

# VillageView

WATERMEAD'S *FREE* QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

Summer 2021 Vol.28 Issue 2

The Watermead  
Pliosaur

Parish Council  
Annual Report

Photography Competition 2021  
open to non-residents

Photography Phil Toler

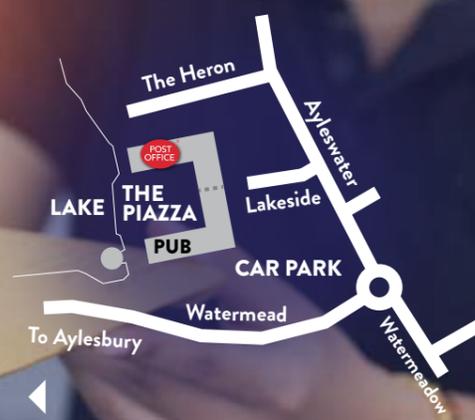


News from Watermead Parish Council & more!  
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# Parish Chairman's News & Annual Report

**W**elcome to this edition of Village View. Despite all that we have experienced due to the Covid-19 pandemic our community remains strong and determined to help one another, coming together to support each other, and the wider area.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to everyone who has suffered loss and to those who have been ill. We will never forget the losses and heartbreak for those affected.

Covid is a frightening disease but we are blessed that science has come to our aid with the extraordinary national vaccination programme which allows us to hope that the world will open up a little over the coming months. In Watermead we will not be able to hold our usual summer events but it is hoped that the Photographic Competition, Christmas Craft Fair and Carol Service will be able to go ahead. Next year we will, hopefully, be able to look forward to more social events.

Outdoor events this summer will include the

Open Gardens in aid of Florence Nightingale Hospice on Sunday 25th July. You are invited to open your back garden to visitors. The plan is to have a map of open gardens with visitors buying an admission ticket at the first garden they visit. All proceeds will go to Florence Nightingale. We will need to carry out a health and safety visit (of course!) to ensure everyone will be safe but last time we opened gardens it was a lovely event. Gardeners can show off their hard work as well as sell cuttings and plants for the fund and perhaps some takeaway cakes/snacks would be welcome. Please give me a call if you are interested in joining in. We have 4 gardens to date, but we need more!

The St James the Great, Bierton, Church Fete will go ahead on Saturday 26th June, probably one of the first – let's hope it can go ahead. Reverend Dan and his family, and fellow parishioners, continue to support both our food bank and individuals, wherever they are needed.

Do attend one of their events - it's a special place doing very good work and a very warm welcome is guaranteed.

Our summer front garden competition will take place as usual. As ever, Irina Schwab will judge over the same weekend as the Open Gardens so let's make sure we look our best. We will present bottles of fizz to the winning gardens.

**Annual Report of the Parish Council**

The year has been very difficult with many visitors finding Watermead, resulting in increased litter, dog fouling and the other issues caused by large numbers of people. They are welcome, but we wish they would take their litter home, pick up after their dogs, and enjoy our beautiful surroundings quietly without causing a nuisance to residents. The vastly increased footfall around the lakeside path around the large lake has resulted in the path being eroded to the point where it needs complete reinstatement. (This is a common problem in [more on page 04](#)



**Chairman:**  
Cllr Sue Severn  
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**In this issue:**

- 05 Think before you dial
- 08 Watermead Allotments
- 11 National Trust Woodland Appeal
- 12 Anyone for Bowls?
- 14 Front gardens in Watermead
- 14 How does your garden grow?
- 14 Hospice launches how to make a Will month
- 14 NOT the Midnight Walk
- 15 Through the window
- 17 A dozen ducklings go down the pub
- 17 Wildlife activity on our lakes
- 18 How can litter be dangerous to animals?
- 19 Hop to it!
- 19 Staring death in the face (mask)
- 20 Murder most horrid
- 22 Where does tea originate from?
- 24 The Watermead Pliosaur
- 25 USA state fossils
- 29 Watermead Photography Competition
- 28 Watermead Piscatorials
- 30 Can you relate?

**Plus our regular features:**

- 03 Parish Chairman's News & Annual Report
- 06 What's on
- 07 View from Westminster
- 09 Our local vicar
- 09 Tea break quiz
- 11 Summer recipes
- 13 Book Review
- 28 Sally's blog
- 31 Footsteps Pre-school



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other areas which have been used throughout the year by increased visitor numbers). The cost is considerable, but the PC is determined to get it done with the help, we hope, of a grant, or grants. Work will include a permanent crossing of the area which has flooded in recent years and become impassable for much of the winter months. We hope to have some news on this soon.

**Freedom of the Parish**

I am delighted to announce that we have appointed Dave Lang to be Freeman of the Parish of Watermead. Dave works tirelessly to ensure our environment remains clean and tidy. He collects litter every day, throughout Watermead and the road verges to the main road. It was felt that Dave's contribution is exceptional and we congratulate him on this richly-deserved honour. A small ceremony will be arranged shortly at which a member of the Lieutenancy will present the Scroll and Keys to the Village Hall (the Freedom confers on the holder the freedom of the Village Hall). Our sincere congratulations.

**Watermead volunteer army**

Watermead residents volunteered immediately they were asked to help us deliver literally thousands of meals and food parcels to families in Aylesbury and some in Watermead during lockdown. Kelvin Wong started by offering those self-isolating and elderly residents deliveries of meals and food at the beginning of the pandemic. It was quickly realised that the need was great, and our volunteers stepped up to collect donations, sort food, deliver parcels, go shopping, collect prescriptions and much more including mental health support, advice on housing, benefits, employment, law

and more. We have even collected laptops which have been refurbished and are given to children needing them to complete their school work. We can never thank everyone enough. The Army has received a number of awards recognising its achievements. A charity is now being registered and the work continues.

We are hugely grateful to all the wonderful people in our community who have donated food and continue to do so every week, and to those who collect and deliver it to our families. To date, we have delivered over 10,000 meals!

The Community Larder is now firmly established at Roman Park, next to Aylesbury Vale Parkway station. All Watermead residents are welcome to use it. Donate fresh or frozen food you don't need and/or take something that you can use. It's free, it's a great way to avoid waste, and it helps us all. No need to feel guilty about throwing away that pack of salad, vegetables, bread, fish, or meat... it can be used by someone else if your plans change or you simply don't want to eat it. Anything within date is acceptable.

**Christmas lights competition**

Watermead's Christmas lights were very impressive last year; everyone seemed to work that bit harder to create a cheerful ambience and make something lovely for people to see as they took their exercise and walked around Watermead. Cllr Irina Schwab had a challenge in choosing the winners. Many of us left our lights on until the end of lockdown.

**Summer events**

Last year there were no events other than small celebrations with limited numbers, in gardens mainly. Kelvin Wong and his team at the Watermead Inn provided cheer by offering luxury picnic takeaways for Mother's Day, VE Day and other dates in the year. These were very much enjoyed and those of us who volunteered in the delivery team certainly received much positive feedback. Thank you Kelvin.

**Front garden competition**

Irina Schwab decided we should, once again, have another friendly competition for the best front garden. Gardens were judged in July, with the winners receiving a prize.

Once again, to complement the front garden competition it would be great if everyone would ensure that their bushes and trees are cut back from the pavements and they pick up litter on pavements and in the road in front of their homes. Our own "Best Kept" village initiative.

**Recreation and Leisure**

The basket swing, kindly gifted to me by Proludic, will be installed as soon as possible once current lockdown ends. Installation will be paid for by the funds raised in 2019 by the Events Committee.

**Larks by the Lake and outdoor film night**

We were very disappointed that these events had to be cancelled, in common with so much else, but hope they will return next year.

**Photographic competition**

The ever-popular competition was held 'virtually' last year with some fantastic photography on display. We are very grateful

to Eric Rose for arranging this and to Ron Adams for stepping up to judge – another difficult task.

**Watermead Pub lunch club**

This is very much missed by those who used to attend but Mary Singleton assures me, that with Kelvin's approval, it will start as soon as possible after lockdown ends.

**Village View**

The magazine goes from strength to strength and is even glossier thanks to a new printer and to our brilliant advertisers and volunteers without whom it couldn't be delivered to everyone free. Thanks also to the great editorial team led by Mary Singleton. A wonderful team who always produce the goods. It's fantastic. Thank you all so much.

Mary welcomes contributions and articles for the View so do get in touch if you have anything for inclusion.

