

VillageView

WATERMEAD'S *FREE* QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

Summer 2018 Vol.25 Issue 2

Larks by the Lake
Sunday 27th May
Including a 'Fun Dog Show'

Starting at 12.30pm. See page 21 for details

Pictures of the Bowie Tribute concert
from our Dung Beetle Phil Toler



News from Watermead Parish Council & more!
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Chairman's Annual Report 2017-18

In common with most years, the year has had its share of challenges and some high points. Watermead is a unique place to live and to visit. We welcome visitors from the wider Aylesbury area, who enjoy our open spaces, the landscape and opportunities to view wildlife, nesting birds, well maintained fields and trees. Everyone is welcome.

As Aylesbury grows the pressure on places such as Watermead increases with the cost of removing litter, dog waste and repairing damaged items rising with the increased use. The villagers of Watermead own and pay the costs of the land. All we ask is that people respect it and use the litter bins or take it home with them, use the dog bins provided, and do not damage trees or disturb wildlife, especially nesting birds.

Policing

We have had a high incidence of vandalism this year. Our entrance gate was flattened, signage destroyed, dog bin set alight, the Memorial Garden fence was broken, and other fencing cut along with damage to cars, attempted break-ins to sheds, and the presence of suspicious people seen late at night trying car door handles. The Parish Council has recently asked that the Police increase patrols.

Incidents must be reported by individuals to 101, or 999 if a crime is happening. If you see drug dealing, vandals, or attempted theft please make sure you call 999 immediately. The Police cannot provide cover for areas where they perceive there is little crime. Thankfully, Watermead is still a very safe place to live, but let's keep it that way by reporting crime. The Police do not monitor Facebook.

Events

We have enjoyed a variety of events in the last year. Particularly notable was the Resolution Run held in aid of the Stroke Association, raising over £13,000 for the charity. Runners braved the mud and puddles to run twice round the lakes having enjoyed a disco by Phil Gomm in the Piazza with exercises led by the team from Reflections to warm them up. The Resolution Run planned for March had to be postponed due to the snow and again in April due to wet and muddy conditions. At the time of writing we await news of a new date.

May Fair

Sponsored by the Watermead Inn the May Fair was enjoyed by many with strong competition to become Watermead's star baker, sponsored by GK Plumbing. The maypole dancing was accomplished and the May Queen suitably glamorous. Our thanks to Kelvin and Nicky Wong and

their team for resurrecting this event for the village.

In the New Year, **the Larks by the Lake** team led by Karen Collett and her committee, started work to plan this year's event on Sunday 27th May with The Watermead Inn sponsoring the event and other local businesses covering the cost of essential items. There will be much on offer including an exemption Dog Show – all dogs are welcome, with rosettes to fifth place, a Best in Show and Best Puppy in Show trophy and lots of other doggie prizes. The fete includes a funfair, zorbs, craft stalls, food and bar and much more. Do come and enjoy this village event, raising funds for local charities and Watermead amenities.

Christmas Craft Fair and Carol Concert

The Craft Fair on the first Saturday of December and Carol Concert are two established and much-loved events where we can meet our neighbours, do a little shopping and enjoy a delicious lunch cooked by Dot Toler. Graham Severn's organisation of the Fair, with Noreen's assistance, means it is popular with stallholders and shoppers.

The Carol Concert run by Mary Singleton was again a huge success. With better weather and more children than ever the carols were sung with great gusto, following the Christmas Story told in chocolate biscuits this



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In this issue:

- 06 Earth Day - looking after our planet
- 11 Local Beekeepers
- 12 Book Review
- 14 Friars - the local music club that rocked the world
- 16 Waddesdon Bowls Club
- 17 Watermead Pub Lunch
- 18 All change for Hospice's Midnight Walk
- 18 Who are Aylesbury Women's Aid
- 21 Larks by the lake
- 22 Online child abuse
- 22 Bucks County Museum Events
- 23 Our beautiful wildlife
- 26 A Glass Act
- 29 Aylesbury Lions

Plus our regular features:

- 03 Chairman's Annual Report 2017/18
- 04 Tea break quiz
- 06 Places to eat
- 08 What's on
- 09 Watermead allotments news
- 10 Summer BBQ recipes
- 12 Netta Glover's report
- 13 Watermead Cygnets Pre-school
- 17 Help the WI to end plastic soup
- 25 View from Westminster
- 27 Random person
- 29 Sally's Blog
- 30 Oaaaaarggggggahhhhh!

page 05



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Tea Break Quiz



1. The name of which team sport means 'the hooked stick' in French?
2. Who won the 1963 record of the year Grammy for 'I left my heart in San Francisco'?
3. Which garden is considered to be among the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World?
4. What colour jersey is worn by the winners of each stage of the Tour de France?
5. In publishing what does POD mean?
6. On Blue Peter what was John Noakes' dog called?
7. What is sushi traditionally wrapped in?
8. What word goes before vest, bean and quartet?
9. Name the gardener who is almost as famous for his long blond plait as he is for his books and regular appearances on BBC radio's 'Gardener's Question Time'?
10. Name the country where you would find the Cresta Run?
11. Who became Prime Minister after Winston Churchill in 1955?
12. What flavour is Cointreau?
13. Which two metals is pewter made from?
14. Name the actor who died in 1984 and also starred in a film titled 1984?
15. Which Russian town suffered an infamous nuclear disaster in 1986?
16. What did A E Frick invent in 1887 which are now worn by thousands, if not millions of people?
17. Who wrote the poem Paradise Lost?
18. What was Marilyn Monroe's natural hair colour?
19. How many bones does an adult human have?
20. Whose face was said to have launched 1000 ships?

Answers on page 30

...page 03

year by Reverend Mark Ackford. The WI provided mince pies, gluten free Christmas cake and sausage rolls, together with the traditional mulled wine to keep us warm. Thanks to everyone, all the work is worthwhile. (In case you were wondering Father Christmas will be joining us again this year – he has the date in his diary).

I should also mention the Christmas lights which again proved popular with some very attractive displays.

Village Hall

The Village Hall continues to be a popular location for parties, classes, clubs and much else. It is a large contributor to life in Watermead. The hall has needed new emergency lighting this year and some maintenance and repairs, but overall remains in excellent condition – we enjoyed the warmth provided by the new boiler, particularly during the very cold weather.

Planning

Planning matters have occupied councillors' minds and time for so long – the Crematorium has been rumbling on since 2014 and the Piazza flats application for over a year. The Parish Council has been asked by parishioners to ensure we fight both proposals and we have done so vigorously.

At the time of writing the Crematorium planning application was heard at a meeting of AVDC's strategic planning committee in April. Despite presenting a robust and factual case to councillors, WPC and the objectors were ignored by councillors who were clearly minded to approve, at more or less any cost, the cost being to our community, sadly. The applicants must now wait to hear whether or not the matter will be called in to central government for a decision. We are working very hard to ensure that this happens; we have no confidence in the planning authority. We provided every planning reason to refuse the application, however they state they have worked with the applicant for over a year to ensure the plans would be met with approval. We do not believe that this is satisfactory. The PC and many parishioners believe it is pre-determined, and are making constant representations to the Secretary of State, and Rt Hon David Lidington MP to ensure this is clearly understood.

The Piazza flats application has met with dismay. The car park is already over full

whenever the weather is good and many visit Watermead and the local shops and businesses in the Piazza. The loss of a single parking space would be unacceptable. The proposed blocks are out of keeping with the local vernacular, would be overbearing and cause considerable traffic problems. The Parish Council, with many parishioners, have objected on the strongest planning grounds. At the time of writing Highways has recommended refusal on the basis of increased traffic and lack of parking. We have confirmed we will speak at any planning meeting which will be held if the Officer recommends approval to councillors. We keep a regular check on progress and are in touch with the planning authority. The application has been delayed due to the applicants and fresh plans for parking and a traffic survey.

Other planning matters have included the usual mix of extensions, and minor building work to existing properties. Again, the Parish Council is consulted, but does not make the decision. We are always really pleased to hear the views of residents on all planning matters either at our meetings or to the Parish Clerk. Our job is to represent everyone and it is helpful to know what people think.

Financial

We have not had to increase the Parish Precept (council tax paid to the parish) to cover the legal fees for the Crematorium cases. We received our legal costs back, paid by AVDC. This has enabled us to meet the current costs from budgeted funds, and from funds budgeted but not utilised, in previous years.

This year we have increased the precept by 2.56% resulting in a Band D house paying £1.49 per week for 2018/19 against £1.46 last year. The PC is confident that it will be able to provide the same level of service in terms of grounds maintenance, repairs and improvements, provision and servicing of bins and meeting administration costs while maintaining a prudent level of reserves. Unexpected costs have included repairs to vandalised assets and land, but we hope this will not be needed next year.

