

VillageView

WATERMEAD'S *FREE* QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

Summer 2017 Vol.24 Issue 2

May Fair 2017

Sunday 28th May
from 10.30am to 4.30pm
Balloon Meadow

Annual Review

See page 3 for our report

Honey bee swarms are
important



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



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Parish Chairman's Annual Review May 2017

Thanks to everyone in our community of Watermead for supporting the Parish Council in what has proved to be another challenging year. We have steadily worked towards our goal of stopping the thoroughly appalling crematorium development. Much has been achieved to date:

The planning permission has been quashed by the Court of Appeal. Our next community challenge is to see off the proposal to build flats in the Piazza car park. In common with other parishes we are vulnerable to inappropriate and speculative applications to build.

Planning matters are dealt with in detail later in this report.

An enormous vote of thanks to my councillor colleagues. I would like to acknowledge the support given to me and to the community by our effective and dedicated team, all of whom remain fully committed to public service and to making sure Watermead remains a special and pleasant place to live.

We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Noreen Shardlow, our Parish Clerk who, once again, has worked, on a voluntary basis, for countless hours, to help prepare our legal case

against the crematorium. She is supported by Michelle Jackson our assistant clerk. Cllr Irina Schwab has offered legal expertise and professional legal services, charging highly discounted fees and doing much work free of charge, and ensuring our Counsel, Richard Kimblin QC has all the information needed, thus making further savings.

Thank you to Mary Singleton, Editor, and her team of hard-working volunteers who produce Village View which is so much enjoyed by residents and others. Our former advertising manager, Chris Cooling, has moved away, but Phil Toler is already proving a great asset as his successor. Our advertisers make it possible to publish the magazine, please support them. If you would like to advertise please get in touch (see page 08).

Our list of those to thank includes many volunteers who have helped us throughout the year with leaflets and Village View delivery, the Christmas Fair and Carol Concert as well as litter picking. Special thanks to Dave Lang and Graham Severn for their continuing efforts in keeping Watermead clean and tidy by litter-picking and reporting damage. Thanks also to everyone who helps

to keep us looking our best. Picking up stray pieces of litter and removing weeds from paths and road gutters outside your own property makes a real difference. It would be too expensive to employ a contractor to do this work on a regular basis – everything helps.

The way we work and communicate

Our channels of communication include our noticeboards, website, leaflets and Village View magazine. We have a team of helpers who deliver leaflets and this works, as evidenced by our having managed to deliver a leaflet to every home over a single weekend in response to the recent Piazza car park planning application. Please keep an eye on the noticeboards in the Piazza tunnel, on the main road by the telephone box and on our website.

It is also very useful if you join our mailing list (email noreen.shardlow@watermeadpc.gov.uk) or join via the Contact Us link on the website www.watermead-pc.gov.uk. The PC does not have a Facebook or Twitter page, and communicates directly.

Community Groups are warmly encouraged to keep in touch. Cllr Mary Singleton is always pleased to receive articles and



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noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk



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

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Tea Break Quiz



1. In which year were Premium Bonds first issued?
2. In the film 'The Lady in the Van' she was the longstanding occupant of which English playwright's front drive?
3. In which English county did the 1963 Great Train Robbery take place?
4. Who wrote the novel 'Robinson Crusoe'?
5. What is the name of the 'Checkpoint' in Berlin which served as a symbol of the Iron Curtain?
6. In the Shakespeare play 'Macbeth' who kills Macbeth?
7. In human anatomy, what is the name of the wall that separates the nostrils?
8. Who played Dudley Moore's butler in the 1981 film 'Arthur'?
9. A sou was a coin of low value in which European country?
10. Pyongyang is the capital of which country?
11. Which English pirate radio station was founded by Ronan O'Rahilly in 1964?
12. Which English cricketer was known as 'Fiery Fred'?
13. 'It was a bright, cold day in April and the clocks were striking thirteen' is the opening line of which novel?
14. Which English coastal resort is known as 'London-by-the-sea'?
15. What does a sphygmomanometer measure? Muscle growth, Foot size, Blood pressure, Hair length.
16. Vectis was the Roman name for which island off the coast of Britain?
17. What was the name of the Belfast shipyard in which RMS Titanic was built?
18. The Great Red Storm is a feature of which planet? Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune, Uranus
19. What was the name of the London pub in which gangster Ronnie Kray murdered George Cornell in March 1966?
20. Who wrote the play 'The Iceman Cometh'?

Answers on page 09

...page 03

information about local groups for Village View. You can come to the Parish Council meetings on the third Thursday of each month (except August and December) where we have a public session at the beginning. Our meetings start at 7.30pm and agendas are published on the noticeboard and website.

We work closely with both the County and District councils through our local councillors and by attending briefings, planning meetings and discussing matters relating to Watermead with officers and other councillors.

Issues and Challenges

Crematorium

It is, to say the least, extremely disappointing that our Local Authority (AVDC) has not enforced the Court of Appeal Judgement, but we will do absolutely everything in our power to stop the crematorium. We will not give up now. Our community has joined together to support us in this fight. You will be aware by now that the Court of Appeal Judgement has meant we have recovered all legal fees spent in the case to date.

The fight continues. The developer must now submit new documentation. You will understand that detailed information will only become available when the new application documents are submitted by the applicants. Updated information and details of how to comment, when the committee meeting will be, and how to help will be sent to all on our emailing list, on our website and via leaflets in due course.

Piazza car park

The highly speculative and inappropriate application to build flats in the Piazza car park has been met with much dismay. Over 200 letters of objection have been submitted to AVDC via the planning portal, and the PC has responded in detail to the application, objecting strongly, reflecting the views of our community.

In respect of the planning process there is no more to be done until all statutory consultees have responded, the officer's report is to hand and any committee meeting date is confirmed. Once this

is known we will pass on the information to all and hope that as many residents as possible will attend the meeting to support our speakers who will set out the parish position and objection on behalf of all. It is very important that this action is carefully orchestrated and planned and that we make the most of the short time available to speak by choosing speakers, agreeing the detailed objections are made based on planning law. Any necessary legal advice will be given.

The issue of the Piazza car park application has arisen following a report by the freeholders that extensive repairs and maintenance work is required to the shops and flats involving costs in the region of half a million pounds plus. Businesses and residents were contacted by the managing agents last year who advised that the work was needed and commenced the process of consulting. Properties are owned leasehold and the freeholders have suggested that if the property owners agreed to a variation in their leases to allow car parking arrangements to be altered they would, effectively, offer to absorb a proportion of the repair bills.

The Parish Council was made aware of this and is extremely concerned, not least because our valued shops and services could, potentially, be lost if costs are uneconomic. To date we have obtained Counsel's Opinion regarding the legal position of the commercial leaseholders. This is now to hand. Once again, we need to know the result of the planning application before further action can be taken. The flat owners formed a residents' association to represent their views to the freeholders and to oppose the development.

The absence of an Aylesbury Vale Local Plan remains a persistent concern. Following the planning White Paper it was further delayed but is expected to be sent for consultation this summer. However, Watermead was identified in the original VALP as being unsuitable for any future development and this part of the Plan has been considered as a 'retained' policy in recent planning determinations.

Devolved services and highways

We remain frustrated by the very poor condition of roads in Buckinghamshire. The County Council have reduced repair programmes further with less technicians on the ground and no money to repair potholes and road damage. For the moment the rising bollards in Lark Vale are working.

Land

As previously reported we have been trying to obtain grant funding for some time to fund anti-erosion work to the banks of the large lake by the Memorial Garden and the closed wildlife copse. We have not been successful and given the urgency of the work the PC resolved to borrow some of the cost from the Public Works Loan Board. This effectively means we borrow the money, at highly advantageous annuity rates from the government, repaying capital and interest over time, but allowing us to have the work completed before we lose more of the banks. County Councillor Netta Glover was able to donate £400 towards the cost of the works. We hope that the solution being installed will save the bank for many years, and provide a ramp for geese and other wading birds to use which will stop the erosion. If dog owners let their dogs into the lake please ensure they use the slide once it has been installed. Dogs also cause damage to the banks.

Our ground works team work tirelessly to keep our land in good condition, as well as the grass verges. Repairs are undertaken year-round, with a planned programme of work to trees to ensure our wildlife and nesting habitats are protected and fences are maintained. We have had incidents of people breaking into wildlife areas and disturbing nests; we lost a moorhen nest last week. We now have an agreement in place with the Neighbourhood Police team to ensure that this behaviour is prevented with trespassers being removed from these areas. Nesting birds are protected by law.

A delightful series of images has been given to us by Eric Rose and Irina Schwab showing

the ducklings and now cygnets. There is also a video provided by videographer Colin Baker on the website showing our wildlife on the website.

Parish Precept

Our Parish Precept (council tax payable to Watermead Parish Council) was set at £73,125 an overall increase of 2.99% for the current financial year, costing an average Band D household £1.46 per week. To confirm, no increase for legal fees has been made in any year. The small increase this year is to cover increased costs of maintenance and other work.

Community activities

Our Christmas Fair and Carol Concert in December were, as ever, a huge success. We raised a significant sum for charity and enjoyed singing carols led by Safe Sax, our Christmas band. It was a very wet night but this did nothing to dampen attendees' enthusiasm. Father Christmas was his usual jolly self, handing out presents and having his photograph taken many times, ably assisted by his local elves. Our thanks to Mary Singleton for organising the carols and and her WI colleagues for making the usual delicious snacks with warming mulled wine, such a feature of Christmas in Watermead.