**Neighbourhood plan**

Our Plan is in its early stages with the first questionnaire complete and results soon to be analysed. These will inform the next stage of exploring the most popular ideas and understanding additional helpful comments made by respondents. This plan is for everyone, for the future. It is absolutely necessary to identify whether or not there are any areas of land which could be used for commercial or residential development and to use the responses to prioritise projects and create the vision for the future. The next stage also includes engaging with the many businesses and companies operating from Watermead to find out their needs and wants. It's an exciting and very important project. Please do take part in consultation and events when invited.

**Parish Councillors**

The Parish Council has sat for two additional years in the end. Planned for last year, the elections were postponed due to Covid. It has been an absolute honour for all of us to represent our community on the parish council and I have particularly enjoyed working with our councillors, past and present. I would like to personally thank each of them, on your behalf, for their service and hard work on behalf of the community. Each has brought their own

skills and areas of interest, producing events, the Village View, undertaking legal work, marketing, interest in wildlife and environment, governance and finance. Their contributions are significant.

Watermead Parish Council retains the General Power of Competence giving it the freedom to act, as any individual can, within the law, in a less restricted way, for the benefit of the whole community. We are fortunate to have a qualified Parish Clerk and to meet other obligations

to exercise the Power.

I would like to end by sincerely thanking Noreen Shardlow, Michelle Jackson, all the councillors who have sat these extra two years, and those who have left. We also owe sincere thanks to Dave Lucas, John Hillier, Darren Adamson, Wayne Samuels, who work with us, often during emergencies, to keep Watermead safe and attractive. Their work goes beyond the usual transactional relationship for which we are grateful.

As I write we have just received the results of the Parish Council elections. I want to thank everyone who voted and assure you that not only are my colleagues and I honoured at your trust but hope that we will make a real difference in the coming years, making Watermead an even better place in which to live and work.

I would like to sincerely thank you for your support and wish everyone a healthy and safe summer.

*Cllr Sue Severn, Chairman*

# Think before you dial

**Did you know that around 7,000 hours of our call handlers' time each year is spent dealing with issues that aren't police matters? Our most common misdirected calls can be found below along with who should be contacted:**

**Abandoned vehicles**

An abandoned vehicle is one that has not been moved or attended to in a long time. These can cause a nuisance or an eye sore to those living near it. Unless the vehicle appears to have been stolen or used in a crime, you should report it to Buckinghamshire Council.

**Nuisance noise**

Nuisance noise is any loud or persistent noise that causes you ongoing concern or affects your quality of life. Buckinghamshire Council should be your first contact for reporting nuisance noise as this is usually dealt with by their Environmental Health team. However, if the situation feels like it may get heated or violent as a result of the noise we will intervene.

**Fly tipping**

Fly tipping is the illegal dumping of large items of waste. It is a civil offence to fly tip and so reports should be made to Buckinghamshire Council. Reports of fly tipping in progress, with the offenders on scene should be reported to the police on 101.

**Broken down vehicles**

Unless a vehicle has broken down in a dangerous position, for example in the middle of a lane on a busy road, you should contact a breakdown or recovery service.

**Civil advice**

We can only answer questions and offer advice on issues that relate to criminal offences. Citizens Advice is dedicated to offering free advice and guidance on a range of issues such as obtaining civil orders, advice on housing and how to proceed with any civil disputes over payment, for example a poor quality refurbishment in your home.

When you do find yourself in need of contacting the police, do you know the best way to get in touch with us? 999 should only be used in emergency situations, for example when a life is in danger or a crime is happening right now. To speak to the police about anything else, you should call 101 or contact us online.

If you prefer to get in touch online go straight to the page you need:

- Report a crime,
- Report a traffic collision,
- Say thank you or make a complaint,
- Contact a specific officer,
- Contact us about something else,
- Update an existing crime report.

If you are still not sure who to speak to, the independent website Ask the Police, is full of information about what to do and who to contact about a wide range of issues.

Find more information at [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

# What's on ...around Watermead

**COVID-19 MEASURES** - From May 2021 face-to-face council meetings will resume. As there will still be the risk to attendees of COVID-19 exposure, Councils are required to conduct a risk assessment in advance of a face-to-face meeting and to give consideration to what the council can do to reduce risk to Councillors, staff and the public. We are, therefore, currently asking members of the public to attend via Zoom video conferencing.

Members of the public who wish to join the meeting will need to request attendance/link from the Parish Clerk. Please email [noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk) or call 01296 395211. If you wish to ask a question you will need to provide a copy in advance to ensure inclusion.

When conditions allow the Parish Council to resume meetings open to the public we will update the website [www.watermead-pc.gov.uk](http://www.watermead-pc.gov.uk) accordingly.

## September

18th Watermead Photography Competition Village Hall (subject to COVID)

### Our regulars in the Village Hall...

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

**Footsteps Pre-School**  
Monday - Friday 7.30am to 2pm  
Closes 12.30pm Tuesdays  
07743 871369  
[watermead@footsteps-nursery.co.uk](mailto:watermead@footsteps-nursery.co.uk)

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

**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

**Castielli Dance School (for children)** Monday 6-7.30pm  
Janet Castielli 433956  
[www.luv2dance.co.uk](http://www.luv2dance.co.uk)

**Bring Your Own Crafts Afternoon**  
Every Wednesday 2.30-5.30pm  
Judith Muston  
Noreen 01296 39511

**Are you looking for a venue?** Watermead Village Hall is the ideal venue for young children's birthday parties, meetings and christenings, etc. Or are you an organisation looking for a regular venue? If so, to book the Village Hall or the Bandstand please contact Noreen Shardlow on 01296 395211 / 792137

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## View from Westminster

**I would like to start this month by paying tribute to two people who dedicated their lives to public service and whose loss will be felt by us all.** His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh epitomised the concept of duty. He made several visits to our area both alone and with HM The Queen, always receiving a warm welcome. Thousands of local people have benefited from his charitable causes, especially his Award Scheme, which gives young people such excellent experiences.

Dame Cheryl Gillan MP worked tirelessly to support the whole of Buckinghamshire, especially in her opposition to HS2. She was a great source of advice and support to me when I was first elected and I will miss her very much.

April marked another step in England's lockdown roadmap. I'm heartened to hear how busy venues like the Watermead Inn have been, with visitors enjoying the surrounding countryside and walks around the lake. I am confident that these gradual steps out of the pandemic herald a return to normality, and that by summer we will be able to spend time with those we love both outdoors and indoors,

after so many months of restrictions. As we enjoy these new-found freedoms and make the most of Watermead's superb surroundings, it is though, vitally important that the visitors respect the area and take their rubbish home with them.

As well as letting us meet loved ones, the coming months will be important for our local economy. However, our future prosperity also requires strong infrastructure, and I recently repeated my call in the House of Commons for funding for the Aylesbury spur of East-West Rail. This link will help attract business and investment, and I'm continuing to lobby both Treasury and Transport Ministers to give the green light to a railway line that local people do want!

Robert Butler MP



## National Trust Woodlands Appeal

**There's wonder under the gold-flecked canopies of our woodlands. As well as a sanctuary for wildlife, trees clean our air and bring balance to our fragile landscape. Donate today and keep our woodlands breathing.** With HS2 and East West Rail removing many trees and scrubland it is important that these are replaced. Ideally more trees, especially broadleaf trees should be planted. The National Trust has launched their Woodlands Appeal at [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/appeal/woodlands-appeal](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/appeal/woodlands-appeal). They are looking for members of the public to make donations so that the planting of trees can be properly funded. You can donate at the website given above. They state that a £5 donation 'can help us plant and protect a native broadleaf tree sapling'. You can therefore guess

how much they need donating to reach their target.

So why is this important? The website does give information about this. We know that trees can act as a 'Carbon Sink' taking harmful CO2 from the atmosphere. John Deakin, Head of Trees and Woodland states that: "A single tree will remove pollutants from the atmosphere and provide a home for millions of birds, insects and mammals. So just imagine what 20 million new trees could do for the environment, native wildlife and our wellbeing."

So, donate, or plant a tree yourself to help the environment and make society a better place. And don't forget trees can enhance the visual impact of where you live and can aid your well-being.



Ronnie couldn't resist being centre stage in my photo of bluebells in the trees along the spine road into Watermead. Such a diva!

# Watermead Allotments

**F**irstly, a warm welcome to new plot-holders. I hope you have a very fruitful year. Remember if in doubt about what to plant or how, ask a neighbour or me on plot 13. The soil varies across the site so advice could be valuable. Most plot holders are more than happy to share their experiences.

The sunshine has greatly helped those of us able to make a start tidying up our plots. In my mind there is nothing better on a warm spring day than working to a backdrop of birds singing and bees buzzing. In the past I have been surprised by foxes strolling past and even on one occasion a deer. It is so peaceful here.

