

# VillageView

WATERMEAD'S *FREE* QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

Autumn 2017 Vol.24 Issue 3

## Remembrance Service

Saturday 11th November 2017, 10.45am

## Christmas Fair & Christmas Carol Concert

See page 6 for more details

May Fair in pictures  
See page 12

Cover image: Poppies on their allotment, Roger & Marion Mills



News from Watermead Parish Council & more!  
[watermead-pc.gov.uk](http://watermead-pc.gov.uk) / @watermead pc





# Best Christmas Decorated House COMPETITION 2017

After the success of last year's Christmas Lights Competition we have decided to run it again this year. It has been a seasonal tradition to decorate inside our homes for over a hundred years and more recently to line our streets and rooftops and fill our gardens with beautiful lights and decorations.

As Christmas approaches we hope that every Watermead resident will help to spread the message of hope, peace and joy through lights!

**RULES:** Every home within Watermead will be eligible. Judging will take place between Christmas and New Year. Winner to be announced on our notice boards and on our website on New Year's Day.

**PRIZE:** Gilded Watermead's Best Christmas Decorated House Certificate and a bottle of Champagne!

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

## Parish Chairman's News

**The summer has been mixed, with glorious weather and the promise of hot, sunny days in store giving way to colder and wetter days, but Watermead has stayed looking its best.** The erosion work to the banks of the large lake by the memorial garden have been completed; the banks have been reinstated and reinforced to ensure they stay in place. The area is currently fenced to give the vegetation the best chance of growing back and to allow planting to grow undisturbed until firmly established and mature. We hope that this work will last for many years.

**The bandstand** on the small lake has been completely restored by local builders, who have done a really good job in repairing and re-painting the structure, providing a really smart feature on the small lake. If you are in a local band and would like to play on the bandstand (probably during next spring/summer) please let our Parish Clerk, Noreen Shardlow, know. We cannot offer to pay, but many of us remember the regular practice sessions held by a local brass band when Watermead was first built.

We are looking forward to our usual **Christmas festivities** and hope that as many of you as possible will attend the Carol Concert and Christmas Fair. Stalls are being booked for the fair on Saturday 2nd December. If you would like to book a stall, please call Graham on 01296 336575 to book.

We have welcomed local **Scouts, Cubs and Beaver groups** to the Balloon Meadow where they have played games, enjoyed a family picnic and taken part in various Scouting activities. They will be using the area to continue their knowledge of the outdoors including orienteering, nature, and bird spotting. Some of our Watermead children attend both Buckingham Park and Berryfields Scouts. To allow more children to join the groups, more adult leaders and helpers are required. Do let the leaders know if you can help; please let Noreen Shardlow know and she will pass your contact details to the leaders.

**Vale Countryside Volunteers** recently visited Watermead. They walked around the small lake and have drawn up a programme of work for which volunteers will be welcomed; see more details in Cllr Eric Rose's article in this edition on page 28.

**The May Fair** was a great success, once again, with wonderful end of May weather, proving popular with residents and visitors to Watermead. Kelvin and Nicky Wong were delighted with the number of attendees, the stands and events. The 'Watermead Bake-Off' proved popular once again, with an impressive selection of entries on a Mayday theme. Although judging proved difficult, the winners in both the adult and junior groups were an easy choice.

The major challenge has been, and remains, the **re-determination of the crematorium planning permission** by Aylesbury Vale District Council. We have worked throughout the summer with our experts to ensure we present Watermead's case to AVDC in the most compelling way. We are grateful to everyone for their support, both moral and practical. The Parish Council reports as it has updates and needs public participation. The key points will be circulated to everyone, as always, when consultation opens and we are always available to answer questions and to help in making representations to AVDC. We expect as many as possible to attend any planning committee meeting to help us state the strength of our case to committee members. We don't know the dates and at the time of writing do not know when consultation

page 05



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

- 02 Best Christmas Decorated House
- 05 Dog Waste
- 05 How to spot an abandoned vehicle
- 08 A day out to see the jolly green giant – what a waste!
- 11 Henry, The little red box
- 11 Quarrendon – a lost medieval village and it's on your doorstep
- 12 Watermead May Fair
- 13 Did you have a great get together or just a big lunch?
- 20 Show your true colours for the Hospice
- 20 Aylesbury Beer Festival moves venue for 2017
- 20 Review of an American in Paris
- 22 Places to eat
- 25 Halloween
- 25 The Outsider
- 26 Anatomy of a television ad!
- 27 Don't go with a bang this bonfire night
- 28 Managing Watermead's wild side

### Plus our regular features:

- 03 Parish Chairman's News
- 04 Tea break quiz
- 08 What's on
- 09 Autumn recipes
- 11 Cuppa coffee anyone?
- 13 Netta Glover's report
- 15 Watermead Cygnets Pre-school
- 16 Sound phobias
- 19 Sally's Blog
- 21 The 70 year anniversary of the maison of Dior
- 22 Watermead & Weedon WI
- 23 Watermead allotments news
- 24 Random person
- 30 View from Westminster



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## Tea Break Quiz



1. How many years did The Hundred Years War last?
2. In medicine, what does C.A.T. stand for?
3. What was the name of Britain's most infamous womens' prison?
4. What is the chemical name for table salt?
5. Which airship infamously exploded over New York State in 1937?
6. What is the traditional gift given on a 15th wedding anniversary?
7. The Australian slang word 'cobber' is translated as what in the English language?
8. How many Bits are there in a Byte?
9. Who was the first man to break the four minute mile?
10. Who broke into the Queen's bedroom in 1982?
11. What name is given to a sentence that contains every letter of the alphabet?
12. In which year was the first FA Cup Final held at Wembley?
13. The Cartier award is handed out in which sport?
14. Who devised the terms 'introvert' and 'extrovert'?
15. Which God had the legs and horns of a goat?
16. The Waterloo Cup is competed for in which sport?
17. The company Stieff famously makes what?
18. An isobar on a weather map links places with equal what?
19. London Zoo is in which park?
20. Which word means the scientific study of plants?

Answers on page 09

...page 03

will begin but we will use our mailing list, website and leaflets to let everyone know, as before.

The other planning application expected is the **proposal to build flats in the Piazza car park**. Very many residents have asked the PC to object to this proposal. Currently the planning application has not been fully completed by the applicant. Their highways survey is awaited. The Parish Council remains determined to oppose this application but, once again, we must wait until all the

application documents are to hand and the planning officer's report is complete. In the event that approval is recommended, and a planning committee meeting date decided, we will attend, speak and support parishioners' objections.

During summer our **contractor has kept our roads clear** of weeds. We wish the same could be said for all Buckinghamshire's road network. Recent roadworks on the A413 between the Horse and Jockey and the roundabout towards Whitchurch caused

us to wait for long periods in traffic jams during the evening rush hour but we hope that the improvements will last. Bucks County Council has received some additional funding for essential road repairs, but potholes and other road damage are not highest priority. The Parish Clerk has a new way to report damage to Transport for Bucks but it is very helpful if parishioners can report potholes on highways Bucks roads at [www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/transport-and-roads/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/transport-and-roads/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/)

Serious potholes will be repaired within 48 hours.

We will once again be commemorating **Remembrance Day** at our memorial garden on the Balloon Meadow at 10:45 am on Saturday, 11th November. We wish you a good autumn and look forward to seeing you at our Remembrance and Christmas events.

Chairman Sue Severn

Scouts, Cubs and Beaver groups have come to the Balloon Meadow where they have played games, enjoyed a family picnic and taken part in various Scouting activities.



Celia preparing the children camp doughnuts.



## Dog Waste

If you've got a dog, dealing with their waste often seems like a bit of a messy business – but did you know that it can simply be placed inside a bag in the green lidded rubbish bin, which is emptied each fortnight? It doesn't have to be disposed of in the public dog waste bins.

If you do use a public dog waste bin, these are emptied on a weekly basis. If you notice one that's damaged or full please contact us using the online report it form [www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/general-reports](http://www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/general-reports)

It's a dog owner's responsibility to clear up after their dog if it fouls in a public area and failing to do so can be costly, with a fine of up to £1000.



