

VillageView

WATERMEAD'S *FREE* QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

Summer 2015 Vol.22 Issue 2

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Parish Chairman's Annual Report 2014-15

The year under review has been extremely challenging, literally in the case of planning matters, and has kept councillors very busy with much additional work.

Planning and Land

Hallam Land continued its appeal against the decision by AVDC to refuse their planning application for around 1500 houses on land to the east of Watermead which would, effectively, join us to Birtton. The PC has represented parishioners at every meeting of the planning committee and at each day of the Inspector's hearings. We are grateful to the support from Roger Cooling and Graham Severn who have attended, spoken and provided detailed report to the Clerk and PC, meeting the Inspector and showing him Watermead. We are grateful to the Inspector for the care and consideration he has afforded to our community throughout the hearings which will resume in July.

Crematorium application on Riviera land

This proposal is a huge threat to our community. We have had circa 700 responses to our petition and press release in the last 21 days. We have made representation to Secretary of State for Local Government (DCLG) Eric Pickles, and had meetings with MP, David Lidington, Secretary of State for Local Government (DCLG) Eric

Pickles, former councillor Lisa Smith, Netta Glover, Ashley Bond, head of planning at AVDC and with one of the founders of Westerleigh Group in an attempt to find out if they would withdraw, and if not, why they were so keen to ruin our village. The PC has retained planning, environment and biodiversity advisors and has the advice of a leading political communications consultancy.

We are absolutely determined to stop this development. This is the wish of parishioners and it is a threat to the health and welfare of our community. Objections have come from many areas outside of Aylesbury; nobody can understand why it is even being considered by planners.

Cricket Pitch

Attempts to get the land back into the community's ownership remain high on our list of objectives. We have taken legal advice and are in touch with one of the owners. We have requested meetings in order to move this project forward. The PC is the proper body to own it, retain it for the public in perpetuity, with the Powers necessary to manage it, and to obtain the necessary grant funding to create multi-sports, cricket and club facilities.

Devolved services:

Following cutbacks, Bucks CC advised that they would be unable to offer the level of maintenance to verges, grass and public areas we expect

and require in Watermead.

The PC has therefore formally contracted with and taken over from Bucks CC maintenance of public areas and verges including grass cutting. You might have seen councillors and volunteers cleaning road signs, weeding and carrying out other tasks such as planting and seed sowing. Please let us know if you'd like to help. The condition and visual aspect of verges and roads is gradually improving. Our contractor is keen to hear if there are problems in your road - just let Noreen Shardlow know on 01296 641423.

The Memorial Garden is gradually being planted. Our Memorial is now registered with the War Graves Commission and the ground was consecrated during a service last summer. The memorial itself includes the work of Peter the Potter, who created the beautiful pottery plaques resulting in a wonderful memorial for our times. The garden is a peaceful and very special place. Many villagers have now planted flowering trees and shrubs in memory of loved ones. If you would like to remember a friend or family member in this way please let us know and we will help. Any flowering plant is welcome from small rose bushes, bulbs, to larger trees.

On Remembrance Day a group of around 40 of us gathered to remember the fallen at 11am observing the two minutes' silence together.



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

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VACANCY

PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH CLERK IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR TEAM



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michelle.jackson@watermead-pc.gov.uk

There was a very special atmosphere. We will continue to mark Remembrance Day in this way without a formal service but with a gathering of parishioners and friends to quietly reflect and remember with respect those who have died in all conflicts, and to pray for peace.

Social events

The Carol Concert was a great success, as usual with a large turnout of children and families in good voice, fuelled by the usual mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies kindly provided by the WI. Our grateful thanks to Mary Singleton, Dot Toler and their team.

The Christmas Fair once again proved popular. It was held a week earlier to enable people to Christmas shop in comfort. There was a good variety of crafts stalls from jewellery, preserves, homemade Christmas cards to pottery from Peter the Potter. A total of £165 was raised for CHAT.

Village View

Our village magazine remains a hugely appreciated and key part of our community, keeping us up to date with what's happening in Watermead, local services and many interesting articles. Mary Singleton, the editor, and her dedicated team have produced increasingly interesting issues every quarter, no mean feat, attracting a range of local advertisers without whose advertising fees the magazine would contain less colour and would be smaller. Carolynne McKee has recently joined the team bringing her previous editorial experience. Phoebe Shardlow is another great addition to the contributor team with her very interesting and unique view of the fashion industry and haute couture.

Unfortunately our Advertising Manager, Paul Wilson, and his wife Su, are leaving Watermead after many years, moving nearer to their families. Paul has done a magnificent job in selling advertising, planning and making sure we sell advertising space in the publication to virtually all local businesses over the years. (Paul also brought his project and programme management skills to the party for the Save Watermead Village campaign against the original Hallam Land application, keeping us all on track and in suitable order). Thank you Paul, we will miss you and Su very much.

Volunteers

Parish Councillors are all volunteers and have worked hard this year to deliver services,

ensuring Watermead residents' views and interests are heard, particularly in the areas of planning. During the year we said goodbye to Pam Stocks, a Chartered Town Planner who worked hard on the Hallam Land objections document and has taught us much, helping us to understand fully planning requirements, changes of legislation and how to object, the grounds which are helpful and those that are not. Pam is now concentrating her efforts on her work with Victim Support as well as her family. Thank you Pam. Helen Cook and Phillip Bennison did not stand for re-election and we will miss them. Helen created our new website and has kindly offered to continue to help with this and Phil will, we are sure, continue to keep an eye on the wildlife and trees which are his areas of interest.

We have welcomed Phil Toler to the council. Phil and his family have lived in Watermead since the beginning. Phil was a director of Lakeside Land and has worked with the community for many years. His expertise in finance will be very useful and we will no doubt find a way to invite the fantastic Dung Beatles to entertain us at some point.

We are delighted to welcome Irina Schwab to the council and welcome back Eric Rose. We are looking forward to working with them.

Apart from councillors, the Save Watermead Village group has gone from strength to strength, comprising 400+ members (half of our households) and giving us the ability to consult with villagers in a short period by email, leaflet distribution and in person. This group is invaluable and we hope that they will continue to take part in campaigns and enjoy the odd social event to spend time together.

Watermead's unique and pleasant environment requires constant work. The Parish pays for all grass cutting and other maintenance such as dog bins, litter collection and tree work from the Parish Precept. Without two special volunteers however this would be a much less pleasant place to live.

Dave Lang and Graham Severn work on an entirely voluntary basis, because they care, clearing rubbish and litter from the Piazza, car park, lake areas, verges, fields, undergrowth and roadside every day. They remove countless bags of rubbish which include some very unpleasant things, ensuring that our public areas remain safe for visitors and a pleasure to visit. This level of maintenance would simply

be unaffordable if it were to be paid for. We cannot thank them enough, It is refreshing and humbling to know that they do this for no reward or recognition; but because they are determined to maintain our unique environment. They report damage which has, of late, included vandalism to trees, graffiti, and damage to the bandstand amongst other things, which enables the Clerk to report it and arrange for repairs to start without delay.

We must also thank Graham for the gift of a Barn Owl Box. We had a report of a barn owl being seen in Watermead the other day; we hope it has become a new neighbour. If anyone else would like to donate a box there is plenty of room for one or two more.

Dogs

Most visitors to Watermead respect our land, but there are some who do not. You will no doubt have seen our neon pink dog poo. This spray draws attention to these selfish dog owners and helps kill bacteria.

Despite having more dog bins than any other village in the area these selfish dog owners are ignoring them and not picking up after their dogs defecate. After consultation the community decided Dog Control Orders were not appropriate but wanted dog owners to keep dogs under control and on leads if requested, and to pick up the poo.

PLEASE pick up poo and put it in the dog bin. See why this is important below:

Dog fouling is unsightly, unpleasant and can lead to toxocarasis in humans. Fouling laws do not cover faeces from other animals, because they aren't hosts for toxicara and are less likely to foul in areas where the public walk or play. Toxocarasis causes serious illness and even blindness. It is caused by a parasite known as toxocara canis (also known as roundworm). These parasites live in dogs' digestive systems. Eggs are released in the faeces of infected animals and contaminated soil. If someone ingests infected material, the eggs may hatch into larvae and can lead to toxocarasis. It usually affects children aged between one and four years. But cases of toxocarasis have been

reported in people of all ages. Young children are most at risk because they are more likely to put things into their mouths and less likely to wash their hands properly. Please, don't risk our children's health in this way

Allotments

Our thanks to the Watermead Garden Society for keeping up such a good standard of plots and a special thank you to Sheena and Derek Hudson and Sheree and Colin Smith who look after all the new lettings and welcome new members.

