

Village View

WATERMEAD'S *FREE* QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

Summer 2020 Vol.27 Issue 2



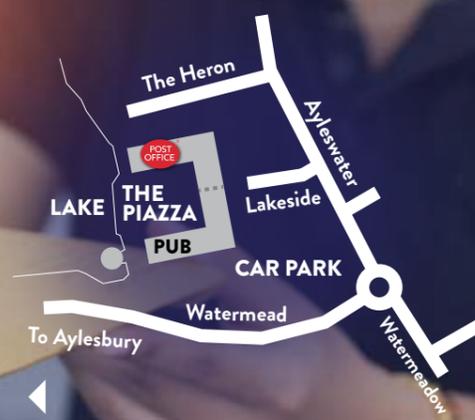
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Parish Chairman's News

We live in frightening and unprecedented times. I would normally use the May Village View to deliver a report on the activities of the Parish Council through the last year, which will be published on our website in due course. I am very proud indeed to live and serve Watermead, as are all members of the parish council and office team.

This year I want to celebrate the extraordinary and dedicated Watermead Volunteer Army formed in less than 24 hours at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, who have united together to offer help, support and whatever is necessary to anyone who calls us. You can see them on the front cover. Their generosity, mutually supportive presence, and sheer determination to help is extraordinary. No request is too big or too small. We have a WhatsApp group. Immediately a request is made it is picked up by a volunteer and completed, from shopping, collecting prescriptions to emergency food supplies. No questions are asked other than 'how can we help?'

Kelvin Wong's business at the Watermead Inn is currently closed, and from the outset he wanted to help NHS and other key workers and the elderly,

delivering delicious ready-cooked meals and other food. With Karen Collet's help he set up an online appeal which raised several thousand pounds in a very short while. It has since been topped up with some large donations and a grant from Bucks council, but it is the continuing generosity of individuals which keeps it going. Karen even ran the marathon (in Watermead) on 26th April, raising yet more money and impressing those of us who watched in sheer admiration.

The Volunteer Army is now helping by collecting weekly donations of food from Watermead, sorting and counting food and preparing packages for distribution each week. We now include fresh meat following the donation of £2,000 of supermarket vouchers from a local businessman whose mother told him about the Army's exploits.

We receive an increasing number of calls every day from people needing our help. We take emergency packages of food immediately they are requested and individual volunteers have formed relationships with some of our customers which allows us to know when they have a problem which needs more expert help than we can offer.

One thing is certain, we will be needed and will continue our work as long as it is necessary, with your support. We anticipate that this may be a long time.

There have been challenges, but the purpose of this article is to celebrate goodness and kindness. In time, we pray that everyone will come safely through to allow us to celebrate together as a community with an event for Watermead's residents.

At the end of the pandemic the Parish Council will invite all residents of Watermead to a celebration – the form of which is yet to be decided, but it will include the postponed presentation of the first Freedom of Watermead to our own Chevalier de Légion d'honneur, Albert (Steve) Stephens, due to be honoured on VE Day. We have the brass band booked (date to be confirmed), the Lord Lieutenant will be present, as will Mr Stephens's former regiment's Commanding Officer and a bugler. It will be a great day for everyone. It will come.

Keep safe.

Cllr Sue Severn, Chairman



Chairman:
Cllr Sue Severn
T: 336575
sue.severn@watermead-pc.gov.uk

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VACANT
Interested?
Contact:
noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk



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Volunteer Army

At the very start of this pandemic a wonderful amazing community spirit started to shine throughout the whole of Watermead and I am sure the community would say that a thank you to all is the very least we can say. You will read in the Chairman's View that Cllr Sue Severn has thanked everyone from Kelvin Wong at The Watermead Inn to all the volunteers who are assisting him and all the other residents who have offered services and support.

The Watermead Volunteer Army, a Community Group that provides prescription collections, grocery shopping for the elderly,

those in isolation and running general errands, was rapidly planned, devised and put into action by Sue. Within a day a leaflet/flyer was placed onto many Social Media outlets calling for volunteers to come forward. A further leaflet was then devised and as soon as the local printer could print this campaign, Sue arranged with her team of volunteers to deliver the leaflets to every property in Watermead to let everyone know that a team was available to help.

The response from volunteers has been amazing and we have approximately 40 residents looking after those isolated

and/or vulnerable.

Not only has Sue worked on this, she is also assisting Kelvin with the food delivery programme set up by Kelvin Wong of The Watermead Inn, providing support and assistance and has been successful in securing grants for this amazing cause. She also has a team of phone volunteers in place for those isolated needing regular contact.

A great deal of work and time has gone into organising these initiatives but I am sure that you will agree, thank you Sue.

Volunteers



Volunteers sorting food contributions



Sue with Agnieszka Alborzpour and Anthea Cass

Thank you!

I have the privilege and honour in my capacity as the Vice Chairman of the Watermead Parish Council, and on behalf of my fellow councillors, to write a thank you note to our Chairman, Mrs Sue Severn. I have often said "there are no rule books" for a small Parish Council having to deal with the likes of Court of Appeal cases and applying for grants to make improvements to our environment; yet Sue has had to lead and represent our parishioners' best interests with initiative, drive and commitment.

Sue is often seen walking around our land accompanied by her husband Graham and Sally (still the naughtiest dog in Watermead!), picking up litter, checking signage, caring for the memorial garden (which was also Sue's initiative) and generally ensuring that everything is as it should be!

Sue tirelessly gives her time and commitment to our wonderful village which is so inspiring and it engenders a true spirit of community and pride.

Sue has recently been working with Kelvin Wong (of the Watermead Inn) in setting-up and organising a food delivery programme for isolated and vulnerable residents in the Aylesbury area, supported by her "wonderful army of volunteers".

Thank you, Sue, from your fellow councillors for your support, passion and leadership.

Cllr Adrian Schwab, Vice Chairman

Parking concerns

We receive many communications from Watermead residents about concerns they have and one of the most common subject matters we receive day to day is about parking eg what we can do as residents and can the Parish Council help? The Traffic Management Act 2004 allows local authorities (Buckinghamshire Council) to control parking enforcement on yellow lines, resident parking, public car parks and on-street parking.

A Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) might be issued and enforced through the civil justice system, rather than the criminal justice system. The most common type of parking concerns are:

- Parking on or too near to junctions
- Parking too near or blocking driveways
- Parking on bends
- Blocking emergency access routes
- Parking on pavements
- Inconsiderate/dangerous parking
- Restricting or using private residents parking bays or no parking zones

There are more rules and you can find the full list at www.gov.uk.

The Highway Code tells us that we must not stop or park in the following locations except when forced to do so by stationary traffic:

1. Near a school entrance.
2. Anywhere that would prevent access for emergency vehicles.
3. On a bus or tram stop, or a taxi rank.
4. On the approach to a level crossing.
5. Opposite or within 32 feet of a junction, except in an authorised parking bay.
6. Near the brow of a hill or humpback bridge.
7. Opposite a traffic island or another parked vehicle (if it causes an obstruction).
8. Where you would force another vehicle to enter a tram lane.
9. Where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair and mobility vehicle users.
10. In front of an entrance to a property.
11. On a bend.
12. Where you would obstruct a cycle lane.
13. A tram or cycle lane during its period of operation.
14. A cycle track.

15. A pedestrian crossing, including the area marked by the zig-zag lines.
16. On the carriageway or the hard shoulder of a motorway (except in an emergency).
17. Taxi bays (as directed by the upright signs and road markings).
18. A road marked with central double white lines, even if a broken white line is on your side of the road, except for dropping off, picking up, loading or unloading.

Please consider others when parking and please do not cause obstruction/danger to pedestrians or other road users.

Noreen Shardlow, Parish Clerk

Can you see the problem?



When you park on pavements and over dropped kerbs you may be blocking access for wheelchair users, blind people, and buggies. There isn't always a safe alternative route. Please think before you park.

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The Easy Living Company

In early 2019, The Easy Living Company was forced to close its mobility business at Watermead, Lakeside, Aylesbury. The closure was made with great reluctance and sadness following a succession of extraordinary events beyond its control including the traumatic neurologic event suffered by its founder Christopher Walsh within the first month of trading and the death of his father and business partner, Alan Walsh, less than two years later.

Since the closure of The Easy Living Company, Independent Living Princes Risborough has provided services and support to existing and new customers.

This has been enabled via the redirection of telephone calls to its location in Risborough and messages on social media and website. Independent Living Risborough continues to ensure that warranties have been honoured and all enquiries dealt with.

During the lockdown Independent Living has responded to urgent requests for

mobility and personal care products and, whilst not yet being fully open, has provided a collection and delivery service to meet urgent customer need including repairs and battery supplies for customers dependent upon mobility scooters for shopping and essential healthcare appointments.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at our Mobility Centre, New Road, Princes Risborough HP27 0JN, should you need our assistance.

Our current contact email address is accounts@independentliv.co.uk; telephone 01844 273050

Post lockdown we will be delighted to welcome you to our new location where you can see the wide range of products and services we offer.

Maureen Cole,
Consultant Care Manager / Advisor,
ILC Risborough

Take part in this year's Watermead Photo Competition

Open to all Watermead Residents

EXHIBITION AND PRIZE GIVING
SATURDAY 17th OCTOBER
VILLAGE HALL, 1.00 - 4.30pm

No special photographic equipment is needed. Previous winners have used mobile phones.

Start shooting now and save your best shots for the competition. Submit up to 2 photos in each of 3 categories:

- Beautiful Watermead - landscapes and wildlife
- Watermead people and events
- Open category - choose your own subject

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5PM ON MONDAY 12TH OCTOBER
11 Ayleswater, Watermead HP19 0FB
Entries should be prints of A4 size. Please add your name, phone number and category on the back.

