services, connect with others in the local community and provide encouragement to get involved in social events.

How you can make a difference to people's lives as a Prevention Matters volunteer

- Increase or maintain social links such as attend local events, transport to coffee mornings
- Accompany them on GP or hospital appointments
- Teach them new digital skills such as email, Skype or how to search the web.
- Practical support in the garden or a spot of DIY in their home
- Assistance with hoarding disorder
- Support to a carer who is feeling isolated.

Connection Support feel that nobody can do everything but everyone can do something so volunteering is flexible to suit you.

For a chat about becoming a volunteer befriender with Connection Support please contact Milena Dixon-Rajkovchevska, Volunteer Co-ordinator in Buckinghamshire on 01296 484322 or email her via volunteers@connectionsupport.org.uk Further details can be found on connectionsupport.org.uk/volunteer.

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Bathroom Fitting Undertaken

Sally's Blog

Hello everyone, I have had a busy few months since last writing my BLOG and I am trying to remember all the interesting things I want to tell you. Here's a picture of me in the car – read on and find out more!



While looking through my social media posts to find the best photographs I found this diary extract, posted by a friend of mine from Lincolnshire, and thought I would share it with you. David's humans know how to treat a dog properly.

8.00am: Dog food! My favourite thing! 9.30am: A car ride! My favourite thing! 9.40am: A walk in the park! My favourite thing! 10.30am: Got rubbed and petted! My favourite thing! 12.00pm: Milk bones! My favourite thing! 3.00pm: Wagged my tail! My favourite thing! 5.00pm: Dinner! My favourite thing! 7.00pm: Got to play ball! My favourite thing! 8.00pm: Wow! Watched TV with the people! My favourite thing! 11.00pm: Sleeping on the bed! My favourite thing!

My own day begins somewhat earlier, with a noisy alarm, or by me deciding it's time to get up if it's the weekend or a day for a lie-in. I can usually achieve this before the alarm goes off, which is generally unpopular. I keep barking until they let me out of my crate, let me into the garden, give me my meagre breakfast of a few pieces of dried dog food. By then I am tired again so I have to sit on the sofa and go back to sleep, but

the humans are properly awake so they get ready for the day.

They then go to sit in front of their computer for hours and hours, talking on the phone, reading stuff, writing and then stop for lunch (which I am not allowed to have, no matter how much I give them my best looks sitting right next to them).

Some time after this we go out for a walk. This is definitely one of the best bits of my day. We usually go past my cousin Ronnie's house. I always walk a little way up his path to see if he's coming with us, and then we go round the small lake, looking at the swans, birds and see lots of people. I love the lakes, and walk round both most days. There is always something new to see and currently, for spaniels in particular, much to sniff, so it takes me ages to go forwards. I often have to double back and check the scent I started with. I love this time of year, but I think it drives the humans nuts, it all takes so long and they want to do something called their 'steps' by going forwards, I think they would be better off going two forward, three back and several sideways, following scents, like me.

I am sorry to say that we do see a lot of dog poo, my human sprays it pink to help make it clear to everyone not to step in it. I cannot believe that some humans are so disgusting, don't forget other dogs step in it too. The worst is when it's on grassland, where you don't always see it. Kick it into a hedgerow or pick it up and put the bag in the bin (if there's no dog bin just take it home and put it in your own bin).

When I get home I need another sleep, and the humans get back to work. I am very lucky that one works from home and the other retired. I am rarely alone and frequently see lots of people who obviously come to see me. When they go out I am very happy in my crate where I am not disturbed. I think I have a very happy life, I am a lucky dog.



When I wake up I have my dinner: Recently a huge box arrived from Amazon. When I investigated, it contained (filling about one third of the box) my dinner – very good, I like Amazon.

I was 4 in April. I am now 28 in human, it only seems a very



little while since I came to live in Watermead, my cousin Ronnie was not even born, but I'm pleased to say he is often with us and it's nice having family around. He is very keen on sitting on sofas and on watching television. Here he is, very worried during Victoria, when the Queen went swimming and seemed to be drowning – Ronnie was there trying to help by barking at the screen!

Our breeder, Debbie, has moved to Scotland! I now stay with a lady who has a racing stables, and absolutely love it. I sleep in her house, on the sofa – no crates there! I play with the resident dogs all day long, in the stable yard, old loose boxes and barn,

and we go for two long walks visiting the horses and enjoying the run. It is doggie heaven, to be quite honest. When I got home from my interview and trial visit I was exhausted and could barely wake up to eat and walk for a few days!

I absolutely love going for a ride in cars. My Mum's new car has a smaller boot than the old one so my normal crate doesn't quite fit. She had a great idea and bought a collapsible one which fits perfectly. However, I wasn't sure for a while because instead of a door it has zips. This was odd at first, and then I discovered the top flap, which she opened to show me and I could pop my head out, very satisfactory! I always look forward to trips out we usually go somewhere exciting. Favourites include County Shows, Craft Fairs and days out with friends.

Next up is the Watermead Dog Show at Larks by the Lake! Looking forward to seeing lots of the dogs I meet on my walks, please enter your humans in the fancy dress competition, it's all for fun and raises money for local charities and community facilities in Watermead. My mum and her friends work hard on the dog show, the least we can do is to turn up and take part! I realise it's not CRUFTS, but it really is for fun.

*See you all soon.
Sally the Spaniel*



Watermead Cygnets Pre-School

Spring has truly arrived with trees bursting with blossom, the air infused with the smell of fresh cut grass and the lighter evenings tempting early season BBQs.

The children at Cygnets have welcomed the season starting with learning about the Life Cycles of butterflies, frogs/toads, chickens and plants. Spring bulbs planted in the Autumn produced a colourful spectacle of tulips and daffodils in the garden troughs. We went on an adventure looking for frogspawn in the ditch behind The Cornfry along the field and were not disappointed when we discovered clumps of gelatinous speckled-filled flotsam covering the water's surface. Will the tadpoles survive? Will we see frogs? More reason to lead the children again like the Pied Pipers along the footpaths to lay eyes on one of nature's miracles.

Have you seen the swans nesting at the edge of the small lake? There were 7 eggs on the last count. A silky black mink has been spotted nearby; "please leave the eggs alone Minkyl!"

To help the children learn about plants and growth, a variety of seeds were carefully buried in compost in suitable containers. The children and parents are encouraged to keep the planted seeds in well-lit places, watering as needed. Observations of the stages of plant growth – seed, roots, shoots, stem, leaves etc are reported back to the group. We look forward to harvesting cress, carrots, herbs, potatoes and French beans. Mmmm... delicious healthy snacks to be

served on tables decorated with growing sunflowers.

Special events in March - a very busy month:

Sponsored Obstacle Course: For the duration of a week, the children had to negotiate obstacle courses set out in the hall with the intention of developing their physical skills and confidence. Walking along low tables and jumping off onto mats was a challenge for some (adults - please don't try this at home!). Thank you to all parents who collected a huge sum of over £350, 10% of which will go to Comic Relief.

World Book Day: Children arrived at preschool dressed as their favourite book characters - some beaming, others rather shy; however, by mid-morning most were comfortable enough to say who they chose and why.

Comic Relief: We decided that we would not purchase more plastic to be discarded, so we made our own paper red noses. Thank you again to businesses in the piazza for their donations to the good cause.

Last but not least, **Mother's Day:** The children spent quite some time practising songs for a performance to their families. Mummies received precious cards and daffodils. In our concert we included two music and movement songs from our favourite CD 'Fabby Dabby Dee' by Sticky Kids. The songs foster self-awareness, an awareness of others, and develops emotional and behavioural skills. Well done mummies for uniting with your children on the mat and moving to 'I Can Clap'.

Research studies have shown that in this age of ipads, tablets

and smart phones, children do not 'move' enough. 'Learning in Motion' is now being actively delivered in classrooms. 'Music and movement' sessions have always been regular activities at Cygnets. It is fun; children and adults all exercise releasing tensions, developing co-ordination, listening skills and self-confidence.

