



BLUSTERETTE

The Newsletter of the Watermead Village Residents Association
Autumn Edition October 1993



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday, 14th October Extraordinary General Meeting at 8pm in the Village Hall

Please see the Chairman's Letter below for details.

Saturday 23rd October WVCC Horse Racing Evening - *see separate notice in this Newsletter.*

Dear Fellow Residents

I always remember the advice of my tutor at Cambridge which was that you should leave at the top and never outstay your welcome (that was when he was not asking for money for some grandiose building project). Whether either of these statements apply in this case I can not say, but I and my wife are off to foreign parts and hence we are both having to give up our positions with the resident's association. Now I know we will be sorely missed, but life must go on!!

Our departure means that the numbers on the committee will be reduced to 5, which all agree is far too small to handle the large work load involved in the running of the association. Unfortunately the Association's constitution does not specifically detail what should happen in these circumstances, but the election of two new members to the committee and the appointment of a new chairperson would seem sensible. These posts would then come up for the normal re-election at next years AGM. So, at the back of this Blusterette is a nomination form for these posts. Please nominate anyone who is willing to take on these important roles in our community. The election will take place at an extraordinary meeting of the association on 14th October in the village hall. All are most welcome.

The other form you will see at the back of this news letter is a request for your views on what are suitable uses for the lake. Now there are some amongst us that believe they know, instinctively, the views of every resident. Neither I nor the local authority have this amount of insight, so your views are being sought. The lake has been left in a state of disuse for some time now, in fact since the ski lodge went into receivership. Now you may say that leaving it as a wild place is just what you like.

However others moved to Watermead with the promise of watersports on the lake. Personally I fall into the latter camp, I dislike neglect which is all too common in Britain today and would be pleased to see a well managed lake being available for all the residents of Watermead. So, register your views and if you can come along to the EGM do so and argue your corner!

The last point I have been asked to raise with you all concerns the style of Watermead. Everyone who has bought or rented a property here knows that there are some restrictions on what can be done with the property. These restrictions were introduced to maintain a certain look and atmosphere to the place. I believe it was this atmosphere which attracted many of us to the village. Now I am getting a stream of complaints about a satellite dish here, a new colour house there, a caravan parked in a front garden. May I make it clear that it is not the Association's duty to enforce the legal covenants on your properties, but the developer's and they have, and will take action against breach of these restrictions. So this is by way of a gentle reminder that these covenants are enforced. Personally I believe that all our properties will be enhanced in the long term by maintaining the coherent look and feel of our various localities and just as a matter of record I have never been a fan of stone cladding!!

So that is all from me. My brief period in office draws to a close. All I can do is wish you all well and when I return to Watermead one day it will gladden my heart to see a lake full of watersports, a thriving sports club, people jogging around the lake on an all weather track and perhaps even a player or two relaxing in the cricket pavilion veranda on a sunny Sunday afternoon. But I always was a bit of a dreamer.

Edwin Crockford, Chairman.

FIREWORK NIGHT, 1993

A number of residents have expressed anxiety about the holding of a Firework Display this year, following the saturation crowding that occurred last year. The Committee has discussed this and agreed that any form of display this year might encourage the same large, unmanageable attendance again.

The manager of the Watermead Inn has been approached and has agreed that no display will be sponsored this year. It is hoped that some sort of more local display can be arranged in future.

Watermead Village Cricket Club HORSE RACING EVENING

7.30 pm Saturday, 23rd October 1993

The Watermead Village Cricket Club are pleased to present their second Horse Race Evening. Last year's event was great fun and provided us all with a good opportunity to meet and socialise. The evening is organised into six races, each race having six horses which are auctioned before the race. The Owner of the horse wins even more if his/her horse wins.

All proceeds from the evening will go to the Cricket Club, which would appreciate your support. The Club has expanded quite considerably in the last two years and is severely under-financed, due to the lack of Pavilion facilities. If you or your company would like to make a donation to the Club, please contact Alan Elderfield on 0296 25676; even the smallest amount helps.

The event will be held in the Watermead Village Hall, which is located next to the **Avanti** Hairdressing Salon in the Piazza. Tickets, which are limited, cost only £1 per person and are available from Jean-Paul Arama on 0296 24447.

BABY-SITTING SERVICE

Responsible teenager, resident in Watermead Village, experienced with children, will baby-sit for you.
Rate £2.50 per hour. Ring 26743.

A cautionary tale...

Once upon a time, well, about two years ago, in a little pink house in Watermead, there were some very creaky hot water pipes. Early morning tea was taken to a *feu de joie* from the central heating.

Some nice men came along and cut up all the floorboards to get at the pipes. After much sawing and wrapping they put all the boards back and went away. Another nice man relaid the fitted carpet. Peace returned to the early hours.

On the last Saturday of Wimbledon this year, a little drip appeared in the lounge. It wasn't another nice man, but a leak. A nice man spent four hours on Sunday (Mens' final day, remember) locating the leak, which was finally traced to a pipe almost cut through by the nice men that came the first time to stop the creaks. The weakened pipe took a year to start leaking. After yet another nice man had relaid the carpets again, we were about £280 out of pocket.