## How to spot an abandoned vehicle

500 cars were reported to us in 2016, but only 20% were actually abandoned. So, it's important to understand when to report a vehicle as abandoned. Here are some useful pointers:

- Firstly, if you think you've discovered an abandoned vehicle, please check if it's taxed at [www.gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax](http://www.gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax)
- If the vehicle is out of tax, has remained stationary for a long time, has flat tyres, has been vandalised, contains waste, or is burnt out, then it is likely to have been abandoned and can be reported to us at [www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/abandoned-vehicle](http://www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/abandoned-vehicle)
- If the vehicle is causing an obstruction, it must be reported to Thames Valley Police at [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

**Abandoning a vehicle is against the law and could incur a fine of £2000, plus any car tax that's owed.**



# A day out to see the jolly green giant – what a waste!

**Do you remember reading or hearing any media quotes similar to these?**

**“Bicester in incinerator sandwich”** – Bicester Advertiser 2nd December 2010.

**“Work begins on Calvert waste incinerator”** – BBC 3 Counties 6 September 2013.

During the course of its planning application and construction, the words “waste” and “incinerator” were the two most often quoted to describe the huge green facility recently brought into operation just near Calvert, a few miles North of Aylesbury. The controversy was understandable, however many, myself included, had not appreciated that this facility is primarily a power station known as an ‘EfW’ (Energy from Waste), where non-recyclable materials are burned in a specially adapted boiler feeding

a steam turbine, generating electricity. The contribution to our energy needs is significant, with a nominal output of 22 megawatts, enough to power around 36,000 homes.

Back in April my wife, Dot, and I were lucky enough to get places on a tour organised by the U3A. We were pleasantly surprised at how much effort the operating company has made to provide organised public access and information, giving lectures all over the region and extensive guided tours around the plant. We were especially impressed by the extent to which measures have been developed to remove virtually every trace of toxic material from the waste gases.

Looking like a team of construction engineers, wearing our safety boots, hard hats and hi-viz yellow jackets, we embarked upon a two hour long tour, during which time we saw at close hand all of the main stages of the process. We were even able to take a peek inside the business end of the

massive boiler itself via a thick glass window, and we were literally transfixed by the sight of the fascinating, yet terrifying, inferno just a couple of feet from our faces! The enormous waste gas flues and steam generation ducts passed way over our heads (hence the great height of the building) and into a separate steam turbine hall. The huge generator assembly is mounted on a gigantic ‘floating’ platform isolated from the rest of the building to minimise disturbance from the constantly spinning turbine. Further on in the tour we were guided through the control centre, and witnessed a whole array of different instrumental systems, displaying in fine detail the composition of the gas streams at different stages of the process, showing them reducing at each stage of purification to such an extent that the final emission from the chimney stack is virtually pure water vapour – amazing!

All in all a most interesting

and enlightening experience.

For more information and to book a place on a tour you can follow this link: [www.greatmoor.co.uk/greatmoor-energy-from-waste](http://www.greatmoor.co.uk/greatmoor-energy-from-waste)

Phil Toler



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## WATERMEAD CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 2nd December 2017  
Village Hall, The Piazza 11am - 5pm

To book a table at this year's fair please contact  
Graham for further information

01296 336575

[graham.severn@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:graham.severn@yahoo.co.uk)

and don't forget:

**WATERMEAD CAROL CONCERT**  
Saturday 9th December 2017. From 6pm

## WATERMEAD REMEMBRANCE DAY 2017

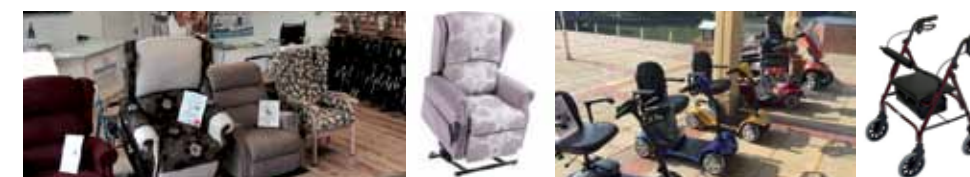
Saturday 11th November  
at 10.45am

Join members of our community to remember the fallen from all conflicts, from all countries. Meet at the Memorial Garden to observe the two minutes' silence together in quiet contemplation.

If you need any assistance with mobility issues or need to drive on to the field we will be pleased to help. Contact Noreen Shardlow 01296 395211 or email [noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk)



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# What's on

## IN AND AROUND WATERMEAD

### September

7th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
21st	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7:30pm
23rd	East & Botoiph Claydon Beer Festival, East & Botoiph Village Hall, 2pm 'til late	
	With Live Music including The Dung Beatles	

### October 2017

5th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
19th	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7:30pm

### November 2017

2nd	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
11th	Remembrance Service	Watermead Memorial Garden, 10.45am
16th	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7:30pm

### December 2017

2nd	Christmas Fair	Village Hall, 11am to 5pm
7th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
9th	Christmas Carol Concert	The Piazza, 6-7pm

### Village Hall

#### PARISH COUNCIL

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

#### CYGNETS PRE-SCHOOL

**2.5 - 4 yrs:** Monday, Wednesday - Friday  
9.00am - 12.00pm  
**2.5yrs:** Tuesday 9.00 - 12.30pm,  
**3 & 4 yrs:** Tuesday  
8.30 - 12.30pm  
(Breakfast: Monday - Friday  
8.30 - 9.00am  
Lunch: Monday, Wednesday - Friday  
12.00 - 1.30pm)  
Maree Van Danzig  
maree-cygnets@hotmail.co.uk  
07563 783464

#### SCRAPBOOKING/CARD MAKING ANY CRAFT OF YOUR CHOICE CRAFTY CHICKS

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

#### KUMON MATHS

Monday & Thursday  
2.30 - 6pm  
Susan Jones 747469

#### AYLESBURY & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

#### WATERMEAD & WEEDON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

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

#### JO JINGLES

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

#### DRAWING FOR FUN - ART CLASSES

Every Wednesday 2.30-5.30pm  
Avril Nurse 580495

#### CASTIELLDANCE SCHOOL

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

#### YOGA

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

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

## Advertise in the Village View

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

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# Autumn recipes

## Cheesy Autumn Mushrooms

### Ingredients:

4 large field mushrooms  
100g gorgonzola or other blue cheese, crumbled  
25g walnuts, toasted and roughly chopped  
4 thyme sprigs  
knob butter, cut into small pieces  
rocket leaves, to serve

### Method:

1. Heat oven to 200C/fan 180C/gas 6. Arrange the mushrooms on a baking tray. Scatter over the cheese, walnuts, thyme sprigs and butter. You can do up to this stage a day in advance.
2. Pop in the oven and cook for 10 minutes until the cheese is melted and the mushrooms are softened. Arrange some rocket leaves on plates and place the mushrooms on top.

## Italian chicken with ham, basil and beans

### Ingredients:

8 skinless chicken thighs, bone in  
8 slices prosciutto or other dry-cured ham  
2 tbsp olive oil  
2 whole heads of garlic  
800g tomatoes (a mix of smaller yellow and red tomatoes looks good)  
175ml dry white wine  
400g can cannellini beans or other white beans, rinsed and drained  
large bunch of basil

### Method:

1. Season the chicken thighs all over with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Pinch off 8 sprigs from the basil (about 3 leaves each per sprig) and lay one on top of each chicken thigh. Wrap each thigh in a piece of ham, with the ends tucked underneath.

2. Heat oven to 160C/fan 140C/gas 3. Heat the oil in a large roasting tin over two of the burners on the hob. Add the chicken and fry for about 4 mins or until the ham is just crisped and the chicken is lightly golden. Turn and repeat.
3. Meanwhile, cut the garlic bulbs in half around the middle and halve the tomatoes if small, quarter them if they're big. Pick the leaves from the rest of the basil. Once the chicken has browned on both sides, add all of the tomatoes, half of the basil and the wine. Season then cover with foil and leave to cook slowly in the oven for 40 mins.
4. Take out of the oven and turn the heat up to 220C/fan 200C/gas 7. Remove the foil from the pan and stir the beans into the tomatoey juices. Return to the oven, uncovered, for 30 mins until the tomatoes, chicken and garlic are starting to crisp around the edges and the chicken is very tender. Just before serving, tear the remaining basil roughly then stir through or scatter over the pan.