Studies show that children who are more active exhibit better focus, faster cognitive processing, and more successful memory retention than kids who spend the day sitting still. Keeping the body active promotes mental clarity by increasing blood flow to the brain, making activity vital to both learning and physical and neurological health. If you would like to know more, here's the link: www.edweek.org/tm/articles/2017/08/08/learning-in-motion-bring-movement-back-to.html

Cygnets are running the Bottle Tombola and the Bric-a-Brac stall at Larks by the Lake, our annual May Fayre. Please donate items generously as all proceeds are going to

nominated charities. You can drop donations at the Preschool (opening hours below) or email cygnets.leader@gmail.com.

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

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

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

The Cygnets Team

NB As advised in Chairman's View, since this article was written our swan was rescued by Tiggiwinkles (the day after the cob was found dead) along with her 8 eggs. All cygnets hatched shortly afterwards. She is now accommodated in a pool in safety until her cygnets have grown a little and then they will be rehomed possibly to a swan sanctuary on the Thames.



Visit to Pennsylvania, USA

My American cousin, Nina Estelle, now lives in Washington State not far from Seattle. She is the daughter of auntie Nina (my father's sister) who left England at the end of World War II as a GI bride. She grew up in Connecticut.

It was all very last minute. When Nina was planning her bi-annual visit to her son, Colin, and his wife, Laura, who live in Pennsylvania, she invited me to join her there, however, it took a while to find a mutually convenient time. I hadn't seen her since she came over to the UK to join our celebration of my mother and her twin sister's 90th birthday nearly six years ago. I should mention here that I attended Colin and Laura's wedding with my mother in 2005; during that stay we were taken on a tour of Philadelphia and had the opportunity to meet Laura and her family on the eve of the wedding at her family home. Colin and Laura have also visited us in the UK whilst on a European tour.

We managed to co-ordinate our flights to arrive at Philadelphia airport at more or less the same time and Laura was returning from a business trip in Boston; so we all met up and Laura drove us the hour's journey home. When almost there we met Colin at a Mexican restaurant. By this time it was after midnight UK time, about 7.30 pm in Pennsylvania, nevertheless I enjoyed Talapia and big prawns in a delicious spicy sauce with fresh vegetables.

The following day after breakfast Nina and I went out for a walk. It was quite chilly

with some cloud and sunny spells – similar weather to that which I had left in England! After a short distance I saw a bird the size of a thrush with a red breast and asked Nina what it was. She said it was a Robin. I thought we were looking at different birds as this was nothing like our Robins in the UK. She clarified by saying it was a North American Robin which I later found was correct.

I noticed that a number of houses had decorations outside similar to Christmas decorations. These were for Easter and some were very elaborate. In one garden there were overhead lines which had lights at intervals – the owner stopped at his post box while we were trying to work out what they were and he told us they were not only lights but also feeders for hummingbirds. We did wonder afterwards how the feeders were refilled. Many houses also had "Happy Easter" notices on their post boxes and Easter egg trees which are decorated with plastic eggs.

Nina pointed out that some houses were built of stone about quarter of the way up. This stone had been dug out of the ground when the land was being prepared for farming. The remainder of the building appeared to be built with either wood or other building material.

People we met on our walk were friendly and passed the time of day; those passing in vehicles waved as if they knew us.

Laura has a love of horses and their newly built home is surrounded by paddocks, and

a large barn which houses the stables. These are all left open when they go out. They live in the heart of Amish country which proved to be very interesting. Amish are also known as "Pennsylvania Dutch" due to a mistranslation of "Deutsch" (German).

The landscape is undulating and there are lots of trees; the homesteads are very open ie there are few fences or hedges except those delineating properties. When we passed one such farm Colin commented that it was Amish as there were no electricity cables, however some farms do generate their own electricity. We saw some boys working in the fields and they were dressed in a sort of uniform with straw boaters on their heads. Their hair was cut in a strange style which reminded me of a loaf of bread shaped like a cob.

The women wear dark coloured long dresses, a long apron and a bonnet. They use hooks and eyes and buttons rather than zips.

On Sunday morning we went to see the Susquehanna River Gorge. We stood high up over this huge river and marvelled at the deep gorge and view across Pennsylvania.

En route we saw lots of horse and buggies. I was told that the Amish in this area do not worship in a church but will gather together in somebody's house which will change from week to week. They generally do not have telephones so will communicate by other means. As many are running businesses they need a phone so, in this case they will have an outbuilding well

away from their main buildings to house the telephone. Colin told me that whilst the Amish do not own cars or trucks, many pay others to drive them when they need to travel for business, and are known to use mobile phones for business.

The Susquehanna River is a major river located in the northeastern and mid-Atlantic United States. At 464 miles it is the longest river on the East Coast of the United States that drains into the Atlantic Ocean at Chesapeake Bay. With its watershed, it is the 16th-largest river in the United States, and the longest river in the early 21st-century continental United States without commercial boat traffic.

The Susquehanna River has two headstreams, one rising in New York State and one in Pennsylvania, which meet in central Pennsylvania. The river drains 27,500 square miles including nearly half of the land area of Pennsylvania.

The Susquehanna River is one of the oldest existing rivers in the world, being dated as 320-340 years older than the mountain ridges through which it flows. These ridges resulted from the Alleghenian orogeny uplift events, when Africa (as part of Gondwana) slammed into the Northern part of EurAmerica. It was well established in the flat tidelands of eastern North America during the Mesozoic era about 252 to 66 million years ago. This is the same period when the Hudson, Delaware and Potomac rivers were established.

Generally, the Amish children marry young, so the parent's homes are extended to accommodate the new family. This means that they will continue to work within the farm and/or business. The elders will continue working as long as they can but will be cared for in their old age by the family.

One evening I was taken to an Amish restaurant for dinner. It was a buffet style with a large choice of starters, main courses with fresh vegetables, and many, many desserts to choose from. The food was very good. They did not serve alcohol but Nina and Colin enjoyed a huge glass of iced tea. Laura and I stuck to water! The waiters and waitresses wore traditional Amish dress.

On another occasion Colin pointed out that washing was hanging outside on a line; he laughed and said that is Amish. I didn't understand at first why this was so odd as I have never owned a dryer and always hang out my washing if weather permits. Later I noticed that the washing machine and dryer in Colin and Laura's house were located in a laundry room upstairs as you enter their bedroom. The logic is that you take your clothes off when you go to bed and when you remove bed linen it is upstairs. Same applies to towels from the bathroom. Why

carry them all downstairs to wash and dry and then bring them back upstairs to put away? Colin said he had had one worry and that was if the washing machine should break down and leak, so he had it sitting in a tray.

The Lancaster-Chester Counties Old Order Amish Settlement is nestled in the gently rolling countryside of eastern Pennsylvania. They are America's oldest (founded circa 1760) Amish settlement, where thousands still live a centuries-old "Plain" lifestyle. The horse and buggy remains a primary form of transportation, and windmills dot the landscape, providing power harnessed from nature. Always a vital part of Lancaster County culture, the Pennsylvania Amish are involved in agriculture as well as an array of businesses and cottage industries.

The Amish are a group of traditionalist Christian church fellowships with Swiss German Anabaptist origins. They are closely related to, but distinct from, Mennonite churches. The Amish are known for simple living, plain dress, and reluctance to adopt many conveniences of modern technology.



Whilst driving around I noticed that many houses had a large star hanging on the outside wall or on their barn. Interestingly neither Colin nor Laura knew what they



symbolised. So Laura checked on "Google": A barnstar (or barn star, primitive star, or Pennsylvania star) is a painted object or image, often in the shape of a five-pointed star but occasionally in a circular "wagon wheel" style, used to decorate a barn in some parts of the United States, and many rural homes in Canada. They have no structural purpose but may be considered lucky, akin to a horseshoe mounted over a doorway. They are especially common in Pennsylvania and frequently seen in German-American farming communities. Barnstars were meant to represent the mark of the builder but became more frequently used for aesthetic

purposes and were added to the building after construction was complete.

After leaving school Colin attended Virginia Tech in Virginia. He is now a civil engineer.