The May Fair organised by Kelvin and Nicky Wong of the Watermead Inn was a huge success. The May Queen presided over the day and as well as a good selection of craft stalls visitors enjoyed Maypole dancing, Morris Men and many other activities with food and drink available. The Watermead 'Bake Off' provided some stiff competition for cakes on a May Day theme and the judging panel had a hard job deciding the winner. The Parish Council lent the services of our own Mary Queen of Cakes (Mary Singleton) to the judging panel. The day was such a success I am pleased to say that it will be held again this year on Sunday 28th May.

Best allotment competition

Our allotments continue to be a much-loved facility, with all plots now let. A competition for the best allotment, judged by

Eric Rose, was keenly contested and won by Graham Howse. The produce is great and sold at occasional sales during the year which benefits all.

The Piscatorials continue to rent, manage and bailiff the small lake. They have their difficulties and water levels and fish stocks have been low. The Piscatorials do have some memberships available, the joining fee is just £10 and subscription £40 a year. If you would like to try before you join the Parish Clerk has day tickets available.

The Christmas lights competition was also keenly fought with many of us lighting up our front gardens. We can probably be seen from space! The winner this year was Mr and Mrs Lenander of 3 Watermeadow. Their beautiful red and gold display was enjoyed and commented on by so many people. Frank and Jeanette Glynn, last year's winners, once again did a fantastic job winning the special award. It has been decided that each year a new winner will be chosen but previous winners are encouraged to build on past efforts.

Irina Schwab also suggested a **summer gardens competition**, to be judged at the end of July – the judging panel will tour Watermead at the end of July and winners will be announced during August.

We can't enter the Best Kept Village Competition because we do not have a church or village green, but we can have our own.

Our hanging baskets will be installed shortly which always make Watermead look very welcoming during summer.

Cricket event

Julian Gent is working with the Bucks County Cricket Board and Watermead Village Cricket Club (WVCC) to arrange a summer cricket event this year. Details will be available shortly, but it will be a great day out for all the family, with the opportunity for young cricketers to have a go and older hands to offer the benefit of their experience. Memberships are available. Please email watermeadcricket@aol.com or visit the website www.watermeadvillagecricketclub.weebly.com where you can register your interest.

The Extraordinary General Meeting held in April proved popular with over 30 new members joining and committee members elected.

Fundraising

We were delighted to welcome The Stroke Association to Watermead for the first time for their Resolution Run which raised the astonishing sum of £13,337 (see page 12). A thoroughly enjoyable, if muddy, day with elite runners showing the rest of us up and a warm

up hosted by Phil Gomm and the Reflexions gym.

The MacMillan Coffee

Morning, organised by Marcia Lang was, once again, a great success. As well as raising funds for MacMillan neighbours enjoy the opportunity to meet and the event is always very much enjoyed by those attending.

Community activities are warmly encouraged. They play a large part in making Watermead such a good place to live whether it be the WI, arts and crafts activities, exercise classes or events.

THE COMING YEAR...

Statistics from our **Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS)** already prove that we have a speeding problem. This machine will be seen in new areas in Watermead, backed up by Sentinel Speed Watch which is a radar speed device manned by volunteers. This device videos speeding vehicles, capturing their registration number and vehicle model. This information is then passed to the Police. Drivers receive a warning letter initially but if they are caught speeding again the Police will take appropriate action. Anyone driving at excessively dangerous speeds will receive a visit from the Police and may be prosecuted.

Volunteers are needed to man the device which we share

with Berryfields. The plan is to run the device in each other's parish to avoid, if possible, having to trap people you know. The Sentinel Speed Watch equipment has been donated by the Local Area Forum, a first for Watermead, and we are most grateful. Two of us have received training in running the device and we will train others as we move forward with the scheme. The message is clear – SPEEDING IS HIGHLY DANGEROUS AND ANTI-SOCIAL – Please don't speed.

Dog Walkers

Watermead is a great place for dogs. Most owners are responsible, but a few are not. We have stopped short of a Public Space Protection Order, but request owners to keep dogs on the lead round the small lake, and to pick up and bag poo and put the bag in the dog bins provided. Hanging bags on trees, leaving on the ground or throwing them into bushes is unacceptable.

We are looking forward to the May Fair at the end of the month, to the cricket event and judging all the lovely front gardens later on in the summer. I have heard that some people are having a "meet your neighbours" street party on the weekend of 16th-18th June so why not join in and have one of your own.

Chairman Sue Severn

Consider speaking to a pharmacist before heading to your GP

Health services across the nation face challenging times, and ours in Bucks are no exception. Our local services are robust and reliable, but you can help us ensure they are operating at their best for those who are most in need.

Illnesses like coughs, colds and sickness bugs often make unwelcome appearances. If you have a 'minor' illness, please consider consulting your pharmacist for guidance. They are highly trained professionals and can offer excellent advice and very effective products to treat your symptoms.

For many minor ailments antibiotics are of no value – making an appointment with your GP unlikely to offer better treatment than your pharmacy. By managing illnesses

like this yourself you can help us keep GP appointments for those people in greatest need.

There are also online options for advice - the Health Help Now NHS website (www.healthhelpnow.nhs.uk) can check symptoms and suggest the best service in Bucks for you. The NHS Choices website (www.nhs.uk) has excellent advice on illnesses and you can call NHS 111 for more guidance.

By taking a little care over what treatment you seek, you can help our health services run smoothly for everyone in 2017.

*Dr Graham Jackson,
GP and Chair of NHS Aylesbury Vale Clinical
Commissioning Group*





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What's on

IN AND AROUND WATERMEAD

June

1st	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
8th	General Election	Village Hall, 7am - 10pm
15th	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7:30pm
18th	Fathers' Day	
18th	Soapbox Derby - Races & Family Entertainment	Whitehill Park, 11am - 4pm
24th	Big Cycle, Wendover Woods	From 10am

July

6th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
20th	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7:30pm

August

3rd	Watermead & Weedon WI - 25th Anniversary Event
28th	Bank Holiday

September

7th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
21st	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7:30pm
23th	East & Botolph Claydon Beer Festival	East & Botolph Village Hall, 2pm 'til late

Village Hall

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

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

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CRAFTY CHICKS
4th Friday of the month
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Contact Daphne 393131

KUMON MATHS
Monday & Thursday
2.30 - 6pm
Susan Jones 747469

**AYLESBURY & DISTRICT
PHILATELIC SOCIETY**
Second Wednesday of the month
7.30 - 10.00pm
Peter Barnes 612913

**WATERMEAD & WEEDON
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**
First Thursday of the month
7.30 - 9.30pm
Julia Morgan 487650
julia-morgan@sky.com

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

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7.15 - 8.15pm
Gale Smith 747900

Delia's summer recipes

Rigatoni and Asparagus au Gratin

Ingredients:

5 oz (150g) rigatoni,
8 oz (225g) asparagus
(prepared weight),
1½ tablespoons
extra virgin olive oil,
1½oz (40g) Pecorino cheese
pared into shavings with a
potato peeler,
1½oz (40g) Parmesan cheese -
finely grated,
1lb (450g) ripe red tomatoes
skinned and chopped,
10fl oz (275 ml) milk,
¾oz (20g) plain flour,
¾oz (20g) butter,
A grating of fresh nutmeg,
Salt and freshly milled black
pepper

Method:

1. Place the milk, flour and butter in a saucepan and whisk together over a gentle heat until the sauce begins to simmer and thicken.
2. Season with salt and pepper and a good grating of nutmeg. After that turn the heat down to its lowest setting and let the sauce cook for 3 minutes, then stir in the grated Parmesan, remove from the heat, cover with a lid and leave on one side while you prepare the other ingredients.
3. Prepare the asparagus by cutting the stalks diagonally into pieces roughly the same size as the rigatoni.
4. Take a 9 inch (23cm) frying pan, heat up the oil and saute the asparagus pieces for about 5 minutes, tossing them around the pan and keeping the heat fairly high so that they colour at the edges.
5. Add the tomatoes to the pan, and let them bubble and reduce for about 1 minute. Then turn the heat off.
6. Next cook the pasta in plenty of boiling salted water (to which a few drops of oil have

been added) for 6 minutes only; then drain it in a colander.

7. Return pasta to the saucepan, add the sauce and the asparagus mixture and mix thoroughly.
5. Taste to check the seasoning, pour the whole lot into the gratin dish, sprinkle with the shavings of Pecorino cheese and bake in the oven for 8-10 minutes. Serve straight away.

Chicken with Sherry Vinegar and Tarragon Sauce

Ingredients:

1 x 3½lb (1.75kg) chicken
jointed into 8 pieces or use 4
bone-in chicken breast portions,
5fl oz (150 ml) sherry vinegar,
15fl oz (425 ml) medium-dry,
Amontillado sherry,
12 shallots, peeled and left
whole,
4 cloves garlic, peeled and left
whole,
2 tablespoons olive oil,
2 tablespoons fresh tarragon
leaves,
1 heaped tablespoon crème
fraiche,
Salt and freshly milled black
pepper

Method:

1. Heat the oil in the frying pan and season the chicken joints with salt and pepper. Then, when the oil begins to shimmer, fry the chicken (in two batches) to brown well; remove the first batch to a plate while you tackle the second. Each joint needs to be a lovely golden brown colour. When the second batch is ready, remove it to the plate to join the rest.
2. Then add the shallots to the pan, brown these a little, and finally add the garlic cloves to colour slightly.
3. Turn the heat down, return the chicken pieces to the pan,

scatter the tarragon leaves all over, then pour in the vinegar and sherry. Let it all simmer for a bit, then turn the heat to a very low setting so that the whole thing barely bubbles for 45 minutes. Half-way through turn the chicken pieces over to allow the other sides to sit in the sauce.

