

VillageView

WATERMEAD'S *FREE* QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

Spring 2018 Vol.25 Issue 1

Watermead Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting

Village Hall, Thursday 17th May at 7pm

Christmas Lights Competition winners

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The history of 'Votes for Women' Campaign
See page 18



News from Watermead Parish Council & more!
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Parish Chairman's News

Welcome to the spring edition of Village View. We can now look forward to enjoying spring and there is much to look forward to in the coming months. Many of us enjoyed our Christmas festivities: Our Craft Fair, organised by Graham Severn, had a really good selection of stalls allowing us to shop locally for some unusual Christmas presents. The stallholders and those who visited enjoyed lunches and snacks freshly prepared in the Village Hall kitchen by Dot Toler and a chance to meet friends.

The Carol Concert took place on a dry evening, which made a huge difference. The band led us in carols, our vicar Mark Ackford told the story of the Nativity with added chocolate, and the WI provided delicious mulled wine, mince pies and Christmas cake, all of which was much appreciated while we waited for Father Christmas to arrive. Father Christmas presented the children with presents and then went on his way. He has promised to be with us again this year. Our thanks to Cllr Mary Singleton for organising this event, which, with the Craft Fair, heralds the arrival of Christmas.

Christmas lights competition

More households joined in this year and the standard of the displays was very high. I know that Cllr Irina Schwab and her fellow

judges had a difficult job in choosing an overall winner. Find out more on page 11

Summer gardens

Following the popularity of our summer front garden competition, Cllr Irina Schwab has decided we should, once again, have another friendly competition for the best front garden. Gardens will be judged at the end of July and the winner will receive a gardening gift. We hope that our front gardens will bloom this year. To complement the front garden competition it would be very good if we could tidy the road in front of our homes and pick up litter. Our own best kept village initiative.

Speeding

We have now taken delivery of our Sentinel speed camera and have systems set up for its use. The MVAS will also be placed in additional places where speeding is considered to be a problem. The short message is that none of our roads is suitable for driving over 30 mph so please be considerate and slow down.

Parish precept 2018/19

Although the Parish Council continues to fight the crematorium planning application on behalf of parishioners, we have paid for this within our budget and no increase is needed to cover legal fees, as last year.

After careful consideration and discussion, the Parish Council resolved that its precept for 2018/19 will be £75,000, which we believe will allow us to

maintain services at their current level. The precept for a Band D house will be £77.66, against £75.82 for 2017/18, an increase of £1.84 for the year.

Recreation & Leisure

We continue to carry out repairs and improvements to our land. We carry out tree works to prevent damage and ensure preservation as well as working on areas requiring improvement. There are no plans for major works next year, following last year's work to prevent lake erosion, but we are looking into the possibilities to make the large lake accessible during winter when water levels are higher, preventing access at times.

May Fair

At the time of writing we are unsure whether this event will go ahead this year. The Parish Council has agreed to the land being used. Any event arranged will be advertised extensively in due course.

Sponsored run/walk

The Resolution Run organised by the Stroke Association takes place again this year starting at 11am on Sunday 4th March. Please join in if you are keen on running, sponsor a runner, or simply walk the route.

Watermead Pub Lunch Club

Cllr Mary Singleton has set up the Watermead lunch club with assistance from Llew Monger of Community Impact Bucks. The club is aimed at the more mature



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

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noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk



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

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Tea Break Quiz



1. Name the largest freshwater lake in the world?
2. What item of clothing was named after its Scottish inventor?
3. Which word goes before vest, beans and quartet?
4. Name the world's biggest island.
5. Which four British cities have underground rail systems?
6. Which actress has won the most Oscars?
7. Which kind of bulbs were once exchanged as a form of currency?
8. What colour is a Welsh poppy?
9. Which chess piece can only move diagonally?
10. How many times was the Men's Tennis Singles at Wimbledon won by Bjorn Borg?
11. What is the painting 'La Gioconda' more usually known as?
12. If you were painting with tempera, what would you be using to bind together colour pigments?
13. Who was Henry VIII's first wife?
14. When did Margaret Thatcher become Prime Minister?
15. Which Shakespeare play features Shylock?
16. In the TV series Dad's Army, what was Captain Mainwaring's first name?
17. How many crocus flowers does it take to make a pound of saffron?
18. Name the three primary colours.
19. Who was the legendary Benedictine monk who invented champagne?
20. What is the world's longest river?

Answers on page 30

...page 03

members of the community and so far has attracted a lively bunch of people. It meets each month in the Watermead Inn on the second Wednesday at 12.30pm. Kelvin and his team have so far provided a range of delicious menu choices which have been much enjoyed; as much as the food the company and chance to meet new people is also a great draw. Lunch costs £8 and must be booked in advance with Mary Singleton. See more information on page 29.

Planning

The Crematorium application continues with a committee hearing expected during March. This is dependent on all documentation being in place to enable the planning officer to determine his recommendation to the AVDC planning committee. The Parish Council's submissions are nearing completion. Many parishioners have joined in with some notable submissions, including a sequential test and detailed analysis of the Westerleigh documents. We are hugely grateful for the support and encouragement we have received from parishioners; this does make a difference. It has been a long, hard road with many bumps along the way. Once there is any news it will be published immediately.

Piazza Car Park

After a very long period when nothing happened the applicants have now submitted a revised car parking map. The PC will consider how best to respond to this and any other consultation at appropriate times. The overwhelming majority of villagers, once again, object to the application.

Annual Parish Meeting

We hope that many of you will come along to the Annual Parish Meeting at 7 pm on Thursday 17th May 2018. It will be held before our Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30pm. See more information about this meeting above.

Finally, thanks to the Village View editorial team. We really enjoy the magazine and genuinely look forward to each edition.

Chairman Sue Severn

Kimblewick Races

The dates for Point to Point Racing at the Kingston Blount and Kimble racecourses are:

Kingston Blount

Saturday 10th March, first race 1pm

Kimble

Easter Saturday 31st, first race 1pm

Kingston Blount

Saturday 21st April, first race 2pm

Kingston Blount

Sunday 13th May, first race 2pm

Kingston Blount

Sunday 27th May, first race 2.30pm

More information is available at
www.kimblewickraces.co.uk

Oxon & Bucks - a great family day out

The Annual Parish Meeting of Watermead Parish Council will take place in the Village Hall (in the Piazza) at 7pm on Thursday 17th May 2017. You are invited to hear reports from the Chairman, District and County Councillors and you will have the opportunity to ask questions and express your opinions on what the council is doing. No votes taken at this meeting are binding on the Parish Council, however they should be considered at the next meeting of the Parish Council. Only members on the electoral roll can vote on an issue. Other members of the public can attend but cannot vote.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will follow and this is where the Chairman and Vice Chairman are elected. They may make other annual appointments and review insurance, risk management, policies, etc.



Lavender Lane Vintage / Shabby Chic & Craft Fair 2018

Sunday
21st January
15th April
15th July
16th September
18th November

10:00am to 3.30pm

Watermead Village Hall
The Piazza
HP19 0FX

Facebook: Lavender Lane Vintage Fair
Email: Lindsaysoanes@live.co.uk

How often do we have occasion to have a great evening out, get dressed up, and also contribute to a worthy cause? Get out your best dress and come along and enjoy popular local band, Sreetwise, who will be playing for CHAT Charity Ball on Saturday 19th May at Rivets, Aylesbury. This is a unique opportunity to dance to the band and enjoy a delicious dinner at this glamorous fundraising event.

Charity Ball

19th May 2018
6.45pm to 12pm

Rivets Sports and Social Club
Whitehead Way, Aylesbury

Champagne Reception Three Course Meal Auction

£40

Dancing to live band

Streetwise

To book tickets email anthea.cass@chat-charity.org.uk Or call 07402063133

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Christmas at Watermead

Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair held on Saturday 2nd December 2017 was once again a big success thanks to Graham Severn and Noreen Shardlow who organised it. There were lots of stalls selling traditional and quirky gifts, hand-crafted jewellery and scented candles, homemade Christmas cards and tree decorations, and sweetmeats being sold in aid of charity. There was also Santa's post box and the opportunity to plan your 2018 holiday with GoCruise.

Dot Toler, ably assisted by our Parish Clerk, Noreen, brushed up her culinary skills to provide delicious toasted sandwiches and hotdogs, tea, coffee and cakes to our shoppers and stallholders. This enterprise netted £55 which was donated to the Lindengate charity.

We mustn't forget the 'Name the Dog' competition which raised £67 for our chosen charity. The dog was won by Kim Sizer of Osprey Walk who was delighted with her new cuddly canine friend. She guessed the name 'Dixie' which had been picked out of the hat.

We would like to thank the stallholders and the people who came and supported this event.

Carol Concert

It was a cold and windy night on 2 December! Nevertheless a large number of people turned out to help kick off our Christmas here in Watermead.

I'd like to say thank you to the following people:

- Phil Toler for setting up all the electricals before the event
- Dot Toler for providing some lovely illuminations around the Piazza, for obtaining presents for the children, and for once again making the mulled wine.
- Sue Severn for putting the decorations on the Christmas tree in the Piazza
- Mo from Watermead News for providing the warm up music system with flashing lights in the Piazza for the Carol Concert.

The service was led by Reverend Mark Ackford and, as usual, he included the chocolate-adapted Christmas story for the children – always causing much hilarity and enjoyment.

Safe Sax, who have now changed their name to 'The Early Birds', returned to provide the live music to accompany the singers and brownies from the 11th Aylesbury Brownie Group led the carol singing. Many thanks to Jane Rennie, Brown Owl.