Piscatorials

The Piscatorials continue to lease the small lake, maintaining fish stocks, the water and banks acting as excellent and professional water bailiff. Thank you to them. They have places available for Watermead residents should anyone wish to join – contact Don Smith on 07790 481232.

Financial

This year we have raised the parish tax (precept) by 5.49% which is being spent on maintenance to public areas. What does this actually mean? The amount paid by a Band D household in Watermead is £5.92 per month, it was £5.61 a month last year. We aim to retain services and increase reserves.

Casual vacancy

It is a huge privilege to be trusted to represent Watermead's interests and a duty which current councillors are proud to be part of. The Parish Council is representative of our community and has a range of talents, necessary to ensure success for our community.

We have one casual vacancy on the council following the election and the Parish Clerk will now commence the co-option process. If you would like to know more, or apply, please get in touch with Noreen Shardlow.

It just remains for me on behalf of my colleagues to thank Noreen and Michelle for their hard work this year. They both work very hard for us and volunteer much free time to join our volunteers in working on projects and campaigns.

Cllr Sue Severn, Chairman

Watermead election results

Watermead turnout: 72.2%		Spoiled vote: 26 status	
Candidate	Party	Votes	
Bond, Ashley	Conservative	825	Win
Elliott, Heather	UKIP	354	
Smith, Lisa	Liberal Democrat	494	

There will be sunny days and rainy seasons

The matrimonial season has arrived at St James Berton and recently at weddings I have on occasions in my short address to the Bride and Groom used an extract of a poem called 'Us Two' from 'Now We Are Six' written by A.A. Milne (1882-1956). This, of course, is a poem about a certain bear called Pooh and his friend Christopher Robin and this got me thinking about the various other things that this famous bear got up to. Poohsticks immediately come to mind; if you visit Pooh Corner in Hartfield in East Sussex, you can visit the famous Poohsticks Bridge and have fun finding little sticks to throw over one side of the bridge, to then run to the other side to see whose are floating fastest downstream. I am sure that there will always be great joy for the winners but for the losers it may be outright emotional despair for the rest of the day!

This led me to thinking about gloomy old Eeyore who was often pictured with a storm cloud hovering over his head. Such an image reminds us of sayings like "I've got the blues" or "He's under the weather".

These are called "figures of speech" - ways to describe something that have become so common that everyone understands.

You can think of figures of speech as tiny parables. The dictionary says that a parable is, "a story or phrase that uses familiar things to explain something". Jesus told many parables in the Bible. He used things that his listeners understood to teach them about God who they could not see.

In Matthew 7, Jesus tells the story about a wise man who built his house on a rock. Another man, a foolish one, built his house on the sand. Then mighty storms came. The wind blew and the rain pounded on both homes. The wise man's house stood firm, but when the storms came and the water washed away the sandy foundation, the foolish man's house collapsed.

Jesus used this story to explain that when we build our lives on Him, on the truth of His Word, we can stand strong and the sad and difficult things in life will not destroy us. However, if we set our hopes, dreams and future on a worthless foundation like wealth, popularity or faith in a false god, when the storms of life come, we will fall apart.

However when it comes to the storms of life, there is a benefit in them too. When the storm passed, and the wise man's house was still standing, he knew that he had built in the right place. He knew that foundation on which he built his house was strong.

It's the same way for us in life. When we go through sad and hard times, God proves Himself to us. He proves that He is strong, faithful, wise and loving.

Just like in nature, we face seasons in our lives. There will be sunny days and rainy seasons; times of happiness and joy as well of times of discouragement and sadness. Remembering the purpose of rain in nature can help us look for God's goodness and purpose in the hard times of our lives. Our struggles help us to see God's faithfulness and strength for us and they help us to remember to bow down and trust God.

With every blessing for the summer months ahead.

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

Our new councillors

"I am a specialist lawyer and linguist and I have been living in Watermead together with my husband Adrian and my sons Andy and Dominic since 2007. After a nine year career with the Crown Prosecution Service I left the civil service to set up my own law firm. I am hoping to use my knowledge and services to help the local community and re-launch the free legal advice clinic.

I first visited Watermead about eight years ago and I fell in love with the place. I convinced my husband to come and take a look, and we both agreed that it would be the ideal place to live. A couple of months later we were moving in. We are both proud to live here and support the local community in every way we can."



Cllr Irina Schwab



"I am a retired GP and have lived in Aylesbury since 1973 and in Watermead for 21 years. My past experience includes 13 years as an Aylesbury Vale District Councillor and many years' involvement in medical committees at both local and national level in recognition of which I was awarded the BMA Medal and made a Fellow of the Royal College of GPs. I was previously elected to Watermead Parish council in 2009 but stood down in 2013 at a time of family illness. During my previous tenure I was the lead councillor on land issues and helped set up our allotments. I am a keen walker and photographer and want to help preserve the beautiful environment we have in Watermead. I have therefore been a vocal opponent of the plans for a crematorium."

Cllr Eric Rose

Village View needs you!

Would you like to join our vibrant team of volunteers in the production of our award-winning, quarterly village newsletter? This would be a great way for a budding young journalist to gain experience in the industry; it would be equally rewarding for any member of the community to become involved as a volunteer.

We urgently require an Advertising Manager.

Our publication is provided free to all households in Watermead and beyond. We rely on our advertisers who provide the funds to do this. The job involves liaison with our advertisers regarding layout of their ads and relevant costings, finding new advertisers, and managing renewals.

We also need an Editorial Assistant and Proofreader.

These positions have become available due to long-serving members of our team moving away from Watermead. So, if you feel you would like to contribute to our wonderful society here in Watermead, you are creative and have a keen eye for detail with a good command of the English language, this could be your opportunity. Or perhaps you are a wizz with a camera or you just like talking to people and finding newsworthy information; we would like to hear from you.

To apply for these positions please write to our Parish Clerk, Noreen Shardlow at noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk

Lyme disease in the UK

Lyme disease was discovered in Lyme, Connecticut, USA in 1974. Affected people appeared to be suffering from an infectious form of arthritis which involved multiple joints.

Interestingly, DNA extracted from ticks in collections at the Natural History Museum in London proves that the disease has been around for several centuries. The Public Health England surveillance scheme has shown a 400% increase in the number of Lyme disease cases in people in the UK over the past 10 years. This still represents less than 2 cases per 100,000 population or 1000-2000 new cases per year.

The causative organism is a spirochaete (a type of bacterium) called *Borrelia burgdorferi*. It is transmitted from one animal to another through ticks sucking blood. The most common "vector" species of tick in the UK is the sheep tick (*Ixodes ricinus*). Only 5-10% of dogs exposed to

Borrelia develop clinical signs including fever, lethargy and then a shifting limb lameness. The lameness usually occurs first in the limb closest to the site of the tick attachment. This lameness may improve after 2-3 days before the dog becomes lame on another leg. The onset of disease is usually within a month of the tick bite but can be up to 6 months later. Rare complications of the infection include kidney disease and nervous system signs.

Diagnosis is based on detecting the organism on a blood test or fluid from an infected joint. The good news is that treatment with an appropriate antibiotic will result in a marked improvement in 24-48 hours although treatment needs to be continued for 4-6 weeks in most cases.

The best method of reducing the risk of Lyme disease is preventing tick attachment. There are now a variety of spot-on treatments, repellent

collars and oral tablets that will rapidly kill ticks or prevent them from attaching to dogs in the first place. Transmission of the organism does not occur until at least 24 hours after the tick has started feeding, so regular inspection of the dog's coat and prompt removal of any ticks will also help prevent disease. There is also a vaccine available against Lyme disease. Certain areas of the UK are "hot spots" for ticks that can carry Lyme disease including The New Forest, South Downs, Dartmoor, Exmoor, Forest of Dean and Scottish Highlands.

If your dog picks up ticks or you are planning to travel to a high risk area, it may be worth considering taking appropriate preventative tick treatment with you. Remember the risk of the disease is low but the best way of avoiding it is to keep *Borrelia* from getting into the body in the first place. Other tick-transmitted diseases including Babesiosis,

Anaplasmosis, Ehrlichiosis and Rickettsia are currently very rare in this country but may be a future problem as warmer temperatures encourages their spread further north from mainland Europe.