High water levels have caused access problems during the deep winter months but the site is now drying out. The Parish Clerk has, therefore, given us permission to drive onto the site.

Like other charities we have not been holding public meetings because of Covid but the committee has continued to meet, socially distanced of course. At this time of the year, we should be holding our AGM but we have put it off until September

when the winners of the "Best Allotment" competition can be presented with their prizes. The competition is open to any plot-holder except last year's winner. The Chairman of the Aylesbury Gardening Society has again agreed to be our judge. The judging criteria will be put up on the site notice-board in May. Judging will be sometime in July. Ten easy points can be gained just for putting the plot number in a prominent place. Last year just doing that may have won the competition for a number of people! So, good luck to all.

As I write this the site is looking good with daffodils, forget-me-nots and fruit blossom providing a colourful backdrop. Some plot holders are already picking produce such as asparagus.

There is a waiting list for plots due to the high demand, but there is natural turnover so I would thoroughly recommend putting your name on the list if you are interested in "growing your own" as it is a worthwhile hobby. It keeps you fit and provides plenty of fresh young vegetables for the table. What's

not to like? I would like to thank those people who gave me surplus plants or seeds last year. My wife, Lisa, and I are still eating frozen vegetables out of our freezer.

Watermead is a great place to live and I for one am grateful to the Parish Council for trying to make the public spaces so appealing. Despite the large number of people visiting, they are largely litter-free thanks to a few volunteers who pick up litter on a regular basis. This plus the location, wildlife, and opportunities offered are of great benefit in these strange times.

*Peter Smith  
Chairman of the Watermead Gardening Society*

*Top left: Brassicas growing in my plot. Can you spot our little dog, Misty, in the background?*

*Top middle: Old pallets provide wood to edge raised planting areas.*

*Top right: We hope these upside down bottles shaking in the wind will deter the birds.*

*Bottom left: There are tulips growing on the left of young plants under protection.*

*Bottom middle: Garlic and rhubarb being grown on this plot.*

*Bottom right: The first picking of asparagus. Lovely with hollandaise sauce for lunch!*

## Our local Vicar

**Since starting as the Vicar of the Parish in December 2019, I feel that I can actually start my role properly after all of the restrictions have been lifted.**

I have had the opportunity to attend the Carol Service during my first Christmas and the Act of Remembrance last year, but since then, with all of the restrictions that we have been living through, it has been very difficult to fully immerse myself in the role that I am called to do.

We are as a church discerning what the future looks like in our parish and how we can grow our relationship and presence in each area of our parish, which is really exciting. I can't wait to get to know more people in Watermead and Watermead itself and for more people to get to know God and our wonderful church family.

So over the coming years I hope that both myself and all those that worship at St James will come to know you better and for the church and the parish council to work together for Watermead.

*Many blessings, Revd. Dan Beesley, Interim Priest-in-Charge of Berton and Hulcott  
www.stjamesbertonandhulcott.com, Christian YouTuber @ bit.ly/2143bpi*

Our services: 9am – Parish Eucharist, 10:30am – Connect (Contemporary Worship)  
Events: First Sunday of the month at 10am – Coffee Morning  
26th June at 12pm – Summer Fete, 25th July at 2pm – Teddies From The Tower



## Tea Break Quiz



1. Which company took over Rover in 1994?
2. In 1928 what became the minimum age at which a woman could vote?
3. Whose clothes shop Bazaar was a trendsetter in the 60s?
4. The DPP is the Director of Public what?
5. Until his death in 1969 Brian Jones was in which pop band?
6. Which race course is at Esher?
7. Crick, Watson and Wilkins determined the structure of what?
8. Which Prime Minister replaced Anthony Eden?
9. Which item of clothing cost Isadora Duncan her life?
10. Who wrote the children's classic The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe?
11. In which country was Hitler born?
12. Which Latin phrase means 'in place of a parent'?
13. What is mineral water mixed with quinine called?
14. In Pride and Prejudice who does Elizabeth finally marry?
15. What describes descending a sheer face by sliding down a rope?
16. Pumpkin Pie is a traditional dessert on which special American day?
17. Which family made typewriters and invented the breech-loading rifle?
18. Which dog's name comes from the Welsh for 'dwarf dog'?
19. Which prize for fiction was instigated in 1969?
20. Who made history in 1982 by going to an Anglican service in Canterbury Cathedral?

Answers on page 11

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# Summer Recipes

All these recipes are taken from Delia Smith's Summer Collection.

## Fried Halloumi Cheese with Lime and Capers Vinaigrette

### Ingredients

- 1 halloumi cheese
- 2 tbsp well-seasoned flour
- 2 tbsp olive oil

### For the dressing:

- Juice and zest of 1 lime
- 1 tbsp white wine vinegar
- 1 heaped tbsp capers, drained
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- 1 heaped tsp grain mustard
- 1 heaped tbsp chopped fresh coriander leaves
- 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- Salt and freshly milled black pepper

A few sprigs of coriander to garnish

### Method

1. Unwrap the cheese and pat it dry with kitchen paper.
2. Using a sharp knife slice it into 8 slices including the ends.
3. Prepare the dressing by whisking all the ingredients together in a small mixing bowl.
4. Heat the oil in a frying pan over a medium heat. When oil is hot press each slice of cheese into the seasoned flour to coat it on both sides; then add them to the hot pan as they are done – they take 1 minute each side to cook so by the time the last one's in it will be almost time to turn the first one over. They need to be a good golden colour on each side.
5. Serve straight away on warmed plates with the dressing poured over.
6. This is good served with lightly toasted pitta bread or Greek bread with toasted sesame seeds.

## Californian Grilled Fish

### Ingredients

- 2 fish fillets (cod, hake, whiting, plaice, sole – anything you like!) each weighing about 7 oz (200g).
- 2 tbsp Quick Coriander and Lime Tartare Sauce (see below)
- Grated zest of 1 lime
- 3 tbsp grated cheddar cheese
- 2 tbsp white or brown breadcrumbs
- 1 dessertspoon chopped fresh coriander
- Pinch of cayenne pepper
- ½ oz (10g) butter
- Salt and freshly milled black pepper

You will also need a grill pan lined with foil smeared with a trace of butter and preheat grill to its highest setting.

### Method

1. Wipe the fish fillets with kitchen paper to get them as dry as possible, then place them in the foil-lined grill pan.
2. Season with salt and pepper and spread the tartare sauce all over the surfaces of the fish.
3. In a bowl mix together breadcrumbs, cheese, coriander, cayenne and lime zest and sprinkle over the fish as evenly as possible. Dot with a little butter.
4. Place the grill pan as far from the heat as possible and grill the fish for 10-15 minutes depending on its thickness – it should be just cooked through and the top should be crispy and golden.
5. Serve with tiny new potatoes tossed in chives and lemon juice, and a plain lettuce salad.

## Quick Coriander and Lime Tartare Sauce

### Ingredients

- 1 large egg
- 6 fl oz (170ml) light olive oil
- 1 small clove garlic, peeled
- 1 dessertspoon fresh lime juice
- 1 heaped tbsp small capers, drained
- 3 large or 4 small cornichons (continental gherkins), finely chopped
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh coriander
- ½ tsp mustard powder
- ½ tsp salt
- Freshly milled black pepper

### Method

- Tartare sauce has a mayonnaise base which, in this case, is made by the quick method ie using a whole egg and a food processor or blender.
1. Break the egg into the bowl of the processor. Add salt, pepper, garlic and mustard powder, then switch on the motor and, through the feeding tube, add the oil in a thin, steady trickle, pouring it as slowly as you can (which even then will take only about 2 minutes).
  2. When the oil is in and the sauce has thickened, transfer it to a bowl using a rubber spatula and add all the other ingredients.
  3. Taste to check the seasoning before serving.
  4. This sauce will keep in a screw-top jar in the refrigerator for up to a week. Serve with any plain grilled fish or with fish cakes.

## Hot Fudge Sundae

Serves 6

### Ingredients

18 scoops of Vanilla Ice Cream

### For the Fudge Sauce:

- 1 x 170g tin of evaporated milk
- 7 oz (225g) good quality plain chocolate

### For the topping:

- 2oz (75g) mixed nuts (pecans, brazils, almonds, peanuts, hazelnuts on their own or in combination) coarsely chopped and lightly toasted
- 6 dessertspoons whipping cream or crème fraiche.

NB The sauce can be made at any stage and kept covered in the fridge, then reheated.

