

VillageView

WATERMEAD'S *FREE* QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

Winter 2014 Vol.21 Issue 4

1994

**Celebrating
20 years
VillageView**

2014

**Village View needs an
Advertising Manager**

Watermead
Christmas Fair

Saturday 6th December 11am - 5pm, Village Hall

Carol Concert

Saturday 13th December from 6pm, The Piazza

**THE STORY OF THE
CHRISTMAS TRUCE OF 1914**

**Flu season has started
Helpful tips**

**Cygnets Committee
have a vacancy**

Image: German greeting card, circa 1914

News from Watermead Parish Council & more!
watermead-pc.gov.uk / [@watermead pc](https://www.facebook.com/watermeadpc)


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PARISH COUNCIL

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Parish Chairman's News

Having enjoyed
marvellous summer
weather until very
recently we have been
spoilt and the recent
cold has been a shock.

However, this heralds
one of the busiest and
most enjoyable times of
year in Watermead and
elsewhere. With families
celebrating Halloween,
Firework night and the
children looking forward to
Christmas, this is a magical
and hectic time of year.

We look back on the
last year with a mixture
of pride and sadness.

Over the weekend
of 30th and 31st
August, **Watermead
commemorated the
outbreak of World War
I** by holding a fete and
concert in aid of Help for
Heroes and the Royal British
Legion. The event was a
success and we were able
to make donations to both
charities and sold many
'Help for Heroes' items.

We have created and had
consecrated the first new
War Memorial created in
Buckinghamshire in recent
years. Our memorial has
been created with plaques
from our local art potter,
Peter Stocker, placed on
the last piece of wood
from the old walkway and
the plinth is constructed
of local brick, beside the
lake, in the new Memorial
Garden. The prayer on the

plinth reflects the intention
to remember all the fallen
from every country in every
war and pledges that we will
serve our neighbourhood
and comfort our own.
Reverend Mark Ackford
conducted the consecration
and remembrance service
on 31st August, attended
by many residents. The
Memorial is intended to
serve as a lasting reminder
and sign of respect for
all those lost in conflict
from all countries.

The Memorial Garden
is a place of quiet beauty;
flowering trees have been
planted, and others have
been ordered by families as
a lasting reminder of their
loved ones. If you would
like to order a flowering
tree or plant, please contact
Noreen Shardlow, our Parish
Clerk, who will be pleased
to arrange it for you. You
can have a plaque and the
garden will be opened on
request. Recent orders
include a flowering holly
bush, cherry trees and
Forget-me-Nots so you can
see that most flowering
plants are suitable and will
be appreciated by all.

On 11th November we
opened the garden and
around thirty residents and
friends paid their respects
and kept the two minutes'
silence together at 11am.

The remainder of our
land is in good condition
despite the high water

levels experienced for many
weeks earlier in the year.

The Watermead Village Cricket Club

As previously advised,
and mandated by villagers,
the Parish Council views the
return of the cricket pitch to
the community as a priority.
We have accordingly spent
considerable time this year
researching the issues and
legal position surrounding
this land which, apart from
having become an eyesore,
was always intended to
belong to the community for
recreation use, particularly
cricket. The land is of
course subject to a Section
52 Agreement which
confirms this intention.

The Watermead Village
Cricket Club is now inviting
interested residents to join
the Cricket Club for the
2015 season. The Parish
Council will continue to
take whatever steps are
necessary to bring the
land back to the village as
a community asset. In the
meantime we are pleased to
assist the Cricket Club in re-
energising its membership
and starting afresh. It is not
clear whether or not it will
be possible to play next
year but we would hope
that it will be possible to
get the ball rolling in terms
of applying for grants and
perhaps having nets at least.

To apply please email
Noreen.shardlow@



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

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**Cllr Adrian
Schwab**
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adrian.schwab
@watermead-pc.
gov.uk



**Cllr Pam
Stocks**
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@talk21.com



Cllr Helen Cook
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watermead
@helencook.
co.uk



**Cllr Mary Singleton
& Editor of the
Village View**
T: 428569
mary.singleton
@watermead-pc.
gov.uk



**PLEASE
CONTACT
PARISH CLERK
IF YOU'RE
INTERESTED
IN JOINING
OUR TEAM**



Cllr Phil Bennison
T: 07835 063227
philip.bennison
@watermead-pc.
gov.uk



**Parish Clerk and
Halls Manager:**
Noreen Shardlow
T: 641423
(Call weekdays
10am to 2pm)
noreen.shardlow
@watermead-pc.
gov.uk



**Assistant
Parish Clerk:**
Michelle Jackson
T: 481554
michelle.jackson
@watermead-pc.
gov.uk

watermead-pc.gov.uk or phone her on 01296 641423 and she will make a note of your name and address and will contact you as information becomes available.

Planning matters

Hallam Land's appeal is being heard as I write and Watermead Parish Council has made extensive written representations and provided expert evidence regarding concerns about flooding and other issues raised by villagers. A representative from the village together with the Clerk has attended each day and I am due to speak in January. Other residents have also spoken and the Inspector has been invited to visit gardens along what would be the boundary with the Land to the East of Watermead which is the subject of the appeal. Please rest assured that we continue to fight this appeal. No further news is available about the proposal to build a crematorium at the Riviera. We continue to keep a watching brief and to object and reflect your views on the matter. The new crematorium at Bierton is approved.



The Village View team has a new Assistant Editor - Carolynne McKee

Originally from South West London, I lived in Berkhamsted for 33 years before moving to Watermead in May 2013, where I have been made very welcome by everyone I meet. I have 3 children and 2 grandchildren. Prior to retiring I worked as manager of a GP practice and before that as manager of Pathology Office Services for West Herts Hospitals Trust. I have also worked in the financial services industry. I like to get involved in what is going on around me and have been on lots of committees, including PTAs and running a social club. My main hobby is writing short stories and, since moving to Watermead, gardening, but I've got a lot to learn!

Congratulations

Our sincere congratulations go to Philip and Nadine Bennison on their recent marriage. We welcome Nadine to Watermead and hope that she enjoys living here.

Dates for your diary

Christmas Craft Fair in the Village Hall, Saturday 6th December from 11am. Lots of local craftspeople with a variety of unique Christmas gifts. No problems with parking and a chance to catch up with friends and neighbours with delicious food and drink on offer. Carol Concert in The Piazza on Saturday 13th December at 6pm is our traditional start to the Watermead Christmas. Bring all the family, enjoy mulled wine, mince pies (made by the ladies of our own WI) and traditional carols while waiting for a visit from Father Christmas who has, once again, agreed to join us briefly to deliver some early presents to the children.

Cllr Sue Severn, Chairman



Above: Patrick Gee, who was a member of 3rd Battalion Royal Fusiliers, with his children Stephanie and William, and faithful dog, Shadow. They attended both our memorial events at the end of August. Left: Cllrs Sue Severn and Adrian Schwab with Bucks County Cllr Netta Glover.



Carmina Castielli was the first visitor to the memorial and was also the lady who made the poppy tapestry for the commemorative event back in August.



Above: The prayer on the new commemorative plinth. Below: Peter Stocker kindly made these plaques to replace the plinth that he made which was stolen from the new Walkway.

