

VillageView

WATERMEAD'S *FREE* QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

Winter 2018 Vol.25 Issue 4

Christmas Fair
Saturday 1st December
Village Hall 11am - 5pm

Carol Concert
Saturday 8th December
Saturday 8th December from 6pm, The Piazza

**Watermead's outdoor cinema
- a great success!**

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



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Parish Chairman's News

Welcome to the Village View's Christmas edition. After a fantastic summer and autumn we can now look forward to frosty mornings, maybe some snow, and our popular Christmas events. We hope that as many homes as possible will be decorated for Christmas. Our popular light up for Christmas competition is running again this year with a prize of a bottle of fizz to cheer in the New Year for the winners. (See the back cover for details).

Following the successful film night held in September the organising committee decided to donate new Christmas lights for the Piazza and we are hoping that these will ensure Watermead looks its best for the season. Our first event is the Christmas Fair on Saturday 1st December in the Village Hall. Stallholders booked early to be sure of their place and the event is now fully booked with plenty of different cards, decorations and gifts to solve many present problems! It is always an enjoyable event with catering provided by Dot Toler, a competition to guess the name of the

toy dog, and no parking problems or stress!

The Fair will be followed by the Christmas Lights Switch on when the Piazza will be lit for the first night this year.

The Carol Concert follows on Saturday 8th December with the usual visit from Father Christmas with gifts for the children, music from our friends in Safe Sax and delicious mulled wine, mince pies (made by our very own WI members) and sausage rolls, with plenty of opportunities to sing carols.

In November the prize for the best allotment was presented to Roger and Marion Mills. The winners receive the Pamela Hughes Coney Cup, in memory of my mother. The plots were judged by Eric Rose who told me he had a difficult job as there are some very keen and expert allotmenters in Watermead. Well done to all.

The photographic competition, held in October, was deemed a huge success. Eric Rose, who organised it with the able assistance of our Parish Clerk, Noreen Shardlow, was unsure how many entries would be received, but there were many, making the job of judging very hard. The exhibition

was fascinating with many views of Watermead, and its natural environment. The winners were delighted with their prizes and the overall winner, James Bates, received the Sandra Landy Cup, in memory of the late Sandra Landy, a councillor and enormously enthusiastic volunteer in Watermead. She started the photographic competition many years ago and its revival is most welcome.

There were so many excellent photographs that we are producing a very **limited-edition calendar featuring the best photographs of Watermead for 2019**. You can order one from our Parish Clerk, Noreen Shardlow. The cost per A4 full colour calendar will be £6.00 and they will be available at our Christmas Craft Fair. A great stocking filler. If this proves popular we will produce a bigger run next year but time was short this time.

Planning matters include the proposed flats at the Piazza car park. There is no further news on this application at the time of writing other than to say the Parish Council remains vigilant, has lodged further



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

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michelle.jackson@watermead-pc.gov.uk

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objections and will ensure we speak at any committee meeting. The decision of the Secretary of State on whether or not to call in the application for the crematorium is still awaited.

Buckinghamshire will have a new Unitary Council. The big news for Buckinghamshire is the decision that we will have only one Council for Buckinghamshire rather than the current County Council and 4 District Councils. This decision has taken a long time and we are looking forward to finding out what this means for parishes and residents. It is estimated that it will take until April 2020 to fully integrate the Councils and work will begin immediately on the necessary changes. Elections for the new Council will be held in April 2020.

The first step is for Parliament to undertake the work to make a 'structural order' which will take a few months. You can find out how everything is going at www.futurebucks.co.uk. Once we know more about how our own parish will be affected we will post updates on the website, but we are assured that costs will be lower, there will be approximately 90 councillors rather than the 223 currently within the County and District, (electoral wards are yet to be confirmed). It is expected that there will be a network of local community hubs with local members; we will endeavour to have a seat at the table and will co-operate with officers to assist where we can.

What does this mean for our Parish? We don't know whether or not parish council elections will be held as planned in 2019. The reason for the uncertainty is that parishes and district council elections have usually been held at the same time to keep costs down. Costs include postage of polling cards, hire of village halls, polling station advertising, staffing and the count. These costs are high and smaller parishes would find it very difficult to meet them from precept. We will obviously keep trying to find out about this and will confirm as soon as possible.

Interested in becoming a Parish Councillor? Assuming the elections go ahead in 2019, or in 2020 with the new Bucks Council, it's not too early to consider standing for election to the Parish Council. The Council has 7 members, elected every four years (normally). The role of councillors is to represent the views of parishioners, to make decisions for the benefit of the parish, to ensure prudent management of resources from precept, grant funding, commercial activities, etc and to carry out ad hoc projects such as major repairs, events and so on.

Watermead's council has the General Power of Competence which is possible because we are fortunate to have a qualified Parish Clerk, and the required majority of councillors elected, rather than co-opted. This gives it the freedom to act, as an individual can, within the law, in a less restricted way. With the changes in local government in Buckinghamshire and the possibility of further devolved services this increases the scope of activity for Watermead PC in a positive way. These considerations will make for interesting and challenging times for parishes.

So, what's involved?

- Attendance is required at evening Parish Council meetings on the third Thursday of each month, apart from December and August. A budget meeting is held during December at which councillors consider next year's budget requirements. The Parish Precept (the council's income) is set formally at the January parish council meeting when it is debated.
- Getting involved in community activities such as the Film Night, Larks by the Lake, Carol Concert and Christmas Fair, is always a great opportunity to meet people and find out parishioners' views on current issues and to see how the Parish Council can help.
- Considering things such as planning matters, traffic and highways, land management, grant funding applications,

anti-social behaviour, ensuring the right level of provision of bins and dog bins, the village hall, allotments and so on, as well as other projects for the benefit of the community from time to time to ensure a variety of skills are needed.

- Councillors need to make time available for council meetings, working groups, if necessary, and to work on individual projects from time to time. The work is interesting and rewarding, giving councillors a chance to get involved in the community for the benefit of the community. A positive way to meet new people and to learn new skills. Training is provided.
- Candidates representing all sections of the community are most welcome. A short document explaining the requirements and criteria for standing and a 'person specification' can be obtained from the Parish Clerk. 01296 395211.

If you are interested, why not get in touch and we can meet and talk about the role in detail. As explained, the next ordinary date for elections is May 2019 (subject to confirmation).

Lunch Club

The lunch club in December marks its first anniversary. Started by Mary Singleton, the first year has seen growing numbers enjoying the great value meals provided by Kelvin Wong and his team at the Watermead Inn. If you would like to go to one of the lunches, held on the second Wednesday of each month, please call **Mary Singleton on 01296 428569** to book your place and make your menu choices. The cost is £8 for a two-course meal meeting at 12:30pm at the Watermead Inn.

Remembrance Day 2018

On 11th November, we held our usual quiet act of remembrance at the Memorial Garden at 11am. The 'Silent Soldiers' will remain in place for the remainder of 2018.

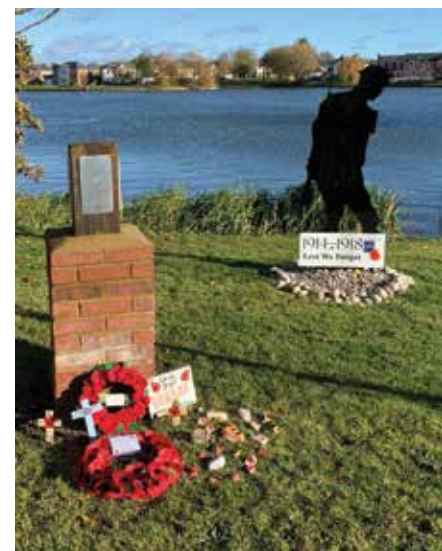
Speeding

We still need more volunteers to operate the Sentinel speed camera we share with Berryfields. Two volunteers are required for each session and it can take as little as half an hour to set up and record vehicles in various Watermead locations. All speeders receive a letter from the Police and, if they are caught on camera on three occasions, they receive a visit from the local Policing team warning them about their driving, and explaining the consequences of speeding. This deterrent has proved very effective and is an important way in which we can combat speeding in Watermead.

Please call Noreen Shardlow on 01296 336575 if you can help. Training is provided as well as high-visibility vest and safety instruction.

I would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and festive season and to offer best wishes for the New Year on behalf of the Parish Council.

Chairman Sue Severn



11 November 2018 at 11 am
Watermead commemorated the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1 with its usual remembrance service. This year a large number of people, including serving members of the armed forces, joined together in remembrance. Poppies, wreaths, a metal poppy bird feeder and numerous beautifully painted remembrance stones have been laid at the memorial.