## Yorkshire parkin & blackberry trifle

### Ingredients:

*For the parkin:*

50g butter, plus extra for greasing  
100g golden syrup  
225g self-raising flour  
100g golden caster sugar  
2 tsp ground ginger  
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda  
large egg, beaten  
200ml milk

*For the blackberry compote:*

500g fresh or defrosted frozen blackberries  
50g golden caster sugar  
juice ½ lemon  
5ml Amaretto

*For the custard:*

2 large eggs  
1 large egg yolk  
75g golden caster sugar  
50g cornflour  
300ml full-fat milk  
300ml double cream  
1 vanilla pod, seeds only

*To decorate:*

100g fresh or defrosted frozen blackberries  
2 tbsp crystallised ginger, chopped  
icing sugar, for sprinkling  
large bunch of basil

### Method:

1. Start by making the parkin. Heat oven to 150C/130C fan/gas 2. Line a 20cm square cake tin with baking parchment and grease well with butter.
2. Put the butter and syrup in a small saucepan and heat gently until melted. In a large bowl, tip in the flour, sugar, ginger and bicarbonate of soda, then slowly pour in the butter and syrup, stirring all the time. Add the beaten egg and milk, then mix until smooth.
3. Pour the mixture into the prepared tin and bake in the oven for about 1 hr or until a skewer inserted into the middle of the cake comes out clean.
4. Make the compote while the parkin is baking. Put the blackberries in a food processor with the sugar and lemon juice and blitz until smooth. Push the mixture through a sieve into a jug to remove the seeds, then stir in the amaretto. Put in the fridge until needed.
5. Next, make the custard. In a large heatproof bowl, whisk together the eggs, egg yolk, sugar and cornflour until smooth and pale. Put the milk, cream and vanilla seeds into a saucepan and bring to the boil, stirring regularly.
6. When the milk and cream mixture is hot but not yet

boiling, pour a little onto the egg mixture and whisk it in, then pour the lot back into the pan with the rest of the milk and cream. Continue to heat very gently, whisking all the time, until the mixture is glossy and is starting to thicken. Pour the custard through a sieve and cover with cling film to stop a skin forming while it cools.

7. Once the parkin is cooked, turn out onto a wire rack to cool completely.
8. You can now assemble the trifle – cut the parkin into 16 squares and crumble or slice a few of these to fit the base of a large trifle bowl. Add just less than half of the compote and a few whole blackberries, then pour over half the custard. Give the dish a gentle shake to level the mixture, then repeat the layering process once more, reserving a few cubes of parkin. Pour a spiral of compote over the top of the final layer of custard, then use a skewer to drag spokes out from the centre to create a marbled effect. Scatter over a few whole blackberries, then chill until ready to serve. Just before serving, add the reserved parkin and the crystallised ginger, then dust with icing sugar.

*Recipes from Good Food magazine, October 2004, 2007 and 2015 respectively*

## Answers to Tea Break Quiz on page 04

1. 115 (1337-1453), 2. Computerised Axial Tomography, 3. Holloway, 4. Sodium Chloride, 5. Hindenberg, 6. Crystal, 7. Friend, 8. Eight, 9. Roger Bannister, 10. Michael Fagan, 11. Pangram, 12. 1923, 13. Horse racing, 14. Carl Jung, 15. Pan, 16. Bowls, 17. Teddy bears, 18. Pressure, 19. Regent's Park, 20. Botany



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## Henry, The little red box

**Once upon a time, a little red box called Henry, stood atop a rough wooden pole in a village in Buckinghamshire.** Every so often someone would come up to him, lift his lid and deposit a little plastic bag inside him. When this happened, Henry heard a snuffling noise and then felt something warm and wet running down his pole, which quickly turned to something cold and wet, which Henry

didn't like.

At the end of each week or so, someone else would come up to him, flip his lid, take out the black liner with all the deposits and replace it with a black shiny new one. Henry felt very proud. Then the process would begin again.

One afternoon, a car drew into the kerb in front of Henry and a woman got slowly out. She came up to Henry and looked around him with a

puzzled expression on her face. Then her face lit up. She opened his lid, put something thin and white inside, closed it, got into her car and drove away.

A few days later at 34 Acacia Road, the phone rang. "Yes? Doris speaking".

"Really, Mother," the angry voice of her daughter shouted. "You might have sent a card for Mandy's birthday."

"But, I did. I posted it a few days ago and there was a twenty

pound note inside."

"Thought you did! Face it, Mother, you're going senile!" And the line went dead.

"I know I did," Doris muttered to herself. 'I know I did. You just can't trust the post, these days. Now, I just have time to finish that letter to the tax office and catch the post.'

*Val Langford Edwards*

## Cuppa coffee anyone?

**I am currently attending a course on Christian leadership. As is usual at such events the day starts with everyone gathering for coffee and then the rest of our time together is regularly punctuated with breaks to keep our caffeine levels at optimum.**

To save on washing up each cuppa so far has been poured into a disposable cup, so as you can imagine by the end of the day the bin was full to overflowing.

No one likes to see things go to waste: it's just common sense. We teach young children to finish their dinner and not throw away food, but how many of us blithely drink a cuppa coffee and give no thought to the cuppa? Would you believe that 2.5 billion takeaway coffee cups a year are thrown away in the UK? Campaigners say 399 out of every 400 are dumped and that makes 2.5 billion a year.

Most of the cups are made from trees that take 80 years to grow. Their plastic lining (polyethylene) makes them difficult to recycle and only two facilities in the UK have the necessary machinery. Mike Childs of Friends of the Earth said "It shouldn't be rocket science to ensure coffee cups

are recycled in the UK. The public should be able to expect better." What can we do about this? Cups can be made from material that is either compostable or recyclable. Maybe we should start asking questions the next time we buy a cuppa in a large high street chain coffee shop.

Some people are taking things a step further. One suggestion is to always carry a mug and ask for hot or cold drinks to go into it. That will cause problems in many cafes and shops but it's something else to ask about, along with "Is the coffee you're serving Fairtrade?" To make it easier for the café we could measure in millilitres or fl oz the capacity of our thermos mug. That way we could tell the people behind the counter the capacity, so that they know whether to charge us for small, medium or large. This does happen in some places in the United States of America. The key will be in getting Costa etc. to recognise this will be good for their eco-credentials.

How about if when we travel we take a metal thermos of hot water, a mug, a small bottle of milk, a teaspoon, and various tea bags. We can then make our own hot drinks on the go. I am sure we would get some

funny looks especially from the younger generation, but I would also hope that lots of people would say "What a good idea". May be the Vicar is being a bit eccentric here, but we would save money and our hot drink would be served always just as we like it. Also no waste and any used teabags could be taken home and go on the compost. All good common sense I think.

On the 3rd Sunday in September St James, Berton celebrates its Harvest Festival with a 9am Sung Eucharist and 11am Family Service. This is when we give thanks to God for his creation and are reminded that we are called to be wise stewards of it; therefore it is indeed common sense to avoid wasting the Earth's finite resources.

Pope Francis calls the Earth "our common home"; maybe taking care of our common home is also part of what it means to live a Christian life? And maybe instead of talking about resources we should talk of God's gifts and our shared responsibility to take care of them?

*With every blessing, Revd Mark Ackford, Vicar for St James the Great Berton*

## Quarrendon – a lost medieval village and it's on your doorstep

**Enjoy a wander around the amazing site of the forgotten but once flourishing village of Quarrendon. Here sheep became more important than houses and crops during the later medieval period.** Sir Henry Lee became

lord of the manor in 1553 and was probably responsible for the final depopulation of the village, taking the opportunity to create a magnificent garden here.

The massive earthwork he created as a centrepiece still survives, but all that remains

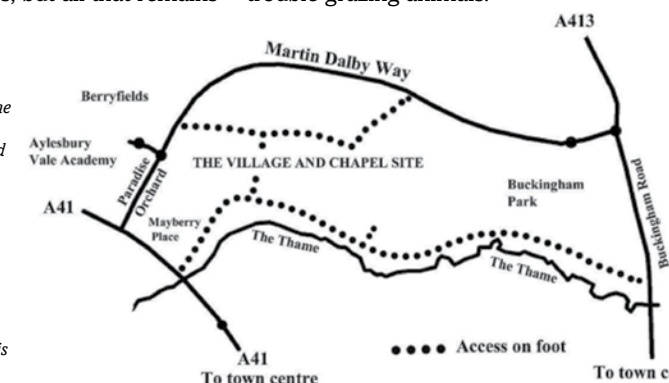
of his own house and the villagers' homes are grassed-over streets, hints of house sites and the ruins of the village church.

You are free to visit at any time on foot, though please don't let dogs off the lead to trouble grazing animals.



Quarrendon Church 200 years ago. Today only a pile of stones remains. The site is a legally-protected ancient monument, owned and managed by the Buckinghamshire Conservation Trust.

The lost village is North of Aylesbury between the A413 and A41 before Berryfields estate and Parkway station. Access is on foot.



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# Watermead May Fair

**This year's Watermead May Fair was another great success due to the hard work, time and effort of the team at The Watermead Inn, plus, of course, all the local companies, volunteers, residents and visitors who took part.** Over 2,500 people attended the Fair which was blessed with a beautiful sunny day. Some people brought picnics and drinks were available from the on-site Watermead Inn.