For the past 10 years he has joined the local alumni group in Wilmington, Delaware volunteering for Habitat for Humanity. This is a humanitarian organisation focused on long-term development, aid and poverty alleviation, whose mission it is to build a safe environment where families and communities can thrive. They build affordable homes to tackle housing poverty around the world (including UK) and provide



non-profit loans. Nina had emailed me a couple of days before I left UK to say that she had forgotten to tell me that she was going to go with Colin on Saturday to volunteer help on a building site and it was up to me whether I joined them or not. Although DIY is not my forte, I signed up – at least I could perhaps make tea.

So, on my second day of "holiday" we had to get up early to drive to Wilmington (about an hour away) to arrive before 8 am. As we arrived in Wilmington the roads were tree-lined and homes were beautifully laid out – obviously a wealthy area. We were heading for the other side of the town which was very run down. On arrival we were given a welcome and health and safety induction. Then we were split into three groups, five or six in each: one doing carpentry type work, one fixing door knobs, and one touching up paintwork. Colin lined a shed which required specialist skills and Nina and I did painting. It was very cold



The American robin is a migratory songbird of the true thrush genus and Turdidae, the wider thrush family. It is named after the European robin because of its reddish-orange breast, though the two species are not closely related, with the European robin belonging to the Old World flycatcher family. The American robin is widely distributed throughout North America, wintering from southern Canada to central Mexico and along the Pacific Coast. It is the state bird of Connecticut, Michigan, and Wisconsin. According to some sources, the American robin ranks behind only the red-winged blackbird (and just ahead of the introduced European starling and the not-always-naturally-occurring house finch) as the most abundant extant land bird in North America.

The American robin is active mostly during the day and assembles in large flocks at night. Its diet consists of invertebrates (such as beetle grubs, earthworms, and caterpillars), fruits and berries. It is one of the earliest bird species to lay eggs, beginning to breed shortly after returning to its summer range from its winter range. Its nest consists of long coarse grass, twigs, paper, and feathers, and is smeared with mud and often cushioned with grass or other soft materials. It is one of the first birds to sing at dawn, and its song consists of several discrete units that are repeated.

The adult robin is preyed upon by hawks, cats, and snakes. When feeding in flocks, it can be vigilant, watching other birds for reactions to predators. Brown-headed cowbirds lay eggs in robin nests but the robins usually reject the eggs. More information can be found at www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_robin





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Mighty moggies and weighty woofers

50% of cats and dogs are overweight in the UK.

Animals, like people, are overweight when they carry more fat than they should.

They have the same health benefits as humans when they remain fit.

Overweight and obese animals are a serious health risk, and would benefit from losing weight and being their healthiest self.

Commonly, weight gain occurs in our pets when they eat more than they burn off. We usually see older animals become overweight, when they don't get as much exercise as before, but still get fed the same amount. Being overweight puts more stress on the heart and joints, and can lead to arthritis. After surgery, it is a good idea to monitor weight, especially if they are rested. Overweight cats can struggle to groom themselves, and cause them to "slow down" in themselves.

Other medical conditions can lead to weight gain. An underactive thyroid can 'slow

down a dog's metabolism' which can lead to weight gain and a dull coat. An over active adrenal gland (Cushings disease) produces more steroid, which can also lead to weight gain and a pot-bellied appearance due to poor abdominal muscles and a poor coat. Excess insulin from overzealous diabetes treatment or an insulin-producing tumour can also lead to weight gain. In cats, obesity is linked to diabetes and lower urinary tract disease - meaning they are more prone to developing cystitis (inflammation of the bladder).

Body condition score is marked out of 9, with the ideal score being 5/9. You measure this by how much fat they are carrying, how much pressure you have to put on to feel ribs and whether they have a waist - compared to the breed standard. Our vets and nurses can go through this with you and give your pet a score.

The main treatment is decreasing the calorie intake and increasing exercise. There are

many ways to help this. Obesity, satiety and metabolic diets are available to encourage burning of fat rather than storing of fat. Weighing food daily and keeping food diaries to monitor how much they are getting each day helps -including any treats and scraps from plates. Don't "crash diet" - reduce food gradually until you feed for the weight they should be, not the weight they are. Starvation diets can cause "fatty liver" in cats, which can cause liver failure. Regular weighing is a great way to keep track of your pet's progress - ideally you should aim for 1% of body weight loss per week. Puzzle feeding is a good way to slow down eating time and to keep mentally active. We recommend low calorie treats or saving some of their daily allowance for use of treats.

Cats can be a lot more difficult to diet! Multiple cat households can make it more difficult to target weight loss in one individual. Feeding separately in a different room and taking

away any leftover food can help, or collar activated feeders. For those who visit other houses for that extra feed, a "do not feed" collar or a quick discussion with neighbours can help. Playing with your cat can provide exercise and a bonding opportunity.

Summer is ideal time to get fit - longer sunnier days can lead to more time outside and more exercise. Being a healthy weight improves quality of life.

We run FREE nurse led weight clinics at the hospital every Wednesday 3pm to 5.30pm. Our friendly nurses, Keri and Kimberly, can go through everything with you and discuss the best way to shed those unwanted kilos.

This information is given by Dr Kelly Gore at Hampden Veterinary Hospital. For any information or advice contact 01296 745373 or call in to see them in The Piazza or in Aylesbury.

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inside the houses but outside it was very warm in the sunshine. We had to take a packed lunch and we had a half hour break at midday. Otherwise it was non-stop. There were four reasonably-sized, terraced, four-bedroomed houses with a bathroom and laundry room upstairs and open plan living space and fully fitted kitchen downstairs and a fair bit of storage space. Outside there was a "postage stamp" garden with an outside storage cupboard. The owner-to-be was helping in the first house - as part of the deal they have to do 250 hours of volunteer work for the charity. After a hard day's work we arrived home at about 4.30 pm and we sat on the veranda in the sunshine and enjoyed a lovely cup of English tea!

On Monday my flight home was not departing until 6.30pm so Nina and I decided to visit Longwood Gardens, founded by Pierre S. du Pont in 1906, en route to the airport. It was a warm sunny day and the spring flowers and blossom were beautiful. We took a short organised tour which gave us the history of the house and gardens and some information about the trees. It was a shame that the Italian Water Garden was still under maintenance and not open until later in April - Pierre du Pont's love for fountains stretched back to when he was mesmerized at the age of six by the huge display of water pumps at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. These days spectacular fountain displays take place in the main fountain garden with music, lights and fireworks. (Robin Lane Fox wrote about this in the Financial Times on 2 November 2018.)

We walked through a lovely area with little streams and waterfalls and visited the old pump room and gallery. We then entered the conservatory and enjoyed seeing all the varieties of indoor plants imaginable. It really was a wonder!

My next trip to USA is likely to be to early next year when Nina is planning to be married to her fiancé, Bax, a palaeontologist and North West American mammoth expert. This will mean flying to Seattle and I plan to combine this with a trip on the Rocky Mountaineer Railway.

Cllr Mary Singleton, Editor

History of Longwood Gardens

For thousands of years, the native Lenape tribe fished the streams, hunted its forests, and planted its fields. Evidence of tribe's existence is found in quartz spear points that have been discovered on and around the property.

In 1700, the course of history changed when a Quaker farmer named George Peirce purchased 402 acres of this English-claimed land from William Penn's commissioners. Over the next several years, George and his descendants cleared and farmed the rich land, and in 1730 one of George's sons, Joshua, built the brick farmhouse that, now enlarged, still stands today.

In 1798, George's twin great-grandsons, Samuel and Joshua, actively pursued an interest in natural history and began planting an arboretum that eventually covered 15 acres. The collection included specimens from up and down the Eastern seaboard and overseas.

As the 19th century rolled into the 20th, the heirs to the land lost interest in property and allowed the arboretum to deteriorate. The property passed through several hands in quick succession until a lumber mill operator was contracted to remove the trees from a 41-acre parcel of land in early



1906. It was this threat that moved one man to take action. By 1850, the arboretum boasted one of the finest collections of trees in the nation and had become a place for the locals to gather outdoors - a new concept that was sweeping America at the time. Family reunions and picnics were held at

Peirce's Park in the mid to late 19th century.

In July 1906, 36-year-old Pierre du Pont purchased the farm primarily to preserve the trees. But he didn't stop there.