Hello from 12th Aylesbury (1st Buckingham Park) Scout Group

We've had a fantastic year together: making friends, learning new skills and enjoying exciting adventures. Our group has grown hugely over the past year and we are delighted to report we now have a Scout Troop running alongside our successful Beaver Colony and Cub Pack. We are always looking for new members to join us and adult volunteers to help continue our success. If you're interested please email our Group Scout Leader Iain Stanley gsl@12thaylesbury-scouts.org.uk

Each week, we give our young people the opportunity to enjoy fun and adventure while developing the skills they need to succeed, now and in the future. We're talking about teamwork, leadership and resilience – skills that have helped Scouts become everything from teachers and social workers to astronauts and Olympians.

Our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have been able to take advantage of some great opportunities this year, including such things as trying Zumba and Yoga, gardening at Buckingham Lodge, a water sports adventure day, and a fantastic end of year Group Summer Camp. Whether it's a mini beast hunt for the Beavers or an American sports evening for Cubs, we are proud to say our young people have had fun and learned through experience.

Come and join us. *Carys*



News Watermead allotments

Hello from Compost Corner!
A you're adorable
B you're so beautiful
C you're a cutie full of charms...

My mum used to sing this song to me at bedtime. It's also bedtime at the allotments. Over the next few weeks it's going to be wheelbarrows full of horse manure to cover the beds ready for next spring. All that horse poo will rot down and produce lovely fertile soil. We've got to feed the wildlife otherwise the deer will be knocking their antlers on our door.

One of our success stories happened by accident. A plant grew in our new greenhouse that we didn't plant ourselves. It must've come in with the manure from last year. This huge plant just kept growing and growing and we didn't know what it was until we had five lovely pumpkins. They were better than any we've tried to grow intentionally.

The fruit trees that we planted three years ago have all tripled in size giving a glorious crop of apples for the birds. We also had a few cherries and one solitary pear. Just one. We never got to pick it. One day it was there and the next time we visited we noticed some smug looking blackbirds.

The six trees we planted around the perimeter of the allotments are something to feel proud about. They're looking extremely strong and have turned into proper grown-

up trees. We need to learn about pruning next. And how to make a swing.

We're eight months away from our wedding. Gulp. In a few months' time we're going to need a window sill of flower seedlings to grow into wedding bouquets. Trouble is we've got a new kitten. Christmas is cancelled. There's no way a tree or baubles are going to survive Clawasarus Rex. It's going to be interesting to see if the seedlings are used as kitty litter and spread all over the carpet. Nothing wrong with plastic flowers at a wedding is there?

If you'd like to have an allotment of your very own - maybe to help us out with flowers then please get in touch with the lovely Noreen Shardlow of the Parish Council.

Happy Digging from Graham and Kelie-Marie



As reported in our Autumn issue Roger & Marion Mills were the winners of the Watermead Allotments Competition. They had produced a wide variety of crops in excellent condition.

Dear Councillors,
We are delighted to see in the latest edition of Village View that our front garden has been selected as the overall winner of the Front Garden Competition.
Every year we long for the Spring and Summer seasons to arrive when we see the spears appearing from the daffodils, hyacinths and tulips which have lain dormant regaining strength during the Autumn and Winter months.
We enjoy our garden so much and love to share it with our neighbours and passers-by.
Thank you so much for your appreciation of our efforts.
With best wishes, John and Pauline Richardson.

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Tea Break Quiz



- Which term for school or university is from the Latin meaning 'bounteous mother'?
- Is BST before or behind GMT?
- What is a Blenheim Orange?
- Which part of the anatomy shares its name with a punctuation mark?
- Which crab lives in a whelk or winkle shell?
- Who wrote the novel 'Where Eagles Dare'?
- Which rock is the largest monolith in the world?
- Which tanker went down on the Seven Stones reef off Land's End?
- Which Sea does the River Jordan flow into?
- Writer Mary Westacott is better known by what name?
- The Old Bailey is on the site of which former prison?
- 'Spaghetti Junction' is on which road?
- What do the initials IMF stand for?
- Mozambique is the world's largest producer of which nut?
- Which famous film director has a son called Satchel?
- In which famous Square is St Basil's Cathedral?
- In which city was Anne Frank when she wrote her diary?
- The 1959 Royal Variety Performance was cancelled for what reason?
- Who was responsible for setting up the Girl Guides movement?
- What is the American equivalent of an English bilberry?

Answers on page 14

What's on

IN AND AROUND WATERMEAD

December

1st	Watermead Christmas Fair	Village Hall, 11am-5pm
6th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
8th	Watermead Carol Concert	The Piazza, 6pm

January

3rd	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
17th	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7:30pm
20th	Lavender Lane Vintage/Shabby Chic Craft Fair	Village Hall 10am-3pm

February

7th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
14th	Valentines Day	
21st	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7:30pm

March

7th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
17th	Lavender Lane Vintage/Shabby Chic Craft Fair	Village Hall 10am-3pm
21st	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7:30pm

Watermead Events 2019

Larks by the Lake	Sunday 26th May
Films on the Field	Saturday 14th September

Village Hall

PARISH COUNCIL

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

CYGNETS PRE-SCHOOL

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3 & 4 yrs: Tuesday
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Lunch: Monday, Wednesday - Friday
12.00 - 1.30pm)
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KUMON MATHS

Monday & Thursday
2.30 - 6pm
Susan Jones 747469

AYLESBURY & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

WATERMEAD & WEEDON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

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

JO JINGLES

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

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Janet Castielli 433956
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Tuesdays 6.00 - 7.00pm
7.15 - 8.15pm
Gale Smith 747900

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

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Book review

Frederick Forsyth: The Kill List

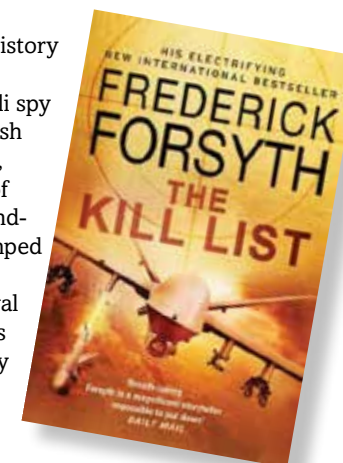
Frederick Forsyth has been keeping us up past our bedtimes since his nerve-shredding debut in 1971, **The Day of the Jackal (of which I have a cherished first edition)**. The Kill List proves that, decades later, he is still a master of his art. As topical as you could wish for, this has a Mission Impossible-style ex-marine, codenamed 'the Tracker', tasked with hunting down a secretive Muslim fanatic called 'the Preacher' whose disciples are carrying out random suicide killings in the US and the UK.

Forsyth outlines terrorist cells and those who pursue them across cyberspace and the deserts of the Middle East with all the accuracy and immediacy of a TV documentary. His style is succinct, with telling little sketches: in a refugee camp outside Mogadishu "they had no sanitation, food, employment or hope". Background details like this aren't allowed to slow down the pace as the Tracker and a talented teenage hacker relentlessly breach the Preacher's online

defences and identify who he is, his history and his whereabouts.

All the plotlines, including an Israeli spy in a Somali market town and a Swedish billionaire's son kidnapped by pirates, converge on a hamlet in the middle of nowhere and a Bin Laden-style kill-and-rescue operation. If you've never jumped out of a plane at 25,000 feet with a 40-kilo rucksack of ammo and survival kit, get ready for it now! Forsyth takes you there as vividly as a virtual-reality theme park ride. Not many thrillers are as thrilling as this.

David Gee



Watermead Pub Lunch Club

A record number of people attended the November lunch and we expect more in December as we shall be having a special Christmas menu. Kelvin and his team make us very welcome and provide a menu with three choices of main course, including one for vegetarians, and three delicious desserts for just £8.00. You should advise if you have special dietary requirements and they will do their best to accommodate you. There is always someone there to greet you and take your money so please don't worry about coming along if you are on your own.

The Club is aimed at the more mature members of the community and especially those who may have been missing out on regular social contact. We now have a mixed group of 50 or so

members of different ages and everyone appears to enjoy the food and the company. We usually see about 30 of them each month.

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

Please note that bookings can only be made through the local organiser whose contact details are given above.

View from Westminster

A few weeks ago, I popped in to visit the Buckinghamshire branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England. The CPRE has a deserved reputation as a formidable campaigner for the English countryside.

While my visit was long-planned, it turned out to be the day after the Transport Department had announced its preferred corridor for the Oxford/Cambridge expressway, so I was expecting to discuss this and the wider impact of development along the arc between the two university cities.

It soon became clear that the Bucks CPRE had been doing a lot of thinking already about

the impact on our county of this project. We talked about the inevitable impact that it would have on the rural environment and on those towns and villages in Aylesbury Vale that will see significant expansion over the next 20 or 30 years.

But what I found striking was that the CPRE wasn't in what might be termed NIMBY mode. They were concerned, and determined to fight their case, but also understood the reasons for the Government's decision to support the development of the corridor. It's probably the best prospect for economic growth anywhere in Europe, with two world-class universities, two teaching hospitals, life sciences,

Cambridgeshire's "silicon fen", Oxfordshire's expertise in nuclear and space research, the cluster of cutting-edge automotive businesses at Silverstone and the business hub that is Milton Keynes.