### Method

1. Pour evaporated milk into a small basin.
2. Break the chocolate into small squares and add to the milk.
3. Place the basin on a saucepan of barely simmering water and leave it to melt stirring from time to time. It will take about 10 minutes to become a lovely fudge mass.
4. To serve the sundaes, put 3 scoops of very firm, cold ice cream per person into tall glasses, followed by 3 dessertspoons of hot fudge sauce, followed by 1 dessertspoon whipped cream or crème fraiche. Finally sprinkle over some chopped nuts and serve immediately.

## Answers to Tea Break Quiz on page 09

1. BMW, 2. 21, 3. Mary Quant, 4. Prosecutions, 5. The Rolling Stones, 6. Sandown, 7. DNA, 8. Harold Macmillan, 9. Her scarf – it got caught in a moving car wheel, 10. C.S. Lewis, 11. Austria, 12. In loco parentis, 13. Tonic water, 14. Mr Darcy, 15. Absenting, 16. Thanksgiving Day, 17. Remington, 18. Corgi, 19. The Booker Prize, 20. The Pope

# Anyone for Bowls?

**If you want to get outside and enjoy good company, have you thought about Bowls?** With all the restrictions we have been under over the last months, bowls is an excellent sport to enjoy the outdoors and meet new friends. In line with Covid guidelines we have started playing again and are open to all who are interested in having a go.

The club is located in the grounds of Waddesdon Manor and we have excellent facilities with a 7 rink grass bowls green, a well-appointed clubhouse with a licenced bar and a large private car park. The setting is fabulous and there are few things more relaxing than a summer's evening in this beautiful setting.

Bowls is sport for all ages and abilities and we have recently invested in facilities and equipment to make the club disabled friendly. We recently hosted Disabled Bowls England for one of their Commonwealth games selection trials.

So, if you would like to try the game, pop over from 6pm on a Tuesday evening or come to our open day on Bank Holiday Monday 31st May from 2 pm. We have a selection of bowls you can borrow and just wear loose clothing and flat soled shoes (trainers are fine).

If you would like further information, then visit our website [www.waddesdonbowlsclub.co.uk](http://www.waddesdonbowlsclub.co.uk)



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# Book review

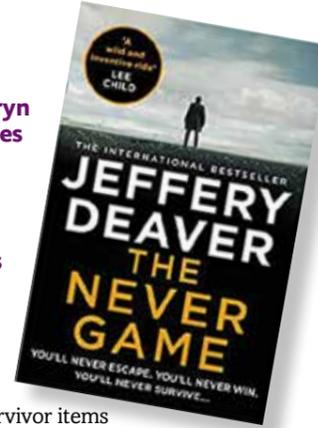
## The Never Game by Jeffery Deaver

**A**fter Lincoln Rhyme and Kathryn Dance, Jeffery Deaver launches a new series centred on Colter Shaw, a freelance investigator of Missing Person cases. I immediately pictured Lorenzo Lamas on his Harley in the 1990s TV series Renegade! Shaw doesn't like to be called a bounty hunter but the reward money is what draws him in. Here he investigates a trio of abductions in which the victims are put in deadly peril with a handful of survivor items similar to those supplied to avatars in video games. Since the location is California's zillionaire Silicon Valley, the link to producers of online gaming proves to be the key to unravelling the mystery.

This clearly is a Book for Our Time when too many of our kids (and some of us) are obsessed with video games. The story has great pace, moments of terrific tension, a few crafty red herrings and then a whole series of final resolutions.

There's a romantic element that fails to catch fire. And I didn't entirely warm to the crisp new style Deaver develops for this new series. Very short sentences. But these can have an impact of their own: "Her nature was clothed in kindness. Underneath was iron." An up-to-the-minute thriller about the dangers that lurk in a certain kind of game for a certain kind of gamer, this is sure to win Jeffery Deaver some new fans.

David Gee  
[www.davidgeebooks.com](http://www.davidgeebooks.com)



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## Front gardens in Watermead

**F**or the past few years we have been awarding prizes to residents of Watermead who have excelled in cultivating attractive front gardens.

This was inspired by the annual county competitions in the UK for the best kept village. Gardens are judged on tidiness, appropriateness, and typicality. The competitions have been nationally organized by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) since the early 1970s.

As mentioned in our Chairman's report, judging will take place during the weekend of 24/25 July. The judges generally have a very difficult job in deciding who to award the overall winner as there are so many different styles – traditional, cottage garden, rockeries, minimal, etc.

We invite you to nominate either your own garden or someone else's garden for consideration for a prize. To do so email the Parish Clerk at [Noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk) or write her a note and put it through the door of the village hall in the Piazza (between the dentist and Avanti Hairdresser). There will be a first prize of a garden voucher and runners up will receive a bottle of champagne.

*Irina Schwab*

## Hospice launches make a Will month

**F**lorence Nightingale Hospice Charity's Make A Will Month' is back for 2021, with more local solicitors supporting the initiative, so you can now make or update your will and support local hospice care at the same time.

Throughout June, BWK Solicitors in Aylesbury and Spratt Endicott Solicitors in Buckingham are offering Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity supporters the opportunity to write a new Will, or update a current Will, at no charge. Instead, people will be encouraged to make a donation to the Charity in lieu of the usual charges – all the solicitors are donating their time and advice to the Charity for free.

A Will may just be a few sides of paper – but it enables you to say what happens to everything that you own after you have died. If your children are under 18, it can also ensure that they are properly cared for. Without a legal Will, your wishes are unprotected and the law decides how your money, possessions and property are divided.

If your personal circumstances have changed recently through, for example, a birth, marriage, divorce or death then you should review any current Will. Having a Will can also reduce the amount of Inheritance Tax payable on your estate. It's a tricky subject as no one likes to think about their own death but time spent now making a Will keeps you in control of your assets and makes the administration around your death much quicker and easier for your relatives or executors during what could be a difficult time for them.

There are a limited number of appointments available, so please do make contact now to secure your June meeting date.

## How does your garden grow?

**W**ould you like to be part of a fantastic and floral new fundraising initiative for Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity?

Being confined to our homes for much of the last year, we know that lots of you have turned to your gardens, as a lockdown project, into a haven of peace and safety away from Covid-19. With restrictions relaxing would you be willing to share and show off your hard work and help raise funds for the Hospice in our season of Open Gardens?

So whether your garden is small or large, urban or rural, traditional or modern, how about showing it off to the residents of Watermead on the afternoon of Sunday 25th July this summer. You could also sell plants you've grown from seed or cuttings to help raise much needed funds for our Hospice.

To register your interest or for further information please contact the Parish Clerk at [noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk)



**I**n 2020 over 800 Walkers rose to the challenge of a dawn walk and raised over £100,000 for local hospice care. With the uncertainty of the next few months, NOT the Midnight Walk will be back this summer.

So, set your alarm clocks along with hundreds of others on Saturday 10th July and join us (virtually) for a dawn walk to raise crucial funds to support your Hospice.

This year Walkers are again being asked to walk a minimum of 5 miles starting at 5am on Saturday 10th July. The event is open to all, whatever your age and wherever you are in the world – last year saw lots of children (and dogs) take part so this year we are offering children's T-shirts and dog bandanas so everyone can be part of Team FNHC.

The Midnight Walk is a long-standing and major fundraiser for the Charity, and with our income hit so badly over the past 12 months, we really hope our community will get behind us by signing up to this year's virtual event and help us to raise the thousands of pounds we need to help secure the future of local hospice care.

More information about the event can be found at [www.fnhospice.org.uk/events/notthemidnightwalk2021](http://www.fnhospice.org.uk/events/notthemidnightwalk2021)

## Through the window



**T**he majority of us have never, and hopefully will not ever again, experience such a pandemic that has impacted on so many people's lives across the world.

On 23rd March 2020 the letter I had been dreading arrived through my letterbox. I was considered to be in the extremely vulnerable group and advised to "stay at home". I was unable to work and was confined to my home and garden. My partner continued to work at a local livery yard as it fell into the essential category.

I contacted a neighbour, Dave Lucas, who arrived at my kitchen window and I passed him a mug of coffee through the window. From that day forward Dave continued to visit me in the morning for a 'through the window coffee' and a 'beer through the window' in the evening. As the days passed Dave continued to visit my window twice daily. He would also collect any medication I needed and any essential shopping.

"Imagine if this happened in the winter" we would say. We believed like so many it would all be over in a couple of months and we could return to normality. We listened to the birds. The quietness was unreal, apart from the occasional essential vehicle driving into Waterlily.

Like so many we clapped for the NHS every week whilst maintaining our social distance. VE Day celebrations brought us all together. Our street party included Bingo and a quiz. Only one person could possibly be behind the microphone, Quizmaster Dave. His humour and wit was uplifting and we all had a splendid day. Dave had adapted his wheelbarrow so he could deliver the prizes to the winners at a safe distance.