Once again we were lucky enough to be visited by Father Christmas who was kept very busy distributing presents to the large number of children who came along while the grown-ups carried on singing. He was ably assisted by several elves. Many thanks to Sue Potamia who helped serve mulled wine with mince pies made by our very own WI ladies; £121.15 was raised by generous donations.

A total of £253.15 was raised for the Lindengate charity from our Christmas events.

Finally, a big vote of thanks go to Noreen Shardlow, Parish Clerk, who arranged for the Christmas tree in the Piazza and without whom the above events would not have taken place. She played a large part in organising both the Fair and the Carol Concert.

Our chosen charity

Lindengate is a mental health charity that offers specialised gardening activities to help those with mental health needs in their continuing recovery. Our services, known as Social and Therapeutic Horticulture (STH), use the healing power of nature and the outdoors to improve mental wellbeing, boost self-esteem and social inclusion and encourage long-term recovery. STH is recognised to be beneficial for a wide range of mental health needs including anxiety, depression, loneliness as well as for people with autism (ASD), dementia and head injury.

The charity operates from a 5-acre site at The Old Allotment Site, next to Wyevale Garden Centre, Aylesbury Road, Wendover. We offer gardening, conservation, horticulture, craft and construction activities that enable users to spend time in a managed and calm environment, either singly or in small groups, reducing their isolation and working towards their recovery. www.lindengate.org.uk



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Remembering our fallen

A few people gathered at our memorial garden at 11am on Saturday 11th November 2017 to mark Remembrance Day. Watermead's wreath was laid by Sue Severn and the two minutes' silence was observed.



The View from Westminster

Well, politics can certainly be difficult to predict! I had not expected to be moving posts in government again after less than a year at the Ministry of Justice. But resignations before Christmas meant that the Prime Minister had to make changes to the government and so on Monday 8th January I was asked to go to Number 10.

The Ministry of Justice was a challenging brief but I enjoyed my time there. Part of me was sorry to leave, but the new role as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office takes me to the heart of government.

The Cabinet Office is responsible for the coordination of government business across departments. It services the Cabinet and the network of Cabinet committees through which much of government business is done. The Prime Minister has asked me to chair a number of committees and deputise for her when she is away from others where she would normally take the chair herself.

I have an overarching responsibility in government for constitutional affairs, including devolution, and for the implementation of government policy. Oh, and I shall also stand in at Prime Minister's Questions on the rare occasions when she is unable to be there.

I feel excited and honoured by the appointment, and a little apprehensive too at the responsibilities that I have been asked to shoulder.

For those interested, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster is an ancient title that nowadays is given to a senior Minister without specific departmental responsibilities. It is granted by The Queen in her capacity as Duke of Lancaster, the title having been held by the sovereign since Henry Bolingbroke became King Henry IV, and I had to go up to Sandringham to be sworn in by Her Majesty.

It's a feature of our constitutional system that Ministers are also Members of Parliament with individual constituencies.

Not every democracy works like that. In the United States and the Netherlands, Ministers are not members of the legislature. In others, MPs are elected on regional or national party lists not single-member constituencies.

The Friday after my new appointment I was in Aylesbury hearing from constituents about problems affecting social care and the impact of the closure of RAF Halton. Our system loads more work onto Ministers, but it really does keep your feet on the ground!

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



Dear Noreen,

On behalf of all at Lindengate, may I acknowledge and thank the Parish Council and all involved for the generous and much welcomed donation of £253.15 raised during your recent Christmas Fair and Carol Concert. These funds are truly valued by the charity and help us to offer the benefits of our social and therapeutic horticulture service to the widest possible group within the communities we support.

Please pass on our thanks to all concerned with the events and those interested in our work.

With kind regards and all good wishes,

Michael Harris

Michael Harris
Director

What's on IN AND AROUND WATERMEAD

March

1st	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
4th	Stroke Association Resolution Run	Watermead 11am
14th	Lunch Club	Watermead Inn, 12:30pm
15th	Watermead Parish Council	Village Hall, 7:30pm
30th	Good Friday	

April

1st	Easter Sunday	
5th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
11th	Lunch Club	Watermead Inn, 12:30pm
15th	Vintage Fair	Village Hall, 10:30am to 3pm
19th	Watermead Parish Council	Village Hall, 7:30pm

May

7th	Bank Holiday	
9th	Lunch Club	Watermead Inn, 12:30pm
10th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
17th	Watermead Annual Parish Meeting	7:00pm
17th	Watermead Parish Council	Village Hall, 7:30pm
28th	Bank Holiday	

June

7th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
13th	Lunch Club	Watermead Inn, 12:30pm
21st	Watermead Parish Council	Village Hall, 7:30pm

Village Hall

PARISH COUNCIL

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

CYGNETS PRE-SCHOOL

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2.5yrs: Tuesday 9.00 - 12.30pm,
3 & 4 yrs: Tuesday
8.30 - 12.30pm
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8.30 - 9.00am
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Susan Jones 747469

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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

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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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News Watermead allotments

Fancy an allotment? There has never been a better time.

Watermead Parish Council have a selection of empty allotment plots. Some of them are still in their natural state so, if you like a challenge, will need some work before you start. However others are cleared ready for you to start from scratch and turn them into your own small market garden growing all manner of vegetables, fruit and flowers - the choice is yours.

Let nobody tell you otherwise, whilst having an allotment can be very hard work, you can get a great deal of satisfaction from planting a seed and watching it grow ready for the dinner table. In doing so you get free exercise to help you keep fit (cheaper than going to the gym!) and time outdoors in the fresh air. You will also meet like-minded people and perhaps forge new friendships.

There is a yearly rental for Watermead residents of £25 (per 5 pole plot) or £50 (per 10 pole plot). The annual rental for non-residents is £50 (per 5 pole plot) or £100 (per 10 pole plot). Rents are payable yearly (1st January-31st December) and at a proportionate rent for any part of a year over which the tenancy may extend.

In addition there will be a water charge of £10 for this current financial year for the annual water charge based on the cost to the Council of supplying water to the allotments.

General areas of the site are maintained by the Parish Council but we do have clean-up mornings by plot holders two or three times a year.

In the first instance please contact the Parish Clerk, Noreen Shardlow at Noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk or call 01296 395211.

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Easter recipes

Salmon with rhubarb sauce & tarragon mayo

Ingredients

1 x 2.5 kg whole salmon, gutted and scaled, from sustainable sources,
1 onion,
2 carrots,
2 sticks of celery,
3 fresh bay leaves,
1 tablespoon black peppercorns,
1 tablespoon pink peppercorns,
a few sprigs each of fresh flat-leaf parsley, tarragon, chervil and mint

Pickled red onions

2 small red onions
4 tablespoons red wine vinegar

Rhubarb sauce

5 sticks of forced rhubarb,
1 small eating apple
2 tablespoons runny honey
1 fresh bay leaf
3 whole cloves
1 splash of red wine vinegar
1 orange

Mayonnaise

200 g fresh tarragon,
300 ml oil (a mixture of olive and vegetable oil works best),
2 large free-range egg yolks,
1 heaped teaspoon Dijon mustard,
1-2 tablespoons white wine vinegar,
½ a lemon

Method

1. To poach the salmon, place it in a fish kettle or a large roasting tin. Cover with cold water and place the fish kettle or tin over two hobs.
2. Peel and roughly chop the onion and carrots, then trim and roughly chop the celery. Place in the water with the salmon. Add the bay leaves and the black and pink peppercorns. Cover with a lid or tinfoil and bring to the boil.
3. Switch off the heat and allow the water and salmon to cool for about 5 hours.
4. For the pickled red onions, peel and finely slice them, using a mandolin if you have one (use the guard!), then place in a small bowl. Add the red wine vinegar and a pinch of sea salt, scrunch together, then set aside to allow the onions to turn pink.
5. Meanwhile, make the rhubarb sauce. Trim the rhubarb, peel and core the apple, then chop both into 2cm pieces. Place the fruit in a pan with the honey, bay leaf and whole cloves. Add a splash of vinegar and the orange juice.
6. Bring to the boil, then turn the heat down to medium. Cover and leave to cook for

- about 30 minutes, or until the rhubarb has softened. Add a little extra honey to sweeten, if necessary. Tip into a bowl and set aside to cool.
7. To make the mayonnaise, first make a tarragon oil. Pick the tarragon leaves into a blender, add 100ml of oil and blitz to a pulp. Add the rest of the oil and blitz again, then strain through a piece of muslin into a jug.
 8. Place the egg yolks in a mixing bowl with the mustard and whisk well.
 9. Very slowly drip the tarragon oil into the egg yolk as you whisk; when you’ve added half of the oil, add 1 tablespoon of vinegar, then continue whisking in the oil (you might not need all of it). Finish with a squeeze of lemon juice and a pinch of salt and black pepper.
 10. Carefully remove the salmon to a serving board and gently remove the skin. Break up the salmon flesh into lobes and arrange on a large platter, then rub them with a little oil. Pick the herb leaves over the onions and toss well.
 11. Serve the poached salmon with the pickled onions, some lovely boiled new potatoes and the rhubarb sauce and tarragon mayo on the side.