The new East/West railway and the expressway will also open up the opportunity for large-scale housing development. While this is controversial, I think it is needed. Many Watermead residents will have children or grandchildren who are in good jobs but struggling to get a foot on even the bottom of the housing ladder. So often, I've had constituents tell me that they're not against development in principle, but want the

infrastructure sorted before all the houses are built. So linking future housing plans with new road and rail links makes sense.

The CPRE wanted to discuss how to achieve development that put human needs at the heart of planning. How can we get the best design for new buildings? How do we ensure that we build new settlements with a genuine sense of place and local identity? How can we design development that takes account of biodiversity? It's a debate that I look forward to continuing.

David Lidington, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office.

Netta’s report

Children’s Services
Financial pressures in Children’s Services continue. One of the main causes is the increase in ‘Looked after Children’ (LAC). A few years ago there were about 350 children who needed looking after. This number has risen to almost 500. The very significant average cost of each individual child has brought about a significant unplanned expenditure. There are weekly reviews to see where additional savings can be made. Clearly we must ensure that vulnerable children remain safe.

Buckinghamshire is not alone in experiencing these pressures and you may have seen the considerable press coverage of the large overspend by many county councils on Children’s Services.

We are about to commence the new round of consultation on ‘Early help’. It is important that this system is reformed to help the vulnerable communities and achieve the targeted savings.

Adult Social Care ‘Green Papers’
Another major area of financial pressure this year remains Adult Social Care. Again, this is a national problem. The Government had committed to a Green Paper on Social Care reform. This was originally due in 2017. It was then delayed into early 2018. More recently it has been further delayed. The reason for the delay is unclear but it probably reflects the complexity of the issue and the difficulty of finding easy solutions.

Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)
The County Council has now started the consultation on reductions to opening hours and sites for HWRCs. This will not be easy to resolve but seriously we need to save something like £1 million on the sites.

Places to eat

Horse and Jockey
Buckingham Road, Aylesbury
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Within walking distance of Watermead, the Horse & Jockey offer fantastic pub food, using carefully-chosen ingredients from the best suppliers across the UK. They offer a variety of menus including a fixed price menu, Sunday, kids and vegetarian and vegan menus. On the seasonal menu you’ll find pub classics such as Posh Fish & Chips,

The new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
Just before the summer recess the Government issued the long awaited revised NPPF. Whilst our District colleagues are of course the local planning authorities, the implications of this revised policy will have major implications for BCC. The main immediate consequence will be that there will be a much higher ‘de facto’ housing target across Buckinghamshire. Each District will be effectively required to use a common methodology for assessing new ‘housing need’ that will give, in most cases, a much higher number. Whilst existing proposed Local Plans may go through with current numbers, any new Plans will have to use the new methodology. Officers are currently calculating what these new numbers may be for the whole of Bucks but they are likely to be near 100,000 for the period until 2050. There is nevertheless Government pressure for Bucks to deliver many more! From a county council point of view this will place major new demands on key infrastructure and services such as roads, schools, social services and green spaces.

The Growth Agenda
Whilst the new NPPF will be a common methodology across the country, it is weighted to require more housing in areas of ‘high demand’ such as Bucks. In addition, we are now under major pressure from Civil Servants to commit to an uplift in the numbers still further, with proposals of 120% or 130% of the new housing numbers being proposed. The Chief Executive and Leader of BCC will be meeting with key District colleagues to see if we can agree a common position on Government demands.

Fracking/Shale gas
Many of you will have received copies of

the national ‘write in’ campaign on Shale gas/ Fracking over the past six weeks. As previously advised I am not aware of any viable Shale gas in Bucks and we have no Group policy on fracking.

AVDC
I am pleased to report that relations with AVDC have improved very significantly over the summer and both organisations are committed to working together on Town Centre regeneration and the Garden Town initiative.

Universal Credit
We want to ensure that our residents who claim benefits are fully prepared if they are required to claim Universal Credit, so we have created a number of leaflets to help further inform them of this change and how they need to manage it, with one specifically designed for Landlords to help inform them how UC will affect them and the support available to them. These leaflets will be distributed throughout the Vale and are also available on our dedicated UC webpage www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/universal-credit
You will notice that we will also be spreading this message via our social media channels and we kindly ask you to please share this content amongst your followers to help us further spread this message. For further information on UC we suggest visiting www.gov.uk/universal-credit

Universal Credit
Please be wary of all unsolicited emails. Millions of scam messages are sent out every day in the hope that someone somewhere will be fooled! There are various ways to protect yourself from such unwanted messages and specific advice is available on www.getsafeonline.org

Cllr Netta Glover

online are predominantly positive such as: “Visited here last Sunday and had a fantastic roast dinner! The food was delicious. The best roast dinner in Winslow for sure! Service was excellent!”; “The meal was top notch, affordable and perfect quantity. The staff (Owners) here are not only professional but also warm and kind. I will definitely be returning.” “Really enjoyed our meal, specifically visited to try the Turkish cuisine (which is a particular favourite of mine), so as I was

Watermead and Weedon WI Trying out new experiences

I imagine that even now, when they think of WI, most people think of jam and Jerusalem. Some people, who know a little more about the WI may also be aware of our work influencing policy and decision making, our campaigning and of course our long association with the Suffragist movement. But there is also a great emphasis in the WI on having fun and trying new experiences. We are not a particularly big group at Watermead and Weedon WI – about 26 of us with an average attendance of 18 at most meetings. In any given year, we will enjoy a lunch at a local venue, hear about local charities, meet to do craft work, learn a new skill or just chat with friends. But most of all, we enjoy the monthly meetings and the odd outing or County based event in between.

During 2018, we have learnt about Japanese flower arranging which is a very involved and intricate art. The person who came to demonstrate to us came in full kimono, the significance of which she explained to us. Last month, a representative of the

Aylesbury Chaplaincy came to talk to us about the work of the Aylesbury town centre Chaplains and the Street Angels who work all night on weekend nights, making sure that those out enjoying themselves in the town centre are kept safe and can return home in one piece. We have also had a play and poetry reading evening which might sound rather dry and uninteresting. The play was a very short comedy and was about fairy tale heroines, ten years on. Cinderella was bored living in her splendid castle, Beauty was having trouble containing the temper of the Beast, Snow White was fed up with the Dwarves doing nothing and getting older and grumpier and so on. The story was about how they met for coffee and talked through their various problems, eventually resolving some of them through helping each other. The poetry was by Roald Dahl and a sprinkling of Pam Ayres so nothing too demanding on a Thursday evening but it was something a bit different and kept us laughing.

We are now arranging our programme for 2019. So far, we have booked talks about growing up in the East End of London in the 1950’s, someone

who makes Church vestments and Altar cloths who will tell us about her skills and bring some examples of her work. We shall also hear about the excellent work that goes on at Lindengate, helping people improve their mental health through gardening. There will be the summer lunch as well as food tasting, some craft work and at least one day trip by coach.

You don’t have to live on Watermead or live in Weedon to join us. We welcome members from all over Aylesbury. You are welcome to come as a prospective member or as a visitor to a particular talk and you will be made most welcome. We meet at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of the month in Watermead Village Hall. Our programme is usually displayed on the Watermead

notice board and contact details for the Committee members are printed in Village View. We look forward to welcoming some of you in 2019.

Watermead & Weedon WI

You are welcome to join us at our meeting on 6th December when we will host a quiz and Christmas food.

In January we shall be discussing the short-listed Resolutions for 2019 and then having a social evening playing board games.



WATERMEAD CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 1st December 2018
Village Hall, The Piazza 11am - 5pm

An arrangement of traditional and quirky gifts - there’s a unique Christmas gift for everyone!

Plus ‘Name the Dog’

Refreshments available too

and don’t forget:

WATERMEAD CAROL CONCERT

Saturday 8th December 2018. From 6pm

Thames Valley Alert

Email scams

A number of residents have received emails which quote all or part of one or more of their passwords. The emails can come from various addresses including your own. You do not need to panic – they are scams and should be deleted – you can ignore the threats made. But please make sure that you change any passwords you use that include all or part of the password quoted.

Can you spot the signs of fraud?

With the festive period just around the corner and thoughts turning to Christmas shopping, we are reminding residents to remain vigilant against fraud.

Fraudulent Missed Parcel Delivery Cards

We are aware of fraudulent missed parcel delivery cards being delivered to properties in the Stratley area recently. The delivery card appears to be from the Royal Mail and encourages the victim to call a premium-rate number, resulting in a large amount of money being charged for the call. If you receive a card like this you can report it by calling Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk.

To reduce the risk of becoming a victim:

- Always verify any delivery slip that is posted through your door...especially if you are not expecting a delivery.
- Do not call the number provided on the card.
- Remember a fake delivery slip will be designed to look very similar to a genuine one.
- Never give out personal details.