Dave is a very good cook and at times he watched through the window whilst I prepared the evening meal. For even the most basic meals Dave would suggest that I added this or that to enhance the flavours. "How much" I would ask? "I don't know" he would reply. "Just keep adding it until it tastes good". He wasn't wrong. It became a theme and we named it "Recipes through the window".

As the months passed by I was finding it more and more difficult to cope with the isolation. With the help from Dave

and the support of our local Parish Council I was able to do odd jobs around Watermead and Berryfields. Alas, Tier 4 hit us and I was again advised to stay at home. Dave continued to visit me. Winter came and Christmas was cancelled. Both Alison and I were grateful for the plate of Christmas dinner that arrived at the window, beautifully prepared and presented by Dave. Residents walked past the house and would often stop and talk to Dave and acknowledge me 'through the window'. It became a regular habit and lifted our spirits.

One of our saddest moments was when Dave had to say goodbye to his most loyal, trusting and closest friend, Anderson. Dave grieved in private but continued to visit me daily. No other dog could ever replace Anderson but we have his daughter, Lumley. She is similar in shape and has some, but not all, of her father's traits.

On 23rd March 2021, one year on, Dave and I raised a glass to our friendship. I displayed a banner attached to my house to reflect this and invited a neighbour to write a message to pin on the banner. Many people have been affected in so many different ways by this pandemic, some life changing; I am hugely grateful to my partner, Alison, and of course to my loyal friend Dave Lucas for supporting me through this past year. I hope that some of you have found a Dave too.

*John Hillier*



# A dozen ducklings go down to the pub

**I**t's that time of year when one Duck attracts the attention of several excitable Mallard Drakes as they come waddling down our avenues, flapping around our driveways, and running around our gardens after this year's lucky (?) winner! Thus it was for us, in our twenty eighth year living in Watermead, and it has become such a regular occurrence that our cat now just yawns and moves on. However this year has turned out to be very different. This time lovely Mrs. Ducky stayed behind, took a fancy to the old fern bush underneath our garden tap and settled in to produce a stunning clutch of sky blue eggs. Over the course of the next month she diligently sat there through freezing nights, rain and sleet, occasionally going off to feed (when we quickly counted eleven eggs), always accompanied on her return to the nest by at least one Drake bodyguard who checked

that the coast was clear before leaving her to waddle back to her nest. One month later at around 5am we woke to the sound of quacking and cheeping. We both ran to the bedroom window to discover TWELVE ducklings, which someone on facebook thought was a new record for Watermead. All appointments planned for that morning were cancelled. Dressed in hi-viz yellow waistcoats, we took on our new duck chaperoning responsibilities and shepherded the new family out of our garden, down our cul-de-sac, across two main roads, over the car park, past the pub and into the water. It was a real joy and a privilege to have played a small part in their magical little story, and I do hope the family are now thriving and enjoying our beautiful lakes. We are so lucky to be here!

*Phil and Dot Toler*



*Bottom middle: Easter Sunday at the Coots nest on the small lake taken by Damon Mitchell.*

*Bottom right: A struggle between a cormorant and a rather large Tench taken by John Mallaney, at Watermead's small lake on 6th April 2021. The struggle lasted nearly 6 minutes until the cormorant was in a position to dispatch the Tench down its throat.*

*Middle right: John also photographed this Great Crested Grebe with a Tench the following week.*

*Top left: Red Kite taking advantage of a newly ploughed field. Phil Toler*

*Middle left: Grebe with chicks, John Mallaney*

*Second down, right: On Monday 26th April Libby and Eric Rose saw a Mallard couple with their 7 chicks just beyond the Jetty (coming from the balloon meadow walking clockwise round the*

*Lake). On Thursday morning they saw the same family sadly reduced to 4 ducklings. Photo taken by Eric Rose.*

*Bottom left: Eric and Libby saw this Song Thrush while out walking on Thursday 29th April. They also saw a young Muntjac male just a few feet from the path as they came out of the Kestrel Way alleyway. Sadly Eric was not quick enough to catch it on camera.*

*Top right: This Shelduck was snapped by Eric Rose during the first weekend of May. Uncommon visitors to Watermead, there was a group of four Shelduck on the main lake.*

*The editor saw a Mallard family of 2 chicks in the feeder stream at the top of the big lake on Thursday 29th April.*



## Wildlife activity on our lakes



# How can litter be dangerous to animals?

The RSPCA receive around 5,000 calls a year regarding litter. Unfortunately our wildlife are the main victims when it comes to people's rubbish - particularly wild birds. On average 14 calls a day are received about animals affected by litter and these calls spike in the summer months. And, as pet owners go directly to vets, and many injured wild animals are never found, it's estimated that the actual figure of animals injured by litter is much higher than we currently know. Everyday objects that seem perfectly safe can sadly become hazardous when found accidentally by animals. By disposing our rubbish safely instead of littering we are making choices that could save many lives. Protecting animals from harmful rubbish is easy. Dispose of your rubbish responsibly by recycling, reusing or simply putting it in the bin!

## Plastic bags

Animals can climb inside plastic bags and suffocate, or attempt to eat them and choke. Simply tying a knot in the top of plastic bags before recycling can help prevent deaths.

## Plastic can holders

Animals can also get entangled in plastic can holders and suffer deep wounds or even choke. Help prevent suffering by always cutting the loops before recycling.

## Balloons

While a nice touch at a party, many animals can actually try to eat balloons and then choke or become impacted by discarded decorations. You can help protect animals by cutting up balloons before putting them safely into your bin. It's really that simple!

Oh, and balloon releases are also very threatening to wildlife; always deflate and bin once the party's over. Sadly even balloons marked as degradable may take a number of weeks to degrade, yet it only takes a second for an animal to swallow a balloon.

## Chinese lanterns

Chinese lanterns, also known as sky lanterns, can also seriously injure animals through ingestion, entanglement and entrapment.

## Containers and cans

Animals looking for food can get trapped in cans or injured by sharp edges. To help prevent harm to animals, clean and empty containers after use and pinch cans shut or cut containers in half before recycling whenever possible.

## Elastic bands

Elastic bands, although seemingly harmless can in fact wrap around small animals and the beaks of birds. If swallowed they can also cause choking. By reusing bands where possible or cutting them open before putting in a bin, you can really help prevent harm to animals.

## Fishing tackle

Fishing litter is responsible for the injury of thousands of wild animals every year with animals getting entangled in line and hooks which can pierce skin or be swallowed. By fishing responsibly, you can avoid accidental harm to the local wildlife and environment.

## Glass

Broken glass can also cause serious injury and animals can sometimes get trapped in jars. Be sure to clean and recycle glass to help prevent injuries and avoid unnecessary harm.

Find lots more information at [www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/litter](http://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/litter)



This is a bin bag, it's a very clever piece of kit, it can fold or roll down very small, small enough to even go in a pocket!

Then it can make itself very BIG! Big enough to hold all the rubbish that is left after your picnic.

It really likes to be taken back home when it's full and to be placed in YOUR bin.

Why not join forces with this clever bin bag and keep our beautiful parks and countryside clean and tidy.

Have respect for your surroundings, other people, children and wildlife!!



# Hop to it!

There are many things that can cause rabbits to limp. Rabbits instinctively hide pain to protect themselves, so if you notice your bunny limping, you should contact your vet straight away.

## Reasons why a rabbit might be limping:

**Broken bones** – Rabbits have very fragile bones that can break easily.

**Arthritis** – This is a very common condition, mostly found in older rabbits, that causes stiff, painful and swollen joints.

**Wounds and injuries** – Wounds, sprains, strains and bruising all cause pain and are likely to make a rabbit limp.

**Spinal injuries** – Particularly common if a rabbit is dropped or jumps from a height.

**Bumble foot** – Also known as pododermatitis, Bumble foot is an extremely painful infection that causes painful, swollen, crusty foot-pads.

**Dislocated joints** – if a bone comes out of its socket (such as a hip bone) it will be

extremely painful and will often prevent the leg being used.

**Obesity** – If a rabbit is overweight they will have extra stress put on their joints which can lead to stiffness and pain.

**Lumps** – A rabbit is likely to develop a limp if they have a lump that is big enough to prevent them from moving around properly, or that grows in a painful place.

Contact your vet immediately if you notice your rabbit limping or not moving normally. It's especially important to see a vet quickly if they have also stopped eating.