Rosemary & garlic lamb shoulder with balsamic onion gravy and root veg mash

Ingredients

1 x 2 kg lamb or hogget shoulder, bone in,
1 bunch of fresh rosemary,
1 bulb of garlic,
2 teaspoons English mustard olive oil,
6 red onions,
4 tablespoons balsamic vinegar,
1 tablespoon plain flour,
1 splash of red wine, optional

Method

1. Remove the lamb shoulder from the fridge and allow to come up to room temperature.
2. Preheat the oven at 200°C/400°F/gas 6.
3. Pick most of the rosemary leaves into a pestle and mortar and bash with a pinch of sea salt. Peel and add 2 cloves of garlic and bash again. Muddle in the English

- mustard and 2 tablespoons of olive oil.
4. Slash the lamb all over with a sharp knife, season with black pepper, then rub the rosemary mixture all over the lamb, making sure to get into all the nooks and crannies.
 5. Peel and thickly slice the onions, then place in a large deep roasting tray with the remaining rosemary and unpeeled garlic cloves. Drizzle with the balsamic vinegar and pour in 200ml of cold water.
 6. Place the lamb shoulder on top and roast for 20 minutes.
 7. Carefully remove the tray from the oven and cover tightly with a double layer of tin foil, then return to the oven, turn the heat down to 160°C/315°F/gas 2½, and cook for 4 hours, or until the meat pulls easily away from the bone.
 8. Remove the shoulder to a platter, cover loosely with the foil and leave to rest.
 9. Skim the fat from the tray, pick out and discard the rosemary, and squeeze the garlic cloves out of their skins.
 10. Place the tray on the hob over a medium heat, stir in the flour and cook for 2 minutes.
 11. Add 500ml of boiling water and the wine (if using), and stir well. Bring to the boil, then reduce the heat to low and simmer for 15 minutes, or until thick and glossy.
 12. To make the root veg mash, peel and roughly chop the carrots and peel 2 cloves of garlic. Place in a large pan of boiling salted water over a medium-high heat and cook for 5 minutes.
 13. Meanwhile peel and roughly chop the potatoes and parsnips, add them to the pan of boiling water with the carrots then cook for a further 15 minutes, or until tender.
 14. Drain in a colander and leave to steam dry. Tip back into the pan, add a lug of extra virgin olive oil, then mash with a potato masher. Season to taste.
 15. Shred up the lamb and serve up with the mash and onion gravy. Delicious served with steamed seasonal greens.

Chai spiced carrot cake

Ingredients

250 ml vegetable oil, plus extra for greasing,
4 large carrots,
1 large lemon,

100 g currants or sultanas,
100 g pecans,
280 g plain flour,
2 teaspoons baking powder,
1 tablespoon ground cinnamon,
2 teaspoons ground cardamom,
¼ teaspoon ground cloves,
¼ teaspoon ground anise,
¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg,
4 tablespoons candied ginger in syrup,
1 black tea bag,
200g caster sugar,
2 large free-range eggs,
200 g caster sugar,
200 g light brown sugar,
30 g flaked coconut

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C/gas 4. Grease a 30 x 20cm traybake tin with veg oil and line with baking paper.
2. Peel and grate the carrots and lemon zest into a large bowl, mix in the currants or sultanas, then roughly chop and add the pecans, then set aside.
3. In another bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, ½ a teaspoon of sea salt, and the spices, Dice and add the ginger, then add the leaves from the tea bag and mix well.
4. Add the eggs, both sugars and the veg oil to a mixing jug, then pour the mixture over the carrots, mixing to combine. Add the dry ingredients and mix briefly or until just combined.
5. Pour the batter into your pan and bake in the oven for 55 minutes to 1 hour, or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Allow to cool in the tin for 15 minutes, then invert onto a wire rack to cool completely.
6. For the buttercream, place the butter in the bowl of an electric mixer and beat until creamy, about 5 minutes.
7. Add the cream cheese and beat until just combined. Next, add the icing sugar and beat again until smooth (don't over-mix it as your icing will be runny.) Refrigerate for at least 15 minutes, then spoon the buttercream over the cake and spread out evenly.
8. Place the coconut into a dry frying pan over a medium heat and cook for 3 to 5 minutes, or until lightly toasted, tossing occasionally. Scatter it over the iced cake, then serve.

These recipes and more can be found at www.jamieoliver.com

Christmas lights competition 2017

On the 1st of January 2018 the lights were brighter than ever in Watermead village and the moonlight was no competition to the garlands of light adorning many of our local houses.

Competition was tough, and the judging criteria intently debated. Should the most beautiful front garden scene or arrangement win? Or should it be the beautifully decorated windows, outdoor Christmas trees and bushes, or the plain, soft light garlands decorating the house façade?

So many of our residents had made a huge effort, and it took no less than three tours around the village to finally settle on the winners. We saw once again excellent displays at 3 Mallard Close and 3 Ayleswater. They were, as you might recall, our previous years’ winners. Their Christmas light displays are absolutely charming and bring us a little bit closer to a “winter wonderland”.

However, to cut a long story short, it was difficult to pick one winner, so we decided to pick two, one for the North of Watermead, and one for South.

We loved the soft white garlands adorning 7 Mallard Close which cast a warm, almost magic light over the

surrounding grass area. The grazing deer were simply wonderful. And again, we were absolutely won over by the complex display at 3 Sparrow Close. It simply ticked all our boxes and their Christmas lights “shone through”!

Mrs Kay McGuinness at 7 Mallard Close was presented with a bottle of champagne, and she was delighted to accept her prize.

I was greeted by Andrew, Christina, Finlay, Maisy and Laura Jordan at 3 Sparrow Close who also received a bottle of champagne to celebrate the big win. Jordan could not contain his joy and kept jumping up and down whilst we presented the prize to his parents. Well done, all!

Cllr Irina Schwab



Netta Glover's report

Early Help has been the subject of discussion at cabinet and the new arrangements were agreed; it is worth watching the webcast at www.buckscc.gov.uk. This new strategy focuses on intervening early to improve the life outcomes of young people rather than reactively waiting until problems are being experienced. It should also enable us to reach a far higher percentage of those in genuine need and importantly they will have to tell their story just once; at the moment families can be involved with several people. There has been extensive consultation on the proposed changes which has shown 50% support. A lot of concerns are about closing Children's Centres. No decision has been taken yet – what was agreed is the work to be done on Early Help. A decision on the future of the centres will be taken later this year. The decision was 'called in' by three opposition members but this has been rejected.

Plastic Waste

You will have seen the reports that China is no longer accepting our plastic waste. Fortunately Buckinghamshire's waste is dealt with by a British firm to do the same thing as the Chinese did. The cost is protected by our contract with them but there will almost certainly be a glut on the market so watch this space.

Number Plate Theft

There has been an increase in car number

plate thefts which are then used on other cars. Police recommend that we use anti-theft screws. These can be bought from places like B&Q or from Thames Valley Police.

Gigaclear to acquire Aylesbury Vale Broadband's Network

Aylesbury Vale Broadband Ltd (AVB) announced that it has agreed to sell the assets of its business to Gigaclear, the leading provider of full fibre broadband in rural locations. The acquisition will enable Gigaclear to serve the seven villages connected through AVB, as well as expand the ultrafast fibre-to-the-premises (FTTP) network further across Aylesbury Vale.

The intention is to make this process as seamless as possible for existing customers, as well as expand our offering so more of the local community can connect to our network quickly and experience the very best broadband technology.

Gigaclear has purchased the assets of the business, rather than the AVB company itself, which means that existing customers will be invited to migrate onto the Gigaclear network.

Water Supply

The water companies are telling us that despite the recent rain there has not been enough to reach the aquifers. To keep up-to-date with the latest water resource position, please visit www.affinitywater.co.uk/resources.

The National Infrastructure Report

is now published and it includes some radical suggestions that impact on The Vale - from new towns, East/West Rail, the route of the "Expressway", the doubling in size of Milton Keynes and more. AVDC is going through the report in detail and will make its response to the NIC/Government as soon as possible. It will also be contributing to the response of the "Central Area Governance Group", which has been formed to monitor plans for the Oxford-Cambridge Corridor that affect the section between Bicester and Bedford, to the NIC report. Leaders of authorities across the corridor have held meetings with the NIC at which we've put forward our suggestions in respect of economic and housing growth and the infrastructure that's needed to facilitate that growth. Some of our concerns have been addressed but there are others that need significant clarification. I will keep you up to date.

Flood management update: there is a new enforcement policy which clarifies BCC's enforcement powers. The bottom line is that we want to ensure that all enforcement systems are transparent and that enforcement procedure is consistent. Guidance for parish councils is provided on Riparian owners' duties. It gives advice on maintaining watercourses and ditches.

Cllr Netta Glover

Aylesbury Cycle Touring Club

"Cycling has encountered more enemies than any other form of exercise." 19th-century author Louis Baudry de Saunier.

Who would have thought it? Riding a bike is a subversive activity. So, come and join in a subversive activity that is fun and legal. Aylesbury Cycle Touring Club (CTC) is a local branch of the Cycling UK whose aim was to help cyclists get out and enjoy riding with their fellow riders. They began life in 1878 and, to the best of my knowledge, none of the founder members are still riding, although sometimes after a particularly challenging ride, it can feel like that's our age!

The point of Aylesbury CTC is the same as that of its parent group - to help cyclists enjoy riding together. It's great to be out by oneself for a long day's riding in the Chilterns. Lots of us enjoy that kind of ride. But it's also fun to be out with a dozen or so other riders, having a chance to chat as well as pound out the miles. Riding in a group also has the advantage that there will be a group leader heading up the ride. They will know the route and set the pace.

There are a number of different rides, usually on a Sunday morning. Speed and distance vary. One group (Easy Pace) normally covers about 30 miles with a tea break halfway round. Join us if you want to discover new and lovely coffee shops in the area. This group rides at an average

speed of about 10 mph which is ideal if you're no longer as fit as you once were; few of us are these days! Don't worry if you don't have the latest in bikes. So long as you have two wheels and some gears, you'll be fine. There are other rides which tend to be longer and faster which may suit you if you are fit and ride a fairly good bike (Moderate Pace). Riding a 20 year old mountain bike will probably not make for an easy outing with these groups. Join the easy pace group and we'll accommodate you comfortably.