Scam Mail

Scam mail is illegal, targets the most

vulnerable in society and can be very distressing. Typically, it involves professional fraudsters sending convincing letters designed to trick people out of money or valuables – This is also known as “Advance Fee” fraud.

Scam mail is not normal advertising mail and can include bogus lotteries, competitions and fake prize draws. Anyone can be a recipient of scam mail. If you are concerned that someone you know is receiving large amounts of post and sending money in response to it, you can report it by writing to Royal Mail at FREEPOST SCAM MAIL and enclosing any suspicious items. Alternatively you can call the Royal Mail Scam Mail Helpline on 0800 0113 466 or email scam.mail@royalmail.com.

- Never respond to any such communication. If you haven't entered a lottery, than you cannot have won it.
- Action Fraud do not know of any official lotteries that contact people to tell them of their win or ask for a fee to collect winnings.
- Never, ever disclose your bank details, or pay fees in advance
- Genuine lotteries thrive on publicity. If they ask you to keep your win a secret it's likely to be a fraud.
 - Most fraudulent lotteries have poor spelling and grammar – see this as a warning that fraudsters are at work.

Little Book of Big Scams

There are many different types of fraud, both online and offline. For more information *download the free Little Book of Big Scams from the Thames Valley Police website here: www.thamesvalley.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/central/*

advice/thames-valley/fraud/little-book-big-scams.pdf. You can also find more hints and tips to help protect against fraud on our website here: www.thamesvalley.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/personal-fraud/

Advice for Dog Owners

We have recently seen an increase in reports of dog attacks. We would like to remind dog owners to take reasonable steps to keep your dog under control by considering the following:

- Consider keeping your dog on a lead in public places
- Ensure your dog is comfortable off a lead and will respond to your recall
- Use a muzzle if you are concerned about your dog in public
- Keep your dog on a lead when near livestock
- See advice from the local Vet Surgery if you have any concerns

It is your responsibility to ensure that your dog is under control at all times.

Your dog must be wearing a collar with an identity tag that has the owners name and address on it - just a telephone number is not enough.

For more information on this issue and ways to report crime, please visit the Thames Valley Police website.

You can follow the South & Vale neighbourhood teams on Facebook and Twitter to find out what they are doing in your area.

For more information see www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk

Tree of Light commemorations offer comfort at Christmas

The Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity Tree of Light commemorations are open to anyone in our community who wishes to spend some time quietly remembering friends and family members who have died. The ceremonies are open to all, regardless of religion or spirituality, and it doesn't matter whether your loved ones were cared for by Florence Nightingale Hospice or died at home or in hospital.

“The Tree of Light events are designed to give people a space where a part of

the season is set aside to commemorate loved ones,” says Ann Kenny, the new Bereavement Support Team Lead at the Hospice. “Christmas can often be a time of conflicting emotions, or it can be so busy that those who are grieving can't find a time to process feelings of sadness which may come to the fore at this time of year.”

There are a number of different ways to commemorate loved ones through the Hospice's Tree of Light events. Sponsor a light in memory of them and write a dedication which will appear in the Books of Honour which can be viewed at the Hospice

in December and early January, and at the two Tree of Light events. Or come along to one or both Tree of Light services which will take place at the Head Office of Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity at Walton Lodge, Walton Street, Aylesbury, at 5pm on Sunday 2nd December and at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Buckingham at 4pm on Saturday 8th December.

To sponsor a light in memory of someone, please call our Fundraising Team on 01296 429 975 to request a Tree of Light Form or find out more at www.fnhospice.org.uk/tree-of-light

Watermead Cygnets Pre-School

Term started in September with a new intake of children. We would like to give them all a big warm welcome to Cygnets. We are delighted that they have all settled in so well and are enjoying all of the activities. We took advantage of the good weather we had at the end of September and early October and the children had a great time in the Cygnets garden. They also enjoyed our Autumn walk to collect conkers, acorns and fir cones.

Our learning theme this term is “All about me”. The children have been learning about themselves, their homes, their families and their senses. They have been learning all about their bodies and healthy eating. Some of the activities the children have done included painting their portrait, looking at their skin, eye and hair colour. They also discussed their family members and had a go at drawing and painting them. We did a smell test of things in a pot and the children had to guess the contents; coffee was a smell they all recognised.

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

October is, of course, the time of Harvest Festival. We taught the children all about different types of food and the importance of eating healthy food. Our Harvest Festival took place on Friday 19th October and we would like to thank everyone who donated food. All the items were given to the Aylesbury Vineyard Storehouse which distributes free food, clothing and furniture to people.

We are looking forward to next term when we will be learning about Autumn festivals such as Halloween, fireworks/bonfire night - the children will make rockets and make pictures of fireworks using fern leaves and spaghetti. They will also learn about Diwali and will make Diva lamps made of clay and learn about the story of Rama and Sita. Then they will participate in Christmas activities making cards, bags and tree decorations, as well as preparing for the Christmas play learning songs and rehearsing for the performance to their parents and other family members.

As usual we will be setting a “Nursery Rhyme Challenge” where the children will learn 10 new rhymes to recite at our sing-off. This helps with early reading skills and language development.

The Watermead Inn laid on a Halloween party and many children enjoyed the party!

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to Kelvin and Nikki Wong for all the donations given to us. This will go towards the end of term trip to Zoomania.

Cygnets accepts children from 2½ to 5 years old. We open from 8.30am to 1.30pm on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; on Tuesdays we are open from

8:30am to 12 30pm for all 3 to 4yr olds. For 2½ year olds we open from 9am to 12 noon. If you would like your child to attend Cygnets, please visit us and ask to be added to our waiting list. For further details please call Dot Toler on 07563 783464.

The Cygnets team



Random Person

Since retiring six months ago Stuart Mackay can look back on an adventurous and varied life. He joined the Merchant Navy at 16 and visiting so many places around the world must have given him a wanderlust, as he is still travelling extensively whenever he can. He has found employment in numerous areas, including running his own company for ten years selling garage equipment. At one time he worked for a company which made electrically adjustable beds. His role was to travel all around the country setting up new distribution centres. He was very successful and must have set up nearly 100 outlets.

For some time he and his wife, Lorraine, ran a pub, The Catherine Wheel, near Chinnor. Lorraine's parents also ran a pub, which they owned, and when they sold up, they bought a beautiful 5 bedroomed house on the lake in Watermead. As soon as Stuart and Lorraine visited them, they fell in love with Watermead and vowed to come to live here. As soon as they could make all the necessary arrangements they bought a flat over the shops at the Piazza and moved in in 1989.

They quickly assimilated themselves into the community by joining the Watermead Village Residents Association and helping to organise all the many social events that took place in those days. The Village Hall was the venue for Horse Racing Nights, Disco Nights, Casino Evenings and even an Elvis Tribute Event. Stuart also helped organise Craft Fairs and Car Treasure Hunts around the village, with participants having to find hidden clues to take them on to the next clue and eventually the treasure!

In those days the local Gym also organised parties and the Watermead Inn was newly opened and was a very popular starting point for local people to enjoy before heading off to town for the night.

The Ski slope was up and running and the Ski Lodge had an upstairs bar which regularly ran quiz nights and occasionally had live bands perform as well as Disco Nights.

Not everything went according to plan. With a donation from the Watermead Inn Stuart organised a bonfire night. There was a hot air balloon lighting up the meadow, a

floating bonfire on the lake, people selling their wares from stalls and entertainers in fancy dress and on stilts. One hundred and twenty people had bought tickets for a seat on the bandstand to get a good view, with supper provided. Stuart had advertised the event quite extensively, but had not anticipated that it would be quite so popular. People came from far and wide and there just wasn't room for all their cars. Residents' private drives were parked on, others had their cars blocked in and parking generally caused a problem. There were a lot of complaints and Stuart decided he would never do it again.

But someone else stepped in and organised the firework display the following year. This time it was the fireworks that were floating on the lake, rather than the bonfire, as at Stuart's event. The new organiser had to be with them to set them off, but unfortunately something went wrong and they all detonated at the same time. He had to jump off the float and swim to shore with rockets whizzing past his ears! That was the end of elaborate fireworks events.

Unfortunately, the Watermead Village Residents Association was disbanded, with the original intention being that it would be taken over by another organisation, but that never came about. Stuart thoroughly enjoyed the fun he had working with the Resident's Association and regrets that it came to an end.

They continued to live in their flat, at one time keeping a couple of Aylesbury Ducks on their balcony for a few days prior to Christmas Day – a surprise present for Lorraine's parents. After living with Lorraine's parents for quite a while they eventually moved on to the lake, but continued to 'visit' regularly. I dare say some of their descendants are still with us.