Entertainment was provided by Morris Dancers, cheerleaders and DJ Dan Blaze. There were lots of activities to take part in, with the stocks being particularly popular. Dozens of children took part in the tug-of-war, with the girls winning for the second year running.

This year's May Queen was Felicity Claydon. She opened the Fair and helped on many stalls throughout the day.

There were many entrants to The Great Watermead 'Bake-Off' which was won by Vicky Stepneiowski. The Junior 'Bake-Off' competition was won by a team effort from Marketa, Conor and Piera. Congratulations to all of them.

Congratulations too to the winners of the Welly Wanging competition. Andy Bradley and Kasey Howlet were the winners of the

Senior male and female contest respectively. It was a pleasure to see so many local businesses and crafts-people selling their wares at the Fair. Over £400 was raised for the Cygnets Pre-school, who were on hand providing traditional games like Hook-a-Duck and Play Your Cards Right. A big 'Thank you' goes to all the sponsors who made this great community event possible:

- The Watermead Inn**
- Grant & Stone**
- GK Plumbing**
- Gardenscapes**
- Sportif Citroen**
- Dalesford Plumbing**

We also would like thank Thames Valley Police Cadets for being Marshalls in the car park for the day. It looks like the May Fair is going to become a regular annual event and we are already planning even more for you to enjoy next time – including a dog show.

**If you would like to be involved in any way – sponsorship, stall holder or volunteering, then please email [watermeadmayfair@yahoo.com](mailto:watermeadmayfair@yahoo.com)**



May Queen - Felicity Claydon



Aylesbury Cheerleading Academy



Photographers: Derek Pelling, Randal Cheney and Aylesbury Cheerleading Academy



# Netta Glover's report

## Childrens Early Help

There are plans to consult with residents on a proposal for a new approach to Early Help services supporting children and families in Buckinghamshire, which was launched in July. The idea is to provide services to support children and families in the early days when a problem begins so that families get the right support at the right time. The sorts of problems a family might face and need help with range from parenting worries, behavioural issues with their children, money worries, relationship breakdowns and being out of work.

There has been a steady increase in the number of children and families needing support from Council services in the last few years. This, along with less money in the public purse, means that the Council needs to look at how to deliver services better to help children and families who need it the most.

Currently most early help services focus on a particular age group or a single issue. Feedback from children and families, as well as local and national research, has consistently shown that this is not the best approach to improving the lives of our children and families and building their resilience for the future.

The proposal for a new service focuses on taking a whole family approach, dealing with all the issues they are facing and working together to find solutions. Changes proposed would involve bringing services together and a new focus on family workers who would be based in the community where families who most need this support live.

Supporting children and families better in this way will mean fewer families needing more intrusive and often unwelcome services in the future; in turn reducing the demand on more complex and costly children's services.

**Luton Airport** is consulting on changes to its flight paths. It is early days yet but I just wanted to let residents know that the consultation is taking place. From my reading of the options Watermead has nothing to worry about. If you want to delve deeper everything is on the website: [www.london-luton.co.uk/CMSPages/GetFile.aspx?guid=83b0b109-389a-4169-9619-2c448ced61e3](http://www.london-luton.co.uk/CMSPages/GetFile.aspx?guid=83b0b109-389a-4169-9619-2c448ced61e3)

## Quarrendon: lost village

Is now open to the public thanks to strenuous efforts by the Trust and its volunteers. The only remains are from the old church. Fascinating history on how it was developed in the middle ages by a yeoman farmer who became very wealthy on the back of the wool trade. He built a manor house and installed huge water features which are now dried out but the outlines are still visible. Good local history for children as well as a good opportunity for walks in open countryside. Access is off Martin Dalby Way link road between the Buckingham Park Roundabout and the A41. Do a google for more information.

## Grenfell Tower

No BCC buildings are affected. BCC held a two minutes silence in sympathy with the victims.

## Fly tipping

An unscrupulous individual was fined £5,000 for fly tipping; even better another was caught on a concealed camera and fined £10,000 plus a suspended prison sentence for dumping asbestos – it would have been cheaper to pay the fee!

## Roofing scams

A dishonest roofer who scammed an elderly resident out of up to £35,000 to do unnecessary work has been sent to prison. Relatives reported the scam to Trading Standards who were waiting for him when he turned up. If you become aware of anyone you suspect of being scammed report it on [www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk](http://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk)

**Please report non urgent criminal activities by dialing 101. However, if the matter is urgent eg crime is actually taking place and requires immediate attention, you should call 999. Please note that police are not looking at Facebook or other social media so there is no point in reporting it there! Take note of your crime reference number.**

**Also take note that police will not attend Watermead if crimes are not reported.**

*Cllr Netta Glover*

## Did you have a great get together or just a big lunch?

**The residents and their extended families from Chaffinch and The Falcon did not need any excuse to have a 'great get together' on Sunday 18th June.** Under a display of bunting zig-zagging across 4 driveways, they ambled along from 12 noon with an array of street party paraphernalia which included chairs, tables, parasols, a gazebo and picnic rugs. The tables were soon covered with a generous selection of food and drink. There was music, sounds of laughter, plenty of chit-chatting and the odd bark from our neighbourly dogs - the cats wisely stayed away!

The hours drifted by - food, Pimms, food, Prosecco, food, red wine, and more food.....What else for a perfect day! Even the weather was hot, dry and sunny. Everyone had a wonderful time. Reluctantly we had to pack up by 7.30pm, many leaving with the question .... are we having another one next year?

*Dot Toler*



## watermead cygnets pre-school

**This term the children had fun learning about 'around the world'. Other activities included carrying out exploration in the pre-school garden and lots of mini beasts such as worms, woodlice and snails were found.** They also learned about sea-life and beaches and we talked about holidays. We finished off the term with an 'I Can' week where the children thought about all the things they had learned and achieved throughout the year.

We had a busy and fun Dad's Day when fathers spent the morning with their children and accepted the challenges set for them: to build the longest Duplo line, an obstacle race and concluded with the children playing charades with their fathers. Dad's Day is a great opportunity for fathers to interact with their children in a learning environment and it is also great for the children too.

Our end of term trip was a day at Woburn Safari Park, made possible by the parents and children who were sponsored earlier in the year for our obstacle race. I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Nikki and Kelvin Wong who over the last 3 to 4 years have raised an enormous amount for our pre-school to help fund trips and pre-school equipment. We were fortunate to experience beautiful summer weather for our Sports Day where races included a scooter race, hat and tabard race, running race, and beanbag race. The parents and carers ran/jumped in a beanbag relay race. The fun day ended with medals and lollies.

We finished off the summer term with our graduation afternoon which included some dancing and games, and a presentation of certificates. We then went to the Watermead Inn for a celebration buffet provided by Nikki and Kelvin Wong; once again many thanks to them.

Twenty children left Cygnets this year to start their full-time education and one left for another setting. It is always sad to see the children leave but we all feel proud to have played a part in preparing them for school and we wish them every success in the future as they start their academic career.

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all our staff for their continued hard work over the year and also a big thank you to our Committee for their commitment.

In September 2017 the government are bringing in changes to extend childcare provision for eligible families as follows - see [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/)

- For working families in England
- With 3 and 4-year-old children
- 15 universal hours are offered to all 3/4 yr olds, 15 additional hours- so 30 in total if you are eligible
- Parents of children born on or after 1st September 2012 can apply now.

Cygnets can offer 24 hrs provision; the remainder of the hours can be claimed with another provider if required.

Our hours of provision are given below. The start time of 8.30am with

breakfast will be on a trial basis for the Autumn term; continuation will depend on uptake by our 3 and 4 year olds.

Cygnets accepts children from 2½ years to 5 years old. We open from 9am to 12pm on Monday to Friday and we now provide a breakfast session 8.30 to 9am for all 3 to 4 year olds and a lunch session most days from 12 to 1.30pm for all 3 to 4 year olds.

If you would like your child to attend Cygnets, please visit us and ask to be added onto our waiting list. To avoid disappointment please call and ask to speak Maree on 07563 783464.

*The Cygnets Team*





# Sound phobias

**W**ith fireworks season coming up it is important that we consider our pets during what can be a challenging time for them. An online survey conducted by the PDSA in 2013 revealed that 61% of UK owners believed their pet to be scared of fireworks, so it's important that we plan in advance to help them to cope.

Symptoms of anxiety are variable, and cats especially can hide stress well. Dogs may salivate or pant more, whine or bark, pace or freeze. Some may soil in the house, or even become destructive. Cats may overgroom or simply hide away. Fortunately there are some easy things we can do to make this a less stressful time for a lot of our pets.