Everyone is welcome to join us. We also have social events throughout the year eg a pint or two in the Kings Head, coffee at the Coffee Tree, a quiz and an annual Christmas social. All this and riding too. What more can you ask from a club?

We hope you'll come and join us. You can contact us on www.aylesburyctc.org.uk or aylesburyctc@gmail.com or our Facebook page, Aylesbury CTC, where you can find information about forthcoming rides with details of how far, how long and the departure points which include Watermead..

Terry Burridge

watermead cygnets pre-school

The Festive season seems like such a long time ago, but our children enjoyed a magical time during the run up to Christmas. Everyone was really excited and the children enjoyed making Christmas cards, Christmas crackers, tree decorations and Christmas sacks. The children all worked especially hard rehearsing for our Christmas performance of "Whoops a Daisy Angel". They all performed brilliantly on the day and we were all really proud of them. It was a wonderful performance and one full of memories to treasure.

The new term started on the 8th January when we welcomed our new intake of children. One of our learning themes this half term was winter which included discussing the weather changes and what clothing we wear to keep warm. We played with pretend snow, described how it felt and we also froze some plastic animals in ice. The children enjoyed playing with them and watching them melt.

We have also been learning about the different types of dinosaurs. So many names to learn! We also discussed what they used to eat, some of them being meat eaters and some plant eaters. And we discussed the fact that dinosaurs are now extinct. We also talked about fossils and we even did a volcano experiment!

Our next topic involved colours and shapes. The children made collages with shapes and were able to name the different shapes in 2D and 3D; they repeated patterns using colours and shapes and did junk modelling to make trains, schools and homes.

Next half term the children will be learning about the Chinese New Year, life cycles, growing and planting and Easter! We will also be organising a sponsored obstacle course to raise money for the pre-school.

Cygnets accepts children from 2½ years to 5 years old. We open from 8.30am to 1.30pm on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and from 8.30 to 12.30pm on Tuesdays for all 3 to 4 year olds. We take 2½ year olds between 9 and 12 pm. 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 07563 783464 to speak with Maree.

The Cygnets team



Visits to Greatmoor Energy from Waste

Do you ever wonder what happens to the things you put in your waste bin? Your recycling is sorted and passed onto recycling companies, but what about your non-recyclable waste?

So far over 2500 visitors to Greatmoor Energy from Waste have found out.

All of the residual (non-recyclable) household waste generated in Buckinghamshire is now processed at the Greatmoor Energy from Waste facility at Woodham near Aylesbury. Greatmoor is operated by FCC Environment in partnership with Buckinghamshire County Council.

Greatmoor has the capacity to treat up to 300,000 tonnes of waste a year (approximately 900 tonnes a day), waste which would otherwise have gone to landfill. As a result, it generates a minimum of 22 megawatts of electricity to the national grid – meeting the energy needs of around 36,000 homes. This alternative treatment of waste will result in a saving to Buckinghamshire County Council of approximately £150 million over the 30 year life of the contract.

Guided tours of Greatmoor are available by prior agreement and at no charge. Visiting groups have included WIs, U3As, Rotary Clubs, Scouts, Cubs, Primary Schools, Colleges and lots of others.

A group visit to Greatmoor can be tailored to your requirements and will include a tour around the facility, which includes the control room (where you will be able to see the cranes loading the waste), a visit to the viewing hatch providing an exciting view into the heart of the fire, the turbine hall and the huge condenser fans, which is an

experience not to be missed.

The maximum group size for a tour is 15. School visits are available for Key Stage 2 upwards.

Cllr Bill Chapple OBE, Buckinghamshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Planning & Environment, said: "Greatmoor is a great asset to Buckinghamshire, and I'd really recommend that people take this opportunity to see the plant in operation and find out how it helps us reduce the environmental impact of our waste while at the same time saving money."

Feedback from visitors includes: "The tutor had a really good knowledge and explained it all well. The tour was such a good experience and really interesting. I think that all the general public should have an opportunity" and "Very informative but not too much sitting around so the children got bored or disruptive - they were kept engaged throughout"

If you aren't a member of a local group but would like a tour, why not come to one of our open tour days? Greatmoor is holding four public open tour days in 2018; these are on the following Saturdays - March 17th, June 30th, September 22nd and November 24th.

On each day there will be tours, at 10am, 12.30 and 3pm. Please note that places are available on a strictly booking in advance basis only. There is a minimum age limit of 12 on open tours.

For more information about Greatmoor please visit www.Greatmoor.co.uk

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Commonwealth Lunch

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting takes place in the UK in April and the Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire is encouraging Buckinghamshire organisations to hold "Commonwealth Big Lunches" in the build-up to the event.

The Commonwealth Big Lunches, in partnership with the Eden Project, will take place across the 52 Commonwealth countries. The lunch will be launched on Commonwealth Day (12th March) and will run until the end of the summit week. People are invited to come together to share Commonwealth food with their sports clubs, community groups, schools, youth organisations, businesses, friends and families within the Buckinghamshire community and encourage others to also host one: this could be a party in someone's garden, a street gathering or something larger which looks to bring different communities together.

Details www.edenprojectcommunities.com/stuff-to-do/organise-big-lunch

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# She's got it: Piccioli's Valentino goddess

**H**is first Haute Couture collection minus Maria Grazia Chiuri, Pierpaolo Piccioli created a fitting collection for the modern couture clientele. Alone for the first time ever in the world of Haute Couture, Pierpaolo Piccioli debuted his first solo couture collection at Valentino without his longstanding partner Maria Grazia Chiuri who has now moved to Dior. Following this Piccioli moved on from the virginal Renaissance princesses of yesteryear.

Instead he chose goddesses, bringing Ancient Greece to Paris was Piccioli's premier vision. A lurid dreamscape was what the couturier had in mind, **"dreams make us human; they go down to who each of us are, in ourselves,"** he said. As the models walked down the runway in

white silk, taffeta and other various muted pastels it is clear Piccioli created something relaxed and fresh for the modern couture client.

The modern couture client does not overdo her dress or her visage for that matter. It is the modernity that contrasts with the ageless romantic classicism of Valentino that allows the brand to translate into the 21st Century. Designers in the ranks of Piccioli are making couture accessible but also appropriate for a modern woman, and in lieu of last weekend's Women's Marches across the globe this is incredibly apt. Some of the older couturiers, Karl Lagerfeld for instance, don't approve of this new attitude. "I am a little tired of couture designers coming out in jeans and a t-shirt" quipped Lagerfeld. Surely a dig at Chiuri at

Dior and Piccioli at Valentino.

The silhouettes contrasted massively with what Lagerfeld presented to us earlier this week in Paris, "spoon woman" juxtaposed by loose yet clean fits. Although the fits maybe minimal, the details were hardly a decadent display of knife pleating and floral appliqués amiably united the liberated silhouettes.

This show could have commenced as a tragic heartbreak from one of fashion's infamous contemporary duos but through the power of dreams Piccioli created a story for a latter-day woman.

*Phoebe Shardlow*



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# The history of ‘Votes for Women’ Campaign

**The start of the Suffragist movement, the campaign for voting rights for women, started in the late 18th century when the Second Reform Act 1867 and the Third Reform Act 1884 extended the right to vote to more men than previously, which meant that many working class men were included. Many women were in similar circumstances to these new voters, being rate-payers, tax-payers and subject to the same laws as men.** A sense of injustice grew until, in the mid19th century, groups of women and men joined together to campaign for the vote. They were known as suffragists.

Suffragist groups existed all over the country under many different names, but they all had the same aim: to achieve the right to vote for women through peaceful means. In 1897 these regional groups came together to form the National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies (NUWSS).

They were led by Millicent Garrett Fawcett. She published widely on women’s issues and was a frequent public speaker on women’s rights. She was married to an MP, Henry Fawcett, and regularly sat in the Ladies’ Gallery of the House of Commons to watch the debates. Her determined leadership of the NUWSS made it a substantial influence in the campaign for women’s votes.

The suffragists believed in achieving change through parliamentary means and used lobbying techniques to persuade sympathetic Members of Parliament to raise the issue of women’s suffrage in debate on the floor of the House.

Between 1870 and 1884 debates on women’s suffrage took place almost every year in Parliament. This succeeded in keeping the issue in the public eye, as Parliamentary proceedings were extensively covered in the national and regional press of the time. But some people thought that the NUWSS should have taken more opportunity to encourage mass support throughout the country, rather than concentrate so much on activities in Parliament.

## The start of the Suffragette movement

In 1903 Emmeline Pankhurst and others, frustrated by the lack of progress, decided more direct action was needed and founded the Women’s Social and Political Union (WSPU) with the motto ‘deeds not words’. The name ‘suffragettes’ was originally used as a derisory term by Charles Hands, a journalist for the Daily Mail.

Membership of the WSPU was limited to women only. Emmeline Pankhurst’s daughters, Christabel, Sylvia and Adela, were also committed members. They felt that the impact of peaceful tactics seemed to have been exhausted and a different, more radical approach was needed.

Initially the WSPU’s tactics were to cause disruption and some civil disobedience, such as the ‘rush’ on Parliament in October 1908 when it encouraged the public to join them in an attempt to invade the House of Commons. 60,000 people gathered, but the police successfully held them back. However the lack of Government action led the WSPU to undertake more violent acts, including attacks on property and law-breaking. As a result of these activities many suffragettes were imprisoned.