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



Tea Break Quiz



1. What was the name of Danger Mouse's sidekick?
2. In which country is Popocatepetl?
3. Which organ of the body stores bile?
4. The bite of which insect causes the illness known as Lyme Disease?
5. Which country had a Prime Minister and President who were twin brothers?
6. In Roman Numerals how is 500 represented?
7. Jack Cohen was the founder of which shopping chain?
8. The prime minister's residence Chequers is in which county?
9. What does the Latin phrase 'Caveat Emptor' translate as in English?
10. Who famously rescued people from the Forfarshire in 1838?
11. Which former Tory MP became governor of Hong Kong until its handover in 1997?
12. The nuclear disaster of Chernobyl happened in which year?
13. The festival of Britain took place in which year?
14. The performing killer whale Keiko starred in which 1993 film?
15. Which British boxer was knocked out in 54 seconds by Breidis Prescott in 2008?
16. What did the initials of D.H Lawrence stand for?
17. What colour is the Northern Line on the London Underground map?
18. Who was the youngest ever American President?
19. How many years did Nelson Mandela spend in prison?
20. What is the motto of the SAS?

Answers on page 09

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Local care from dedicated professionals

Aylesbury lawyer picks up national award for giving free legal advice

A Chartered Legal Executive lawyer from Aylesbury was presented with the Pro Bono Award by the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEx) on Tuesday, 21st April at the Institute's Graduation and Admission Ceremony. 51-year-old Adrian Schwab, Delay Claims Litigation Manager at TUI UK & Ireland in Luton, received the award for his lead role in the setting up and now managing the Evening Legal Advice Service in Enfield. In excess of 3,000 people have benefited from free legal advice thanks to Adrian and other volunteer advisers who helped and supported him in setting up the Service.

On winning the award, Adrian said: "This award is a wonderful honour and a privilege for me. I have found pro bono work to be both an extremely rewarding and humbling experience, one which I can truly recommend to others."

Chair of the CILEx Pro Bono Trust, Nick Hanning, said: "Once again, the judges had a very difficult task as all the applications were of a very high standard evidencing the widespread commitment of our members to helping those in need. He continued: "Adrian Schwab's unstinting commitment to the Evening Advice Service in Enfield stood out though. His efforts over a period of 13 years to maintain the service not just pro bono but at significant personal cost is an inspirational example of someone going 'above and beyond' to maintain access to justice for all."

Adrian studied a part time law degree and then followed CILEx's popular Graduate Fast-track Diploma route to qualifying as a lawyer, helped and supported by his wife, Irina, who was also training to become a Chartered Legal Executive lawyer at the same time.

Title Research sponsored the award and will donate £750 to a charity of the winner's choice. Adrian has chosen to award the money to the Cancer Care and Haematology Fund, part of Stoke Mandeville Hospital.



The View from Westminster



I want to say thank you to people in Watermead who voted to re-elect me to represent Aylesbury for another five-year term. I have always seen it as my responsibility to represent the interests of everybody in the constituency (more than 80,000 people) no matter what political views they hold or whether I personally agree or disagree with them and that is what I am determined to do.

Once Parliament has been dissolved for a General Election, there are no MPs. MPs who are campaigning to be

returned, and our staff, are barred from entering parliamentary premises or using House of Commons postage and other facilities. This is done to ensure that all candidates are treated equally. However, it does also mean that a lot of work on constituency issues has to be suspended or delayed until the voters have decided who the MP should be. Now my parliamentary office is again functioning normally and my constituency surgeries have resumed.

The immediate issue for Watermead is the proposed crematorium and I am continuing to work closely with Watermead Parish Council to oppose this plan.

The Planning Minister, having stopped Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) from giving final planning approval while he considered whether to call the application in to be determined centrally, decided in late March that this case was one that should be decided locally.

While this decision was disappointing, it was not very surprising. The overwhelming majority of planning applications (including very controversial ones) are decided by local councils and it is only in very exceptional cases that plans are called in by the Department for Communities & Local Government. I am discussing with the Parish Council whether there is anything more that I could now ask central government to do.

More encouraging is that AVDC has told me that they and the other Buckinghamshire Districts are sticking to their plan to develop the site at Berton for a new crematorium. Planning permission for this site was granted several months ago but Westerleigh, the company behind the Watermead proposal, took the case to judicial review. The judge rejected most of Westerleigh's arguments but found in their favour because

Voice in a Million Wembley Arena

In March, 40 children from Elmhurst and Bearbrook Schools sang as part of a 6500-strong choir at the Voice in a Million concert at Wembley Arena.

The show provides an opportunity for children from across the country to sing at Wembley Arena whilst highlighting the plight of children in care around the world and the issues and problems facing prospective adopters and raising money for children in poverty.

The choir of 6500 children sang 15 numbers, including Best Day of My Life, Wings and Let It Go. These numbers were interspersed with songs from auditioned schools and the Voice in a Million Academy. The event's theme song I Want A Mum provided a tearful moment for the adults in the arena as we were reminded of the

purpose of the event.

To add to the excitement of the evening, the show was hosted by CBeebies presenters David and Carrie Grant and the concert featured a performance by Britain's Got Talent finalists, Bars and Melody and singer Alesha Dixon. The biggest surprise was that Alesha Dixon recorded the new song Children United with the children present in the arena and the single featuring the children is available to download from iTunes. To listen to the song, take a look at <http://smarturl.it/ChildrenUnited>. The children sang and danced their hearts out and were a credit to their schools and families. Despite the late night, the children and the adults who attended had a fantastic time and will take away the once-in-a-lifetime memory of singing at Wembley Arena.

AVDC had failed to consult Natural England about the possible presence of great crested newts at Berton. The Chilterns Crematorium Joint Committee (representing AVDC, Wycombe and Chiltern Councils) now have to go through the planning system again but the firm steer that I have had is that they will resubmit plans for the Berton crematorium.

I continue to regard the Watermead site as unsuitable for a crematorium, especially when there is another site nearby which all of the relevant local authorities believe is appropriate.

*Rt Hon David Lidington,
MP for Aylesbury*

Be a Scooperhero

Did you know that UK's 9 million dogs produce over 1,000 tonnes of waste each day?! That weighs as much as 200 elephants or 100 double decker buses! Dogs Trust, in association with Keep Britain Tidy, are launching a campaign to ensure most of this mess ends up safely in the bin.

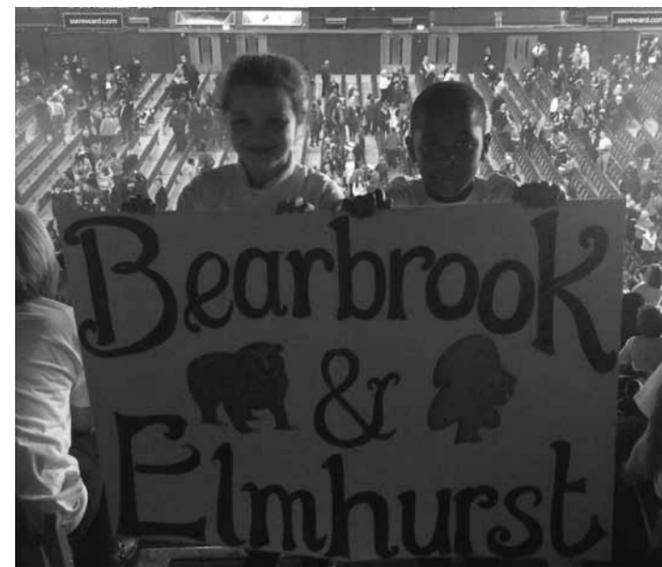
Dog mess affects everyone. It is unpleasant to see it lying around on pavements and in parks, and it's even more unpleasant to step in! As well as being a nuisance, dog mess is also unhygienic and unfortunately gives dog owners who do clean up after their dogs a bad name. It is the law to clean up after your dog! The good news is it's very simple to keep the streets clean: Just bag it and bin it! To see more about this initiative click on www.dogstrust.org.uk/whats-happening/issues-campaigns/the-big-scoop/be-a-scooperhero

We have received many complaints regarding an increase in dog mess on our paths not only around our lovely lakes but also in Watermead itself. Picking up after your dog is part of being a responsible dog owner.