This article is provided courtesy of the PDSA Charity. If you would like to help this charity see [www.pdsa.org.uk/how-you-can-help](http://www.pdsa.org.uk/how-you-can-help)



# Staring death in the face (mask)

When Ralph the Cocker Spaniel swallowed a face mask at his home in Liverpool, the poorly pooch needed emergency surgery to remove the blockage in his intestines. His owner, Julie, noticed her pooch had been sick overnight but wasn't too concerned at first. However, when Ralph couldn't keep water down and refused his favourite treat, she knew something was seriously wrong and took him to her local PDSA Pet Hospital.

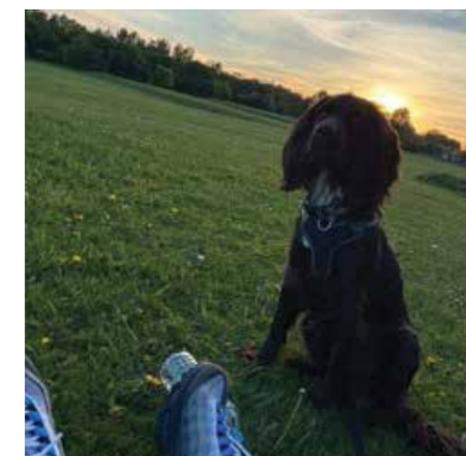
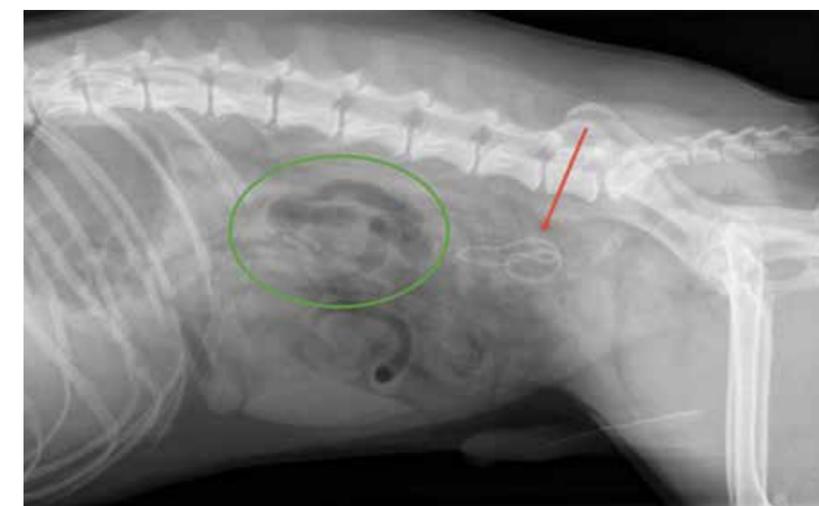
Vet, Lizzie, said. "We examined Ralph and could feel something in his tummy. With his other symptoms we immediately suspected he'd eaten something he shouldn't have. An x-ray confirmed that there was some kind of blockage in his intestines which can quickly become fatal. So we took him straight into emergency surgery."

Julie was incredibly relieved to get the call that Ralph was out of surgery and he had woken up and was recovering well. Though she was very surprised to hear he had eaten a face mask!

"We think he must have stolen it from my daughter's bag in the night. He always had a liking for socks and sometimes knickers too, so we always keep things like that well away from him. We never thought he'd actually eat a face mask!"

So be warned - be careful with face masks and avoid leaving them lying around. Ralph is living proof that pets could eat them and suffer serious consequences.

This article is provided courtesy of the PDSA Charity. See further information on the wonderful work they do and for more pet health tips and advice visit their website [pdsa.org.uk](http://pdsa.org.uk).



# Murder Most Horrid



**Murder is something that most of us cannot begin to imagine doing. Nevertheless we are fascinated by it if the popularity of TV programmes and books about it are anything to go by.**

**The following are some examples from the past.**

Today, we are lucky to have a professional police force, forensic scientists, psychologists and criminologists all playing a part in solving murders and other crimes. The Buckinghamshire Constabulary was established in 1857 and, after some restructuring, became the Thames Valley Police force in 1968.

The death sentence for murder in the UK was abolished in 1965.

There has been a prison in Aylesbury since the Middle Ages. In 1720 a new County Hall and prison was built. It was used as a County Court and place of execution. It was condemned in 1847 and a new one built on Bierton Hill. The site is now used for young offenders.

Children who committed crimes were treated as adults and were often sent to prison for stealing quite small items. After 1858 they were sent to Reformatories. Children were sometimes whipped but not sentenced to death.

Although the death penalty existed, it was rarely carried out in Buckinghamshire. However, on 28 November 1845 John Tawall was hanged for the murder of his lover, Sarah Hart, who had two children by him. He poisoned her with Prussic Acid. An estimated 10,000 people attended his public execution. He was hanged from the balcony of the then County Hall, now the Courthouse in Market Square, Aylesbury.

At some time during the 17th century a Mr and Mrs Jarman ran the Ostrich Inn at Colnbrook.

Colnbrook was then on the main road to London and some eminent people are reported to have stayed there including Prince Rupert in the Civil War. There was a room let to rich guests known as the Blue Room. The rich guest would be accommodated there and, during the night, a trap door would be released and the victim would fall into boiling water. The Jarmans would then relieve him of his valuables and dispose of his body in the river.

Their final victim, Thomas Cole, was to prove their undoing. He met his end like the others but after the stable door had been left open, Cole's horse escaped and was found wandering. When Cole's body was found, it was revealed that he had been staying at the Inn. The Jarmans confessed and were hanged for their crimes.

At about two or three pm on Saturday, 25th October 1828, the tall, stout figure of William Edden, a man of about 70 years old, was seen in Walton Street, Aylesbury. He was a market gardener from Thame. He and his son took their produce to Aylesbury market. He was seen in the Ship Inn at about 3 pm and said he had a £20 note on him (equivalent to £1,500 today).

Thomas Bass. Being tipsy, he asked Bass if he would go with him to help guide his horse and cart. Between 7 and 8 pm William King and his son saw a cart on the road to Thame, without a horse. They met some men and told them to be careful as there was a man lying in the road and not to run over him. Henry Taylor also saw the man in the road and asked him who he was and, receiving no answer, road on fearing a trap. He also saw two men with a cart which was about a half a mile away. When he got home he and his servant, armed with pistols and Taylor a sword, returned to the scene and ascertained the man was dead.

When they arrived at Haddenham, they called upon Mr. Parish, proprietor of the Green Dragon who went and fetched a constable. On 27th October two surgeons examined the body. There was a slight abrasion on his right side and two of his ribs were broken. They concluded the victim had received a great blow and that Edden had died 10 minutes or so after the assault. It was thought that someone had killed him by kicking or stamping on him. Some thought he had been run over by a cart.

However, in 1823, it was found that Benjamin Colleen had stolen 8 sovereigns from Edden and he was hanged for the crime. Another man had previously attempted to rob Edden. This time, Edden's body had only two half crowns on it, so the motive was not robbery. Edden was a bit of a liar, so no one believed he did have £20 on him. A reward of £50, (an annual wage for many men), was offered to anyone with information. No one came forward, so the murder, if that's what it was, went unsolved.

On 13th January 1921 three women were on the jury in Aylesbury at the trial of George Arthur Bailey. Women had only been allowed to sit on juries since the previous year. Bailey was charged with poisoning his wife, Kate, in late September 1920. There was also the charge of attempting to rape a female lodger, Lilian Marks, to whom he had offered musical training. Bailey, known as the Musical or Whistling Milkman, had a lengthy criminal record and had various aliases.

He claimed his wife had committed suicide even though he had purchased the Prussic acid and their home in Little Marlow was found to contain numerous drugs and toxins. Kate was eight months pregnant when she was murdered. George had put their three-year old in bed with his deceased wife and repeatedly attempted to enter the bed of Lillian Marks in order to rape her. Bailey was convicted and hanged in Oxford jail on 2nd March 1921.

The cottage where the couple lived has been used as a location in Midsommer Murders and The Inspector Lynley Mysteries.

Valerie Edwards



Top: County Hall with a prison behind it fronting the Market Square. It was used as the County Court (called Quarter Sessions because they were held four times a year) and prisoners were brought and tried there. Public hangings took place from the drop at the large Middle window on the first floor.  
Below: Children were imprisoned too and treated like the adults were.

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# Where does Tea originate from?