In 1998, at the grand old age of 52, Stuart became a father with the birth of their son James. That meant a larger home was needed. The recent recession at that time had seen their home devalued and James was a year old before it reached the same level as when they bought it. At that point they sold up and moved to Avocet Way, where they remain to this day. The pleasant appearance of Watermead and the ongoing community feeling mean Stuart and Lorraine

have no intention of leaving. Stuart has had six months of retirement to catch up with DIY jobs around the house, so now he is finding other ways to fill his time and create some structure to his days. Currently he volunteers at The Queens Park Art Centre in Aylesbury and hopes to find other possibilities to make himself useful - in between holidays that is. Lorraine has a long way to go before she reaches retirement and with a very responsible job holidays are very important. They have been on a railway trip around India and a trip to Morocco. A holiday travelling around Spain by train is on the agenda and next year they will visit Australia.

But one of the nice things about going away on long holidays is coming home again and the sense of satisfaction he gets driving back into Watermead.

Carolynne McKee



Answers to Tea Break Quiz on page 07

1. Alma Mater, 2. Before, 3. An apple, 4. Colon, 5. Hermit crab, 6. Alistair MacLean, 7. Ayers Rock, 8. Torrey Canyon, 9. The Dead Sea, 10. Agatha Christie, 11. Newgate Prison, 12. M6, 13. International Monetary Fund, 14. Cashew nut, 15. Woody Allen, 16. Red Square, Moscow, 17. Amsterdam, 18. The Queen was pregnant, 19. Agnes Baden-Powell, 20. Blueberry

If you weren't here

If you weren't here I could close my eyes and luxuriate in the creep of relaxation through my body, in the sounds of living diminishing, diminishing into the oblivion of sleep – if you weren't here. But you are here – and here you are.

If you weren't here I could take my time – which lipstick, the pink or the purple – which nail varnish, does it match my dress? I could twirl and turn before the mirror until the best effect feeds my confidence – if you weren't here. But you are here – and here you are.

If you weren't here I could 'suit and boot' myself, leap back into the world of commerce to manage, initiate, delegate, achieve – if you weren't here. But you are here – and here you are.

If you weren't here, how would I have known the river of joy that springs from somewhere deep within my abdomen and flows through my heart and head to erupt as tears of love and happiness from my eyes. If you weren't here, how would I have known about that river of joy.

But you are here – and here you are.

If you weren't here how would I have learned to laugh every day at little things – unscripted, unplanned. If you weren't here I wouldn't know that laughter. But you are here – and here you are.

If you weren't here whose growing pains endured, tribulations overcome, hard work rewarded would have filled me with such pride. Whose pride in me, for being me, would have been bestowed so freely – if you weren't here. But you are here – and here you are.

If you weren't here how could I have passed into future generations and seen my quirks and qualities replicated again and again in you and yours. If you weren't here there would be no passing. But you are here – and here you are.

If you weren't here who would change my light bulbs and my duvet cover. Who would replace those practical skills that diminish as the years increase. Who would do those things if you weren't here. But you are here – and here you are.

If you weren't here who would know if I had eaten today;- who would know if I had spoken today. Who would eat and speak with me if you weren't here. But you are here – and here you are.

If you weren't here who would tell me that I have no need to be grateful, who would tell me that sacrifice has come full circle, transformed into a mutuality of sacrifice. Who would tell me those things if you weren't here. But you are here. And here we are, warm hands held for comfort, no need for any more words.

Carolynne McKee

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smallanimal@hampdenvets.co.uk

Feline Friendly Cat Clinic at Watermead

We are very happy to announce our new cat clinic at our Watermead branch, from the 11th September, with our dedicated feline friendly vets.

We offer a dedicated cat only clinic, with no barking dogs, to make vet visits as stress free as possible. We have a separate waiting area for cats, with an area for cats to be placed above floor level so that they are not able to make eye contact with other cats.

With longer consult times, we find cats have more time to be acclimatised to the vets, and don't have to rush with getting the cat out of the carrier - often after a couple of minutes we find they come out and say hi by themselves. We are also able to offer more services, such as blood taking and blood pressure monitoring.

The cat clinic is ideal for those older felines over 12 years of age, more likely to get age related issues (usually being able to identify those earlier can help prolong a happy healthy life), or

those first kitten visits, to teach them that the vets isn't a scary place.

Common health issues in older cats:

Kidney disease – common in cats over 12 years. There are many causes, such as infections, cancers, toxins or attack from their own immune system. Older cats tend to develop chronic kidney disease, which means the kidneys have been losing function over a long period. This is diagnosed by blood and urine tests. The most common symptom is drinking more, although cats can be discreet, so weight loss is often the first sign, followed by dehydration, poor appetite, to generalised weakness. There is no cure, but treatment is aimed to minimise any symptoms and to slow the rate of the kidneys getting worse. Often if caught early cats can go on to live a long normal life with minimal changes at home. A combination of a kidney diet and medication can help cats continue happily for years.

Hyperthyroidism – is when the thyroid gland is over-active and producing too much hormone. This causes the metabolism to speed up, so cats tend to eat plenty but still lose weight. Their heart rate and blood pressure can also go up. It is diagnosed by a simple blood test. It is controlled by medication (tablet, liquid or a gel) or surgery.

High blood pressure – is linked to kidney disease and hyperthyroidism. Failing kidneys produce chemicals that constrict the vessel and retain water in the circulation, both increasing blood pressure. High blood pressure can affect the back of the eye, causing blindness, can worsen kidney disease, and causes the heart to

work harder. Medication can be given for high blood pressure and regular blood pressure monitoring is advised.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch, or come visit our new clinic.

Our dedicated cat clinics are open Tuesday evening 4-7pm, Thursday morning 9-11.30am and Friday afternoon 1.30-4pm.

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



Meadow and Hedgerow Havens in Watermead

Through the end of November and start of December this year we will be starting the process of turning the small patch of grassland behind the gatehouse between the entry road to the crematorium site and the River Thame into a haven for wildlife.

Watermead Parish Council will be working alongside Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust with assistance from the Vale Countryside Volunteers to create an area of nationally rare floodplain meadow along with a native species-rich hedgerow.

Meadows used to be an essential resource for all communities living in lowland areas. The famous naturalist Oliver Rackham even suggested that by the 13th century most floodplains would have been managed as meadows. Each summer the river valleys would be awash with the deep reds of the Great Burnet and the bright yellows of Buttercups. Every family would have had their own personal patch of meadow that they used to make hay in the summer. This would have provided feed and bedding materials for their animals in winter. Due to the tendency of grass to carry on growing until the frosts hit, the meadows could also

provide a continued source of feed for the animals from late summer to autumn. The herbs within the meadows would have also been used in medicines and cooking.

So what is it about floodplain meadows that make them good for wildlife? The area will be sown with the seed of 19 different wildflowers. Each of these will be able to support its own range of animals and fungi. During the summer the meadow should fill with the sights of butterflies, bees and dragonflies and buzz with the sounds of grasshoppers and crickets. Meadows will regularly hold around 8 times the biodiversity of amenity grassland.

Floodplain meadows are a precious resource. Over the last 75 years the amount of meadow in the UK has declined by 97% and of that the amount of floodplain meadow that remains is less than 1500Ha. This is certainly a habitat worth conserving.

In summer the species rich hedge will provide valuable nesting area for various birds. Four hedgerow trees are being planted: aspen, poplars and willow and when these mature they will be invaluable to wildlife, providing support for all sorts of insects, birds, mammals, fungi, mosses, lichens and more.

The hedgerows and uncut margins of the site will really come into their own in winter. The longer grasses and dense hedgerow bases will provide cover for small mammals such as mice, voles, shrews and maybe even hedgehogs. The berries on the hedges will continue to provide food for birds and small mammals throughout the cold winter months. If hedgehogs and shrews manage to make their way onto the site, then the high number of insects supported by the meadow will continue to feed them throughout the year.

The hedgerow is to be planted in November and December of this year whilst readying of the ground for seeding of the meadow will continue up until the end of next summer. Meadow flowers take a couple of years to really come into their own but you can expect to see them starting to look their best by summer 2021.

If you would like to get involved or just want to learn more or keep up to date on developments please email the Berks, Bucks and Oxon wildlife trusts Hedgerow Havens Project Officer, Marcus Militello on marcusmilitello@bbowt.org.uk.



Hedgerow Havens - Hedge planting and meadow creation days

Wednesday 28th November and Wednesday 12th December 10am-3pm

- Keen to make a difference for wildlife in the parish and meet other like-minded people whilst doing so?
- Interested in getting some exercise and learning new skills?



If so, come on down to the patch of land off Watermead Road, HP19 0FU, grid reference: SP 81961 15480. Parking at Watermead Piazza, Lakeside, HP19 0FX

Bring a spade, rake or garden/ pitch fork if you have one.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided.

Please contact Marcus Militello to confirm attendance:

Email: marcusmilitello@bbowt.org.uk

Phone: 07955 855 732.

In the event of adverse weather conditions planting may have to be called off.

www.bbowt.org.uk

Protecting local wildlife

Aylesbury Town Chaplaincy

Have you heard about Aylesbury Town Chaplaincy? Ever seen a Chaplain? What about the Street Angels?

