



BLUSTERETTE

The Newsletter of the Watermead Village Residents Association
Special Edition March 1993



THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

This meeting was held on the 4th March 1993 in the Village Hall. About 40 residents attended. Anne King, Honorary Treasurer, took the chair because of the recent resignation of the Chairman and Honorary Secretary. Anne completed the formalities of confirming that the Notice about the Meeting had been posted for a month, and that every household had received a copy of the notice.

In fact a very few (out of 500 or so) had not received the notice, for which the Chairman apologised. In view of the difficulties within the Committee, those present were invited to select a Chairman for the evening, and Robert Ellis was elected.

1. **THE CONSTITUTION.** Robert opened a discussion on Item 1, the new draft Constitution, by commenting that few people would have read it, and suggested that another meeting should be called when residents had had a chance to read it. Anne King pointed out that the Notice did offer residents the chance to have a copy of the Constitution before the meeting, and about 15 had been delivered on request. However, the meeting agreed to Robert's suggestion.

Discussion then ensued about the worth of a Constitution until the residents had decided whether they wanted an Association, and if so what purpose it should serve. The opinion was also expressed that the very name of the Association put people off by its formality and that the Constitution was a daunting document and would not attract people. Anne pointed out that the Constitution was only for guidance of the Committee, and that the proper medium for interesting residents in village activities was Blusterette. Residents should nevertheless feel reassured that the Committee was running its affairs within agreed guidelines.

During this debate it was also suggested that the remaining members of the old Committee should resign immediately so that a fresh start could be made.

After some discussion, it was finally suggested that as all members of the Committee come up for re-election at the AGM, the easiest way of getting a new committee and discussing the Constitution in the near future would be to bring the AGM forward from September to mid-April. The Treasurer would close the books at 31st March 1993 and have them audited in time for the advanced AGM.

A date of Thursday 22th April 1993 was agreed for the AGM, which will be in the Village Hall, starting at 8 p.m. Mr. Crockford was elected to chair the AGM until the new Chairman is elected.

Nomination forms for officers and committee members will be distributed to all residents in good time before the AGM. Residents will be requested to return them in time for Ballot slips to be printed for the AGM.

2. **THE COMMITTEE.** As this matter had effectively been discussed earlier, no further consideration was given to it, apart from confirming that existing Committee members will remain in place until the AGM. The Treasurer particularly emphasised that the Hall must continue to run, income has to be accepted and banked and bills must be paid, and that the books could not be handed over without audit.

3. **THE HALL.** Problems associated with users who do not clean the hall properly after use were discussed. Improvements to the facilities were also mentioned; large cupboards have been secured for regular users so that, for example, the kitchen need not be used as an office and store for activity materials.

Night storage heaters have been purchased to improve the heating. The fluorescent lights need to have diffusers fitted, and the problem of mould on the north wall sorted out. Dr. Cox suggested that this was a health hazard, and this fact might be used to get positive action on stopping the seepage of water through the roof. Various ideas were mooted for regular cleaning of the hall and the matter was eventually remitted to the AGM.

The organisers of the recent Italian evenings commented on the poor response from residents to their very successful functions. This echoed other comments about the frustration felt by Committees when functions have been organised and poorly attended.

This raised the question of whether more than a handful of residents wanted social or other events organised at all. At the other end of the scale, if large functions similar to the last fireworks night are to be organised in future, many extra volunteers will be needed for stewarding and control of parking etc. The Committee cannot cope with such affairs alone. It was also suggested that individuals may be willing to undertake specific tasks without necessarily being labelled as members of the Committee, which is a very open-ended commitment.

It is hoped that further and more positive discussion of these subjects will occur at the AGM.

The meeting was reminded that the Committee is made up entirely of volunteers, and there was a need to encourage new blood to join the Committee, as the long-serving members begin to run out of ideas and enthusiasm eventually.

The present Committee was authorised to appoint an independent Auditor, and a retired Accountant, introduced by a non-Committee member who attended the Meeting, has been appointed.

The Committee wish to thank Mrs. J. Humphreys for taking the Minutes of the Meeting.

FOR NEW RESIDENTS...