The majority of us will have enjoyed a cup of tea today, but have we stopped to think about where tea comes from? Did you know that all tea originates from one plant, *Camellia sinensis*. All black and green teas are related. What differentiates them is:

- The variety of this species
- The environment in which the plant grows
- When it is picked
- How it is processed
- The grade of tea

The UK is full of tea drinkers, however, our climate is not ideal for growing this plant. A recent enterprise means tea is now being grown in Scotland, but it is early days. We remain largely reliant on growers in India, China, Sri Lanka, Kenya and Japan to maintain our supplies. The mountainous regions of these countries provide the light, acidic, free-draining soils and moist, tropical climates that result in a reliable crop.

## Tea varieties

We all have a favourite brew, but according to the UK Tea and Infusions Association there are around 1,500 varieties. Are we right to stick with what we know or is it time to be a little more adventurous?

English Breakfast is a popular choice, with Assam, Darjeeling, Earl Grey and Green tea being familiar alternatives. Through our articles and tea tasting experiences, we may help you to discover new favourites.

## Tea oxidation

After picking, the leaves are oxidised – minimal for green tea, partial oxidation for white and Oolong tea and full oxidation for black tea.

The oxidation process creates a deeper, rich flavour, but also reduces the concentration of naturally-occurring antioxidants. Globally, black tea is the most popular for taste, whilst green tea has greater health benefits. Which do you prefer?

## The origins of the word 'tea'

China was the first nation to cultivate *Camellia sinensis*, the tea plant. The green, unprocessed leaves have a bitter taste and the drink was named 'tu' meaning bitter vegetable.

In Mandarin, 'cha' is the word for tea. The story is that when the scholar Lu Yu wrote *Cha Jing* (The Classic of Tea) in 760 BC, he missed a cross stroke from the character 'tu'. This created the word 'cha'.

In India, most dialects use a variation of 'cha' (often the Hindi word 'chai'), following the Mandarin pronunciation which carried from China's Yunnan province, via Persia (where it was altered to 'chay'), to India! Chai is used across India to this day.

In Britain, we say tea. This goes back to the Fujian province of China, where the local dialect meant that the 'tu' symbol was pronounced 'te'. When the Dutch started shipping tea from China to Europe, this was the word used.

## Orthodox tea and CTC tea

If you are interested in learning more about tea, you may come across the phrases 'orthodox tea' and 'CTC tea', but what does this mean?

Orthodox tea is picked and rolled by hand following the century's old tea traditions. These extract the full flavour of the tea. CTC – Crush, Tear, Curl, is a faster method of tea production where specialist tea processing machines undertake much of the work. We are an orthodox tea supplier.

Whether CTC or broken orthodox tea, the process of breaking the leaves increases the surface area that will be exposed to the hot water during the brewing process. This,

along with rolling or curling the leaves helps to maximise the release of the flavours.

We favour orthodox teas, for several reasons. Firstly, they are the highest quality option. The traditional processes also provide work for rural communities in tea-growing regions. It is important to us that we are an ethical tea supplier, so we value traceability. We source from plantations that provide fair working conditions, pay and sustainable practices.

## Loose leaf teas

Our selection of loose leaf teas contains whole or broken tea leaves. They are categorised into straight teas and tea blends. Straight teas are pure leaves, sourced from a specific region and include our Assam, Darjeeling and Sencha. Our speciality tea blends are a recipe of straight teas, combined with other teas, herbs, spices and edible flowers.

If you are new to loose leaf, you will need a tea strainer to prevent the leaves from ending up in your teacup. If you are unsure about which flavours will appeal to your tastebuds, keep an eye out for our tea-tasting sessions and tea experiences.

Our smallest bags contain 50g of quality loose leaf tea - which would you like to try?

*Poonam Gupta, Holy Cow Home, Aylesbury*

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*Images by Eric Rose*



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# The Watermead Pliosaur

## A HISTORY OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE IN TWELVE OBJECTS

**I**n the summer of 1987 local geologist Michael Oates spotted some large fossil bone fragments during excavation work on the new Watermead housing development on the northern edge of Aylesbury. They were sticking out of a two-metre deep trench in an area due to become an artificial ski slope. Realising the size and significance of the find, he alerted the Buckinghamshire County Museum, and the County Archaeologist, Mike Farley, quickly responded. A small team of diggers from the 'Aylesbury Past and Present' project spent three days at the end of a hot June excavating and recording the position of the bones.

They found around 80 bones from a 152-million-year-old pliosaur, a top predator of the Jurassic seas. While other prehistoric marine reptiles - such as plesiosaurs and ichthyosaurs - fed on the smaller belemnites, ammonites and fish, pliosaurs were higher up the food chain: they fed on the plesiosaurs and ichthyosaurs.

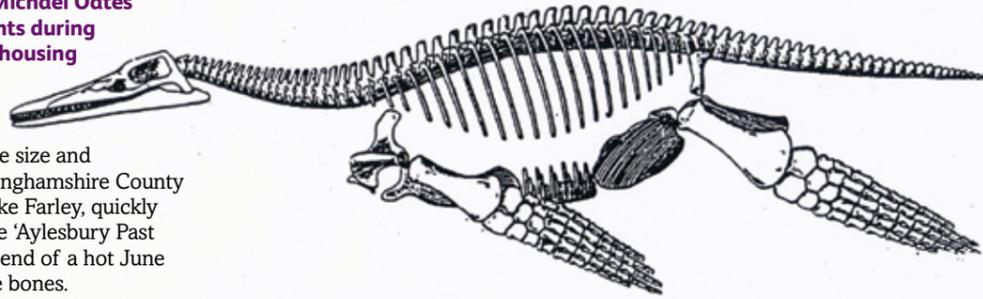
As the discovery of a large marine reptile at Watermead might suggest, Buckinghamshire has spent large periods of its prehistoric past under the sea. The Kimmeridge Clay, in which Buckinghamshire's pliosaur was found, is a typical marine sediment formed from tiny clay particles washed out from far-away land, much like the North Sea today. The Kimmeridge Clay is soft and weathers down easily. It underlies the flat expanse of Aylesbury Vale, along with the older Oxford Clay and the younger Gault Clay.

There are no natural exposures of Kimmeridge Clay in the County but any excavations have the potential to reveal a host of fossilised marine life, ranging from tiny seashells, larger ammonites and belemnites to the reptile ichthyosaurs, plesiosaurs and pliosaurs. Recent research on the marine reptiles of the Kimmeridge Clay in the UK suggests that the Watermead pliosaur is one of four possible species of Pliosaurus, but due to the incomplete nature of its remains it is impossible to say which one.

The Watermead pliosaur bones found were mainly ribs and the remains of massive vertebra. When laid out, these gave an estimated length of 25ft (7.5m) for the reptile. Unfortunately, no remains of the skull were found, which is a pity as this would have been 6ft (1.9m) in length with teeth up to 12 inches (30cm) long.

The bones are today in the County Museum's store at Halton, with a few choice specimens on permanent display at the Museum in Aylesbury.

*Article by Mike Palmer  
This article was originally published on the website of the Buckinghamshire Archaeology Society (<https://bas1.org.uk>).*



Have you spotted this tree from Watermead? It is known as the horse's head, but it could just as well be a dinosaur! If you haven't, look across the lake towards the wind turbine.

# USA state fossils

**D**id you know that in the United States of America they have state fossils?

**Official State Fossil of Washington**  
Washington designated the Columbian mammoth as the official state fossil in 1998 after a four-year effort by students from Windsor Elementary School.

**Columbian Mammoth Facts**  
These extinct prehistoric woolly elephants (*Mammuthus columbi*) roamed the North American continent during the Pleistocene age (last ice age). Most mammoths were larger than modern elephants. Their diet consisted primarily of grasses, sedges, and rushes.

Fossilized remains of the Columbian mammoth were found on the Olympic Peninsula. Mammoths stem from an ancestral species of north African mammoth (*M. africanavus*) that disappeared about 3 or 4 million years ago. Descendants of these mammoths moved north and eventually covered most of Eurasia (these were *M. meridionalis*, the "southern mammoths").

About 1.8 million years ago, in the early Pleistocene, *M. meridionalis* was able to cross into North America across a temporary land bridge in the Bering Strait caused by low sea levels during an Ice Age. The southern mammoth then radiated throughout North America.

In the Middle Pleistocene, a new North American species evolved - the imperial mammoth (*M. imperator*). The Columbian mammoth (*M. columbi*, also known as the Jefferson mammoth, *M. jeffersoni*) appeared in the late Pleistocene. Its range covered the present United States and as far south as Nicaragua and Honduras. Meantime another species of mammoth had developed in Eurasia - the steppe mammoth (*M. trogontherii*) which lived from 200,000 to 135,000 years ago. Later in the Pleistocene, the woolly mammoth (*M. primigenius*), made its appearance (woolly mammoths were the smallest of the mammoths, except for dwarf forms of mammoth that are known from fossils found on islands).