Since 2012, Chaplains have been out and about during the day in Aylesbury, and Street Angels, late into the night. We are a small, local charity born out of the desire of local churches to serve the needs of the thousands of people who live, work and visit Aylesbury every day.

Our "Vision" statement explains this:

We love our town and, by coming alongside those who work, shop, play and live here, we wish to demonstrate God's unconditional love. We aim to provide comfort, support and encouragement (practical, emotional and spiritual) to all, through our regular, visible and caring presence. We aim to work in co-operation with like-minded partners for the wellbeing of all in our community.

In practice there are 2 elements of our work: Day-time Chaplains and night-time Street Angels.

The Chaplains offer a 'listening ear' – a friendly presence and a confidential, independent and impartial ear to those who are going through difficult times, or just want to meet with someone who has the time to listen. They are available for anyone who needs someone to listen to them, about concerns, worries or aspirations; someone to share about their life. They have time for people and are interested in them. They'll listen and chat about anything, including spiritual matters or prayer if required. Currently our Chaplains are in various places in Aylesbury. In the town centre, we have Chaplains in the various shopping centres, streets or areas, and they are around and about on parts of Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays at the moment. Other Chaplains are placed within particular organisations: Aylesbury Police Station, The Waterside Theatre, Bucks County Council, Morrisons supermarket, Aylesbury College, the Healthy Living Centre and University Aylesbury Vale.

While listening they may realise that the person speaking needs further specialist help and they can signpost people to other agencies and organisations which offer this. We don't always know what difference these conversations and encouragement make, but we do know that many people value the Chaplains' time, and come back to say what happened next. People have shared concerns about work, health, family, homelessness, loneliness, but also good times – new jobs, new relationships and new homes.

The Street Angels are out in the town centre in a team of three on either a Friday or Saturday night from around 11pm to 3.30am. They offer practical help and act as a calming, community presence. They offer simple and practical help. They give out flip flops so people's feet are protected (their dancing shoes may have become too uncomfortable to wear!), they hold sick bags, have hair ties and bottles of water as well as being able to give basic first aid. They make sure anyone out on the street, sleeping rough, is aware of and in touch with homelessness services. They help people find a safe way home – either via a taxi, or by calling friends or family. This work is all done in liaison with our local police, licensees, CCTV operators and door staff, and we have been loaned a radio to enable us to be linked with the CCTV and door staff. Street Angels can also be involved in defusing potentially problematic situations; they give away hundreds of lollipops a year, and its remarkable how the mood lightens with the offer of a lollipop!

Street Angels are part of the night-time economy partnership which has enabled Aylesbury to be awarded a Purple Flag several years in a row. This is awarded to towns and cities who demonstrate excellence in managing the night-time economy and indicates a safe, diverse, and vibrant night out.

(Alliance of Town & City Chaplaincies) and night-time work (Christian Night-time Initiatives, CNI network) so we can support, encourage and learn from each other.

We are also supported by many individuals and organisations in kind or financially - local churches, Thames Valley Police, AVDC & BCC Community Safety Teams, Aylesbury Town Council, Heart of Bucks, Co-operative Community Fund, members of our Friends scheme, the Town Centre Partnership and many others.

To find out more you can click on our website www.aylesburytownchaplaincy.co.uk, follow us on Twitter @AylesburySA, email us at office@aylesburytownchaplaincy.co.uk or call 01296 398110.



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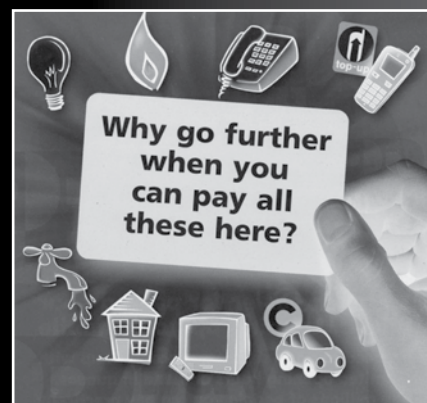
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Watermead's first ever outdoor cinema night was a huge success

When Kelvin Wong came up with the idea of putting on an outdoor cinema night I have to admit I wasn't keen. A fete is fine but a cinema night...so much to go wrong - oh and it did! Licensing problems, the screen hire company cancelling on the morning of the event, you name it, it happened! But....

Thanks to Graham Howse's positive attitude 'come on we've got hours to sort this out, we can do this' and ukeventures saving our day we were able to pull it off.

We all enjoyed the Lion King, especially the youngsters. Many of them had to go home to bed after that but there were still loads of people left, and some who came just to see our "grown up" film, Grease. So many songs

that we all know and love to sing along to.

Thank you to Sue Severn, Noreen Shardlow and Dot Toler for donating glosticks. Thank you to Verity Hook for helping to sell them.

Thank you to Bob Manser for organising the car parking amongst many other things.

To Dave Lucas, Martyn Filbey and Jonno from Dynamic Landscapes for all the toing and froing with equipment.

Thank you to Noreen Shardlow for all the health and safety paperwork and budgeting - not an easy task with something like this!

Thank you to Phil Toler for last minute equipment borrowing.

Thank you Ian Collett for fabulous art work for advertising.

To our committee who are all

volunteers, who love Watermead and just want to make it more fun! Thank you all twelve of you!

Thanks to Simon Holding for his terrible, terrible jokes. So sorry we didn't have time to play 'play your guinea pig cards right'.

Sorry the film was delayed. This was because the weather was too good and it was too light to show the film. You can't have everything is the moral of the story.

We have lessons to be learnt if we do this again.

Thank you to anyone I've forgotten to thank!

We had no idea how many would turn up and were thrilled at the turn out.

All our sponsors who made this possible - many thanks to you guys - we're building a tight community of eager helpers

and it gets easier each time to keep our sponsors and attract more. Further events will come as long as we get the support and financial assistance from our little village.

Graham, Simon and I were very proud to stand at the front during the two films talking nonsense. It wasn't a wig by the way - it was his own hair. The view we had of the field full of people was very special. Lots of people made this event so deep breaths

Kelvin, Karen, Ian, Bob, Dave, Dot, Noreen, Sue, Daphne, Graham H, Graham S, Verity, Simon, Sharon, Guy...we did it!

**Dates for your 2019 diary!!!
Movie night scheduled for
14th September 2019 and
Larks by the Lake is planned
for 26th May 2019.**



From September 2018 the WaterRider bus service changed it's timetable to the below:

Aylesbury - Watermead - Buckingham Park

Route 6 calls at: Railway Station, Bus Station, Exchange Street, High Street, New Street, Buckingham Road, Dunsham Lane, Cleveland Road, Lark Vale, Watermeadow, Watermead, Prince Rupert Drive, Colonel Grantham Avenue, Jubilee Square

Route 7 journeys will either travel from the town centre straight down the Buckingham Road to Buckingham Park and then Watermead, back to town via route 6; or will follow route 6 from town, but after serving Buckingham Park will travel back to town via Buckingham Road.

MONDAY TO FRIDAY														FROM: 30 September 2018	
Service number:	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	6	6		
Aylesbury Railway Station													0935		
Aylesbury, Bus Station	0615	0630	0645	0700	0715	0730	0745	0800	0815	0830	0845	0920	0940		
Aylesbury, High Street	0617	0632	0647	0702	0717	0732	0747	0802	0817	0832	0847	0922	0942		
Buckingham Road, Horse & Jockey	0623	0638	0653	0708	0723	0738	0753	0808	0823	0838	0853				
Dunsham Lane, Hilton Avenue												0926	0946		
Watermead, Watermeadow												0931	0951		
Buckingham Park, Prince Rupert Drive South	0625	0640	0655	0710	0725	0740	0755	0810	0825	0840	0855	0934	0954		
Buckingham Park, Jubilee Square	0627	0642	0657	0712	0727	0742	0757	0812	0827	0842	0857	0937	0957		
Watermead, Watermeadow	0638	0653	0708	0723	0738	0753	0808	0823	0838	0853	0908	0945	1005		

MONDAY TO FRIDAY															
Service number:	6	6	6	6		6	6	6		6	7	7	7		
Aylesbury Railway Station	0955	1015	1035	1055	then	15	35	55		1615	1635	1655	1707		
Aylesbury, Bus Station	1000	1020	1040	1100	at	20	40	00		1620	1640	1700	1715		
Aylesbury, High Street	1002	1022	1042	1102	these	22	42	02		1622	1642	1702	1717		
Dunsham Lane, Hilton Avenue	1006	1026	1046	1106	mins	26	46	06	until	1626	1646	1706	1721		
Watermead, Watermeadow	1011	1031	1051	1111	past	31	51	11		1631	1651	1711	1726		
Buckingham Park, Prince Rupert Drive South	1014	1034	1054	1114	each	34	54	14		1634	1654	1714	1729		
Buckingham Park, Jubilee Square	1017	1037	1057	1117	hour	37	57	17		1637	1657	1717	1732		