Emily Wilding Davison was particularly committed to ‘deeds not words’. She hid in the House of Commons on a number of occasions, including on Census night in April 1911 when she spent the night in a cupboard in order to state ‘House of Commons’ as her address on her census return.

She was imprisoned eight times for offences including assault and stone-throwing. Her final, and most dramatic, act was to step out in front of the King’s horse at the Epsom Derby in June 1913. It is unclear whether she intended to commit suicide, but she died soon afterwards of her injuries.

In 1909, Marion Wallace-Dunlop was the first suffragette to go on hunger strike. Suffragettes went on hunger strike because they were not given the status of political prisoners when imprisoned. The authorities responded to hunger striking suffragettes with force feeding, a dangerous and humiliating ordeal, which provided the suffragettes with powerful propaganda.

The government sought to deal with the problem of hunger striking suffragettes with the 1913 Prisoners (Temporary Discharge for Ill-Health) Act, commonly known as the Cat and Mouse Act. This Act allowed for the early release of prisoners who were so weakened by hunger striking that they were at risk of death. They were to

be recalled to prison once their health was recovered, where the process would begin again.

Meanwhile, despite being somewhat overshadowed by the activities of the suffragettes, Millicent Fawcett and the NUWSS were continuing to build up the legal and constitutional support for the enfranchisement of women, but without the high profile of the suffragettes.

## Women’s Freedom League

There were other organisations campaigning for women’s suffrage, including the Women’s Freedom League, formed in 1907 by Teresa Billington-Greig and Charlotte Despard.

The Women’s Freedom League was a militant organisation which agitated for women’s voting rights like the WSPU. However, while the WSPU was run like an army, the WFL was a democratic organisation and used direct action, such as passive resistance to taxation and non-cooperation with the census, rather than attacks~on people and property.

On 28th October 1908 three WFL members, Murial Matters, Violet Tillard and Helen Fox, unfurled a banner from the Ladies’ Gallery in the House of Commons. Matters and Fox also chained themselves to the grille covering the Ladies’ Gallery window. The authorities had to remove the grille with the women still attached, and the locks were filed off in a committee room.

There were two other demonstrations in Parliament that day, another by women in St. Stephen’s Hall and one by two men in the Members’ Gallery.

## Men supporting the campaign

The campaign for votes for women is predominately recognised as a cause fought by women, but men played a crucial role, both in Parliament and outside.

Most MPs opposed votes for women, but there were some supporters. Keir Hardie MP regularly spoke in the House on the subject, questioned Government ministers on the treatment of suffragette prisoners and attended WSPU events.

George Lansbury MP resigned his seat so that he could fight a by-election on the suffrage question. He lost the by-election, but continued to support the campaign. In 1913 he was imprisoned after making a speech at a WSPU rally in support of their campaign of arson attacks.

Other men played an active part in militant suffragette activity. Frederick Pethick-Lawrence, joint editor, with his wife Emmeline, of the publication ‘Votes for Women’, played a leading role. He was imprisoned, went on hunger-strike and was forcibly fed on many occasions. He was an MP between 1923 and 1931, and remained influential in Parliament as an elder statesman in the House of Lords later in life.

## WW1 suspension of campaign

At the outbreak of the First World War, Emmeline Pankhurst suspended the activities of the Women’s Social and Political Union and concentrated her efforts on helping the government recruit women into war work. Most other women’s suffrage organisations also suspended their activities and many supported the war effort. Active campaigning continued behind the scenes though.

The involvement of women in the war effort did much to change perceptions of the role of women in British society.

During the war years women took on jobs normally carried out by men and proved they could do the work just as well. Between 1914 and 1918 an estimated two million women replaced men in the workplace. In July 1914 24% of women were in employment. By November 1918 this had increased to 37%.

It was proved that women were capable of jobs beyond those in traditionally ‘female’ roles, such as domestic service. However, employers still deemed that women’s work was worth less than men’s and their pay packets did not match men’s, even for the same jobs.

However, it was not just that women proved themselves equal to men in the workplace that the arguments for the right to vote were strengthened. The continuing work of the suffragist movement and the commitment of the growing Labour Party to widening the franchise were also factors. During 1916-1917, the House of Commons Speaker, James William Lowther, chaired a conference on

electoral reform which recommended limited women’s suffrage.

Before 1918 only about 58% of the adult male population could vote, the remainder were ineligible due to residency qualifications or other restrictions. One of the restrictions stated that only men who had been resident in the country for 12 months prior to a general election were entitled to vote, which excluded a large number of troops who had been serving overseas in the war. With a general election looming politicians decided to extend the vote to all men and – at long last – some women so The Representation of the People Act 1918 was passed.

This Act gave the vote to all men over the age of 21, or 19 for men serving in the armed forces. Women over the age of 30 were given the vote, providing they met a property qualification. This amounted to 8.5 million women, but that was only 40% of the female population.

At the same time another Act was passed; the Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act, which allowed women to stand as candidates and be elected as MPs. The first woman to be elected to the Commons was Constance Markievicz, in the general election of 1918. However, because she was a member of Sinn Fein, she did not take her seat.

The first woman to take her seat was Nancy Astor (Viscountess Astor) after a by-election in December 1919. She was elected as a Conservative for the Plymouth Sutton constituency. She held the seat until she stood down in 1945. Although she had never been involved in campaigns for women’s suffrage, she was a great supporter of the women’s movement once in Parliament.

Her husband, Waldorf Astor, a former MP who had been made a peer, also worked to promote the admission of women to the House of Lords during the 1920s.

## Equal Franchise Act 1928

It was not until the Equal Franchise Act of 1928 that women over 21 were able to vote and women finally achieved the same voting rights as men. This act increased the number of women eligible to vote to 15 million.

Carolynne Mckee

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## David Bowie Benefit Concert - 25th March

**Earthly messenger - David Bowie statue unveiling will take place at 2pm on Sunday 25th March in Aylesbury Market Square. From 12noon there will be a stage with live music and also a screen showing Bowie videos.** That same evening there will be

a special one-off festival at The Waterside Theatre featuring local artists Howard Jones, Marillion, John Otway and The Dung Beatles, all of whom are performing for expenses only. All money raised from this event will go towards the David Bowie Statue Fund, which is still £50k short of covering costs.

David Bowie helped put Friars Aylesbury on the map as one of the country’s top performance venues, along with other great artists such as Genesis, The Police, Wishbone Ash, Mott-The-Hoople, Cockney Rebel and Sailor.

Waterside Theatre: [www.atgtickets.com/shows/benefit-concert-for-earthly-messenger/aylesbury-waterside-theatre/](http://www.atgtickets.com/shows/benefit-concert-for-earthly-messenger/aylesbury-waterside-theatre/)

Friars Aylesbury: [www.aylesburyfriars.co.uk/](http://www.aylesburyfriars.co.uk/)

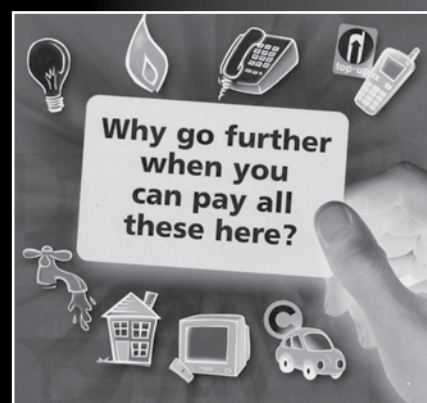
*“Memories are everything apparently, and I have only great ones of the fabulous Friars.”* David Bowie, February 28th 2014.



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## International Women's Day March 8th

**I**nternational Women's Day started in the early 1900s. In many places all over the world women were beginning to protest at the oppression and inequality they had endured for years and they were becoming more active in campaigning for change - including the Suffragettes and Suffragists in England. In 1910 an International Conference of Working Women was held in Copenhagen. Over 100 women from 17 countries took part. The Leader of the Women's Office of the Social Democrat Party in Germany, Clara Zetkin, proposed an International Women's Day. Her idea was that every year, in every country, on the same day, there should be a celebration of women and an opportunity to press for their demands. Her idea was greeted with unanimous approval and IWD was born.

In England the Suffragettes took up the idea and held the first ever International Women's Day on March 8th the following year. Austria, Denmark, Germany and

Switzerland celebrated theirs on March 19th.

In 1913 Russian women celebrated their first IWD on the last Sunday in February. Subsequently, after discussion and agreement, it was decided that IWD should be March 8th across the world.

IWD has continued to expand globally with people taking part in diverse activities to celebrate the progress and achievements of women. In some countries it is a national holiday, and some places have a tradition of children giving flowers and gifts to their mothers and grandmothers on this day – a bit like our Mother's Day.

In 1975 the United Nations became involved and each year they set a theme – this year's is 'Press for Progress' - in recognition that, although gains have been made, there is still much to be done to achieve gender equality.

2011 was the centenary of the first IWD and in the United States the then President, Barack Obama, declared the month of March to be 'Women's History

Month' to reflect on 'the extraordinary accomplishments of women' in shaping the country's history. In the UK, many celebrities, business leaders and charities ran extensive activities to celebrate the centenary.

All around the world people are organising a wide variety of activities from political rallies and business conferences to local craft markets, theatrical performances and fashion parades, to celebrate the social, cultural, political and economic progress that has been made as well as to 'Press for Progress'.