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Tea Break Quiz



1. The birth surnames of which British comedy duo were Bartholomew and Wiseman?
2. Which French star of the 1958 musical Gigi was known for his trademark boater hat?
3. The cavachon dog is a cross breed between a Cavalier King Charles spaniel and which breed?
4. The name of which constellation is Latin for 'crab'?
5. Which wide flat ribbon pasta derives its name from the Italian for 'eat hungrily'?
6. The founder of which British fashion house invented the weatherproof fabric gabardine in 1879?
7. The brown pigment sepia is obtained from the inky secretion of which sea creature?
8. Which branch of mathematics derives its name from the Greek words for 'triangle' and 'to measure'?
9. Which social reformer, the 'angel of prisons', was depicted on the £5 note from 2002 -2016?
10. A 'surf and turf' meal combines which two components?
11. Inoperative since 1991, Trawsfynydd nuclear power station is in which Welsh national park?
12. Which president of the USSR won the 1990 Nobel peace prize?
13. Who succeeded Henry I as king of England?
14. What was the significance of the birth of Aneira Thomas at 00.01 on July 5th 1948 at Amman Valley Hospital in Wales?
15. In 2019 the Bank of England said Alan Turing will be the new face of which bank note?
16. A periorbital haematoma is the clinical term for which type of bruise?
17. Which Lancashire town's Pleasure Beach uses the slogan: "See it, Feel it, Love it"?
18. Vexillography is the art and practice of designing what?
19. Which London railway station has a marker indicating the location of Platform 9½?
20. Which year of the 1970s had two general elections?

Answers on page 10

What's on ...around Watermead

Due to the current COVID-19 crisis all social events are cancelled or postponed until the Government lift restrictions. Please see our website for updates www.watermead-pc.gov.uk

Events later on this year:

12th September Film Night, Balloon Meadow TBC
 12th October Photographic Competition photos due in by 5pm
 17th October Photographic Competition Exhibition & Prize Giving 1-4.30pm

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
 Monday - Friday 9-12pm
 2½ yr olds and 3/4 yr olds,
 Monday, Wednesday - Friday
 8.30am - 1.30pm for 3/4 yr olds,
 Breakfast 8.30 - 9am for 3/4 yr olds,
 Lunch 12-1.30pm for 3/4 yr olds,
 Tuesday 8.30am - 12.30pm
 2½ and 3/4 yr olds
 Dot Toler 07563 783464
 cygnets.leader@gmail.com

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 (2nd Thursday in May and August)
 7.30 - 9.30pm
 Julia Morgan 01296 487650

Soul Space
 Every Sunday evening,
 £5 a session, Pre-booking advised
 Holly Miller 07845 435619

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 01296 395211

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

Bring Your Own Crafts Afternoon
 Every Wednesday 2.30-5.30pm
 Judith Muston

PUBLICATION DATES 2020/21

AUTUMN
 5th September

Winter
 28th November

SPRING
 6th March

SUMMER
 5th June

Are you looking for a venue? Watermead Village Hall is the ideal venue for young children's birthday parties, meetings and christenings, etc. Or are you an organisation looking for a regular venue? If so, to book the Village Hall or the Bandstand please contact Noreen Shardlow on 01296 395211

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Lead walking with dogs

With government restrictions during the coronavirus crisis walking our dogs will have to be done locally rather than taking them by car to parks, etc. I feel a quick run through of management techniques with lead walking might be beneficial.

Top ten tips:

1. I'm unsure why this needs to be said but it seems it does - please keep your dogs on lead when walking around roads and pavements. It is absolutely 100% not worth the risk of your dog running into the road, now more so with more distractions out such as cats and people taking their daily exercise, some with their dogs and children.
2. With the local green spots being busier than ever now, please keep your dog on a (not very long) long line if they do not have reliable recall. There will be a surge of dogs sharing space now and some of these dogs will be struggling with this busy-ness. NOT JUST REACTIVE DOGS but even your dog who is usually okay will notice an increase in dog presence and this can lead to over stimulation and seemingly over the top responses such as barking.
3. Do not punish the barking. This is so important as punishing it will create a dog who has even more reason to get stressed around other dogs and potentially a long-lasting behaviour difficulty can result. We want to interrupt the barking as soon as possible, of course, but angry shouting, lead jerking or similar will exacerbate the problem, not alleviate it.

4. Try to pre-empt any barking or incessant staring or lunging using distraction. Call your dog's name and reward them looking at you with a treat. Keep rewarding them for looking at you and not the stimuli that has their over-attention. Small high value treats will be necessary here. Something that really makes the dog feel good about staying connected with you. Whilst you have your dog's attention you can also try to get more distance between you and the trigger.
5. DO NOT ALLOW YOUR DOG TO APPROACH AN ON-LEAD DOG. The dog will be on lead for a reason. Let's allow on-lead dogs the space they need to keep feeling safe. Your dog must be on a lead if another on-lead dog is around.
6. Give on-lead greetings a miss for now (even if your dogs are on a long line so you can stay apart!). Contrary to popular opinion, dogs are not designed to get on with every dog they see. Most dogs are dog selective. Even the "friendliest" of dogs can struggle with on lead greetings. It removes natural behaviour for them such as approaching in a curve and not being head on with another dog. Plus, leads tangle and dogs can panic if they feel restricted. If a fight happens and a human has to intervene and gets bitten, this will increase the pressure on the NHS so let's just say no to on-lead greetings.
7. If you know your dog is reactive try to walk at quieter times but also consider wearing a hi-viz jacket. If we can all keep in mind that anyone wearing a hi-viz jacket with a dog is going to be trying their hardest to keep their dog under threshold, we can help them out a little bit too. Give as wide a berth as possible

- when passing. Try to keep your own dog distracted on you to inhibit them looking. Give a gentle smile to the owner to let them know you KNOW they are doing their best job. It is stressful owning a reactive dog and we are so very used to dirty looks and judgements. Let's turn these around and acknowledge our reactive dog owners for trying their hardest every single walk to do their best for their dog and everyone around them.
8. Follow up a walk with a scent activity where possible. This will give our dogs the opportunity to discharge any built-up stress hormones such as cortisol from their bodies. A snuffle mat, treat searching in the garden or similar is perfect.
9. Keep all children close to us so they don't become magnetised to any dogs. Children are a strange breed for many dogs (!) as their sharp movements and screams can be a worry for dogs.
10. Rest days rest days rest days. Now more than ever rest days for your dogs will be important. Contact me for discussions on how you can implement these. Even my best friend's dog, who is usually walking for hours every day, is now down to one walk every other day.

A little extra thought at times like this will go a long way in protecting our dogs and ourselves at this testing time. Contact me at calvertcanines@gmail.com for any advice or guidance.

Stay safe all!
Jen Leslie, Dog Behaviour Specialist,
www.calvertcanines.com



Calling all knitters!



I have been knitting tiny baby articles for many years and would like to thank all the WI members and friends who have also got their needles and wool out to knit for premature babies. The staff at the premature baby unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital are always extremely grateful for all the donations we have made over the years.

I have patterns for small blankets, caps, jackets, etc. If you would like to help knitting these gorgeous little items, please give me a call on 01296 426706 or text me on 07708 997544.

I look forward to hearing from you.
Marjorie Hiron

Watermead & Weedon WI

The WI is suspended until further notice. We are hopeful that our meetings will resume once the Government has lifted restrictions. If you would like to join us, please feel free to come along to one of our meetings, usually held on the first Thursday of the month in the Village Hall (entrance in the Piazza next door to Avanti hairdresser) in Watermead at 7.30pm. Please call us before you come along to make sure we are back.

Julia Morgan

Programme of Events 2020

2nd July	A talk by Cecile Whidborne 'Lost in Translation.'
6th August	Summer lunch or afternoon tea – venue to be confirmed.
3rd September	The work of 'Pace' – A talk by Lacey Bonham about this local charity.
1st October	A talk (with hats) by Tracey Blaney 'All about the age-old craft of millinery.'
5th November	Annual meeting and then we'll be having a go at making a Christmas cracker.
3rd December	Our own Christmas play/pantomime.

Answers to Tea Break Quiz on page 07

1. Morecombe and Wise, 2. Maurice Chevalier, 3. Bichon Frise, 4. Cancer, 5. Papperdelle, 6. Burberry (as in Thomas Burberry), 7. Cuttlefish, 8. Trigonometry (from trigonon and metron), 9. Elizabeth Fry, 10. Seafood and meat, 11. Snowdonia National Park, 12. Mikhail Gorbachov, 13. Stephen, 14. She was the first baby born into the National Health Service 15. £50 note, 16. A black eye, 17. Blackpool, 18. Flags, 19. King's Cross – referring to Harry Potter novels, 20. 1974

Our local Vicar

It seems very strange to write something for a future publication and have absolutely no idea of what life will be like by the time this magazine goes out. Our lives have changed so quickly and so drastically and it has been amazing how well we have adapted. I guess it is a bit of 'when needs must'. There are things happening in our lives that we would have never comprehended would happen because we are living in unprecedented times and we thought last year was bad with Brexit! But it has been great to see how communities are helping each other in new ways, people who haven't spoken to each other are now helping each other out and one of my prayers for after this has all passed is that the good things remain.

For me as a Christian, even though everything in the world is changing and the world that my children are going to grow up in is very different to the one I thought they would, one thing doesn't change and that is God. God is the only thing that hasn't and will not change and that is something that a lot of people seek in times of uncertainty. In

times of need the church building becomes a place of sanctuary and peace for people trying to understand what is happening. Church buildings are closed now but that doesn't mean that God isn't listening to our questions.

A friend asked me 'why does God let all of this happen?' which is a good and relevant question and one that I ask myself sometimes, but my response was why do we let bad things happen? This is also just as valid a question. Uncertain times can bring you questions about life and that is good, which is how I became a Christian after being an atheist for nearly 20 years.

As a church we are there for everyone no matter the circumstance; we are there to talk to and we are there to pray with you, or even for you to sit quietly in church. No matter the circumstance and no matter what the future holds, in a very uncertain world, God loves you more than you can ever know. Many blessings,

Rev. Dan Beesley,
Interim Priest-in-Charge of Berton and Hulcott
Christian YouTuber @ bit.ly/2I43bpi

In isolation

Just seen a news report about the stresses and strains of being in self isolation. It reported that people are going crazy from being in lockdown.

It was strange really because I had just been talking about this with the microwave and toaster, and all of us agreed that things are getting bad. I didn't mention anything to the washing machine as she always puts a spin on everything, and certainly not the fridge as he is acting cold and distant. In the end the iron calmed me down - she said everything will be fine, which surprised me because she's usually the first to apply pressure and get steamed up about nothing!!! I think she might have been sneaking off to the medicine cabinet.

