

# VILLAGE View

THE WATERMEAD VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



## HALF TIME SCORE Watermead Res 1 Nightclub 0

The hugely controversial nightclub plan was withdrawn by developer David Skinner on 18th October 1994 with no prior notice of the intention to withdraw given to the Residents Committee.

The *Bucks Herald* carried a story on 27th October stating that the nightclub plan may be resubmitted. Residents Committee Chairman Michael Shrimpton has obtained a copy of the withdrawal letter, which refers to an intention to resubmit within weeks.

At its meeting on Sunday 23rd October the Residents Association Committee, in view of the threat of re-submission, resolved to maintain the fighting fund. The petition as drawn up, signed by over 900 people, will need to be redrawn in respect of any new application. The position will be closely monitored and an emergency meeting convened in the event of a further planning application. The Committee will continue to maintain close contact with local councillors and businesses on Watermead. Almost certainly there will be a public meeting within the new objection period. It is being assumed that the next application, if it goes in, will be bounced on residents in the same way the first one was and that the Committee will have to act quickly.

In a dramatic development the Committee has resolved to set up a company empowered to buy land on Watermead and control adverse development with shares being primarily offered to Watermead residents. The *Bucks Herald* on 20th October corrected

an earlier story which mistakenly reported that the land on which it is proposed to build the nightclub extension (presently still in the hands of the receivers) was offered to the Residents Association for £1 !

WVRA Chairman Michael Shrimpton has asked the informal committee of planning experts which first met during the campaign to be put on a permanent footing. They will examine any fresh application for a nightclub and it is intended to review all future planning applications for development on Watermead. The group, composed entirely of Watermead residents, includes planning lawyers, architects and other planning specialists. It is envisaged that it will be made available as a resource to individual residents once the immediate crisis is over.

### RESIDENTS COMPANY

Any resident of Watermead who are interested in purchasing shares in the proposed Residents Company (see The Chairmans Brief, centre pages) which is negotiating to buy the plot of land intended for building the proposed night club please contact Michael Shrimpton. tel: 397963 or Rosina Halstead-Finch tel: 392688.

The Directors recommend that the £1.00 shares be purchased in parcels of 10 or 50 (£10.00 to £50.00). Further details will be published soon.

### FIGHTING FUND

Please contribute generously to the fighting fund if you have not already done so - and many thanks to those residents who already have.

The fund will be professionally administered and all monies will remain separate from general WVRA funds. All accounts will be published in Village View.

Cheques should be made payable to Wilkins Solicitors.

### A DAMP SQUIB!

In view of all the circumstances surrounding the Night Club proposal, the fireworks display had to be cancelled. The main lake, from which the fireworks would have been launched, is owned by David Skinner and controlled on his behalf by Michael Jackson. There were negotiations to use the lake but they fell through. Although Mr. Jackson did not ban the use of the lake outright it proved impossible to separate the issues of the fireworks-night celebrations and the proposed nightclub. Hopefully we will be able to bring you a bumper fireworks display for 1995!

### YOURVIEW

Welcome to the first edition of the new 'Blusterette' - Village View. We hope to keep you informed and up to date in everything that's happening in YOUR village, and that's where you can help!

We would like to invite you to contribute any items of news, views, events and happenings concerning Watermead and its residents. Short stories, articles, photographs, anecdotes - all are welcome.

We will also hope to include Classified Ads and Lost & Found sections, plus a village Trade Services listing in future issues, so all you local plumbers and handymen - give me a call!

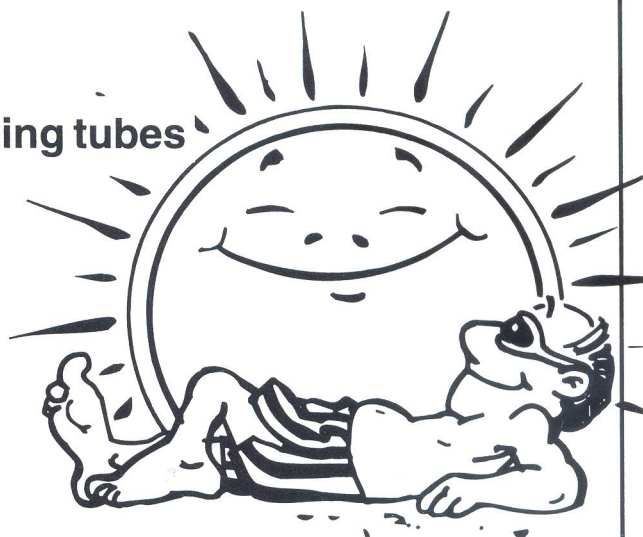
All editorial material should be sent or faxed care of The Editor, Village View, 17 Peregrine, Watermead. Telephone/Fax: 0296 393521.