Be sure to plan dog walks for daylight hours, and keep cats in at night if possible to minimise the chances of escaping and accidents. Ensure pets are microchipped so that they can be returned home promptly in the event that they do run away. For

cats, provide plenty of safe hiding places (especially high up), an extra litter tray, and plug in a pheromone diffuser a few days in advance.

Create a safe environment or den where your pet can go to feel secure. This could be a crate or small room, but must be somewhere your pet wants to go, not somewhere to which it is banished. Be sure to provide easy access to food and water. Draw curtains and put on a television or radio to cover the sound of fireworks.

Although it is a natural instinct for us to comfort our dogs when they are distressed, hugging or fussing them can actually be interpreted by them as rewarding these behaviours. Restraining cats can also be extremely stressful. It is far better, although much more difficult, not to react at all, either to the fireworks or to your pet. Behave as if nothing unusual is happening.

In the longer term, desensitisation protocols can be followed to try and minimise sound phobias, but these should

only be carried out under guidance from your vet or a qualified behaviourist. It is important to be aware that sound phobias can go hand-in-hand with other behavioural problems, so for some pets a behavioural consultation and assessment may be beneficial.

There are some calming products available that can help including synthetic dog/cat pheromones, remedies that help to produce relaxation, and, in severe cases, sedation protocols.

If you have concerns about your pet as we head into the Bonfire Night and Christmas/New Year celebrations, please speak to your vet for more advice.

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



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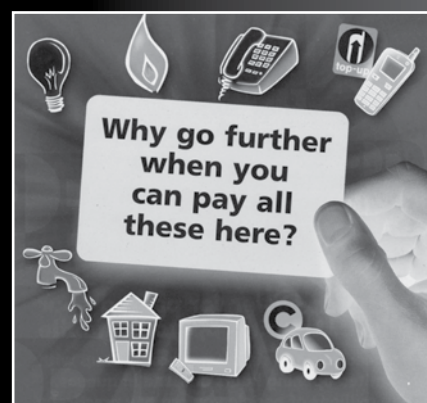
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## Sally's blog

### 28th July

Having been the queen of shredding for many months, I've decided to move on to stealing shoes. Interestingly the humans are having something called a 'crack down' on my shredding and other bad behaviour, apparently. Never mind, I will definitely find lots of other things to do.

The problem with humans is that they don't understand how to have fun. Digging in the garden (plants and flowers, not soil), chewing paper and barking for the sheer fun of it whenever one likes make doggie life worthwhile.

Now that I am two I am, of course, a teenager in human terms. Apart from everyone trying to stop me from doing anything I remotely like I suppose life isn't sooooo bad.

I have had a bit of fun this summer, I'll tell you what I've been up to since I last wrote to you:



### 18th July

This turned out to be a terrible day. My lovely new vet at Watermead, Tom, had to take a piece of grass out of my ear, which was really sore. When he checked to make sure he had removed it all he saw another grass seed, so it was off to Hampden Veterinary Hospital for sedation, ear cleaning and then home in slightly 'drunken' state to sleep it all off. The vet said I was fine and the sedation had worn off – not true, I felt really strange and walked very

slowly and then stood, staring at the ground, not quite sure what to do. It was really bad, I couldn't even work out what to do with my food, which I never have any trouble doing.

Later in the day I went to the Balloon Field for a short walk to help me wake up and met the Scouts who were having a lovely family picnic and playing games. Some of the families weren't very keen on me joining in the fun so I had to be taken to the side of the field. It did look like great fun though, it's lovely to have them here. Not sure if they take spaniels.... Probably not, but I would definitely like to join if it was allowed.

### 13th July

Over the previous weekend my humans went to the Queen Elizabeth Stadium to the Para Athletics World Championships.



Apparently this was the most amazing event, with superb athletes. I'd love to have a go at hurdles and long jump but probably I would just get too excited and forget what I was there for. One of the humans said that one of my predecessor pets in this family (Swedish Lad, the pony) 'Swede could do that....'

Apparently he said it at the Horse of the Year show and caused another member of the audience to suggest to the parents that if he heard another word about 'what Swede could do, he would.....'

Honestly, humans are so unreasonable.

### 12th July

I went to stay with Ina, my lovely dog minder just outside Buckingham. I love her and her house. There were 8 of us staying in the house for the weekend. Imagine, 8 dogs. Ina is so lucky!

While I was away they decided to wash all my beds (yes, I have several!), and my friend DOG. He seemed very clean and happy when I got back.

I was very tired and dirty when I got home and I slept for ages which was nice for the humans.



### 8th July

Social life continues apace, I was a guest at my editor's birthday party – great fun. Thoroughly enjoyable, thank you Auntie Mary.

### 7th July

Very interesting afternoon walking over Quarrendon



Fields to the lost village, and remains of the Church. Well worth a visit.

While there we met these people who were the Lord and Lady of the Manor, showing us the outline of their moat. They looked even hotter than me.



I hope everyone has a lovely summer and that it soon stops raining. This week we are off to Countryfile Live at Blenheim Palace, a game fair and then to the County Show at the end of August. Let's hope the weather improves in time for these events which are my top dog choices for places to go!!!



# Show your true colours for the Hospice

**Join the colour chaos for a very deserving local charity at Colour Rush on 8 October at Green Park, Aston Clinton in aid of Florence Nightingale Hospice's Florrie's Children's Team.** It's a fantastic fun event for the whole family: a 5k circular route which you can run, jog or walk and spread out around the course are five colour stations where the runners get showered with multi-coloured powder!

It's open to the whole family, with a 'Mini-Rush' taking place before each main event for any little ones who want to be part of this spectacular event, but who might not manage the full 5k.

Last year, more than 550 men, women and children became walking rainbows for Florence Nightingale Hospice and raised over £14,000 for the Hospice. This year the Charity is hoping that Colour Rushers will help to raise £25,000.

Colour Rush 2017 will take place at Green Park in Aston Clinton at 11am AND 2pm on Sunday 8 October 2017, the final day of Hospice Care Week. See website for more details at [fnhospice.org.uk/colour-rush](http://fnhospice.org.uk/colour-rush)



## Aylesbury Beer Festival moves venue for 2017

**The 24th Aylesbury Beer Festival is moving to Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School for 2017.** The Festival will take place on Friday 27th and Saturday 28th October, offering real ale fans the chance to try local beers as well as award-winning ales and ciders from further afield, whilst raising vital funds for Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity.

Local CAMRA expert Alexander Wright will be selecting the ales and ciders to include a range of old favourites

and seasonal novelties.

The Saturday of the Festival has entertainment for all the family, including the Sausage Festival and live music all day. Following its enthusiastic reception last year, the Kings Farm Shop, Wendover will be providing a range of delicious gourmet sausages to barbecue between 11am and 7pm on the Saturday of the Festival.

"We're very excited about the new venue," says Emma Carroll, Community

Events Manager at Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity. "It has a lot more space indoors so that we can host a full musical line-up, more ales and extra seating too. Ideal for the unpredictable weather in October!"

Prices are just £5 in advance or £7 on the door. To book, and for more information go to [www.fnhospice.org.uk/aylesbury-beer-festival](http://www.fnhospice.org.uk/aylesbury-beer-festival) or call 01296 429 975.

## Review of an American in Paris

**Like Singin' in the Rain and Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, An American in Paris started life as a movie, not as a stage show.** The year was 1951 (I was nine and didn't see it until I was a few years older). The director was Vincente Minelli (father of Liza with a Z) and the stars were – who can forget them? – Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron. An interesting fact from Wikipedia: Maurice Chevalier turned down the role of Henri because he didn't get the girl at the end (Georges Guetary played Henri. My mum was a big fan of his.).

This year's stage production arrives in London after wowing audiences on Broadway. The movie's slight and trite plot

has been beefed up, with Henri and Adam as well as Jerry (the Gene Kelly character) now in love with the ballet dancer Lise. And a whole bunch of songs have been added that weren't in the movie – all by the glorious Gershwin. The 12-strong chorus sounded at times like a much larger choir. The dancing is of course what this show is all about and the dance-scenes are superb – a mixture, (as in the movie) of ballet and theatrical routines with even an occasional infusion of pop video.

Robert Fairchild from the New York City Ballet brings a real touch of Gene Kelly glamour to the role of Jerry, and Leanne Cope from our own Royal Ballet is an enchanting Lise. Zoe Rainey stood out

for me as the predatory millionairess Milo, the other American in post-war Paris. Jane Asher, as Henri's mother, was the only cast member I recognised.