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Watermead Front Garden Competition

This year a great inspiration for our competition will be the Mirabell Gardens in Salzburg. Four years ago, in March 2015, the fans and all those involved in the making of “Sound of Music” celebrated its 50th anniversary.

In “The Sound of Music”, Maria and the Von Trapp children sing “Do, Re, Mi” while dancing, running and skipping around Mirabell Gardens. You’ll recognize the gnome garden and, of course, the Pegasus fountain that they leap off, before finishing the song on the musical steps.

By pure coincidence, two members of Watermead Parish Council (myself being one of them) happened to travel to Salzburg recently and visit the marvellous gardens featured in the movie. The gardens are now, fifty-four or so years later, almost unchanged. The gnomes, the Pegasus fountain and the steps are still unchanged, still in their original spots. However, the flower arrangements are more attractive and vivid than ever.

I visited the gardens on a cold day in mid April and missed the glorious sunny weather by only one day. Too preoccupied with keeping warm, I therefore skipped the “skipping” through the famous tunnel. I decided to save my energy for the Watermead judging tours this summer.

This year, together with any ad hoc members of the judging panel (names to be announced at a later date), we will offer the “Best Front Garden” award to that garden that manages to reflect best the spirit of the “Sound of Music”. It does not have to be large, it does not have to have a Pegasus fountain, however it will have to have that “Mirabell” factor.

For those who need inspiration, here is the link to the live camera watching over our place of inspiration: www.salzburg.info/en/travel-info/webcam

For non-fans, we have a generic themed garden prize, therefore no reason not to enter. Good luck, everyone!

Irina Schwab



Places to eat

Betsey Wynne

1 Mursley Road, Swanbourne, Bucks MK17 0SH

01296 720825 www.thebetseywynne.co.uk

Whilst there are mixed reviews on “trip advisor”, personal reports from several people are very positive about this restaurant especially the brunch. Surrounded by patios, manicured gardens and 1,300 acres of farmland, The Betsey Wynne in Swanbourne re-opened its doors in 2017. Open daily from 9am, they serve a Mediterranean-inspired menu.

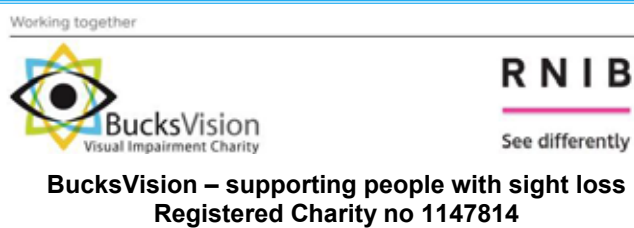
La Tasca

Unit 2 Exchange Street, Aylesbury HP20 1UB

01296 424974

La Tasca is a renowned chain of speciality tapas restaurants, now bringing the authentic and exciting taste of Spain all the way to Aylesbury. Open for dining at any time of the day, La Tasca is an ideal choice for parties, family dinners and children set within a friendly, rustic ambience.

Typically Spanish menus include traditional paellas and tapas - tasty dishes made to share; an assortment of tortillas, mushrooms sautéed in olive oil, and fried potatoes in a spicy sauce provide enough choice for vegetarians. Also available are a wide selection of Spanish wines, sangria and beers.



Low Vision Day

Tuesday 18 June

12.30pm to 4.30pm

Princes Risborough Community Centre
Stratton Road, HP27 9AX

Thursday 20 June

10.00am to 2.00pm

Centrecom, 602 N. Row, Milton Keynes, MK9 3BJ
(around the corner from the Central Library)

- See demonstrations of equipment including magnification and digital technology.
- Speak to charities and local groups.
- Open to any professionals/members of the public who wish to find out more about sight loss.

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Hello from Compost Corner

Well this is it. This is the year that we either grow our own flowers for the wedding or we have to beg, borrow or steal them as there will be no time for one more try. The allotments have come to life and so have the weeds. We're not going to pull up every unwelcome plant - there's no point in trying to make it look flawless. It's an allotment not Chelsea blooming Flower Show.

Luke Siswick and his family, known as the the young guns, who only joined our little community last year have worked really hard. They have the plot nearest the gate so we all have to go past their bit and look on jealously at the results they've produced in less than six months. They've got raised beds, a new shed, a barbecue and also a play area for their children. They're going to have a wonderful time playing mud pies. See image below.

It takes a lot of faith to put seeds outside in the ground in April. The soil hasn't had a chance to warm up yet so they could rot in the ground before they have chance to germinate. We also found that our strawberry plants should have been moved as they get smaller unless you replant the runners. We're going to try a different corner and see if that helps. In our first year the strawberries were amazing. Huge and juicy (ooh er missus!).

We planted an artichoke last year and it's the first time we've had a look at it since last Christmas. It's grown so big. It's taken over one of the beds and we've no idea of how much bigger it will get or how many heads we will get from it.

If you've got the time, gardening can take you away and you can forget your troubles. You have the freedom to plan your own area and plant the flowers and the foods that bring you lots of joy. If you'd also like lots of joy from having an allotment, please contact Noreen Shardlow, Clerk to the Parish Council at noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk or call 395211 weekdays between 10am and 2pm.

Happy Digging!
Graham Howse and Kelie-Marie, plot 19



The Crafty Chicks plot is shared by Daphne Reid, Kate Bolt and Charlotte Eardley. They have produced these beautiful tulips The Crafty Chicks are a craft club that meet at the Village Hall once a month.

Charity Darts Night

A Charity Darts Night will be held in the Watermead Inn on Wednesday 19th June with 3 times World BDO champion Martin "Wolfie" Adams in aid of the Prostate Cancer charity.



Doors open at 6 pm and the entrance fee is £5 which includes entry into a draw to play a game of darts with Martin.

Father's Day is on the Sunday before the event. It would be a great Father's Day present to donate £100 which would enable

them to play a game of darts with the champion. Anyone can do this by contacting either Kelvin at the Watermead Inn or Bob Manser on 07801 756462.

Well done Paul Brown!

We reported in our last issue that Paul Brown was running in the London Marathon in aid of the MPS charity. Paul finished the London marathon in 6 hours 23 minutes. If you wish to donate you can do so at www.uk.virginmoneygiving.com/ PaulBrown127