By the time you read this it will be too late to encourage you to organise something for this year, and as I write this it is too early to be aware of what is being organised locally, but I shall be keeping my eyes open for information about what is going on and I hope you will too. For more info [www.internationalwomensday.com](http://www.internationalwomensday.com)

Carolynne McKee



# Our beautiful village and wildlife



**Redwings are members of the Thrush family so called because of the reddish flash on the flank not the wing. They only come to the UK in Autumn and Winter. I've got at least two visiting my garden at present.** I also snapped this picture of a Great Tit and a Blue Tit on a tree on the left just as you enter the lake pathway from Kestrel Way. It was swarming with tits when this photo was taken in mid January; they flit between the tree and the back garden nearby where the lady has some feeders. I took advantage of a sunny day to get these photos. I have also seen Longtailed Tits in my garden.

I saw the elusive Kingfisher sitting on a branch by the little bridge but it moved before I could get my camera out on another day. But I managed to capture this shot of three Roe deer when out on the morning of 7th February when trying to get a good photo of the Kingfisher by the stream.

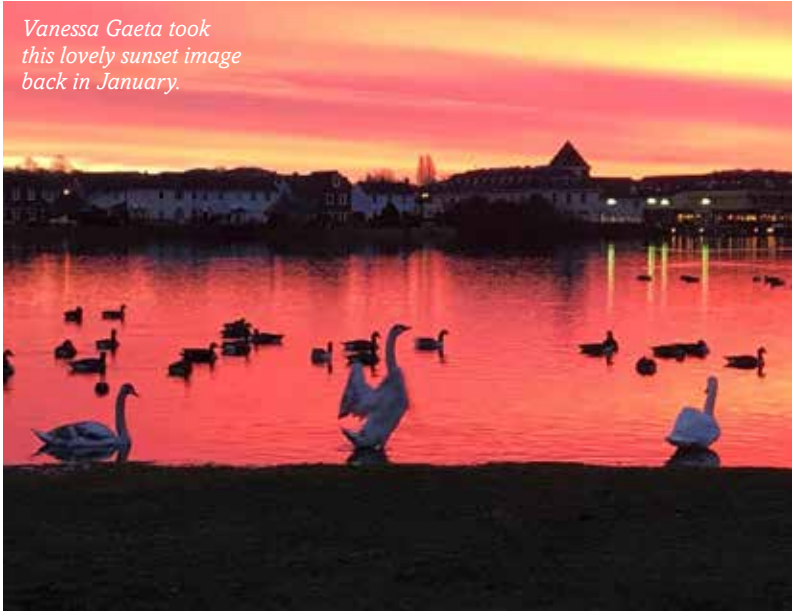
The Chaffinch (below) was also caught on camera by me. Chaffinches are cheerful garden visitors that have been known to live for a remarkable 14 years. Males are recognisable for their pink cheeks and chest and blue-grey nape and crown; both sexes have distinctive white flashes on their wings. During winter European chaffinches migrate to Britain. Curiously it is the females that migrate as the males prefer to remain in northern Europe. These remaining lone males give rise to their Latin name "coelebs" meaning bachelor. Chaffinches are one of the most common birds in Britain with almost six million breeding pairs. Their distinctive, jangling song varies from bird to bird, and there are even regional dialects in different parts of the UK. [www.bbc.co.uk/nature/life/Chaffinch](http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/life/Chaffinch). *Eric Rose*



Glenn Smith captured this wonderful picture of the Blue Supermoon on the night of 31st January 2018 above the Piazza.



When Joel Harthill was asked to help rescue a Kingfisher trapped in the netting at the small lake edge he didn't hesitate. His feet got very wet, his fingers were nipped by the frightened bird, but he carefully snipped the wire until the bird flew away - a moving moment for the onlookers. Well done Joel!



Vanessa Gaeta took this lovely sunset image back in January.



A local resident, Daphne Reid, took this photo back in December during the snow fall.



# My Watermead and Weedon WI story

**Almost four years ago I was Approaching retirement, earlier than planned following an accident. My family and I realised that I would have a lot of time to fill the void of a busy professional life.** I had thought for a while about joining the WI as my mother had been a member for about 50 years. During a casual chat at my aqua aerobics class at Reflections gym, I heard about the WI supplying mince pies for the Watermead carol concert. On hearing my interest I was invited to the next meeting.

To be totally honest I wasn't enthralled with the first couple of meetings probably due to the fact I only knew one member and I don't find it easy to circulate and make friends. I decided to persevere and soon found that I was looking forward to the meetings.

I then started to join in the extra activities. I enjoyed the day trips out to such places as Bletchley Park and Craft shows. I went to the craft afternoons where I now knit items for the Special Baby Unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. We all take part in various crafts and at the same time chat to each other and enjoy tea and cake.

Since then I have joined in quiz nights, a murder mystery evening, jigsaw challenges and workshops on such things as rag rug making.

Last year I went on a wonderful holiday to Norfolk organised by the Bucks Federation of the WI and I am looking forward to going with them to the West Country in May this year.

Just over a year ago our committee were desperate to recruit new members and almost overnight I was elected onto the committee. I am totally enjoying this new role.

As far as my family are concerned,

whilst pleased that I am filling my time and enjoying myself, they are a little frustrated that often when they request help with child and dog sitting I have to decline due to my WI commitments.

We meet in the Watermead Village Hall in the Piazza on the first Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. Please feel free to drop in and visit us, tea and biscuits always supplied.

*Sue Patamia*

## **Forthcoming programme for WI meetings:**

**1st March** - 'Silk For Sundays' Yvonne Bell will show us how she paints on silk to make church vestments. Bring & Buy for the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW)

**5th April** - 'Ikebana – the art of Japanese flower arranging' with Ruriko Kojima

**10th May** - Resolutions Evening - with food – and a game of Bingo

**7th June** - 'Aromatherapy – the power of plants' A talk by Maria Greenhill

*If you are thinking that 2018 might be the year you join WI, we meet in Watermead Village Hall on the first Thursday of each month with the exception of August when we meet for lunch in a local restaurant. Exceptionally in May we meet on the 2nd Thursday due to the Village Hall being used on the first Thursday in May as a venue for voting when an election is held. Visitors and prospective members are welcome at all our meetings and contact details for Committee members are available under What's On on page 8. We look forward to seeing you!*

## The Pace Big Walk - Saturday 21st April

**The Pace Big Walk is back! Are you going to join us and help transform the lives of disabled children?**

Choice of three routes:

- Dunstable Downs to Wendover (approx. 18 miles)
- Ivinghoe Beacon to Wendover (approx. 12 miles)
- Wigginton to Wendover (approx. 6 miles)

Registration will take place in Wendover, where parking will be available, then walkers will be shuttled to their chosen starting point by coach.

The start times are as follows:

- Dunstable Downs - 8am
- Ivinghoe Beacon - 12 noon
- Wigginton - 3pm

(Please note that these are the times you are scheduled to start the walk. You will need to allow time to register for the shuttle service to your start point - you will receive more information after you register.)

The walks are guided and there will be a team supplying drinks and snacks and plenty of motivation on route.

Refreshments, snacks and a warm, celebratory welcome will greet you at the end of the walk.

For more information or to sign up contact Kelly on 01296 616973 or kelly.houghton@thepacecentre.org.

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-big-walk-tickets-41048630559

# About ticks and how to deal with them

**As spring comes upon us, so do the ticks and various other parasites. Ticks are most common in spring and autumn, and are common in woodland and grassland areas.** Ticks are from the same family as the spider, and are distributed all over the world, so it is particularly important to keep those pets that are travelling up to date with tick protection.

Tick's find their host by resting on grass and scrubs, and climb or drop onto the host when they brush past where the tick is waiting. They can't fly or jump, so must come in contact to attach to the host. Once on the host, they attach and feed on blood, and engorge over 72 hours and can multiply to twice its original size.

Ticks can often go unnoticed as they can inject local anaesthetic in the area they feed from and can hide between the fur. It is ideal to check pets daily, especially after walks where they could have picked any ticks up. They are easy to spot and feel like a bump on the skin. They vary from 1mm to over 1cm, and are grey and oval in shape.

Ticks can cause disease by transmitting bacteria and microbes when they bite an animal or human, so rapid removal is optimal. When removing a tick it is

important not to squeeze the tick (as this can flush blood back into the animal and increase the risk of infection) or leave its head and mouthparts in the animals skin. There are handy tick removal devices that allows the entire tick to be removed which makes this less likely. Alternatively, visit the vets and we can remove the tick and show you how to do it next time. It is also a good idea to wash the area where the tick was afterwards.

A tick can cause a reaction from where they bite or where the mouthparts are left in. There may be signs of irritation such as redness, scratching and self-trauma. Your animal may need some medication from the vets, or removal if this is the case.

Ticks can carry infections such as Lyme disease and Babesia. Lyme disease is a serious bacterial infection, which can affect humans as well as dogs. Symptoms in dogs tend to be lethargy, inappetence, fever and swollen joints. Babesia is a rare disease currently only found in southern England. Symptoms can remain vague for up to a year and include lack of energy, inappetence, pale gums and weight loss. Although these diseases are uncommon, it is important to mention a previous tick bite to your vet if your pet becomes ill.

There are many tick treatments available to repel or kill them if they attach. These include 'spot ons', tablets and collars. The most reputable are only available from a veterinary surgery, such as:

- Seresto collars (dogs and cats) prevent against fleas and ticks, and provide protection for up to 8 months.
- Advantix (for dogs only) is a 'spot on' which is applied monthly, which protects against fleas, ticks, lice, sandflies and mosquitoes.
- Bravecto for protection against fleas and ticks, repeated every 12 weeks. 'Spot on' for cats and a tablet for dogs.
- Effipro 'spot on' (dogs and cats) is a monthly 'spot on' that kills both fleas and ticks.

While these do a great job, they can't be guaranteed to be 100% effective, so regular monitoring is optimal.