Watermead Parish Council made a decision to follow in the footsteps of other councils as reported in the Mirror Online on 21st November 2014: "People are so furious about dog excrement that councils are having to take drastic measures. The dog poo problem has been called everything from a "plague" to a "foul menace" (we assume the pun was intended). To solve it, councils are turning to spraying it pink or luminous green".

This luminous spray not only highlights the dog poo so that people don't step in it, but also helps to break it down. Our trusted volunteers have been out and about spraying any dog poo they see in the hope that this will embarrass the dog owner who left it there so that they start to pick up the mess in future.

See more at www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/london-council-spraying-dog-poo-4666424



Above: Baby Coots and a baby Grebe seen on the lakes this Spring (photos taken Eric Rose).

Help keep our ducks healthy

Our ducks are junk food addicts! The ducks come paddling and waddling over when they see you and your little one with a plastic bag of bread. They love it, don't they. But for them it's the equivalent of MacDonalds or take-aways for us – nice for a treat occasionally, but unhealthy as a major part of a diet. We need to wean them off it.

It's not just bad for the ducks either, it's bad for the waterside environment as well. Obviously, our lake is man-made and doesn't flow anywhere, so left-over bread just hangs around and can harbour bacteria which can cause botulism in ducks if they do eat it – not to mention attracting vermin.

Nutrients from the left-over bread leech into the water and feed the algae instead of the ducks. This algae starves the water of oxygen and blocks out sunlight, which is detrimental for the ecology of the environment.

Nationwide approximately six million loaves of bread are thrown into our waterways each year.

So what is the alternative?

Obviously, we can't replicate the ducks' natural diet. Collecting worms, snails, fish eggs – no thanks! But there are lots of things in our cupboards that are suitable alternatives to bread:

Peas and sweetcorn. I bet your little one will have more fun chucking peas than bread! They don't need to be cooked, but they must be defrosted.

Lettuce. Don't consign those limp leaves to the bin or compost. Rip them up for the ducks.

Oats. Porridge (even the instant kind),

flap jacks – the ducks will love them.

Seeds. Maybe you've got a bird feeder hanging in your garden. Next time you fill it with seeds bought specially for the purpose, keep a handful back for the ducks.

Rice. When you treat yourself to a take-away there's often more rice than you can eat. Don't bin it, save it for the ducks.

Free stuff

For more ways to entertain your children at the lake go on to the Canal and River Trust website and order their free duck-related family activity book and duck food pouch www.canalrivertrust.org.co.uk

We really hope you will change how you feed the ducks, but if that leaves you with stale bread there is no need to waste it. Why not make bread and butter pudding or French toast (aka eggy bread).

Bread and Butter Pudding

Spread slices of bread with butter (or butter substitute). Put alternate layers of bread and dried fruit in an oven-proof dish. You could add some mixed spice or nutmeg if you like it. In another bowl mix 400mls of milk with 2 eggs and 50g of sugar and pour it over the bread. Squash the bread down so it's all covered, then leave it to soak for half an hour. Bake for 40 minutes at 180 degrees until it's golden on top.

French toast

Beat an egg in a flat dish and soak it up into a slice of bread. Fry. Enjoy!

Carolynne McKee

(All information taken from the website of the Canal & River Trust.)



This unusual Duck was seen on the Watermead lakes during April. Identified as a Fulvous Whistling Duck, it is not a native species but they are bred and sold in UK for private collections. I asked the people at College Lake (BBOWT - Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust) who have confirmed identification and agree that it is probably an escapee from a private pond.

Clr Eric Rose

Answers to Tea Break Quiz on page 07

1. Penfold, 2. Mexico, 3. Gall bladder, 4. Deer tiok, 5. Poland, 6. D, 7. Tesco, 8. Buckinghamshire, 9. Let the buyer beware, 10. Grace Darling, 11. Chris Patten, 12. 1986, 13. 1951, 14. Free Willy, 15. Amir Khan, 16. David Herbert, 17. Black, 18. Theodore Roosevelt, 19. 27 years, 20. Who dares wins.

What's on IN AND AROUND WATERMEAD

June

4th Watermead & Weedon WI Village Hall 7.30pm
6th Watermead Gardening Society Plant Sale Village Hall 10am-1pm
18th Watermead Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm
21st Fathers Day

July

2nd Watermead & Weedon WI Village Hall 7.30pm
4th Roald Dahl Parade Town centre 11am to 3pm
5th Aylesbury on Sea - Free seaside activities Kingsbury Square 11am to 4pm
11th Midnight Walk in aid of Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity 11pm to 2am
16th Watermead Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm

August

6th Watermead & Weedon WI Summer Lunch - call J Morgan for details 487650
5th Marvellous Messy Art Week Bucks County Museum 10am to 3pm
6th Zoomungous Thursday Town Centre 11am to 3pm
13th Thrill-Seeker Thursday Town Centre 11am to 3pm
31st Bank Holiday

September

3rd Watermead & Weedon WI Village Hall 7.30pm
17th Watermead Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm

Homework Help every Tuesday during term time Aylesbury Library 4.30-6.30pm

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

**SCRAPBOOKING/CARD
MAKING ANY CRAFT OF
YOUR CHOICE**
CRAFTY CHICKS
4th Friday of the month
from 6.30pm
Contact Daphne 393131

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

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

**NEIGHBOURHOOD
POLICING
ACTION GROUP**
3rd Thursday on selected months

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

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

**DRAWING FOR FUN -
ART CLASSES**
Every Wednesday 2.30-5.30pm
Auril Nurse 580495

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

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

Watermead Village Hall is the ideal venue for young children's birthday parties, meetings or christenings, etc. If you are an organisation looking for a regular venue, the Village Hall or the Bandstand could be the perfect place. Please contact Noreen Shardlow on 01296 395211 / 07739 755411

Advertise in the Village View 50% discount for Watermead residents

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Could you give a child a loving home?

It's a sobering fact that more than 50 per cent of children in care in Buckinghamshire have to be placed in homes outside this county.

That's because there simply are not enough people in Buckinghamshire coming forward to volunteer as foster parents.

Some people may find this hard to believe given the fact we live in such an affluent area of the country, but this is something we all need to work together to change.

It is also terribly disappointing that we have, on average, 430 looked-after children at any one time here - and yet only have one foster carer per 1,000 households.

Currently we have 125 fostering households

The County Council has embarked upon a lengthy awareness campaign to try to encourage more people to foster. It is working, but not quickly enough, and that's why I am appealing to you.

Fostering is a career choice, where excellent support, brilliant training and an allowance will be provided. There are lots of different ways to foster - respite, emergency, short term and long term.

At the moment we need short term carers to look after teenagers, sibling groups and children with disabilities. We also need long term carers for children aged 8-12 years. Around 20% of children in care come from black or ethnic minority backgrounds, mainly African, Caribbean, Pakistani or dual heritage backgrounds.

We know there are many wonderful caring residents who could be perfect foster carers, but they probably don't realise just how rewarding it is, or perhaps just don't know how to get started. Meanwhile, a lot of people wrongly think they can't foster and therefore rule themselves out.

We encourage you to give us a call today and find out how you can make a big difference to a child's life. If you are unable to foster, please help us spread the word by sharing this with friends and family.

Find out about fostering today www.buckscc.gov.uk/fostering, firststep@buckscc.gov.uk, [Facebook /FosterBucks](https://www.facebook.com/FosterBucks)



One of the older members of our community in Watermead, Betty Plumbe, who lives in Guillemot Court has, at age 91, become great grandmother to Amelia Eloise born on 14th March 2015. Her grandson, Allan, married Emma on 14th June 2014; they drove all the way from Leeds on Easter Saturday so that Amelia could meet her great grandma. Betty's granddaughter, Amy, who married Alex in 2013, is expecting a baby in July.

Watermead Piscatorials open for new members

It must be nearly 20 years ago that a group of anglers who met regularly at the Horse and Jockey pub saw opportunities open up for them with the building of Watermead village and the creation of the lake.

They formed the Watermead Piscatorials Fishing Club, which is still with us today - although, alas, not all the original members. Like everywhere, our local population is mobile and there is much in life to take up people's time, but fishing can be a welcome escape from a sometimes frenetic lifestyle.

Watermead Piscatorials are on the lookout for some new members - you don't need to be experienced, existing members are happy to offer advice and instruction to novice anglers who would like to join them.

The club is run by a committee who make sure everyone knows the rules of the lake - eg no night fishing, fishing from pegs only - and don't expect to put McCoy's out of business, as all fish caught must be returned to the lake alive. You are allowed a one-man open fronted bivvy (that's a sort of tent thing), so it isn't just a fine weather pastime.