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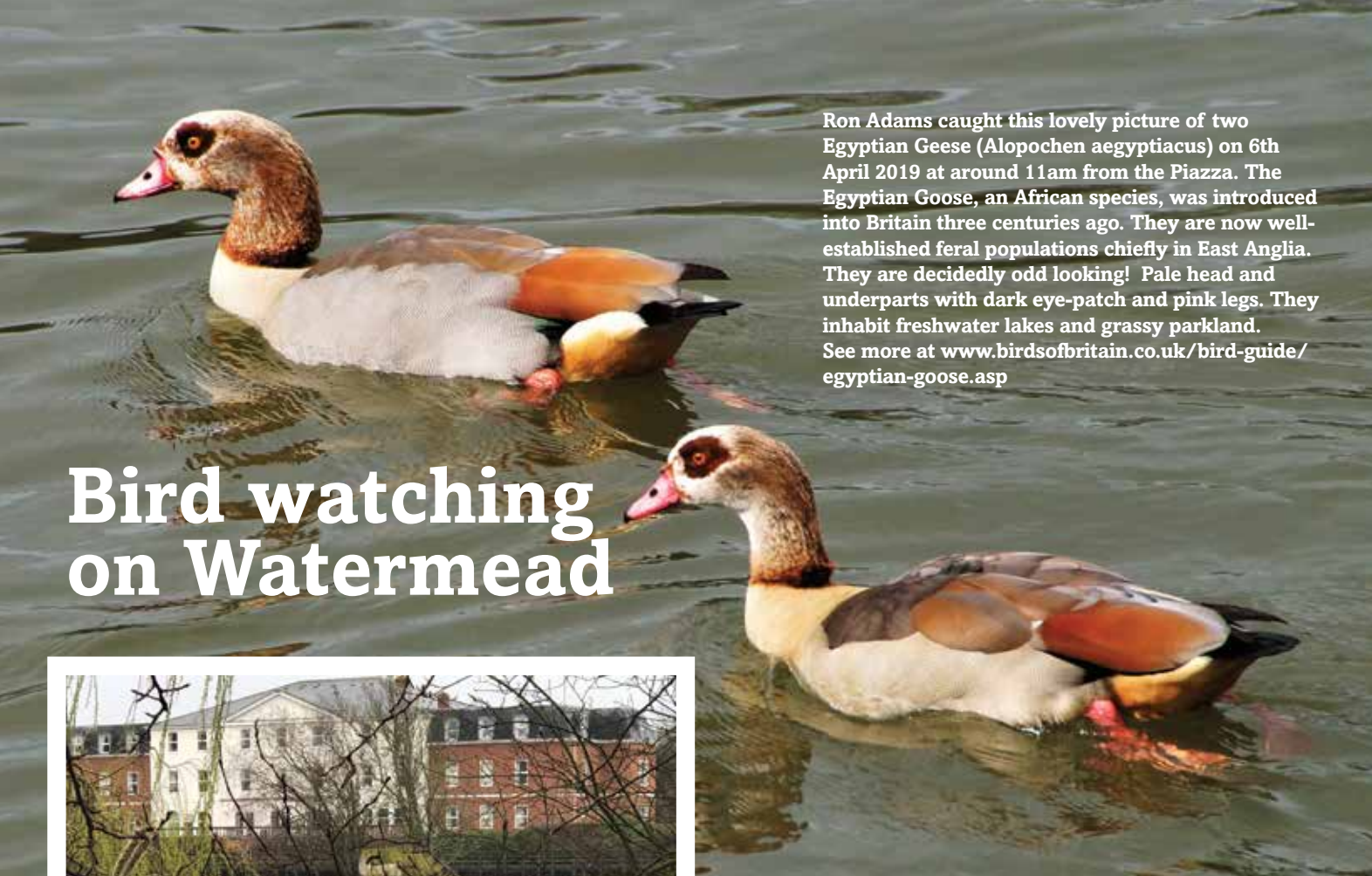
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Ron Adams caught this lovely picture of two Egyptian Geese (*Alopochen aegyptiacus*) on 6th April 2019 at around 11am from the Piazza. The Egyptian Goose, an African species, was introduced into Britain three centuries ago. They are now well-established feral populations chiefly in East Anglia. They are decidedly odd looking! Pale head and underparts with dark eye-patch and pink legs. They inhabit freshwater lakes and grassy parkland. See more at www.birdsofbritain.co.uk/bird-guide/egyptian-goose.asp

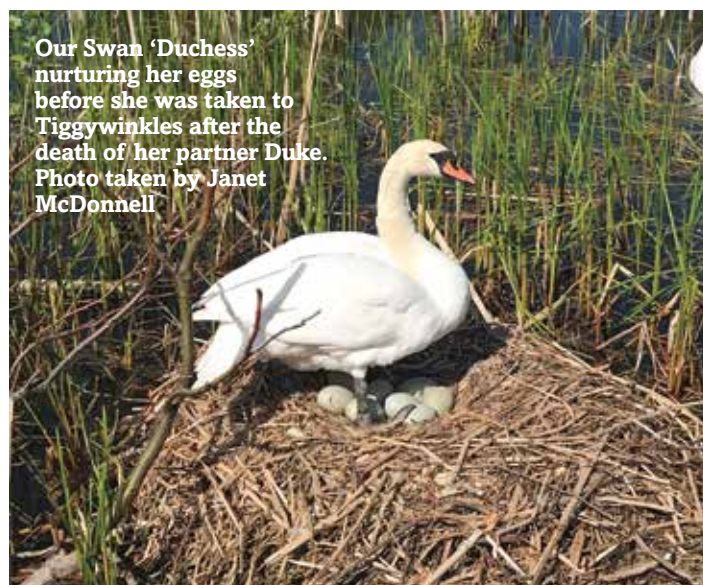
Bird watching on Watermead



LEFT: Two new floating islands were installed on the small lake on 5th March. Andy Killingbeck from the Environment Agency attempted to repair one of our existing ones but unfortunately the frame had corroded. He therefore removed the frame but kept the cage which has been attached under one of the new islands which is good for the fish.



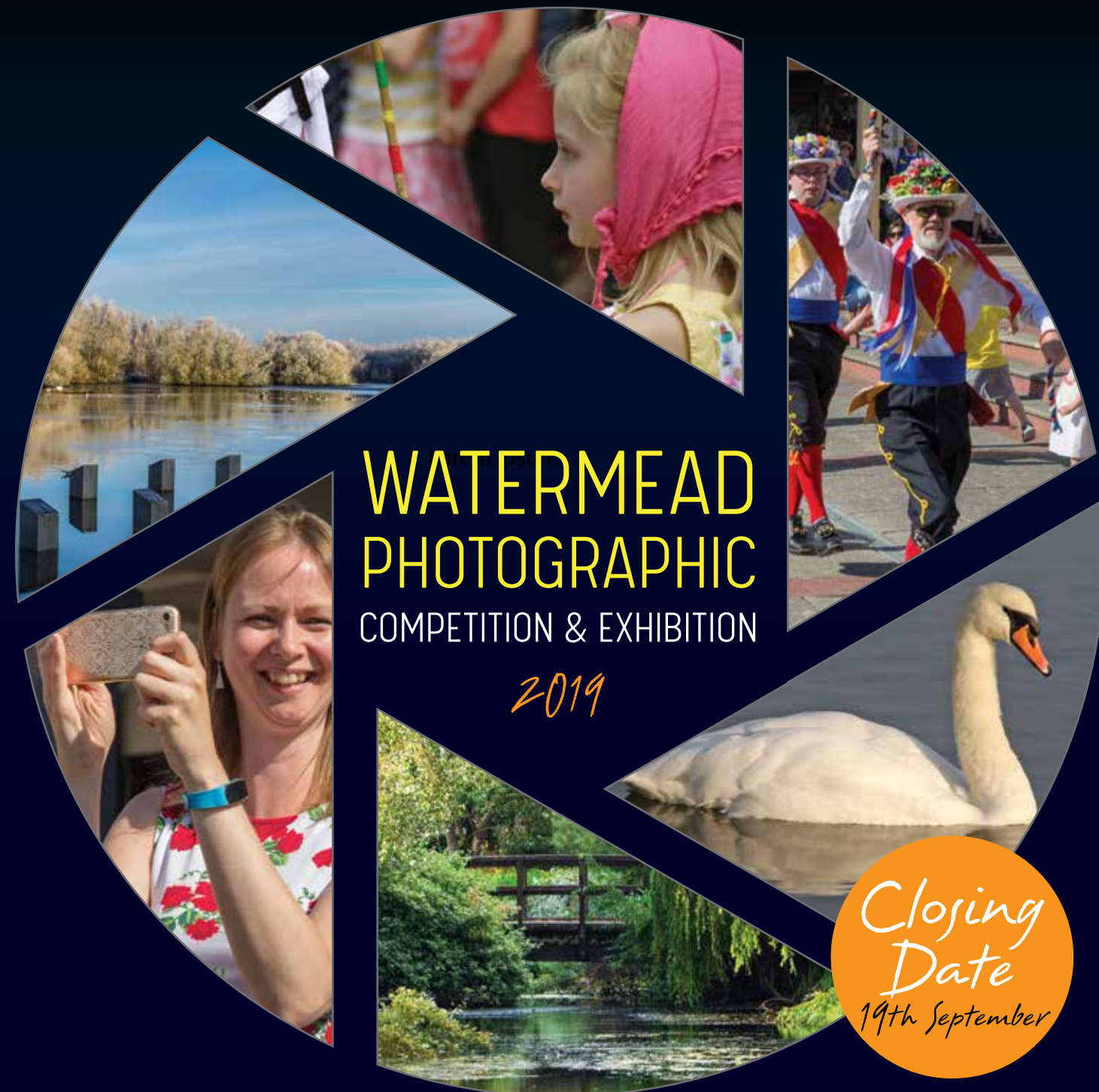
RIGHT: Eric Rose captured this lovely picture on 14th April and wrote: This male Blackbird can be heard singing beautifully in the trees above the seat by the top entrance to the small lake but he's often too high to see clearly. On Sunday he obligingly came down to a lower branch.