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

# Places to eat

**Here are some more good places to eat that have been recommended in and around Aylesbury:**

**Five Arrows Restaurant, Waddesdon**  
Newly refurbished the restaurant has been extended and has a great ambiance. We enjoyed a set Christmas menu which was reasonably priced and food was delicious. Seasonal menus use fresh local ingredients to produce modern European dishes and favourite British classics.

**Farmyard Café, Bucks Goat Centre**  
This little café is very nice for morning coffee, informal lunch including children's menu, or afternoon tea. They also offer traditional Sunday roasts and every other month on the second Sunday there will also be a live traditional Jazz band to accompany

your lunch. Booking is advised. Call 01296 612983.

## **Los Tres Corazones, Wendover**

Enjoyed tapas one evening before Christmas with my Spanish conversation class. Little dishes of various types of Spanish food were presented one after the other until we could eat no more! I particularly enjoyed both types of prawns.

## **The Thatch, Thame**

This classic gastropub housed in a 16th century building has an excellent reputation for good food, wine, ales and cocktails. I met a friend there for lunch in January and thoroughly enjoyed two starters, scallops and a duck salad which were both divine! There are different rooms including a bar, a snug and a conservatory.



*Please keep sharing your good experiences of eating places you have enjoyed. Contact the Editor at mary.singleton@watermead-pc.gov.uk*



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# Re-stocking of fish in the ornamental Lake



The Piscatorials reported that fish stocks in the lake had significantly diminished to the extent that the fishermen were unable to secure a catch. It was thought that it was due to low water levels and the clarity of the water. It is possible that Cormorants may be partly responsible. Last year a barrier was built under the bridge between the main lake and the ornamental lake to stem the flow of fish from the smaller lake into the large lake which is not owned by the Parish Council. The Environment Agency were consulted and we were lucky that there was a stock of fish available to restock our lake. Some 6,000 Roach and 4,000 Bream from Calverton Fish Farm were released into the lake on Monday 27th November 2017. Jack Hammond ,Chairman of Watermead Piscatorials, and John from the Works Party Piscatorials Sunday Anglers assisted with this operation.

## Watermead Piscatorials

Watermead Piscatorials are again looking for new members to join them. The club is run by a committee. You do not need to be experienced, as the existing members are more than able to offer advice and help to any new members.

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

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

It costs £10 to join the club and then £40 per year. If you want to have a go before committing yourself the Parish Clerk has a one-day ticket to fish. To find out more contact the Piscatorial Treasurer Don Smith: don.smith33@hotmail.co.uk or 07790 481232.

# Life with the Aylesbury Lions

The last issue of Village View included an article about the Aylesbury Lions Club and we thought that you might like an update on our recent activities. In November we sold flashing wands and collars on Firework Night at the Stoke Mandeville Community Centre. This was followed by a busy period beginning with a two-day can collection at the Tring Road Tesco store to raise funds for Christmas parcels which were distributed to over 50 local residents and to the Women's Refuge. At the beginning of December we heated mince pies and mulled wine which was served to the congregation at the Town Mayor's carol concert. We had planned to supply hot chestnuts in the Market Square for the Town Council's festive fun day but this did not happen due to the terrible weather that weekend. The New Year sees us preparing to raffle 24 large Easter Eggs which will soon appear in local businesses. The main beneficiaries this year will be the Florence Nightingale Hospice and Bucks Young Carers. On 21st April we will be holding an evening concert in St Mary's Church when the Aylesbury Symphonic Wind Band will entertain us. The band is made up of a collection of highly accomplished musicians who will be providing a wide range of music. The church provides a wonderful venue for this type of concert and an added bonus is that a glass of wine or a soft drink will be provided during the interval. Tickets are £12 and are available from Ron Syrratt 01296 484492 or John Binstead 01844 291039. A limited number will be on available at the door on the night. Aylesbury Lions are a friendly Club which meets in the Aylesbury Town Council Chamber at 8pm on the first Wednesday of the month. Why not come along and meet us. www.aylesburylions.org.uk

# National Police Chief Council's campaign

Families talk of the devastation caused by drivers on mobile phones as police launch week of action against driver distraction. Thames Valley and Hampshire's Joint Roads Policing Unit carried out a week of enforcement activity in January specifically targeting drivers using hand-held mobile phones, with the aim of drawing attention to the risks posed by being distracted while in control of a vehicle.

Ion Calin and his friend and work colleague, Marian Olteanu, were killed instantly when a lorry ploughed into their stationary car on the M271 in December 2015. The lorry driver was distracted using his mobile phone. Their families' lives have been devastated by the impact of this lorry driver's irresponsible and dangerous act. They have bravely shared their story to help raise awareness of the lethal consequence of driving whilst using a mobile phone, with the plea for those that continue to

text, surf the web, use apps and more, behind the wheel to stop. In March 2017 the law changed that meant drivers now receive six points on their driving licence and receive a £200 fine. These changes will have a significant impact on young new drivers as they risk having their licence revoked on first offence. Road Safety Sergeant Chris Appleby, from the Joint Operations Roads Policing Unit for Hampshire and Thames Valley Police, said: "We are still seeing too many people deciding to take that risk to use their mobile phone whilst driving, whether looking at a text, making and receiving calls or even surfing the internet. Doing any of these will clearly impair and distract your ability to drive a vehicle safely. Research has shown that talking on a mobile phone can impair your ability to drive more than if you were driving whilst over the drink drive limit. You are twice as likely to be involved in a fatal collision texting as drink driving. You are much less aware of what's

happening around you and fail to see road signs, maintain a proper lane position or a steady speed. Drivers end up feeling more stressed and frustrated and are more likely to 'tailgate' the vehicle in front or enter unsafe gaps in traffic." Drivers are four times more likely to be involved in a collision whilst using a mobile phone or being distracted in a vehicle and your reactions are 50% slower. Chris adds: "I am urging all motorists to not take that risk. A moments inattention can be the difference between life and death. We have all seen the devastation caused by those who take the risks. Please think twice before answering a call, looking at a text or browsing your phone. Let's have no more innocent people lose their life. My advice is to turn your phone off whilst driving, put it out of reach, and out of view. This way you won't be tempted to look at it and become distracted. It's not worth the risk."

- The Facts**
- You're four times more likely to crash if you use a mobile phone while driving
  - You are twice as likely to be involved in a fatal collision texting as you are drink driving
  - Reaction times for drivers using a phone are around 50% slower than normal driving
  - Even careful drivers can be distracted by a call or text – and a split-second lapse in concentration could result in a crash
- Law**
- It's illegal to ride a motorcycle or drive using hand-held phones or similar devices.
  - The rules are the same if you're stopped at traffic lights or queuing in traffic.
  - It's also illegal to use a hand-held phone or similar device when supervising a learner driver or rider.

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

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# Blossoming

“Is that it now? Are you sure you’ve got everything you need?”

“Yes, I’m sure” answered Lindsey, with a note of irritation in her voice. Then, as if regretting it, she gave her mum a hug. “I’m sure” she said gently.

“You’ve got quite a nice view anyway” Sue said, using the words carefully to maintain her composure.

“Don’t suppose I’ll get much time for appreciating the view”

Sue looked round the small room, taking in the worn carpet; the old-fashioned curtains that didn’t co-ordinate with anything; the rickety wardrobe. She picked absentmindedly at the lime scale around the taps on the washbasin beside it and breathing in the musty smell of the much-splashed bathmat beneath it made a mental note to buy a replacement. Then she noticed the bed.

“How on earth are you supposed to sleep on that, it’s barely two feet wide” she said, with a tone that might have sounded to a listener like alarm, but was in fact a moment’s excited anticipation at the prospect of an excuse not to leave Lindsay here.

“You don’t sleep on it like that,” said Lindsay. “You just pull it out from under the cupboardy-shelf bit, and as if by magic, it’s a bed. Ta da!” She demonstrated with a flourish. “Clever isn’t it?”

There was a moment’s silence, broken by the sound of running footsteps and excited screaming from the corridor outside.

“Why don’t I make us a cup of tea before you set off.” Lindsay left the room and went into the kitchen, with its three fridges, three cookers, several kettles and toasters, conveniently situated next to her room.

Left alone Sue surveyed the room again. Lindsay had already started putting her things out and it was strange to see such familiar objects in such alien surroundings.

“Set off,” she thought. “Why did she say ‘set off’? Not go. Is she finding the word go painful, like I am? Setting off sounds hopeful. Going sounds like the end.”

Sue didn’t want tea; she was well aware Lindsay didn’t either. But she knew her only child well enough to realise it was her way of creating a natural barrier, to protect her mother from a painful drawn out parting. Before tea; you are here. After tea; you are gone. Sue was grateful.

It was less than an hour’s drive home. The first thing Sue did was go up to Lindsay’s room. It felt different. There was no feel of Lindsay about it. She sat down on the bed and picked up the glove puppet that had been her comfort since childhood, until she had passed it on to her daughter. Had Lindsay forgotten it – or did she leave it on purpose? Sue remembered her sister’s words. “They never really come back, you keep their rooms for them, but they never really come back.”

She went downstairs to the living room and loosed her grip on the tears that she had contained for Lindsay’s sake. Her husband Stan looked at her uncomprehendingly.

“She’s gone to university. She’s not dead, you know.”

“I am.” Sue replied and felt she had been for quite some time.

She held the puppet to her face and remembered the last time it had brought her comfort.

“Suzie! Suzie! Come down darling, there’s still so much to do.”

Suzie sat on her bed holding the glove puppet that had been her constant companion since her grandmother had given it to her on her fifth birthday. It was white with embroidered black features. No-one had ever been able to determine quite what animal it was supposed to represent, but to Suzie it was just ‘Friendly’. She couldn’t remember a time when she hadn’t told it all her secrets and worries.