Watermead Commemorates Raffle Winners

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| Champagne Balloon Flight for Two | Betty Plumbley |
| GK Plumbing & Heating Boiler Service | Russ Mc Farlane |
| Hampden Vetinary Hospital £30 voucher | Amanda Williams |
| Watermead Dental Centre Electric Toothbrush | Roy Gladwin |
| Graham Severn Croft Purple Velvet Port | A Lewis |
| Winnie's Delights World War 1 Theme Cake | Michelle Jackson |
| Waddesdon Manor Family Ticket to House | Amanda Williams |
| Hyatt Studios Photography voucher | Mr Stanborough |
| Carmina Castielli Handmade Tapestry | Deirdre & Ken Rose |
| Waterside Theatre Family Ticket to Cinderella | Sharon Higby |
| Peter Stocker Creative Pottery Piece | Brian Murray |
| Betty Plumbley Latte Set | Roy Gladwin |
| Celebration Help 4 Heroes Cookbook | Vilma William |
| Dot Toler Bottle of Cava Sparking wine | Neil Gosling |
| Dot Toler Bottle of wine | Nick Welch |
| Dot Toler Bottle of wine | Dave Lucas |

Event Promoter: Watermead Parish Council, 11 Ayleswater, Watermead, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP19 0FB Raffle was drawn on 30th August 2014 at the event.

Get onboard

waterrider 6

- Watermead
- Cleveland Park
- Aylesbury town centre

- Frequent buses running up to every 15 minutes on weekdays and 20 minutes on Saturdays
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For opening times, bookings and general enquiries:

01296 640005

The Bell at Hardwick
Lower Road
Hardwick HP22 4DZ
claretring@thebellathardwick.co.uk
www.thebellathardwick.co.uk

What's on IN AND AROUND WATERMEAD

December

6th	Watermead Christmas Fair	Village Hall 11am - 5pm
6th	Huskies at Waddesdon	9am - 7pm
7th	Winslow Farmers Market	Market Square, Winslow 10am
13th	Watermead Carol Concert	The Piazza 6pm
14th	Christmas Fair & Carolfest	Market Square, Aylesbury 11am - 4pm
15th-24th	Xmas gift-wrapping in aid of Florence Nightingale Hospice, Friars Square Shopping Centre (House of Fraser), Aylesbury	9.30am
22nd-23rd	Holiday Fun - play sessions for children of all ages	9am - 3.30pm

January

8th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall 7pm
15th	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall 7.30pm

February

5th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall 7pm
19th	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall 7.30pm

March

5th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall 7pm
19th	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall 7.30pm
22nd	Rennie Grove Hospice Care's Chilterns Cycle Challenge	Kingsbury Square 8am

Village Hall

PARISH COUNCIL

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

CYGNETS PRE-SCHOOL

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

SCRAPBOOKING/CARD MAKING ANY CRAFT OF YOUR CHOICE CRAFTY CHICKS

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

KUMON MATHS

Monday & Thursday 2.30 - 6pm
Susan Jones 747469

AYLESBURY & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING ACTION GROUP

3rd Thursday on selected months

WATERMEAD & WEEDON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

First Thursday of the month 7.30 - 9.30pm
Julia Morgan 487650
julia-morgan@sky.com

JO JINGLES

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

DRAWING FOR FUN - ART CLASSES

Every Wednesday 2.30-5.30pm
Avril Nurse 580495

CASTIELLI DANCE SCHOOL

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

YOGA

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

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

Advertise in the Village View 50% discount for Watermead residents

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

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

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

10% discount for resident advertisers committing to 4 issues. 20% discount for non-resident advertisers committing to 4 issues. Special prices apply for back, inside front and inside back cover. Please call the Advertising Manager for further details.

The Team:

Advertising Manager	Paul Wilson	Tel: 488066	pwilsonofc@btinternet.com
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Graphic Designer	Rachel Seago	Tel: 712545	rachelseago@sky.com
Distribution Manager	Dot Toler	Tel: 432405	dot_toler@hotmail.com

Read by over 1,200 homes

Creating or modifying the adverts will also be charged for separately. Please arrange advertisements at least 4 weeks prior to publication date and send to the Advertising Manager (see above). Publication dates are subject to change depending on local events at time of publication. Payment of advertising space must be paid one week prior to artwork of publication going to print. If you have any suggestions for content/articles please contact any member of the team above. Design by Rachel Seago. Printed by Eagle Graphics Limited.

The Women's Institute in the 1940's

1940 The Ministry of Food allocated sugar to the National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI) to be distributed to WI Preservation Centres in order to make jam and can produce which would otherwise go to waste. All the produce then went into the nation's food supply. Many of the canning machines they used came from the USA.

1941 The NFWI published a report based on a survey carried out amongst WI members who housed evacuees, Town Children through Country Eyes. This stimulated a national debate about support for families ultimately leading to the setting up of family allowances after the war.

1942 The NFWI evacuated the London Headquarters first to Hertfordshire and then to Pudiphats Farm in Surrey. WI members raised money for ambulances.

1943 The subscription rate was raised to two shillings and sixpence (five pence went to the National Federation and seven pence to the county federation). Mrs Churchill came to the WI's Consultative Council to thank members for their help with her Aid to Russia Fur Scheme.

The first AGM since 1939 was held; resolutions discussed included urging the

Government that equal facilities for full education at all levels should be provided in town and country and a demand that men and women should receive equal pay for equal work.

In September the Questions of the Day residential conference held at Radbrook College was addressed by Sir Richard Livingstone who suggested that the WI should start its own residential college of adult education.

1944 WI members helped to make potato baskets for the Ministry of Agriculture and collected herbs for medicinal purposes.

1945 AGM decides to form a WI College. There were now 6,033 WIs.

1946 Activities included the first Combined Arts Festival. Lady Denman retired and Lady Albemarle was elected NFWI Chairman. The Carnegie United Kingdom Trust (CUKT) provided a grant to start WIs in the Channel Islands.

1947 Operation Produce was launched during this year, to encourage WI members to grow more food in their gardens and small holdings, as rationing continued. The first WI in the Channel Islands was formed. Rural midwives were now allowed to use analgesics, something for which the WI had campaigned.

1948 The WI college, Denman College, opened its doors to students this year. The WI subscription was raised to three shillings and sixpence (one shilling to the National Federation, one shilling and sixpence to the county federation and one shilling to the WI).

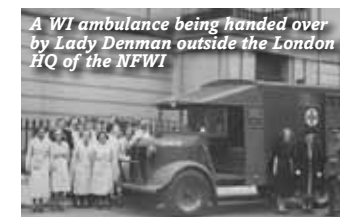
The first Warden was Miss Elizabeth (Betty) Christmas.

1949 The first WI was formed in the Isle of Man. The total number of WIs rose to 7,281. See more at: www.thewi.org.uk/about-the-wi/history-of-the-wi/1940s#sthash.r4kWSSTw.dpuf

Watermead & Weedon WI hold regular meetings on the first Thursday in the month, from 7.30 to 9.30 pm, in the Village Hall, The Piazza, Watermead. We welcome any ladies who are new to Watermead, Weedon and Buckingham Park or any women who would just like to see what we are all about. Come along to our social evening to celebrate the New Year on 8th January 2015. For further information please contact Julia Morgan - details under "Whats On" on page 6.



The Queen at the AGM standing next to Lady Denman, singing 'Jerusalem'



A WI ambulance being handed over by Lady Denman outside the London HQ of the NFWI



Evacuees on their way to the countryside



WI Preservation centre

Bearbrook and Elmhurst Early Years Excellence Hub



From October 1st Elmhurst School and Bearbrook Combined School took over the leadership of the Elmhurst and Bearbrook Children's Centres.

Alongside both Early Years Foundation Stage settings, a new Early Years Excellence Hub has been created which provides support, advice and a wide range of activities for children and families from pre-natal to five years of age. The vision of the hub is centred on working together with families to provide the very best start

for young children. The hub was officially opened by the Mayor with a balloon release which started off a very successful launch event.