Our Swan 'Duchess' nurturing her eggs before she was taken to Tiggywinkles after the death of her partner Duke. Photo taken by Janet McDonnell



Eric Rose was rather chuffed to get this shot of the Oystercatcher on his front wall - 23rd April



WATERMEAD PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION & EXHIBITION

2019

Closing Date
19th September

For all the problems we have had with recent planning decisions Watermead, with its lake and open land together with the wildlife they attract, remains a beautiful and photogenic place to live.

Last year having been impressed by the quality of some of the photos shown in the "All about Watermead" Facebook group, I suggested holding a Photographic Exhibition and Competition. The response was terrific and we received over 100 entries which when displayed covered an entire wall of the Village Hall.

Well known Aylesbury character and photographer, Ron Adams, judged the entries and was very impressed by the quality. So, this year we will be holding another competition and exhibition. Long term residents will know that this has been done in the past, but now the evolution of digital photography and the inclusion of a camera in mobile phones means that everyone can be a photographer.

In fact, several of the category winners and the overall winning shot were taken using phone cameras.

COMPETITION

There will again be 3 categories:

Watermead Landscapes: Our beautiful landscape changes not only with the seasons but also with variations of light throughout the day.

Watermead Wildlife: Our resident and visiting birds provide lots of opportunities not to mention deer, foxes and mink.

Open Category: This can include photos of any subject you choose. Places visited on holiday, local events, portraits or candid photos of friends and family, pets, garden flowers are just some of the things which might inspire that special shot. But we would particularly welcome those including people.

All Entries should be in the form of prints at A4 size or approximate.

The competition is open to all residents of Watermead who may submit up to two entries in each category. We would also welcome photographs for the exhibition from non-residents.

Closing Date: Prints to be delivered to Noreen Shardlow at 11 Ayleswater, no later than 12 noon on **Thursday 19th September**. Please affix a sticky label to the back with your name and contact phone number as well as the category. There will be some small prizes in each category plus a cup for the overall winner. In addition, your photograph may be printed on the front cover of the Village View parish magazine and/or included in the 2020 Watermead calendar.

Exhibition Date: **Saturday 21st September**, Village Hall, The Piazza. Doors Open 12.30pm. Any questions should be addressed to ericrosewpc@aol.com

Recipes using left over bread

We are constantly asking people not to feed bread to the wildlife on our lakes but still people do it. Duck food is available to buy in both the newsagent/ convenience store in the Piazza and from the Watermead Inn. So, instead of taking the bread down to feed the ducks, here are some ideas of how to use it up:

Breadcrumbs

Make breadcrumbs by grating the bread or putting the bread in a food processor and giving it a 'whirl'. You can put the breadcrumbs in a plastic bag and freeze it for when you need it. I sometimes add in some grated cheese for use as a topping to various dishes which can be used straight from the freezer before popping into the oven or under the grill. Here's an example from one of my Delia Smith's recipe books:

Crab (or prawn) and mushrooms au gratin (Serves 1)

Ingredients

Long grain rice measured to the 2 fl oz level in a glass measuring jug (55ml),
4fl oz water (110g),
3oz crabmeat (or small pack of cooked prawns),
1 small onion, chopped small,
2oz mushrooms (50g) sliced,
1oz butter (25g),
½oz flour (10 g),
1 tablespoon dry sherry,
5fl oz milk (150 ml),
1 tablespoon grated cheddar cheese,
1 tablespoon breadcrumbs,
Cayenne pepper,
Salt and freshly milled black pepper

Method

1. Start by cooking the rice in the water (with a little salt added) until all the water has been absorbed and the rice is tender. Then fluff it up with a fork and arrange it over the base of a 7 or 9 inch (18 or 23 cm) oval gratin dish.
2. Preheat the grill and melt the butter in a small heavy-based saucepan. Add the onion and cook gently for 5 minutes to soften before adding the sliced mushrooms. Stir them around to get them nicely coated, then cook for a further 5 minutes over a fairly gentle heat.
3. Stir in the flour, cook for

- another minute, then add the sherry. Stir this in, then gradually add the milk, stirring all the time until you have a smooth sauce. Season with salt and pepper and cook gently for another 5 minutes.
4. Spread the crabmeat (or prawns) evenly over the rice. Then pour the mushroom and onion sauce over the crab (or prawns).
 5. Mix the grated cheese and breadcrumbs together with a pinch or two of cayenne, then sprinkle this over the top.
 6. Grill for 5 minutes until golden and bubbling, then serve at once.

Chicken Fillets with Tagliatelle

This is a recipe that I have adapted over the years so quantities are not exact and will feed 4 people.

Ingredients

2 large tomatoes, sliced thickly,
150g chestnut mushrooms, sliced,
3 or 4 good handfuls of spinach, thick stalks removed,
200g fresh tagliatelle,
350g mini chicken fillets,
350g fresh cheese sauce, (sometimes I use carbonara or 3 cheese pasta sauce),
2 tablespoons of breadcrumbs
2 tablespoons of grated cheddar cheese,
2 tablespoons of grated parmesan cheese

Method

1. Take a large pie dish.
2. Preheat the oven to 180C/355F/Gas 4.
3. Arrange a layer of tomatoes in the bottom of the pie dish.
4. Cover with a layer of sliced mushrooms.
5. Season with a little salt and freshly ground pepper.
6. Cover with a layer of raw spinach.
7. Cover this with a layer of the fresh tagliatelle. (You may need to unravel)
8. Cover with a layer of mini chicken fillets.
9. Season with a little salt and freshly ground pepper
10. Pour the cheese sauce evenly over the chicken.
11. Mix the grated cheese and breadcrumbs together, then sprinkle this over the top.
12. Place the dish into the oven and bake for 30-40 minutes, or until the layered content

is bubbling and the top is golden-brown.

Bread and Butter Pudding

An old-fashioned English bread and butter pudding that goes easy on the wallet. Day-old bread works best in this recipe. Serves 4.

Ingredients

25g/ 1oz butter, plus extra for greasing,
8 thin slices bread,
50g/ 2oz sultanas,
2 tsp cinnamon powder,
350ml/ 12fl oz whole milk,
50ml/ 2fl oz double cream,
2 free-range eggs,
25g/ 1oz granulated sugar,
nutmeg, grated, to taste

Method

1. Grease a 1 litre/2 pint pie dish with butter.
2. Cut the crusts off the bread. Spread each slice with butter on one side, then cut into triangles.
3. Arrange a layer of bread, buttered-side up, in the

bottom of the dish, then add a layer of sultanas. Sprinkle with a little cinnamon, then repeat the layers of bread and sultanas, sprinkling with cinnamon, until you have used up all of the bread. Finish with a layer of bread, then set aside.

4. Gently warm the milk and cream in a pan over a low heat to scalding point. Don't let it boil.
5. Crack the eggs into a bowl, add three quarters of the sugar and lightly whisk until pale.
6. Add the warm milk and cream mixture and stir well, then strain the custard into a bowl.
7. Pour the custard over the prepared bread layers and sprinkle with nutmeg and the remaining sugar and leave to stand for 30 minutes.
8. Preheat the oven to 180C/355F/Gas 4.
9. Place the dish into the oven and bake for 30-40 minutes, or until the custard has set and the top is golden-brown.

Book review

Alan Bennett: Keeping On Keeping On

Having read the previous volumes of Mr Bennett's Diaries, I put off reading this, thinking it was bound to be more of the same. Well, it is – and that's what so joyful about it!

His life is only a little bit grander than yours and mine – he and his partner shuttle by car and rail between their homes in Camden and Yorkshire (and an annual trip to a cottage in France). They take sandwiches on visits to beauty spots and country churches; they shop for antiques which usually require Rupert to do some restoration. Alan, of course, also does talks and readings and book-signings – and writes plays.

He supports causes close to his heart: keeping libraries open and schools open-minded are two of his great concerns. And he has bees in his bonnet: during the decade covered here, 2005-2015, the police kill an innocent Brazilian on the London Underground and never apologise. The British government colludes in the rendition of terror suspects. Tony Blair continues to pop up; Mr B despises him as powerfully as he did Lady T in a previous era. Nor is he

a fan of David Cameron, Richard Branson and Boris Johnson, among many others. He blames Classic FM and the National Trust for "the Torification of life" and deplores "the nastification of England" by property "improvers". Waiting to go on a stage in West Yorkshire he is confronted by a pair of "sabre-toothed pensioners."