“Suzie!”

Her mother’s voice seemed to come from far away.

“Oh Friendly, what am I going to do? How did this happen? I never meant to get this far. I just didn’t want to disappoint him, he’d made it all so romantic, how could I say ‘no’. It was supposed to be our secret. I meant to tell him I couldn’t marry him – as soon as I’d thought up a reason that wouldn’t hurt too much. But he didn’t keep it secret, he told all his friends, his family. How could I humiliate him? So I had to tell Mum, couldn’t let her hear from his Mum, and once she knew - well she just took over, everything snowballed.”

The door burst open.

“What on earth are you doing just lying here, you’re getting married in less than 48 hours.”

Suzie burst into tears.

“Oh come on now.” All irritation had left her mother’s voice and she sat Suzie up and put her arms around her.

“Everything will be all right. Everyone feels like this, it’s just nerves.”

“Mum. No, it’s not nerves. Mum there’s something I’ve got to tell you.”

“Are you pregnant? Never mind, no-one will know. I hadn’t suspected so I’m sure...”

“No, no. I’m not pregnant. I don’t...I can’t ... I’m not sure I want to marry Stan, I don’t think I can go through with it. I know I’m making a terrible mistake.”

Her mother withdrew her comforting arms and sat upright.

“Is there somebody else?”

“No, no.”

“What then? What is so important that you can even consider doing this to me?”

Suzie stared at her mother.

“To you?”

“And Stan. And everyone who’s coming, bought you presents, bought themselves new clothes, taken time off work, travelled miles. I could go on.” She was standing up now.

Suzie had expected her mother to be understanding and supportive, like she had always been. But she was angry and showing it. In those few moments a

detachment had taken place and Suzie was alone with her despair.

“Look, everyone has doubts. Everyone. I’ll give you a while to pull yourself together, but you must come downstairs soon. There’s loads still to do.”

Dismissed. Just like that. Not even a moment’s consideration that she might actually be making the worst mistake of her life. The energy drained out of her body and she felt empty inside. Empty inside. Now she knew why that was a cliché – because it so neatly summed up this feeling. She picked up Friendly, but in the last few minutes she had outgrown him.

Stan continued to ignore her, a habit he seemed to have developed over the years, just as Sue had ignored all other strategies to deflect her regular inexplicable tears. How was he to know that she was grieving for some lost unknown other life? In the early days she had tried really hard to love Stan as much as he deserved to be loved, but then Lindsay came along and their life had taken on a new focus.

The ‘phone rang and jolted her out of her unhappy reverie.

“Hi Mum. Just checking you got home okay.”

“Yes. Fine. It was a nice clear run, no problems. You settling in all right?”

“Yeah, not bad. Have met a few people in halls, they seem ok. We’re all gonna go out later, check out the town and all the fresher’s deals in the pubs and stuff, it’s well cheap.”

Sue could hear people talking in the background, she could feel the confidence and excited anticipation in her daughter’s voice. It was contagious, Sue felt - uplifted.

“Do you miss me yet?” Lindsay asked cheerfully.

Sue turned and looked at Stan, his head buried in the sports pages.

“Yes. The place is empty without you.”

But now there was a lightness in her voice.

“Gotta go now Mum. I’ll call again tomorrow. Love you!”

Sue remembered her sister’s words again. ‘They never really come back.’ The tears had gone from her eyes, now they gleamed with hope and eagerness. She had her life back, she could do anything, start a business perhaps, or do a degree. At last she had found the courage that had deserted her 20 years ago.

She walked over to where Stan was sitting and gently pulled the newspaper from his grasp. Kneeling on the floor in front of him she took hold of his hands and looked up into his bewildered expression. This new awareness of her own freedom was somehow freeing her to recognise that, after all, she had developed a deep affection for this kind and solid partner. She would introduce her new self to him gently. Stroking his face, she said “Stan... we need to talk...”

Carolynne McKee

# Sally’s Blog

**Happy New Year! I wasn’t able to do my BLOG for Christmas because my humans were too busy with the crematorium planning.** I missed being here, but I did get lots of messages asking if I was alright and hoping I had a good Christmas. I did, thank you, although I wasn’t allowed to go to the Carol Concert this year because my howling is, apparently, out of tune. I am trying very hard to improve my singing and hope to be allowed to come this year. Although this will only be if I don’t howl. Aren’t humans odd? I concentrate hard on being as hilarious as possible as well.



## More dogs

In January I received some very exciting news! A distant cousin was moving to Watermead.



He is a young pup of 7 months and he is my editor's new dog. His name is Ronnie, and we are already firm friends. I think he might be better behaved than

me but we will soon sort that out. Ronnie has qualified for Crufts but the humans are going without us so I take it he’s not entering Gundogs. I gave that up; I was not a great success at Gundog training. My view is that if you threw it, you pick it up! When picking up my soft toys I get so excited I have trouble dropping them. This is obviously not my forte.

## A new kitchen

I have no idea why but I went downstairs one day and someone had stolen the kitchen. There were some very nice men in the kitchen making a lot of noise. This went on for several days. I investigated and found out that there were lots of nails and screws, pieces of pipe and wire to steal which meant they had to stop work and get them back from me in case I swallowed them. I don’t understand why they didn’t want my help. I needed a bath after the work was finished but you won’t believe what else I had to put up with...The new ovens, sink, hob, cupboards and the contents of the old cupboards were placed around my crate. Imagine having to sleep with a sink on your roof – it was slightly surreal. It’s finished now.

Work has improved too with a new friend coming to work with my human called Maisy – she is great fun and we play



together and shred lots of paper. We are particularly efficient at this - here we are trying to look angelic.



# Watermead Pub Lunch Club

**How would you like to go out to lunch once a month, meet friends and make new ones whilst enjoying an inexpensive but delicious lunch?** The Launch of the Pub Lunch Club at the Watermead Inn took place on Wednesday 13th December 2017 and was much enjoyed by the 24 people who attended. Kelvin provided a wonderful menu with three choices of main course, including a traditional Christmas turkey meal and a vegetarian option, and three choices of dessert. All for just £8. We also enjoyed the Christmas decorations and we pulled crackers and laughed together at the silly jokes inside. One couple met another and found that they had lived opposite each other for some years and had not spoken until that day. It really was a joyous occasion!

Word got around and 33 people attended our January lunch and we are expecting about the same number in February. We had to move the February lunch to the 7th because the following week coincided with Valentine’s Day which is a busy day for the pub and restaurant.

Llew Monger, the facilitator of Pub Lunch Clubs at Community Impact Bucks, commented on the excellent quality and choice of food provided by Kelvin and the wonderful service given by his team. He said that it was one of the best he had attended.

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.

If you would like to come to the monthly lunch which is held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 12.30pm 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 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.





# I remember you when....

**A prominent public figure who found himself serving time in jail remarked how sad he was that his name will always be associated with that pivotal moment when he let himself and his family down.** But in a much more light-hearted sense, I suppose we all have to live with the way the past can, as we say, come back to haunt us. When we think we've escaped it there's always someone who comes along and says, 'I remember you when'.

No matter how much I pretend that it wasn't really me in that photograph taken back in the early 1980's with the embarrassing haircut, wispy moustache and dressed in what was then considered the height of fashion, if only I had known it would later come back to bite me; the camera is sometimes excruciatingly truthful!

We can live with these things, of course, but sometimes we want those who remember us back then to appreciate that this is not the whole story. We want them to know that this one moment doesn't tell them everything about us and that people can and do change and grow.

But for some of us the world can be less than kind. This, I believe is where our faith in the resurrection of Christ is so important.

In one of his letters, St. Paul says: "So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Colossians 3.1-4).

In effect he's saying that when it comes to those things we'd rather forget; to say 'I believe in the resurrection' means that all of my life, warts and all, is caught up in the grace of God.

Or as Paul puts it: 'hidden with Christ in God'. In other words, we don't have to pretend. We don't have to deny the past, and what is more we can live knowing that the past does not define us. What is past may be true, part of us, perhaps regrettable but in a real sense it is gone and no longer defines or has a hold over us. It can no longer hold us back from becoming the fully alive person God calls us to be. The one pivotal moment that does matter is the resurrection of Christ and the love of God which accepts, embraces and transforms us.

Whatever the skeletons in our closet, we are defined, and we gain our sense of who we are, not from these moments that others or our conscience will not let us forget. No,

what matters is the pivotal moment when Christ died and rose again. To know that his death and resurrection were 'for us' is to know that we are his, no matter how unforgiving or forgetful others may be, we are his.

This is all that matters, we are his, no matter how many times others may say 'I remember you when.....'

It would be lovely to welcome you all to one of the services during the Easter season which begins on Easter Day the 1st April. Please look at our website [www.biertonhulcottchurches.org](http://www.biertonhulcottchurches.org) for further information.

*Revd Mark Ackford, Vicar of the Parish of Bierton and Hulcott*

## Answers to Tea Break Quiz on page 04

1. Lake Superior, 2. A Mackintosh, 3. String, 4. Greenland, 5. Liverpool, Glasgow, Newcastle and London, 6. Katherine Hepburn - 4 Oscars and 12 nominations, 7. Tulips, 8. Yellow, 9. A bishop, 10. Five, 11. The Mona Lisa, 12. Egg yolk, 13. Catherine of Aragon, 14. 1979, 15. The Merchant of Venice, 16. George, 17. Up to 75,000 flowers, which is enough to fill an entire football pitch, 18. Red, yellow and blue, 19. Dom Perignon, 20. Amazon

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# Resolution Run

## 5k

#MyResolution

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