



BLUSTERETTE

The Newsletter of the Watermead Village Residents Association
CHRISTMAS 1993



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS)

5 - 7 pm Saturday 18th December. Carols in the Piazza!

7.30 pm Friday 28th January 1994 Watersports on the Lake. Meeting in the Village Hall.

7.30 pm 6th January 1994, WI Cheese and Wine Party

Dear fellow residents,

A peaceful, happy Christmas to you, and may 1994 bring you more peace and happiness.



This column is looking both ways in this edition. Looking back first, 1993 has been a difficult one for the Association. Apart from witnessing slow deterioration in our environment, we have had our own differences. As I will mention later these matters are being addressed.

Fireworks Night came and went, and everyone seems to agree that it was well organized, and no-one's worst fears were realised. Minor lessons were doubtless learnt but nothing happened to suggest that the occasion cannot be repeated in a similar format. The parking and stewarding kept the roads clear and ensured that any mischief makers from outside of the estate were prevented from mischief making inside it. Thanks to Simon Bennett and the Lions and we hope that local charities benefitted from the parking donations.

The unfortunate accident with the Fireworks did little to spoil the evening, and good organization ensured that our gallant band or 'letters off' were not injured, albeit shaken. It was a great relief to all of us to see them come ashore, as was shown by the burst of sympathetic applause. Well done, Dave and the gang!

Looking ahead, we do not know just how the Village will change in the near future, but there are moves afoot to discuss the Lake and its use, to try to really find out what is going to happen to Slopes and Sails and the delightful shell that could be such a wonderful Health Centre, if someone would only set it up. It would also be good to see the empty shop units in the Piazza occupied.

You will find information about some of this elsewhere in this edition.

As you will probably know, we will be electing a new Association Committee in April. It will be up to all interested residents to shape next year's activities by attending the AGM and if they so wish, nominating Committee members. The next Blusterette will have nomination forms in it, and it might be a good idea if anyone wishing to stand for the Committee were to state briefly in Blusterette why they are standing and what they hope to do if they are elected.

There are certainly plenty of issues that need addressing in 1994, and the relationship between the Association and the Bacchanalians will doubtless be considered.

We are fortunate that Michael Shrimpton has now joined the Committee. As a Barrister, he brings a sharp mind and a legal background to our activities, and his services will be invaluable.

I have now served as Treasurer for at least three years, and formally relinquish the job at the AGM. What happens in practice will be up to you. Certainly the Association will welcome new blood, as the torch has been carried by a small band for too long. But do let us proceed by evolution rather than revolution! Our Village is too small and the external pressures too many for in-fighting; we need a united front to ensure that the Village retains its character and its attractive appearance, and is properly maintained.

A Happy New Year to you and yours, and to Watermead Village.



Anne King

ON THE WILD SIDE

This time of year brings many visitors to Watermead. migrating Canada and Greylag Geese, Tufted Duck, Pochard, Lapwing, to name but a few. Word soon spreads when a newcomers are spotted - at present for example, we have some Ringed Teal (which originate in Paraguay).

Nor must we forget how fortunate we are to have our own Mute Swans (who mate for life), Heron, Great Crested Grebe, Coot, Indian Runners, Mallard and Aylesbury Ducks, and one lone Magpie Drake (he doesn't seem to mind). Ducks, Swans and Geese can be fed wheat, mixed corn or mist bread, although dry bread can cause problems.



On the subject of casualties, we send our grateful thanks to St. Tiggywinkles and the RSPCA for all their help and advice.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS from Orville, Norman and Gordon. our Call Ducks, and let us hope that it's a good NEW YEAR for all residents on and off the lake!

Linda Jones

Saturday 18th December 1993

5 - 7 p.m.

IN THE PIAZZA!

CAROL SINGING **round the** **Christmas Tree**

to the

ELLESBOROUGH SILVER BAND

Father Christmas will be calling!

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

You will be pleased to hear that following the outcome of the survey, Thames Valley Police have agreed to adopt the Eatermead Village Neighbourhood Watch.

Plans are now under way to arrange a meeting, but due to police commitments, this is not possible until February 1994. In the mean time, we will be looking for volunteers to act as coordinators. Yje police would like one coordinator to every 15 to 20 houses, preferably someone who spends most of their time at home.