He confesses to "a fully developed ability not quite to enjoy myself". A newborn baby, his partner's nephew, "doesn't make me feel old, just huge." Old age (he's approaching 85) has brought health issues and other drawbacks: "These days I am too old to be on my best behaviour. And I'm too old not to be on my best behaviour."

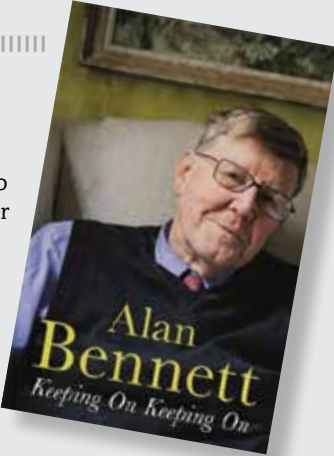
There are insights into his creative process, in this case the writing of his Britten/Auden play, the one set in a not-so-stately home and the movies of The History Boys and The Lady in the Van. There's a nice smutty episode when the cast of A Habit of Art are listening to sound-effect farts to choose an appropriate one for the actor playing Auden. After the Diaries there are some bits and bobs, including a lovely

funeral tribute to John Schlesinger who directed An Englishman Abroad, in my opinion one of the finest hours television has ever produced.

He is offered a cameo in the BBC mini-series of Fanny Hill but turns it down: "I've always thought of myself a bit of a fraud as an actor." Back in the 1960s when Beyond the Fringe was on Broadway he declined a supper invitation from Jackie Kennedy, only because of his natural shyness, from which he still suffers. Not only shy but modest. He tells us the critic Robert Hanks remarked that "personally he can have too much of Alan Bennett. I wonder how he thinks I feel."

One cannot have too much of Mr Bennett.

David Gee





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Netta’s report

Details of the County Council’s budget for 2019/20: For the coming financial year an overall budget of £356.3 million has been set for day-to-day spending, with a budget set for capital spending of £86 million. Along with the majority of other councils across the country, councillors also approved a council tax increase of 2.99%, the equivalent of just 71p a week extra for an average band D property.

Our budget plans include more funding for children’s services and adult social care, as well as £21.5 million for roads, which includes some money for early repairs before the start of the new financial year to combat the winter damage.

In addition, extra money should be generated for both the County Council and the district councils as part of a new pilot scheme to allow them to retain 75% of new business rates across the county, rather than the current 50% level.

You can see our full budget papers and details of the full Council meeting on webcast.

Waste Disposal Sites: Following the recent consultation cabinet has decided to make changes to the service. Key changes which start on 1 April 2019, are:

- all sites will introduce charges for non-household waste
 - Aylesbury (Rabans Lane), Burnham, and Chesham household recycling centres will close 2 days a week on Wednesdays and Thursdays
 - Bledlow Household Recycling Centre will permanently close.
- The changes will make important cost savings that the council’s budget requires. They will also make sure that Buckinghamshire residents, as a whole, experience as little change as possible when using their local recycling centre.

From 1st April 2019 you will be charged for disposing of non-household waste items such as, bags of rubble, kitchen units, fence panels etc. Details of what constitutes chargeable waste and how much this will cost can be found at www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/waste-and-recycling/changes-to-buckinghamshire-recycling-centres/charges-for-non-household-waste/

Fly Tipping: A House clearer was reported by a vigilant member of public for dumping a large amount of stuff in a layby. He ended up paying a total of £3,500.

Since 2003 the Partnership has secured over 690 convictions against individuals and companies for illegal dumping and related offences. On average since April 2010, there has been at least one conviction per week for illegal dumping offences in Buckinghamshire. This resulted in a halving of reported incidents and a significant saving to the Buckinghamshire tax payer over the period, principally through reducing removal and disposal costs.

Reminder: Illegal dumping can be reported at www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk.

Oxford/Cambridge Expressway: The consultation on route options will go out to public consultation towards the end of 2019, with the choice of route being made in Spring 2020. This will have implications for the Vale,

Scams: Everyone has a part to play in stopping the scourge of

scams and fraud. The more frequently we can share anti scam messages and remind people of scams the more likely we are to help them not to fall victim. If you use social media, there are a number of accounts on Twitter that regularly tweet anti-scam messages which you can use or simply re-tweet, including our own: www.twitter.com/Bucks_Surreys and www.twitter.com/AgainstScams

Weed Spraying: A sum of £500,000 has been identified to be targeted at weed treatment across the county in 2019. This will be spent on routine weed spraying - a programme of three cycles of routine weed spraying on selected sites across the county will be undertaken by an approved and certified supply chain partner. The programme will be put on the portal.

Armed Forces Day is a national event held every year as a way of saying thank you to our armed forces, including cadets, veterans, reservists and current serving personnel. This year it will be held at a new venue at Wycombe Air Park on Saturday 29th June. It will feature the same fun, family-orientated entertainment and attractions as always including air displays, live music, fairground rides, craft stalls and much more. The event is open to all – not just the armed forces.

To book your free tickets visit: www.buckscc.gov.uk/armedforcesday; keep up to date on all our Armed Forces Day news on Facebook and Twitter by following us on @BucksMKAFD Website: www.buckscc.gov.uk/armedforces

‘Be a better biker’ assessment days are back for 2019: The workshops that help bikers take their skills to the next level are back in and around Buckinghamshire this summer. Be a Better Biker, now in its tenth year, is run jointly by Thames Vale Advanced Motorcyclists and Aylesbury Advanced Motorcyclists, supported by Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) and Bucks Fire and Rescue Service. It aims to improve safety and enjoyment for all bikers.

- The workshops cost £20 per biker, and are being held in two venues:
- Thame Fire Station on 12th May, 18th May, 15th June, and 21st September
 - Marlow Fire Station on 8th June and 7th September.

The course is being supported by BCC, with a view to reducing the number of bikers killed or injured on the roads. County Councillor Mark Shaw, Cabinet Member for Transportation, says: “With its winding roads and stunning countryside, Buckinghamshire is understandably popular with bikers – particularly when the weather turns nicer and the bikes come out of the garage for the first time in months. But in the last three years 119 riders and pillion passengers have been killed or seriously injured in Buckinghamshire. We want to help everyone stay safe on our roads, which is why the County Council is supporting these workshops.”

Whether you ride a superbike, classic, or tourer – if you have a full licence and live or ride in Bucks you’re welcome at ‘Be a Better Biker’. At the end of the session each candidate will receive a copy of the book ‘How to Be a Better Rider’ published by IAM Roadmart.

For more information and to book, visit: www.buckscc.gov.uk/beabetterbiker

Cllr Netta Glover

Watermead goes dayglo for 80s Family Fun Run

Around 120 runners brightened up Watermead Lake with their dayglo 80s outfits to raise money for Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity at the 80s Family Fun Run on Saturday 6th April. Providing a warm 80s welcome on the Piazza was MC John Yarnell from ‘On The Run’ dressed as Freddie Mercury, while in The Watermead Inn staff and volunteers provided free tea, coffee and beautiful Florence-themed cupcakes to participants. After a high-energy aerobics warm-up from regular Florence supporter Jo

Beardsmore-Dilks of JBD Fitness & Dance, the runners set off on the 2.5k and 5k runs. “It was a lovely day for a run or a stroll around the Lake,” said Events & Community Manager Vicky James. “Thanks to all the participants for being such great sports and bringing their energy and enthusiasm to support the Hospice.”

So far the event has raised just over £1,200 to support hospice care in Buckinghamshire, and the Charity is hoping that more will come in over the next few weeks.



An evening at the Bunch



Pace



Thursday 4th July 6pm – sunset • £20 pp

An Evening at The Bunch

The Bunch
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Registered Charity 1011133

To book call • 01296 616976 or email • lacey.bonham@thepacecentre.org

Enjoy a guided tour of the themed gardens, each with a unique story. Take in these beautiful surroundings while touring the themed gardens, followed by nibbles and wine served outside as you learn about the enchanting history of how the property and garden got it's name.