The lake contains a wide variety of fish, from carp weighing anything up to 30lbs, bream and tench at 6 to 7 lbs, down to roach and perch weighing a couple of pounds. There are a few pike as well.

It costs £10 to join and then £40 per year. If you want to have a go before committing yourself the Parish Clerk has a one day ticket to fish that you could use.

To find out more contact the Piscatorials treasurer: don.smith33@hotmail.co.uk or telephone him on 07790 481232.

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PUBLICATION DATES
2015/16

AUTUMN
5th September

WINTER
5th December

SPRING
5th March

SUMMER
5th June

Eat the World South America

Both these South American dishes have been tried out by the Editor and were enjoyed by her guests! Both excellent for summer parties.

This is a Jamie Oliver recipe that I recently made for some friends when I was in Spain who all raved about it. Ceviche is a lovely little appetizer of fresh fish marinated in citrus juices. As long as you've got mega fresh fish it's an absolute dream and delight to make and eat.

Peruvian Ceviche (Serves 4 as a starter)

Ingredients:

400g seabass, lemon sole or snapper, pinboned, skinned and filleted, sustainably sourced.
1 red or yellow pepper, deseeded and finely chopped.
2 spring onions, trimmed and finely sliced.
Juice of 3 lemons.
1 teaspoon sea salt.
1-2 fresh red chillies, deseeded and finely chopped.
8 sprigs of fresh mint, leaves picked.
8 sprigs of fresh coriander, leaves picked.
1 punnet of mustard cress.
A few fennel tops, leaves picked (optional).
Extra virgin olive oil.

Freshly ground black pepper.

Method:

1. Cut your fish fillets into 1cm cubes. Put these into a bowl with your chopped peppers and spring onions, then cover and place in the fridge until you need them.
2. In a separate bowl or a jam jar, mix together the lemon juice, salt and chilli, then pop the lid on and place in the fridge to chill too. This may seem like a lot of salt but most of it gets drained off.
3. Wash and dry your herbs and cress and put them into the fridge as well.
4. You can assemble the ceviche just before your guests are ready to eat. It's important that you don't leave the fish marinating for too long – you don't want the acids in the juices to cook the fish. Pour the lemon dressing over the fish mixture and immediately mix it up. Leave it to sit for about 2½ minutes while you lay out the plates.
5. Throw most of your herb mixture into the bowl with the fish and very quickly toss it together – I'm talking no more than 10 seconds here. Divide the ceviche between your 4 plates, gently spoon over a little of the dressing (discarding the rest) and sprinkle with the rest of the

herbs. Drizzle over some good-quality extra virgin olive oil from a height, sprinkle with some freshly ground black pepper, and enjoy.

Finally, a note to say that this tasted just as good several hours later!

Tarta de Santiago (almond cake) with Strawberries and Sherry vinegar (Serves 8-10).

Ingredients:

A little butter for the tin.
6 medium eggs.
300g/11oz caster sugar.
300g/11oz ground almonds.
Zest 3 lemons.
Icing sugar, for dusting.

250g/9oz strawberries, hulled and halved or quartered lengthways.
75g/2½ oz caster sugar.
50ml/2fl oz Sherry vinegar.

Vanilla ice cream, to serve.

Method:

1. First prepare the strawberries: mix them in a bowl with the sugar and vinegar and cover with cling film. Leave in the fridge to marinate for about 2 hours.
2. To make the cake, heat oven to 160C/140C fan/gas.
3. Butter and line a 22cm springform tin with baking parchment. Mix the eggs and sugar with an electric whisk until pale and thick. Gently fold in the almonds and zest of lemon with a metal spoon.
4. Pour the mixture into the tin and bake for 50 mins until golden – a skewer pushed into the centre of the cake should come away clean. When you take the cake out of the oven, cover with a clean tea towel to cool it down, as you don't want the cake to dry out.
5. Dust with icing sugar and serve in slices with the strawberries and ice cream.

Random people

This issue's random person is resident Maggie Mote-Thear, pictured with her dog Molly in the sunshine. Molly is two and a half and gets a walk around Watermead twice a day - in the morning with her master, and late afternoon with Maggie. Maggie is "devastated" by the news that a crematorium may be built on the Riviera site. "This area is residential, and that's how it should be kept," she says. She doesn't want to see hearses on a daily basis, and is very conscious that Watermead has only one vehicular route in and out, which is likely to be heavily impacted



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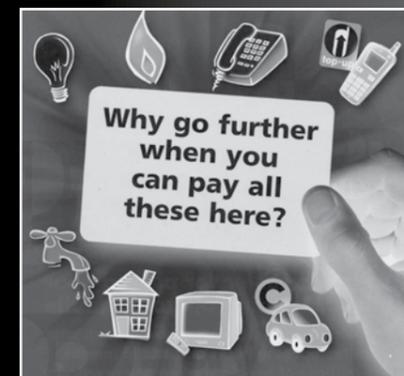
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Damsels and Dragons of Watermead

The insect order Odonata include the Damselflies and Dragonflies – spectacular ‘Rock-and-Roll’ insects, a glimpse of the tropical and prehistoric right here in Bucks.

There are 40 odd species breeding in the UK with potentially another dozen or so that may occasionally find their way here from elsewhere.

They live much longer as larvae (typically one or two years) but as adults may only live a week or two – exceptionally 6 to 8 weeks. The adult phase is all about feeding and mating. The mating is unique; the males use the tip of their abdomen to grab the females behind the head – you can often see couples flying in tandem joined like this.

At some stage the female, whilst in tandem, needs to bring the tip of her abdomen into contact with the male at the front of its abdomen. It is referred to as ‘the Wheel’ when they are in this position – although it looks more like a ‘heart’ shape, especially in Damsels.

For such large and spectacular insects they are often very hard to see except when moving, and even then it’s difficult to get a clear view. I’m far from being an expert on their identification, so getting a decent photo is vital to identifying what I’ve been looking at. Easier said than done!

Even large Dragons seem to be invisible until you’re close enough to disturb them into flight. For instance when I was walking along the path around the large

lake at Watermead, I disturbed a Dragon that was resting on the path itself in front of me – invisible until it flew off. It looked like a Darter, but which one? It could be either the Ruddy Darter or the Common Darter, both of which look red at a distance.

Fortunately it settled on the path again and I was able to pinpoint where, the blur it was, settled. This just left creeping slowly up on that position (not being able to actually see the Dragonfly) without disturbing it. I managed to get close enough for my telephoto lens to allow for a photo whilst being far enough away not to disturb it – they have fantastic eyesight.

Even with decent photos of what I think are both Ruddy and Common Darters from

Watermead, I’m not hundred percent sure I’ve identified them correctly. There seems to be a lot of variation in colour both within the species and between sexes. They also vary in colour from newly emerged to ‘mature’ adult to ‘old’ adult, which may only be a matter of days.

Some Dragons will return to the same perch after forays to catch prey, chase off rivals or look for females. If the perch is close enough to photograph, then only patience is needed. But other Dragons constantly patrol an area and so are just a blur that is difficult (really impossible) to photograph. The Damsels seem to be easier – their weaker more fluttering flight means they are more likely to return to a perch after a short time.



Damsels V Dragons

It’s easy to tell the Damsels from the Dragons – appropriately the Damsels are small and dainty, whilst the Dragons are large, robust and ‘thuggish’. UK species are generally:

Adult Damselfly

Blue-tailed Damselfly - 30mm
Small and dainty (25 – 50mm)
Weak Flight - brief and often fluttery
At rest wings held together over back
Front and hind wings the same shape
Eyes separate at sides of head

Adult Dragonfly

Ruddy Darter – 35mm
Large and robust (30 – 80mm)
Strong Flight – often persistent and hovering
Wings held at right angles to body
Front and hind wings with different shapes
Massive eyes that touch in the middle of the head

Some of the largest Damselflies can be longer than the smallest Dragonflies but, the Damsels will always be daintier.

They can be best seen when most active, usually between 10am and 3pm on warm sunny days, May to August. But these may not be the best time to photograph them – they may be too active! Look out for them this summer.