To any new residents who may have missed the survey, and would like more information, or any resident who would like to volunteer to act as a coordinator, please contact

MIKE OR SANDRA GOWLING,
22, LARK VALE, TELEPHONE 20956

CALLING ALL LADIES!

WATERMEAD & WEEDON WOMENS INSTITUTE

NEEDS YOU!

If you would like to spend an evening a month in the Village Hall being entertained, read on.

We have a full programme planned for the forthcoming year and we're kicking off on 6th January at 7.30 p.m. with a Cheese and Wine Party to welcome new members.

If you have any queries, please call Carol on 28043.

A COMMUNITY COMPANY ?

Avid readers of the minutes of the residents' committee may have seen a reference to a co-op or company to be formed by Watermead residents. This was my suggestion and I should be grateful for any thoughts. I believe we need a shop/sub post office as a focus for village life. The receivers have not had much success in attracting new businesses to the piazza and one answer is for the residents to step in.

The idea I threw out was that we could set up a limited company, taking advantage of the not inconsiderable expertise and financial resources of what is not a low-powered community. The aim would be to run a newsagent/sub post office/video store and a grocery, along commercial lines. Shareholders could receive a discount and the memorandum and articles structured so as to give keep the controlling interest in the hands of resident shareholders. Profits would be ploughed back into the community. It may be that other defunct Watermead-based enterprises could also be taken over. Obviously no one would wish to compete against those businesses which already contribute to our community life.

The suggestion may well be on the agenda for the next AGM, but I would be grateful for any feedback (phone 397963, fax 393151). I stress that I have no fixed ideas and have not done a feasibility study - it is a concept only and it is up for discussion. We all have a financial stake in Watermead and a commercially active village centre would do no harm, would it?

Michael Shrimpton

An introduction to Michael...

Michael Shrimpton was co-opted onto the committee at its last meeting, until the next AGM. A barrister specialising in public and constitutional law, he practises from chambers in London and on the Midland & Oxford Circuit. He moved to Watermead in 1992 from London and is an active member of the Cricket Club. Michael is a former parliamentary and European parliamentary candidate and holds Judicial office as a Chairman of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal.

WATERSPORTS ON THE LAKE AT WATERMEAD

As mentioned on Page 1, a meeting is to be held on Friday, 28th January 1994 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall to discuss use of the Lake for Watersports. Newer residents will have noticed the dearth of activity at present, due partly to the fact that the organisation previously running these sports (Slopes & Sales) is in receivership.

The meeting will be a chance to hear a summary of what has happened up to the present, and to discuss what the residents would like to see happen in the future. We hope that representatives of Aylesbury Vale District Council and the Receiver will be present.

IF YOU CARE, PLEASE ATTEND!

FOR SALE

Nathan Teak Tile-Top Coffee Table
44" x 22" - £35

'G' Plan Teak Wall Unit with Base
(Cupboards-Shelves-Drinks Cabinet)
H.74" x W.18" x L.60" - £60

Nathan Teak Sideboard
3 x Centre Drawers - End Cupboards
L.78" x H.30" x W.17½" - £65

AEG OKO LAVAMAT 605
Electronic Washing Machine.
6 weeks old - as new.
Fully guaranteed. £300 (£450 new)
Genuine reason for sale.

Contact Mrs. Devenish
1, Turnstone Way Aylesbury 89903

BACCHANALIA'S BORN - 12 lb. 3½ oz.!

Congratulations



Bacchanalia was conceived with the intention of providing sociability and enjoyment for all the residents of Watermead. Events will include occasional evenings in the Village Hall which are self-funding to avoid any drain on the finances of the Residents Committee.

The first of these was held on Saturday, 4th December with the help of a few volunteers, the generosity of several residents and tremendous support from the Management of the Watermead Inn. The evening was very successful, so much so that we made a profit (now in our piggy bank) of £12.35 - hence the weight of our 'baby'. This was only made possible with the help of the Residents Committee in allowing us to use the Village Hall free for our inaugural event.

One factor that made the evening a success was the excellent attendance by *new* residents of Watermead, who readily joined in the fun and I'm sure that they struck up some new friendships. Hopefully these residents will become the core of many more Bacchanalian evenings, the next being our Valentine's Dance on Saturday, 12th February.

Hope to see you there! Thanks again to all helpers, givers and workers.

Bacchanalia