A nasty insurance man told us that only consequential damage was covered by our insurance policy. The hole in the lounge ceiling would be paid for, but not the cost of a plumber on Sunday nor a carpet man on Wednesday. Definitely not consequential within the meaning of the Act... Nor was my non-attendance at Wimbledon for Mens' Final Day consequential damage. A moot point; but it might have cost us a lot of money if a judge agreed with the nasty insurance man.

As I write this, another nice man is finding out why our central heating makes ghastly bangs at 0635 hrs in the morning. "Probably got air in the pipes", he speculates. "Wants bleeding." he adds sagely. Now I prefer his last word as an adjective, in relation to central heating. However, it did occur to me that if we only had air in the pipes, we wouldn't have had water dripping on to our carpet on Ladies' Final Day this year, nor would someone else have used my ticket on Mens' Final Day...

Fortunately, the ticket was only for No. 1 Court, so I probably saw more of the Mens' Final than my substitute did. But that isn't really the point, is it? It's being there that counts, isn't it? B****ing central heating!

EDITORIAL

As you will see from the front page, we say farewell to *Edwin and Rose Marie Crockford* in this edition. They are off to the New World and we wish them all good fortune in their new life. We also thank them for their service on our Management Committee. Edwin has steered us with a steady hand while Rose Marie has offered us hospitality for our Committee Meetings on several occasions. *Bon voyage*, Edwin and Rose Marie!

You will receive an A4 sheet of advertisements with this edition of *Blusterette* (if you have not please ring 26743 for your copy). They are only issued separately to avoid cutting them when you fill in the forms at the foot of the page. If you possibly can, please support our advertisers, many of whom are Village residents. Their 'ads' help to pay for *Blusterette*, which should be self-supporting so that our precious income is devoted to the Hall and other projects for the Village. We have to thank our advertising manager, *Adam Dunn*, who has successfully drummed up so much business in the last two months.

Please consider carefully whether you can spare the time to serve on the Committee. It is very unbalanced at present, with too much representation from the 'north end'. A member (members even!) from Alexander Walk, Shillings Reach or Whitestones would be very welcome. Losing two committee members at once is quite a blow, particularly when you think that the remaining five are from only three households!

We would also like a volunteer from each of the main areas to distribute *Blusterette*. Five of us will not cope with 130 copies each! Ring 26743 with offers!

Two more residents who have recently been doing sterling work are *Sandra and Mike Gowling*, who have tramped from end to end of the Village to tell all of us about the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Their own notice appears on the next page. Mike gets to hear more about crime in the Village than many of us, and he will tell you that we have no cause to be complacent. You will not need telling this if you have suffered, but the rest of us will be well advised to take advantage of the work done by Sandra and Mike. In particular, please attend the meeting that they will be arranging in due course to launch the Scheme. The cost is tiny, but the possible cost of doing nothing could be incalculable.

There are two forms included with this edition of *Blusterette*. One is for nominations for Chairperson of the Committee and one or two Committee members. The other is to allow you to comment on the future of the lake, as invited in Edwin Crockford's letter. You can of course fill in both forms. Please drop them into 6, Fieldfare for the attention of the Honorary Secretary, Mrs. Jill Humphreys (26743 for directions if needed!). The nominations for Committee members should be in by about the 12th October, please, ready for the EGM.

Next *Blusterette* should be out just before Christmas. Please help me to fill it!

Anne King

AYLESBURY HOSPICE SHOP...

is opening at 4, Market Street, Aylesbury in late October or early November.

If you are able to offer any assistance with this new venture, which will be supporting the expanding work of Florence Nightingale House it would be much appreciated.

Give me a ring on 28143 if you are disposing of winter clothes, unwanted gifts or Bric-a-brac, or if you have half a day a week to spare and would be willing to join a team of helpers in the shop.

Barbara Lucas

BRIDGE CLUB

A number of residents who play social bridge have discussed the idea of running a Bridge Club in the Village Hall on whatever regular basis members suggest. It would be very straight forward, as none of those of us who have discussed the idea have any ambitions to go outside the Village to play.

If you are interested, please give Barbara a call on 28143 or Anne on 26743.

Although we could probably help some beginners, it might be worth newcomers to bridge taking a course at night school first. Ring anyway!

WATERMEAD VILLAGE

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME

REMINDER

Before the local police will consider commencing a Neighbourhood Watch, we need to show them that at least 60% of the village residents agree to the scheme being set up.

Any person who wishes to be included in the list for Neighbourhood Watch should please ensure that your completed form is returned not later than 17th October 1993.

Alternatively, if you have mislaid your form, please contact *Mike or Sandra GOWLING* on telephone 0296 20956.

IT IS UP TO US, THE RESIDENTS, TO MAKE THIS SCHEME SUCCESSFUL!

Adolf who?

A local radio station in Merseyside ran a telephone quiz. One woman rang in and was asked for Hitler's first name. There was a pause and then a small voice asked "Was it Heil?"