MONDAY TO FRIDAY															
Service number:	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7						
Aylesbury Railway Station	1726	1741	1756	1816	1831	1901	1931	2001	2029						
Aylesbury, Bus Station	1730	1745	1800	1820	1835	1905	1935	2005	2035						
Aylesbury, High Street	1732	1747	1802	1822	1837	1907	1937	2007	2037						
Dunsham Lane, Hilton Avenue	1736	1751	1806	1826	1841	1911	1941	2010	2040						
Watermead, Watermeadow	1741	1756	1811	1831	1846	1916	1946	2015	2045						
Buckingham Park, Prince Rupert Drive South	1744	1759	1814	1834	1849	1919	1949	2018	2048						
Buckingham Park, Jubilee Square	1747	1802	1817	1837	1852	1922	1952	2020	2050						

SATURDAY													
Service number:	6	6	6	6		6	6	6		6	6	7	7
Aylesbury, Railway Station		0815	0835	0855	Then	15	35	55		1715	1735		1836
Aylesbury, Bus Station	0800	0820	0840	0900	at	20	40	00		1720	1740	1810	1840
Aylesbury, High Street	0802	0822	0842	0902	these	22	42	02		1722	1742	1812	1842
Dunsham Lane, Hilton Avenue	0806	0826	0846	0906	mins	26	46	06	until	1726	1746	1816	1846
Watermead, Watermeadow	0811	0831	0851	0911	past	31	51	11		1731	1751	1821	1851
Buckingham Park, Prince Rupert Drive South	0814	0834	0854	0914	each	34	54	14		1734	1754	1824	1854
Buckingham Park, Jubilee Square	0817	0837	0857	0917	hour	37	57	17		1737	1757	1827	1857

SATURDAY															
Service number:	7	7	7	7											
Aylesbury, Railway Station	1906	1936	2006	2036											
Aylesbury, Bus Station	1910	1940	2010	2040											
Aylesbury, High Street	1912	1942	2012	2042											
Dunsham Lane, Hilton Avenue	1916	1946	2016	2046											
Watermead, Watermeadow	1921	1951	2021	2051											
Buckingham Park, Prince Rupert Drive South	1924	1954	2024	2054											
Buckingham Park, Jubilee Square	1927	1957	2027	2057											

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The History of the Christmas Crackers

In the mid-1800s a sweet maker called Tom Smith took a trip to France where he saw sweets called ‘bon-bons’. They were sugared almonds wrapped in pretty paper and he brought the idea back to his company in the UK, with the addition of a motto or riddle inside the wrapping paper. Unfortunately the idea didn’t really take off and they weren’t selling well. One night, while sitting in front of his log fire – or so the story goes – the sparks and crackles coming from the logs inspired him to develop a new product, sweets and toys that would open with a crack when the fancy wrappers were pulled apart. This was a much more popular idea and his business expanded. They were originally called ‘cosaques’, possibly named after the ‘Cossack’ soldiers who had a reputation for riding on their horses and firing guns into the air.

When Tom died his expanding cracker business was taken over by his three sons, Tom, Walter and Henry. Walter introduced paper hats into crackers. He travelled around

the world looking for new ideas for gifts to put in the crackers.

The company built up a big range of ‘themed’ crackers. There were ones for bachelors and spinsters, where the gifts were things like false teeth and wedding rings! There were also crackers for Suffragettes, war heroes and even Charlie Chaplin!

Other companies appeared to take advantage of the popularity of the new product. Cracker manufacturers made large displays, such as horse drawn carriages and sleighs, for the big shops in London. Crackers were made for special occasions like Coronations. The Royal Family still has special crackers made for them today.

Very expensive crackers were made such as ‘Millionaire’s Crackers’ which contained a solid silver box with a piece of gold or silver jewellery inside it.

The Christmas Crackers that are used today are short cardboard tubes wrapped in colourful paper. There is normally a cracker next to each plate on the Christmas dinner table. The crackers are pulled apart by two people pulling in opposite directions. The

loud ‘crack’ is created by the friction created when a chemically impregnated card strip inside the tube is pulled apart at the same time. Whoever is left with the largest part of the cracker gets to keep the party hat and the gift – and they have to read out the (usually very bad) joke that falls out.

The party hats look like crowns and it is thought that they symbolise the crowns that might have been worn by the Wise Men who visited the newly born Jesus.

According to the Guinness Book of Records the world’s longest Christmas cracker measured 63.1m (207ft) long and 4m (13ft) in diameter and was made by the parents of children at Ley Hill School and Pre-School, Chesham, Buckinghamshire in 2001.

Making Christmas crackers using the cardboard tubes from loo rolls is a pastime often undertaken by school children in the run up to Christmas, but I don’t envisage any school attempting to challenge Ley Hill’s record!

The History of the Christmas Pudding

Christmas (or Plum) Pudding is the traditional end to the British Christmas dinner. But what we think of as Christmas Pudding, is not what it was originally like.

Christmas pudding originated in the 14th century as a porridge called ‘frumenty’. It was made of beef and mutton with raisins, currants, prunes, wines and spices. It was more like a soup and

was eaten as a fasting meal in preparation for the Christmas festivities.

By 1595, frumenty started to be changed. It was gradually becoming more like a plum pudding, as people added eggs, breadcrumbs and dried fruit to thicken it, plus beer and spirits to give it more flavour. By 1650 it had become the customary Christmas dessert, but in 1664 the Puritans banned it, considering it a bad custom.

In 1714, King George I ate some Plum Pudding and enjoyed it, so he overturned the ban and re-established it as part of the Christmas meal. By Victorian times Christmas Puddings had changed into something similar to the ones that are eaten today.

Over the years many superstitions have surrounded Christmas Puddings. One superstition says that the pudding should be made with 13 ingredients to represent Jesus and His Disciples and that every member of the family should take turns to stir the pudding with a

wooden spoon from east to west in honour of the Wise Men.

The Sunday before Advent Sunday is sometimes known as ‘Stir-up Sunday’. This is because opening words of the Collect for the day (the main prayer) in the Book of Common Prayer of 1549 (used in Anglican Churches) says: “Stir-up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Although Christmas Puddings are eaten at Christmas, some customs associated with the pudding are about Easter. The decorative sprig of holly on the top of the pudding is a reminder of the Crown of Thorns that Jesus wore when he was crucified. Brandy or another alcoholic drink is sometimes poured over the pudding and lit at the table to make a spectacular display. This is said to represent Jesus’ love and power.

During Victorian times, puddings in the homes of the rich were often cooked in fancy moulds, often in the shape of towers or castles. Others just had puddings in the shape

of balls – sometimes called cannonballs if the pudding had turned out a bit heavy!

The tradition of putting a ‘foreign object’ in the pudding, intended to bring good luck to the finder, originated with the Twelfth Night Cake, which was eaten during the celebrations on Twelfth Night – the last day of the Christmas festivities. Originally a dried pea or bean was baked in the cake and whoever got it was ‘king or queen’ for the night. At some point this tradition was transferred to the Christmas Pudding. The first coins used were a Silver Farthing or penny. After WW1 it became a threepenny bit and then a sixpence. Since the demise of the sixpence a five pence piece is used.

I imagine that these days the majority of people buy their Christmas Puddings ready made from the supermarket, where the addition of ‘foreign objects’ would be a serious breach of Health and Safety rules! Perhaps the lucky silver coin tradition is going the way of so many of our old traditions, perhaps to be replaced by other more modern practices as the world and life move forward.

Christmas recipes

Smoked salmon with prawns, horseradish cream & lime vinaigrette Serves 2

This stunning starter can be assembled ahead, then topped with dressed leaves just before serving. Serves 2

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp crème fraîche,
- 1 tsp horseradish sauce,
- 4 slices smoked salmon,
- 10 large cooked prawns

For the salad:
juice 1 lime,
finely grated zest of ½ lime,
½ tsp finely grated fresh root ginger,
2 tbsp light olive oil,
2 handfuls small leaf salad

Method

1. Mix the crème fraîche with the horseradish and a little salt and pepper. For the dressing, whisk the lime juice and zest with the honey, ginger and seasoning, then whisk in the oil.
2. Lay the smoked salmon and prawns on 2 plates, then top with a dollop of the horseradish cream. Toss the salad in most of the dressing and pile on top. Drizzle the remaining dressing around the plate and serve.