David Graby

Damsels and Dragons seen at, or near, Watermead

Damselflies – Zygoptera (equal wings)

- Blue-tailed Damselfly
- 1. Common Blue Damselfly
- 2. Banded Demoiselle - Female
- 3. Banded Demoiselle - Male

Banded Demoiselle larva seen in the large lake at Watermead

Dragonflies – Anisoptera (unequal wings)

- Common Darter
- 5. Ruddy Darter
- 6. Broad-bodied Chaser
- Four-spotted Chaser – seen on the River Thames near Watermead
- 6. Migrant Hawker – I saw the blur of a Hawker patrolling around Watermead. Couldn’t tell if it was the Common Hawker or the Migrant Hawker though. This is a photograph of an obliging Hawker seen near Oxford.



Blue-tailed Damselfly and Banded Demoiselle



Blue-tailed Damselflies in ‘the wheel’



Blue Tailed Damselfly and Common Darter Dragonfly

Thames Valley Police Aylesbury North Neighbourhood

Here is the latest neighbourhood update from your Aylesbury North Team (Elmhurst, Watermead, Buckingham Park, Berryfields and Weedon village). The team consists of Insp Nicole Murphy, Sgt Dave Washington, PC Russ McFarlane, PC Faraz Vakani, PCSO Lisa Steward, PCSO Danny Fahy and PCSO Ashley Clark

Ashley Clark (pictured) has recently completed his training as a PCSO and will be working alongside us on The North Team. You will see him on patrol in the area so feel free to say hello and discuss any concerns you have with him.

Local priorities

The following priorities have been identified by the community and the police:

- 1. Watermead** – Focussing on suspicious and drug taking related activity around Watermead. Regular patrols have been conducted around the car parks and residential areas of Watermead. There have been no instances of anti-social behaviour or drugs activity to report. Watermead continues to be a safe place to live and calls from this area have been infrequent.
- 2. Elmhurst** – Our focus in Elmhurst is the anti-social behaviour (ASB) reported from the Alfred Rose park, and surrounding areas.
- 3. Buckingham Park** – Patrols in Buckingham Park have been focussed on groups playing football and being

disorderly in the residential streets. Also the reports of motor bike ASB on the area will be monitored. We realize that this was an issue last year. We will endeavour to catch up with the people causing this issue and put an end to this behaviour.

There is a new residential home opened in Buckingham Park which is situated next to the Buckingham Park primary school.

Any problems are being dealt with by your neighbourhood policing team in partnership with residents and other agencies. Progress will be reported in the Neighbourhood updates.

Crime Mapping Service

For a breakdown of crimes and reports made to police over the past month, please visit www.police.uk/thames-valley/N412/ It is possible to 'trim' down the data to cover your street or immediate area around your house.

Have Your Say Meetings

"Have Your Say" meetings are an opportunity for you to discuss any issues you may have regarding crime prevention advice, anti-social behaviour concerns or if you just want to meet your local police team in your area. No appointment is necessary. Further meetings will be published locally and on the force website at www.thamesvalley.police.uk

'Have Your Say' meetings will be held at the Watermead Village Hall on the following dates:

**Sunday 31 May 2015
10.30am until 11.00am
with PCSO Danny Fahy**

**Wednesday 24th June 2015
10.30am until 11.00am
with PCSO Lisa Steward**

**Wednesday 22nd July 2015
10.30am until 11.00am
with PCSO Ashley Clark**

**Wednesday 26th August 2015
10.30am until 11.00am
with PCSO Lisa Steward**

If the weather is reasonable some Have Your Say meetings may take place outside the Village Hall in the shopping area. Are you tempting criminals by leaving property in your vehicle?

Over the past few weeks there have been a number of thefts from vehicles reported in Aylesbury Vale, where valuables have been stolen. The thefts have been reported in Aylesbury as well as the rural areas of Aylesbury Vale. Property taken has included a handbag, mobile phone, Sat Navs, tools, a laptop, wallet, purse, cash (notes), small change and golfing equipment. In some cases the vehicles have been left unlocked.

If you don't want to lose it, make sure you remove it!

As we move towards the summer months Thames Valley Police is reminding residents to remove property from parked vehicles overnight and when using rural/beauty spot car parks. Every year we receive reports of thefts from vehicles parked up whilst owners make the most of our countryside. In

previous years reported thefts have risen as we go in to warmer weather conditions.

Make sure you lock and alarm your vehicle and remember to take all your property with you. Don't be tempted to 'hide' items in glove boxes, boots or other compartments in your car. Opportunists will look in all these places and it only takes a moment to break the window and have a look. You will then have the inconvenience and expense of reporting it to your insurance company and replacing the items taken.

Also, make sure you are doing the same thing when parking your car outside your house. Lock it, alarm it and remove valuables as opportunists in the past have been known to try a row of car door handles and target any that are unlocked. The stolen property has included laptops, wallets, iPods, mobile phones and handbags. The advice is simple – if you don't want to lose it, make sure you remove it!

Further crime prevention advice and information can be found on the www.thamesvalley.police.uk



PCSO Ashley Clark

Holidays by the North Sea in Germany

Still have no idea where to spend your well-deserved summer holidays?

Not the kind of person who likes spending hours roasting in the sun or needs your days action packed?

Perhaps you'd prefer to do something healthy while relaxing and escaping from the daily routine of everyday life?

Then maybe spending the nicest time of the year on Germany's North Sea coast would be the perfect idea for you. It is ideal for couples and families; there is plenty to do for everyone.

If you are worried about hotel bills the German North Sea coast is perfect for a little camping trip! Your kids will love it and I guarantee you will have the chance to meet a lot of nice people to have a BBQ with in the evenings too. With temperatures around 25°-30°C the weather is perfect for either just relaxing at one of the beautiful beaches or renting a bike for a nice long

cycling tour.

The highlight of your day could be a walk across the mudflats - never go alone, always book a tour! (If you've ever done it you will know exactly why!). Or you could take a trip on one of the local cutters to catch North Sea crabs for lunch. Guaranteed to be the freshest crabs you have ever eaten!

There are several Islands near the coast too. Wangerooge or Heligoland, for example, are perfect destinations for a day trip. Book a tour around Heligoland to discover interesting facts about Germany's smallest island. Or a hiking tour covering the whole of Wangerooge (the island famously shaped like a seahorse) takes just one day.

If you like the high society life then it would be a good idea to visit Sylt for a couple of days. This is the most expensive of Germany's islands. But even if you don't want to spend a month's salary on shopping, it is definitely worth a visit just to see

the expensive cars and luxurious villas and maybe bump into some celebrities.

When you are hungry for your dinner try one of the various fish restaurants which you will find dotted across the North Sea coast. The fish is perfectly fresh, caught each morning, and tastes great. Best of all it is healthy, as fish has some of the best proteins you can get in terms of bioavailability, and the oh-so important Omega 3 which helps with normal heart function.

The health benefits you get at the North Sea don't stop there. Without having to do anything but breath you can strengthen your cardiovascular and immune system and bring benefits to your skin and airways. That is because you permanently get the fresh, clean air from the sea. By the North Sea there is usually high humidity and a permanent breeze. All that makes the climate very special.

If you are interested, find more information about

Germany's North Sea coast here: www.germany.travel/en/leisure-and-recreation/germanys-islands/north-sea-islands/north-sea-islands.html

www.mygermanycity.com/north-sea and for those of you who speak German, here are the websites I used for the article: www.nordsee-suche.de/wetter-nordsee.htm www.die-nordsee.de/zu-den-orten-inseln www.mcpaparazzi.de/promi-watch/promi-watch-sylt/

Have a great summer!

*Nadine Bennison
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The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author. Always seek the advice of a doctor or other health professional with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition.

Music in quiet places

Classical Concerts in Idyllic Settings - A Musical Journey Across Aylesbury Vale. Professional classical concerts devised by Musical Director Robert Secret are performed in some of the most idyllic settings within the district. The project is managed by Aylesbury Vale District Council to bring rural communities together. The concerts provide residents in rural communities a high quality event to bolster social cohesion, as well as improving their living experience and gives the villages the ability to raise local funds through the sale of refreshments.

It is an opportunity to enjoy professional concerts with family and friends and for people not actually living in the village it is a wonderful reason to discover new beautiful places in the Vale of Aylesbury.

A heritage walk precedes each concert around the scenic village led by a local historian. The walks are free and open to all, whether attending the concert or not.