Land

The erosion works to the large lake by the Memorial Garden were completed in the summer; with the grass now growing and marginal plants beginning to

thrive, we are able to enjoy that part of the land without fear of losing the path in the near future.

The Parish Council owns the land immediately adjacent to the kerb stones in the Crematorium drive. A new gate has been installed beside the Gatehouse allowing access to our land, which is public amenity land, covered by the Section 106 Agreement in force.

The land to the north side of the Crematorium also belongs to the community and access has now been improved for walkers. It is planned, once the weather improves, to run a series of nature walks in the area, led by Eric Rose, a keen birdwatcher and nature lover. Details will be sent to those on our mailing list and posted on our website and noticeboards. Please do join a walk this summer in a lovely area of Watermead.

Wildlife

We continue to enjoy the wonderful wildlife especially the birds on and around our lakes. Rising water levels in March and April meant that many of our water birds lost their nests and had to find new locations. The resident swans, who had started making a nest on the bandstand island, nested close to Guillemot Court and the area was cordoned off to deter people and their pets straying too close to it. Sadly the black swan was found dead close to the bandstand on 29th April; possibly attacked by the resident male swan, particularly aggressive during nesting time. We have had up to twenty swans, including last year's cygnets, on the lakes at points during this year.

Allotments

The allotments continue to be an attractive area with a strong community of allotmenters. We look forward to their plant and produce sales and I am sure many of us wish we had the time and inclination to join them! However, they have suffered considerable vandalism and damage this year, which is both unfortunate and despicable. We hope the Police will manage to patrol some more to save this happening in future. It is pointless, costly and disappointing.

WI

The WI continues to have a successful presence in Watermead with lively meetings, talks and outings. We can all certainly recommend their baking, of course!

Watermead Pub Lunch Club

Mary Singleton worked with Community Impact Bucks to set up an over 50s lunch club. It meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Watermead Inn. This has proved popular, with fifty members so far. An opportunity to meet new friends and catch up with others, much enjoyed by all. The two course menu is always different, and is very good value.

Thanks

Thank you to everyone who has helped us this year contributing their time and volunteering in the community. Special thanks as well to everyone who has offered support and encouragement, much appreciated and much needed - our community stands together:

- Dave Lang and Graham Severn (ably assisted by Sally the Spaniel) who clear litter and spray dog poo, picking up items which could be dangerous to others; without their daily clearance of litter we would not be able to keep Watermead so clean and tidy.
- Dot Toler for her lovely lunches at the Craft Fair and much else.
- The Village View team, led by editor Mary Singleton, who manages to produce a new and different magazine every single time;
- Noreen Shardlow continues to work very hard for the village, and she has worked tirelessly on the Crematorium case, taking up countless hours of time. She and Michelle Jackson ensure that the parish is managed effectively, offering excellent service to parishioners at all times. Thank you both.

My councillor colleagues faced many challenges this year from planning matters, encouraging the Cricket Club in its efforts to re-form, withstanding a great deal of bullying and unacceptable comment and innuendo around the Crematorium. I am pleased to say that we stand resolute, the community has told us what it thinks, and we will work as hard as necessary to bring about the desired outcome if we possibly can. The Council works as a team, each councillor generously contributing their own talent and experience, resulting in a professional, highly motivated council which achieves much. I am very proud to be a member of Watermead Parish Council.

Chairman Sue Severn

Earth Day – looking after our planet

The Village View editorial committee met to discuss this issue of the magazine on Sunday 22nd April. When I opened my calendar to enter the meeting that date was logged as Earth Day. I had never heard of it, so I did some research.

It was started in America in 1970 to promote ecology and respect for life on our planet and to encourage awareness of the growing problems of air, water and soil pollution, rainforest depletion and animal extinction. The United Nations call it International Mother Earth Day.

It is celebrated all over the world with all sorts of activities from planting trees to collecting rubbish left on highways and other public places. On Earth Day in 2011 28 million trees were planted in Afghanistan; in 2012 100,000 people in China took to their bikes to save fuel and reduce CO2 emissions from cars; in Panama they planted 100 species of endangered orchids to prevent their extinction.

Like me, you may never have heard of Earth Day, but you can't have missed all the attention given in the media to the over-use of plastics following David Attenborough's Blue Planet documentary. As a result many businesses are planning to change their usual practices to be more eco-friendly and we can all make an individual contribution to the alleviation of the problem.

Look around your house and examine your daily routines; is there anything you can change that will help? It doesn't need to be

monumental. Lots of people making small changes all add up.
My contribution so far:
I no longer buy individual cartons of fruit juice – packed in plastic, with a plastic straw attached. I used to keep them in the car in case I got thirsty while I was out. Now I use a re-useable bottle which I refill. Cheaper too.

I now save the internal bag from packets of cereal and use them instead of freezer bags when dividing up large packs of meat or fish, etc into individual servings. Cheaper too.

I have had a Sodastream for many years and recently persuaded my daughter to consider buying one instead of the ten or so bottles of fizzy water that her family get through every week!

I buy fresh bread instead of ready sliced in a plastic bag. Tesco will slice it for you and put it into a bag that is mostly paper. (A small plastic window allows you to see what's inside.)

Straws – I don't use them much, but now I have paper ones and I have had chunky, bendy, plastic but washable ones for a long time for my granddaughter.

Tea bags – even though I must have been one of the last people in the country to abandon loose tea, I don't relish the thought of reverting to it full time, but I am watching out for the new bags that don't have any plastic in their construction.

Microbeads. Lots of cosmetics

manufacturers have stopped using them in their products, but apparently thousands of microscopic microfibrils are shed from our synthetic clothes each time they are washed, which then make their way to the sea, where they are eaten by the wildlife and can then travel up the food chain to be eaten by us! Some manufacturers are looking into the possibilities for the use of alternative materials, not available yet, and we can't all afford or want to replace our entire wardrobes. In the meantime I give much more thought into what I put into my laundry basket. For instance, if I put on a dress or blouse to go out for the evening and I have only worn it for three hours or so, I will air it and put it back in the wardrobe (inside out to indicate pre-worn) – provided, of course, that I have not spilled my dinner down it.

We are lucky in Bucks that we have the Energy from Waste facility that burns unrecyclable waste that would otherwise have gone to landfill. (Phil Toler wrote about his visit there in the Autumn 2017 issue). But I am not going to let that make me complacent about my efforts to be more aware of what I can do to be eco-friendly and assessing what I do and use is an ongoing project for me. I hope it will be for you too.

Carolynne McKee

Places to eat

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

Russell Arms
2 Chalkshire Rd, Butlers Cross, Buckinghamshire HP17 0TS
01296 624411

Serving villagers and visitors to picturesque Butlers Cross since 1784, The Russell Arms isn't just about a cosy setting and fine food and drink; it offers a range of entertainment to give your evening that little extra something. Whether you enjoy accomplished jazz and acoustic music, a classic pub quiz, or a sumptuous summer barbecue there is always something to whet your appetite. Closed on Mondays.

Akeman Inn
Kingswood, Aylesbury HP18 0QJ
01296 770318

Recommended by our assistant clerk,

Michelle, The Akeman Inn in Kingswood existed as a coaching inn for 200 years, until the mid-19th century. Named after the ancient Roman road upon which it resides between Bicester and Aylesbury, this substantial building offers a lounge and bar area with a range of comfortable seating options and open fireplace, a modern restaurant with timber beams and an open kitchen, views of open countryside, and ample parking. Outside seating is also available.

From 10am Monday to Friday, and 9am on Saturday and Sunday, they serve a seasonal, Mediterranean-inspired menu based on sustainable, quality ingredients. An extensive range and variety of dishes are made in the open kitchen, which features a charcoal-fuelled Josper grill, while our trained pizzaiolos freshly prepare and cook Neapolitan pizza in the bespoke wood-fired oven.

China Brasserie
2 Pine Street, Fairford Leys, Aylesbury
HP19 7HS 01296 397802/422859

I arranged a meal for 55 Aylesbury Vale U3A members at this very popular Chinese restaurant situated in the heart of Fairford Leys Village centre. We were treated to a veritable feast of tasty starters, shredded duck in thin pancakes with accompaniments, and a main course with egg fried rice and fresh vegetables.

I can recommend their "All You Can Eat" Buffet service on Sundays. They also offer special mid-week meal deals and special value lunch menu.