Spiced Christmas gammon with membrillo glaze Serves 10 – 12

Ingredients

- 3½ kg boneless tied gammon joint (check with your butcher if it needs to be soaked),
- 2 carrots, halved,
- 2 celery sticks, halved,
- 2 leeks, quartered,
- 2 onions, halved,

- 2 bay leaves
- 2 tsp peppercorn,
- small handful clove, for studding

For the glaze:
¼ tsp ground allspice,
¼ tsp ground cinnamon,
6 tbsp membrillo (quince paste),
3 tbsp sherry vinegar,
2 tbsp orange juice

Method

1. Pop your soaked (see tip, below) or ready-to-use joint in a large stock pot or preserving pan and nestle the vegetables, bay leaves and peppercorns around it. Pour over enough water to cover the gammon and bring to a simmer. Cover with a lid and cook for 2½ hrs, turning once, topping up with boiling water if it needs it, and skimming off any impurities.
2. Heat oven to 190C/170C fan/gas 5. Remove the joint from the poaching liquid and place in a roasting tin (you can use the strained poaching liquid for soups). Pat it dry with some kitchen paper and leave to cool a little until you can handle it. Remove the ties around the gammon and carefully trim away the skin, leaving an even layer of fat. Score all over in a diamond pattern and stud with cloves.
3. Pop the glaze ingredients in a small saucepan and cook for a couple of mins to thicken and dissolve the membrillo. Brush half the mixture over the gammon, then bake for 15 mins. Brush on another layer and bake for another 15 mins or until golden and sticky. Rest for 15 mins before slicing, or eat cold over the next few days.

Christmas pudding cheesecake Cuts into 10 slices

Ingredients

- For the base:
200g ginger nut biscuits, crushed,
- 30g light muscovado sugar,
- 1 tsp flaky sea salt,
- 110g unsalted butter, melted

For the filling:
240g Christmas pudding,
30ml brandy,
30ml stout,
1 orange, zested,
2 x 280g tubs full-fat cream cheese,
300ml pot double cream,
200g light muscovado sugar,
2 vanilla pods, split and seeds scraped

To decorate:
2 clementines,
light muscovado sugar, for sprinkling

Method

1. To make the base, mix the gingernuts and sugar in a large bowl and sprinkle in the flaky salt. Pour in the melted butter and mix with a wooden spoon to form a biscuit crumb-like mixture. Press into a 20cm round springform cake tin, spreading the mixture in an even layer to the edge. Chill in the fridge for 30 mins until set.
2. Put the Christmas pudding, brandy, stout and orange zest in a blender, and whizz to a purée.
3. Using an electric hand whisk, beat the cream cheese with the double cream, sugar and vanilla seeds, then fold through the purée. Spread the mixture over the biscuit base and leave to chill in the fridge overnight.
4. The next day, peel the clementines, slice into rounds and place on a baking tray. Sprinkle them with sugar, then blowtorch until caramelised and leave to cool. Release the cheesecake from the tin and arrange the clementines on top.

Aylesbury Lions prepare for Christmas

Our last three fund raising events have involved cooking hot dogs and burgers.

We have been lucky with the weather recently particularly at the Colour Run in Green Park where it was a lovely sunny day and a pleasure to be part of this happy event. Now it is time to pack away our BBQs and start planning for the busy months of November and December.

We start in November in the Market Square where we will be laying a poppy wreath on Remembrance Sunday. Then later in the month on dates yet to be confirmed we will be visiting a major food store to collect funds for our annual Christmas Parcels. Last year we delivered 55 parcels to elderly residents of the town and we hope to be able to do so again this December.

We will again be helping the Town Mayor at his Carol Concert at St Mary’s Church on 2nd December where we will be preparing the hot mince pies and mulled wine which are served

at the end of the service.

Last year we were very disappointed that the inclement weather meant that for the first time in almost 30 years we were unable to set up our stall providing roast chestnuts. This year we will be back in the Market Square on Sunday 9th December as part of the Town Centre Christmas Celebrations. Roast chestnuts are part of the traditional lead up to Christmas and, if you haven’t tried them, why not come along on the Sunday morning and give them a go!

Just before Christmas we will be delivering the Christmas parcels to people who live alone. This is an enjoyable task as we are often one of their few visitors. Then it will be time to hang up our tabards and put our feet up.

On behalf of our members I wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

Ron Syrratt

Watermead Photographic Exhibition and Competition



Open Category winner shot taken by Irina Schwab



Landscape Winning shot taken by John Guard, as featured on the front cover

In October we held a Photography Competition and Exhibition. This was inspired by the number and quality of photos of the local scenery and wildlife appearing in the "All About Watermead" group on Facebook. The Parish Council agreed to the use of the Village Hall and also made a grant to cover some small prizes. In addition, Graham Severn donated a cup in memory of the late Sandra Landy, a former Watermead Parish Councillor who organised a Photography Competition some years ago.

The competition was open to all residents of the village. As well as categories for Watermead Landscapes and Wildlife, there was also an Open group for photographs taken elsewhere. Well-known local photographer Ron Adams, a regular visitor to Watermead and whose pictures often appear in the Bucks Herald, agreed to be Judge.

We were delighted to have over 100 entries which covered an entire wall of the Village Hall. What was particularly striking was the number and quality of photos taken

on mobile phones. Deciding between the entries proved to be quite difficult but in the end the winners were:

Watermead Wildlife: Winner - James Bates. Runners Up - John Guard and Martin Bence.

Watermead Landscape: Winner - John Guard (you can see the image on the cover of this magazine). Runners Up - Ness Gaeta and Ben Kinch.

Open Category: Winner - Irina Schwab. Runners Up - John Mitchell and Martin Bence.

James Bates was judged the **Overall Winner** and was awarded the Sandra Landy Cup for his shot of a swan and two cygnets which also appeared on the cover of the Autumn issue of Village View.

Thanks to everyone who entered. I am pleased to announce that the Parish Council has agreed to repeat the event next year. Watch this magazine for an announcement in the Spring Edition. Meanwhile do get your cameras and phones out and get snapping!

Cllr Eric Rose



Overall Winning shot taken by James Bates

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Sally's blog

I cannot believe it's nearly Christmas, although I suppose I still won't be at the Carol Concert; I have tried to perfect my singing but my humans say it's howling and tell me off – oh well! I've had a good time recently with lots of time spent with my cousin Ronnie who has been staying with us.

I think this is so we have lots of doggie fun. We go for long runs together, have play fights and generally behave like unruly teenagers. I am now 21 and a half so I suppose I may grow

up fairly soon. In the meantime.....
My humans went on holiday for what seemed like ages in October. I went to stay with Debbie, my breeder and her own 12 spaniels, including my own Mum, Willow. It was really good. Debbie really understands spaniels and you aren't made to do much other than have games, sleep, eat and go out for walks. Nobody minds if you sit on a sofa and I heard that some of the dogs are allowed to sleep on the beds. Not me, my humans apparently told her not to allow this, under any circumstances. Do you think the RSPCA would be interested in this? I suppose I am well treated generally so they might not think this was wrong.

I've been developing my interest in gardening – well, tomato growing to be precise. The tomato plants grew quite quickly this summer and there were lots of tomatoes. I harvested quite a few by knocking them off the branch and then standing on them by accident, which results in a really squishy mess on the ground and sometimes on my paws. I am learning



there are always 'consequences' to having fun. In my case it pretty much consists on either needing a bath, bits of my anatomy washed, or being told off for 'making a mess' (whatever that is).
Ronnie and I are proud to be wearing our doggie Poppies. Many brave dogs served, alongside humans in World War I. I feel I might have been a bit of a coward if I were involved in a war. We do admire them.

I am sorry to report that, yet again, I have either got a stomach bug, or have, according to our lovely vets, eaten something unwise. I can't say but I have felt really, really ill and have made sure my humans get up several times during the night to take me outside. They need to be with me when I am feeling ill, that's one of their jobs! My lifelong friend, DOG, who has slept in my crate with me since I was a puppy looked after me as well. Isn't it strange, however grown up we are we still love our soft toy friends. Humans as well as dogs. It's one of the man things we have in common.

I panicked the other day when my Mum came home with photographs of a litter of LABRADORS! They are sweet (I suppose) but the way she tried to persuade my Dad we needed one was just outrageous. What on earth was she thinking of. Everyone knows they are naughty, moult, chew, and are generally heavenly puppies who grow into lovely friendly dogs – oh, a bit like Spaniels I suppose. Anyway, we haven't got room or time for another dog (I am more than capable of being family dog on my own thank you, (with help from Ronnie, of course!). Fortunately, sense has prevailed, so no Labradors.

Anyway, I have to go and do some more

sleeping and eating now. A very Happy Christmas to all my doggie and human friends in Watermead and beyond. I look forward to seeing you soon, and thank you to all at Hampden Vets for putting up with my barking and being so kind this year and Aunties Noreen Shardlow and Mary Singleton for looking after me when my humans are out for the day.

Love Sally



with assistance from cousin Ronnie!



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Watermead Carol Concert

Saturday 8th December 2018
from 6pm, The Piazza

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

O Come all ye Faithful

Joy to the World

Silent Night

Children gather near the stage - Father Zimmerman,

St Mary's Church in Aylesbury

Children to sing Away in a Manger

Safe Sax 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 (made by Watermead & Weedon WI)

or SAUSAGE ROLL DONATIONS TO CHAT (Children Health & Therapy)

**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,...

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

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

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

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

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

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

Best Christmas

DECORATED HOUSE 2018

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!).