The set is a super-smart mixture of mechanics and digitisation with some charming Picasso/Matisse-inspired motifs. The friends I was with loved the show and I'm sure the entire audience would agree with the Guardian reviewer: "You feel as if the tarnished silver of the Vincente Minnelli movie has been turned into theatrical gold."

An American in Paris is at the Dominion Theatre in Tottenham Court Road.

David Gee's website and blog is [www.davidgeebooks.com](http://www.davidgeebooks.com)

## The 70 year anniversary of the maison of Dior

**In light of the exhibition "Christian Dior; couturier du rêve" arriving at Paris' "Les Arts Decoratifs" and the 70 year anniversary of the maison of Dior which I have been fortunate to visit, it only seemed fitting to write**

**a review on Maria Grazia Chiuri's premier haute couture collection.**

It was her debut couture collection for Christian Dior and Maria Grazia Chiuri, formerly of Valentino, created a show of wonder and mythology.

It was familiar yet fantastical, Maria Grazia Chiuri's debut for Dior Haute Couture in Paris. Fresh from a scene out of A Midsummer Night's Dream, Chiuri dressed the nymph like models in cascades of pastel tulle and satin. Albeit whimsical, and she certainly created an unrestrained alternative

reality in the heart of the gardens of Paris' Musée Rodin Grazia Chiuri's first couture collection for the French atelier echoed her previous seventeen years at Valentino, in Rome.

All of Chiuri's signature motifs from Valentino were there yesterday afternoon, for instance the astrological symbolism. A spritely model, trot down the runway in an ecru silk taffeta dress, which was hand-painted with tarot symbols. Not only is Chiuri a lover of symbolism but Mr. Dior himself was too. Superstition was rife in this collection and Grazia Chiuri's premier vision for the show was to create a labyrinth. It was a garden filled with the most decadent of lingerie style dresses.

Tucked amongst this myriad of whimsy were Dior classics. Like every creative director at Dior has done previously, to Chiuri there is a signature take on Christian Dior's emblematic bar jacket. For Maria Grazia Chiuri's take she remastered it as a cape adding once again to the whimsical element of her opening couture show.

But perhaps familiarity and comfort is what made this collection so decadent. As always there was collaboration with milliner Stephen Jones, who celebrates his twentieth year working with the maison of Christian Dior this year. Jones created a vast collection of headwear ranging from a headpiece of faded silk flowers to give the illusion of timelessness to black netting masks recreating animals such as dragonflies.

Hence 2017 being a prolific year for the house of Dior yet after Chiuri's appointment as the first female couturier for the house after 70 years hopefully there is a lot more new to come.

"Everything here is new for me" said Chiuri in an interview, likewise for Christian Dior himself exactly 70 years ago who debuted his first collection in 1947.

Phoebe Shardlow

*Main image: Raf Simons for Christian Dior, Haute Couture Autumn / Winter 2012. Simons' first collection for the maison which featured not only the classic design tropes of Christian Dior but Simons' work himself, hence here a collaboration with*

*American artist and friend of the designer Sterling Ruby.*

*Below left: Just a small selection of the gowns on displays at Paris' "Les Arts Decoratifs" museum.*

*Below middle: The "Junon" dress, Autumn / Winter 1949 designed by Monsieur Dior himself and made from a combination of silks and plastics.*

*Bottom right: In this room an overwhelming selection of dress templates spanning Dior's seventy year legacy, from Marc Bohan to John Galiano.*





# Watermead & Weedon WI

## Why did I join the WI? Well, a friend who lived in Watermead knew I was retiring and went into action.

In almost a blink of an eye, I had joined the WI, begun volunteering at the Red Cross and joined a local U3A. Now I may have thought of the latter, but the two former were not at the front of my mind. Do I regret any of those choices? No. My friend has moved away from the area but I am still here.

What are my credentials for the WI? Well, I don't cook. My husband enjoys it but to me it is a chore. I knit and embroider but not adventurously. I am more a sew by numbers, not here is what I made with metallic netting, home dyed silk and a feather! If however I wanted to, there would be someone in my WI who could help me.

My WI let me join in with activities where my skill is not great, my enthusiasm wavering and my confidence borderline. In spite of myself, I have helped with entries to the WI Bucks Show competition, become a quiz team participant, and melodically rung hand bells.

I have listened to and learned from outside speakers on topics ranging from diabetes, to pearls

and lifeboats. I have made tea, sold raffle tickets and talked to complete strangers who were possibly more nervous than I. I have authored disasters so please do not mention minibuses too often near me. I jumped at the chance to attend the Annual Committee Meeting at the Royal Albert Hall when the Queen attended. What an experience.

Whatever your religious or political shade, there is something spiritual at joining the mass voices of W1 members from around the country to sing the National Anthem and Jerusalem – well I thought so.

I have made friends who forgive my slightly crazy suggestions, my verbosity on items I find interesting and look kindly on my efforts to make a stuffed strawberry out of felt, silk thread and beads. You had to be there to understand it

Ladies, do come and try out our WI. **We meet on the first Thursday of the month (barring elections) at the Watermead Village Hall. Come see us in September at 7.30pm** and work out who I am.

*From an anonymous member of the WI at the Watermead and Weedon branch.*



**Watermead and Weedon WI celebrated their 25th anniversary with an afternoon tea at their President's house in Whitchurch on Thursday 1st August 2017.** 21 members of our WI came along all wearing something silver. We enjoyed

delicious sandwiches, home-made scones and cake, tea and a Pimm's jelly all made by members our WI. Our President, Jenny Schafer made a special cake to commemorate the event. We all had a wonderful afternoon chatting and exercising our brains with a cryptic type competition which Suzanne Staines and Jean Smith won!



# Places to eat

## There are two places that we are confident you and your readers would enjoy:

**Simply Thai** This restaurant is consistently good, with fresh, tasty food, and welcoming, attentive staff. As it is in Buckingham Street (near the Royal Bucks Hospital) it is an ideal walking distance from Watermead. Website is [www.simplythaiaylesbury.co.uk](http://www.simplythaiaylesbury.co.uk)

**The Nut Tree Inn** This is our absolutely favourite place to eat. Just over half an hour from Watermead, it combines the friendliness of a genuine country pub with consistently great Michelin-star cooking. We have been going here for years, and our family and friends all love it. The owners Mike and Imogen North and their team all combine professionalism with genuine warmth and helpfulness, and clearly enjoy what they do. We so like the place that we actually booked the whole restaurant for 36 of our family and friends last autumn, to celebrate our 30-year wedding anniversary; the team were incredibly helpful, and were readily able to accommodate guests with

food allergies/intolerances too. (We also booked a great table magician, who again we can recommend most highly.)

Main Street, Murcott, OX5 2RE  
[www.nuttreeinn.co.uk](http://www.nuttreeinn.co.uk)

*Paul and Linda Dean*

**The Old Swan** This tiny pub with excellent food offering has been recommended by a work colleague who lives in Wendover. He said that there is a wonderful atmosphere but need to book in advance.

Swan Lane, The Lee, Great Missenden, Bucks HP16 9NU. Restaurant is closed on a Monday. See [www.theoldswanpub.co.uk](http://www.theoldswanpub.co.uk)

**The Bell at Hardwick** A tranquil 17th Century gastropub set in this little village off the Buckingham Road serves freshly cooked, locally sourced, seasonal food with plenty or organic wine on the side! It specialises in catering for diners with non-conventional dietary needs or choices, making booking your next family outing a breeze!

Lower Road, Hardwick, HP22 4DZ  
[www.thebellathardwick.com](http://www.thebellathardwick.com)

**Canaletto** This is an award-winning family-run Italian restaurant, bar and pub in the hamlet of Kingswood on the A41 just past Waddesdon. My family and I have enjoyed Italian food and excellent customer service here on a number of occasions in pleasant surroundings.

Bicester Road, Aylesbury HP18 0RB  
[www.canalettorestaurant.com](http://www.canalettorestaurant.com)



**Have you enjoyed a meal in a local restaurant recently? How about sharing your experience with us. Contact the Editor at [mary.singleton@watermead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:mary.singleton@watermead-pc.gov.uk).**

# Watermead allotments news

**In the last edition of the Village View we reported on the success of the Best Allotment Competition and are pleased to confirm that arrangements are now being made to repeat the competition this year.** It is incredible that in 2011 the site of Watermead Allotments was a bare, unattended field which has now been transformed into a vast assortment of plots consisting of vegetables, fruits and flowers. There are signs of many personal touches having been made by the plot holders and individual personalities really do show through their plots, crops and decoration(s). The Parish Council has also assisted with the

upkeep of all the boundary areas to the site. On a warm sunny evening, I must say, the abundance of colours and crops is truly amazing to see.