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

Mary Singleton

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What's on IN AND AROUND WATERMEAD

June

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

July

5th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
15th	Lavender Lane Vintage Fair	Village Hall, 10am - 3:30pm
19th	Watermead Parish Council	Village Hall, 7:30pm

August

2nd	Watermead & Weedon WI	Lunch at venue (tbc). No evening meeting
16th	Watermead Parish Council	Village Hall, 7:30pm
27th	Bank Holiday	

September

6th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
16th	Lavender Lane Vintage Fair	Village Hall, 10am - 3:30pm
20th	Watermead Parish Council	Village Hall, 7:30pm

Village Hall

PARISH COUNCIL
3rd Thursday of the month
Public meeting - 7:30pm
Council meeting - 8:00pm

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3 & 4 yrs: Tuesday
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8:30 - 9:00am
Lunch: Monday, Wednesday - Friday
12:00 - 1:30pm)
Maree Van Danzig
maree-cygnets@hotmail.co.uk
07563 783464

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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
(approx 18 months)
Debbie Bird 625599

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Contact Judith Muston

CASTIELLIDANCE SCHOOL

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Janet Castielli 433956
www.luv2dance.co.uk

YOGA

Tuesdays 6:00 - 7:00pm
7:15 - 8:15pm
Gale Smith 747900

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

Advertise in the Village View 50% discount for Watermead residents

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News Watermead allotments

Hello from Compost Corner! Finally. **FINALLY**, the grey skies cleared. Is it just me or has it been the longest winter ever? We've had East Beasts and a Mini East Beast before April gave us a taste of August. Did you notice how soon the hedgerows became green?

Same at the allotments. The raised beds have been snoring under layers of compost and horse poo and suddenly there's a forest of weeding to be done. We have also been picking up the glass from the vandalised greenhouses and repairing the latches on the broken sheds. We don't lock our shed - if there's nothing in it then we think there's nothing to steal. The vandals played a new game with us this time called "who's fork is this?" They left behind tools from someone else's shed - anyone lost some digging equipment?

We took on a new plot this year and are pleased to see that most of the soft fruit bushes that we moved have green buds and we are looking forward to a harvest of berries - blue, black and rasp.

It's now time to think about what we want to plant. We made the mistake of planting things that we didn't really want to eat in our first season - I mean, who likes chard? It's going to be potatoes, beans and peas of many varieties and sweet corn. We're also going to see what varieties of flowers grow best in Watermead's clay soil. We've got a wedding coming up next year and it would be lovely to grow our own flowers for the venue.

Finally, congratulations to Gail Lisok, for being awarded Allotment of the Year. We tried to tell her that she only won because the previous winners weren't allowed to enter but she was having none of it! Gail, or Ginnifer, as she doesn't like us to call her, has done a remarkable job fighting the clay soil on her plot. The hard work she put in over the last year paid dividends with a fantastic harvest. The rumour this year is that she's only going to plant sloes - only kidding. Well done Ginnifer.

If you'd like a plot - I'm not going to pretend it's not hard work, but as Gail found out the rewards are immense - please contact Noreen, our Parish Clerk.

Happy Digging!

From Graham and Kelie-Marie



Summer barbecue recipes

Barbecued sardines with summer herb sauce

Serves 6
Sardines have a very evocative flavour and aroma that perfectly suit eating out of doors. This recipe can be prepared ahead of time, and if the coals on the barbecue are good and hot, the fish are cooked in moments. If sorrel is unavailable use young spinach leaves mixed with about 1 tablespoon grated zest of lemon for the stuffing.

Ingredients
2lb (900g) fresh sardines (about 12),
6oz (175g) fresh sorrel leaves (stalks removed), washed and dried,
Approx. 2 tablespoons olive oil,
Salt and freshly milled black pepper

For the sauce:
3 shallots, finely chopped
1 large clove garlic, finely chopped
3 tablespoons cider vinegar
2 teaspoons balsamic vinegar
1 rounded tablespoon snipped fresh chives
1 level tablespoon chopped fresh tarragon
1 rounded tablespoon chopped fresh basil
1 rounded tablespoon chopped fresh flat-leaf
Salt and freshly milled black pepper

Method
1. Prepare the sardines by using a small pair of scissors to cut open the bellies and remove the innards. Then wipe them inside and out with damp kitchen paper and arrange them on a plate.
2. Next chop the sorrel leaves fairly finely, then season and use three-quarters of them to stuff inside the bellies of the fish.
3. Sprinkle the oil over the fish and rub it in so that they all get a good coating.
4. To prepare the sauce, place the remaining sorrel leaves along with the other herbs, the shallots and garlic in a jug or serving-bowl and add 5

tablespoons of boiling water followed by the vinegars. Stir well and season with salt and pepper.
5. The sardines will need very little time to cook – just 2 minutes on each side. Sardines may also be cooked under a grill. Serve with the sauce handed around separately.

Mixed grill with an apricot barbeque glaze

Serves 6
This sauce is suitable for all meats.
NB Chicken drumsticks need pre-baking in a pre-heated oven at gas mark 4, 350 degrees F (180 degrees C), for 15 minutes just before glazing and barbecuing.

Ingredients
6 small to medium drumsticks,
6 lamb cutlets,
6 pork ribs

For the apricot barbecue glaze:
2 large apricots,
2 rounded tablespoons dark brown sugar,
2 fl oz (55 ml) Worcester sauce,
2 fl oz (55 ml) light soy sauce,
1 tbsp grated fresh ginger,
A few drops of tabasco sauce,
2 tbsp tomato puree,
1 clove garlic,
Freshly milled black pepper

Method
1. Begin by placing the apricots in a small saucepan with enough water to cover them, then bring them up to simmering point and simmer for 2 minutes.
2. Drain off the water and, as soon as they are cool enough to handle, slip off the skins. Then halve and stone them and place the flesh in a blender or food processor together with all the other glaze ingredients. Whizz everything to a puree and the sauce is ready.
3. Arrange the lamb and pork in a shallow dish and pour glaze over them saving some for the chicken. Turn the pieces of

meat so that each one gets a good coating – then cover and leave in a cool place until you are ready to cook.
4. When you light the charcoal, pre-cook the chicken drumsticks as above and when the charcoal is at the right heat, brush the drumsticks with the glaze and cook for about 5 minutes on each side about 3 inches (7.5 cm) from the coals. The ribs and cutlets will need about 6 minutes on each side, but take the lamb off before 12 minutes if you like it very rare.
5. It is suggested that you scrape any sauce that's left in the dish into a small saucepan, add a glass of white wine to it and bring it all up to simmering point to give some extra sauce. Serve the barbecued glazed meats with oven-roasted potatoes with garlic and rosemary, a crisp salad and some very robust red wine!

Oven-roasted potatoes with garlic and rosemary

Serves 4-6

Ingredients
2lb (900g) unpeeled large new potatoes, skins on,
2 tablespoons fresh rosemary leaves, finely chopped,
1-2 cloves garlic, finely chopped,
2 tablespoons olive oil,
Salt and freshly milled black pepper

Method
1. Pour oil into roasting tin and pop it into the oven to heat through. Wash the potatoes but don't scrape the skins off, then cut them into cubes of roughly half an inch (1 cm). Place them in a clean tea cloth and dry them as thoroughly as you can, then transfer them to a large plate.
2. Remove the tin from the oven, place it over direct heat – oil needs to be very hot – then carefully slide the potatoes straight into the hot oil. Turn them around to get a good coating of oil, sprinkling in the

garlic and rosemary as you do so.
3. Return the tin to the oven and roast for 30-40 minutes or until the potatoes are golden brown and crisp. Season with salt and pepper before serving.

Red-coated Courgettes

Serves 2-4

Ingredients
12 oz (350 g) young courgettes,
12 oz (350 g) red ripe tomatoes,
1 small onion, finely chopped,
1 fat garlic clove, crushed,
1 heaped teaspoon fresh oregano,
2 tablespoons olive oil,
Salt and freshly milled black pepper

Method
1. You will need a large, wide frying pan for this. Begin by heating 1 tablespoon of oil in the pan and frying the onion gently for 5 minutes.
2. Meanwhile wipe the courgettes, trim off the ends and then cut them into slices about ¼ inch (5 mm) thick. Remove the onion to a plate.
3. Turn the heat right up, add the second tablespoon of oil and, when it's really hot, add the courgette slices to the pan, spreading them out in one layer. Fry them to colour lightly on both sides.
4. In the meantime, pour boiling water over the tomatoes, then after one minute slip the skins off and roughly chop the flesh.
5. When the courgettes are coloured, return the onion to the pan and pour the chopped tomatoes over. Sprinkle in the crushed garlic, oregano and some seasoning and simmer gently, stirring every now and then, for about 10 minutes or until the tomato pulp has reduced and thickened and completely coats the courgettes.