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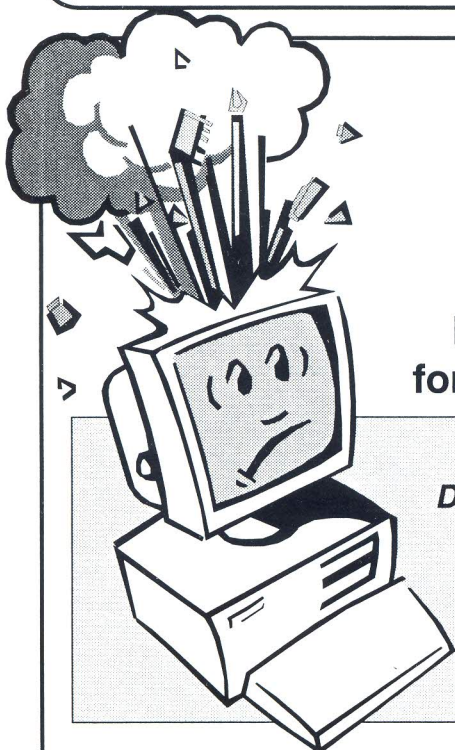
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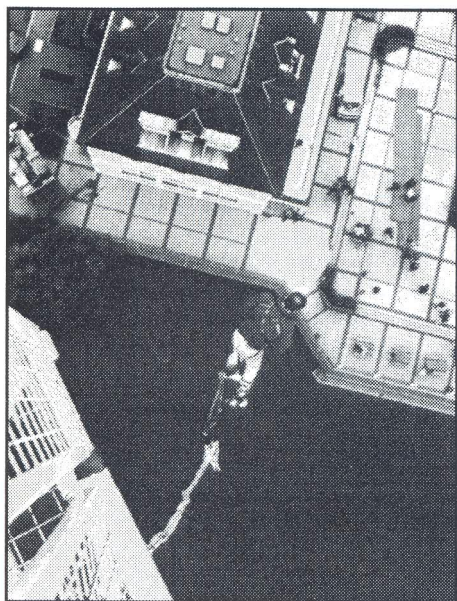
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## FOR THE HIGH JUMP!

A trainee manager of the Watermead Inn was for the high jump, with only an elastic band to save her! Clare Lawford was the first participant at Watermead Piazza last month in an event organised by the GB Bungee Jumping Club and the Watermead Inn.

Luckily the 'elastic band' was a purpose-built bungee jumping rope and the event was organised with the highest safety standards - but let's face it, jumping 180 feet with an elastic rope tied to your feet takes more than a little courage - or is it insanity?

Not everyone, however, found the event exhilarating. Karen Jenkinson of Lakeside, Watermead was not amused at being woken up at 9am by the noises of the hydraulic crane being put into position.

Apologising to Karen, Simon Bennett landlord of the Watermead Inn explained: 'The crane was due to be erected on the grass area but had to be moved for safety reasons. The wet weather had made the ground unstable and we were worried it would move'.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

### Reported Crimes

We are pleased to announce that the incidence of reported crimes are not on the increase in Watermead, but here is a summary of reported crimes over the three month period from June to August:

Burglary	1
Indecent exposure (Winchat)	1
Theft from motor vehicle	14
Theft of motor vehicles	4
(including 2 motorcycles)	

Please ensure that all valuables are removed from your cars at all times you are not there - especially mobile phones, briefcases and stereo systems as these items seem to be the flavour of the month!

**YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!**

## Parish News

In the last few years, the ancient parish of St. James the Great, Bierton has expanded almost out of recognition, with first The Coppice and then Watermead being built within the parish boundary. Our own development has added over 800 homes and possibly 2,000 to 2,500 people to the parish. Perhaps it is just as well that the old practice of visiting by the vicar has died out, being neither practical today, nor wanted by the vast majority of people. At the same time, it is important that any resident wishing to find either the church or the Vicar should have that information available to them. The easiest way is to telephone either the Vicar or myself. I am training for the Lay Ministry and will always be glad to help you in any way that I can.