Please visit the website at www.eyeh.org for more information and centre timetables and come along to the centres to see them for yourself!

The dangers of antifreeze

When the hours of daylight shorten and the weather takes a turn for the worse, there is a potentially lethal danger for our pets that becomes more prevalent at this time of year.

Antifreeze, screenwash and some de-icers contain ethylene glycol. This potentially fatal chemical is sweet tasting and very palatable, yet only a few millilitres could cause serious toxicity and death. The frequency of intoxication is increased by the widespread availability of antifreeze (which is 95% ethylene glycol), its improper storage and disposal and even because it is the only available liquid when all other outside sources are frozen. The minimum lethal dose in cats is 1.4ml/kg body weight; and 4.4ml/kg in dogs.

Once ingested, ethylene glycol reaches peak blood concentrations within 3 hours. Through a series of chemical

reactions in the body, it is broken down into glycolic acid and oxalate which cause the pH of the blood to become acidic and kidney damage as the oxalate binds to calcium and forms calcium oxalate crystals in the urine. Symptoms are dose- and time-dependent with the almost immediate signs resembling alcohol intoxication. Dogs and cats will vomit due to intestinal irritation, drink and urinate excessively and show signs of depression, poor co-ordination and reduced responsiveness. Dehydration follows rapidly and acute renal failure develops in 12-24 hours in cats and 36-72 hours in dogs. At this stage, they are usually lethargic, with no appetite and have vomiting, diarrhoea, excessive salivation, rapid breathing and may have seizures.

Diagnosis is difficult in the absence of witnessed intoxication due to the variety

of different body systems involved, which can mimic many other diseases. Treatment relies on blocking the formation of the toxic metabolites in the body and the quicker the treatment is started, the better the prognosis. Within 1-2 hours of ingesting antifreeze, inducing vomiting and flushing the stomach can be undertaken. Intravenous fluids reduce dehydration and increase urine production which flushes the ethylene glycol out of the body. The enzyme that produces the toxic products from ethylene glycol can be inhibited using 4-Methylpyrazole (fomepizole). Unfortunately, this is not widely available and is very expensive. Ethanol can be used as an alternative within the first 24 hours. Neither of these antidotes are effective if the toxic breakdown products have already been formed.

Sadly, because cats tend to live relatively independent

lives, the majority of patients are presented at a late stage of poisoning once kidney damage has occurred. As a result, the mortality rate associated with ingesting this toxin is very high, although some patients can be stabilized with specialist intensive care and dialysis (at significant cost). If you see your dog or cat drink or walk through any quantity of antifreeze or they are showing signs similar to being drunk, contact your vet without delay as the sooner treatment is started, the more likely they are to survive.

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

If your cakes don't rise to the occasion, read on...



Have you been inspired by the Great British Bake Off – many of us have. But inspiration doesn't always translate into skill. That's where Winnie's Delights can come to the rescue. If you crave personalised works of art fashioned from sponge, icing, chocolate and all manner of deliciousness, then let your imagination run riot and Penny Fletcher at Winnie's Delights will bring your ideas to life.

Small cakes, large cakes, beauty or humour, with themes from football to

fantasy and all points between – Penny can create them for you to suit any occasion. At this time of year Christmas novelty cakes are popular. Check out her Facebook page for examples. (See below).

Still longing to do it yourself? Penny's got that covered too with 'cupcake parties' in your own home. Get together with a few friends or learn the basics on your own. Children can have parties too. With ready-made cakes they can decorate with coloured icing, chocolate buttons and sweets, or experiment with making their own decorations from fondant. (Up to 12 children at a time).

With a background in art and design Penny has successfully transferred those skills, plus her natural talent, when teaching herself cake making and decorating. She started Winnie's Delights in March 2013 and has gone from strength to strength.

Each client's requirements (including food allergies) are individually discussed and considered and prices are as individual as the cakes. Penny will need a couple of weeks' notice to have your cake ready (perhaps a bit more for wedding cakes) and will deliver it free within a 5 mile radius of Aylesbury.

**Contact: 01296 424533 or 07899 837784
winniesdelights@outlook.com
Facebook.com/winniesdelights2013**



Hampden Veterinary Hospital Watermead Branch Surgery

10-11 Lakeside, Watermead, HP19 0FX



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We also do cupcake parties for children & adults



Penny Fletcher
01296 424533
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Individually designed especially for you

The View from Westminster

Hallam Land Development Application

The application continues to be considered by the Inspector, alongside other major development applications around Aylesbury. My letter of objection is accessible via my website www.davidlidington.com or the planning portal of the AVDC website. My current understanding is that the Inspector will give his recommendations to the Secretary of State in December or January. It is very unusual for the Secretary of State to override the Inspector (and doing so would risk legal challenge) but I shall lobby the Secretary of State anyway on behalf of local residents.

Future of Local Government

Buckinghamshire Business First (BBF), the local employers group, has published a report on the future of local government in our country. Their analysis is pretty stark. Whoever is in government nationally, the pressure on local finances is going to continue. In part that's because the need to pay off debt means there will be a continuing search for savings in Whitehall and town halls alike. It is also because social change means that there's greater demand for services like child protection and social care for very old and frail people.

Some savings will come from technology, as digital communications cut administrative costs. Every year, more of us access government services online rather than needing to visit offices or fill in paper forms. Our County and District Councils have already made significant savings – £85 million to date according to BBF with more in the pipeline; they have tried hard to do that while protecting key, front-line services.

I am instinctively cautious about reorganisations. In my experience they usually mean two years of introversion as people work out how the new

set-up will operate. For the staff involved, and their families, this can be a very unsettling and stressful experience. Nonetheless, I don't think we can avoid looking at this question. BBF estimates that up to £20.7 million a year could be saved by replacing the County and Districts with a single council covering the whole of Bucks. They argue that other counties like Cornwall and Shropshire have already shown that such a change works well.

The District Councils argue that a county-wide authority would entail a loss of local knowledge and accountability and some in the Districts argue for two unitary councils, based in Aylesbury and Wycombe, though this would make only about half the savings of the one council model.

I think our councils could and should do more to share overheads and back office costs even now. I hope that local residents will read the report and make clear their views, as local taxpayers, on whether and how to reform the structure of local government here.

Local Food

Buckinghamshire has a growing number of first-class local food producers. I wanted to let more people into this secret, so along with John Bercow and Cheryl Gillan I organised a Bucks Food Day at Westminster. Companies represented included Rumsey's Chocolates from Wendover and Beechdean Dairies from North Dean.

*Rt Hon David Lidington,
MP for Aylesbury*



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Tea Break Quiz



1. Who was the first British monarch to broadcast a Christmas message to the nation?
2. Who banned Christmas in England between 1647 and 1660?
3. What are the names of the three wise men said to have brought gifts to the baby Jesus?
4. Which one brought frankincense?
5. What Christmas item was invented by London baker and wedding cake specialist Tom Smith in 1847?
6. What did Scottish students take from Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day 1950?
7. Who are the four ghosts in Charles Dickens 'A Christmas Carol'?
8. Yorkshireman William Strickland is believed to have brought the first what to Britain in 1526?
9. London's Trafalgar Square Christmas tree is traditionally given by which country?
10. Poinsettia plants are popular at Christmas. From which country do they originate?
11. Which girl band had Christmas number one hit records three years running 1996, 1997 and 1998?
12. What Christmas time song did James Pierpoint compose in 1857?
13. Name the original eight reindeer from the 'Twas the Night before Christmas' poem.
14. What is the chemical formula of snow?
15. Which Christmas condiment is made from fruit sometimes called marshworts?
16. Why do we use the letter X in the abbreviation Xmas?
17. Who designed the first commercially available Christmas card in 1843?
18. Whose idea was it to produce the first commercially available Christmas cards in 1843?
19. What was the name of the angel who brought the news that Jesus was to be born to Mary?
20. Which famous song was first performed in 1942 in a film called Holiday Inn?