4. When they're ready, remove them to a warm serving dish (right side up) along with the shallots and garlic.
5. The sauce will by now have reduced and concentrated, so all you do is whisk the crème fraiche into it, taste and season as required, then pour the sauce all over the chicken and scatter with sprigs of tarragon. This is lovely served with tiny new potatoes tossed in herbs and some fresh shelled peas.

Fresh Peaches based in Marsala with Mascarpone Cream

This combination of fresh, ripe peaches and the luscious flavour of Marsala wine makes a supremely good summer dessert that has the added advantage of being made well in advance. Mascarpone cream cheese has a rich dairy flavour, but it does tend to be a bit heavy, so mixing it with an equal quantity of fromage frais lightens the texture without losing the flavour.

Ingredients:

For the peaches:

1½oz (40g) caster sugar,
6 firm ripe peaches,
10fl oz (275 ml) sweet Marsala wine,
1 inch (2.5 cm) cinnamon stick,
1 vanilla pod,
1 rounded teaspoon arrowroot

For the Mascarpone cream:

4 rounded tablespoons
mascarpone (Italian cream
cheese),

4 rounded tablespoons 8%
fromage frais,
a few drops of pure vanilla
extract,
1 dessertspoon caster sugar

Pre-heat oven to gas mark 4,
350 degrees F, 180 degrees C

Method:

1. Begin by halving the peaches and removing their stones, then place the halves in a bowl; pour boiling water over them and, after 30 seconds, drain them and slip off their skins.
2. Now place the peach halves in a shallow baking dish, mix the sugar and Marsala in a jug and pour it over the peaches. Add the cinnamon stick and vanilla pod to the dish, then place it on the centre shelf of the oven and bake without covering for 35-40 minutes.
3. Remove the peaches from the oven and drain off all the juices into a small saucepan. Mix the arrowroot with a little cold water and then add it to the saucepan and whisk over a gentle heat until slightly thickened. This will happen as soon as it reaches simmering point. Then pour it back over the peaches and leave to cool. Cover and refrigerate for 24 hours to allow the flavour to develop fully.
4. To make the mascarpone cream, simply beat all the ingredients together thoroughly and pile into a pretty serving bowl.

Answers to Tea Break Quiz on page 04

1. 1956, 2. Alan Bennett, 3. Buckinghamshire, 4. Daniel Defoe, 5. Checkpoint Charlie, 6. Maoduff, 7. Septum, 8. John Gielgud, 9. France, 10. North Korea, 12. Fred Trueman, 13. 1984, 14. Brighton, 15. Blood Pressure, 16. Isle of Wight, 17. Harland and Wolff, 19. The Blind Beggar, 20. Eugene O'Neill

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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PUBLICATION DATES

2017/2018

AUTUMN

9th September

WINTER

2nd December

SPRING

10th March

SUMMER

2nd June

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We are always grateful for new ideas and articles written by
our readers. We are looking for personal anecdotes – funny,
poignant, unusual. Here are some suggestions:
Your first job, Retiring, Taking in a lodger,
'Empty nest' syndrome, The 'boomerang' effect –
adult children returning, A first-date with a now long-
term partner, A DIY disaster, Moving house, Starting
University, or maybe you have a Literary leaning and
would like to offer a short story or poem you have
written? If you're interested contact the Editor,
Mary Singleton. Contact details on page 8.



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I want to go in and see the Queen

This year HM Queen Elizabeth will be celebrating her Sapphire Jubilee 65 years as our Queen, the first time that this milestone has ever been reached by a British monarch. Thinking of things royal allows me to share with you this lovely story involving the Queen's great-great grandmother HM Queen Victoria who HM Queen Elizabeth overtook as the longest reigning monarch in 2015.

Once when Queen Victoria was living at Balmoral Castle in Scotland and the young Princes were at home, the sentries who were standing to guard the castle saw a little boy, very poor, and with almost ragged clothes on, continually coming up to look in at the gates. They told him again and again that he could not be admitted there, and that he must go away back to his home in the village.

The little boy's answer always was "I want to go in and see the Queen." At last one of the Princes came by that way, and enquired who the child was, and why he was there. The sentry replied that "they could

not get him to leave the gates, he had been there a long time, and said he wanted to see the Queen." The young Prince went up to the little boy and talked to him very kindly. "Do you want to see the Queen?" he asked. "Yes," said the little child. "I came a long way along the road all by myself, because I want to see the Queen. Mother told me how good she was and that she is always kind to little boys. But the soldiers have told me to go away."

The Prince took the little boy's hand in his and told the sentries, "It is all right. I will take him in." He walked down the carriage drive, up to the steps of the castle, where he led the little boy in through the open door (for it was open to the Prince, though it was shut to the boy until the Prince took him by the hand) into the presence of the Queen.

He told her the child's simple story, and the Queen received him with the greatest kindness. She asked him where he came from, found out all about his home, and why he had wanted to see her. She then gave him cakes and presents of different kinds, amongst others a possession he had never

had in his life before, a book of coloured pictures. When the little boy was quite satisfied, and his face beaming with smiles, the Prince led him safely back again past the sentry, towards his own home.

A lovely story of the doors of Balmoral Castle being flung open to allow a little boy to visit a Queen and indeed no earthly hindrance or human barrier, or fear or doubt in our hearts need keep us back from the greatest King of all, our loving Father in Heaven.

If we trust Jesus, and reach out the hand of faith to him, he will take care of us, and bring us safely in. He is the Prince of Life, and the Prince of Peace, and he has all power in heaven and in earth. If we make him our friend today, we shall never regret our wise choice, for he is able to bring us to God. As he himself said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6).

Rev'd Mark Ackford,
Vicar of the Parish of Bierton and Hulcott
www.biertonhulcottchurches.org

Talks about the work of local charity - BucksVision

We invite you, your friends and family to local charity, BucksVision, Meadowcroft, Aylesbury to hear a talk about our essential support work for blind and partially sighted people in Buckinghamshire.

You may be partially sighted yourself and would like to learn more about how our services could help you, or perhaps you are thinking of becoming a fundraiser or volunteer for a local charity. These talks will tell you all you need to know about BucksVision.

Wednesday	28th June	2.30pm to 4.00pm
Wednesday	26th July	2.30pm to 4.00pm
Wednesday	30th August	2.30pm to 4.00pm
Wednesday	27th September	2.30pm to 4.00pm
Wednesday	25th October	2.30pm to 4.00pm
Wednesday	29th November	2.30pm to 4.00pm

Refreshments will be served after the talk. To book your place, please contact Sally Collier on: 01296 487556 or email: reception@bucksvision.co.uk

BucksVision, 143 Meadowcroft, Aylesbury
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Don't throw away those big seeds

They are full of nutrients! Rinse, then dry them out in the oven at 120 degrees centigrade for two hours.

- Next, remove the outer skin – the inside seed will then be soft enough to slice up and blitz in a blender.
- Add this to your cooking, sprinkle on salads or use in smoothies for a health-giving, antioxidant-rich, gut-friendly treat.

I found this tip in a Womans Own magazine while I was at the hairdressers.

Mary Singleton





Image on right: Avril Nurse runs the Art Classes at the Village Hall and sadly her husband recently passed away with cancer. Prior to his cancer diagnosis he suffered a Stroke and only at last years May Day event at Watermead he ran the stall for the Stroke Association.



Stroke Association Resolution Run

On a very wet Sunday, March 12th, runners of all ages gathered in the piazza to take part in the Stroke Association Resolution Run.

We had 149 runners overall who raised a staggering total of £13,337.09. For a first time event we were really pleased with the number of runners. Money that we raise goes towards helping stroke survivors and their families through our Life After Stroke Services, providing Information, Advice and Support, Communication Support and Life After Stroke. Grants fund research into prevention, treatment and better methods of rehabilitation.

The Stroke Association were very grateful for the local support given by:

- The Watermead Inn who opened two hours early and provided supporters with warm beverages and cakes/biscuits.
- Reflexions gym for warming us all up with an interactive routine to get the blood bumping.
- Phil Gomm who provided sound and entertainment and who commentated on the run.
- Watermead Parish Council and the residents for allowing us to use the jogging track around the lakes of Watermead.



It rained throughout and everyone got a bit muddy but there were plenty of smiles.

Tammy Angus, Community and Events Fundraiser - South
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Places to eat in and around Aylesbury

We often like to go out for a meal and are always looking for a change and good food. We thought it might be a good idea to share experiences and have asked our friends in Watermead for their personal recommendations for places to eat in Aylesbury and the surrounding area. The following places have been tried - no recommendation is given but we enjoyed our meals there:

Watermead Inn: Good food, served in comfortable surroundings just a step from home for most Watermead residents. Give it a try, you will receive a warm welcome. (Sallythespaniel recommends - she is allowed to go too!).