St. James the Great celebrated the 700th Anniversary of the appointment of its first Vicar in late July. We had four days of exhausting activity, a flower festival, an exhibition of old photographs of the village, two concerts and special services of thanksgiving. We also published a book about the village of Bierton, the people and the church. It contains many memories and anecdotes contributed by local people, and a wonderful selection of old photographs. (The exhibition was of all the photographs that we could not fit into the book!) If you would like to see a copy, please telephone me.

Our regular services are 8 am Holy Communion (said), 9 am Holy Communion with hymns and 6 pm Evensong. We have a Sunday School, and a monthly Family service at 11 am on the third Sunday of the month. There is also a club for youngsters aged between 8 and 14 years, and called AMICUS, which meets during term time.

If you want more information or help, you can telephone the Vicar (Rev. Michael Whalley) on 23920 or myself on 26743.

*Anne King*

## National Neighbourhood WatchWeek

To show our support for Neighbourhood Watch Week we will be holding a CRIME PREVENTION DAY in the Village Hall on Saturday, 12th November between 10.00am and 4.00pm. There will be displays on home and personal security, property marking and vehicle watch amongst others. Our local crime prevention and community liaison officer will be available all day to answer any queries you may have - please come along and show your support.

### Drugs & Crime Hotline

If you have any information concerning persons who are committing crime or are involved in drugs, and you wish to pass this information to the relevant authorities in a discreet and confidential manner then phone the Hotline now on 0296 396157.

Don't delay, their next crime may be against you!

### Wanted Urgently

A volunteer co-ordinator is needed urgently to cover Bramblings and Shelduck. Pay - non-existent! Hours - all you can spare, and then some! If you are interested please contact Mike or Sandra on 20956.

### Watch Meeting

The next Co-ordinator meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th November. Please ensure that any gripes, moans or comments are passed on to your local co-ordinators in plenty of time to be included in the meeting.

## CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE

Sunday 4th December, 10am-4pm  
Watermead Village Hall.

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Refreshments supplied by the  
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**F**irst a formal welcome to our first edition of *VillageView* ! Before I make a passing reference to a certain planning application I would like to thank Ron Cunningham, our new editor, for his hard work in putting this issue and the *Nightclub Nightmare* emergency issue together. May I also thank Anne King for her hard work over several years on *Blusterette*.

Victory in round one is obviously good news. However my current assessment is that we will be facing Son of Nightclub fairly soon. I expect that the revised plan will make greater provision for car parking (it will need to) and it may be that the description will change from nightclub to country club!.Who knows what the opposition's intentions are ?(sic) We will continue to fight any proposal for a nightclub on Watermead. I am far from persuaded that Aylesbury in fact needs another nightclub - we already have the Rectory, just one mile up the road, and I am told by the new management at what was *Mangrove Jacks* that there is a possibility of that nightclub being re-opened, minus shooters.

A word of thanks to all those who rallied round and either helped out or contributed to the fighting fund. It was good to see the numbers signing the petition. Marvellous also to have the support of Weedon Parish Council, although I am sorry to note that one of our District Councillors, Mrs. Metcalfe, was unable to support us. I am also concerned that ThamesValley Police did not oppose the application. I shall be writing to the Police Authority seeking a firmer line.

Within the financial constraints imposed on us by the level of your donations I thought we did reasonably well first time around. I must be blunt however - we need further substantial input into our fighting fund. The level of organised opposition is determined by the funds you make available. It is as simple as that. There were three very generous donations of £100 and numerous smaller donations, but several hundred residents did not support the fund at all. Do not leave it up to your neighbours, because you may find that they are leaving it up to you.

At the time of writing we are in the process of setting up a company, with the initial aim of buying up land from the receivers, including of course the land on which the nightclub developer wishes to build. I say little more about that for reasons which may require little explanation. Anyone willing in principle to invest in shares should contact us asap. I know I mooted this idea at the end of 1993 with little positive response (ie from about three people!) but circumstances are now different. Incidentally, I deny emphatically the mischievous assertion that the land on which it is proposed to put the nightclub was ever offered to us for £1, or indeed for any sum at all. There were informal discussions about other parcels of land and the ornamental lake, which involved us employing someone for 1-2 days a week to maintain it, but without the necessary funds even that modest proposal could not go forward.