Having an allotment does not cost much and really does come with lots of benefits. You get home grown fruit and vegetables, plenty of fresh air and you also get to keep really active. The initial work on the plot is by far the hardest part but, once turned and looked after, to see the crops growing gives a great deal of satisfaction.

We have had a very successful uptake in new plot holders so far this year but there are still a few plots available. For Watermead residents it costs just £25 a year, plus £10 for water. Water tanks are on site at regular intervals therefore you will never be far from a supply. There is also a one-off fee of £8 for a key to the gate, which is kept locked at all times.

If you fancy trying your hand(s) at an allotment, in the first instance, please contact Noreen Shardlow, Watermead Parish Council Clerk, via the Parish Council website [www.watermead-pc.gov.uk](http://www.watermead-pc.gov.uk) or 01296 395211.



*Anderson keeping an eye on things, whilst helping on a routine land walk*

*Cover picture, taken by Noreen Shardlow, is of poppies grown by Roger and Marion Mills in Watermead allotments.*

*Routine Parish Council works and mowing being carried out*





# Random person

**You've probably heard about the 'lucky dip' of raffle tickets when Watermead was being built. So many people wanted to buy that there weren't enough houses to go round. Solo and Edith Awadzi were among the lucky ones and watched their house being built 29 years ago and have lived there ever since. At that time only three other houses were occupied.** Solo and Edith came to the UK as a married couple from Ghana in West Africa in the early 70s. Solo lived in Macclesfield in Cheshire, while Edith lived in London. They both moved to Aylesbury after living in various parts of Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire including Marsh Gibbon, Bletchley, Stone and Savernake. But once their four sons reached school age they wanted to settle down somewhere they could raise their children in pleasant surroundings with good schools nearby – hence the move to Watermead. As well as bringing up four sons they both worked in the Mental Health sector of the NHS, Solo as a nurse and Edith as a Health Care Assistant. At the same time they both attended part time courses, with Edith successfully completing a catering course in Oxford and Solo a computer studies course. When Edith was made redundant from

the NHS she started her own business producing packed sandwiches and supplying them to shops, garages and other outlets. The business was very successful, employing staff and running several delivery vans. It was the victim of its own success, threatening to become so large as to detract from the time they had to spend with their family, which was (and still is) very important to them, so expansion was ruled out. At this point Solo went to the University of Hull to study gerontology, but unfortunately was made redundant from the NHS on the day he completed the course. So he took a job in London which he drove to daily for over twenty years. Retirement is no less busy. They now have five grandchildren and spend two days a week looking after a couple of the younger ones. They both attend NHS Retirement Fellowship meetings once a month and are very involved with the local Methodist Church, including dealing with floral arrangements and attending choir practice. Solo is a church steward and collates articles written for the Circuit of Methodist Church's quarterly magazine and puts them together for publication. The circuit consists of 18 churches, scattered over the Vale of Aylesbury. You may remember that he used

to be distribution manager for this magazine and he still helps with delivery. As well as that he organises the preaching plan for the Ministers and arranges transport for members of the congregation who would otherwise not be able to get to church. Edith is well known among her friends and family as an expert cake maker and is regularly enlisted to put those skills to use producing cakes for the many celebrations that happen throughout the year. This year she made and donated the cake for the 'Guess the Weight of the Cake' competition at the May Fair. Despite being in their early seventies they also find time and energy to get to the gym and swim four times a week. I really don't know how they do it – but they do!

Carolynne Mckee



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# Halloween

**Have fun during Halloween and Bonfire Night, but don't be influenced by others into doing things that may seem minor at the time** – your actions could have a massive impact on not only people inside their house, but on your life as well. Police will be carrying out patrols in the evenings to make sure that people who are trick-or-treating are doing so in a friendly manner and not causing a nuisance. For some people, this time of the year can be a bother as your evenings are interrupted with people knocking on your doors for treats. Most of these children or teenagers are just getting involved in the Halloween celebrations and will be friendly. If you feel unsafe:

- Don't open your door if you're unsure who is there. Use your spyhole, look out of a window, and use your door chain if you do decide to open your door.
- Have a contact number of a close relative or good neighbour to hand by your telephone, just in case you need to phone them.
- If you are part of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, let your coordinator know that you will be on your own at Halloween. If you are a coordinator, please identify people in your scheme that may be vulnerable and offer them reassurance. Thames Valley Police will not tolerate any anti-social behaviour at any time of the year. To report anti-social behaviour, call 101, the 24-hour Thames Valley Police non-emergency number. If you feel threatened, if it's an emergency, or if a crime is in progress, call 999. Further information at [www.thamesvalley.police.uk/seasonal-events-halloween](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/seasonal-events-halloween).

# NO TRICK OR TREAT

**please enjoy your night without disturbing ours**

Please cut this out and stick in your window/door

# The Outsider

**The train rattled northward. The almond eyes of the other passengers straying intermittently in my direction.** I marvelled, not for the first time, at the uniformity of eye and hair colour among the Chinese. What a contrast to what I, as a European, was used to and wondered why the Artist of the human form and feature had chosen to use such diverse palettes, had made us so different, both on the surface and deep down. And had made the Chinese in turn, so different from one another. A woman pushed past me, a torrent of Cantonese spilling from her lips, as she did so. I held tighter to the handrail and reset my balance as the train gathered speed. The sun pushed weakly through as we began to leave behind the pollutant haze of Hong Kong. I had taken the journey on impulse, with no particular destination in mind, just a desire to see a little of the real China. I got off at the next stop and, once sighted, became conscious of being, once again, a lone European in a sea of Chinese. It was market day in the little town and the smell of live animals and the colour and shape of vegetables I knew nothing of, only served to undermine my isolation. I was cut off from the people here in every possible way. This sense of alienation was even more compounded by my having lost the power to read. That skill I had acquired in early childhood, had become impotent when faced with Chinese characters. Nowhere, were there signs or placards in any European language. I felt myself suddenly cast adrift from all I knew and understood, as I often did when travelling, but this time, I had no terms of reference, no clues as to meaning. How would I, a solitary female traveller, know if I were in danger? I was the spacewalker whose umbilical cord to the mother ship had been severed and who seemed doomed to float in space for eternity. Yet, I told myself, that the unknown is frightening, purely because it is the unknown. So, despite a sense of growing unease, I continued my exploration.

Val Langford Edwards



# Anatomy of a television ad!

**For many years I have been testing products for Good Housekeeping (GH) ranging from luxurious face creams to kitchen roll and frozen fish. For 8 weeks earlier this year I tested an Olay face cream (yes, it was very good actually!). At the end of the trial I answered the usual questionnaire and sent, as requested, before and after photographs.**

Generally nothing more is heard although the GH seal of approval together with comments and views of their testers appear in the magazine and on packs in due course. I was therefore surprised to be invited to take part in the filming of the latest Olay advertisement starring the Good Housekeeping Beauty Director... and the cream, of course.

We were required to turn up at a film studio in Wimbledon by 8am, with hair and make-up done, natural nail and toenail varnish, in white or pale clothes. The clothes, notwithstanding having had to provide our sizes in clothes and shoes in advance to the GH team. Having left Watermead at 5.45am to drive to Wimbledon (this was 13th July, the second Thursday of the Wimbledon tournament with a corresponding level of traffic) I arrived at the studios and was welcomed by an enthusiastic and wide-awake team of young stylists and GH beauty team. There followed an insight into the day in the life of a film extra....

We were taken first to the canteen where breakfast, fruit juice and, the most important thing, coffee was offered. It was fun to meet the other readers; I felt better about the journey when I heard that one had come from Skye, together with several others from Scotland, and many from the north, midlands and west country.

Next, grouped into an indiscernible team (I was blue) we went to wardrobe where our outfits were unveiled. Everything was minutely organised, with over 50 of us being dressed,

pressed and sent back to the studio to await the attentions of the hair and make-up artists. Up a rickety staircase to a tiny studio stuffed full of make-up, brushes and sponges, tongs, straighteners, dryers, hairspray and every possible implement to make us look our best. I was both pleased and disappointed to find that my make-up was fine and didn't need anything done, but my hair was brushed lightly (well done Maria, at Avanti).

We were then given personalised white robes to wear over our smart new clothes and sent to wait in a large studio with white sofas, nail bar, make-up consultations, latest editions of GH magazine (although we all seemed to subscribe to the magazine, so these were less necessary). Fruit, sweets, drinks and enthusiastic jolly along from the GH team were provided during the very lengthy periods during which nothing much seemed to happen.