Recipes are taken from Delia Smith's Summer Collection



Local Bee Keepers need your help! Honey bee swarms are very important



Following the long winter of 2017-2018 and the late Spring, colonies of honeybees are under tremendous stress. In the wild the survival chance of a honeybee swarm is about 20%. Collected, and housed in a hive by a beekeeper, the survival rate triples. The MBBKA needs the help of everyone in the area to ensure we collect as many swarms this year as possible. If you see a swarm of bees please contact the MBBKA on the swarm-line number below. We will send a beekeeper to collect the swarm and provide it with a new home.

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 around 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. Before Honey Bees swarm they gorge themselves with honey before leaving the hive. This makes it very hard for them to double over and sting.

What causes Honey bees to swarm: Honey bees have a natural instinct to create new colonies by swarming. 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 2018

If you see a swarm: The collection of swarms is 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.

Brian Bush – Mid Bucks Beekeepers and BBKA Swarm Officer

MBBKA Swarm Hotline
07770 370132

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



Dog Waste

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

If you do use a public dog waste bin, these are emptied on a weekly basis. If you notice one that's damaged or full please contact us using the online report it form www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/general-reports. It's a dog owner's responsibility to clear up after their dog if it fouls in a public area and failing to do so can be costly, with a fine of up to £1000.



Netta Glover's report

Children's Services

Over the last few months, the council has been talking with local councillors, residents, schools and partners, holding public meetings and sharing plans for the new early help service and the suggested future use of children's centres and youth buildings in the local community. As a result of these conversations, the council wants to do more to capture the views of residents and local families before implementing the new service and will be carrying out a further public consultation in the next few months. As such, the council will not be implementing the decision made by Cabinet on 8 January 2018 in relation to moving to the new service.

Cabinet Member for Children's Services Warren Whyte said: "We recognise the strength of feeling amongst families and the local community about the changes we are proposing and want to continue to have these discussions. Therefore, we will consult further with residents. No public meetings will take place for the time being, and we expect to publicise new dates for these as part of the new consultation process. I hope residents and families will feel reassured that we are listening to their concerns and want to work with them to shape the support for families going forward."

Modernising Local Government

Link to BCC's proposal for a single unitary authority: www.futurebucks.co.uk. Residents can make their views known to james.brokenshire@communities.gsi.gov.uk - AVDC is making a separate response. Martin Tett made a presentation on the subject on 16 April 2018 and a number

of parish councillors raised relevant questions.

UK Power Networks

UK Power Networks is the country's largest, and lowest cost, electricity Distribution Network Operator (DNO). They serve over a quarter of the UK population and keep the lights on for homes, schools, hospitals and businesses across the East of England, the South-East and London.

Their newsletter includes information on how they can help vulnerable customers and how customers can track power cuts via their website <https://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk>

Fix My Street: Advance notice

This new reporting tool will be available after the soft launch has run its course. Fix My Street replaces our current reporting system and it will be easier to use and more comprehensive for our customers. The project team are currently working hard to get even more out of the tool before public promotion takes place.

When the site goes live the address will be www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk

Health Check

A free health check is available for residents aged 40 to 74. To be eligible you must:

- Be aged between 40 and 74
- Live in Buckinghamshire
- Not already been diagnosed with heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease or had a stroke
- Not had an NHS health check in the past five years.

'Be a better biker' assessment days are back for 2018

In the last three years (2015 to 2017), 154 riders and pillion passengers have been killed or seriously injured on Buckinghamshire's roads. The course, which is supported by the County Council and Travel Safe Bucks, aims to reduce the number of bikers killed or injured on the roads.

Bookings are now being taken for the most extensive Be a Better Biker (BaBB) season in Buckinghamshire so far. Running every month between April and September, the assessment days are hosted by Thames Vale Advanced Motorcyclists (TVAM) and are open to all bikers with a full motorcycle licence. BaBB aims to progress good bikers into great bikers, offering a workshop on the principles of advanced riding followed by an on-road assessment.

The workshops, which run from 10am – 4pm and cost £20 per rider, will all take place at Marlow Fire Station on;

Saturday 28th April
Sunday 13th May
Saturday 23rd June
Sunday 22nd July
Saturday 11th August
Saturday 8th September

To book your place, log onto www.buckscc.gov.uk/beabetterbiker

Cllr Netta Glover

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 carrots. The children are taught all about what helps plants grow including soil, water and the importance of watering every day.

We celebrated Pancake Day and supported Sport Relief by collecting donations from parents and local businesses. We also held a Mother's Day assembly where the children made cards and sang songs thanking their Mums for being there for them.

A big thank you to all children and parents of Watermead Cygnets who raised a magnificent £338.50 for our sponsored obstacle

course. Ten percent of the amount raised was given to Sport Relief and the remainder will be used to fund a trip at the end of term to Gullivers World.

The children were excited during the build up to Easter which culminated in them putting on an Easter Hat Parade and an egg rolling competition. All the children decorated their own eggs and made their own hats 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 and there were lots of fantastic colourful creations.

Next half term we will be looking at people who help us. We have invited a nurse, a dental nurse, a police officer and some fire fighters to come and talk to the children about their jobs and show them their uniforms. We will also look at different types of transport and journeys we

make, and fantasy/super heroes when the children can enjoy dressing up and making up stories.

Cygnets pre-school are holding a stall at Larks by the Lake on Sunday 27th May.

Any donations of books, bottles would greatly be appreciated; just drop them into pre-school in the Village Hall during the morning or at the Watermead Inn. We look forward to seeing you there.

Cygnets accepts children from 2½ years to 5 years

old. We open from 8.30am to 1.30pm on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and on Tuesday from 8.30am to 12.30pm. 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.



Book Review

Edna O'Brien: The Little Red Chairs

Edna O'Brien is in her late 80s and, boy, can she still cut the literary mustard. The Little Red Chairs is very close to a masterpiece, up there with the best of this extraordinary author's oeuvre. And - short of writing about Trump or Brexit - it's as contemporary as you can get.

A refugee Balkan 'faith healer' sets out his stall in a small village on the Irish coast. The locals fall under his spell, none more so than Fidelma McBride, the draper's wife, childless and unhappy. Fidelma manages to – almost – keep their affair a secret. But then 'Doctor Vlad' is exposed as the exact opposite of what he claims to be. He's a war criminal, the 'Beast of Bosnia', wanted for trial in The Hague.

Fidelma's life takes an awful turn after this revelation. I won't give away any more of the plot, but an agonizing event follows Vlad's arrest and there's another grim chapter in a London asylum centre where several refugees narrate their stories of Bosnia and elsewhere in this ruined world in this ruined time.

Whether she's writing of love or of war, O'Brien's prose fairly dances off the page. This magnificent book possesses a magic of its own, a terrible beauty. The most poignant novel I've read in a long time; indeed one of the best ever on the mighty theme of War and Peace.



Friars – the local music club that rocked the world on Sunday 25th March 2018

The calm spring sunshine heralded a very special day, hosted by the legendary Friars Club Aylesbury, to celebrate the life and work of the great David Bowie, who put Friars firmly on the music map back in the 70's with his three landmark gigs:

- 25th September 1971** world premiere live performance of 'Hunky Dory'
- 29th January 1972** world premiere live performance by alter ego 'Ziggy Stardust'
- 15th July 1972** last gig at Friars. Fifty American journalists in attendance!



Celebrations kicked off in Market Square around mid-day with interviews featuring local MP David Lidington, pop star Howard Jones and members of progressive rock band Marillion. We were then treated to some exciting contemporary original rock from highly talented local band Callow Saints. To the sound of long loud cheers, at precisely 2pm the bronze statue of Bowie and his various characters was unveiled by Howard Jones, accompanied by Friars founder David Stopps and CEO of Sony Music Entertainment Rob Stringer. At 4.30pm Charlie Fowler, from world renowned tribute act 'David Live', took to the Waterside second stage and gave everyone a mesmerising rendition of some of the Bowie classics. Charlie represents the true spirit of Bowie; an immensely talented yet effortlessly charming chap who mixed and socialised with anyone and everyone, all day long, just like the real David. In the evening a sell-out crowd at the Waterside main theatre were treated to some epic performances from local artists The Dung Beatles, John Otway, Howard Jones and Marillion. For a grand finale all the musical acts and key players from the day's events took to the stage together for an encore featuring Bowie hit "Heroes", and brought the whole Waterside audience to its feet. A fitting way to end a unique occasion.

David Bowie's statue (see pic on right) can be seen underneath the arches at the bottom left corner of Market Square.

Phil Toler



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Waddesdon Bowls Club

Whether you are looking for a recreational activity with plenty of social interaction or a competitive team sport offering the opportunity of achieving at the highest level, bowls is the logical choice. It is one of the few sports that everyone whether young, old, female, male, can play together as equals.