Hartwell House Restaurant: A real treat and one of the favourite places for a lovely peaceful lunch in beautiful surroundings with charming service and delicious food. A good choice for a special afternoon tea or dinner as well.

Waterside Theatre: Not somewhere you immediately think of for food but the foyer cafe serves homemade sandwiches and snacks and is a good choice for a quick snack in the town.

Noodle Nation: Fun, vibrant with reliably good food - take your appetite, the portions are huge!

Wagamama: Lovely fusion menu with attentive service. Food is freshly cooked and served as it is ready so all members of the party are served individually.

Nandos: Another chain, but fun with good chicken, freshly grilled. Good salads and choice of several side dishes. Worth a try. Much-loved by children as they can refill their drinks at the fountain and get their own ice cream/frozen yoghurt!

Temple Street Wine Bar in Temple Street received good reviews.

Horse & Jockey for a quick meal at very reasonable prices.

Miller & Carter opening shortly by Aylesbury Vale Parkway Station has been recommended by those who have experienced delicious meals, great ambience and excellent service at their restaurants in Leeds, Shoreham and Kidlington.

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China Diner in Fairford Leys: Great Sunday lunchtime buffet – excellent value. And delicious well-cooked food from the a la carte menu.

El Halal Tandoori Restaurant, Aylesbury: Good, simple Indian dishes cooked to order. No licence so take a bottle; soft drinks and water sold. Need to book but they do take-away too.

Pizza Express: A good example of this chain restaurant.

Outside the town:

The Bell at Aston Clinton: a favourite with many. Excellent food, great service, and echoes of its more formal past.

The Black Boy at Oving: al fresco dining available in a lovely setting with fabulous views across Bucks. Good food too.

How about sharing your favourite restaurants with us? Tell us what is good about it. Contact the Editor on mary.singleton@watermead-pc.gov.uk

Sue Severn and Mary Singleton

Mortgage advisers throw caution to the winds with skydive

The largest group ever to do a joint skydive for Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity took to the skies on Saturday 8th April. Eight members of staff from Aylesbury's Mortgage Advice Bureau (MAB) and nine friends and family members made the leap in aid of the Hospice. MAB's

Lauren James persuaded colleagues Stefan Cork, Shereen Pride, Joanna Richardson, Charlotte Scott, James Summerlin, Alison Gulliver and Watermead resident Russell Coneron to join her in the hair-raising challenge. They were joined by friends, partners and family: Samuel Anton, Hayley-Louise O'Reilly, Matt Bunce, Caymen O'Reilly, Ben Adam, Giles Asbury, Daniel McLean, Tim Dawson and Adam Holloway.

"We were on a company night out and I came out with the idea that I would like to do something for the Florence Nightingale Hospice. I told my work colleagues/friends I was thinking of doing a skydive," says Lauren. "To my surprise they all agreed and decided to do it with me!"

Many of the group had very personal reasons for joining Lauren having experienced the care and support offered by Florence Nightingale Hospice.

"My family have been lucky enough to benefit directly from the fantastic support given by the Florence Nightingale Hospice," says Russell Coneron.

"Friends of mine can testify how their friends and family have all benefited from the amazing work people do for Florence Nightingale Hospice," explained another colleague, Shereen Pride.

To help with their fundraising, the team held a Quiz Night at the Watermead Inn in March which raised £1,520; their Team Justgiving page shows more than £8,350 has been donated already in sponsorship bringing their total to over £9,500 with Gift Aid beating their target by over 400%.

Lauren's boss, Business Principal Stefan Cork, also rose to the challenge and said, "It's most definitely a motivational team building event as well as being a very personal challenge for everyone involved."

After the dive, Lauren said, "I am extremely happy with how the day went. It was so lovely to see how much support we all had from our friends and family. The weather couldn't have been better. The beautiful angels we have in the sky were beaming down on us and there was such a happy atmosphere throughout the whole day. I am honestly so unbelievably grateful for everyone's fundraising efforts and to everyone who has donated to this great cause. The rest of my crazy group of skydivers loved the experience and found it completely terrifying and overwhelming but absolutely loved it. All round we are ever so chuffed and can't quite believe how much money we have all raised. Jumping out of a plane is a scary thought, I was ever so nervous, but I knew that it's for a good cause."

If you would like to find out more or sponsor the team, go to their JustGiving page at www.justgiving.com/teams/MAB-AYLESBURY



Watermead Cygnets Pre-School

Spring has finally arrived and Cygnets Pre-school have taken the opportunity to explore the outdoors and look at the wonders Mother Nature has to offer. In particular we looked at the life cycles of butterflies and frogs. We have also looked at planting and growing; the children planted herbs (rosemary and mint), potatoes and a variety of bedding plants. Children are taught what helps plants grow, including soil, water and the importance of watering every day. We also learned about farm animals, and what the different names are for parents and their offspring.

We celebrated Pancake Day. We also held a Mother's Day assembly where the children made cards and sang songs, and thanked their Mums for being there for them.

We supported Comic Relief by collecting donations from parents and local businesses. We would like to thank all children and parents of Watermead Cygnets who raised a magnificent amount for our sponsored obstacle course. Ten percent of the amount raised was given to Comic Relief and the remainder will be used to fund a trip to The Green Dragon Rare breeds and Eco farm and end of term trip to Woburn. The Children were excited

during the build up to Easter, which culminated in the children putting on an Easter Hat Parade and an Egg rolling competition. All the children made their own hats and decorated their own eggs, which they paraded in front of their parents/carers. They also sang some very well-rehearsed Easter songs. A lot of hard work was put into making the hats - there were lots of fantastic colourful creations.

Next half term we will be looking at Pets, Farm Animals, Places around us and transport.

We would like to say A VERY BIG THANK YOU to Kelvin and Nikki from the Watermead Inn for their donation of £60 which they raised from their Easter Saturday party. Also we would like to thank Martyn Filbey from our committee who helped collect the money.

Cygnets accepts children from 2½ years to 5 years old. We open from 9.15am to 12.15pm on Monday to Friday and we provide a lunch club most days from 12.15 to 1.15pm. If you would like your child to attend Cygnets, please visit us and ask to be added onto our waiting list. Please call and ask to speak Maree on 07563 783464.

Bye for now, The Cygnets Team



Lifestyle coaching for people at risk of diabetes

People at risk of Type 2 diabetes in Buckinghamshire will be offered tailored support to avoid the potentially life-threatening condition.

A successful bid to be selected by NHS England as participants in the pioneering NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme was put together by the clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and county council public health departments in Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

As a result, from April, people identified as being at high risk by their GP will be offered education and lifestyle coaching to reduce their risk of Type 2 diabetes.

Dr Stuart Logan, Clinical Director for Long Term Conditions for both Buckinghamshire CCGs, said: "We know that people who are helped to make lifestyle changes can dramatically reduce their risk of developing Type 2 diabetes, so we are delighted to be able to increase the diabetes prevention work we are doing and know that this will benefit more people in the local area."

Anyone worried about the risk of diabetes and what they can do to reduce their risk can find out more at www.nhs.uk/diabetes

Scheme for lone parents to help prepare them for workplace

A special celebration for parents and children has been held to mark the success of the first year of Buckinghamshire's Future Steps scheme for lone parents, with over 50 people having taken part in courses during 2016.

The Future Steps scheme, co-ordinated by Buckinghamshire County Council in collaboration with Jobcentre Plus and Connexions, offers the chance for lone parents to learn a range of skills - including food hygiene, first aid and interview techniques - to help them prepare for the workplace. The training sessions are usually weekly over eight weeks, and come with free childcare and travel.

Future Steps is now looking for people who'd like to take part in courses during 2017 in Aylesbury, Chesham or High Wycombe. The sessions are open to lone parents of any age who receive income support and who have a child under the age of five.

To apply for a place on the courses, or for more advice, speak to your adviser at Jobcentre Plus or ring Jo at Connexions on 07921 491690.

Travel sickness in Pets

For many cats and dogs a car journey is part of their lives at some stage. This may involve a trip to the park, a day out, a holiday or visit to the vet or boarding kennels. Many dogs are happy to travel in cars whilst others exhibit anxiety and nausea.

Generally cats do not enjoy travelling and many resent the confinement to a basket. Not all pets that suffer from car sickness are anxious and puppies tend to suffer with car sickness more than adult dogs which suggests that a number of them "grow out of" motion sickness.

Dogs should be accustomed to being in the stationary car, ensuring they are comfortable and have somewhere to sleep. The next step is undertaking very short journeys and associating them with a positive experience at the end, such as a walk. Consider having someone other than the driver in the car to help reassure or distract the dog. Gradually build up the

length of journeys and, when travelling, try to select a route that involves straight roads more than windy lanes.

Cats can similarly be accustomed to spending time in the car with the engine off for short periods initially, before gradually increasing the length of journey. The use of feline facial pheromone extracts sprayed in the cat carrier a short time prior to a journey can be helpful.

Limit food and water intake just prior to travelling and allow your pet to toilet before the journey; drive gently and keep sound to a comfortable level. Whilst limiting food may not prevent motion sickness, there should be less dramatic effects. Opening the window to provide fresh air can be beneficial and some animals are less likely to experience motion sickness if they can see out of a window. For longer trips, stop every two hours to allow your dog to exercise and evacuate whilst providing access to a small quantity of water during

these rest periods.