This charming garden was created out of the gardens of a ‘bunch’ of workman’s cottages on the Wotton Underwood Estate. On arrival enjoy a guided tour by the owners around the grounds and learn of the history, whilst taking in the glorious garden during its prime time of year, followed by nibbles and wine served outside while the sun sets. There are themed gardens, canaries and guinea fowl, and a beautiful orchard to relax and take in.

Tickets are £20 per person which includes your guided tour, nibbles and wine.

To buy tickets click here go to www.pace-evening-at-thebunch.eventbrite.co.uk

Answers to Tea Break Quiz on page 07

1. Tower of London, 2. Punch, 3. Golden Eye, 4. Australia, 5. Penicillin, 6. Alistair MacLean, 7. Windsor, 8. British, 9. Sett, 10. Papworth, 11. Trilby, 12. David Copperfield, 13. 27, 14. Hyde Park, 15. Nick Leeson, 16. A pig, 17. 8, 18. European, 19. 1985, 20. Harry



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Don't Pay Twice!

'Don't Pay Twice!' is a Transport for Buckinghamshire campaign which aims to encourage staff, Local Area Technicians, operatives, Members, Parish Councils, bus drivers and the general public to report damage to the highway asset which they might be witness to.

What does this mean?

When we talk about the asset, we are referring to things such as bollards, street lights and signs on the highway. When a member of the public damages the asset, we need to be made aware of this as soon as possible so that we can repair it and make the area safe as soon as possible. We also need to know about any damage so that we can make a claim against the person who caused the damage. A good example of this would be if you saw somebody drive into a bollard and subsequently knocking it over. Another example is fly tipping on the highway.

What should you do?

If you are a witness to someone damaging the highway asset, you should take a photo and report the incident. If you're unable to take a photo, you should still report it to us with as much detail as you can. When trying to take a photo it is important not to put yourself in any confrontational or dangerous situations and to keep yourself safe at all times. Once submitted, your report will be reviewed by the TfB Green Claims Team. If required, you may be sent a Witness Statement form to provide further details.

What the 'Don't Pay Twice!' campaign doesn't include

The 'Don't Pay Twice!' campaign is the chance to report damage of the asset to us. It should not be used to report highway defects such as potholes, resurfacing issues or a street light that's gone out. These can be reported via Fix My Street. See www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/transport-and-roads/report-a-highways-problem/dont-pay-twice/

Exciting times for Scouts



12th Aylesbury (1st Buckingham Park) Scouts have kicked off 2019 with some fantastic events. The Beavers have had great fun making their own rockets, Cubs have had an indoor camp, and Scouts continue in their preparation for The Endurance 40 challenge – a massive 40 km hike. Every year on the second Saturday in May every Scout member worldwide is invited to take part in a guided walk. We call it the JoTT (Jamboree on The Trail). It's events like these that connect our local group to the Scouting movement worldwide. In every one of the 216 countries that Scouting has a presence Scouts will be walking their own versions of the JoTT. Ours will take place in Waddesdon, and as we walk it will give us a chance to reflect on the steps and routes taken by our peers in other regions and countries, walking different walks but sharing the Scouting values and commitments universally.

However we've got one big event on our minds this season: Mission00:Bucks. Taking place over the Whit bank holiday weekend at the Claydon estate it will be the biggest camp for Scouts and Guides that Bucks has ever seen. 12th Aylesbury (1st Buckingham Park) is very proud to be sending members from Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. We know they will have a fantastic experience and we can't wait to hear all about it.

Lastly, our group is growing. We have waiting lists for all our sections. We're offering new experiences, fun and the chance to develop skills to local young people. Would you like to be part of the journey? We need volunteers to work with young people and volunteers to work behind the scenes. We'd love to hear from you, so contact Iain Stanley (Group Scout Leader) at gsl@12thaylesbury-scouts.org.uk



Watermead Pub Lunch Club

In March 23 people came along to enjoy either Chicken Teriyaki with rice, beefburger and chips or vegetable linguini and a choice of 3 delicious desserts costing only £8 – such good value! In April we had a similar turnout and an equally tantalising menu. We not only enjoy the food, but also meeting new people and having a good natter and a catch up.

The Club is aimed at anyone in the community especially those who may have been missing out on regular social contact. We now have a mixed group of 50 or so members of different ages and everyone appears to enjoy the food and the company.

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

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

Random Person

It's taken Shirley Dorsett a long time to 'settle down', but after an unusually peripatetic life she has chosen Watermead as her 'forever' home (as they say these days). Shirley and her two younger sisters were born in North London and lived in Camden Town, Golders Green, Hampstead and Maida Vale. Sadly, by the time she was eleven both her parents had died, so she and her sisters went to live with their aunt in New Cavendish Street in the City of Westminster.

The outbreak of WW2 saw yet another move for the three sisters when they were evacuated to Whitby in Yorkshire, where they were welcomed and made part of the family by their receiving family. They kept in touch for a long time after the war, but eventually life got in the way. Then, after she married, Shirley took her husband Reg to Whitby to show him the area to which she was evacuated. She took a chance and knocked on the door of the house where she and her sisters had lived. The son of the house immediately recognised her as, quite coincidentally, they had found photographs of her just a few weeks before. He still referred to her as his sister. A heart-warming encounter to be sure.

In the late 80s when Watermead was new Shirley and Reg took part in the first raffle for the chance to purchase one of the properties. Alas, they didn't win – neither did they win in the second and third raffles. So they bought elsewhere, moving from their home in Weston Turville to Birtton and later

to Bedgrove. They worked hard and saved hard and in 1996, when mortgage interest rates were high and discouraging a lot of people from buying, they were able to snap up a bargain flat in Watermead and moved in.

They spent just three weeks decorating before they were on the move again. Having spent some very enjoyable holidays on the Costa Blanca in their holiday home they fancied living there full time. So they rented out their flat in Watermead and moved to Torrevieja. Even in Spain they spent a lot of time travelling around, visiting lots of places. They lived there for 15 years, but regularly returned to the UK to visit friends and maintain those relationships. At one point they bought a caravan and stayed for the summer season near to a friend who also had a caravan.

On returning 'home' after this extended UK visit Shirley and Reg realised they had fallen out of love with Spain. At that time their flat in Watermead was without a tenant, so they sold up in Spain and moved back to Watermead in 2010. Sadly, Reg passed away just two years later.

Shirley keeps herself busy. She is one of the three Directors of the block of 42 flats where she lives. The other two Directors don't live on site so she involves herself with making sure the residents stick to the rules and she is always available when people come to her for advice. About half the flats are rented out and over the years new tenants seem to be getting younger and

Shirley is always happy to offer guidance if they are inexperienced in their new situation.

She keeps the small flower border outside her flat tidy and colourful and chats to passers-by as she sits on her bench in the sunshine.

She belongs to a small Watermead social club and regularly joins other members for meals and outings – and of course there is the monthly Lunch Club attended by mainly Watermead residents. Shirley's wanderlust has now abated, Watermead feels 'just right'. Especially now she is on her own, as there is plenty to see and enjoy to keep her busy and active.

Despite being no spring chicken Shirley remains fit and regularly walks around the lake, alone or with friends, taking a hearty interest in the activities of the local wildlife. Just the same as she takes a hearty interest in everything going on around her!

Carolynne Mckee



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Changes to local household recycling centres

WHAT ARE THE CHANGES

All sites will introduce charges for non-household waste

By law, Buckinghamshire County Council must accept day-to-day household waste free of charge, for example garden waste, electricals, and paper. These types of waste make up around 75% of waste brought to household recycling centres and will remain free of charge.

Other waste, such as landscaping, construction, or demolition waste is classed as 'non-household waste' and is expensive to dispose of. The Council is allowed by law to charge for these items to offset the cost of disposal. We recognise that many householders carry out small projects from time to time. By applying a small charge this allows us to continue accepting these types of non-household waste.

Traders and businesses should still use the existing commercial waste service.

Further information can be found on site and at www.buckscc.gov.uk/HRC

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