Waddesdon Bowls Club is set in the grounds of Waddesdon Manor with membership open to all interested in playing outdoor lawn bowls. We are keen to meet new members of any age. Anybody can come along and meet our qualified coaches on a Tuesday evening from 6 pm onwards. A quarter of our membership consists of young bowlers aged under 25 both male and female, so don't think we are all old codgers!!

Located in Silk Street Waddesdon (HP18 0JY), it is just 150 metres on the right after the main gates to Waddesdon Manor. We have excellent facilities for members including a seven rink grass green, a recently extended and well-appointed club house, a licensed bar and a large private car park. The setting of the Bowls Club is fabulous; there are few things more relaxing than a summer evening in this beautiful setting.

So why not give it a go? Couples and families are also very welcome and on May 13th from 2.30pm we have an open day where you can come along and try. Just bring some flat soled footwear.

For further information visit us on Facebook or call **Peter Smith** on **01844 238125**



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www.buckscc.gov.uk/travelinfo



Help the WI to end plastic soup

What's the problem? Microplastic fibres are small plastic fragments 5mm or smaller that are shed from synthetic clothes when laundered and end up in the sea and wider environment. The scale of the problem is large; millions of people wash their clothes every week, shedding these tiny particles that are too small to be caught by the machine's filters, flowing into the sewage system and eventually into the ocean.

Due to their small size microplastic fibres are readily ingested by aquatic life, filling up their stomachs which can eventually cause death. We also know that the plastic fibres attract toxins and harmful chemical pollutants which then end up in the food we eat, the long term effects of which are not yet clear.

How can you help?

Raising awareness of the issue amongst our community is an important step to encourage people to take action and understand the impact microplastic fibres are having on the environment. Consumers can make a difference by altering clothes purchasing and washing habits.

Wash well

The EU Mermaids Project and Ocean Clean Wash have developed a range of actions that you can take to reduce the release of fibres from washing clothes:

- Wash less – only wash clothes when they need it. Items that are not worn close to the skin often do not need washing after just one wear. This will also prolong the life of your clothes.

- Fill up your washing machine to the maximum; washing a full load results in less friction between the clothes and, therefore, less fibres are released.
- Use washing liquid instead of powder; the 'scrub' function of the grains of the powder result in loosening the fibres of clothes more than with liquid.
- Wash at a low temperature; when the clothes are washed at a high temperature some fabrics are damaged, leading to the release of fibres.
- When cleaning the dryer, do not flush the lint down the drain. Throw it in the bin.
- Avoid long washing cycles; long periods of washing cause more friction between fabrics which can result in more tearing of the fibres.
- Avoid using detergents with a high ph and oxidising agents.

Wear well – shop smarter and buy less
Before buying a new item of clothing ask yourself these questions:

- Do you love it? Be choosy. Don't compromise for designs you don't really like just because they are in style.
- Does it fit well?
- Does it go with the rest of your wardrobe?
- Is it well-made? Avoid clothes that do not look like they will wear and wash well.

For further information and ways to get involved with the campaign, such as sending a letter to our local MP, visit thewi.org.uk/endplasticsoup

Watermead Pub Lunch Club

How would you like to go out to lunch once a month, meet friends and make new ones whilst enjoying an inexpensive but tasty lunch?

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

Kelvin and his team make us very welcome and provide a menu with three choices of main course, including one for vegetarians, and three delicious desserts for £8. You should advise if you have special dietary requirements and they will do their best to accommodate you. There is always someone there to greet you and take your

money so please don't worry about coming along if you are on your own.

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

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

Watermead & Weedon WI

forthcoming programme:

7th June

"Aromatherapy – the power of plants"
A Talk By Maria Greenhill

5th July

A papercraft evening with Carol

2nd August

Summer Lunch – Venue tbc. Nb: There will be no meeting in the evening

6th September

"Sidney Da Kidney" – Who? What?
Come and find out. Cake Sale for Six Counties Kidney Patients' Association.

If you are thinking that 2018 might be the year you join WI, we meet in Watermead Village Hall on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm with the exception of August when we meet for lunch in a local restaurant. Please note that we meet on the second Thursday in May as the village hall is used for voting on the first Thursday when there is an election. Visitors and prospective members are welcome at all our meetings and contact details for Committee members are available under What's On on page 08. We look forward to seeing you!

All change for Hospice's Midnight Walk

In 2018, Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity's annual Midnight Walk will change in two important ways. "We asked the public whether they would like the event to be opened out to men and boys as well as women and girls," explains Jo Turner, Head of Fundraising at Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity (FNHC). "We ran a survey in November and December last year, and 80% of the respondents said they would like men to be allowed to take part."

While the majority of respondents were in favour of men joining the Walk, some fear that it will change the unique atmosphere of the event. "It's nice to celebrate with girlfriends in a relaxed atmosphere. I feel that may change and become more competitive," said one respondent.

However, many comments also pointed out that men wish to support the Hospice as well. "Men also lose loved ones to cancer or suffer from cancer just the same as ladies," one lady wrote, while another said, "Why not, the more the merrier, it's raising money for a brilliant cause. Males look good in pink and flashing lights."

Responding to the results, the FNHC Events team decided that the 2018 Midnight Walk should be open to everyone over the age of 11 on the 23rd June.

The Charity also asked survey respondents if they would prefer to keep the distance options the same, or change them to a 5 mile route and a 10 mile route.

"54% of respondents to our research said they would prefer a choice of five miles or ten miles, and so we have decided to trial these distances," says Jo. "This means that the routes will change significantly, and although we are still at the planning stages, it seems likely that the ten mile route will go via Weston Turville and Aston Clinton, while the five mile route will split off the Wendover Road and go down Bedgrove, returning via the A41."

The new look Midnight Walk will take place on 23 June 2018, starting and finishing at Aylesbury College as usual.

The Midnight Walk is FNHC's largest fundraising event and last

year raised over £55,000 with 475 Walkers dressed in the event's iconic dayglo pink T-shirts and flashing bunny ears. "One thing that won't be changing is the Midnight Walk "uniform"," says Jo Turner. "The flashing ears are spectacular, and the T-shirts in 'Safety Pink' help to keep Walkers visible as well as being traditional!"

The money raised by Midnight Walkers makes a huge contribution to enable Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity to continue to provide services to patients with life-limiting illnesses at the Hospice and at home, and this year the Charity hopes the changes to the event will increase the number of Walkers and the amount raised for the Hospice.

Registration is £20. Walkers receive a free souvenir Midnight Walk 2018 T-shirt, as well as a medal and complimentary breakfast at the end of the Walk.

For more information and to sign up, please visit www.fnhospice.org.uk/midnightwalk



Who are Aylesbury Women's Aid?

Aylesbury Women's Aid is a charity that was set up in 1986 by a small group of women who were concerned that there was no provision for women being abused by their partners in the Aylesbury Vale area. Since that time, we have grown as an organisation and provide a range of support to women who are experiencing abuse.

What is Domestic Abuse?

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members

regardless of gender or sexuality

In our view domestic violence is physical, sexual, psychological or financial violence that takes place within an intimate or family-type relationship and that forms a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour regardless of gender or sexuality.

This can include forced marriage and so-called 'honour crimes'. Domestic violence may include a range of abusive behaviours, not all of which are in themselves inherently 'violent'.

Who can help?

Asking for support and advice is often a very difficult thing to do if you are feeling isolated or low in yourself. You may not

even feel that you deserve to have support.

It is important to know that there are services out there that can provide advice at the right level for you, your children, family and friends.

Often the first step to breaking the cycle of abuse is sharing your problem with another person whether that is through the helpline, outreach worker or a support group.

Advice and Support Lines

Aylesbury Women's Aid: 01296 437777

www.aylesburywomensaid.org.uk

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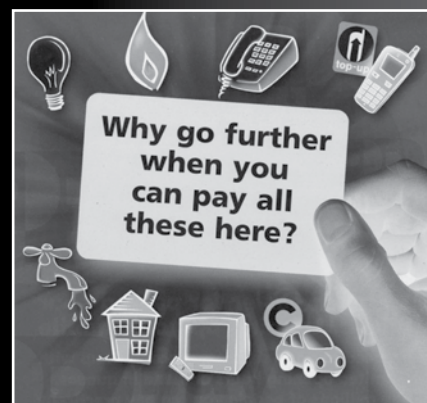
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Larks by the Lake 2018

A group of eleven Watermead residents have come together to organise 'Larks by the Lake' this year which will take place on Sunday 27th May 2018. The group have been working hard to organise a fun event for all with live entertainment, a dog show, fun fair, zorbing, food court, shopping, licensed bar and much more. There is also an amazing raffle with fantastic prizes including a champagne balloon flight.

You can support your local event by donating books for the second-hand book stall and bottles for the bottle tombola (donations being collected at the Watermead Inn). You can offer your services to help prepare the balloon meadow the day before the event eg help set up the marquee, etc or offer to help on the day. At very least come along on the day and enjoy yourself!

Depending on funds raised the group have voted to support local charity Smiles, the local scout group and also to provide some sort of leisure/play equipment for Watermead. The more money raised the better.

The group would like to thank their sponsors (logos on posters) and also George

David Estate Agents for advertising as well as all the many local businesses that have donated raffle prizes.

The entertainment lineup looks like this:

- 1.00pm Dance display by Aylesbury School of Dance
- 2.00pm Zumba display by Whollyfit
- 2.30pm Dance display by Tania School of Dance
- 3.00pm Live ukelele band
- 4.00pm Tug of war
- 4.30pm Prize Draw

The dog show will start at 1pm and run simultaneously. Please see poster for categories. Registration will start at 12 noon.

If you feel you can help in any way please email Karen at collettkaren9127@gmail.com.

Looking forward to a fantastic event and to raising lots of money for our local community.

Karen Collett

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Thank you!

Online child abuse

Online abuse is any type of abuse that happens on the internet, whether through social networks, online gaming or mobile phones.

It can take many forms, from young people being persuaded to share sexually explicit images of themselves, to being threatened, intimidated and harassed via the internet. The abuse can be emotional or sexual and in some cases involves children being groomed or exploited by an adult.

Any child or young person that uses the internet or has a smartphone could be a victim of online abuse regardless of their age, gender or background.

Many children and young people are affected by online abuse but often don't tell anyone. They may trust their abuser, don't understand that they're being abused, or are too scared to tell anyone what's happening.

Online abuse may be part of, or lead to, abuse in the real world.

Signs

The signs that a child may be being abused online aren't always obvious but there are some you can look out for, for example:

- Spending more time than usual online or

on their phone.

- Being secretive about what they're doing or who they're talking to.
- Hiding computer screens or taking phone calls in rooms away from other people.
- Engaging less with family and usual friends.
- Sudden personality changes or severe mood swings.
- Having new things like phones or clothes that they can't explain.

Report it

If you believe a child you know could be a victim of online abuse tell someone. Contact the police on 101, or 999 if you believe they are at immediate risk from harm. Alternatively you can contact the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000 for help and support.

Keeping children safe online

The internet plays a big part in most of our lives, offering great new opportunities both educationally and socially but it's important we all understand the risks associated with being online and take simple steps to help keep children safe:

- Understand the types of social media available to children and young people including age restrictions.
- Know what your child is doing online and talk to them about it – no matter how old your child is, it's important to have regular conversations about the types of sites they're accessing, what the dangers are and how they can stay safe.
- Set up and manage parental controls on all your family's devices. Watch our videos on how you can quickly and easily do this on a PS4 and Xbox One.
- Reassure your child/children that they can talk to you about anything that is worrying them or that happens online.
- For more information on how to help keep your children safe online visit the NSPCC's website.

Victims First

Providing specialist support to young people affected by crime – visit the Victims First website or call on 0300 234 148. For further information on how to keep safe and to report crime go to: www.thamesvalley.police.uk



Best Allotment Winners 2017

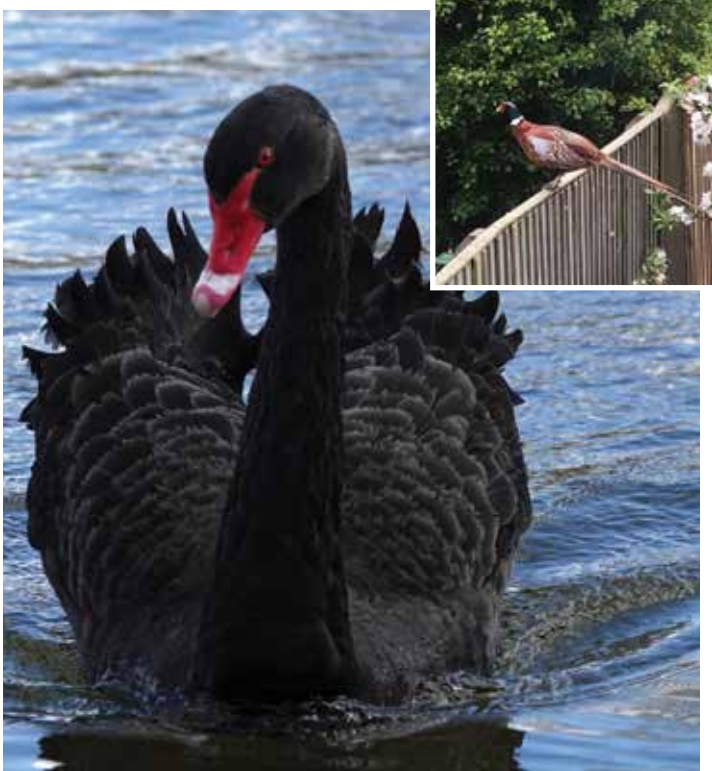
Cllr Sue Severn presenting 1st place prize to Gail Lisok. Sue has very kindly agreed to personally donate and present each year a cup to the best allotment. The cup is named in memory of Sue's Mum, Pamela Hughes Coney.

Sue presenting 2nd prize to Katarzyna Szydlo.

Our beautiful wildlife



(Above) Another photo on Facebook, All about Watermead, taken by Randal S Cheney on 21st April. The swans had started a nest on the bandstand island which was subsequently cordoned off to stop people going over and disturbing them. Then it was flooded. So, in desperation, she nested on the other side of the lake right outside Guillemot Court. We are thankful to the management of Guillemot Court for cordoning off the area and to the residents of the flat for not disturbing her. There are at least 3 eggs, possibly 4, which she is now incubating. Hopefully by the time this issue is published we may be seeing the resulting cygnets on the lake. (Below) Sadly our much loved resident Black Swan was found dead in the lake on 28th April. It's suspected that the white swans may have attacked it whilst protecting their nest. (Right below) To make a change from all the water bird photos, here's a pic of a gorgeous pheasant on a garden fence.



(Above) Graham Howse had to rescue this bird from his cat's mouth...Graham was unsure of the type of bird but with the help of locals on Facebook it was discovered as a Water Rail. (Right) fluffy assassin Moe Mog.



Mick Morgan spotted an Oystercatcher close to the Memorial Garden on the large lake on Sunday 29th April 2018. Cllr Eric Rose said that he had also seen it along with others. Possible evidence of its presence were lots of empty mussel shells on the bank of the lake between the two jetties.

Bucks County Museum Exhibitions & Events: June to October

Curators Choice 3rd March to 23rd June

Discover what our museum curators like best in the museum's collections. Why not choose your own favourite object in the Museum? By donation.

Paul Kidby: Discworld & Beyond – the Art of Terry Pratchett 5th May to 30th June

Terry Pratchett's 'artist of choice' Paul Kidby brings to life the author's famous Discworld novels with his stunning and imaginative illustrations. Check Museum web site for admission costs.

Medieval Family Puppet Show Wednesday 30th May & Thursday 31st May

Full of daft humour, live music, eccentric puppets and audience participation, this show by Rattlebox Theatre Company will bring magic and laughter to all ages as the classic story of the warrior Beowulf is told. Check web site for times and charges.

Whizzfizzing Festival (AVDC + partners event) Saturday 30th June

Afternoon cream tea with a themed theatre character tbc – ticketed event from AVDC

Civilisations: an interactive LEGO brick adventure around the world 25th July to 5th September

Bright Bricks are back at the museum with a bigger and better LEGO brick exhibition. Discover life sized figures from civilisations from around the world including Egyptian, Aztec, Greek and Samurai. Check website for charges.

Gin & Jazz - Bucks County Museum Sunday 5th August

Aylesbury Town Centre Partnership and Shoot Pool. Ticketed event at £8 per ticket – beverages and food to be purchased on the day.

Wonder Dogs: dogs that help humans 30th June – 29th September

Find out how specially trained dogs help people live their lives. Check website for special doggy events. By donation.

Tudor Fayre (Aylesbury Town Council) Sunday 9th September

Silversmith 22nd September to 8th December

Beautiful silver from the Hart Silversmiths of Chipping Campden in the Cotswolds and the museum's collections. By donation.

Saturday 6th October, 11am to 4pm Mushroom Magic: A UK Fungus Day event

Mystified by mushrooms or tantalised by toadstools? Then Mushroom Magic is the event for you! The Bucks Fungus Group presents a display of locally collected mushrooms and toadstools. No need to book. Just turn up. By donation.

WW1: Legacy of War 6th October to January 2019

Special exhibition marking the end of the First World War and the legacy of war. By donation.

New events may be added during the year. To keep up to date with what's on at the museum visit our website and sign up to our e-newsletter.

www.buckscountymuseum.org

The Museum is a registered charity number 1153345 with running costs of £2000 per day – we have no set admission price but all donations to support the charity are welcome.

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The View from Westminster

Watermead Parish Council contacted me after the decision by Aylesbury Vale District Council not to oppose the plans by Westerleigh for a Watermead crematorium. I have agreed to make representations to the Secretary of State on behalf of the Parish Council and Watermead residents. Westerleigh have also made contact with me. As with any large scale local development application, I agreed to meet to understand their arguments. I have told the Parish Council that I would be willing to try to arrange for them to meet the company should they wish to do so.

I've also spent some of my constituency time recently catching up on the latest news about two of the jewels of our local area.

The Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty probably has more people living on its doorstep than any other protected landscape in Europe. Its official guardian is the Chilterns Conservation Board.

The Chilterns AONB straddles Oxfordshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire as well as

Bucks, and covers many different local authorities. The Conservation Board's Chief Officer, Sue Holden, explained to me that she and her colleagues were trying to think about the future of the Chilterns as a whole. With population growth and new housing in London and all the Chiltern counties, it'll be more important than ever to look after the "green lung" provided by the AONB.

That means ensuring that people can have access for recreation (few new homes these days have large gardens) while at the same time giving proper priority to conservation and the need for tranquility.

I was pleased to see that the CCB has developed good ideas like Chilterns vineyard and brewery trails. I've suggested adding a political trail in too! There's Disraeli's house at Hughenden, his father's home in Bradenham, and connections with Hampden, Wilkes and Burke, not to mention Chequers.

My second jewel is the Bucks County Museum in the heart of Aylesbury Old Town. It's a treasure trove: literally so because they have Anglo-Saxon coins from the Lenborough

Hoard; there are also objects that recall the industries that used to be the mainstay of the local economy - from lace to wood to printing to the famous Aylesbury ducks! Upstairs, there is a small art gallery which shows local paintings and hosts first class visiting exhibitions. Fans of Terry Pratchett's Discworld should head there now for the new show of illustrations from the books.

Our museum is also changing. It was exciting to hear the new Director, Sue Shave, explain her plans to revamp the older galleries and encourage more local people to explore this amazing place.

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



A Glass Act

If you are looking for a gift for someone – or yourself – that you want to be different, unique and personal, then look no further than Joel Harthill in Watermead. Joel's hanging decorative glass creations are like nothing else I have seen. I want some!

Joel moved here seven years ago having 'fallen in love' with Watermead. He studied Set Design at Buckinghamshire University, but felt fashion was missing from his experience and wanted to expand on the skills he had acquired there. His course didn't require the students to undertake internships, so Joel took it upon himself to search for internships independently. His combination of talent and determination got him internships with Vivienne Westwood, Zandra Rhodes and Alexander McQueen.

Joel is keen to acknowledge how the support and encouragement of his family helped him to make a success of this period as he advanced on the road to achieving his ambitions. Joel's talent may have been passed down through the generations, but talent is not enough on its own. You need determination and the love and support of family, which was given without reservation.

Joel's career went from strength to strength and led him to becoming a

freelance window designer specialising in designing and producing displays for a wide variety of clients, large and small, shops, events and exhibitions. Joel has designed displays for Debenhams, Selfridges, The British Museum and The Shard, as well as many other projects.

A few months ago, at Christmas time, Joel took the plunge and started designing and creating Christmas decorations to sell. He is completely self-funded in this enterprise so he still works as a window designer; he is using his multi-tasking skills to organise his time to suit his workload. In his workshop he produces his creations, currently sourcing the

shapes, globes and bell jars from a UK manufacturer. He then personalises the interiors with artwork using a variety of materials of different colours and textures around the theme of a birthday, wedding, christening, hobby, pop culture or career – or anything

else the client requests – using photographs when necessary. He is also working on larger things, like table centre decorations.

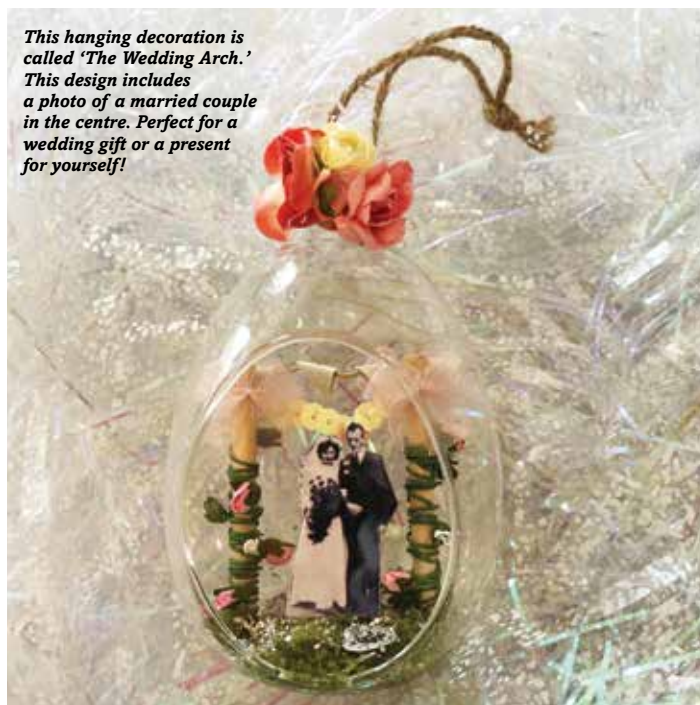
At the moment the business is growing by word-of-mouth and he has presented gifts to artists, such as Bananarama, in exchange for them being posted on their social media.

He plans to sell his creations via Etsy and later will establish a website. He's planning to launch a range of Christmas decorations available to buy from September.

For more information email - joelharthill@gmail.com

Carolynne McKee

This hanging decoration is called 'The Wedding Arch.' This design includes a photo of a married couple in the centre. Perfect for a wedding gift or a present for yourself!



Random Person

A 'surprise' baby and therefore the need for a bigger house brought Rebecca Taylor and her family from Bicester to Watermead in 1998.

Buying off-plan allowed them to tailor the bedroom layout to suit their needs. Once all the children were grown up Rebecca briefly considered downsizing, but the advantages of living in Watermead, with the countryside on her doorstep, but with all the benefits of being near a town, far outweighed any imagined benefits of downsizing.

When the children were growing up Rebecca wanted to be around for them when she was needed so she worked from home, building up a business buying and renovating various properties in Aylesbury, then renting them out. She is winding down this business now that her children are grown up, partly in order to spend more time with her two young grandchildren.

But that doesn't mean she is

taking it easy. Far from it. One of Rebecca's main activities in recent years has been amateur dramatics. She's had an interest in music and drama ever since she was a child and trained as a musician. A few years ago she joined forces with a friend and they wrote several musicals together. But it was difficult to get them produced. Producers were complimentary, but didn't want to take a risk with unknowns.

Undaunted, they started their own company – The Artfully Reliable Theatre Society – TARTS for short! To get their musicals to the stage needed help from lots of talented volunteers, but they found there were not enough to go round the many amateur theatrical companies in existence, so they decided to recruit a whole lot of new people and train them up. Three of their musicals were performed at The Court Theatre at Pendley, Tring. Rebecca wrote, produced and directed them, but was also in the cast,



so never got to see the results of her efforts from the front row.

Sadly, TARTS is no longer, 'life' having got in the way. But later Rebecca joined The Haddenham Players and played the Wicked Queen in Snow White – her only foray into the field of pantomime. Rebecca had the idea of producing a version of The Vicar of Dibley to help rejuvenate Haddenham Players. The licence holders were very amenable to her idea and she obtained the original scripts. They were happy for her to make additions and amendments, which she did, retaining about 80% of the original. The licence fee all goes to the Comic Relief fund.

Rebecca produced, directed and acted in it, so again did not witness the fruits of her labours. She is currently working on a sequel which will conclude the story. It will probably be ready for production next Spring.

Last year Rebecca and a friend organised a Quiz Evening at The Watermead Inn with questions individually researched, not picked ready-made from the internet. The pair of them bounce off each other like a female version of The Two Ronnies, making for a very entertaining evening with all proceeds going to the Florence Nightingale Hospice. They hope to do another one later this year.

While still in her teenage years Rebecca became interested in genealogy and has spent some time researching her family history and has helped some friends to do their family trees. But it can become very time consuming and as you will already have gathered Rebecca is a very busy lady – not least

because she is a piano teacher and has 25 pupils – children and adults – to whom she gives lessons every week.