The Association was formed to provide a focal point for Village activities, mainly social. The general pattern has been to have three main functions in the year, a Spring Fete, a Firework night and a Christmas Carol-singing event. Other social activities are organised; for example, in 1992 we had a Treasure Hunt, a Craft Fair, a '60s Night, an Italian evening, a Village Clean-Up session on a Sunday morning, a Trivial Pursuits evening, a Horse Racing event in conjunction with the Village Cricket Club and a presentation on wall coverings and soft furnishings. The Committee also oversees use and hiring of the Village Hall, and tries to improve its amenities. We have recently felt the need for a more formal framework for the Committee, although this is not a universal view. This partly explains the need for the EGM reported in this Blusterette.

Blusterette usually comes out about every six weeks, although this has stopped since the EGM was called. Its big brother, Bluster, is usually published twice a year, one edition near Christmas. It takes a lot of compiling and doubtless the next volunteer editors will be looking for material later in the year.

You will be very welcome at the AGM, new views, ideas and faces are eagerly sought!

Believe it or not.....

There are residents at Watermead who are unaware that the large imposing building standing in isolation beside the lake opposite the Bandstand is the largest elderly persons' Nursing Home in the area. Opened in May of last year, it is now filling rapidly. While many residents have regular visits, extra visitors are always welcome. Any Watermead resident who is able to spare a little time occasionally to visit the Home and have a chat will help the residents to feel that they are part of your community. Some enjoy a game of cards, especially whist, while others would appreciate a visit from someone with a pet dog. Either way, it is an opportunity to make some new friends.

If you are interested and able to come along and meet us or have any other ideas which will integrate the residents of Lakeside at Watermead with the residents of Watermead, please contact Sister Christine Nicolay on 393166.

WATERMEAD & WEEDON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

PROGRAMME FOR 1993.

Anyone interested is welcome to attend a meeting before joining the branch. Meetings are held in the Village Hall, and start at 7.30 p.m.

1/4/93	No speaker. Discussion evening.	2/9/93	Understanding Photography. Mr D. Ripp
6/5/93	Resolution Meeting. Rosemary Walker.	7/10/93	Aromatherapy. Jean Adams
3/6/93	Travel. Thomas Cook.	4/11/93	ANNUAL MEETING
/7/93	Fimo Pictures. Shirley Channer	2/12/93	How to trace your family tree.
5/8/93	The National Trust. Mr E. Dorrance.		Mr. Grainger.

Notice of revised date of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Watermead Village Residents Association will take place at 8 p.m. on the 22nd of April 1993 in the Village Hall.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening remarks by the Chairman and confirmation of Notice of Calling. Apologies.
2. Treasurer's and Auditor's Reports.
3. Election of Officers and Committee Members. If more than one person is nominated for Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer, printed ballot papers will be used to elect each officer by simple majority. The number of Committee members nominated will be reported to the meeting, and unless the meeting considers that there are too many, all will be invited to form the new Committee. If there are too few, nominations can be invited from the floor.
At the end of the elections, the new Chairman will take over the Meeting.
4. Consideration of matters remitted from the Extraordinary General Meeting.
 - i. The draft Constitution.
 - ii. Management of the Hall.
5. Any other business.

Watermead Village Residents Association

Nomination form for Officers and Committee members for the period until the next AGM.

1. If you nominate anybody, please ask them to sign the form to confirm that they are willing to serve.
2. Please return completed nomination forms to 6, Fieldfare by 31st March, to enable voting forms to be prepared for the AGM.
3. You can propose the same person for an office and for the Committee, with their consent.
4. If you need more forms, please photocopy this one or ring 26743.

CUT HERE _____

FORM FOR PROPOSING CHAIRMAN, SECRETARY AND TREASURER

I _____ (proposer) and I _____ (seconder) propose
_____ as _____ of the WVRA until the next AGM.

I confirm that I am willing to serve as _____ for the coming year.

Signed _____ Date _____ (Please return to 6, Fieldfare by 31/3/93).

CUT HERE _____

FORM FOR PROPOSING COMMITTEE MEMBER

I _____ (proposer) and I _____ (seconder) propose
_____ as a Committee member of the WVRA until the next AGM.

I confirm that I am willing to serve on WVRA Committee for the coming year.

Signed _____ Date _____ (Please return to 6, Fieldfare by 31/3/93).

CUT HERE _____

FORM FOR OFFERING SPECIFIC SERVICE

I _____ do not want to serve full time on a WVRA Committee, but would be willing to offer occasional help or do a specific task (e.g. act as steward for large function, organise annual Village 'clean-up', help with Bluster (our annual magazine) or a Summer Fete, clean the Hall....
I could offer specific skills or help as follows:

