

VillageView

WATERMEAD'S *FREE* QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

Winter 2021 Vol.28 Issue 4

Carol Concert
11th December
6pm Watermead Piazza

Christmas lights
best decorated house competition
Photography Competition
2021 results

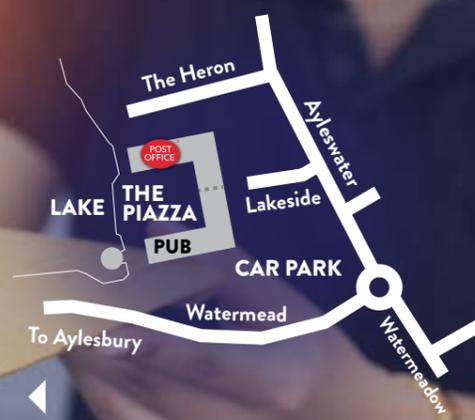
Cover shot by Dan Forder



News from Watermead Parish Council & more!
watermead-pc.gov.uk / @watermead pc



WELCOME
OPEN



POST OFFICE OPENING TIMES
Monday to Friday 7.30am - 5.30pm
Saturday & Sunday 7.30am - 12.30pm

POST OFFICE

Mail/Parcels | FREE Cash Withdrawals | Banking
Mobile Top-Up | Bill Payments | Travel Money

We are following the 2m distance rule with 2 customers only permitted in the shop at any one time

at **WM News & Food**
your local convenience shop

- OFF-LICENCE
- ICE CREAM
- FOOD TO GO
- GROCERIES
- PET FOOD
- HOT & COLD DRINKS
- HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS
- PHOTOCOPYING & FAX SERVICE
- SANDWICHES
- GINSTERS PIES & PASTIES
- FRESH FRUIT & VEG



Watermead postcards
2 for 99p or 65p each

It could be you!

Players must be 16 or over

We sell
Natural Choice
Duck Food



SHOP OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK
7.30am to 7.30pm

f FIND US 'Watermead Post Office'
Watermead Village Piazza HP19 0FX Telephone: 338435

Parish Chairman's News

We all very much hope that, this year, we will be able to enjoy a more normal Christmas with less restrictions and the chance to spend it with loved ones and friends. The vaccination programme and people taking care to keep everyone else safe means we can look forward to this year's festive season with more certainty.

The Craft Fair will not take place because it is felt the Village Hall is too small to accommodate a sufficiently large variety of stalls with space to move around. This is a shame but we feel it is the most sensible decision. Let's hope it will return next year.

The Carol Concert will be held on Saturday 11th December with Reverend Dan Beesley and his family leading the service, music from the Great Horwood Silver Band and, I am told, Father Christmas has us in his calendar, as usual. Do bring your children and families along, join in the

carols, drink mulled wine and eat some delicious snacks, while listening to the Christmas story.

It is with great sadness that I must report that **Reverend Dan**, Paula, Jacob and Eloise are moving. Their family joined our parish at St James the Great, Berton almost as the pandemic struck. Reverend Dan has led us through the bleakest of periods with humility, cheerfulness and a shining faith. When Covid-19 closed church buildings, recorded services were available on YouTube. Services continue to be recorded and available to watch online.

Since moving to Berton Dan has been instrumental in starting the Connect service, a modern form of worship, particularly suited to young families. Dan is moving to Chalfont St Giles in the new year, and we wish the family every happiness and success in their new Parish; the Parishioners are very lucky to have him join them.

Land, Planning and other matters have been occupying our thoughts of late.

We are waiting to hear whether we have been successful in obtaining grant funding for the new path around the large lake. We will hear during December and, if the grant is made, it is hoped that work will start as soon as the weather is suitable.

Circus Field
The Parish Council was extremely shocked to receive, completely out of the blue, a planning application consultation for six industrial units on the field at the entrance to Watermead. Our well-honed process for carrying out public consultation, gathering our specialist planning advice and lobbying everyone we can think of came into immediate action. During the two days of consultation held in the Village Hall we saw hundreds of parishioners, not one of whom was in favour of the idea, so we have made strong representation to the local Planning Authority,



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

In this issue:

- 04 Update Watermead Neighbourhood Plan
- 09 Potential hazards for pets at Christmas
- 12 Abandoned villages of Buckinghamshire
- 14 Prefabulous childhood memories
- 15 Free service to help Bucks charities
- 16 Watermead Carol Concert
- 18 Do you know your Botticelli from your Banksy?
- 19 Watermead Lunch Club
- 20 Dedicate, Remember, Reflect, Share
- 21 Christmas around the world
- 22 Watermead Photography Competition Results
- 24 David Gee tells us about writing his novels
- 29 Places to eat
- 30 Vale Countryside Volunteers visit Watermead

Plus our regular features:

- 03 Parish Chairman's News
- 06 What's on
- 07 View from Westminster
- 08 Watermead Allotments
- 11 Spanish recipes
- 13 Tea break quiz
- 20 Our local Vicar
- 24 Book Review
- 27 Sally's blog
- 31 Footsteps Pre-school

Christmas: The time when everyone gets Santamental.

[more on page 04](#)



Vice Chairman:
Cllr Adrian Schwab
T: 338118
adrian.schwab@watermead-pc.gov.uk



Cllr Stuart Mackay
T: 07521 725231
stuart.mackay@watermead-pc.gov.uk



Cllr Eric Rose
T: 486735
ericrosewpc@aol.com



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



Cllr Mick Morgan
T: 07821 403784
mick.morgan@watermead-pc.gov.uk



Cllr Irina Schwab
T: 338118
irinaschwablegal@gmail.com



Parish Clerk and Halls Manager:
Noreen Shardlow
T: 395211 or 792137
(Call weekdays 10am to 2pm)
noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk



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

Buckinghamshire Council, objecting. We are now waiting to read the planning officer's report and for a public hearing of the case.

Piazza Flats

After several years the application to build flats in the Piazza car park has been slightly altered and has been sent for re-consultation. Once again, parishioners make it clear that this is another application to which they strongly object. The Parish Council agrees. The car park is a valued facility for residents and the businesses in the Piazza. This type of speculative development is unsuitable over-development. The car park is full for much of the time, particularly in the summer and at weekends and during evenings. We don't need more flats; the car park is needed. The design is overbearing and ugly with little space between blocks and the green area enjoyed by customers and residents beside the Watermead Inn lost to car parking spaces, the only way this plan could be shoe-horned in. Once again we await the officer's report and committee

meeting at which we will represent residents' views.

Photographic competition

There were fewer entries this year, but the standard was very high and those who attended the exhibition of entries were treated to the usual array of stunning images of Watermead, particularly our wildlife. The winning entries were Beautiful Watermead - Dan Forder, Open Category - Robert Fearnley, People and Events - James Bates, Overall Winner - Dan Forder. Thanks are again due to Cllr Eric Rose who organised the competition.

Christmas lights competition

We'll be holding our usual competition this year and hope that as many of you as possible are able to light up your homes for everyone to enjoy this December. It really has become a lovely feature of Watermead and it's a pleasure to walk round in the evenings and see the different displays.

Events

The next 'big' weekend

is HM Queen's Sapphire Jubilee in June 2022. The Parish Council resolved to mark the event with a Jubilee tree and a bench. Any events around the weekend, including Larks by the Lake, will be dependent on the Covid-19 situation. The events committee should be able to make a provisional decision on what form any event will take in the new year.

Watermead Pub Lunch Club

Cllr Mary Singleton has reinstated the monthly lunches at the Watermead Inn and they are well attended. If you would like to join in please get in touch with Mary at mary.singleton@watermead-pc.gov.uk or call the Parish Clerk on 01296 395211 to book a place.

Village View

We hope that you will enjoy this edition and thank Mary and the editorial team for the hard work they put in to produce an interesting and attractive magazine for Watermead. Please support our advertisers - the

revenue from advertisements allows us to publish Village View free of charge. We mustn't forget the small army of volunteers who deliver the magazine to our homes. Thank you.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Plan is now moving to its next stage and Cllr Mick Morgan reports on progress in this edition. It was a pleasure, and very useful, to be able to meet residents and talk to them about the Plan during the consultation days for the Circus Field and Piazza car park. It made such a difference to meet face to face and hear peoples' views, answer questions, and talk about possibilities for our village. More public meetings and public consultations will follow.

I hope that you all have a peaceful Christmas and happy and healthy new year.

Cllr Sue Severn, Chairman

*Q. How is the alphabet different on Christmas from every other day?
A. There's Noel!*

Update from the Watermead Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Team

Initial resident and business questionnaires have been sent out and responses have been collated for analysis. This will enable the NP Team to review at the next stage and ascertain the key elements for inclusion in the follow up questionnaires. The NP Team has met with the Planning Consultant who specialises in neighbourhood plans and advises NP Teams on the 'process' and provides a comparative view and feedback. This will help the NP Team to follow 'best practice' and increase the quality of the NP and ultimately help in ensuring the Plan can be 'adopted'.

I am pleased to report that the Consultant was very happy with the progress and activities to date under what can only be described as the very challenging circumstances of the past 18 months. It is now vital that we get the next key steps completed:

• Stage 1: The NP Team and the Planning Consultant will work together to ensure

that the 'Aims, Objectives and Vision' of the Plan are drafted prior to the next phase of engagement.

• Stage 2: The completion of the crucial 'Land Assessment Survey' is required as this is a key element in the NP. There is a formal process to follow in order to do this and each piece of land identified will be assessed against an agreed criteria. Each site is then assessed as either Red, Amber or Green in terms of any development, Red being a 'showstopper' and Green being 'available/achievable'. Clearly Watermead has overwhelming constraints in that they are within the non-developable flood plain or have been through a planning process, such as an appeal, where they have already been deemed 'unsuitable'.

• Stage 3: On-going engagement with businesses and landowners within our

'Designated Area'.

• Stage 4: Once the first two stages have been completed we will re-engage with residents and businesses through Open Days and other events in order to increase key stakeholder engagement.

Anyone interested in understanding more about the Watermead Neighbourhood Plan can do so by contacting the Parish Clerk who will put them in touch with one of the Team.

The NP Team really do need YOUR FEEDBACK, ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT to ensure that the Plan represents YOUR vision for the Watermead of the 'future'.

Cllr Mick Morgan

Age UK Bucks services and support



We help older people throughout the county live independently

- * Information and advice
- * Welfare benefits home visits
- * Befriending
- * Help-in-the-Home
- * Hairdressing
- * Garden Maintenance
- * Handyperson
- * Computer Training
- * Toenail Cutting Service

Call 01296 431911

www.ageukbucks.org.uk

145 Meadowcroft, Aylesbury HP19 9HH
Registered charity 1139423

Get onboard WaterRIDER 66A

• Commute • Shop • Relax

- Frequent buses running between Buckingham Park, Watermead and Aylesbury town centre
- FREE travel to and from Aylesbury Rail Station, for Chiltern Railways monthly or longer pass holders
- Family day ticket just £5.00* (2 adults and 2 children or 1 adult and 3 children)
- Adult Weekly £9* • Adult 4 weekly £32*



*Also valid for travel on Aylesbury town services 2,4,4A,6,6A,7,10,11,14,17 and 130**

**Valid between Aylesbury town centre and Stoke Mandeville Hospital only



www.redlinebuses.com



What's on ...around Watermead

December

1st Pub Lunch Club Watermead Inn, 12.30pm
11th Christmas Carol Concert The Piazza, 6pm

January

5th Watermead Pub Lunch The Watermead Inn
20th Watermead Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7:30pm

February

2nd Watermead Pub Lunch The Watermead Inn
17th Watermead Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7:30pm

March

2nd Watermead Pub Lunch The Watermead Inn
17th Watermead Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7:30pm

Our regulars in the Village Hall...

Parish Council
3rd Thursday of the month
(excluding August & December)
Public meeting - 7.30pm
Council meeting - 8pm

Footsteps Pre-School
Monday - Friday 7.30am to 2pm
Closes 12.30pm Tuesdays
07743 871369
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

Aylesbury & District
Philatelic Society
Second Wednesday of the month
7.30 - 10pm
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

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

Inkstampshare Paper Craft Class
07952 477702
kate@boltweb.net
Inkstampshare.ink

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

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.

Resident advertisers committing to 4 issues will be eligible for 10% discount subject to paying the invoice within 30 days of receiving it. Non-resident advertisers committing to 4 issues will be eligible for a 20% discount subject to paying the invoice within 30 days of receiving it. Special prices apply for back, inside front and inside back cover. Please call the Advertising Manager for further details.

Advertising Manager	Phil Toler	Tel: 432405	philtoler3@gmail.com
Editor	Mary Singleton	Tel: 428569	mary.singleton@watermead-pc.gov.uk
Assistant Editor	Carolynne Mckee	Tel: 435096	carolynnecmckee@btinternet.com
Graphic Designer	Rachel Seago	Tel: 712545	villageviewwatermead@gmail.com
Distribution Manager	Dot Toler	Tel: 432405	dot_toler@hotmail.com

Read by over 1,200 homes. 3 month shelf life!

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 is required in advance of publication - advertisers will be invoiced accordingly and must pay the invoice within 30 days of receipt. If you have any suggestions for content/articles please contact any member of the team above. Designed by Rachel Seago Designs. Published by Watermead Parish Council. 2021 © The Village View is also uploaded onto our website: www.watermead-pc.gov.uk/villageview.

View from Westminster



Since I last wrote for Village View, all of us in Westminster have been left devastated by the killing of Sir David Amess. His death was all the more shocking because it happened while he was meeting local people in his constituency. Legal proceedings are underway which prevent me commenting further on the case. However, I would like to make the general point that MPs of all parties are subject to threats and abuse on an almost daily basis especially via social media. This cannot be right. Whatever our party-political allegiance, we are all committed to public service and improving our constituents' lives. So I very much hope that the tragic loss of David will prompt long-overdue change in the way people behave towards all those who represent them in public office, and can help us be kinder to one another even when we disagree. It is perhaps something to reflect upon as we approach the festive season of goodwill to all.

I'm sure that we all hope that this year we'll be able to celebrate Christmas with family and friends after the huge success of the vaccine rollout. It's been great to be able to go out and about again, talking to residents of Watermead about the issues that matter most to you. I want to thank everyone for the contribution you've made to help life get back to normal in the face of the pandemic whether that's in your jobs, volunteering, supporting vulnerable neighbours or just getting the job - it all counts and helps make our community stronger. The virus hasn't gone away, though, so I encourage everyone to get a booster jab when it's offered.

Finally, as this is the last edition of Village View in 2021, I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year.

Robert Butler MP



01296 706008
www.masonplumbing.co.uk



We can offer a 10 year guarantee on all new Worcester Bosch boilers and can also offer 0% payment options
Boiler serviced from £60 plus VAT and we can also carry out repairs

Whether you are looking for a full central heating installation, landlord gas safety certificate or just someone to fix a dripping tap Mason Plumbing & Heating Ltd will complete your job to a very high standard and at a very competitive price.



Watermead's Allotments

What a funny year 2021 has been for everyone not least the gardeners. First we had the mild weather, then amazing amounts of rain, then sunshine followed by even more amazing amounts of rain and that was only Spring! I am amazed the allotmenters were able to grow anything. Most of us got a reasonable amount of produce except for tomatoes, which were subject to blight. One plot owner had only planted tomatoes and every one of his plants was affected so he lost the lot. This is an objective lesson for all gardeners and is part of the attraction – it is you against nature.

On the plus side the site occupancy is now full and many of the new gardeners are very enthusiastic. Recently eight of us, mainly newcomers, cleared the site of most of the unwanted wood or plastic most of which had been left by people who had given up their allotments. The Parish Council also arranged for the encroaching bush on two sides of the site to be cut back, so the allotments are now looking good. Some of our members want the site to enter the open gardens scheme next year. This year's in-house best allotment competition was a great success and was won easily by Diane Lee and Tina Nunes. We thank The Parish Council for generously supplying the runner-up prizes and Sue Severn the winners' cups (given in memory of her Mother). It is a nice feeling to be eating your own potatoes, onions, runner beans etc at this time of year but receiving a bottle as well does bring a smile to your face.

So, if you are reading this and thinking "I would like to try that", then apply through the Parish Clerk for a plot. People are leaving all the time for various reasons, moving house, changing jobs, taking on more responsibilities etc so there are always vacancies coming up. Lack of experience should not stop you as many of us are only too happy to tell you what has worked for us, but it will require a bit of hard work. The joy of eating your own grown food is hard to explain. The Aylesbury Gardening Society in town have a Sunday shop where you can buy seed, tools etc which are cheaper than the shops, although Wilkinson's are also hard to beat. It does mean you can use your space at home for immediate produce such as herbs and salads.

As Winter approaches the allotments are put to bed, beds weeded etc. All the water troughs are switched off and driving on the site is kept to the minimum as it damages the trackways. We are very fortunate to receive the free gift of chippings, so this is a good time to renew the chipping cover on the plots' paths. I and a few others try to plant some winter vegetables such as onions, broad-beans, winter cabbage and, of course, Brussels sprouts. Our year starts in January so if you are thinking of expanding your garden and growing a few vegetables, fruit or flowers contact our Parish Clerk, Noreen. She can offer you 3 sizes of plot -10 pole 25x10 metres, 5 pole 12½ x 10 metres, or 2½ pole 6 x 10 metres. Take the plunge.

Peter Smith, Chairman of the Watermead Gardening Society

Q: Why does Santa have 3 gardens? A: So he can ho-ho-ho.



Potential hazards for your pets during the Christmas/New Year festivities

Christmas brings lots of presents, fantastic food, and we get to spend time with family and friends and, of course, our pets. However, the festive season can be potentially hazardous and stressful for our pets, so here are some tips to make sure that they too have a happy Christmas...

Food: You might not realise that chocolate, mince pies and Christmas pudding (which contain raisins, currants and sultanas), onion gravy and alcohol are all poisonous for pets and should be stored securely out of reach. Also, while delicious to us, blue cheese contains a substance called roquefortine C, which dogs are extremely sensitive to. Often lurking in biscuits or eaten as a decadent Christmas snack, Macadamia nuts cause severe illness in dogs.

Bones from carcasses can also be a dangerous choking hazard and should be disposed of carefully where our furry friends can't get to them.

It's also important to consider your festive decorations. Plants such as holly, ivy, mistletoe, poinsettias and lilies can be toxic. Tinsel and wrapping paper might be tempting for your pet to play with but it's important that owners make sure they don't eat it - they could cause an obstruction in the stomach.

Routine: As Christmas can often be busy and chaotic, it is also good to keep your pet to their normal routine as much as possible. Provide them with somewhere cosy and quiet where they can retreat to and have their own space away from the festive excitement. If they do seek out their quiet spot make sure they are left undisturbed.

All cats will benefit from extra hidey-holes and cat pheromone sprays may help some cats feel a little more at ease.

If you are planning to visit friends and family over Christmas and are planning on taking your dog with you, make sure to bring something that is familiar for them, such as their bed to help them feel secure. Taking some of their favourite toys and chews will also help keep them entertained.

Treats: Christmas is a time for giving and we all want to treat our pets at this time of year too. It can be tempting to give them tasty treats, but too many can lead to weight gain and health problems. If giving pets something extra, make sure the calories are accounted for in their daily food ration and feed them a little less for dinner.

Other hazards to be aware of include:

- Salt dough ornaments – the mix of flour and salt with water can cause a potentially fatal salt toxicosis.
- Lilies – those from the Liliaceae or Hemerocallis species are very dangerous for cats. Eating just two or three leaves, or even drinking water from a vase containing them, can be potentially fatal.

Emergencies: Ensure your pet's medication is stocked up before the holidays and be sure to make plans for your pets if going away over Christmas – whether they're coming with you or not.

In case of accidents it's always a good idea to have the number of an emergency vet to hand. If your pet has eaten anything potentially harmful, you should call your vet for advice. Many local vet practices choose to close over the Christmas period so it's essential you're aware of your local out-of-hours emergency vet.

Mary Singleton

Ian Whittome Grasscutting Service

Mowing
Strimming
Scarifying
Lawn treatments
Regular or
one-off cuts

(01296) 68 23 61
07885 031 431



**TIRED OF
POTHOLES
FLY-TIPPING
LOOSE PAVING
DOG POOP VANDALISM
BROKEN STREET LIGHTING?**

**REPORT THEM TO
THE COUNCIL WITH
FixMyStreet.com**

another project from the lovely people at **mySociety**

Watermead
dental centre

- Independent dental care
- NHS care for children
- Very competitive rates

Denplan
Registered

New residents to
Watermead are
warmly welcome.

We offer quality care
at affordable prices.

Telephone: 01296 330700

The Village Piazza, Watermead HP19 0FX

Lythan Davies BDS LLM and Associates

Opening hours: Tuesday to Thursday 9.00am – 8.00pm
Monday & Friday 9.00am – 4.30pm,
Saturday 10.00am – 12.30pm (by appointment)

Dental excellence in the centre of your village

For NEW customers

£10 off

1 voucher per customer

For NEW customers

£10 off

1 voucher per customer



**FREE
FRIENDLY
ADVICE
AND
ESTIMATES**

Acorn Kitchens & Bathrooms Ltd

Luxurious kitchens and bathrooms in Aylesbury and surrounding areas

- Fully insured
- Kitchens and bathrooms
- Plumbing
- Design, fitting and installation service
- All tiling, flooring and decorating
- Showers, en-suites and cloakrooms



01296 586342 / 077764 576090
info@acornkitchensbathroomsLtd.com
www.acornkitchensbathroomsLtd.com

We also offer a fit only service and undertake
general carpentry and minor alterations

Spanish Recipes

Spanish-style Chicken Skewers with spicy yoghurt dipping sauce

Makes 16, takes 40 minutes plus marinating time. (Can be prepared the day before).

For the marinade:

- 1 tsp sweet paprika
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 2 fresh thyme sprigs, leaves picked
- 2 garlic cloves, finely grated
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tsp sherry vinegar
- 1 x 600g pack mini chicken fillets

For the dipping sauce:

- 200g (7oz) Greek-style yoghurt
- 1 tbsp sweet chilli sauce
- ½ lime, zested and juiced, plus extra wedges for serving
- ¼ tsp smoked paprika
- ½ tsp ground cumin
- ½ tsp ground coriander

Method

1. Make a marinade by combining the paprika, cumin, coriander, thyme, garlic, oil, vinegar and some seasoning in a large bowl. Add the chicken and toss to coat. Cover and chill overnight or for at least 2 hours.
2. Combine all the dipping sauce ingredients in a bowl. Cover and chill until needed.
3. Soak 16 wooden skewers in water for 30 minutes (this will prevent them from catching fire during cooking.)
4. Preheat the grill to medium-high. Thread the chicken onto the skewers and arrange in a single layer on a large baking sheet. Grill the chicken, in batches if necessary, for 5 minutes on each side or until cooked through.
5. Arrange the chicken skewers on a platter and serve with the dipping sauce and extra lime wedges.

Estouffat Catalan (Catalan Beef Stew)

Mention Catalonia and most people will think of the region of Spain that includes the Costa Brava and Barcelona. But historically it also included part of Southwestern France where people still identify as Catalans and food and traditions are the same. This recipe for a hearty beef stew comes from the French side but there is a similar version in Spain. It is one of our favourites on a cold Autumn or Winter evening. The quantities are for 8 (or 6 if you are very hungry) but can be divided into portions and freezes well.

Ingredients:

- 1.2kg Stewing Beef (I use shin) cut into cubes about 1 inch
- 300gm thick cut streaky bacon or Pancetta in small cubes
- 1 tin chopped tomatoes
- 1 tin cannellini beans drained and rinsed
- 3 onions, coarsely chopped



- 2 leeks (white parts), cut into thick rounds
- 250gm Carrots, sliced thickly
- 200gm White Turnips, cut into 1 inch cubes
- Bouquet garni of herbs, fresh if possible: Thyme & Parsley plus Bay Leaf
- 4 Cloves Garlic
- 2 Cloves
- 1 bottle full bodied red wine (Minervois for preference)
- Olive oil
- 2-3 tbs plain flour
- Salt and Pepper
- 6 meaty sausages - Toulouse type are ideal.

Method

1. Coat Beef cubes in seasoned flour.
2. Fry bacon or pancetta in oil until brown. Remove, then fry beef in batches until brown. Remove from pan.
3. Then fry onions until light brown.
4. Deglaze pan with a little brandy or with some of the wine.
5. Place all ingredients except sausages in a casserole with a tight-fitting lid
6. Pour over the red wine bring to simmer then place casserole in low oven (150 to 160C for fan oven) for 3 hours.
7. After 3 hrs, remove from oven. Take out bouquet garni and add sausages which you have gently fried till golden. Top up liquid if necessary with a little boiling water but doesn't need a lot of gravy. Then return to oven for a further 30 to 60 minutes.

Catalans serve with thick slices of Country bread toasted and rubbed with oil and garlic or fried in olive oil but can also serve with small pasta tossed in butter or oil and garlic. Eric Rose

Tarta de Santiago

Also known as Spanish Almond Cake, is a traditional Spanish cake which originated in Galicia and not only carries the name of the main city in the county but also the name of Spain's patron saint Santiago (Saint James). The first documentation on the production of this dinosaur of Spanish baking dates back to 1577.

Ingredients:

- 260gm/9oz Almonds (ground)
- 255gm/9oz Unrefined Golden Caster sugar
- 1 Orange(s) (zest only)
- 1 Lemon (zest only)
- 6 Egg(s) (free range) (separated)
- ½ tsp Almond extract
- ½ tsp Cinnamon
- Icing sugar (to dust)

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 170°C (fan 150°C, gas mark 3) and grease an 28cm (11in) springform cake tin.
2. Cream 180g (6½oz) of the sugar, zests and egg yolks together until light and fluffy. Next, stir in the ground almonds, almond extract and the cinnamon.
3. In a separate bowl, beat the egg whites with the remaining sugar until stiff. Add about one-quarter of the egg whites into the thick almond mixture and beat. Add a further quarter and repeat. Add the remaining egg white mixture and fold in until fully combined.
4. Turn the mixture into the prepared tin and bake in a preheated oven for 40 minutes.
5. Remove from the oven, allow to cool for 10 minutes in the tin and then turn out onto a wire rack.
6. To follow the time-honoured tradition of decoration, find the shape of the St James cross using the internet and print it out. Cut out the middle of the cross to use as a stencil.
7. Once the cake is cooled, dust the cake with icing sugar and serve straightaway.

This recipe was taken from World's Best Cakes by Roger Pizay, published by Jacqui Small.

*Q: Why did Santa put a clock in his sleigh?
A: Because he wanted to see time fly!*

Abandoned villages of Buckinghamshire

There are about 3,000 deserted and abandoned villages in England. Buckinghamshire has several, many local to Aylesbury, and their remains can still be seen often protected as ancient monuments.

Reasons for abandonment vary. For many centuries life in a village may have carried on as normal and then things changed and the village had to be abandoned or people were moved against their will, never to return.

In England, after the Allied Leaders had decided to invade France in the 2nd World War, they needed to train 150,000 men for Operation Overlord. The Cabinet selected suitable locations for the training to take place and villagers were given 3 weeks to pack up and leave. The remains of the villages of Tyneham in Dorset and Imber on Salisbury Plain can still be seen today. Occupants were expected to return, but they never did. Little, if any, compensation was paid.

During the Middle Ages, the cultivation of grain in three or four open fields was paramount. Each family would have plots in each of the fields; in many cases they were great distances from one another. The land would have been the property of the Lord of the Manor for whom the peasant would have to work two or three days a week. Also, a tenth of the yield had to be paid to the Church. The priest had the glebe land (a piece of land serving as part of a clergyman's benefice and providing income) to grow his own crops.

When the population fell drastically after the Black Death of 1348/9, there were fewer people to work the land. Historians estimate that fatalities may have been as high as 30 to 40% of a population of about 2 million.

Less grain came to mean less money for landowners and fewer people to work on the land. So people tried to make money by bringing in more livestock; this caused disputes over grazing land. As a result some families moved away, further shrinking a village's population. From circa 1380 to 1500 many villages became smaller or were even deserted. Some people took advantage of the situation by taking over abandoned neighbouring land using it to graze sheep. This meant that anyone coming to live in the village was unable to have land to provide a livelihood for themselves.

The export of wool, and later, woollen cloth, during the Middle Ages made English merchants rich. English wool was very

sought-after on the continent because of its fine quality. More land was therefore needed to raise sheep which meant that fewer people were required to work on the land. Merchants paid for new churches to be built, hoping to curry favour with God. Often this led to villages being resited as the Church was normally in the centre of a community.

In 1607, what some historians refer to as a tsunami, possibly a storm surge from the Bristol Channel, decimated parts of Wales. Many people were drowned along with their livestock and villages were swept away.

In the 18th century, it was fashionable for landowners to employ people like Capability Brown, to beautify their land, creating vast water features and even rerouting rivers through the land to improve the view. Many village people were evicted so that this could take place. The landowner did not want an unsightly village in the way, so people were made homeless or moved elsewhere.

Coastal erosion sometimes caused the end of some villages. Dunwich in Suffolk, a once important port, was washed away by the sea, although it continued to send two MPs to Westminster until the 1832 Reform Act put an end to the practice.

Closer to home, the original site of **STOKE MANDEVILLE** was abandoned around 1080 AD. A relative of the writer of this article found part of a medieval purse, various coins including Roman and from the time of Queen Elizabeth 1, and civil war bullets on part of the old site which now belongs to his father. All finds have been logged with the Finds Officer.

The village moved after a new church was built, but remains of the original church and some houses can still be seen. Apparently, a local child was killed there in the 1930s by falling masonry. By 1966 the remains of the church were so dangerous that the Royal Engineers were called in to blow it up! HS2 archaeologists have unearthed 3,000 burials at the site. These remains will be given a burial elsewhere as HS2 is going through part of the site.

QUARRENDON village has been deserted since the 16th century. The remains of the village can be seen together with civil war earthworks. Probably abandoned in 1485, the layout shows it probably

covered about 25 acres (10 hectares) with streets radiating from a pond. The ruins of a 13th century church can also be seen (see image).

Also within Aylesbury Vale lie the remains of the hamlet of **BURSTON** which was not a village as it had no church. However, it had its own entry in the Domesday Book of 1086. It had 4 fields and 12 inhabitants and their families. It expanded in size until 1488 when 60 people were evicted and the land converted to sheep pasture. After this depopulation the Manor prospered and Sir Henry Lee rebuilt the Manor House in the 16th century and acquired a royal licence to transform the grounds into a park.

DODDERSHALL, situated southwest of Aylesbury near Quanton, dates back to Saxon times and has an entry in the Domesday Book. Surveys show low earthworks northwest of Doddershall House. The village was destroyed in 1495 when the Lord of the Manor evicted the villagers and converted the fields to sheep pasture. The earthworks represent 500 years of village life.

FLEET MARSTON is a deserted medieval village about 4 km to the northwest of Aylesbury. The parish Church dates back to the 12th century. The Manor House was demolished in 1772 and by 1851 the parish was in decline and declared redundant in 1970. The Aylesbury and Buckingham railway was built through it in 1860, opening in 1868.

These are just some of our local abandoned villages. There is obviously a great deal of work done by archaeologists and historians in order to piece together the lives of the people who lived here in the past. Sad though it is to lose so much, we are lucky to have remnants of the past left to us as a tangible reminder of people who had experiences so different from our own.

Val Edwards



Tea Break Quiz



1. Which animal is feared by a hippophobe?
2. In which London building does the Lupine Bell hang?
3. Which species can be Fairy, Black-footed and Crested?
4. What is a tanny?
5. What does the word 'biscuit' literally mean?
6. Where is the Bay of Rainbows?
7. What is Charles II said to have hidden in after the Battle of Worcester?
8. When was the wearing of seat belts in the front of a car made compulsory?
9. How many keys does a normal piano have?
10. Which river flows through six different European countries?
11. What shape is a dish called a coquille?
12. Which breed of dog was originally bred to hunt badger?
13. Which building was erected in 1851 for the Great Exhibition?
14. Which shaggy horned wild cattle live in the Tibetan mountains?
15. What was sought by Jason and the Argonauts?
16. Where in London is the Stranger's Gallery?
17. Alton Towers leisure park is in which county?
18. On what date does the pheasant shooting season legally begin?
19. Who wrote the novels on which the BBC classic saga The Forsyth Saga was based.
20. Which country became the first in the world to issue parking tickets?

Answers on page 15



Independent Living Consultants

Your local mobility centre

Sales, Service & Repair

Scooters • Power Chairs • Wheelchairs • Bath Aids • Rise & Recline Chairs
Pressure Relief Cushions • Continence Supplies • Grab Rails • Reachers • Wide Fit Shoes



Open and ready to help you within our spacious COVID-safe environment
face masks worn, hand sanitiser, social distancing

FREE PARKING | 300 Bus Route from Aylesbury to High Wycombe

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 10am - 5pm, Saturday 10am - 2.30pm

www.ilcmobility.co.uk | info@ilcmobility.co.uk 01844 273050

Home Visits by Appointment

Mobility Centre, New Road, Princes Risborough, Bucks HP27 0JN

Prefabulous childhood memories

Remembering our neighbour - Charlie Watts, The Rolling Stones' drummer.

It is strange how, as we get older, distant memories of events in our early childhood can seem stronger, more vivid and easier to recall than sometimes trying to remember certain things that have happened in more recent days (like last week!)



Having had a very happy childhood growing up just after the war, memories of family life in our prefab home on an estate in Wembley are plentiful - full of joy, fun times, a few ups and downs, happiness and good friendships (some that have lasted to this day). There always seemed to be plenty to do, lots of children to play with and things going on, so life was never boring for a moment.

Our post-war prefab Council estate, known as Pilgrims Way, was built on green belt land between Kingsbury NW9 and Wembley Park; it nestled amongst rolling hills surrounded by woodland, farmland, green fields

and was near to Barn Hill which had a huge pond. Due to the rural location of the estate, there were no such luxuries as shops or bus services nearby, so most people either had to rely on purchases from weekly delivery traders who used to sell their produce and wares from the back of vans, or they would have to cycle or walk quite some distance to reach a shop, as many families did not own a car. For this reason, and due to some rationing, gardening, keeping chickens and having allotments were popular and 'grow your own' was the thing of the day.

There were approximately 115 prefabs built on the estate which were originally intended to be temporary homes due to the housing shortage after the war, but they did, in fact, survive many years before eventually being demolished around 1972. The area is today known as Fryent Country Park and is a popular beauty spot for walkers, ramblers and naturalists.

Many of the families living on the estate had young children and we grew up together having wonderful adventures playing over the fields, climbing trees, exploring, blackberry picking, inventing all sorts of games and spending many happy hours paddling and fishing in Barn Hill pond for tiddlers and sticklebacks which we caught with a jam jar attached to string. Our long summer school holidays mostly seemed to be hot and sunny and we would go off out in the morning and only go back home when we felt hungry. There were very few cars on the road in those days and we never considered or even thought about any possible dangers such as those that prevail today.

We used to play outside in the road or in each other's houses when our parents were out and no one bothered or worried too much about keys in those days as doors were usually left unlocked during the day. Pilgrims Way was a fairly tight knit community and most of us kids got on well together. No one seemed left out or discriminated against and we made our own fun, inventing games to play and sharing and making the most of what we had.

contributions funded various treats and outings for us children, including a very memorable street party to celebrate the Queen's Coronation which included entertainment by the Harlem Globetrotters, various coach trips to the seaside, visits to London Pantomimes and Shows etc. and also provided a school coach which dropped us off and picked us up from our local junior school.

Many of us enjoyed sports such as football, cricket and netball at school as well as ice skating at Wembley Empire Pool, dancing classes and singing groups. We would often imagine and joke that one day our 'talents' would make us rich and famous and that we would live in a big house and be a 'star'.

Well, although for us this was just a dream, it actually did become a reality for one of our neighbours who lived just a few doors up the road...

...his name was Charlie Watts who went on to become a global superstar, multi-millionaire and legendary drummer with the fabulous 'The Rolling Stones' rock group.

Charlie was just 6 years old when he and his family moved into their prefab home in Pilgrims Way. He had a sister called Linda, his mother Lillian was a housewife and his father, also called Charles, was a delivery driver for British Rail. They were a friendly family and his parents and sister were always welcoming and sociable.

Being a quiet, reserved, rather sombre looking, mild-mannered person, Charlie was possibly the last child on our estate that we would ever have imagined could achieve such fame, fortune and great heights. He always had a love of music and his first drum kit was reputedly fashioned out of Meccano and an old banjo.

Charlie didn't mix a great deal with many of us younger kids, but he struck up a great friendship with his next-door neighbour, Dave Green, who later became a talented, well known jazz bass guitarist. Dave encouraged him to practice on his first real drum kit which Charlie would often play outside in his garden.

As a young teenager, unusually and unlike many of us kids, Charlie preferred jazz music to rock'n'roll and rhythm and blues to popular music, choosing to listen to Duke Ellington and Charlie Parker rather than the likes of Bill Haley and Elvis Presley.

After leaving secondary school at the age of 15, Charlie went to Harrow School of Art and studied commercial art and graphic design. He later began playing drums in London's Rhythm & Blues clubs where he eventually met Brian Jones, Mick Jagger and Keith Richards. In 1963 he joined their group 'The Rolling Stones' as drummer and used his artistic talents to design the group's record sleeves and tour stages.

Charlie was always very smartly dressed and was often seen walking home up the road (he didn't drive), in a suit, white shirt and tie. He never seemed to smile much but his famous dead-pan expression apparently hid a very witty and sometimes humorous personality.

Some Pilgrims Way neighbours remember Mick Jagger calling round to pick Charlie and his drum kit up in an old van with a stuffed crocodile on the top.

Our famous neighbour will always be remembered with fondness and admiration.

RIP Charlie Watts.
Born 2nd June 1941 - Died 24th August 2021 aged 80

Jim Chignell

Q: How does a snowman get to work? A: By icicle



Free service to help Bucks charities and community groups thrive

The vast majority (79%) of the county's 4,750 voluntary organisations are classed as small/ micro organisations (with an income of under £100K) and many have been affected by the pandemic. Their experience has varied considerably – some have adapted brilliantly while others have struggled with reduced incomes and losing volunteers, and we have seen new grassroots groups set up to respond to new needs stemming from the crisis.

The VCSE Support Service, funded by Buckinghamshire Council, offers support in all aspects of their work including securing essential funding, being well-managed, and recruiting volunteers. The fact that its tailored support ensures each organisation can get the help that they need. Voluntary organisations just need to complete a request form and then a member of our team will get in touch. Organisations can request support for themselves or they can be referred by a third party.

Supporting data: when the county's not-for-profits companies were asked what their biggest challenges were for the future, it was found that:

- Nearly a third (31%) stated their biggest challenge was funding and finance
- One in five (21%) identified their biggest challenge was adapting to new opportunities and ways of working
- Almost one in five (19%) said their biggest challenge was recruiting enough volunteers

If you would like to interview one of the Community Impact Bucks team about the service, or a charity which has already been helped through the service, please email or call me on 01844 617216.

Rachel Fisher, Head of Communications,
Community Impact Bucks – A Better Life Together
rachel@communityimpactbucks.org.uk
www.communityimpactbucks.org.uk



Answers to Tea Break Quiz on page 13

1. Horse, 2. Lloyds of London, 3. Penguin, 4. A herb, 5. Twice cooked, 6. On the moon, 7. An oak tree, 8. 1983, 9. 88, 10. Danube, 11. Shell shaped, 12. Dachshund, 13. Crystal Palace, 14. Yak, 15. The Golden Fleece, 16. Houses of Parliament, 17. Staffordshire, 18. 1st October, 19. John Galsworthy, 20. France

LOCK & KEY CENTRE

01296 422123

Please call us or visit our showroom at:
20 Bridgegate Business Park, Gatehouse Way, Aylesbury, HP19 8XN

Watermead Carol Concert

Saturday 11th December 2021
from 6pm, The Piazza

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

O Come all ye Faithful

Joy to the World

Silent Night

Children to gather at the front near the band

Address by Revd Dan Beesley, St James the Great Church, Berton

Children to sing Away in a Manger

Great Horwood Silver Band will play a tune to welcome Father Christmas

Father Christmas distribute presents to children

It came upon the midnight clear

Once in Royal David's City

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Sue Severn - thanks and finale

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mulled Wine and a Mince Pie or Sausage Roll

Donations to Roman Park Community Trust

WISHING YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS &
A HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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,...

JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the World, the Lord has come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare
Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven and
nature sing.

Joy to the World! The Saviour reigns;
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks,
hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His Love,
And wonders of His Love,
And wonders and wonders of
His Love.

SILENT NIGHT

Silent night, holy night.
All is calm, all is bright
Round the Virgin mother and Child;
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night.
Shepherds quail at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia:
Christ, the Saviour is born,
Christ, the Saviour is born.

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, Love's pure Light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace:
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

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.

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold;
'Peace on earth, goodwill to men,
From heaven's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lonely plains
They bend on heavenly wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Yet, with the woes of sin and strife,
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angels' strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring:
Oh, hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When, with the ever circling years,
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing!

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle-shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall:
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all His wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden,
In whose gentle arms He lay.
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as He.

For He is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feeleth for our sadness,
And He shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through his own redeeming love;
For that Child, so dear and gentle,
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him, but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

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.

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 Holy 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.

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 herald 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 give them second birth.
Hark, the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

*Q. How do Christmas angels greet each other?
A. "Halo!"*

*Q. Who is Santa's favourite singer?
A: Elf-is Presley.*

Do you know your Botticelli from your Banksy?

Most of us have pictures on our walls, some of us have visited art galleries either in the UK or when on holiday. And many of us know the expression "I know what I like". Many years ago I knew nothing about art and I distinctly remember being dragged around an art gallery in Italy as a teenager and being totally uninterested in the art inside. Now I wish I had enjoyed it more as it was the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy. Having studied History of Art in later life, I learnt about art, the painters, the history of the time the work was created and what it meant to the people at the time it was created. Like most wide-ranging subjects this article covers a "broad canvas" (pun intended) and what follows is a very brief, potted, personal look through the centuries at some of the more famous works of art or ones which I personally like. They are mostly paintings from the Western world and, of course, now much more recognition is given to World Art and from many more cultures and identities than was recognised in the past.

Sandro Botticelli (c1445 – 1510) was one of the most famous painters in Florence at the end of the 15th Century during the Italian Renaissance. The Birth of Venus (Uffizi Gallery in Florence), a scene from Greek mythology, depicts the goddess of love and beauty Venus arriving at the shore after her birth, when she had emerged from the sea fully grown. The figure recalls classical Greek sculpture.



In the 16th Century one of the most famous images in the world was painted by Leonardo Da Vinci and can be found in the Louvre, Paris **The Mona Lisa** is a half-length portrait painting and is described as "the best known, the most visited the most written about, the most sung about, the most parodied work of art in the world". The painting is probably of the Italian noblewoman, Lisa Gherardini but bears a strong resemblance to many Renaissance depictions of the Virgin Mary. The soft blending technique of "sfumato" creates the

ambiguous mood and the famous gaze of the sitter.

Johannes Vermeer (1632-1675) was a famous Dutch Baroque painter who specialised in domestic interior scenes of middle class life. He was a moderately successful provincial genre painter, recognised in Delft and The Hague due in some part to the rise of the emerging middle classes who wanted to show off their wealth in their own homes **The Girl with the Pearl Earring** is a well-known work and has been featured in both literature and films.



The Fighting Temeraire is an oil painting (1838) by the English artist J.M.W. Turner (1775-1851) and can be found in The National Gallery in London. The painting depicts the 98-gun HMS ship which played a role in the Battle of Trafalgar. It is shown being towed up the Thames by a paddle-wheel steam tug towards its final berth in Rotherhithe to be broken up for scrap. It was bequeathed to the nation by the artist and in a poll was voted the nation's favourite painting. In 2020 it was included on the new £20 note. It is said to represent the demise of heroic strength and to symbolise the commencement of the new industrial era.



The French impressionist Pierre-Auguste Renoir painted the **Luncheon of the Boating Party** in 1881 which I picked as I enjoyed that it portrayed people enjoying themselves over lunch at a Seine restaurant. The painting which captures a great deal of light combines figures, still life and landscape in one work. The critics of the time regarded it as "fresh and free without being too bawdy".

Finally, let's consider a British work by the satirical street graffiti artist known as Banksy, the 2002 mural **Girl with Balloon**. Within



Wildlife on Watermead

Above: A deer on the "ski slope" this morning (1st November)

Below: A charm (flock) of Goldfinches were feeding on the teasels on the river bank the morning of 1st November

Eric Rose

Q. Which of Santa's reindeer has the worst manners?
A. RUDE-olph, of course!

minutes of being sold a framed canvas copy of the work began sliding out of the bottom of the frame and shredded itself, only stopping half way through. The work was renamed Love is in the Bin and recently sold for nearly £18 million with Sotheby's saying "it was the first work in history ever created during a live auction".

I hope you enjoyed this very brief trip through the centuries, looking at a variety of Western artists and styles from Botticelli to Banksy all reflecting the people, time and cultures in which they were created.

Susan McCabe November 2021



WATERMEAD PUB LUNCH CLUB

We resumed the pub lunch club meetings at the Watermead Inn in September and I was surprised at the response. A record 44 people came along and were so happy to be able to meet up with old friends. We saw many of our regular attendees return and also welcomed several new members. In October we had similar turnout and a representative from Community Impact Bucks, Lew Headley, joined us too.

We had similar success in November and all our members are now looking forward to our Christmas lunch on 1 December. Kelvin Wong has been extremely generous in offering the majority of his Christmas menu to the members of the lunch club.

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

Kelvin provides us with a varied menu with a choice of 3 main courses, including one vegetarian, and a choice of delicious desserts costing just £10 per person.

If you would like to join us, the Pub Lunch Club is held on the first Wednesday of the month at 12:30 at the Watermead Inn. If you know someone who might benefit from getting out and about a bit more, then please do get in touch. All you have to do is book at least a week in advance by calling **Mary Singleton on 07986 582903** or text her on that number providing your email address and she will provide you with all the information you need.

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

ALWAYS GLEAMING

Window Cleaning

DBS CHECKED

Friendly & Professional Service

Fully trained and insured

- Window Cleaning
- Soffits
- Fascias
- Gutter Emptying
- Conservatories
- Regular Cleans & One-Offs

Contact Us Today

07311 837 858

Find us on

atwaysgleamingwindows@gmail.com

Dedicate, Remember, Reflect, Share

Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity is offering a virtual Tree of Light commemoration service, Books of Honour, and an online dedication page to support those who have faced the loss of a loved one this year.

From 5pm on Saturday 18th December until the New Year, the virtual Tree of Light commemoration service will be available to view on the Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity website. The service will provide space and time for families and friends to remember and share those treasured memories in a variety of different ways. There will also be readings and music with time to light a candle to take a moment of reflection and remembrance

“We recognise Christmas can be a very emotional occasion, a time when we particularly think of loved ones who are no longer with us” says Ann Kenny, the Bereavement Support Team Lead at the Hospice. “These last couple of years have been enormous challenges for everybody, and sadly, many people have faced the loss of a loved one with little outlet to express their feelings properly. Whilst we cannot meet in person as usual at our traditional Tree of Light events, here at Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity, we felt

it was incredibly important to still offer a safe space and time for reflection.”

The Charity has also set up an online Tree of Light remembrance page where you can dedicate a memory to someone special. To make a dedication online, allowing friends and family all over the world to view, you can do so by visiting: fnhospice.dedicationpage.org/treeoflight2021

You can also have your dedication to your loved one appear in our Books of Honour, which will be available to view at the Charity’s Head Office in Aylesbury on selected dates in December. Lastly, you can also choose to have their name appear on our Roll of Honour which will be shown during our virtual Tree of Light Service. These additional dedications can be requested when you make your online dedication.

To sponsor a dedication or to access the virtual Tree of Life service go to fnhospice.org.uk/tree-of-light or call 01296 429975 for more information.

Our local Vicar

Friends, It seems that this year Christmas won’t be cancelled! We can once again come together at this special time of year to celebrate the great hope that we have in Jesus. At St James, we have had a lot of conversations with people who have been trying to make sense of all that has happened over the last couple of years and even longer if you count the divisions over Brexit! It is Christmas that actually points to the answer and that is of God himself being born as one of us and living his life as we do, then dying for us on the cross at Easter to bring a future restoration that will come one day. It is only through my faith that I have been able to understand that the world isn’t the way it should be but one day it will be! Praise God and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Rev. Dan Beesley, Interim Priest-in-Charge of Bierton and Hulcott (Sun-Wed) Christian YouTuber - Fulfilling Life - bit.ly/2I43bpi & Rev’d Up - <https://bit.ly/3iE6t24>

RIGHT: Remembrance Sunday at St James’. The poppies were knitted by ladies in the parish. Knitted poppies also adorned the trees in the gardens.

Q: Why does Santa go down the chimney? A: Because it soots him!



Watermead remembers

A small group of people gathered at the memorial garden by Watermead lake to take two minutes’ silence at 11 o’clock on Thursday 11th November.

Dan Beesley led a short service to pray for those fallen in the two World Wars and later conflicts.



Christmas around the World

The American term “Santa Claus” is derived from the Dutch word for old St. Nick, Sinterklaas. The Christmas tree only became a European and American sensation after a German prince brought one with him on a trip to England in 1840.

The following may give you some ideas for new traditions to start:



In the **Ukraine**, it’s traditional to hang spider web-shaped decorations on the tree. This reflects the Ukrainian legend of the poor widow who didn’t have enough money to decorate her tree, but when her children awoke on Christmas day, the tree was covered in webs that glistened gold and silver in the morning light.

Jamaicans dress in elaborate costumes and celebrate Christmas with parades and “Junkanoo” dancers, based on African dance. The festival, which occurs on Boxing Day, the day after Christmas, may have started as early as the 16th century.



The **Spanish dish**, turrón, a confection made from honey, egg white, sugar, and toasted almonds, is served during Christmas. Recipes date back to the 16th century.

Mistletoe was first hung as a Christmas decoration in **Great Britain**. However, the tradition of kissing under the mistletoe is most likely of Scandinavian origin.

Children in **Holland** receive presents from Sinterklaas on December 5, not Christmas Eve or Day. And if they leave carrots for Sinterklaas’s horse, he’ll leave sweets for the kids.

Children in **Japan** receive their Christmas presents on their pillow during Christmas night. And a traditional Christmas meal in Japan is fried chicken.

In **Norway** people hide all the brooms in the house on Christmas Eve to prevent witches from stealing them for a midnight ride. It’s also a Christmas Eve tradition to leave a bowl of porridge in the barn for the gnome who protects the farm.

In **Germany**, it is traditional for children to decorate their Christmas lists with pictures and then leave them on the windowsill overnight. Then, the Christkind delivers gifts at Christmas. Also in Germany, it’s a tradition to leave a shoe or boot outside the front door on December 5, so that Sinterklaas will put small presents in their shoes for the following morning (Saint Nicholas Day).

In **Russia** Christmas is celebrated on January 7, and Babouschka brings gifts to children. Babouschka, meaning old woman or grandmother in Russian, is based on the biblical story of the woman who didn’t give a gift to the baby Jesus. So, to repent, she gives gifts to children.

The traditional Christmas meal in **Poland** is called the Wigilia. Held on Christmas Eve, Wigilia is derived from the Latin phrase “to watch”. Families here believe that what happens during Wigilia festivities predicts the coming year. Traditionally, an extra place is set on the table for an “uninvited guest”.

Italian families celebrate Christmas Eve with the Feast of the Seven Fishes and eat lentils during the holiday season to ensure luck and wealth for the following year. The children in Italy receive gifts from La Befana during Christmas.

It’s traditional for **Irish** families to leave out mince pies and pint of Guinness as a snack for Santa. As kids get older, this tradition may come to an end and continue to be passed on.

In **Finland**, families decorate the holiday tree with geometric mobiles made out of straw. It’s also customary to enjoy a sauna on Christmas Eve before Santa’s visit; according to the ancient custom, this ritual cleanses the body and mind.



Thirteen jólasveinarnir, or “Christmas Lads,” deliver presents to children in **Iceland**. Originally, the Christmas Lads were pranksters. Each showed up on a specific day around Christmas and performed a trick or prank.

Mary Singleton

*Q: What do you get if you cross Father Christmas with a detective?
A: Santa Clues!*

Watermead photography competition 2021



OVERALL WINNER & BEAUTIFUL WATERMEAD - Winner Dan Forder (used on front cover)



BEAUTIFUL WATERMEAD - Highly Commended Dan Forder



22 OPEN CATEGORY - Winner Robert Fearnley

JUDGES REPORT

Thank you to everyone for entering this year's photo competition. Although the number of entries was down from previous years, the standard was very high making choosing winners a difficult task.

Unfortunately, our experienced external Judge was not available this year. So, I did the judging which is a very personal matter and there is no right or wrong. The photos were all passed to me bearing numbers only so that I was not aware of who had entered them until I announced my decision.

BEAUTIFUL WATERMEAD

We are lucky to live in such a lovely environment and our resident swans were again popular subjects.

Winner: was Dan Forder for his clever shot of 3 cygnets.

Highly Commended:

a lovely golden misty view of the Lake also by Dan Forder and another atmospheric photograph of swans by Damon Mitchell.

OPEN CATEGORY

Winner: was Robert Fearnley for his beautiful portrait of a resting fox

Highly Commended:

John Mitchell's portrait of 3 men at a bar was interesting and beautifully lit showing that it isn't always necessary to see the subject's face.

Dan Forder's submitted a beautifully sharp Macro shot of a Dragon Fly showing the intricate detail.

PEOPLE AND EVENTS

This category attracted the fewest entries perhaps because Covid has restricted everyone's ability to get out and attend events.

Winner: James Bates: His photograph summed up a lovely summer evening on Watermead with a colourful balloon preparing to take off into a clear blue sky.



OPEN CATEGORY - Highly Commended John Mitchell



OPEN CATEGORY - Highly Commended Dan Forder

Highly Commended: Dan Forder scored again with his lifelike close-up shot of a model Torpedo Boat cutting through the "waves" on the lake.

OVERALL WINNER

The overall Winner this year was Dan Forder, who scored highly in all three categories, with his portrait of the 3 cygnets being the best.

Thanks again Watermead Parish Council for sponsoring the competition and to all entrants. We have some very talented photographers here and, whilst some entries were clearly taken using upmarket cameras and lenses, others came from mobile phones showing that the most important thing is the eye of the photographer.

A selection of winning shots is included in this edition of village view but all of the entries can be viewed on the WPC website.

I hope that this event will continue to be an annual fixture.

Eric Rose



PEOPLE AND EVENTS - Winner James Bates



PEOPLE AND EVENTS - Highly Commended Dan Forder



BEAUTIFUL WATERMEAD - Highly Commended Damon Mitchell.

David Gee tells us about the writing of his novel *Lillian & the Italians*

Lillian's story begins in the 1970s, when I promised my mother that I would write a novel in which a middle-aged widow finds Romance and Adventure in Italy (Mum loved Italy). In 1975 I made the first of several trips to Venice. The early chapters were written on church steps and in cafes. By the following summer I had found the cliff-top castle in Amalfi where Lillian meets her handsome, dangerous prince.

But that year (1976) my bread-and-butter job in telecoms took me to the Persian Gulf. The concrete and sand-dunes of Bahrain and Qatar did not evoke Amalfi and Sicily, so the novel stalled as I took up a parallel "moonlighting" career in journalism for regional English newspapers. In Bahrain I began a friendship with Village View's editor Mary Singleton, a friendship that has lasted for forty-five years. Mary "inspired" one of the stewardess characters in *Shaikh-Down*, my first published novel, a spicy comedy about regime change on a fictitious island in the Persian Gulf which many readers have identified with Bahrain.

Not until 1992, after revisiting Amalfi (with my mother) and

climbing Mont Sainte-Victoire in Provence (scene of the story's climax), did I complete the first draft of *Lillian and the Italians* and sent the book out to seek its fortune. One leading literary agent said the novel was "blessedly different", but a 50-year-old heroine would put publishers off. Hopefully, books and movies in the last two or three decades have demonstrated that older women are no longer excluded from romance and intrigue.

Fate did not bring my dear old ma a Sicilian prince. Alzheimer's took her down a very different road. Lillian's girlhood and her miscarriage are taken from my mother's life story, although she was widowed much younger than Lillian. The novel represents a romantic adventure I wish she might have enjoyed.

Lillian and the Italians is dedicated to my parents and a cherished writer friend – and to all those women who nurse the dream that one day their Prince will come.



Book review

Lillian & the Italians By David Gee

This book is a delight. In the 1960s the recently widowed Lillian travels to Italy to find her interior designer son, Andrew, from whom she has become estranged.

This book is an escape to a world so different from our own, where the strength of power, loyalty, family ties and unconditional love bind all together. Lillian's is a journey of self-discovery as well as the search for her son.

Lillian arrives in Venice, which she last visited on her honeymoon thirty years ago. The author takes us to Venice, to the world of vaporetto, the Grand Canal, Bridge of Sighs and Piazza de San Marco where Lillian ignores the 'stink'.

Lillian doesn't find Andrew at his office, the last address she has but meets an ex-gigolo business associate who has worked with him for four years. He tells her of Andrew's jet-setting lifestyle and she is surprised to learn a secret which he has not shared with her, despite her believing that they were once close.

Lillian remembers happier times when he lived in London, enjoying shopping trips, nightclubs and extravagant nights out together. Her only contact

with Andrew for some years has been the

odd postcard from various places sent to Lillian without a return address.

Lillian moves on to the Italian Riviera, at his colleague's suggestion, in the search for Andrew. He is on a sailing holiday with the playboy son of a handsome Sicilian, Prince Massimo Monfalcone, who has his own secrets! The boys are kidnapped and we learn of an ancient feud between Corsican and Sicilian criminal clans, complex affairs of the heart and business, and of vendettas and murders.

The Prince and Lillian await news of the kidnapped boys at his hillside villa in Amalfi. Prince Massimo takes Lillian to Capri on his yacht, and to Rome by private plane where he has business with the Vatican Bank. While they wait Lillian learns of the ancient feud between the Sicilian and Corsican clans. His first wife was murdered in a blood feud, his second committed suicide over his affair. She and Massimo are drawn to one another. Despite this being an unlikely pairing, love develops and Lillian believes that she may have a future with the Prince, when all this is done.

This book is beautifully written. David Gee transports us to an Italy full of local colour, offering an insight into the glamorous lifestyle of private jets and yachts. It is a wonderful story, revealing its secrets gradually but always making you want to read the next chapter, while the end is believable. History is carefully researched and told. Lillian's is a compelling character, unexpected at the start.

A good read that would make a great stocking filler at Christmas.

Sue Severn

GRAPHIC DESIGN • WEB DESIGN • LOGO DESIGN

GOOD DESIGN IS GOOD BUSINESS...

- makes a strong first impression
- helps your business stand out
- builds customer relationships
- promotes brand consistency
- keeps your website easy to use
- key to social media success

If you'd like to talk about the design, redesign, or refinement of your visual branding, marketing materials or website give me a call.

BASED IN WATERMEAD
0208 123 8977
wesbutler.co.uk

creative design ideas for print and web

Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn icons

CGT Maintenance
Garden Services & Landscaping
Based in Watermead

For a Free Consultation or Quote call
Cameron Teague
07513 184521

Follow us to see more before and after @cgtmaintenance

Facebook and Instagram icons

Avocet
DECORATING

ANDY DALE
Painter & Decorator

Interior & exterior work
FREE ESTIMATES

T: 07980 684919
E: andy@avocetdecorating.co.uk

MYLES GREEN

Exterior & Interior Painter & Decorator
free estimates, no vat, over 30 years experience

Watermead Resident
01296 330539 / 07976 257323

Home Fix and Fit
Home Refurbishments and Repairs

Local Reliable Professional

- General Property Repairs & Maintenance
- Full House Refurbishments
- Rental Property Refurbishments
- Kitchens & Bathrooms
- Flatpack Furniture Assembly
- Fencing, Turfing, Hedge & Grass Cutting
- Plumbing
- White Goods Installation
- General Handyman & Odd Jobs

Inside & Out, Domestic and Commercial Properties

- Landlord and Tenant Works
- Fully Insured & Licenced Waste Carrier

Contact Andrew:
07496-255266
homefixandfit@gmail.co.uk



We understand Brian loves to Facetime his family

We support our residents to interact and stay in touch with their loved ones so we'll support Brian with Facetime to make sure he sees his grandchildren.

Buckingham Lodge care home

Culpepper Close , Aylesbury
HP19 9DU

Call us for more details on

01296 768742

Visit: www.buckinghamlodge.org.uk



carehome.co.uk
score*



Proudly
not-for-profit

*carehome.co.uk review scores are based on independent reviews with a maximum score of 10. Review quoted and rating correct as of 14/09/2021.

Sally's Blog



Hello everyone, and welcome to my BLOG. We're getting ready for Christmas which we hope will be more normal this year and we can see all our human families together. Let's hope! As it's just been Halloween I thought you would be interested to hear about my extensive bone collection. We enjoyed Halloween. We had a basket of wrapped sweets for scary callers, and I wasn't given any.

I wasn't too sad though as I got out my bag of bones.

I should explain, I am particularly fond of the chicken wrapped around the big chews but won't eat the chew - I read somewhere that rawhide is bad for dogs, so that's it - none for me!

I have my humans very well trained now,

as some of you will know. As well as my dog food they get the chews. I eat the outside. They are then put in a carrier bag and my friend Ronnie loves them. When he comes round, he eats the bones. Of course, once he starts to eat them, I think I like them too so I growl at him and he waits while I make my selection.

For Halloween I thought I would do something special so here are some pictures of my collection and the the skeleton I made - clever me!

Another bit of luck for me was the phone ringing when I was being given a chew my human didn't pay attention for a split second which gave me the chance to grab two straight out of the drawer - they've just got to get quicker! I also discovered I CAN eat two at a time.

I hope you and your lovely furry family members all have a lovely Christmas. Look forward to seeing you next year!

Love Sally x

Q: What's Santa's dog's name? A: Santa Paws!



RJW Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Ltd



A Small Family Run
Business Cleaning
Carpets And
Upholstery At A
Reasonable Price

For A Cleaner Home,
Just Pick Up The
Phone

For A Free No Obligation Quote Call
Tony On

01296 482536 07850130536
rjwcarpets@yahoo.co.uk



Suppliers and installers of the highest quality

Windows, Doors & Conservatories

Visit our Showroom or contact us for a free no
obligation quote:

19 Bridgegate Business Park,
Gatehouse Way, Aylesbury HP19 8XN

Tel: 01296 422842

enquiries@premwindowsanddoors.co.uk
www.premwindowsanddoors.co.uk



Watermead Piscatorials

I will start with some history about the Watermead Piscatorials. The club was formed over 25 years ago by some fishermen from the Horse and Jockey pub when Watermead was being built. They started out on the big lake and rented from the construction company and stocked the lake with Carp and Tench. The rest of the fish were already present as the river ran through the lake. Sadly the building company went "bust" leaving the club well out of pocket.