Answers on page 19

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Sherry Cobbler

Ingredients:

1 measure fresh orange juice
1 measure medium sherry
Slice of orange
A little sugar
1 tablespoon port

Method:

Put the sugar in a tumbler with some crushed ice. Add the orange juice and sherry and stir. Place on top the slice of orange, with two straws through the middle. Pour the port over the orange and serve.

Christmas Goose

Goose is reputed to have the finest flavour of all domesticated birds. The reason for this is probably due to the high amount of fat it contains which gives the bird a very rich flavour. Save the fat in the roasting tin for the best ever roast potatoes.

Ingredients:

1 ovenready goose 9-10 lb
Stuffing;
2 oz butter
1 large onion, finely chopped
6 oz fresh white breadcrumbs
4 fresh sage leaves, finely chopped
1 teaspoon salt
Pepper

Method:

Set oven to 425 degrees F or Mark 7. Melt the butter in a saucepan and add the onion. Cook gently until soft but not browned. Mix the butter and onion with the breadcrumbs, sage leaves, salt and pepper. Stuff the goose with this mixture and place on a rack in a large roasting tin. Prick the bird all over with a skewer to allow the fat to escape during cooking. Rub a little salt and pepper into the skin and place the tin just below the middle of the oven and roast for 20

minutes. Cover the breast with greased foil and reduce the heat to 325 degrees F or Mark 3 and cook for about 3½ to 4 hours or until the juices run clear when a skewer is pushed into the thickest part of the leg, close to the body. To make the skin really crisp, remove the foil for the last 20 minutes of cooking time. Leave to rest for 15 minutes before carving.

Iced Christmas Pudding

A cold and creamy alternative for those who find the rich, traditional Christmas pudding too heavy after Christmas turkey or goose.

Ingredients:

4 oz mixed dried fruits: raisins, currants, sultanas
2 oz glace cherries, chopped
4 tablespoons rum or brandy
16 fluid oz creamy milk
1 cinnamon stick
3 eggs
4 oz sugar
¾ pt whipping cream
1 oz toasted almonds, chopped

Method:

Soak the dried fruits and cherries in the rum or brandy overnight. Next day, pour the milk into a pan and add the cinnamon stick. Heat gently until just about to boil, then remove from the heat, cover and leave for 30 minutes. Remove the cinnamon stick and reheat the milk over a low heat. Whisk the eggs and sugar together in a bowl then pour on the hot milk, whisking all the time. Return the mixture to the pan and heat, stirring, until the custard has thickened, but do not allow to boil. Remove from the heat and leave to cool, stirring from time to time. Whip the cream until thick but not stiff and fold into the custard with the fruits, soaking liquor and almonds. Pour into a pudding basin then cover and freeze until firm. Place in the refrigerator for 30 minutes before turning the pudding out onto a serving plate. Decorate with a sprig of holly just before serving.

Light Christmas Pudding

A tasty, sponge pudding made with candied fruits, which is a lighter alternative to the traditional dark, rich pudding.

Ingredients:

4 oz glace cherries, sliced thinly
2 oz candied peel, sliced thinly
3 oz glace pineapple, sliced thinly
1 oz angelica, sliced thinly
2 oz flaked almonds
3 oz ground almonds
3 oz fresh white breadcrumbs
Grated rind 1 lemon
6 oz butter
6 oz light soft brown sugar
3 eggs
6 oz self raising flour

Method:

Slice the candied fruits thinly and use some to arrange, attractively, over the base and sides of a well-buttered 2 pint pudding basin. Put the remaining fruits, flaked

almonds, ground almonds, breadcrumbs and lemon rind into a mixing bowl and stir well together. In another bowl, cream the butter and sugar until light, then beat in the eggs, adding a little flour to prevent curdling and beat well. Sift in the flour and fold in with a metal spoon. Gently fold in the fruit mixture until well mixed. Spoon carefully into the pudding basin and level the top. Cover with greaseproof paper pleated to allow for expansion, then cover with foil, also pleated, and seal well. Steam for 2½ hours, topping up with water as necessary. Remove the foil when cooked, cool in the basin for 15 minutes and then turn out. Serve with custard or cream.



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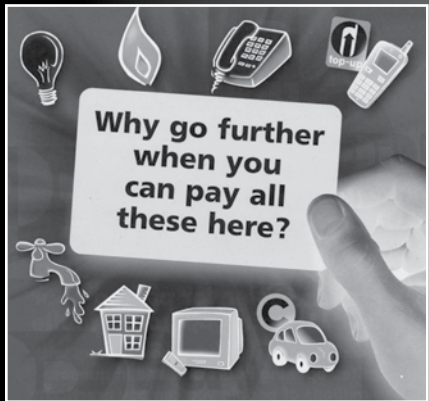
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Watermead Carol Concert

Saturday 13th December 2014

from 6pm, The Piazza

6 pm Welcome by Sue Severn,
Chairman of Watermead Parish Council

O Come all ye Faithful 12
As with gladness men of old 4
The first Nowell 5

Reading from the Bible

In the bleak mid-winter 2

Children to gather near the stage
Rev Mark Ackford address

Children to sing Away in a Manger 6

Thame Concert Band will play a tune
to welcome Father Christmas

We Three Kings 21
O Little Town of Bethlehem 1
On Christmas Night All Christians Sing 20
While Shepherds Watched Their
Flocks By Night 7

Sue Severn – thanks and finale

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing 10

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O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL
O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
Come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him, born the King of
Angels
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created
O come, let us adore Him,...

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God in the highest
O come, let us adore Him,...

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this
happy morning
Jesus, to Thee be glory given
Word of the Father. now in flesh appearing
O come, let us adore Him,...

AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD
As with gladness, men of old
Did the guiding star behold
As with joy they hailed its light
Leading onward, beaming bright
So, most glorious Lord, may we
Evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped
To that lowly manger bed
There to bend the knee before
Him Whom Heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright,
Need they no created light;
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,
Thou its Sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King!

THE FIRST NOWELL
The First Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields
where they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the East, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, Nowell...

And by the light of that same
star,
Three Wise Men came from
country far;
To seek for a King was their
intent,
And to follow the star wherever
it went.
Nowell, Nowell ...

This star drew nigh to the
North-West;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest.,
And there it did both stop and
stay,
Right over the place where
Jesus lay.
Nowell, Nowell ...

Then entered in those Wise Men
three,
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in His presence
Their gold and myrrh and
frankincense.
Nowell, Nowell...

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
Who hath made heaven and earth
of naught,
And with His blood mankind hath
bought.
Nowell, Nowell...

IN THE BLEAK MID-WINTER
In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold
Him
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air,
But only His mother I
In her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man
I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him,
Give my heart.

AWAY IN A MANGER
Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down
His sweet head
The stars in the bright sky looked
down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on
the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby
awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying
he makes,
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look
down from the sky
And stay by my side until
morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask
Thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love
me, I pray
Bless all the dear children in Thy
tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with
Thee there.

WE THREE KINGS
We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we travel afar,
Field and fountain, moor and
mountain,
Following yonder star:

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still
proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again:
King for ever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.
O star of wonder...