Lynn Kelly

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Lockdown recipes



12 ready-made fresh pasta sheets,
Salt and pepper to taste.

For the pesto:
30g pine nuts,
100g fresh basil leaves,
1 garlic clove, peeled,
170ml extra virgin olive oil,
30g freshly grated Parmesan cheese.

For the bechamel sauce:
50g butter,
50g plain flour,
500ml semi-skimmed milk,
50g freshly grated Parmesan cheese

Method

1. Place the oil in a large saucepan over a low heat and gently fry the onion, carrot and courgette for 10 minutes until softened.
2. Add the minced beef and stir continuously for a further 5 minutes to allow the meat to cook evenly. Add the wine, bring to a simmer and cook gently for a couple of minutes to allow the alcohol to evaporate.
3. Add the tomato puree, basil leaves and passata, stirring with a wooden spoon. Simmer on a low heat, with the lid half on, for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Season with salt and pepper, then leave to cool at room temperature.
4. To make the pesto, put the pine nuts, basil, garlic, olive oil and Parmesan in a food processor or blender and blitz together. Set aside.
5. Preheat the oven to 180C/gas mark 4.
6. To make the bechamel sauce, melt the butter in a large saucepan over a low heat. Add the flour, whisking constantly, until you get a thick, creamy texture with a light brown colour. Pour in a third of the milk and continue whisking. When the mixture starts to thicken, pour in another third of the milk and continue whisking. Once thickened again, pour in the rest of the milk and the Parmesan. Whisk until



Crispy Greek-style pie

Ingredients

200g bag spinach leaves
175g jar sundried tomato in oil
100g feta cheese, crumbled
2 eggs
½ 250g pack filo pastry

Method

1. Put the spinach into a large pan. Pour over a couple tbsp water, then cook until just wilted. Tip into a sieve, leave to cool a little, then squeeze out any excess water and roughly chop. Roughly chop the tomatoes and put into a bowl along with the spinach, feta and eggs. Mix well.
2. Carefully unroll the filo pastry. Cover with some damp sheets of kitchen paper to stop it drying out. Take a sheet of pastry and brush liberally with some of the sundried tomato oil. Drape oil-side down in a 22cm loose-bottomed cake tin so that some of the pastry hangs over the side. Brush oil on another piece of pastry and place in the tin, just a little further round. Keep placing the pastry pieces in the tin until you have roughly three layers, then spoon over the filling. Pull the sides into the middle, scrunch up and make sure the filling is covered. Brush with a little more oil.
3. Heat oven to 180C/fan 160C/gas 4. Cook the pie for 30 mins until the pastry is crisp and golden brown. Remove from the cake tin, slice into wedges and serve with salad.

From BBC Good Food Guide

Cannelloni al Pesto Genovese

Serves 4

Ingredients

4 tbsp olive oil,
1 large onion, peeled and finely chopped,
1 carrot, peeled and finely chopped,
1 courgette, finely chopped,
500g minced beef,
½ glass of red wine,
1 tbsp tomato puree,
5 fresh basil leaves,
12 350ml passata (sieved tomatoes),

the sauce has a custard-like consistency. Remove from the heat and mix in the prepared pesto.

7. Pour a third of the pesto bechamel into the bottom of a baking dish measuring about 30 x 20cm and 5cm deep.
8. Place a pasta sheet on a chopping board with the longer side nearest you and put a heaped tablespoon of the beef sauce along one edge. Gently roll the pasta forward to create a filled cannelloni. Repeat until all the pasta sheets are filled. Place the cannelloni, seam downward, in the baking dish and pour the remaining pesto bechamel over them.
9. Bake in the oven for 45 minutes until the top is golden brown and crispy. Set aside to rest for 10 minutes before serving – this helps the cannelloni to hold together better.

Note: If you are preparing the cannelloni the day before you plan to eat it, cover with cling film and refrigerate. Take out of the fridge 20 minutes before cooking and bake in a preheated oven at 180C/gas mark 4 for 45 minutes.

Apple and Rhubarb Almond Frangipane Pudding

Serves 8

Ingredients

5 cooking apples, about 1kg, peeled & cored,
80g demerara sugar,
400g rhubarb, cut into 1cm chunks,
1tbsp ground cinnamon,
3 eggs,
200g caster sugar,
200g salted butter, at room temperature,
200g ground almonds,
5tbsp flaked almonds,
Icing sugar to decorate,
Mascarpone cheese to serve.

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180 degrees C/gas mark 4.
2. Cut the apples into large chunks. Place in a large saucepan with the demerara sugar and cook over a low heat for 3 minutes. Add the rhubarb and cinnamon and stir occasionally for 5 minutes.
3. Pour the mixture into an ovenproof dish about 20 x 30cm and leave to cool for 30 minutes at room temperature.
4. Meanwhile, cream the eggs and caster sugar in a large bowl. Add the butter and ground almonds and mix to a smooth paste.
5. Spread the almond mixture over the fruit and cook in the centre of an oven for 30 minutes until golden brown.
6. Sprinkle over the flaked almonds and cook for a further 10 minutes.
7. Serve hot with icing sugar on top and a dollop of mascarpone cheese on the side.

Above 2 recipes taken from Gino D'Acampo's 'Italian Escape'

Book review

Heather Morris: The Tattooist of Auschwitz

I had reservations about this. I still do. A love story in a Nazi death camp? I still question the ethical stand of 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas', which made the fate of one German officer's son an ironical counter-point to the systematic slaughter of six million victims of Adolf Hitler's extermination programme.

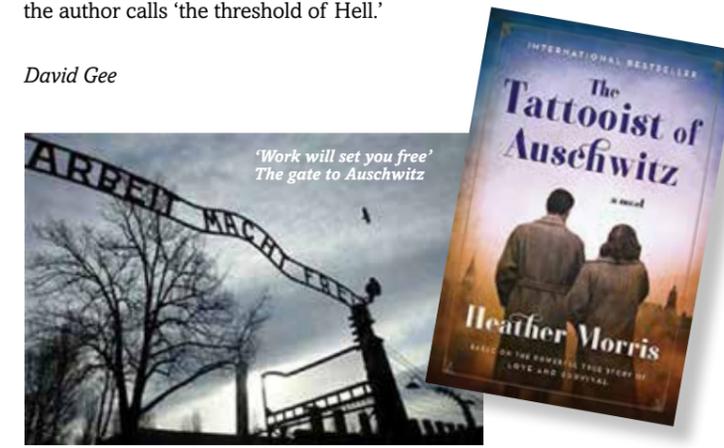
The Tattooist of Auschwitz is based on the true story of Lale Sokolov, a Slovakian Jew who chanced into the job of tattooing the new arrivals, Jewish and Romany, at the twin Polish concentration camps of Auschwitz and Birkenau. He falls in love with Gita, also from Slovakia, who escapes the gas chamber by getting clerical work documenting the deportees (the Nazi obsession with documentation makes the Holocaust even more chilling). Their love affair consists of snatched moments together and is overshadowed by the constant threat of illness or execution. The most beautiful girl in the camp becomes the plaything of the commandant. Some of the women processing new arrivals steal cash and jewellery which Lale smuggles to the local villages through bribed guards to be exchanged for extra food.

This is a harsh story, but it could have been harsher. Heather Morris gives us one glimpse of the gas chamber in operation and a few glimpses of the rain of ash from the crematorium chimneys, but she spares readers the most harrowing images we have seen in other accounts and TV documentaries. Josef Mengele appears ('this man whose soul is colder than his scalpel,' she calls him), but she gives

barely a hint of his obscene medical experiments on prisoners. Yes, it's all been detailed before, but I think we do the six million dead an injustice if we gloss over the full horrors of the Final Solution.

Morris writes in the present tense, as does Hilary Mantel. Past history in the present tense grates with me (the only time I enjoyed it was in John Updike's Rabbit quartet, four of the greatest novels of my lifetime). But, for all my reservations, I can see why The Tattooist of Auschwitz has been so widely acclaimed. It has a surprise ending. And there is an irresistible charm to the notion that Love can blossom, can flourish, even on what in another memorable phrase the author calls 'the threshold of Hell.'

David Gee



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Easter Decorations

The past few weeks have been very challenging and our thoughts now are about what changes we are facing and how do we move forward given all the uncertainty around us. I have heard reference being made to the principles that guide us, what defines us as individuals, who we are and what we are. Our choices, our acts and messages revolve firmly around our core values.

During such challenging times, there are people who have "shone through" and supported the community with their love for life, drive, charitable and kind natures. We, as a community, demonstrated that we can make good choices and make our world, whatever the situation we face, a better one.

Our Easter Garden competition was not planned. It started as a simple suggestion made on 'All About Watermead' Facebook page. Somebody came up with the idea of creating Easter wreaths to cheer up our doors and Easter related decorations in our front gardens in order to bring cheer to our streets and also in aid of supporting our NHS and key workers.

During my daily limited "walks" around the village I felt the spring spirit coming alive, overwhelming the general pessimism and latest news about the toll taken by the dreadful Coronavirus.

It was very difficult to choose an overall winner as all those who made an effort to celebrate Easter and the birth of a new season made a great effort indeed.

However, I decided we should hand our first prize to Vanessa Jones who created pretty rag wreaths for many residents and personally delivered them too. In return she suggested a donation be made to the PSDS charity which provides support for children with Down's Syndrome and their families.

There is one person who should certainly get our super-prize and that is our Chairman, Mrs Sue Severn, not only for displaying her gorgeous Easter wreath, but also for setting the standard for the summer garden competition due to start soon. She is also to be commended for her tireless work put into organising and driving the community into creating the 'Watermead Army' in order to help those people who found themselves, through no fault of their own, needing support with buying food and collecting prescriptions, and also organising much, much more.

Thank you, Watermead residents, for respecting the lockdown rules; thank you for your beautiful Easter decorations, for the rainbows, for taking part in the Bear (and Bunny) Hunt. Thank you Kelvin Wong and Karen Collet, Mo at Watermead Post Office, and many other members of our community who made our life more bearable by

delivering everything from free beer and groceries to construction and renovation supplies!

My camera is now ready for all the shots of beautiful and innovative front gardens and I look forward to writing about them in our next issue of Village View.