Motion sickness can be treated with a variety of oral medications but they need to be given 1-2 hours before the journey commences. Various anti-nausea medications are available from your vet although the options for cats are much more limited than for dogs. Skullcap and valerian tablets are licensed for use in both cats and dogs and indicated for prevention of anxiety and travel sickness. Some human antihistamine products can be used at an appropriate dose in dogs although they can cause drowsiness and none are licensed products.

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



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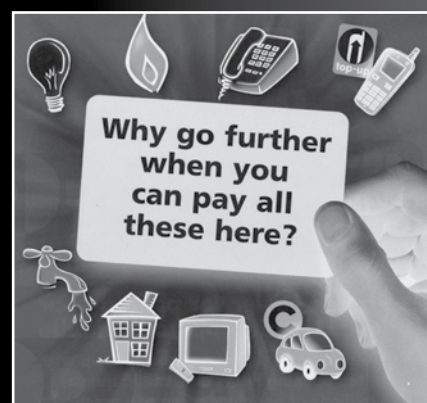
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Sally's blog



Since I last wrote I have had my second birthday and am now officially a dog not a puppy. I'm 14 in human years – human parents will sympathise with mine I am sure. I considered behaving like a grown up and then decided, after a split second's thought, that it would be more fun to continue as a puppy, so that's it!



My birthday party was a great success. I had lots of presents, all my favourites, and my humans bought me a birthday cake and gave everyone something called fizz to drink. I was allowed a small dog biscuit – ha! However, I have had champagne – I like it!

My editor Mary bought me a lovely card with my presents which I could have modelled for; we all thought it very clever of her.



I will try to be to be a bit grown up but the problem is my humans find me so amusing, they are absolutely hopeless!

My friend Dominic Schwab bought me some pink shampoo – everyone thought it was a great idea to give me a bath. Usually I go to Jaime the dog groomer but last Monday they decided to bath me at home because as apparently I was 'dirty' whatever that means....

I don't like being bathed. The bath had to have a special rubber mat in it so that I didn't slip (I think it was actually there to stop the bath being scratched). When I was clean the water was really dark and gritty and it took them nearly an hour to clean the bathroom after I had finished shaking and running round and round. Hopefully this will deter further bathing efforts and mean I just go to Jaime for grooming.

I have seen the new signs in Watermead asking people to make sure they keep dogs on leads near nesting birds and to pick up the poo – please do. I know that the Parish Council is trying really hard to ensure our wildlife is protected.

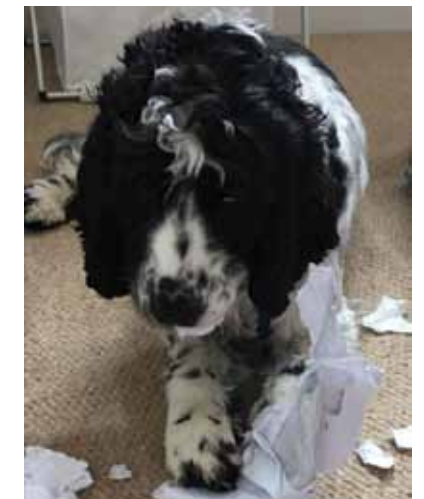
There are so many ducklings, cygnets and other baby birds at the moment that we all need to be careful - even I keep quiet. By far the best thing is to walk dogs in fields and woods - we love all the smells and enjoy the run.

In case you wondered, I am still busy in the office, still shredding. I think if I don't look at my human, they won't notice!

On a final note...

Summer is coming and we all enjoy being outside and running about. Please, please make sure you keep dogs on leads, like my owners do, when walking around the small lake and where there are lots of people. Some people don't like dogs jumping up and we can scare wildlife. And one last thing - could you please make sure your hedges and plants are cut back from the pavement. Overhanging branches from shrubs and hedges

make it really difficult to walk on pavements. It only takes a moment to cut them back and it makes such a difference. Thank you from Watermead's dogs and humans!



Party Popper - Chalayan

It has been sixteen years since Hussein Chalayan last showed in London, returning to Sadler's Wells theatre where all his theatrics began. Chalayan debuted a pleasing but muted down collection. Models pattered across the stage in dancer's shoes followed by a single spotlight, the theatre was astonishingly quiet albeit for the chilling soundtrack featuring the shrill cries of Kate Bush.

"I was worried nobody was going to come and see it!" cried Chalayan backstage. Admittedly the 9am start time may have been a bit much but this did not stop the loyal members of fashion's elite rolling up and attending the show; show is used in the literal sense here as models glided across the stage. Chalayan's experience with the dance show "Gravity Fatigue" back in 2015 just became very recognisable.



Subdued colours were used throughout the collection and, aside from the gimmicks at the end of the show, it was a refined collection. Greece was an inspiration for Mr Chalayan this season, not only in terms of patterns but fit also. Clothes were free flowing yet constricted much like Greek folk pieces. One of the looks featured a loose fitting grey sweater with a somewhat toga like single strap brown dress fitted over the top. The Greek theme was more obvious when Chalayan used a custom-made jacquard featuring a map of an ancient Greek city.

Never one to stray from the art of performance Chalayan constructed ten stand out "party popper" pieces for the finale. Although slightly unhinged from the rest of the collection the models marched to the front of the stage in seemingly well tailored suits. But then with great gusto ripped open a paper chest piece and out flew feathers, glitter and tinsels gathering in a pool on the stage floor. "Tacky pieces" quipped Chalayan.

It was a welcomed and much needed return for Chalayan back in his home capital.

Phoebe Shardlow



Let's get political! - Phoebe English

Politics. That was the concurrent theme throughout the collections shown at London Fashion Week. The Central Saint Martins MA graduate Phoebe English was no exception from the movement as she presented her Fall collection in the exquisite, Byzantine-esque Fitzrovia Chapel in Central London.

After last season's collection being a reaction to Brexit, this season English's clothes had a global political appeal. English's models were empowering female figures representing "unity", "hope" and "tyranny". Three models stood holding hands towards the back of the chapel with "unity" emblazoned across their faces. Dressed in silver silks, glitter threaded cottons and oversized black tulle bags the look of unity is not colourful in Phoebe English's interpretation.



All of English's clothes are made exclusively in England and for her eleven-look collection the model "tyranny" wore an elegantly crafted waxed cotton red suit. Nestled amongst shrubbery, hair strewn across her face, "tyranny" was a daunting figure. Prompting you to remember everything chaotic happening in the world right now.

"Apathy" was dressed in various hues of taupe and grey with a black jumper, part of English's third collaboration with John Smedley, wrapped tight around her shoulders. With creased trousers and chipped nail varnish English immortalised the apathetic outlook many citizens have adopted in the wake of Brexit and the American election.

Collaborating with designer florist brand "Maison des Fleurs", floral crowns decorated Phoebe English's "heroines". A cacophony of tulle, silk and floral prints was the final look tucked away at the back of the chapel; the look was topped off with an abundance of branches entwined into her hair.

With a designer such as English not allowing us to forget about the current political climate, it is certain that her themes will be pervasive throughout many other collections this season too.

The River Thame Conservation Trust

The RTCT was set up in 2012 by a group of local individuals who had concerns about their river. Since then the organisation has continued to grow and now works on monitoring, safeguarding and enhancing the wildlife of the River Thame and its catchment by carrying out habitat improvement, working with volunteers and engaging with people across the length of the river and its tributaries.

You have been contacted specifically as either the main river or one of its many tributaries makes up a part of your parish. Over time, we have realised that in order to protect the river, we need to learn a lot more about it and the wildlife that depends on it. It is impossible for us to do this alone. We are in desperate need of volunteers who are either already passionate about their river, or would like to be more involved.

We will provide full training and support for volunteers and ask only that they commit as much time as they have; this can range from 10 minutes a month, collecting a water sample, or a few

hours carrying out bird, mammal, habitat or invertebrate samples. Whatever a person is interested in, there is always something to survey. Over the next six months, we have various training courses organised to help volunteers feel confident in their surveys. The data collected by volunteers will be used to inform our future work and ensure that we protect those areas that act as havens for important species.

Many of you may have been, or currently be involved in writing your neighbourhood plans. Any data that we receive from your parish can be used to bring the river in to your plans so that it remains protected for years to come. It is always important to point out that the River Thame Conservation Trust would not be able to continue its important work without the generous donations from members of the public and partner organisations. If you or anyone that you know would like to fundraise for us, then please get in touch Emily Godfrey MMBE: emily@riverthame.org www.riverthame.org 07413 936048

This article was submitted by RTCT

'Victims First' launches to support victims of crime

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Thames Valley, Anthony Stansfeld, has today launched his 'Victims First' brand and website.

Victims First is the new overarching title for the PCCs work in providing support, increasing accessibility and improving services for victims of crime across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

The first initiative under 'Victims First' is a new online resource which has advice on what to do and how to get help if you've been a victim of crime, including information on what you should expect from the police and other criminal justice agencies if you report the crime.

The focal point of the website is a directory which allows victims to find relevant support to help them cope and recover from the impact of the crime. Members of the public will be able to use the website to refer themselves directly to the PCCs own support services, using the online form, or find information and contact details for other organisations. This support is available regardless of whether or not the victim has reported the crime to the police.