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh:
Prayer and praising, all are raising,
Worship Him, God most high.
O star of wonder...

Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering
gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding,
dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
O star of wonder...

Glorious now, behold Him arise,
King and God and sacrifice.
Heaven sings, 'Alleluja!'
'Alleluja!' the earth replies.
O star of wonder...

O LITTLE TOWN OF
BETHLEHEM
O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless
sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the
years
Are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King
And peace to all on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels
keep
Their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming
But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive
Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

O Hold Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT ALL
CHRISTIANS SING
On Christmas night all
Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring
On Christmas night all Christians
sing
To hear the news the angels bring
News of great joy, news of great
mirth
News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should we on earth be
so sad
Since our Redeemer made us glad
Then why should we on earth be
so sad
Since our Redeemer made us glad
When from our sin He set us free
All for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before His grace
Then life and health come in its
place;
When sin departs before His grace
Then life and health come in its
place
Angels and we with joy may sing
All for to see the new-born King.

All out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this
night
All out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this
night
'Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and for evermore, Amen.

WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED
THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT
While shepherds watched their
flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The Angel of the Lord came down
And glory shone around.

'Fear not,' said he (for mighty
dread
Had seized their troubled mind).
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

'To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord
And this shall be the sign:

'The heavenly Babe you there
shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in
swaddling bands
And in a manger laid.'

Thus spake the Seraph,
and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heaven
to men
Begin and never cease.

HARK! THE HERALD
ANGELS SING
Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

Christ, by highest heaven adored
Christ, the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, the Incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to
dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark, the heral d angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

Hail, the Heaven-born Prince of
Peace!
Hail, the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild, he lays His glory by
Born that we no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth.
Hark, the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

Advent and Christmas past, present or future?

I don't know whether it's because I am getting older, but Christmas seems to get earlier each year. Or should I say that the run up to and the preparations for Christmas begin earlier each year!

I don't know whether it's because I am getting older, but Christmas seems to get earlier each year. Or should I say that the run up to, and the preparations for, Christmas begin earlier each year!

It is something I have become more aware of each year as I walk around the town centre in early November and seem to be greeted with the words Merry Christmas in just about every shop I enter, along with the piped sounds of 'We wish you a Merry Christmas'. Well, don't get me started!

Perhaps it's because - as my wife and children tell me - I am becoming a grumpy old man!

I even find myself reminiscing about the way Christmas used to be and like many others look back with rose tinted spectacles, recalling snowy winters warmed by crackling yuletide fires and an altogether more sincere festive season. Ah those were the days!

Increasingly looking back to what we recall as a better past certainly seems to be a trait of getting older and we hold on to traditions that we have known and loved. Yet, early preparation for Christmas is deeply rooted within the tradition of the Christian Church.

The season of Advent, starting with Advent Sunday at the beginning of December is that time of preparation. The word Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" and for the Church it is supposed to be a time of waiting, anticipation and excitement, looking forward to the birth (the coming) of Jesus.

All of us will prepare for Christmas in different ways, Christians included. Probably the most common way of preparing for Christmas, and indeed to celebrate it, is the relating of the nativity story as if from the past; something which occurred a long, long, time ago. It was in the past that Joseph and Mary travelled to Bethlehem, where they could find no place at the Inn. In the past where they finally found a shed and Mary gave birth to her child. In the dim and distant past that the

shepherds came to find a baby and his mother. Far, far, back in history that the wise men came from the east and Herod was disturbed by the news of the birth.

We can approach the whole Christmas story as something from more than 2,000 years ago, something to which we can attach the romanticism of a bygone age and the gloss of time. We can eat and drink as much as we can (and even a bit more) and commemorate that string of events that took place so long ago as gone, but not quite forgotten.

Or we could come right up to date and celebrate Christmas as something that happens only in the present; here today and gone tomorrow. A fleeting moment in the rush of life and then back to work and the diet! That seems a good reason to start the festive season in November, get your money's worth, make the most of the party season, seize the moment, eat drink and be merry, for only too quickly the decorations come down and it's back to normality.

The pages of the bible do not tell us to celebrate Christ's birth merely in the past or the present!

Instead they urge us to celebrate Christmas in a way that is directed towards the future, towards a change in the way we live our lives and the ways of the world. We are asked to grow in goodness and community and to live in peace, to live the words of the Christmas angels, "Peace, Goodwill, to all humankind!"

If we look to celebrate Christmas in this way then we can perhaps also find new meaning in the season of Advent - get a very real sense of Advent as a time of waiting, excitement and expectation of Jesus being born again in our hearts at Christmas! So please come along to one of our services here at St James or at All Saints during Advent and Christmas* and allow the Christ child to become a part of your festive celebrations this year. (Details and times can be found on our Parish website www.aylesburychurches.org).

With every blessing for a and rewarding 2015.

*Revd Mark Ackford,
Vicar of St James the
Great Birtton.*

The flu season has started

Runny nose, sore throat and coughing all night. Sound familiar? It is this time of the year again. Nasty colds and flu are sneaking around, trying to find their next victim. Once they've caught you, finding the quickest way to the nearest pharmacy to get the latest pills and cough syrup seems like the best option. But there are better ways to escape; getting well just as quickly, only without all the added chemicals, and boosting your immune system at the same time. Sound good?

Here are some tips for you:

Vegetable juice: Loaded with vitamins, minerals, antioxidants and low in calories at the same time. This power drink will definitely boost your immune system!

Ginger: Known for fighting inflammation, ginger is one of the best foods for fighting a nasty cold. Make your own ginger tea: just chop up some fresh ginger root, add some honey and hot water and leave it to steep. Careful, ginger is really strong, so try it with a tiny bit first and then add more if you can.

Garlic: Loaded with antioxidants, garlic is famous for keeping the blood and heart healthy. It was also found that garlic helps with digestion problems and scientists found that it even helps to fight diabetes and cancer.

Banana: Diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting can be tamed with bananas. Try to mash them up or even mix them in with milk. Bananas are full of energy and minerals that your body needs.

Hot tea: Tea is full of antioxidants and the heat can soothe a sore throat. To get some energy in, choose green or herbal tea. Add organic, local honey and lemon juice to help against coughing.

Hot spices: They can help to clear the sinuses and eliminate chest congestion.

Homemade vegetable or chicken stew: Probably one of the most common ways to heal a nasty cold is with homemade stew. Especially a nice, homemade chicken stew (use free range chicken) with fresh

vegetables, loaded with vitamins is proven to help fight colds.

Gargle: It is an optimal way to moisten a sore throat and brings temporary relief. For example you can use ½ teaspoon of salt in some warm water or home-made sage tea and cider vinegar or honey and lemon juice.

These things should help you to feel fit and healthy as quickly as possible and are definitely a better way than flooding your body with chemicals. After all, a balanced diet and a healthy lifestyle help to keep your immune system strong and can protect you from nasty infections. Prevention is better than cure.

More information about garlic at www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/prevention/garlic-and-cancer-prevention www.medicalnewstoday.com/releases/203059.php

Nadine Bennison, Feel Good Nutrition

The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author. Always seek the advice of a doctor or other health professional with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition.

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Superheroes returned to Watermead

Entrants of all ages donning superhero fancy dress put their superhero powers to the test before taking well-deserved rest and refreshments, courtesy of Kelvin and the team at the Aeglesburgh Watermead Inn. The pub also had their own team of superheroes taking part this year!

Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity's Karen Shardlow said: "On behalf of everyone involved with the Florence Nightingale Hospice, I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who took part, to all the marshals, volunteers and our event sponsors Dead Universe Comics, Fresh, Design & Print and George David Estate Agents. Early indications show around £5,000 has been pledged, which is simply fantastic!"