Cllr Irina Schwab



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'The Bear family was ready to go out for their Easter picnic in Wendover Woods but, alas, government restrictions meant they had to stay at home.'

April was National Pet Month - Pets of Watermead



Myrna sent in this gorgeous picture of Aggy who is 3 years' old and came from the RSPCA Blackberry Farm rescue centre.



Here is our Buddy who is loving the sunny weather and walks over the fields. Jo & Neil, Osprey Walk.



Claire Dance with Lulu.



Mark Dance with Molly.



Eddie McCarthy and his dog Honey sitting by the lake watching the sun set. Honey is a red working cocker spaniel and she will be 2 in June.



Sarah Hale and her beautiful cocker spaniel Bobby who had just come out of the shower after a very muddy walk! Bobby is 2 years old and is quite a character.



Vanessa Gaeta with her beloved Mia who sadly is no longer with us but Nessa feels she is still with us in spirit.



ABOVE: Hodor belongs to Aisling Merrison. She says "Hodor will be 14 this May. I see him twice a week but that will hopefully increase when I pass my driving test and am able to get myself up to the yard alone. Hodor is difficult to ride as he has only been properly in work under saddle since Summer 2019. I met him last October and we've come on leaps and bounds. In his earlier years he was a stallion and has around 30 offspring to his name! We believe he was used as a driving horse. He came from Ireland and he is the most cuddly horse you've ever met. Even though he is a struggle to ride he is not naughty! He's a big boy and sometimes forgets he has feet - he falls over himself quite often! Hodor's favourite thing to do is play in the field with his best friend or go out on hacks into fields where he can stretch his legs and be carefree. I've only known Hodor for a short amount of time but it's hard not to love him - he's become a big part of my life and I wouldn't change him for the world!"



Lisa with Misty from Kestrel Way



This is Mags. She came to live with Ruth & Andy Dale in July 2008. She was 10 months old then and came from a rescue centre in Amersham.



This is Presley the cat and Wilf the dog who live with James & Georgina Bates in Guillemot Way



Katy Chandler from Buckingham Park sent in this photo of her gorgeous boy Alfie. She says: "He very much keeps himself to himself when out as he's very nervy."



18 month old Bramble only pays us attention at breakfast and dinner time. She's a fruit loop who likes to bite when she's bored but we adore her. Graham & Kelie-Marie Howse.



Misty lives in Waxwing Close and on the rare occasion she ventures out, it is no further than the back garden. A rescue from Chiltern Cats Protection and is about 7.



Amanda Wilson from The Comfrey. Above is Bingo and all the pets on the bottom line are hers too..



Chico



Basil



Yogi



BooBoo



Tiggi

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Watermead Garden Society news

Gardening has a positive impact on mental health. So how about considering having an allotment? It can be a lot of hard work but the benefits include keeping fit and healthy - a lot cheaper than going to the gym. Your reward is lots of fresh vegetables and fruit at a fraction of the cost you pay in supermarkets, pleasant companionship with fellow plot holders and plenty of fresh air. It is also very peaceful there and you can "switch off".

Our allotments are mostly worked by younger people, some with families with their children helping to maintain the plot. But there are also retired individuals and couples. Some people have two plots and some have smaller sized plots. One is like an orchard with fruit trees eg apple, damson, and bushes such as blackcurrant, red currant, gooseberry; the upkeep involves mowing the grass around the trees and pruning.

When taking over a plot that has not been maintained for a while, it will need to be dug over and some people rotivate although this method can turn up roots of nettles, dock, sorrel, etc which are more easily removed when digging. Teasels are also a nuisance which need to be taken out. Lots of people put in raised beds that are filled with soil and

compost. Sometimes pallets are used and one man has made a bird house using lots of pieces of wood. Many people have painted their sheds in a variety of colours.

A huge variety of vegetables are grown from potatoes, leeks, beans, onions, lettuce to different coloured beetroot and carrots, and different types of courgette. The list is endless. The same goes for fruit and some people grow flowers too. Homegrown tomatoes and asparagus cannot be beaten for taste!

We have a supplier of chippings which are free to use to keep down weeds between the rows of produce. Manure is delivered from the stables up the road. There is a car park and you can park your car by your plot between 1st April and 31st October.

The Alzheimer's Society stall at the Christmas Craft Fair was selling items made from produce from their allotment eg various jams and jellies (the quince jelly was delicious), pickled garlic and flavoured vinegars.

One allotmenteer has two large freezers full of veggies from the allotment all of which is being used during the 'Coronavirus' lockdown, together with fruit from the previous summer which was juiced, made into liqueurs, jams, jellies, chutneys etc.

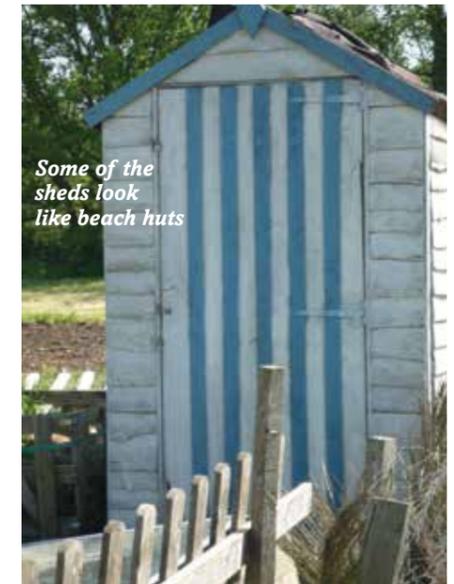
Look at the National Allotment Society

website (www.nsalg.org.uk) to learn more about how to go about planning and starting an allotment. You can also learn about how your plot can attract a host of wildlife which benefits us all at www.naturalengland.org.

A 5-pole plot is currently £25 a year for Watermead residents with an additional £10 to cover water usage. General areas of the site are maintained by the Parish Council. If you're interested in having an allotment please contact the Parish Clerk - Noreen Shardlow at Noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk or telephone: 01296 395211.



Some of the sheds look like beach huts



Propagators



Newly dug allotments



Plants getting a kick start on the conservatory window



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Maria Gessner with her Echium in the garden of Guillemot Court



All at Sea

At the age of fifteen I went to the **TS Indefatigable Sea School based in Anglesey for a year, and then on the 2nd October 1962 I joined my first ship, the MV Cloverbank, as an Apprentice Deck Officer.** We sailed out of Liverpool for what would end up being a thirteen month trip visiting New Guinea, Australia, East Africa, Singapore, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Formosa, Japan, India, South America and then through the Panama Canal, finally leaving the ship in Gibraltar.

This is one of my letters home to my parents. I started it after leaving Singapore. It was sometimes difficult to obtain stamps and/or post letters when in port, therefore a letter becomes a bit of a journal as in this case.

about a week and then on to Hong Kong. We may only be in Hong Kong for a few days so I hope I can get ashore to see Mr Craig's friends as well as get my record player.

More news about the trip, some more things people have made up in their spare time. One is that we load up Copra in the Philippines and come home and the other is that we go to Vancouver and come home via the Panama Canal.

At the moment I am busy repainting my New Guinea War Shield to more or less its original colour. The previous paint was made of something that natives made up, and parts of it had washed away when going back to the ship in the rain. So I washed the lot off and started again.

I received two letters from you in Singapore in which you both seem very happy. I did not get any letters from the girls, I hope they all haven't deserted me. It is probably you telling them all about my doings and putting them all off. I am still very curious to know how they got to know

about Poppy, just after you did.

The radio, believe it or not, is still going strong, although one of the knobs is bust. I got offered a fiver for it by one of the Indian crew.

On the way to Japan

We are near the land of the rising sun but it is sinking now and so are my eyelids so I had better close.

Tomorrow we get to Japan, I have been



bad and left this letter unposted so I will give you an update on all that has happened since I left off last time.

We went to Bangkok but I did not manage to get ashore at all while we were there. There are a few things I must tell you about the place when I get home, if you have not already read about it in the Sunday Newspapers. Well we were at that place for two days and I was on 12 hour watches, that's 12 on and 12 off. It sounds all right but you consider 8 hours sleep out of that, it does not give you too much time to go ashore.

Well I got to Hong Kong safely. I was up on standby at 4am and on cargo until



midnight non-stop, then I had to be up at 6 the following morning.

I managed to get from 10am until 1.30pm off to go and see your boss's friend. After a bit of trouble I got to the French Embassy only to find the General was out so I left a message with his secretary telling him where I was from and who I was. He was coming in later that morning but he had a lot to do so I went for a walk round Hong Kong instead. I am sorry that I did not meet him but I don't imagine he would be very interested in me anyway. I am not the General's meat.

Now I have in my possession one FAR EAST TRP-400 all transistor battery portable phonograph. In other words I bought my record player. The man wanted £12 for it but I got him down to £7 after about an hour of hard talking.

It is three speed 33.3, 45, 78 and runs on flashlight batteries, six of them. It will also run off ac mains and when you do this it recharges the batteries. I have two records, one is an EP of 4 hits by Acker Bilk and the other is a 10" mixture of 12 hits. The Bilk EP cost me 6 shillings.

Well after Hong Kong we went to Formosa. At Formosa all the Yanks were hanging out and helping keep out the Reds. There were guns and ships everywhere and a squadron of 9 planes were always up above.

We were unloading Asbestos in sacks in the No1 hold, and there was about 30 tons left when a 10 foot high wall of pig iron, which was holding back a further 900 tons, collapsed. It completely covered the remaining 30 tons of Asbestos, and

the Dockers were very lucky to get away with their lives.

(This happened at about 2am and most of the ship were awakened by the noise. Within minutes all the apprentices were hauled out of their beds and instructed to go down the hold and move the pig iron off the bags of asbestos so that it could be offloaded. The hold was full of asbestos dust from the broken sacks and it was next to impossible to remove enough pig iron to get to the remaining sacks. After a few hours we were told to return to our bunks).

Now we have it. Do you realise that the "MV Cloverbank" was nearly a rotting piece

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April 1963 Singapore

Dear Mum and Dad, I am very sorry I have not written for a while since Singapore, and I am a bad lad.

In Singapore I went to visit your friend's family. They were about four miles outside town in a very big house. I got there by taxi and went in and had a nice talk with them.