Of course the nightclub is not the only issue in our community, although its immediate importance outweighs any other. There was a very serious incident some weeks ago in which one of the cygnets was savaged by a dog. The poor cygnet required over 50 stitches and I am told may never fly again. I would like to believe that the dog did not belong to a resident, but I would ask every one to keep dogs on a lead, particularly near the wildlife. A word of praise for St. Tiggywinkles, the wildlife hospital at Headdenham, who look after the injured wildfowl and who cared for the cygnet.

### HOUSE PRICES

The Watermead Village Residents Association have commissioned a detailed report on the likely impact of the nightclub development on values in Watermead from Vernons, Chartered Surveyors. The picture is not good, with values falling by up to 10% in a swathe of homes on or near the lake, including the flats around the ornamental lake. Surprisingly the report suggests that other homes will not be affected at all and the Residents Committee fear that the reports' conclusions may be con-

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— AND THE —  
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servative. Copies of the report will be made available to residents on payment of photocopying costs. Residents who want individual valuation reports should of course instruct their own surveyor. Vernons put a team of surveyors on the job and are of course fully acquainted with the detail of the proposed plans.

### HOW MANY?

The Watermead Village Residents Association, in estimating a figure of 750, has been accused of giving misleading statistics for the capacity of the proposed night club. Here are the facts!

Dancers require between 0.55 and 0.9 square metres MINIMUM, restaurant diners require between 0.9 and 1.1 square metres - the same figures can be utilised for night club patrons sitting at tables or at the bar and the median figure of 1 square metre used.

The proposed dance area is 90 square metres and will therefore accommodate some 125 people. The outer dance floor area is 190 square metres with an overlooking gallery of 132 square metres, the combined downstairs and upstairs seating areas are some 316 square metres making a total seating area of some 638 square metres. This combined area will accommodate a total at any one time of some 763 persons and, as people tend to come and go at such activities, it is likely that the numbers passing through the portals are likely to be much, much higher!

If the void over the dance area was to be floored then another 56 people could be accommodated and if, for instance, the upstairs lounge was used for dancing the numbers would again increase. Following this through it would be possible to accommodate in excess of 1,00 people without obtaining further planning permission.



## CHAIRMAN'S BRIEF

### YOUR COMMITTEE

**Michael Shrimpton, Chairman**  
Tel: 397963 (Mobile: 0370 341555)  
**Jill Broome, Secretary** Tel: 393544  
**Carol Moore, Treasurer** Tel: 28043  
**Rosine Halstead-Finch** Tel: 392963  
**Simon Bennett** Tel: 433123  
**Marian Noades** Tel: 393832  
**Sue Snell**  
**Ron Cunnington, Village View Editor**  
Telephone / Fax: 393521

### COMING EVENTS

#### Christmas Craft Fayre

Sunday 4th December, 10.00 to 4.00pm  
Watermead Village Hall. Crafts, Gifts and Refreshments.

#### Carol Concert

Saturday 17th December, 6.00 to 7.30pm  
Watermead Village Piazza. Chinnor Silver Band, Father Christmas with kiddies presents, Mulled wine and mince pies.

#### Pub Quiz Evenings

Every Monday from 8.00pm  
Watermead Inn. Good Prizes - Good Fun!