The website has information and advice to help people to recognise hidden crimes such as modern slavery, domestic abuse, including coercive control, and hate crime. Victims First also provides a third party reporting mechanism for hate crime so that those who don't want to report directly to the police can either complete a reporting form on the website or call 0300 1234 148.

The PCC has undertaken extensive work to improve support for

victims of crime, including commissioning new services for young victims, victims of sexual violence, a victim-led restorative justice service and a local support service to assist other victims.

Victims First encompasses all of this work and will expand over the coming year, with the PCC reviewing his services to ensure that victims continue to have appropriate support in place, are able to easily access it and that agencies, including the police, are victim-focussed.

Anthony Stansfeld, Police and Crime Commissioner said: "I recently launched my new Police and Crime Plan which reaffirmed my commitment to making sure that victims have access to the support they need to cope and recover from the impact of crime. The launch of Victims First and the website is a key milestone in my work in this area and will allow victims to easily find information and support in one place.

"I believe it will be a valuable resource not just for victims but also for people and organisations that come into contact with victims of crime who can now use the website to find and refer people to an appropriate service.

"Victims First will continue to develop over the next year with plans to create a single referral doorway, a specialist counselling service and community signposting points with the aim of simplifying access and improving support for victims."

www.victims-first.org.uk

Audley End House and Gardens



On Thursday 27th April 2017
I joined a group from the
Aylesbury Vale U3A group to visit
Audley End near Saffron Waldon in
Essex. It was well worth the visit!

The impressive house that can be seen today is only about a third the size of the vast mansion created in about 1605–14 by Thomas Howard, 1st Earl of Suffolk. It retains much of its original character, and contains fine Robert Adam and Jacobean revival interiors. The gardens and landscape, shaped by various owners to complement the house, reflect many changes in English garden fashion.

Audley End demonstrates the origins and development of a great house and its landscape setting over five centuries, in response to changes in fashion and in the fortunes of its owners. Despite its major alteration and reduction, the house remains one of the most impressive examples of early 17th-century architecture in England. The 18th-century and 19th-century neoclassical and Jacobean Revival landscape, buildings and interior design are of equal importance.

The Jacobean House

Audley End was the largest and most extravagant house built in early 17th-century England, adopting the plan and scale of the royal palace that it became, briefly, after the Restoration of 1660. While only elements of this building survive, their context is readily understood from, and illustrated by, the set of engravings made by Henry Winstanley in about 1676–88, themselves unique at the time in England.

The house encapsulates the contemporary architectural tension between the restrained classicism of the main house and the florid Mannerism (now represented largely by its porches) that co-existed with it. The hall screen and plaster ceilings are among the best to survive from the period in England.

Continuity

The significance of Audley End is not confined to its Jacobean apogee. That represents one stage in an exceptionally long period of evolution of the house and landscape, in which each successive stage was substantially shaped by, and retained elements of, its predecessors.

This great house was created not on a new site but by rebuilding on the footprint of the medieval Benedictine abbey. The abbey had been established in a long-used landscape in the Cam valley, alongside the London road, overlooked by an Iron Age hillfort, Ring Hill.

Elements from all these periods remain visible in the landscape, adapted and overlain by formal Jacobean landscaping, a late Georgian park and its ornamental buildings, and finally the mid-19th century partial return of formality.

The great hall, looking towards the stair. As remodelled by the 3rd Lord Braybrooke in the 1820s, the rooms of the south wing are exceptionally fine examples of 19th-century Jacobean Revival taste

Sir John Griffin Griffin and the 3rd Lord Braybrooke

The house is remarkable for the extent to which its owners from the mid-18th century onwards valued and so chose to retain much of its original 17th-century character and coherence, while leaving their own stamp with some of the highest-quality work of their time.

In the late 18th century Sir John Griffin Griffin kept external alterations ‘in keeping’ with the Jacobean house and restored the saloon as a picture gallery of his Howard ancestors. In rooms of no historic consequence, however, he employed Robert Adam to design some of the finest neoclassical interiors of their day, of which the Little Drawing Room stands out.

The 3rd Lord Braybrooke’s antiquarian,

overtly Jacobean, interventions in the 1820s were more conservative. Despite initially intending to purge the house of Adam’s and Griffin Griffin’s work, ultimately he retained much of it and, in the decoration of the new reception rooms in the south wing, was evidently influenced by it. Audley End is an outstanding but idiosyncratic example of 19th-century Jacobean revivalism.

Collections

The rich architectural layering is reflected in the contents of the principal rooms which contribute much to the significance of Audley End as a whole. These contents, as they existed in the mid-19th century, remain substantially intact, and include work by the leading makers of the day. They are also exceptionally well documented by bills and inventories.

The collection of paintings is especially notable. Sir John Griffin Griffin acquired or commissioned a series of dynastic portraits to underline his noble lineage (his claim to the Barony of Howard de Walden was recognised in 1784). He also formed an impressive collection of Old Master paintings, including works by Hans Holbein, Hans Eworth, Canaletto, Pieter Claesz, and Jan van Goyen, now displayed in the drawing room in their 19th-century arrangement.

The 3rd Lord Braybrooke’s marriage to Jane Cornwallis and his choice of Audley End as his principal residence brought both family collections to the house (displayed in the great hall and picture gallery). The late 17th-century portraiture is exceptional, including Peter Lely’s superlative self-portrait with the architect Hugh May

The 4th Lord Braybrooke’s natural history collection constitutes one of the most important collections of its kind to survive in a country house.

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Service buildings and gardens

The 18th- and 19th-century service range and yard to the north of the house are exceptional in the survival of the historic layout and fittings, particularly the kitchen, dairy and laundry. Only the interior of the brewhouse has been completely lost.

The kitchen gardens and stables also survive remarkably well (although the glass houses have been restored) and are particularly significant in illustrating aspects of the working of the house and estate in the 19th century.

The gardens

The features visible in the gardens now are mainly the work of the two designers ‘Capability’ Brown and Robert Adam, commissioned in the late 18th century by Sir John Griffin Griffin to refashion the estate. The site, on flat ground next to the river Cam, flanked by its steep valley slopes, provided Brown with an almost ideal landscape canvas.

The site had been chosen six centuries earlier by the Benedictine monks who founded Walden Abbey. Elements of the monastic landscape survive, including Audley End village and the monastic fish pond, Place Pond, the rectangular plan of which was softened in the 18th century.

Henry Winstanley’s late 17th-century engravings of the ‘palace’ created by the 1st Earl of Suffolk show the house as the centrepiece of an extensive formal layout of

courts and gardens, organised on an east-west axis.

To the west, beyond the inner court of lodgings (removed in stages throughout the first half of the 18th century) was a vast entrance forecourt, divided by a canalised river Cam, with the London to Cambridge road beyond. The stable block marks its intended north side, although outside the forecourt as completed.

The domestic appearance of this stable block indicates its original use as a range of basic lodgings, but it was rapidly converted by the removal of the first floor and the creation of large doorways in its north side, opening on to a stable yard.

The formal landscape persisted in simplified form until the mid-18th century. The Countess of Portsmouth began to soften it and moved the walled kitchen garden away from the house. Under Sir John Griffin Griffin, ‘Capability’ Brown began the landscape garden that survives today, and Robert Adam designed most of its buildings.

The remaining forecourt walls were demolished to open up the extensive views over the lawn. The canalised river Cam was reworked into a serpentine lake – one of Brown’s design hallmarks – and naturalistic groupings of trees were planted to the south and west. The Cedar of Lebanon near the house dates to Brown’s time. Adam designed the new bridge over the river Cam, now called the Adam Bridge, on the road connecting Saffron Walden to the Newport–

16th - 18th June 2017
 get together with your neighbours and be part of a national celebration of what we have in common.



inspired by Jo Cox

BE PART OF IT

Your event could be big or small, indoors or out, it’s entirely up to you. It could be a street party, a barbecue, a game of football or an afternoon tea. Whatever you and your neighbours decide, you will be part of a huge national occasion.

The weekend marks the anniversary of the murder of Jo Cox MP who inspired us when she said we had more in common than divides us.

Get some ideas from the website
www.greatgettogether.org

Cambridge road. His Temple of Victory, Lady Portsmouth’s Column and Tea House Bridge also survive.

In the early 19th century the 3rd Lord Braybrooke recovered some of the formal elements of the landscape with parterres around the house, and he rebuilt the lodges. In the 20th century the gardens declined, but from the 1980s English Heritage has restored the parterres and other elements, including the kitchen garden.

Historical associations

Audley End reflects and illustrates aspects of major events in English history. It was built by one of the leading courtiers of James I’s reign, became one of Charles II’s palaces, and has been shaped by architects and designers of the first rank.

During the Second World War, in 1942–4, Audley End was the headquarters of the Polish Section of the Special Operations Executive. Soldiers who volunteered to join the Polish underground movement were trained here before being dropped into their occupied home country.

www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/audley-end-house-and-gardens

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing to you as a contact for a council or other body in the area covered by Mid Bucks beekeepers. Every year in conjunction with the BBKA we play our part in the collection of honeybee swarms throughout the UK.

Mid Bucks beekeepers have been very successful in recent years collecting on average over 100 swarms per year. Most of this success has been due to the help we have received from local councils and other organisations in informing and educating the general public.

Research has shown that swarms that are not collected and allowed to find their own nest sites have only a 30% chance of surviving for a year. This falls to less than 10% for surviving 2 winters. One of the main causes of these losses is the varroa mite that infests almost all bee colonies. Beekeepers can treat these mites and reduce their effect on bees and increase the chances of survival.