To find out more about the work of the Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity, visit www.fnhospice.org.uk

LADIES

Sign-up for the sixth annual Gemstone Midnight Walk which will officially launch on Saturday 31st January, 2015, Friars Square Shopping Centre, Aylesbury, with an 'early bunny' registration offer for ladies on the day! More information at www.gemstonewalk.co.uk



Kelly Bond photography

VillageView needs you!

Would you like to join our vibrant team of volunteers in the production of our award-winning, quarterly village magazine, Village View?

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To apply for these positions please write to our Parish Clerk, Noreen Shardlow at noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk

Answers to Tea Break Quiz on page 11

1. George V, 2. Oliver Cromwell, 3. Balthazar, Melchior and Caspar (or Gaspar), 4. Balthazar, 5. Christmas cracker, 6. The Coronation Stone (aka Stone of Soane or Stone of Destiny), 7. Christmas Past, Christmas Present, Christmas Yet To Come and Jacob Marley, 8. Turkey, 9. Norway, 10. Mexico, 11. The Spice Girls, 12. Jingle Bells, 13. Comet, Cupid, Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner and Blitzen, 14. H2O, 15. Cranberry sauce, 16. Greek alphabet - the first letter of the word Christ, 17. John Calcott Halsey, 18. Sir Henry Cole, 19. Gabriel, 20. White Christmas.

Keen gardener grows to reach 100 Albert Hearn

A war veteran celebrated his 100th birthday on Wednesday 24 September 2014 at Lakeside Care Home.

Albert Hearn was born in a house next to Chesham police station in Broad Street on 24th September 1914 and is one of six children. He lived at several addresses in Chesham before moving to Green Lane in Amersham with his wife, Dorothy, at the end of the Second World War. He stayed there until moving to Lakeside Care Home in Watermead last August.

Mr Hearn volunteered for the army when the Second World War broke out and was a driver

taking supplies all over the UK and Belgium. His family said he seldom speaks of that time saying it was "top secret".

He was a prominent member of the Royal British Legion in Amersham and he and Dorothy were poppy sale organisers for many years selling them at Amersham train station. Mr Hearn was awarded a life membership of the RBL, Amersham branch, in 1986 for services rendered.

The grandfather of five and great-grandfather of six began work as an apprentice at a Chesham printers; he later moved to the Sun Printers in Watford where he stayed for more than 40 years, often

cycling from Amersham.

He grew his own vegetables into his early 90's and people came from miles away to buy his produce. His daughter, Marian Tedman, said: "Dad's always been a very disciplined man and very independent. When he was younger he'd always be available to help friends and neighbours whatever the task. He has never to my knowledge sworn in his life apart from a 'damn' or 'blast'."

Mrs Tedman thinks the secret to her father's longevity is never eating between meals, giving up smoking and not drinking too much. Mr Hearn's brother, Fred, also lived to reach 100 but died shortly after his centenary last year.

A party was arranged to celebrate Albert's centenary at Lakeside Care Home and members of his family came along. Among other gifts he was presented with a pocket watch from the management of Lakeside Care Home.



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Anyone for tea?

On Sunday 28th October we held the MacMillan Tea Afternoon (in lieu of the Coffee Morning which was generally held on the Friday beforehand!). The Village Hall was decorated beautifully and lots of people dropped by for afternoon tea between 2 and 4 pm.

It was a beautiful sunny day so we also put tables in the garden and decorated the whole area with colourful bunting. All

the tables were laid with pretty tablecloths and poppies in vases.

We were very lucky that so many kind people baked and donated a lovely assortment of homemade cakes and other delights. There were various types of sandwiches, scones with jam and cream, a sumptuous strawberry and cream layered sponge, chocolate muffins, blueberry meringues, coffee and walnut cake, a tangy

lemon drizzle cake, blackberry and cream cake - too many to mention! They were all very delicious.

MacMillan provided a number of games to do one of which was 'guess the number' of 'hundreds and thousands' on a cake. My grandchildren, Joseph and Erin, made loombands and sold them. And Joseph ran a 'name the bear' competition.

I would like to thank the

Parish Council for allowing us to use the village hall free of charge, Tesco for their generous donation, and also to everyone who worked very hard to make the event a success.

It was a very pleasant afternoon with people enjoying tea and cake whilst helping to raise £440 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Marcia Lang



Gemma Ward the youngest model ever to appear on a Vogue cover returns to Prada



What else has been happening for me? Alexa Chung was promoting her book "It" back in August; she graciously posed for a polaroid.

Back in September at the annual Vogue Fashion Night Out, I met Alexandra Shulman, Editor of Vogue. Unbelievably she knew who I was AND she liked my coat!

In the last issue we featured how Phoebe Shardlow, who lives on Ayleswater, appeared in a recent issue of Vogue magazine. Since then Phoebe has agreed to write some articles about fashion for us, and to keep us updated on her own forays into the world of fashion. Here's her first piece about Gemma Ward - the youngest model ever to appear on a Vogue cover.

The rolling lilac sand dunes announced Gemma Ward's triumphant return to fashion and some drastic changes ahead for the fashion industry. Miuccia Prada shows us the seventies through her lilac tinted glasses.

Provocative, powerful and eerie music echoed throughout Prada's ingenious desert scape last week in Milan. The audience spaced themselves out until, emerging from the vast desert landscape, came

the clothes oozing with styles reminiscent of the seventies and the chunkiest platform Mary Janes. The looks were typical of Prada. If the Prada woman was to survive in the desert, of course, she would need her monumental platforms. But it wasn't the darkly romantic clothes or the aubergine tinge to the room that got the industry's attention. It was the opening act - Gemma Ward's greatly acclaimed return to fashion after a six year hiatus. Ward was the woman who prompted a new generation of fragile, doll-like models and reportedly earned \$20,000 per show, not to mention a notable contract with Calvin Klein where she was allegedly paid \$1.3 million.

Gemma Ward The Statistics:

- Born in Australia in 1987
- Career commenced in 2002
- Ward was the youngest model to feature on a Vogue cover
- Replaced Kate Moss as the

face of Calvin Klein fragrance

- Worked for Christian Dior, Prada, Yves Saint Laurent, Gucci, Dolce and Gabbana, Versace, Bulgari and Hermès
- One of the top 30 models of the 2000's

Ward's return represents something much greater and more significant for the industry in that it is clearly apparent that models are once again going to be at the forefront of fashion. We have excessively had various celebrities' spawn thrown in our faces, but the days of stunt casting are over. These prime examples of nepotism are no longer relevant; Kendall Jenner's acclaim is rapidly decreasing (thankfully). Look no further than US Vogue's September cover (in fashion September is the equivalent of January) to see how models have proudly and triumphantly returned. The great myth of the supermodel is no longer myth or legend, but real. A new era

is about to commence in the fashion industry and Ward is at the starting line of this pivotal event.

Meandering on from Ward's return, Prada created yet again a captivating collection. Ideas of opulence were ubiquitous from the heavy damasks, lavish flocking and brocades. The distinctive lines of stitching foreshadowed the contrast of frayed, ripped and damaged hems with the fluid fabrics of luxuriance. The element of wear and tear was blatant and distinct.

Obviously, in everyday mundane reality one cannot simply emerge from a psychedelic desert in surreal ensembles, but we can dissect the aesthetic to make life a little less monotonous.

Prada is manifesting signs of a substantial change looming on the fashion horizon, and we are all about to witness it very soon.