We were each given a GH Cover Shoot.... with our photograph taken as a cover girl by one of the professional photographers. This was interesting. Standing on a box (various sizes were offered, tried, discarded, and back to the one we had at the beginning, you are getting the picture), and smiling, leaning, turning to one side, then the other, putting hand on knee, behind back.... The results were amazing. I now have some understanding of why models have to move about so much to achieve the perfect result. I am not suggesting for a minute that mine is the perfect result, but the pictures are a lovely reminder of a fun and interesting day. The most interesting part was, without doubt, the opportunity to meet so many interesting and disparate women. My group included a retired professor from UCL, a mechanical engineer, an accountant, a woman who had recently lost her mother who she had given up her job to care for and was going back to banking, and another who looked after a young grandchild for her daughter full time. Their warmth, patience

and good humour was catching.

The GH Beauty Director was, as expected, suitably beautiful. She welcomed us and revealed that she was both nervous and excited at the prospect of starring in the commercial. There was a demonstration from a leading make-up artist, which was interesting, proving that to appear natural and effortlessly beautiful takes, in reality, enormous effort.

After lunch we were moved into the 'actual' studio where filming took place. Our role was to be in the background, in our groups. We walked forward, backwards, talked, smiled and walked while miming talking animatedly to one another (having been reminded that 'miming' means talking and laughing with NO SOUND), on cue, all directed by a gentleman dressed in shorts and desert boots who addressed us initially as girls, latterly as readers after having been spoken to by the GH team I have no doubt. Others had spent 40 minutes, during the morning, walking in circles talking and smiling, at least our group had been spared that, some of them said they felt quite dizzy.

The standout feature of the studio is heat, light, boredom and not knowing what the 'big picture' is. We still don't - nobody told us the plot of this film. We were involved in probably 30 takes so I am confident that if our group hasn't ended up on the cutting room floor there will be a split-second point in the finished film where we might be seen walking, talking and laughing.

Altogether an interesting experience. We were given our clothes, shoes and robes to take home, with a bag containing the GH Reading Club book of the month as generous gifts. I shall remember the day with fondness for a long time. See here some photographs of the studio and process.

*Cllr Sue Severn*



## Don't go with a bang this bonfire night

Thames Valley Police and the Fire and Rescue Services across Thames Valley are urging people to take extra care at Bonfire Night parties.

Having your own fireworks party or celebrating with family and friends can be great fun. But by far the safest way to enjoy these seasonal activities is to attend a professionally organised event.

We want everyone to enjoy a safe and trouble-free Bonfire Night and are working closely with Trading Standards to ensure fireworks aren't sold to those who are under 18.

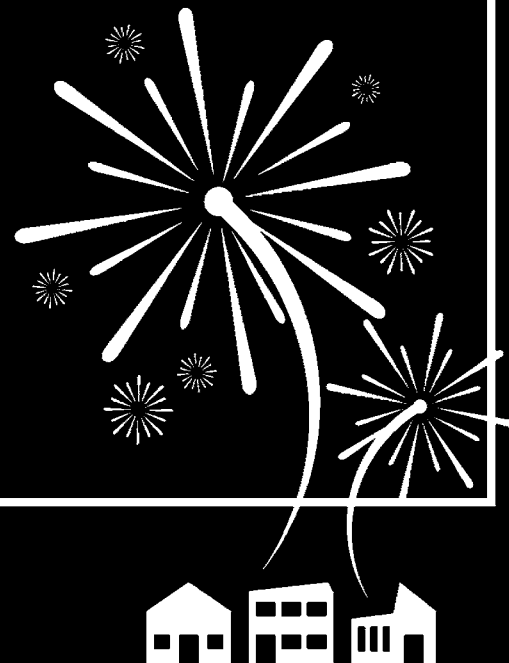
Please think of others and remember that fireworks shouldn't be let off between 11pm and 7am.

If you are holding your own fireworks party please don't put your family or friends at risk, follow the safety advice below for a safe home display.

### Always remember to follow the fireworks code

- Only buy fireworks marked BS 7114
- Don't drink alcohol if setting off fireworks
- Keep fireworks in a closed box
- Follow the instructions on each firework
- Light them at arm's length, using a taper
- Stand well back
- Never go near a firework that has been lit
- Even if it hasn't gone off, it could still explode
- Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them
- Always supervise children around fireworks
- Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves
- Never give sparklers to a child under five
- Keep pets indoors

More information can be found on the Thames Valley Police website [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)





# Managing Watermead's wild side

**Call for volunteers! As some older residents will know, prior to 1985 the site of Watermead was just a rather boggy piece of farm land. As part of the deal to get planning permission for the houses the developer undertook to provide some leisure facilities.** These included not only the cricket field, the ski-slope and a jogging track round both lakes but also a large area of open land on the North West side of the large lake which was planted with many trees. Anyone who has walked round the lake will know that this is like a little area of countryside on our doorstep with trees, wildflowers, and many birds. There is evidence of badgers in the area and the occasional muntjac deer.

The original intention was that the leisure land would be managed by a subsidiary of the developer Royco. Sadly, in the financial crash of the late 1980s, Royco went into bankruptcy and the land passed into the hands of the Official Receiver. Most of it, apart from the Riviera site and ski slope, was later acquired by Lakeside Land - a company owned by residents - before being passed in turn to the Parish Council. Unfortunately, neither Lakeside Land nor the Parish Council have had either funds or expertise to carry out comprehensive land management.

Although the Parish Council does employ a contractor to keep the pathways clear and do some trimming of shrubs, some areas have become overgrown and, in particular, there are many self seeded trees which



are encroaching on the open areas. This land needs to be managed in an ecosensitive way to continue to provide a habitat for a wide variety of plants, birds and other wildlife. Last Autumn we were fortunate in obtaining comprehensive advice from Paul Holton, Biodiversity Officer of Aylesbury Vale District Council who advised a rolling programme of land management and suggested we contact a group called Vale Countryside Volunteers who might help with the work.

Vale Countryside Volunteers is a working party set up to care for and protect the wildlife and countryside of Aylesbury Vale. We are pleased to announce that this organisation has agreed to have a **working day on Watermead on Wednesday September 13th**. They will bring tools and a core of skilled members but we also need some local volunteers to help

them. Anyone who would like to help and enjoy a day working in the fresh air improving our environment should contact Noreen Shardlow on 01296 395211 or noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk.



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# The View from Westminster

**It was just after Sunday lunch, three days after the election, that I got the call: "Could you come in to Number 10 to see the Prime Minister?" Well there's really only one answer to that so it was out of shorts and t-shirt, into a suit and off to London.** What I was not expecting was the offer made once I was in the Cabinet room: "I'd like you to move to be Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice".

Six weeks in, I'm finding the job both absorbing and challenging. The office of Lord Chancellor is 900 years old. Since the Blair government's reforms in 2005, the Lord Chancellor neither presides as Speaker of the Lords nor sits as a judge. Indeed I am the fourth non-lawyer in a row to serve in the office. But the role still has an important constitutional significance. I had to swear an oath to uphold the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary. That was why it fell to me, when Sir Martin Moore-Bick, chairman of the Grenfell inquiry, came under attack from MPs who should have known better, to speak out in his defence.

As Lord Chancellor, I must approve or reject recommendations from the expert Judicial Appointments Commission, for new judges and I also have responsibilities over disciplinary action against a judge.

As Secretary of State, I have responsibility for two important operational areas of government: the Courts and Tribunals Service and the Prisons and Probation Service.

We are in the middle of an ambitious programme of court reform that will use digital technology to deliver swifter and more accessible justice. Aylesbury Crown Court has been one of the pioneers of reform in the criminal justice system, with major benefits in terms of

reducing both delays and costs.

Our prisons are currently looking after about 86,000 people sent there by the courts. My initial assessment is that we need to do more both to improve safety inside our prisons and to deliver more effective rehabilitation so that offenders are less likely to commit crime again after release.

An extra 2,500 prison officers are being recruited, with the first 500 now deployed. Sniffer dogs have been brought in to detect drugs and equipment installed in every gaol to detect the use of mobile phones. I am keen to look again at whether we are sure that it is only those who really need to be sent to prison who are behind bars. Part of the answer here is to ensure that we have a range of community penalties in which the judges and the public have confidence.

Then we must work hard on rehabilitation. If someone goes to prison unable to read, write or count adequately, and comes out the same, they will struggle to get a job and be more likely to drift back into crime.

So it's a very steep learning curve, but responsibilities that I feel honoured to take on.

*Rt Hon David Lidington, MP  
for Aylesbury, Leader of the House  
of Commons and Lord President of the  
Council.*



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