[www.statesymbolsusa.org/symbol/washington/state-dinosaur-or-fossil/columbian-mammoth](http://www.statesymbolsusa.org/symbol/washington/state-dinosaur-or-fossil/columbian-mammoth)

NB The Columbian Mammoth is also the state fossil for South Carolina and Nebraska (along with the Woolly and Imperial Mammoths)

See a list at [www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_U.S.\\_state\\_fossils](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_fossils)  
[ColumbianMammothModel](http://ColumbianMammothModel)



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...Imagine! He didn't get my vote. Actually I don't think I did vote. I didn't even make my usual trip to the polling station. They even had to take their own pencils this time... seemed odd but there it is.

Looking forward to the summer as it sounds as if we will be out and about a bit more. I can't wait. My friend Ronnie is with us twice a week, and I really look forward to his visits. We catch up and chat loudly until we are told off, then rush round and need to go to sleep for a while. It's the way dogs socialise, humans make such a meal of it (literally), it all seems like very hard work to me. We have a thing with a canvas roof in the garden which the humans enjoy. They attempt to heat it with patio heaters and a chimenea – they don't seem to realise it's outside so this is a bit of a losing battle – they then end up wearing lots of jumpers and thick coats. My fur coat is very welcome.

I was very pleased that I managed to go to the groomer a few weeks ago. Although I was slightly scalped! But I was very shaggy and not looking my usual pristine black and white self (see photo). I do hope that once lockdown eases we shall get back to normal. Everyone is fed up, but we've done so well and I am so pleased that people should be safer. We do need and love our humans you know!

See you soon,  
Love Sally x



**I**t seems to have been a very long time since my Spring BLOG and not much has happened in my life, to be honest. I think lockdown has meant that all our humans are staying close to home and none of us is going far. I have been on many walks around Watermead but do miss outings to garden centres, National Trust places and even going 'out to lunch' which means I sit under the table hoping someone will drop something on the floor – they rarely do, but I live in hope!

I did celebrate my birthday in April – no party, just a lovely card from Ronnie (I think it looks a bit like him, I can see him with a monocle and bowler hat), and a soft hedgehog which I am very pleased with. Everyone has had a lockdown birthday at least once I think. Never mind, I'm 6 now so I suppose I should be less excited (generally, as well as about my birthday!).

One interesting thing has been an 'election' whatever that means. Apparently, normally, lots of people knock on the door and put leaflets in the letterbox for me to grab and chew. This time there wasn't much of that. One candidate did knock to say hello. I was absolutely amazed when my human introduced me and said "of course you have read her BLOG". He said he hadn't

## Watermead Piscatorials

**Watermead Piscatorials are again looking for new members to join them. The club is run by a committee.**

You do not need to be experienced, as the existing members are more than able to offer advice and help to any new members.

The club ensures that everyone knows the rules of the lake, here are a few:

- no night fishing
- fishing from the pegs only
- all fish caught must be returned to the lake.

It costs £10 to join the club and then £40 per year. If you want to have a go before committing yourself the Parish Clerk has a one-day ticket to fish.

To find out more contact the Piscatorial Treasurer Don Smith: don.smith33@hotmail.co.uk or 07790 481232.



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# Take part in this year's Watermead Photo Competition

## Open to all Watermead Residents

Following on from our previous successful events we will be holding another Photo Competition this year. Entries will be welcomed from Watermead residents for all categories. Non-residents who come to enjoy the Watermead lakes and surroundings and their inhabitants may enter photos for the first two categories.

You can submit up to 2 photos in each of 3 categories:

- Beautiful Watermead - Landscapes & Wildlife
- People & Events\*
- Open Category - shots of anything you want

\*Entries in the "People & Events" category can include photos taken before activities were restricted due to Covid-19.

It is not necessary to have an expensive camera - some of the winners in previous years have been photos taken with phones. Get shooting now and save some of your best shots for the competition.

The closing date for entries will be 13th September 2021.

Entries are to be submitted in digital format to [noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk) indicating which category it is entered into.

Your prints (A4) will also be required to be delivered to 1 Pipit Gardens. Please affix a sticky label to the back with your name and contact phone number as well as the category.

Your photo may be printed inside or on the front cover of future issues of Village View parish magazine.

Exhibition date and judging will be on Saturday 18th September. Lockdown rules permitting we will again be holding a physical exhibition this year in the Village Hall, The Piazza.

Any questions should be addressed to [ericrosewpc@aol.com](mailto:ericrosewpc@aol.com).

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## Can you relate?

We are about to enter the BBQ season. Therefore it is important to refresh your memory on the etiquette of this sublime outdoor cooking activity. When a man volunteers to do the BBQ the following chain of events are put into motion:

1. The woman buys the food.
2. The woman makes the salad, prepares the vegetables, and makes dessert.
3. The woman prepares the meat for cooking, places it on a tray along with the necessary cooking utensils and sauces, and takes it to the man who is lounging beside the grill - beer in hand.
4. The woman remains outside the compulsory three metre exclusion zone where the exuberance of testosterone and other manly bonding activities can take place without the interference of the woman.

Here comes the important part:

5. THE MAN PLACES THE MEAT ON THE GRILL.
6. The woman goes inside to organize the plates and cutlery.
7. The woman comes out to tell the man that the meat is looking great. He thanks her and asks if she will bring another beer while he flips the meat

Important again:

THE MAN TAKES THE MEAT OFF THE GRILL AND HANDS IT TO THE WOMAN.

9. The woman prepares the plates, salad, bread, utensils, napkins, sauces, and brings them to the table.
10. After eating, the woman clears the table and does the dishes.

And most important of all:

11. Everyone PRAISES the MAN and THANKS HIM for his cooking efforts.
12. The man asks the woman how she enjoyed her night off, and, upon seeing her annoyed reaction, concludes that there's just no pleasing some women!



**I**t has been a busy month at Footsteps Watermead and we are really egg-cited to let you know about all the fun things we have been up to.

### A time to celebrate

Although we have still been in Lockdown, there has been plenty to celebrate this month! It was a 'top o' the morning' as we celebrated St Patrick's day with a fun-filled day of themed arts, crafts, games and stories.

Mother's Day is one of our favourite celebrations and we took the time to talk about all the amazing things our mums, grandparents and carers do to make us feel special. We hope all our mums loved the cards, gifts and a chance to take a break with their kitkats.

What fun we had dressing up in our favourite costumes to celebrate world book day! We made our own special books, acted out the Goldilocks and the Three Bears story and enjoyed an imaginary adventure down in the woods with the Gruffalo.

### Ready Steady Listen

This March we took part in Ready, Steady, Listen. This was an initiative in partnership with Usborne Books and the aim is to allow children to develop a passion for reading and listening for pleasure.

The children were sponsored to listen for an amount of time per day with their parent, an adult or older child. We are proud to report that we have raised an unbelievable £590 to spend on new books for us to read and enjoy.

### Red Nose Day

Across our Footsteps families, children, staff and parents we have been proud to support the incredible work of Comic Relief. The money raised by Red Nose Day in 2021 will help tackle homelessness, domestic abuse and the stigma around mental health. This year's theme of "Share a Smile" was a fantastic inspiration for a whole host of activities including Red Nose Day biscuit decorating, and pulling lots of silly faces to make us smile!

### Spring is in the air

This month we have been learning how things grow as we leave winter behind and move into springtime. We have been learning

about Jack and The Beanstalk. We had lots of fun painting our giant beanstalk outside. The children also made beanstalk collage pictures to take home, and along with some MAGIC BEANS!! We have been planting potatoes and we listened to The Enormous Turnip story and talked about what plants need to help them grow. We have also enjoyed learning about how the seasons affect the life cycles of animals and have talked about the life cycle of butterflies. The children loved showing the different stages with pasta shapes.

### Easter egg-stravaganza

We had a lovely walk to visit the Lakeside Care Home to deliver our box of Easter goodies for the residents. We are very grateful to all our wonderful families who donated and to the children who decorated our hamper so beautifully.

We then had a really eggciting walk around the lake where we spotted mummy and daddy swan building their nest. We couldn't believe how lucky we were to spot one large egg on the nest already.

We can't wait to Spring into action after Easter with our Spanish and tennis lessons starting up to help enrich our fantastic activities planned.

If you would like to visit Footsteps for your child, please get in touch 07865 945297 or email us [watermead@footsteps-nursery.co.uk](mailto:watermead@footsteps-nursery.co.uk)



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\*carehome.co.uk review scores are based on independent reviews with a maximum score of 10. Review quoted and rating correct as of 03/02/2021.