She also has her pets to care for – she can't resist a stray. When two of her four cats passed away she decided to get a tortoise, remembering how easy it was to care for the one she had as a child – just make sure it has somewhere cosy to hibernate in winter and fetch it out in the summer. But that wasn't to be. At the pet shop, despite the allure of the tiny little tortoises Rebecca was persuaded to take on a fully mature tortoise which



had been rescued after being abandoned and needed to be re-homed. She discovered that caring for tortoises these days is not what it used to be. Special tortoise shelters, lights to provide heat and light are considered essential. Tossing it a few dandelion leaves won't do, special tortoise diets are the thing. It's more work than the cats ever were.

But Rebecca's capacity for more work seems boundless, so I don't think that tortoise has got too much to worry about!

Carolynne McKee

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November BULLETIN

Is your Hedge or Tree overhanging the public highway?

Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB) on behalf of Buckinghamshire County Council, would remind home and land owners that it is their responsibility to keep the highway free from overhanging trees, shrubs and overgrown bushes etc. Landowners must ensure that there is no obstruction or partial obstruction to the footway or carriageway.

TfB regularly makes inspections and also receives reports regarding obstructions on the highway. If you are notified, TfB would ask that you arrange to have any obstruction cut back within 14 days.

Should you be unable to complete the work by the end of this period of notice, TfB may arrange for the work to be carried out and may claim reimbursement from the landowner for reasonable expenses following completion of the works, in accordance with Section 154(4) of the Highways Act.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter and please do not hesitate to contact 01296 382416 to discuss this further should you wish, and also, if needed, how TfB may be able to assist you in carrying out these works.

To report a highway fault please visit www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport

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Sally's Blog

This is the summer edition of my BLOG. Huh, I am very sorry to have to report that my humans had me clipped ready for the hot weather - I am now absolutely freezing. Apparently I can wear my coat. They must be joking - I have to be wrestled into it because I think I look silly, and that must never happen.

I love summer because us dogs have the chance to meet old friends and meet new ones while we're out and about, and usually the fields and woods are less muddy and we can run off our leads for miles which is lots of fun. At the moment it is not fun - let's hope it gets better soon.

Let me tell you what's been happening since my last BLOG - My cousin Ronnie is settling in to his new home with Mary Singleton, my editor. He is not quite a year old so he is still very naughty. He is particularly fond of glasses. He ate Mary's and then ate my mum's when he came to stay, obviously this is his 'thing'! I am sure he will be good eventually - he doesn't seem to have been subjected to the endless training sessions I was.

I have recently celebrated my third birthday, 21 in human years, and have decided that I am now grown up. Apart from the odd occasion when I want to be particularly naughty I think my training has

paid off and I hope to add hearing 'what a well behaved dog' to the 'what a pretty spaniel'...when I'm out and about.

One of Ronnie's first outings was with us to the garden centre, one of my favourite outings. Not only do lots of people stop and talk to me, but there is a café where lots of people drop bits of sandwich, chips, etc. on the ground. Ideal for a quick snack. We saw some interesting plants but the best bit was the pottery menagerie. I've seen them before of course, but Ronnie hadn't - he couldn't work out why the sheepdog he fancied did not want to play with him! He'll learn.

While we were out walking we met a really lovely new spaniel villager called Buddy. We both hope to see more of him. He is 6 months old and very handsome and playful - I'm sure we'll all be friends.

Talking of friends, I am really looking forward to Larks by the Lake.

There's going to be a Dog Show!!

Even better, my breeder is coming down from Rugby just to be the judge! Debbie Bayliss is very good at breeding spaniels, and very good at judging other breeds. She's bringing a cup for Best in Show and Best Puppy in Show plus some doggie gifts as prizes. And my humans have got rosettes for 1st to 5th places in all classes! This is

called an 'exemption' dog show. You don't have to be pedigree, you can be crossbreed, rescue or any combination. It's a chance to celebrate dogs - why not! Just one thing, please pick up the poo.

Look forward to seeing you at Larks by the Lake and walking around once it stops raining!

Lots of love, Sally



Life with the Aylesbury Lions

On 16th March the Aylesbury Lions celebrated their 40th Anniversary. Since then we have been very busy raffling large Easter Eggs which have enabled us to make donations of £600 each to Florence Nightingale Hospice and to Bucks Young Carers. Then in April we turned our attention to our annual concert which this year was entitled Music for a Spring Evening. St. Mary's church resonated to the sound of over 40 members of the Vale Symphonic Wind Band who clearly enjoyed playing in these magnificent surroundings. The varied programme for the evening included music from Handel and Wagner, Vaughan Williams and Maurice Jarre, MacArthur Park and a trombone solo from Autumn in New York. This was supported by Show Medleys from That's Entertainment, the Sound of Music and The King and I. The evening was rounded off with a stirring finale from Pirates of the Caribbean. The audience enjoyed the evening which is expected to have raised over £500 for local good causes.

At the end of the month, as a departure from our usual activities,

several members have agreed to tidy up part of an overgrown garden for a single mother who has two severely disabled adult children so that they can use and enjoy their garden.

May begins with an evening of ten pin bowling with a buffet before we go back to school with our burger and hot dog stall at the Turnfurlong Infant School Fete. Last year we collected hand tools for recycling which we sent to third world countries. Towards the end of May we will be visiting the factory where this refurbishment took place. We will then have a social lunch.

June sees us plate smashing at Haddenham village fete which is always very popular with young and old. In July we will hold our Charter Dinner before taking our burger and hot dog stall to the Fairfield Leys Village Fete.

We are always looking to recruit more members so if you think that you may like to join us please ring Ron Syrratt 01296 484492 for an informal chat.

Oaaarggggahhh!

Something happened to me a few years ago when I turned a certain age - I remember it very clearly. It was almost as if a switch was flicked and an innate change happened within me. It wasn't hugely noticeable. Certainly nothing you'd notice to look at me. What was it? Well, it was this... "Oaaarggggahhh". You're understandably confused so let me explain.

Ever since that certain birthday, that's the noise I make when I sit down. Pre this I was perfectly able to sit down without emitting that strange primeval relaxation cry, but now it seems because I'm 'getting on a bit'. I've started anticipating the sheer amount of relaxation that's going to happen when my bottom hits the chair and that anticipation is expressed in a pre-emptive, "Oaaarggggahhh!"

I'm not sure there's much hope for me if I'm doing this now. I have been assured that it happens to the best of us and I'm convinced it's because we associate sitting down with relaxing. It makes sense. The phrase 'I'm just going to have a sit down' is just like 'I'm just going to rest my eyes for a minute!' It means you're not going to be doing anything that looks like work any time soon. The problem is that we associate all sitting down with relaxation. In fact I've heard exactly that said about Jesus.

He became God incarnate...God on earth, born as a baby. He grew up, he taught, he

healed, he loved, he performed miracles. Then he was arrested, he suffered death, and was buried deep in the rock tomb. Astoundingly he rose back to life and so having done Christmas and Easter he ascended to heaven and he finally sat down on the throne at his Father's right hand...and as he sat down, do you imagine he said? ... "Oaaarggggahhh!"

You wouldn't blame him would you?... after all that. He's entitled to a rest after instigating two major religious festivals! And then maybe one day, when he's recovered, he'll start making plans for the big sequel... the return of the king.

I have to write this article for the Watermead magazine in late April and in a couple of weeks it will be Ascension Day, and what we may think of as 'Jesus on his way up to heaven to have a sit down and rest his eyes for a bit', is in the Bible described very differently.

In Matthew 16, Jesus tells Peter 'On this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.' Jesus is doing that right now, on the throne, building his church, protecting it. Colossians 1:17 tells us that, 'He is before all things and in him all things hold together.' Right now, on the throne Jesus is holding the very building blocks of the universe together.

Here's something to chew over; when you went to bed last night Jesus was at work ruling the universe. Every relationship,

every law of physics, every breath breathed. He was still at it when you woke up this morning and even now as you read this. With every blessing for the summer ahead.

Revd Mark Ackford, Vicar of the Parish of Berton and Hulcott

Sports Corner

We are looking for darts players for Monday nights.

The Watermead Inn team now plays out of the New Zealand. If you know which end of a dart to throw, or you like a drink and a sandwich, we'd like to hear from you. We'd really love ex professionals and retired world champions but any standard will do. **Please contact Sam: 07854 713380**

Answers to Tea Break Quiz on page 04

1. Lacrosse, 2. Tony Bennett, 3. The Hanging Gardens of Babylon, 4. Yellow, 5. Print on demand, 6. Shep, 7. Edible seaweed, 8. String, 9. Bob Flowerdew, 10. Switzerland, 11. Sir Anthony Eden, 12. Orange, 13. Tin and lead, 14. Richard Burton, 15. Chernobyl, 16. Contact lenses, 17. John Milton, 18. Ginger, 19. 206, 20. Helen of Troy.



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