Later on the brother, who is training to be a doctor, and his girlfriend took me around Singapore. We went to China Town and I had a very nice evening with them and got back on board with time to spare.

The dames here are really great, don't be at all surprised if I have a couple of Japanese wives when I come home.

Singapore is dead cheap and you can buy anything if you know where to look and when. You can buy a good suitcase for about 10s 6d in the markets which seem to be everywhere.

When we were out at anchor about 5 girls were on board selling stuff, and the engineers were trying to get off with them, but the Captain gave us apprentices the unpleasant duty of sending them off the ship. Now the engineers won't talk to us. It's as bad as Bunbury.

Hong Kong is said to be cheaper than Singapore so I am saving my money to see what record players cost. I only hope that my records get to Yokohama in time. A record player with no records isn't much use.

There are hundreds of ships here in Singapore and, when I say hundreds I am not exaggerating, everywhere you look in the harbour there are ships.

We are on our way to Bangkok now and will get there by Monday and be there for

of rust at the bottom of the China Sea. We were about 60 miles out of port going up the east side of Formosa when the ship's engine broke down. The problem required one of the very large pistons to be removed, which had happened before, and taken about 48 hours to put right. While we were without power, or steerage, we noticed that we were drifting towards a set of rocks. We started drifting slowly but at the end we were doing about 2 knots an hour towards them.

In the end we were about a quarter of a mile off, all the crew were on standby to abandon ship with the lifeboats lowered to deck level for us to make a speedy departure, and the engineers working like stink to fix the broken engine.

(It should be noted that most of the crew were getting quite excited rather than scared, with one of the main reasons being that if you were shipwrecked you received a bundle of compensation. Not too sure how much it was but it was something like two months' paid leave. Another point is as we had not long left the bargain basement that is Hong Kong almost everybody had purchased electronic equipment which they were not going to send down to Davy Jones locker. Consequently the lifeboats were stashed with loads of goodies including a very nice FAR EAST TRP-400 all transistor battery portable phonograph).

Ten minutes before we would have hit the rocks, the engineers managed to get the engine going. The guys in the engine room had managed to repair the engine in just 22 hours, an all-time record.

Well we are still floating and happy. Hope you are too. Give my love to Gran and Jane.

Lots of love, Stuart

Stuart Mackay



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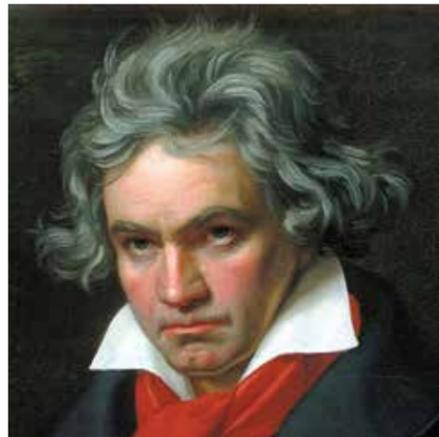
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Watermead resident
for over 15 years



Happy 250th birthday! Ludwig van Beethoven

Ludwig van Beethoven was a German composer and pianist. He was a crucial figure in the transition between the classical and romantic eras in classical music and is considered to be one of the greatest composers of all time. Beethoven was born in Bonn on 17th December 1770. Of the seven children born to Johann van Beethoven, only Ludwig, the second-born, and two younger brothers survived infancy. His musical talent was obvious at an early age and he was initially harshly and intensively taught by his father. He was later taught by the composer and conductor Christian



Gottlob Neefe, under whose tuition he published his first work, a set of keyboard variations, in 1783. He found relief from a dysfunctional home life with the family of Helene von Breuning, whose children he loved, befriended and taught piano. At age 21, he moved to Vienna which subsequently became his base, and studied

composition with Haydn. Beethoven then gained a reputation as a virtuoso pianist, and he was soon courted by Karl Alois, Prince Lichnowsky for compositions, which resulted in his three Opus 1 piano trios (the earliest works to which he accorded an opus number) in 1795.

His career has conventionally been divided into early, middle, and late periods. The “early” period in which he forged his craft, is typically seen to last until 1802. His “middle” period, (sometimes characterised as “heroic”) shows an individual development from the “classical” styles of Joseph Haydn and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, covers the years 1802 to 1812, during which he increasingly suffered from deafness. In the “late” period from 1812 to his death in 1827, he extended his innovations in musical form and expression.

His first major orchestral work, the First Symphony, appeared in 1800, and his first set of string quartets was published in 1801. During this period, his hearing began to deteriorate, but he continued to conduct, premiering his Third and Fifth Symphonies in 1804 and 1808, respectively. His Violin Concerto appeared in 1806. His last piano concerto (No. 5, Op. 73, known as the ‘Emperor’), dedicated to his great patron Archduke Rudolf of Austria, was premiered in 1810, but not with the composer as soloist. He was almost completely deaf by 1814, and he then gave up performing and appearing in public.

In the following years, removed from society, Beethoven composed many of his most admired works including his later symphonies and his mature chamber music and piano sonatas. His only opera *Fidelio*, which had been first performed in 1805, was revised to its final version in 1814. He composed his *Missa Solemnis* in the years 1819–1823, and his final, Ninth, Symphony, one of the first examples of a choral symphony, in 1822–1824. Written in his last years, his late string quartets of 1825–26 are amongst his final achievements. After some months of bedridden illness he died in 1827.

During the course of his lifetime, Ludwig van Beethoven enjoyed relationships with many of his musical contemporaries. He was famously difficult to get along with, and the history of his relationships with contemporaries is littered with arguments,

misunderstandings, and reconciliations. Beethoven had well-known fallings out with his one-time teacher, Joseph Haydn, with the piano virtuoso and composer Johann Nepomuk Hummel, the German composer Carl Maria von Weber and the Italian violinist Nicolo Paganini. Conversely, he regarded Franz Schubert positively, praising the latter’s compositions on his deathbed.

In the spring of 1811 Beethoven became seriously ill, suffering headaches and high fever. His doctor Johann Malfatti recommended him to take a cure at the spa of Teplitz (now Teplice in Czechia) where he wrote two more overtures and sets of incidental music for dramas, this time by August von Kotzebue - King Stephen Op. 117 and *The Ruins of Athens* Op. 113. Advised again to visit Teplitz in 1812 he met there with Goethe, who wrote of the composer “His talent amazed me; unfortunately he is an utterly untamed personality, who is not altogether wrong in holding the world to be detestable, but surely does not make it any more enjoyable [...] by his attitude.” Beethoven wrote to his publishers Breitkopf and Härtel that “Goethe delights far too much in the court atmosphere, far more than is becoming in a poet.

While he was at Teplitz in 1812 he wrote a ten-page love letter to his “Immortal Beloved”, which he never sent to its addressee. The identity of the intended recipient was long a subject of debate, although the musicologist Maynard Solomon has effectively proved that the intended recipient must have been Antonie Brentano; other candidates have included Juliette Guicciardi, Therese Malfatti and Josephine Brunsvik.

All of these had been regarded by Beethoven as possible soulmates during his first decade in Vienna. Guicciardi, although she flirted with Beethoven, never had any serious interest in him and married Wenzel Robert von Gallenberg in November 1803. (Beethoven insisted to his later secretary and biographer, Anton Schindler, that Guicciardi had “sought me out, crying, but I scorned her.”) Josephine had since Beethoven’s initial infatuation with her married the elderly Joseph Count Deym, who died in 1804. Beethoven began to visit her and commenced a passionate correspondence. Initially he accepted that Josephine could not love him, but he continued to address himself to her even after she had moved to Budapest, finally demonstrating that he had got the message in his last letter to her of 1807: “I thank you for wishing still to appear as if I were not altogether banished from your memory”. Malfatti was the niece of Beethoven’s doctor, and he had proposed to her in 1810. He was 40, she was 19 – the proposal was rejected. She is now remembered as the recipient of the piano bagatelle *Für Elise*.

Antonie (Toni) Brentano (née von Birkenstock), ten years younger than the composer, was the wife of Franz Brentano, the half-brother of Bettina Brentano, who provided the composer’s introduction to the family. It would seem that Antonie and Beethoven had an affair during 1811-1812. Antonie left Vienna with her husband in late 1812 and never met with (or apparently corresponded with) Beethoven again, although in her later years she wrote and spoke fondly of him.

Beethoven composed in several musical genres and for a variety of instrument combinations. His works for symphony orchestra include nine symphonies (of which the Ninth Symphony includes a chorus), and about a dozen pieces of “occasional” music. He wrote seven concerti for one or more soloists and orchestra, as well as four shorter works that include soloists accompanied by orchestra. His only opera is *Fidelio*; other vocal works with orchestral accompaniment include two masses and a number of shorter works.

His large body of compositions for piano includes 32 piano sonatas and numerous shorter pieces, including arrangements of some of his other works. Works with piano accompaniment include 10 violin sonatas, 5 cello sonatas, and a sonata for French horn, as

well as numerous lieder.

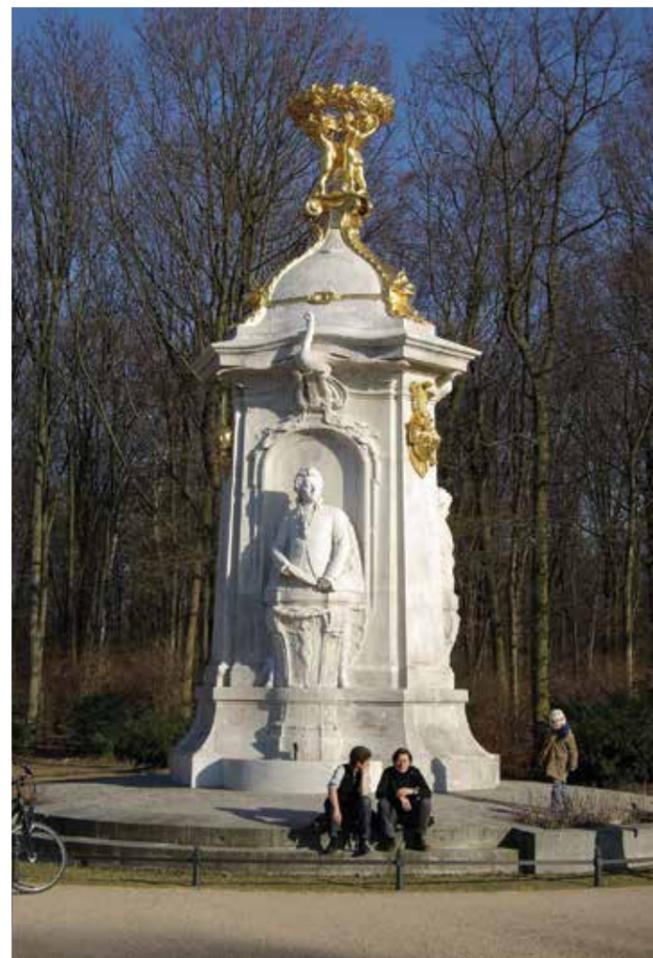
He also wrote a significant quantity of chamber music. In addition to 16 string quartets, he wrote five works for string quintet, seven for piano trio, five for string trio, and more than a dozen works for various combinations of wind instruments.