The dates and venues for 2015 are:

30th May The Church of St Michael and all Angels, Waddesdon
6th June The Church of St James the Great, Bierton
13th June The Church of St Mary, Haddenham
20th June The Church of St Nicholas, Cuddington

All concerts are at 7.30pm preceded by a village walk, usually from the church, at 6.30pm

Full details are available at: www.aylesburyvaldec.gov.uk/leisure-culture/arts-and-culture/music-quiet-places/
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The Lily Pot Watermead

Enterprising mother-of-five Sam Walker set up The Lily Pot in 2013 and they moved to Watermead in February 2014. Since then the business has gone from strength to strength, building up a reputation in the community.

Sam has always liked flowers and



gardening, and named the business after her favourite flower, the lily. Her favourite colour is purple, and the inside of The Lily Pot is beautifully decorated with lilac

walls, splashes of bold, purple-flowered wallpaper, fresh flowers and girlie trinkets.

Sam and her staff, Jade, Claire, Mandy and two ladies called Jo pride themselves on being flexible and catering for everybody's needs and budget; they are very approachable. They have bookings to

provide flowers for loads of weddings this year, and already some wedding bookings for next year.

An increasingly popular part of The Lily Pot's business is their workshops and children's parties. They can be held either in the premises at Watermead Piazza, or at clients' homes. A typical children's party involves each child decorating a pot, then arranging flowers in it, and costs £15 to £19 per head for a one-and-a-half hour party (minimum of eight children, maximum of 12). A typical adult workshop is on a Saturday afternoon at 2pm, lasts for one and a half to two hours, and costs £45 per head including all materials. Children's parties include Princess Party and Cupcake Party, and adult workshops include Hand Tied in a Jug and Summer Wreath with Candle.

Sam hasn't always been a florist. She started work in accounts and finance, then took day release from her job to gain a National Diploma in Business & Finance BTEC. In 1999, Sam and her husband set up a small business, Enviro Sewage Treatment Services, which provides installations for properties on private drainage, such as

Whipsnade Zoo. About five years ago Sam took another day release class, this time in Floristry, at Winslow Adult Learning Centre, and when she qualified three years ago she knew she wanted to set up her own business in a more fragrant line of work. With so much business training and experience, it came naturally to Sam, and The Lily Pot was born.

Sam doesn't like to do things by halves. As well as running The Lily Pot, she has five children between the ages of three and 18, still spends some time working in the office of ESTS, and one day a week she looks after her youngest child at home. Sam is a local girl who grew up in Aylesbury and currently lives in Stoke Mandeville. She still enjoys gardening at home at the weekends.

The friendly, purple-clad staff at The Lily Pot would be delighted if you popped in to say hello and see what they do. We wish them the very best of luck in their second year on Watermead.

Debbie Clark

What is your image of the WI?

What comes into your mind when you hear the phrase Women's Institute?

Twinsets and pearls, jam and Jerusalem - or the Calendar Girls? Given the huge number and diversity of WIs in this country all those images would be correct somewhere. The reality is that there is a WI somewhere which caters for the interests of any woman, no matter how diverse or unusual. We don't spend all our time making jam and singing Jerusalem. In fact, we never sing Jerusalem at our Watermead meetings.

However, in some ways Watermead and Weedon WI is typical of other WIs. We currently have 26 members, some of whom have full or part time employment, while others are retired; some live in Watermead and some travel from other areas in Aylesbury. If you ran a straw poll amongst us there would be a variety of interests represented. What unites us is the opportunity to meet together once a month, spend a couple of hours with other women, perhaps hear an interesting talk, try activities we might not otherwise experience and enjoy ourselves. We are prepared to experience whatever is on offer that month and try different things.

At the beginning of April, we did some fairly traditional things. We competed to

decorate the best hard-boiled egg, as people have done at Easter for years. We ate simnel cake and hot cross buns, courtesy of one of the members who baked them; we ate Easter eggs and some members brought along items that they could not bear to part with. The explanations of why these objects are so important to them told us something about those members, their lives outside the WI and the things and experiences they hold dear. The previous month we hosted a recorder group who played for us, told us something of the history of the instrument and generally entertained us. Later in the year, we shall be chocolate tasting. Food does seem to feature rather prominently in most of our meetings!!

The WI nationally is renowned for being a strong campaigning organisation. Previous campaigns have included Equal Pay for Women, greater numbers of women Police Officers, Keep Britain Tidy and a wide range of other campaigns that might surprise you in their variety. In May we will be debating our National Resolution which is 'Failing to Care - Assessment of Need in Long Term Care'. Some of us will need to research the topic, speak on the subject to the other members and then brief our delegate for the National Annual

Meeting. This is an important topic that will affect most of us in some way at some time, since we are all living longer with the hope and expectation that we will be able to live our last days with as much care and dignity as possible. I'm sure it will be a lively debate, but we shall no doubt find time to discuss other lighter subjects. As we are asking members to swap recipes for cakes and biscuits that evening, food will again be the centre of attention!

You may already know that this year is the Centenary of the WI and all over the country there are special events being organised in celebration. In June, there will be a Royal Garden Party to which each WI may send one delegate. WWWWI will be sending a delegate who will no doubt have stories to share with us on her return. Sadly there will be no personal pictures because cameras are not allowed at the Palace, but no doubt there will be some official photographs taken at some point in the afternoon.

Also in June, Waddesdon Manor is opening especially for the Bucks Federation of WIs so that we can enjoy the grounds and house in the company of other WI members. There is already talk of champagne and strawberries as we picnic in the gardens. Now all we need is good weather.

In September a group of local

WIs is holding an evening event at Quainton Railway Centre where party goers will enjoy dinner and entertainment set amongst those wonderful steam locomotives. It seems that this year at least, WI members are definitely party animals! So, have you decided which is the most appropriate image to characterise WIs? I doubt it, since we thrive on variety and whilst we know how to enjoy ourselves, campaigning and the hard issues of the day are never far away, as was the case 100 years ago when WIs first began.

Watermead & Weedon WI hold regular meetings on the first Thursday in the month, from 7.30 to 9.30 pm, in the Village Hall, The Piazza, Watermead. We welcome any ladies who are new to Watermead, Weedon and Buckingham Park or any women who would just like to see what we are all about. For further information please contact Julia Morgan - details under 'What's On' on page 10.

For our August meeting there is a special lunch - venue to be decided. Further information from Julia Morgan 487650, julia-morgan@sky.com

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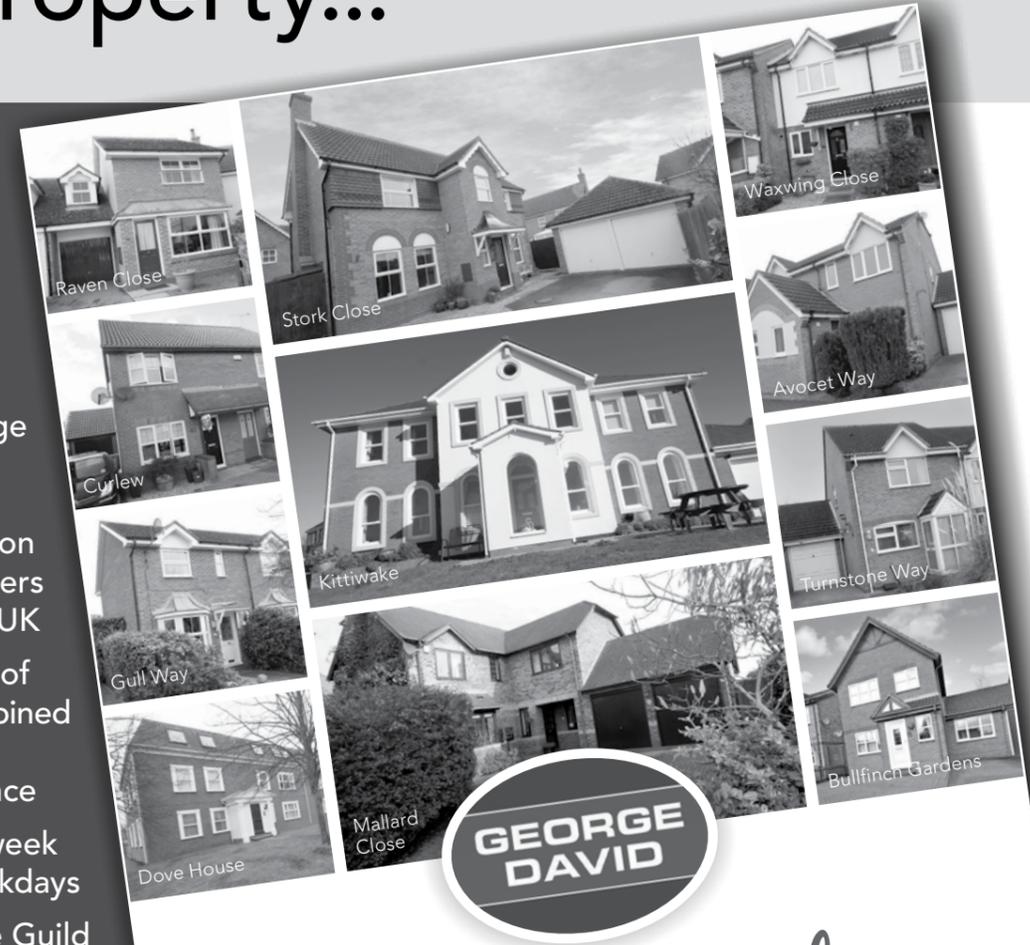
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When my granddaughter outgrew the cot she uses when visiting I put side bars on the spare bed, but because the bed is so low they wouldn't fold down properly when the bed is being used by others. I'd seen things to uplift armchairs to make getting out of them easier for elderly people and I wondered if there was something similar for beds.