Phoebe Shardlow

The Greylag Goose

Our commonest native goose, the Greylag Goose can be very territorial while nesting, chasing other geese and large birds away from its nesting site. Greylag Geese become sociable again once the chicks have hatched, with several families of goslings sometimes grouping together. Greylag Geese have short bills and prefer to graze pasture and meadows where cattle or sheep are grazing. They will also take grain, root crops and leafy vegetation.

Wild birds nest in Scotland, while others come from Iceland to spend the winter. Feral birds nest throughout the country on park lakes and gravel pits.

See more at www.wildlifetrusts.org/species/greylag-geese

Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital released a young Great Crested Grebe in our lake in September.

It's a delightfully elegant waterbird with ornate head plumes which led to its being



Greylag Geese who flew into Watermead in October. Photo: Eric Rose



bodies. They have an elaborate courtship display in which they rise out of the water and shake their heads. Very young grebes often ride on their parents' backs.

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

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News Watermead allotments

I was not a very enthusiastic gardener before I retired from full time work, so when my wife first mooted the idea of us having an allotment I was not all that keen,

but said I would help out when needed. It has now become more of a joint effort with a ratio of about 60 to 40 in her favour. We have had a very productive year with bumper crops of potatoes, raspberries, runner beans, courgettes and tomatoes. We also managed a decent amount of gooseberries and blueberries, strawberries and carrots, as well as other fruit and vegetables. Mind you, with all this produce we then ended up wondering what we would do with it all. Of course, we gave some away to family, friends, other allotment holders and neighbours, so nothing was really wasted.

I wonder what people did before the internet, which offers an amazing number of recipes and also ways of storing produce. We have frozen all kinds of fruit and vegetables which will see us through the winter - to a certain extent -

and, of course, means spending less at the supermarket. We have tried pickling courgettes, drying tomatoes and storing in olive oil.

We are lucky that we are both retired, but you do not have to spend days on end down on the allotment - unless you want to get away from your spouse! The initial work on the plot is the hardest, but once that has been turned round it is just a matter of planting, weeding and harvesting what has grown, which gives a great deal of satisfaction.

Watermead allotments have been going since 2011 and have gone from a bare field to assorted patches of vegetables, fruit and flowers. There are lots of personal touches from the diverse collection of plot holders, who are mainly from Watermead, but with a few from nearby areas.

Having an allotment does not cost a lot and comes with lots of benefits. You get home grown vegetables and fruit from a reliable source, plenty of fresh air and it helps you keep active and fit and is a lot cheaper than the gym and more rewarding.

Water is on the site at regular intervals, so your plot will not be far from a water tank. We have sporadic maintenance days to keep the whole area looking reasonably tidy.

There are still some plots available for Watermead residents, but there is a short waiting list for non-residents, as they are restricted to just under 20% of the total area. It costs just £25 a year, plus £10 for water and there is a one off £8 fee for a key to the gate, which is kept locked. There is a small car park for use during muddy periods, but in the summer months plot holders are allowed to drive to their plots. We get a regular delivery of manure from a local stable which is deposited near the car park and you just help yourself on a first come, first served basis.

This year we had a plant sale and despite it pouring with rain

managed to boost the allotment society's funds and raise some money for a local youth charity. In October we had an Open/ Maintenance day when a band of stalwart plot holders spent several hours one Saturday morning doing a general tidy up and constructing some communal storage bins. The allotment society has its own Facebook page, which is a great place to swap ideas and recipes, some of which have been a great success, especially a strawberry liqueur. We are hoping at some time in the future to have a produce show.

If you fancy trying your hand at an allotment, in the first instance, please contact Noreen Shardlow, Watermead Parish Clerk via the Parish Council website or 01296 641423.

Colin Smith



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Seasonal tips for spiny visitors

It is a time when many of you, including myself, are active in the garden.

Simple, satisfying jobs such as turning the compost heap, raking up leaves or a spot of pruning. Local hedgehogs are preparing to hibernate and so any help you can give them will be invaluable.

Here are three easy ways you can help them this weekend:

Leave some leaves. Decay processes support the fungi and

bacteria which underpins the garden ecosystem. More rotting leaves = more insects = more hedgehog food.

Sort, don't burn. Burning everything is a waste. Sort your woody debris from leaves and shoots. Pile the former in a corner of the garden, the latter can go into the compost heap. The result: less pollution, more nesting opportunities for hedgehogs.

Plant a fruit tree. Apples, pears or cherries all produce fruit which encourages insects, and they have the right type of leaves for hedgehog hibernation nests.

Hedgehogs can remain active well into November and December and will often move nesting sites during hibernation. A bowl of fresh water will be greatly appreciated by any 'hog out and about.

Meat-based cat or dog food,

special hedgehog food, along with a few crushed unsalted peanuts, raisins or mealworms are all great for hungry hedgehogs.

Hibernacula, the nests in which hedgehogs will hibernate, can be in log piles, compost heaps, patches of brush or in a specially built hedgehog nest box.

Find out more at www.hedgehogstreet.org

The Christmas Truce of 1914

Day after day we are subjected to more and more lurid and distressing details of war and conflict around the world. Turning away and remaining in

ignorance is not an option. If we, as individuals, cannot offer a solution or even comfort, the least we can do is shed a tear for those who suffer. I doubt the general public in 1914 had much

as many as 59 units taking part in other sorts of friendly association.

Despite that, much of what the veterans relate is the same.

The weather in the run up to Christmas 1914 had been relentlessly wet, resulting in the conditions in the trenches that have been so well documented. The British and German trenches were only about 200

yards apart and during lulls in fighting they could hear each other and cooking smells drifted across 'no man's land' into the opposing trenches. On Christmas Eve the weather changed to a

hard frost, the mud hardened and conditions became slightly more tolerable.

In Germany Christmas Eve is traditionally the most important day of the Christmas period, when gifts are exchanged and family meals taken. So on that day the German soldiers decorated the parapets of their trenches with Christmas trees, candles and paper lanterns. They sang carols and the British soldiers responded by joining in and adding more hymns and popular songs.

At many places along that 20 mile stretch of the Western front similar things were taking place and enemies set aside their hostilities and embraced each other in recognition of a shared experience and shared

humanity.

Tales are told not just of football matches, but a boxing match too. Both soldiers were about 6'5" tall and the match had to be stopped and declared a draw as neither of them would give up and were in danger of inflicting serious damage on each other!

As you can imagine, the troops were not in possession of football kit and goals. Caps were laid down to mark out goals, some did manage to locate footballs – on one occasion a man on a bike was sent back from the lines to procure one. Alas, barbed wire was the enemy of proper footballs, so sometimes old tin cans were used instead and shin guards were cobbled together out of sandbags.

One of the most famous matches took place at Ploegsteert (Plugstreet as the British soldiers called it).

The British side included some Scottish soldiers and the Germans were astonished to see that they wore nothing under their kilts!

General good natured merry making continued throughout the day. Traditional German and British food was exchanged, bully beef and rum for German sausage and cognac. Belt buckles, badges and buttons were

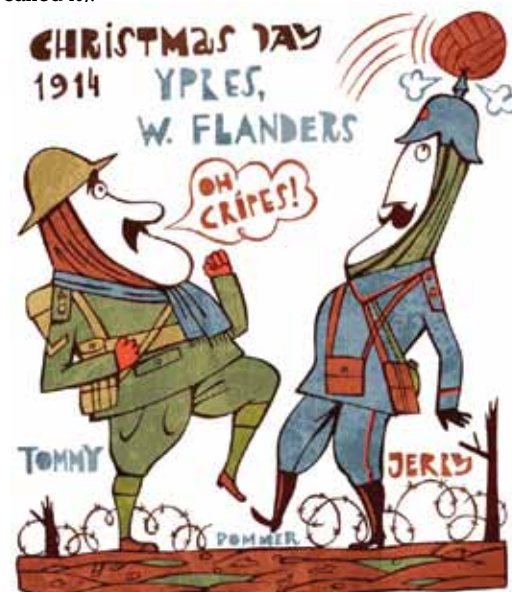
also exchanged and at one place a barber-turned-soldier cut the hair of his enemies.