As a result of Beethoven’s hearing loss, Beethoven’s conversation books are an unusually rich written resource for this period. Used primarily in the last ten or so years of his life, his friends wrote in these books so that he could know what they were saying, and he then responded either orally or in the book. The books contain discussions about music and other matters, and give insights into his thinking; they are a source for investigations into how he intended his music should be performed, and also his perception of his relationship to art.

Beethoven was bedridden for most of his remaining months, and many friends came to visit. He died on 26 March 1827 at the age of 56 during a thunderstorm. His friend Anselm Hüttenbrenner, who was present at the time, said that there was a peal of thunder at the moment of death. An autopsy revealed significant liver damage, which may have been due to heavy alcohol consumption. It also revealed considerable dilation of the auditory and other related nerves.

Beethoven’s funeral procession on 29th March 1827 was attended by an estimated 20,000 people. Franz Schubert, who died the following year and was buried next to him, was one of the torchbearers. He was buried in a dedicated grave in the Währing cemetery, north-west of Vienna, after a requiem mass at the church of the Holy Trinity (Dreifaltigkeitskirche). His remains were exhumed for study in 1862, and moved in 1888 to Vienna’s Zentralfriedhof. In 2012, his crypt was checked to see if his teeth had been stolen during a series of grave robberies of other famous Viennese composers.

There is dispute about the cause of his death: alcoholic cirrhosis,



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syphilis, infectious hepatitis, lead poisoning, sarcoidosis and Whipple’s disease have all been proposed. Friends and visitors before and after his death clipped locks of his hair, some of which have been preserved and subjected to additional analysis, as have skull fragments removed during the 1862 exhumation. Some of these analyses have led to controversial assertions that he was accidentally poisoned to death by excessive doses of lead-based treatments administered under instruction from his doctor.

The Beethoven Monument in Bonn was unveiled in August 1845, in honour of the 75th anniversary of his birth. It was the first statue of a composer created in Germany, and the music festival that accompanied the unveiling was the impetus for the very hasty construction of the original Beethovenhalle in Bonn (it was designed and built within less than a month, on the urging of Franz Liszt). A statue to Mozart had been unveiled in Salzburg, Austria, in 1842. Vienna did not honour Beethoven with a statue until 1880. His is the only name inscribed on one of the plaques that trim Symphony Hall, Boston; the others were left empty because it was felt that only Beethoven’s popularity would endure.

There is a museum, Beethoven House, at the place of his birth in central Bonn. The same city has hosted a musical festival, the Beethovenfest, since 1845. The festival was initially irregular but has been organised annually since 2007.

The Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies serves as a museum, research centre, and host of lectures and performances devoted solely to this life and works.

The third largest crater on Mercury is named in his honour, as is the main-belt asteroid 1815 Beethoven.

See more at www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ludwig_van_Beethoven

Cllr Mary Singleton

Waddesdon Manor



Waddesdon Manor, not far from Aylesbury in rural Buckinghamshire, is an extravagantly turreted French chateau built in the 1870s, designed to display Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild's collections and entertain his fashionable weekend guests. The treasures inside the house include a wonderful collection of English paintings and the finest French 18th century decorative arts. Having retired just over twelve months ago, I had already decided I wanted to be a volunteer at Waddesdon Manor as I love history, beautiful objects and meeting people. I arranged to meet with their Volunteer Manager, Helen Franklin and she arranged all the induction process, talked me through the volunteer on-line diary booking system and was altogether very helpful and professional. I volunteered over Christmas 2018 as a House Host and enjoyed it immensely. Other volunteering opportunities include Catering, Retail, Visitor Services and the Aviary. At Christmas, a portion of the house is beautifully dressed for Christmas with a different festive theme each year. The most challenging thing that Christmas season seemed to be how to find the volunteer tea room which is hidden away from the public areas. Yes, there is always plenty of tea and cake (or bread and soup) for volunteers as well as a Christmas lunch, a summer outing and regular training and update sessions. Waddesdon Manor usually closes after Christmas and re-opens in March.

In April 2019, I read with interest a job advertisement for a Gallery Assistant at the Eliot Hodgkin "Brought to Life" exhibition. I wasn't sure if I wanted paid employment again as I was very happily retired. However, I applied and was offered the role for a six month contract for only two days a

week – not too onerous at all. I enjoyed this period immensely. We had wonderful advice and training from the exhibition curator Adrian Eeles and from Pippa Shirley, Head of Collections at Waddesdon Manor and Francesca Page-Smith, Visitor Engagement Manager. I was part of a team of four; some of my colleagues were artists themselves and others were teachers. We were often joined by young interns who were with Waddesdon Manor for a period of six months or so. The visitors to the exhibition were of all ages and nationalities. Young families often at the weekend and retired people during the week. The visitors often knew more than we did. Some knew very little about art but all were amazed at the beautiful works of art and objects in the exhibition. Some lucky visitors were owners of one or more of the beautiful paintings exhibited.

My experience at the gallery last year covered security, health and safety, promotion and marketing with the aim of making the experience for all visitors and guests as welcoming, informative and professional as possible. In fact, I have been offered a role at this year's Coach House exhibition "Roses from my Garden" by Nick Knight which was due to open on Saturday 28th March but the recent



lockdowns due to coronavirus have decided otherwise. We await to hear a re-opening date as I write.

Art History has only been a major interest in my life for the last twenty years or so. Having left school at 16 I was advised by the Careers Officer "to learn to type". It was decided by my Grammar School that A-levels were not for me and hardly any of the girls, even the clever ones, went to University, although some went into banking or teacher training college. I duly learnt to type and did a nine month secretarial course, where I enjoyed the English option so much I completed an A level at night school, mainly for interest but also to prove I could!

The "learning to type" career option provided me with not only a job but many happy years in several interesting organisations such as Birmingham Maternity Hospital, the University of Birmingham and finally ICL a major British computer company in the 1980s. After I had children, I used my administrative skills in several infant and junior school offices in the Aylesbury area, over a period of twenty two years. All the time though I felt as if I wanted to learn more, know more, and understand more about English language and literature. So eventually, in my forties, I signed up to study for a B.A. (Humanities with English) with the Open University and for six continuous years I studied, went to tutorials, and wrote essays. Although I really enjoyed studying English grammar, forensic linguistics, plays, poetry and Shakespeare, the sixth and final year studying History of



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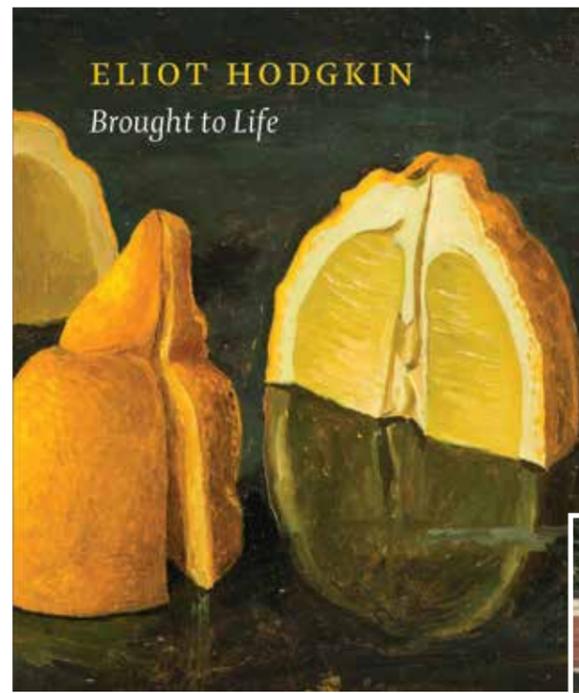
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Art opened up a whole new world to me, one I have enjoyed ever since. Visiting amazing museums, attending wonderful art exhibitions in London and European cities has been an abiding interest for many years. Getting to know Waddesdon Manor, its beautiful objects, paintings, gardens and amazing staff and volunteers has also been such a joy over the last eighteen months. My

initial introduction to art history has allowed me to thoroughly enjoy my retirement and I can heartily recommend being a volunteer or staff member at Waddesdon Manor. Once this lockdown is over and Waddesdon Manor re-opens, I will be both pleased and delighted to return.

Susan McCabe



Who is that?

I look in the mirror, what do I see?
Is that really, really me?

Eyes that sparkled, shining bright
Now glow with a dimmer light.

Flesh that was firm, skin a-glowing.
Time passes. Are they wrinkles showing?

Joints were strong, movements sprightly.
Now, sorry to say, embrocation nightly.

Alas my hearing has had it's day,
Sorry, pardon! What's that you say?

Even memories are getting jaded.
So sad! People, places, journeys faded.

I once danced from dusk till dawn.
Now at 10 pm I start to yawn.

Hair that is silver, once was gold.
Oh my God, I'm getting old!

I look in the mirror, who do I see?
Logic tells me, it's me, it's me.

Brenda Green

I remember when

For those who are old enough, it must be a time to say “I remember when”. A time when we were surrounded by danger, a visible danger unlike the invisible danger that threatens us today. I was a war baby born in 1938 in Bermondsey, South East London. Surrounded by factories, trains and the river, my playground was the bombed-out houses. I was old enough to value my freedom to come and go. I remember one particular day when, pretending I needed to go to the loo, I quietly went past the bathroom to the front door which I opened quietly and then, slamming it shut behind me, I ran like hell down three flights of stairs to get out to play.