The small lake then came up for rent through the Lakeside Residents Association which we took up. The Parish Council then took over the land and we have continued to rent from them. We formed a great alliance with them via the Parish Clerk, previously with Fiona and Glyn and now Noreen.

In the early years we had a waiting list for membership and would always need a new member to be proposed by an existing member, except for Watermead residents who could always join but still had to wait for a place to become available. We had a thriving match fixture and would regularly have 20 anglers fishing in the matches. The specimen anglers were also well catered for and the carp were caught and put on weight. They are now are well over 30 lbs as demonstrated by Steve (our bailiff) who recently caught a 30lb carp, his personal best!

Over the years, with fishing in decline and pressure from commercial fisheries, we struggle every year to keep the club going. We need more members to join. To get any work done in and around the lake we now depend on very few helpers.

Going forward we want to try and get the fishing back to the past levels and I am sure the members will come back. One thing we are keen to do is to introduce some waterlilies into the lake which will not only help and support the fish but make the lake look more attractive. Maybe next year.

Having said all of that, we have been fortunate in getting some wonderful new members who have been helping with the work in maintaining the fishing swims, and carrying out work around the lake, with help and support from the Environment Agency, and of course the Parish Council.

On Sunday 17th October, we installed a new swim (by the repaired path where the fallen tree was removed), repaired one next to it and tidied up swims around the back of the lake, and here are some pictures of the work being carried out by some of our members; Steve (the Bailiff), Michael, Simon, and myself (taking the pictures).

If you or someone you know would like to join the club, please contact Don Smith (Secretary) don.smith33@hotmail.co.uk We are also on Facebook 'Watermead Piscatorials'

Martin Mynott (Work Party Officer)

*Q: What did Mrs. Claus say to Santa Claus when she looked up in the sky?
A: Looks like rain, dear!*



Whatever the occasion, we have an impressive collection to make the perfect bouquet for you to express your sentiments

To order visit our online shop www.theflowerhouse.me or call: 07515 359982 email: kerrie@me.com

Hand delivered flowers to Aylesbury and surrounding villages
Based in Watermead, Aylesbury

Howse Electrical Part P Approved Electrician

rewires
fuse board replacement
security lighting
fault finding
extra sockets and repairs
free quotation
and friendly advice

Reliable
Reasonable
Fully Insured

07878 235185
grahamhowse@hotmail.com
Watermead resident
for over 15 years

Places to Eat

Now that lockdown restrictions have been lifted we have been able to get out to eat and here are some restaurants where I have eaten recently and would recommend:

The Cross Keys
40 High Street, Great Missenden HP16 0AU
www.thecross-keys.com
Tel: 01494 865373

This wonderful 16th century pub in Great Missenden is the perfect example of a historic English alehouse - with low beamed ceilings, cosy corners and the constant flow of top-class ale. There is also a lovely new terrace outside. Expect a warm welcome, fine fare, and good old-fashioned service with a smile.

Old Hunters Lodge
The Cross Roads, Whipsnade, Bedfordshire, LU6 2LN
Tel: 01582 872246
www.oldhunterslodge.co.uk

Set on the edge of Whipsnade Common and close to Whipsnade Zoo this is one of the oldest houses in the village thatched with reed in the Norfolk style. Said to date from the fifteenth century, Old Hunters Lodge embraces both old world charm and

a modern dining experience. They provide accommodations with a restaurant, free private parking, a bar and a garden and they are a dog friendly establishment.

The Bell
London Road, Aston Clinton, HP22 5HP
Tel: 01296 632777

The Bell is a unique country pub and restaurant that blends rural charm with modern flair to create the ultimate dining environment offering a scrumptious Sunday roast to round off a relaxing weekend, a midweek treat, or a delicious three course meal for a special occasion. On the menu, you'll find a whole host of tasty dishes including lots of delicious starters, light bites, mains, sharing platters, and of course, plenty of classic pub food dishes that are sure to hit the spot. A variety of real cask ales, lagers, and wines are available that will perfectly complement your meal.

The Ivy Oxford Brasserie
120-121 High Street, Oxford OX1 4DF
Tel: 01865 416333
www.theivyoxford.com

The décor at the Ivy is exquisite and different

and well worth seeing. There is an ambience of freshness and spaciousness. The service was exemplary and the food was delicious. There is a special lunch menu and, if you prefer, an afternoon tea opportunity. Prices were reasonable too.

I can also recommend The Ivy in Richmond and there is another in Marlow.



WE ARE OPEN!!

Handmade, fairtrade, unique
Gifts for him, her, them, home and me!
Now stocking loose-leaf tea in earth-friendly
packaging

Use code **WVV10%** for 10% off first online order!
COVID-safe click & collect or Free Local Delivery

www.hollycowhome.co.uk

6 Cambridge Street, Aylesbury, HP20 1RS - T 01296 640507

Vale Countryside Volunteers visit Watermead

A group of local volunteers, Vale Countryside Volunteers (VCV) came to work on our land in Watermead on two occasions in September and October. They were joined by one or two volunteers from Watermead. Their task was part of an annual cut and clear of three areas on the north side of the big lake to further encourage the spread of wildflowers already present, such as purple loosestrife and meadowsweet, and to cut back invasive scrub which would eventually take over the sites if not managed.

There were about a dozen helpers who came equipped with all the tools needed to get on with the job, and they even have their own Minibus. This is all done on a voluntary basis.

The VCV normally meet at around 9.30 am at designated pick-up points in Aylesbury every Wednesday morning, then go off to site and get back at around 4.30 pm, feeling tired but happy.

I have joined them on their last three visits, and they are a very friendly bunch of people. Their leader is Adrian Bayliss who lets people know what needs to be done and always starts the day with some safety advice.

The group offers opportunities to learn new skills, widen one's knowledge of the environment and nature and to meet like-minded people. They provide experienced leaders, training, safety gear and equipment, insurance, tea, coffee and biscuits and transport to and from the site.

The work is physical but you do not have to be super fit to join in. No experience is required – just enthusiasm and a willingness to have a go. If you have any questions about the group, please contact them directly.

VCVmanager@gmail.com or visit their website on www.vcv.org.uk They would love to hear from you.

Stuart MacKay



As we welcomed children back to Footsteps this September, we have been doing lots of activities as part of our 'All About Me' focus area to facilitate forming friendships amongst their peers, as well as helping staff to really get to know our children and their families.

Our expert and dedicated team help to encourage children to learn about different types of people, families, ethnicities and home situations, which is a great way for children to feel safe around one another and to share their thoughts and ideas.

At Footsteps Watermead we have also been doing lots of different activities to make learning fun! The children have loved doing self-portraits and have used a variety of materials like paints, colouring pencils and playdough to think about what we look like. We have also had a great time getting messy and recording what our handprints looked like.

As we moved into October we have been celebrating the Autumn season, our amazing team for Nursery Practitioner Day, as well as having some spooktacular Halloween fun. Our Forest School sessions have involved lots of lovely walks, some outside yoga, seasonal

planting, collecting coloured leaves and natural materials, bug hunting and practising using tools safely. We have also been cooking soup using autumnal veggies. We have also been supporting our local care home with our Harvest collections and they were extremely grateful for all the amazing donations.

In true Halloween style we have been dressing up, exploring pumpkins, and lots of ghoulishly good craft, messy play painting, printing, experimenting, drawing and using our imaginations in our role play area.

We can't wait to find out more about all of our children in the second half of this term as we light up young lives with an action-packed programme of activities looking at fireworks, Diwali and Christmas. We also hope all of our school leavers have settled into their new schools as brilliantly as all our new children here at Footsteps. We have been kept updated by lots of them and we love to see their happy, smiley faces.

For more information about Footsteps Watermead visit www.footsteps-nursery.com/watermead.



Best Christmas

DECORATED HOUSE 2021

Join in Watermead's Christmas Lights display for a chance to win a bottle of Champagne to toast in the New Year!

Following on from previous years' success, we would like Watermead to be lit up like a Christmas tree and make us feel the spirit of Christmas. For over a hundred years it has been the tradition to decorate our homes at Christmas time and this has extended to decorate the exteriors too. This includes gardens which some people fill with Christmassy and wintry scenes.

Some people say that our Carol Concert in the Piazza marks the beginning of Christmas for them. As Christmas approaches we hope that Watermead residents will join us to spread the message of hope, peace and joy through Christmas lights.

The Rules: Every home within Watermead will be eligible. Judging will take place between Christmas and New Year. The winner will be announced on the Parish notice boards and on our website on New Year's Day.

Prize: Bottle of Champagne.

A photo of the winner's decorated house and those of the runners up (subject to their permission) will be published in the Spring edition of the Village View along with their tips for success (if they have any!).