As a beekeeping association we run a dedicated swarm line during the summer months. The line became active on April 1st.

Once again I am asking you to publicise this important service locally. Will you try and help by spreading the information via your website, newsletters or by printing the attached poster and placing it on notice boards etc. where the public will see it.

Thank you in advance for your vital help.
Brian Bush, MBBKA swarm officer.



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Honey Bee Swarms: Swarms such as the ones pictured are merely Colonies that are in transition. Normally these Swarms are found hanging from tree branch, fence post or any place where the swarm can gather close to the Queen while scouts are sent out to look for a more permanent home. A swarm left alone will only be in place from just a few minutes to a few hours and occasionally a few days. Generally these swarms are very docile and the swarming Bees usually will not sting. When Honey Bees swarm they gorge themselves with honey before leaving the hive which makes it very hard for them to double over and sting.

What causes Honey Bees to swarm: Honey Bees have a natural instinct to survive by sending out new colonies. They may also swarm through overcrowding or because an old queen is thought to be failing and they wish to raise a new one. Honey Bees usually swarm in early spring just as the colony is building up numbers in anticipation of the upcoming honey flow but swarming can happen through to late summer.

It is difficult to predict if weather conditions will lead to a large number of swarms in a particular year. MBBKA members attended nearly 100 calls to swarms last year and are on standby to collect throughout our area in 2017.

If you see a swarm: Declining Honey Bee numbers make the collection of swarms an important part of the work of bee keepers. You should never interfere with a swarm and pest control companies will not kill a swarm unless absolutely necessary.

Please contact: MBBKA Swarm Hotline 07770 370132

Brian Bush – Mid Bucks Beekeepers and BBKA Swarm Officer

BBKA British Bee Keepers Association - www.bbka.org.uk



Watermead Allotments AGM

The AGM of the Watermead Allotment Society was held on Wednesday 3rd May 2017 in Watermead Village Hall and included the prizegiving for the Best Allotment Competition. Parish Cllr Eric Rose judged the very first allotments competition in Watermead in August 2016. As reported in the Winter 2016 issue of Village View he was very impressed with what had been achieved in just five seasons.

Watermead Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Sue Severn, was delighted to be asked to present the prizes for 1st and 2nd places. She was also very impressed with all their hard work and achievements. Furthermore, as the competition was such a positive success, the Allotment Society are making arrangements to repeat the competition this year.

PLANT SALE

Despite the not so good turn out for the previous plant sale, it was unanimously agreed to hold a sale at the forthcoming traditional **May Fair on the Balloon Meadow on Sunday 28th May 2017**. Many of the plotholders are growing extra plants, making jams and chutneys, and baking cakes to donate to the sale.

Plots Available

The allotments are really thriving and provide a great sense of achievement and community spirit. A number of plots have become available and if you are new to “allotmenteeing” there are plenty of people who will give advice to help you get started. If you are interested please call our Parish Clerk, Noreen Shardlow on 01296 395211.

Right images: *Top: 1st Prize Plot 19: Graham Howse & Kelie Marie. 2nd Prize winner, Roger Mills, being presented his prize by Cllr Sue Severn accompanied by Watermead Allotment Society Chairman Peter Smith.*



Please don't feed ducks bread and chips are a no-no too

Bird-lovers are running the risk of killing ducks, geese and swans – with kindness. Many birders were first introduced to the joys of wildlife by feeding ducks bread at a local park or pond. While we may have grown up thinking this was an environmentally responsible and humane way to dispose of old or stale bread, feeding it to the ducks is actually unhealthy and potentially dangerous for the birds.

What bread is to ducks

Bread and similar products such as crackers, chips, crisps, donuts, cereal and popcorn are great sources of carbohydrates but they offer little nutritional value for ducks, geese, swans and other birds. In fact, bread is the equivalent to junk food for birds. Like humans would suffer from a diet of nothing but sweets, too much bread can lead ducks to excessive weight and malnutrition as well as many other problems.

Offered in extreme moderation, bread is not immediately harmful to ducks or birds, but that moderation is hard to judge. While one family may only feed the ducks once every few months, there may be many other families and individuals who are feeding the

ducks bread far more frequently, which leads to a diet based almost solely on unhealthy bread products. Environmentally conscious birders will refrain from offering any bread to ducks to avoid dietary problems and other issues caused by a carbohydrate-rich diet.

Why bread is bad for ducks

Not only can bread be fattening to ducks and make it harder for them to fly and otherwise evade predators, feeding ducks bread can also lead to other serious problems.

Duckling malnutrition: Ducklings require a varied diet and plenty of natural plants and insect proteins to mature properly. In an area where ducks are regularly fed bread, ducklings will not receive adequate nutrition for proper growth and development. Furthermore, because ducks will eagerly seek out an easy food source such as human handouts, ducklings will not learn to forage for natural foods as easily.

Overcrowding: Where an easy food source is abundant, ducks and other waterfowl will lay more eggs and the pond or lake will become overcrowded. This makes it more

difficult for the birds to seek out healthier food sources and increases the likelihood of territorial aggression. In overcrowded areas, predators can also thrive and will impact other bird populations, and diseases can quickly spread through large flocks as well.

Pollution: When too much bread is offered to ducks, not all of it will be eaten. Soggy, uneaten bread is unsightly and rotting bread can create noxious odors as well as lead to greater algae growth that can clog natural waterways and crowd out more desirable plants. This concentrates the pollution and can eventually eradicate fish, amphibians, crustaceans and other life in the vicinity.

Diseases: Feeding ducks bread can increase the spread of diseases in two ways. First, a carbohydrate-rich diet leads to greater defecation, and bird faeces easily harbour bacteria responsible for numerous diseases, including avian botulism. Second, mouldy bread can cause aspergillosis, a fatal lung infection that can decimate entire duck and waterfowl flocks.

Pest attraction: Rotting supplies of food

Sometimes books are sound

I first started listening to books on tape when I was commuting an hour and a half each way to and from work. My local library had a couple of bookshelves of titles which cost about a pound or two to hire for two weeks. I can't remember the first time I took a spoken word book out of the library, but I think I was inspired to do so after being given some abridged novels to listen to in my car – I particularly remember a Geoffrey Archer thriller and the amazing 'Mind Over Matter' by Ranolph Fienes.

Abridged novels are a fun way of passing a few hours, but it's not the same as reading a complete book; that is a much more involved, longer, experience in which you become immersed in the world that the author creates. It is an experience that I found was a perfect way to alleviate the tedium of my long commute. Even traffic jams, accident delays and diversions became less of an irritation with a book being read out in the background.

As I got into the swing of it, I began to realise that listening to a book being read by a professional reader – or, better still, the author – was a different experience from reading it. I was finding that the reader was imparting atmospheres and nuances that perhaps I wouldn't be generating myself. I found myself hooked – and so embarked on a period of about ten years when I listened to far more

leftover from sated ducks will attract other unwelcome pests such as rats, mice and insects. These pests can also harbour additional diseases that can be dangerous to humans and threatening to other wildlife.

Loss of natural behaviour: When birds become accustomed to handouts, they lose their natural fear of humans and may become aggressive in order to get more food. Their loss of fear can also cause other dangers, such as a willingness to cross busy roads in order to reach picnickers and other likely sources of food.

Bread alternatives

Wild ducks and waterfowl can live longer, healthier lives by relying on natural food sources such as aquatic plants, seeds, grasses and insects rather than taking handouts from well-meaning humans. If you still want to feed the ducks – and doing so can be an enchanting experience – there are many healthier alternatives to offer them instead of bread. Great foods to feed ducks include:

- Duck feed pellets available from farm supply stores and also from the Watermead Inn and the newsagents, WM News.
- Wild bird seed and other grains like corn, wheat and barley.
- Specialist wildfowl feed (can be bought from places like garden centres or pet shops).
- Vegetable peelings or trimmings (chopped).
- Grapes cut in half.
- Frozen peas that have been defrosted.
- Earthworms or mealworms.

Don't waste bread

For many people, feeding ducks bread is not only a way to interact with wildlife, but it is also a handy way to dispose of old, stale bread. There are many other useful ways to dispose of unwanted bread, however, including...

- Adding bread to a compost pile to create natural mulch and fertilizer for bird-friendly landscaping.
- Trying stale bread recipes such as bread pudding or homemade dressing and stuffing.
- Toasting stale bread for homemade croutons or garlic toast.

Of course, the best way to use up stale bread without feeding it to ducks is to avoid having any leftover bread in the first place. Bread can be easily frozen until needed, or birders can monitor their menus and shopping to ensure there are no leftover products that would be tempting to feed to ducks.

novels and non-fiction books than I could ever have read while working a demanding job.

One of the authors I particularly enjoyed in the car was Dirk Bogarde. His fine writing, gentle stories, fascinating autobiographies, and easy voice were very enjoyable; so, when I started collecting first edition books, he was one of the authors I started to acquire. Early this year I completed my set of Dirk Bogarde first editions, but there were still a few of the volumes which I hadn't actually read, and I started to think that it would be nice to re-experience the joys of being read to in the car (I stopped doing so when I retired). However, to do that I would have to acquire the relevant audio books. A search on the net, established that, although all of the books had been produced on cassette tapes, only 6 had been subsequently converted to mp3 format on CD. If I was to listen to the books with only cassette tape versions, in my car (which does not have a cassette player - only a CD player), I would have to buy the cassette versions, convert them to mp3 and put them on CD.