I remember queuing for food with mum, ration books at the ready. My book was blue. I was so excited when we had enough points for sweets. We had to go without many things one of which was toilet paper. We had to “make do” so we cut newspaper into squares and threaded them on string to hang next to the toilet. Not quite the luxury we have today!

One memory stays with me – I didn’t really understand what I was watching. It was what we did – look out the windows at night watching search lights looking for enemy planes. Thank God those days are gone. We overcame and will do so again.

I am so grateful that I have the wonderful view from the windows that I now have – overlooking the lake.

Thank you to all those volunteers in Watermead who are making life easier for those of us who are unable to get out to the shops for our food, other essentials and medicines.

God bless, *Brenda Green, Guillemot Court*

Free beer for Watermead

Kelvin Wong, Landlord of the Watermead Inn, has been in the press for all the right reasons lately. You can read all about his exploits in the Daily Telegraph, The Metro, Bucks Herald, Lad Bible, Brewers Journal, Free Republic, and Newsner and many more media sources. Kelvin was also interviewed on Radio 5 Live.

On Sunday 5th April Kelvin and his team loaded up his wonderful chrome Airstream Mobile Bar and toured Watermead giving away pints of ice cold beer to those lucky residents who had put glasses out for him and his team of helpers to fill, and then on Wednesday 8th April he went out again, to get to the houses he didn’t reach on his first trip.

Watermead must be one of the most envied villages in the country!!

And not only has Kelvin given away his precious beer to the people of Watermead, he has arranged for food to be sent to local vulnerable people.

He has kept on some of his staff and they are available to help the local community to do things like shopping, dog walking and gardening plus any other tasks, for those not in a position to help themselves.

Now if that was not enough Kelvin has



set up a “giving” page on GO FUND ME for Covid-19 Support “How can we help”, with a target of raising £1,000 www.gofundme.com/f/watermead-inn-covid19-support

As of 15th April 120 donors have raised an amazing £3,970. If you are so inclined and appreciate what Kelvin and his team have been doing for the Watermead Community, one way to show him our support could be to add a few more pounds to his charity. All money raised will go to food parcels and hot meals for the elderly, isolated and some of our NHS and key workers. At the moment there are around 105 families that he is taking care of. This would be a good time to also thank all the great people of Watermead who are looking out for their neighbours and the community. Well done to all of you

Stuart McKay

Star Wars

Forget the dinner to be made
Forget the ironing to be done
There’s Lego Star Wars to be played
There’s a battle to be won.

From adult arms the mission gets flight
From adult throat, best SatNav voice
‘At the fireplace, turn right’
Did I do this with my own boys?

Old creaking bones a price will pay
For rolling around upon the floor
But I don’t think of the following day
For right now I must win the war.

Zooming past the television
Well aimed missiles hit their spot
Does this mean I’ve failed my mission?
I think it means I’ve lost the plot.

Pow, pow. The sounds of war from angel lips
He’s closing in for the final thrust
I think this means I’ve had my chips
With a deafening roar I bite the dust.

I’ve lost the battle, but won the prize
I’m bruised and aching, but not ignored
I see the look in my grandson’s eyes
‘Love you Nanny’ is my reward.

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Sally’s Blog

As my human has said, a difficult times. They are difficult for dogs too, you know! There are a few things I would like to point out:

- Dogs, tell your owners not to make a fool of you by meeting in groups and going out too often. Those of us with sensible law-abiding owners are only being taken out once a day for a reasonable length walk. It’s not easy self-isolating if you are a dog. Oh, and pick up the poo, it’s maddening and disgusting when they don’t.
- We miss our friends too - Ronnie and the Dachshunds, Frankie and Toby, very much. I have nobody to talk to properly. Humans just say single words like ‘QUIET!’ when I try to tell them things, which is often. They simply don’t understand.
- It’s difficult to get my special chicken treats I believe. My human refuses to go to big supermarkets so I am forced to put up with a specially

designed diet from a company called Tails (yes, Tails!). She thinks that having my name on the box (only a small roundel printed with my name and a picture of a dog that is clearly not a spaniel) will pacify me. Believe you me, I know it’s not a picture of me, and that the food is not entirely personal. If it was, it would be full of chicken treat chews, and it isn’t! Thanks to everyone



who has donated to the food collections, including the dog



food and treats. What lovely humans live in Watermead.
• Apparently dogs cannot catch Covid-19 but I am very scared that my humans will which is the reason I am doing my best to self-isolate, keep away from other dogs, look after them as much as I can by being extra hilarious while remaining at least 2 metres away from

everyone. Not easy at times in Watermead. We have suffered with so many visitors, and some very badly behaved dogs. Please just keep your dog under control; it’s bad for our reputation if you don’t.

As everyone seems to say now, and I really do mean it, stay safe my friends. I want to enjoy your company as soon as we can.

Love Sally





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The Flower House

At The Flower House we are passionate about providing stunning flowers to Aylesbury and the surrounding areas. Located from a home workshop in Watermead, I have been a part of the community for over 20 years. Having grown up spending a lot of time in my parent's florist shop, surrounded by flowers and inspiration I have now decided to introduce my passion and love for floristry to Aylesbury. I lived and grew up in North London and worked for my parents from the age of 15. Being taught first hand by my mother (one of the top floristry designers in the country) and attending Capel Manor College for 3 years to achieve my NVQ Level 3 - I learnt to put my own flair into my designs too. Helping run the family business inspired me to start my own from home.

Watermead is now my home with my growing family, husband Ashley and our two wonderful children.

My family are a big part of The Flower House - they are the reason it began.

I like to think I can bring a lot of joy and happiness through my designs, with weddings, memories of a loved one or a simple hand tied bouquet just to say thank you.

My most favourite part of designing flowers for such events is meeting the customers, collaborating with brides and helping bring their vision alive for their big day. Meeting families and helping put that very special touch to their goodbyes, and just being me. Being passionate about what I do and ultimately delivering the best service and building a good, reliable relationship with all my customers.

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Footsteps Pre-School Watermead

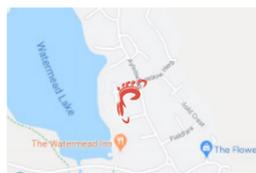
Brand new pre-school opening soon

Footsteps are thrilled to be opening the Watermead pre-school in 2020, based in the grounds of The Piazza. The bright welcoming space will have a strong ethos towards a caring and nurturing setting, where children can thrive.

Throughout all Footsteps nurseries and pre-schools, a strong sense of community is a part of everyday life. The Footsteps approach keeps parents and children fully engaged in all aspects of learning and development.

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Watermead Cygnets Pre-School

Wash those dirty hands,
Wash those dirty hands
Wash them, scrub them
Wash them, scrub them
Wash those dirty hands

Sing this twice and we'll keep the nasty virus away - that's what we all did in the days building up to the Corona Lock-down. These are challenging and strange times indeed, testing our ingenuity, patience and resilience. Let us hope that by the time you read this magazine we will be back in pre-school after the half term holidays.

Here's what we did before the sunset on Friday 20th March.

We learnt about simple electrical circuits using a bulb, switch, batteries and wires - what happens when the wires

are connected/unconnected, when the switch is on/off, with batteries/without batteries? What objects are magnetic and what are non-magnetic? We made paper boats that floated on water and found stones that sank. What about an apple or a pencil - does it float or sink? Try explaining how density and shape influence floating or sinking properties to 3 and 4 year olds!

'Ring-a-ring of Roses' apparently depicted the bubonic plague. No, we didn't sing this at our Nursery Rhyme Challenge performance. The songs we chose were enthusiastically delivered to an appreciative audience and the children were awarded with certificates for completing the challenge.

Oh for the joys of Spring! The

sight and smell of new growth. We explored the lifecycles of butterflies, chickens, trees and frogs through play, puppetry, toys and creative art. We were going to go on an adventure to find frogspawn but this was not possible. So, if you're out and about on your daily exercise with your child, look out for tadpoles or even little frogs, nests in trees or bushes, and seeds of trees. Or just stand still and listen to nature's sounds. You could also start little vegetable pots with cress seeds or grow sunflowers.

In the week culminating with Sports Relief, the children took part in a Sponsored Obstacle Course to raise money for an outing to Green Dragon Eco Farm. Unfortunately, we are not able to visit the farm so the £75 raised has been donated to The Big Night In for Comic Relief and Children in Need. We did manage to celebrate Mother's Day with children singing songs and presenting their mummies with daffodils and cards.

As this half term holiday approaches, we hope to hear news that the lock-down will be lifted partially for the young ones to go to school in June. Otherwise it will be a strange way of ending 24 years of Watermead Cygnets.

From September 2020, the new private pre-school starting in the Village Hall is 'Footsteps' (Aylesbury). The contact details are on page 28. We wish them all the very best.

The Cygnets Team



Making Mother's Day cards



Making pizza



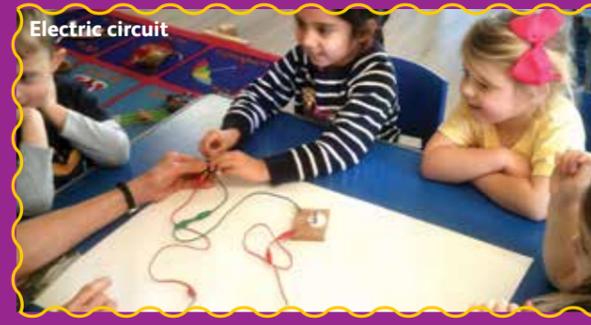
We'll meet again....



World Book Day



The Hungry Caterpillar puppet show



Electric circuit



Karen Collett runs the marathon

There's a good chance you know her - Mother. Headteacher. Friend. Chairperson of the Watermead Events Committee. Wife. Disney Fawn ie Bambi.

Karen is always busy. She doesn't have spare time - it's always spent helping others.

On Sunday 26th April, you may have noticed Karen running around Watermead. For six and a half hours! She was looking forward to running the London Marathon when it was cancelled due to Covid-19. This upset all the runners' training schedules as it was delayed until later in the year. Karen decided to run the 26.2 miles anyway around the lakes and Buckingham Park. It was made even more difficult due to having to keep to social distancing rules. Karen had to wait for people to pass and run up and down kerbs - Mo Farah would have struggled. All this while holding a glass of Prosecco - just kidding.