"You need elephants' feet" announced Chris, the proprietor, when I asked for his advice.

I wanted to say "I've had those all my life", remembering the problems I've had shoeing my size 8s.

He quickly produced exactly what I needed and while he was inputting my details on his database I had a browse around. I saw a few things that I thought I could find useful. I was in a hurry that day so I went back for a more leisurely browse.

I bought a 'pill crusher'. I've had to stop taking a couple of the supplements I used to take as they are just too big for my old throat to manage. Of course, you could always cut them in half, but that just gives you a sharp edge to contend with as well. I can remember my elderly mother complaining about just such a problem; I thought she was just being awkward - she did like to be awkward - but here I am now having the same problem. Sorry mum!

I also bought a handy gadget for opening screw caps on bottles. Arthritis of the thumb doesn't have to be particularly bad to make something that simple a painful task. It works a treat.

On my way out I couldn't resist a further browse. A 'tilted' cup with two handles caught my eye. I had such a thing for my children to ease the transition from a spouted trainer cup to the real thing. Despite looking in all the usual places I haven't found one for my granddaughter. I can see I'll be making a return visit to Easy Living.

Carolynne McKee

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Enfant terrible



Every so often a designer comes along whose unconventional worldview distorts our idea of what is currently in fashion.

An approach so rebellious, so anarchic it causes controversy among the fashion world's elite. Are they mocking us all? Or are they simply a visionary? There are few designers like this who come along and totally manipulate and contort our opinion on what is right and wrong with fashion. Lee "Alexander" McQueen did and is a prime example of fashion's "enfant terrible".

"Enfant terrible" is a French phrase, originally used to describe a child who says things with complete disregard for the their parents and others. The expression has now expanded to describe artists, designers, musicians etc. who create something completely unorthodox and push the boundaries of their respective fields. For McQueen's part, he seized current mainstream

fashion, hacked it up and made a work of art out of it. Fashion is without a doubt an art form. But with simple, everyday designs being most dominant it makes us question the extent to which it is an art form. McQueen's designs liberated and empowered women, they exploited traditional conforming designers and made us question all that is cool. He contradicted the conformity and uniformity of Saville Row tailoring with ideas that fuelled our wildest dreams.

It has been five years since McQueen committed suicide and the V&A have finally brought 'Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty' to London. It is a fine curation of all of McQueen's creations with all the ethereal pastiche of his finest shows ranging from 'Voss' to 'Plato's Atlantis'. Despite the exhibition having attracted over 660,000 visitors when shown in New York and a never ending sea of McQueen supporters swinging in and out

of the doors it remains a very intimate affair.

McQueen touches everyone differently, but for me the Spring/Summer 2008 collection entitled 'La Dame Bleue' is intensely enthralling. The collection was created in honour of McQueen's longtime supporter and best friend Isabella Blow, who had committed suicide in 2007. There is a sense of melancholy and liberated beauty to this collection. It is a captivating contradiction of life and death, beauty and sorrow, intimacy and eccentricity. Like all of McQueen's work the genius lies within the contradictions.

It's difficult to pinpoint the highlight of the curation. For many it is the spray painted dress from the No 13 collection. This is understandable when you know it was the only one of McQueen's creations which reduced him to tears.

Even if you're not a fan of fashion you'll be familiar with the armadillo shoe; a

10 inch platform costing up to \$10,000, worn by everyone from Lady Gaga to Daphne Guinness. Fear not, because armadillo shoes are at the V&A in abundance. Which leads me to the final room before you leave the exhibition. 'Plato's Atlantis' Spring/Summer 2010 and McQueen's last ever collection. We might think the final collection would foreshadow McQueen's death and portray his melancholy at the time. However it's quite the opposite, a fiery collection with a ubiquitous sense of energy. If I had to pick a collection that signposts the future of fashion this would be the one I would choose. Therefore I'll conclude with one of McQueen's most powerful quotes.

"I want to be the purveyor of a certain silhouette or a way of cutting, so that when I'm dead and gone people will know that the twenty-first century was started by Alexander McQueen."

Phoebe Shardlow

News

Watermead allotments

Despite their modern popularity, allotments have been around in one form or another for hundreds of years, and can be dated back to Saxon times, when a field would be cleared from woodland and held in common for the local community. The system we recognise today had its roots (excuse the pun) in the 19th century when land was given over to the labouring poor for the provision of food growing. This was desperately needed due to the rapid industrialisation of the country and the lack of a welfare state. In 1908 The Small Holdings and Allotments Act placed a duty on local authorities to provide sufficient allotments according to demand. However, it was not until 1919 with the Land Settlement Facilities Act that land was made available to all, primarily as a way of assisting servicemen returning from the First World War. Further Parliamentary Acts in 1922 and 1925 established, among other things, statutory allotments which local authorities could not sell off or convert without Ministerial

consent.

Now let me tell you about what we are up to at Watermead Allotments in 2015. The summer months will be with us very soon and there has been lots of activity at the allotments. On a personal note, we have changed the layout somewhat on our plot, partly to aid crop rotation, but mainly to make harvesting easier. We have planted our potatoes in beds that had runner beans in last year; our gooseberries have been moved and planted in a different bed with more room to spread and our strawberries have been moved to a new bed as well. Most seem to have taken the move reasonably well, but the asparagus has not enjoyed its move so much and is looking a bit sad. The rhubarb seems to be flourishing in its new location, despite one being put in upside down.

We will be growing potatoes, runner beans, carrots, parsnips, red currants, blackcurrants, blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, tomatoes, some round crystal cucumbers, courgettes and of course sweet peas to attract the wild life to

pollinate the crops. As we have got more settled into having an allotment we have put some additional paving slabs down and also laid some new paths between beds. This is our first allotment and we are now in our third year and in general enjoying it - perhaps not so much when the sun is not out, but with the warmer weather approaching it should be very pleasant on our little patch and - we hope - very productive.

Most of our fellow allotmenters, including some new members, have been making progress planting and preparing the ground for what is the prime growing season. We hope to have a good range of plants for the PLANT SALE at the Village Hall from 10am to 1pm on Saturday June 6th this year. Why not come along and pick up a plant at a bargain price.

There are still plots up for grabs; quarter and half size plots can be made available if you feel you could not cope with a full size plot. Towards the end of March we had one of our maintenance

days. On these occasions we all get together, either on a Saturday or Sunday morning, to tidy up the allotment area and car park. Our next one will be on Sunday, July 5th from 10am to 1pm. If you are interested in having a go at an allotment why not come along and chat to current allotment holders to find out what is involved. You will be most welcome.

Colin Smith



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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 were 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, supported Comic Relief by collecting £150 from parents and local businesses and 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 amount from our sponsored obstacle course. 10% of the amount raised was given to Comic Relief and the remainder will be used to fund a trip to Woburn Safari Park.

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 made their own hats and decorated their own eggs, which they paraded in front of their parents/carers and 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 transport, materials, homes, and fairytales.

Cygnets accepts children from 2½ years to 5 years old.

We open from 9.15am to 12.15pm, 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 in the village hall and ask to be added onto our waiting list or call Maree on 07563 783464.

The Cygnets Team



Winners of the Easter Bonnet competition



Left to right: Kirstie, Sahdia, Lynsey, Dot, Penny, Sharon and Maree

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