While I was pondering the technological intricacies that would be involved, I was also toying with the notion that perhaps my Dirk Bogarde first edition collection wouldn't be complete without the spoken word versions; and that, for completeness, would entail collecting both the cassette versions and the mp3 versions. After all, it was the spoken word versions that I'd enjoyed; and there was something special about having Dirk himself read out some of his books.

After mulling it over for a few weeks, I decided to go for it and to augment my Dirk Bogarde paper book collection with the digital equivalent. I duly set about trawling Ebay and Amazon for second hand versions of the cassette volumes, and soon acquired 4 of the titles in very good condition for between £8 and £20 each. They were not ex-library copies of which there are several available on Ebay – I knew what state they could be in from my experience of library loans. Two of the titles I bought were also available on CD for £8.99, so I bought those and had a very pleasant couple of weeks listening to the first of Bogarde's autobiographies (A Postillion Struck By Lightning) in my car. The other two were not available on CD so I retrieved my Panasonic portable CD and Cassette player and my Numark TTSB turntable (which digitises the output from the cassette player and is designed to interface with a computer), from the loft, downloaded the Audacity software from the net and set about digitising the 16 sides of cassettes in each of the two volumes. It took an age – well, as long as it took the cassettes to play – between 8 and 9 hours in each case. Then it was a matter of using the Audacity functions to reduce the background noise levels and to eliminate unwanted material at the start and finish of each digitised tape, and then exporting the data to mp3 files.

I shall continue to collect the cassette versions of the other titles, and to, one way or another, obtain the equivalent mp3 files. I've decided I shall listen to all of the titles in the car – even the ones I've heard or read already. After all, this won't impinge on anything else I'm doing – it's just empty time in which I'll be doing something I positively enjoy. However, this time I shall read (well, listen to) the autobiographies in the chronological order of the times they deal with (the publication dates of the autobiographies do not always correspond to the order of the events described); and I'll read the novels in the order they were written.

I've taken the time to write about all this for two reasons: first, because I believe the joys and huge potential of listening to spoken word literature is not appreciated widely enough; and second, because I think it's an interesting question as to whether a collector of an author's novels also needs to acquire the spoken word versions to have a truly complete collection. On the former point, I would encourage people who've never tried it to give it a go – it could enable you to experience huge amounts of great literature that you might never have the time or inclination to read. As to the latter point – well you'll have to judge for yourself: but, for me, Dirk Bogarde's books, and his autobiographies in particular, will always be intricately bound to his words lilting in my ears.

Paul Wilson, www.pwofc.com

Watermead & Weedon WI

Programme of Events

At our WI meeting in May we will be voting on the 2017 Annual Meeting Resolutions. Over 91,000 shortlist selections were received from members this year and the top two resolutions will now go forward to the Annual Meeting in Liverpool in June. All WIs get one vote for each resolution. This means that each WI shouldn't vote for one resolution over the other, but should vote for or against each one independently. If both resolutions are passed at the AM, the NFWI will campaign on both issues. Each WI can also choose to give discretion to their delegate to decide how to vote after hearing the presentations and debate at the annual meeting. This year's resolutions are:

Alleviating loneliness

This meeting calls on every WI and the NFWI to work alongside health and social care providers and their local community to raise awareness of the causes and impacts of loneliness, thus ensuring better identification of lonely people in order to be able to offer them the appropriate assistance and support.

Plastic Soup: Keep microplastic fibres out of our ocean

Microplastic fibres are shed from synthetic clothing with every wash and are the main contributors to microplastic contamination of the oceans. The NFWI calls on Government and industry to research and develop innovative solutions to this problem in order to stop the accumulation of microplastic fibres in our oceans. More information can be found on www.thewi.org.uk/campaigns/resolutions

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|---------------|---|
| 1st June | A talk by Steve Adamek from Diabetes UK, Aylesbury Group plus a bring and buy in aid of Diabetes UK |
| 6th July | A treasure trail around Watermead – let's hope the weather is good! |
| 3rd August | Our 25th Anniversary summer event |
| 7th September | Quiz evening |

We celebrated Rachel's "special" birthday at our editorial meeting on Sunday 23rd April 2017.

Her actual birthday was the following weekend when she had a big celebration with her family. We all enjoyed a slice of Sachertorte made by the Editor with our coffee (or tea) whilst discussing the content of the Summer issue of Village View.

Rachel has been responsible for the graphic design of our wonderful village magazine since its inception back in the 90's. She also helps our advertisers with their ads if they need it. It is thanks to her that we have an award winning, glossy magazine which our residents look forward to receiving every quarter.



Interested in cycling?

Ever thought about riding in an organised group?

Why not join us on a Newcomer's ride? We are the Aylesbury CTC cycling club, and welcome anyone who would like to try cycling.

The rides are an easy 20 miles, with a stop for coffee and cake half way. All rides start at 9.30am on the following dates at local starting points.

Sunday 21st May - Watermead Inn, Watermead
Sunday 4th June - Aquavale Car Park, Park Street
Sunday 9th July - Wendover Clock Tower
Sunday 6th August - Aquavale Car Park, Park Street
Sunday 3rd September - Watermead Inn, Watermead

Just turn up a few minutes before the start time and join us -

we are a very friendly bunch! Any kind of bike is suitable, as long as it is roadworthy. Don't worry too much about punctures or breakdowns as there is always someone available who can help out, but bring a spare inner tube if possible.

Wear what you find comfortable, carry a waterproof in case of rain, and bring something to drink on the way. We aim to finish the rides around 12.30-1.00pm.

Riding in company the miles fly by and any tiredness you feel at the end is the sort that gives you a good appetite, a sense of achievement and a sound night's sleep!

We also have regular weekly Sunday rides throughout the year with our Easy Pace and Moderate Pace groups.

Find out more on our website: www.southbuckscycling.org.uk, and on Facebook. 'Aylesbury CTC' is affiliated to CyclingUK, our national cycling charity.

Come and join us!

WI at Alexandra Palace

On March 30th Watermead and Weedon WI went on a trip to the Womens Institute Fair at Alexandra Palace. We didn't know what to expect, but the handouts and internet made it look very interesting. We had a good journey by coach and arrived about 10.30am. It was a bit overwhelming at first sight but once we had got our bearings, we made a plan in order to see as much as we could.

There was an amazing variety of stalls, everything from crafts to investments, travel and food - so much to see and suitable for all including the few men who were with us.

There was also a 'theatre' showing demonstrations of cooking, gardening and crafts; and workshops to pre-book at extra cost. It was very busy but not too busy to see everything we wanted to.

We have been lucky during the last few years to obtain a grant from The William Harding Trust to help with transport costs and we have been to some interesting places. We usually manage two trips a year which have been enjoyed by all who went.

Why not come and join us on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in Watermead Village Hall. YOU COULD BE ON THE NEXT OUTING !!!!

Any WI welcomes all women who think they may enjoy meetings and activities, join in a wide variety of events locally and county-wide, and discuss all kinds of issues with their fellow members. There really is something for anyone and we would love to welcome you to Watermead and Weedon WI.

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The View from Westminster

I welcome the Appeal Court's judgement in favour of Watermead Parish Council. It is the District Council that has the statutory duty to provide for burials and cremations, and AVDC along with the other Bucks Districts has selected Berton as the right site for the new crematorium that we need. It is dismaying that Westerleigh does not appear to have stopped work despite the Court's ruling. The Court has ordered the planning application for the Watermead crematorium to be redetermined. More than that, the Parish Council argues that some of the works breach the terms of the planning conditions that were previously granted.

I have discussed the case again with Watermead Parish Council. At their request, I have asked the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid, to 'call in' the planning application for decision centrally. I have also asked AVDC if they will initiate enforcement action against the developer.

East-West Rail and Expressway

The arc between Oxford and Cambridge is one of the most promising areas for economic development anywhere in Europe. It links two of the top universities in the world, the high-tech businesses of "Silicon Fen", the automotive industries of Oxford and Silverstone, the University of Buckingham and the economic vigour of Milton Keynes, Bedford and Bicester.

I've long supported the plan for an East-West Rail Link between Oxford and Cambridge, including a revived railway line from Aylesbury via Bletchley to Milton Keynes Central. That would link Aylesbury in to this very exciting new economic opportunity.

I've been worried that Network Rail is dragging its feet over building and opening this line but the good news is that the Transport Secretary, Chris Grayling, sees East-West Rail as a major national priority. I am pressing him and Rail bosses for the earliest possible action.

There is also now an additional plan for an expressway road link between Oxford and Cambridge. Again, the economic case for this is strong. A study is now underway looking at three possible corridors for that road link, the southernmost of which would bring the expressway close to the north of Aylesbury.

There would be pros and cons for us locally. On the upside, such a road could provide the missing elements of a bypass or outer ring-road round the town. If it then ran East to join the

Leighton/Linslade bypass, it could provide a bypass for Berton, Rowsham and Wing.

On the downside, the environmental impact of a major new road would be serious, and the reality is that a new road would bring with it expectations of more housing growth on top of what AVDC is already planning.

I would be interested to know where constituents believe that the balance of advantage lies.

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



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