Karen raised over £1,000 for Children With Cancer UK and also at least £1,000 for the "The Watermead Inn Covid-19 Support "How Can We Help" fund.

And she did it with a smile. A big smile. She is Wonder Woman. A proper Superhero.

Graham Howse



Update on Watermead's events

This is an update from the Watermead Events Committee that I never thought I'd be writing. When we met at the beginning of March, we had discussed the possibility of Covid-19 impacting on 'Larks by the Lake' but, I've got to be honest, I never thought that the impact would be this severe and at that point still thought that the event would happen. It is quite clear now that 'Larks by the Lake' 2020 will need to be postponed. Any sponsorship that has already been paid will be carried forward. Thank you to our sponsors: Amersham Insurance, Dalesford Plumbing and Heating, Howse Electrical, Samella Explorer Travel Holidays, Stem Technologies, The Flower House, Sandy's Main & Drains, GK Plumbing, Angela Payne Tropic Skin Care, The Watermead Inn, Avanti Hair Salon, I-MOP Clean, Legacy Funeral Services, Fextra, Grant & Stone & Miya Japanese Bar & Grill.

I am no clairvoyant but I feel that we will also need to be prepared for 'Films on the Field' to be postponed in order to keep everyone safe and stop the spread. Let's hope that we can reschedule these events sooner rather than later but only when it is absolutely safe to do so.

The events committee are now involved in helping Sue Severn and Kelvin Wong in their efforts to help our community as much as we can. We are still very much a committee and a team but we have another use at the minute and will do all we can, when we can, to help.

If there is one good thing to come out of this really difficult situation, it is that we have become even more of a community, which I am proud to be part of.

Together we are a community, together we are strong. Instead of the money you may have spent at our events this year how about donating to www.gofundme.com/f/watermead-inn-covid19-support

Karen Collett

View from Westminster

I am delighted to be writing my first article for Village View Magazine and look forward to regularly sharing my view from Westminster with the Watermead community.

Since my election as your new MP, I have been taking every opportunity to represent you in Parliament. In the House of Commons chamber, I have asked questions on HS2, town centre regeneration, policing, prisons and, of course, coronavirus. I have spoken in debates ranging from the new Environment Bill to school uniforms, and had meetings with ministers on issues raised by constituents. I promised to make your voices heard in Parliament and I will continue to do so as often as I can.

In my first few months as an MP, much has happened on the national scene. We passed the legislation to get Brexit done, saw the disappointing decision by the government to approve Phase 1 of HS2 and now face the most serious public health crisis in a century.

I know that the coronavirus crisis has made the past few months extremely difficult for many local people. I would like to thank all Watermead residents for the unwavering community spirit you have shown. To all the volunteers, businesses and organisations in Watermead who have done their bit to help their neighbours - thank you. Watermead is a great community and I very much look forward to future visits with local residents and businesses. Having heard about the Watermead Inn delivering pints to local people during the restrictions on pubs opening, this may have to be my first stop! Until then, stay safe, and let's look forward to happier times.

If you have an issue that you feel I may be able to help you with, please email me at rob.butler.mp@parliament.uk



Smile by Spike Milligan

Smiling is infectious
You catch it like the flu.

When someone smiled at me today
I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner
and someone saw my grin.

When he smiled I realised
I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about that smile
then realised it's worth.

A single smile just like mine
could travel around the Earth.

So if you feel a smile begin,
don't leave it undetected.

Let's start an epidemic quick
and get the world infected!



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- ✓ **High Standards** – we pride ourselves in being RCVS Accredited practice.
- ✓ **Our own client out of hours emergency service** – at our hospital in Aylesbury.
- ✓ **24 hr Care** – as a Hospital we have vets and nurses onsite to care for your pets 24/7.

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www.hampdenvets.co.uk

smallanimal@hampdenvets.co.uk

The silent killer

We are all aware of the risks that passive smoking has on people, especially children, but did you know that it's also damaging our pet's health?

What is passive smoking?

Passive smoking is when we breathe in smoke from other people's cigarettes, cigars or pipes. Almost 85% of tobacco smoke is invisible and the toxic particles from smoke can build up on surfaces and clothes, even if you open windows and doors.

Why does second-hand smoke affect pets?

Research has shown that dogs can take in significant amounts of smoke when living in a smoking household. Cats seems to be affected even more because smoke particles settle on their fur which is then swallowed when they're grooming themselves. There's limited research on smaller pets, but any animals living inside your home are vulnerable to second-hand smoke.

How does passive smoking affect pets?

Toxins in tobacco smoke can damage your pet's cells, meaning they're more at risk of certain types of cancer. Smoke can also cause breathing problems or make existing breathing problems worse.

How do I lower the risks?

- ✓ Smoke outside to keep your home's air quality safe for your pets, and to prevent damaging particles collecting on carpets and furniture.
- ✓ Don't leave cigarette butts or ash trays in easy access of pets
- ✓ Wash your hands after smoking
- ✓ Regularly clean and steam carpets to reduce the toxic particles from collecting in the home

- ✓ Stop smoking altogether for your pet's future health and wellbeing – as well as your own.

Will vaping harm my pet?

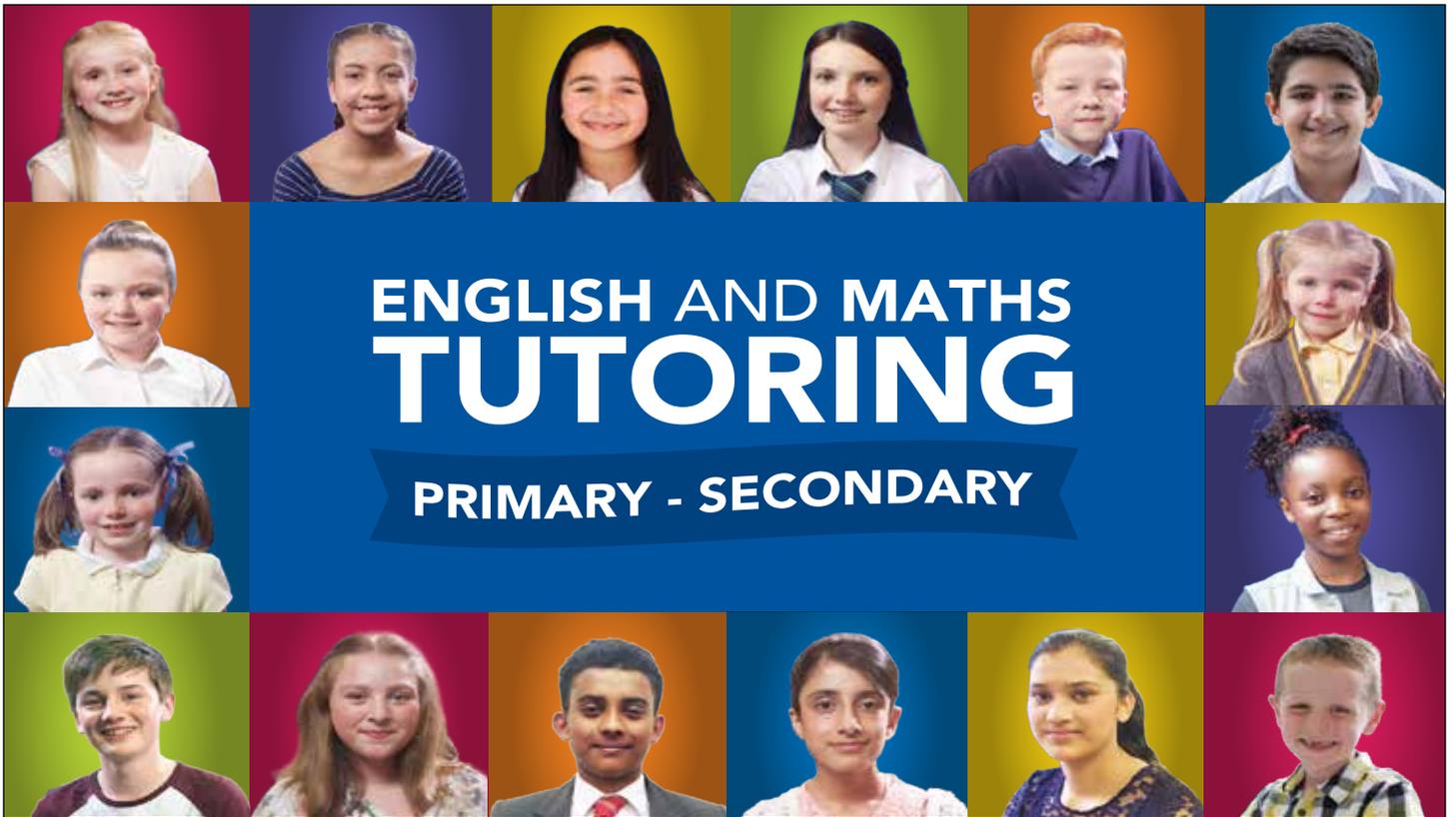
The vapor itself is not known to be harmful to pets, however, just like in cigarettes, most vaping liquids contain nicotine. As nicotine is very toxic to pets, it's important to keep them away from curious mouths. Pets could also swallow parts of the actual e-cigarette or even the battery.

Courtesy of Pawprint, the pdsa magazine

PDSA is the UK's leading veterinary charity. We operate 48 Pet Hospitals and 123 charity shops and care for nearly half a million pets belonging to people in need every year. The service costs £60 million a year to run – all funded by the public.

Our dedicated teams have worked incredibly hard to keep our emergency services running during the pandemic, and to provide remote consultations and urgent medications. In the current financial uncertainty demand for our services is likely to increase – we are needed now more than ever. We rely on the kindness of hundreds of thousands of people to support our vital services, but in the current crisis our ongoing services could be at risk.

Our pets provide a vital lifeline – especially in these challenging times, and we are grateful for any support that the pet-loving public can give us. Please visit our website to donate or for more information on pet care. www.pdsa.org.uk



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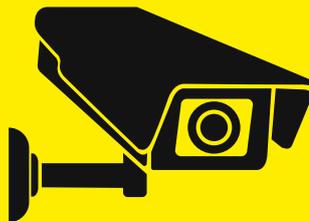
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