Poignantly, the opportunity was taken to bury those that had fallen in the most recent conflicts.

The friendly atmosphere continued for a day or two, but inevitably hostility resumed.

When news of the informal truce reached the upper echelons of the British Army information was requested about those units involved, disciplinary action was considered, but fortunately never carried out.

In 1914 a shared religion enabled the adversaries to set aside their enmity, albeit only for a short while. It is impossible to imagine such an event taking place today, when so many modern conflicts have opposing religions at their source.



watermead cygnets pre-school

When the new term started in September we gave a big warm welcome to all the new Cygnets. We are delighted that they have all settled in so well and are enjoying all the activities.

We managed to take advantage of the good weather we had at the end of September/early October; the children had a great time in the Cygnets garden and they took part in our Autumn walk to collect conkers, acorns and fir cones.

Our learning theme this term is "All about me". The children have been learning about themselves, their homes and families. They have also been learning all about their senses, bodies and healthy eating.

Families play a huge part in the early stages of a young person's life and we feel it is important the children learn all about their families especially when it comes to helping out Mummy and Daddy!

October always includes the harvest festival. We taught the children all about different types of food and the importance of ensuring that everyone eats healthy food. Our Harvest Festival took place on Tuesday 14th October and we thank everyone who donated food. All the items were given to the Aylesbury Vineyard Storehouse which distributes free food, clothing and furniture to people.

We are looking forward to next term, where we will be learning about Autumn festivals such as fireworks, bonfire night, Diwali and Christmas activities. We will also be setting the children a 'Nursery Rhyme Challenge' where the children will learn ten new rhymes to recite at our sing-off on Friday 21st November.

Other activities include the following:

- Children in Need is scheduled for 14th November when the

children will dress up and we will be collecting donations.

- Tuesday 18th November - photographer.
- Friday 21st November, Stay and Play Session/ Nursery Rhyme sing-off.
- Friday 17th December, trip to Zoomania.
- Friday 12th - Parent and Staff Christmas evening.
- Tuesday 9th December, Christmas Play.

Cygnets accepts children from 2½ to 5 years old.

We open from 9.15 am to 12.15pm Monday to Friday and we provide a lunch club most days from 12.15 to 1.15pm. If you would like your child to attend Cygnets you can visit us and ask to be added onto our waiting list. To avoid disappointment please call and ask to speak Maree on 07563 783464.

The Cygnets Team



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we have a vacancy on our Committee – can anyone help?

Watermead Cygnets pre-school is a charity run by a committee and we are currently looking for a new member. The pre-school cannot run without a full committee and it's essential this role is filled to ensure this vital local service can continue. You don't need to have a child at the pre-school to be a member of the committee; we are open to applications from the local community. This role will only take up a few hours of your time at meetings once every half term.

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The History of the Christmas Card

Who do you think we should blame – er, I mean credit – for the proliferation of brightly coloured greetings cards at this time of year? A long lost ancestor of Mr Clinton? Or perhaps WH Smith's great-great-grandfather?

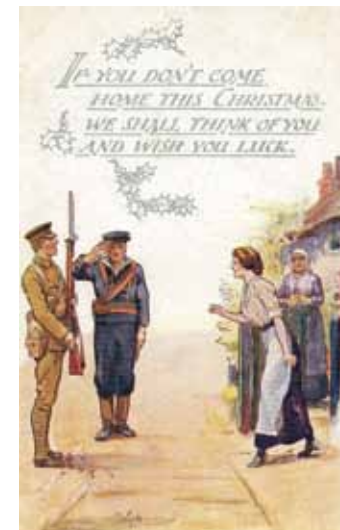
No. The first Christmas card was the brain child of Henry Cole in 1840. It was already customary for people to write to their friends and family at Christmas, but Henry – with a busy job at the Public Records Office – didn't have time. So he suggested to his friend, John Calcott Horsley – an already well-known artist – that he should design a card with a message printed on it, so all Henry would have to do is send them off.

The card showed a happy family enjoying a meal and a drink, with panels on either side showing the feeding and clothing of the poor. The printed greeting said 'A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year'.

In subsequent years other artists, designers and printers jumped on the band wagon and started to produce a variety of cards. The tradition of sending commercially produced cards at Christmas became firmly established. Later, however, those in artistic circles became bored with the practice and by 1866 the idea had been taken up by an enterprising businessman, Josiah Goodall. He commissioned artists and lithographers to produce new designs, which used the holly, mistletoe and robins with which we are so familiar today.

This expansion of the industry gave birth to a whole new area of opportunity for artists, writers and printers. In 1880 a London firm offered prizes amounting to 500 guineas for the best designs. Even well-known writers were happy to supplement their incomes writing poems and phrases suitable for use in Christmas cards.

As time went by many organisations took to having



had not been expected to still be ongoing by the next and subsequent Christmases.

In 1914 a series of anti-Kaiser War Cartoons was produced with dramatic political humour. As the war progressed Army units produced their own Christmas cards for sending home, as did prisoners of war.

Nowadays, Christmas cards are produced with all sorts of themes with many completely avoiding a religious theme and some with no words, so the purchaser can add their own.

Henry Cole's idea must have been one of the most successful innovations of recent times, although he doesn't seem to have benefitted from it financially. But he did go on to be knighted for his mainstream work, which included helping to organise the Great Exhibition of 1851 and being a founder member of the Victoria and Albert Museum.



His friend, the artist John Horsley also achieved success, having many of his drawings included in Punch magazine and becoming rector of the Royal Academy.

Images reproduced by kind permission. Tony Allen www.worldwar1postcards.com



Everyone who received one was so enthusiastic about it that it was decided to produce them commercially and by 1843 a 1000 cards were sold at the price of one shilling.

The cards were printed by Jobbins of Holborn, then coloured in by a professional 'colourist' called Mason. They were then published by Henry Cole's friend Joseph Cundall of New Bond Street.

But not everyone was enthusiastic. Puritans protested at the depiction of people clearly drinking alcohol, but their protests fell on deaf ears and the idea of sending Christmas cards went from strength to strength.

designs specific to their area of activity, including many British Army Regiments.

During the First World War cards were designed specifically to be sent to those on active service abroad by their friends and family. In 1914 the King and Queen sent soldiers a Christmas card with a photograph of themselves on it with the words 'With our best wishes for Christmas 1914. May God protect you and bring you home safely'. This gesture was never repeated as it was not thought to be the best use of the space available on ships sending supplies and equipment for the soldiers; also, possibly because the war

Easy Fundraising

As Christmas is approaching, many of you may be purchasing gifts online. Please register with Easyfundraising.org.uk (if you haven't done so already) to help raise money for CHAT.

CHAT supports children in Buckinghamshire who have individual and complex health needs. CHAT is dedicated to raising funds for equipment and extra respite nurses for which no NHS funding is currently available.

Registering is easy - just follow the steps on the website. You may have to install the easyfundraising pop-up bar. Once you have registered, future purchases on line will generate donations to participating retailers.

The link to CHAT is www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=272

Link to the retailers is: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/retailers/
Thank you and happy shopping!



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