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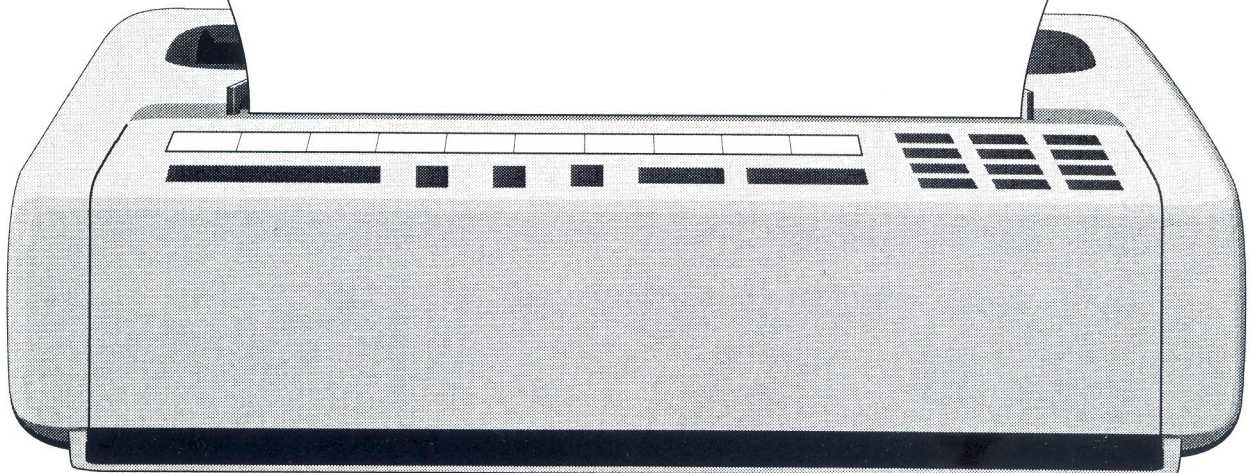
**From 9.00am TO 8.00pm.**

**SATURDAY 10.00am to 1.00pm.**

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# Guks or Doslings?

Well, is he or isn't he? Although I am reliably informed that geese and ducks only mate with their own species, Goosey - our resident Canada goose - has had an identity crisis since he arrived last year preferring the company of the large black ducks to his own kind.

After the bad time he had in the Spring, being hounded from pillar to post by the domineering swans, he has had the last laugh and is now to be seen escorting one of the ducks and her brood as if they were his own! This makes for a very unusual family but even if he is taking the role of foster parent he certainly has an air of grandeur about him.

You will all be aware by now that sadly the ever patient swans did not hatch any of their nine eggs - obviously their first attempt - but hopefully they will be successful next year. Meanwhile, the pair that did succeed are doing very well and are, at present, giving their young cygnets flying lessons. Unfortunately, one of the cygnets was badly mauled by an unleashed dog and had to be taken to St Tiggywinkles in a very bad way. The cygnet suffered a bad fracture and 64 - yes Sixty Four! - stitches and will be maimed for life. Unable to be reunited with his family due to his horrendous injuries, he will be sent to a sanctuary.

I therefore plead with all dog owners to keep their dogs on a leash around the wildlife areas. I am fully aware that we have a very real problem

with non-residents dogs whose owners don't bother to clear up after them, leaving not on an unsightly mess but also a real hazard to the health of young children.

St Tiggywinkles have come to our rescue on a number of occasions recently, apart from their splendid work for the injured cygnet, and I don't know what we'd do without them. Their response is immediate and nothing is too much trouble for them, please support them in any way you can.

Our friend Mister Teal left us a few weeks ago, after spending his summer holidays in Costa Watermead, and has returned from whence he came. I must say I miss the little chap, however, we have a few widgeon visiting at present and hundreds of Canada geese and the odd greylag stopping off for a quick wash & brush up before continuing their journey south.

The wildlife of Watermead seem to be settled and growing in both number and variety, and we must consider ourselves very lucky as a village to have all this splendour on our doorsteps, let's keep it that way!

Linda Jones



## AMITY

Amity is a small, friendly group for the unattached over forties.


We meet twice weekly and our numerous activities include walks, sports, talks and visits to pubs, clubs and restaurants.

If you would like to know more about Amity - and hopefully join us - then please ring 88495 or 397530 now! The group is not restricted to Watermead residents only.

## PUB QUIZ

The Watermead Inn will be holding a pub Quiz every Monday from 8.00 pm till late. The prizes are amazing, so get yourselves a team together and pop along to the Watermead Inn.

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## CRICKET, LOVELY CRICKET!

At last Watermead own their very own cricket ground! Completion on the sale of cricket ground to the trustees for Watermead Village Cricket Club was made on the 14th October 1994 and opens up a bright new future for the club.

We will be embarking on a programme of improvements that should enable us to bring League cricket to Watermead next season (up to now we have to play all our league matches at Whitchurch). Aylesbury Council have now formally been asked to serve enforcement notices on Nursertyme and we hope to have access to the Cricket Pavilion from the beginning of the season.

The first XI has had a good season, putting up some excellent performances in the Midweek League, where we won our first three matches and lost another by the single run. The second XI - playing in weekend fixtures - has had more mixed fortunes, drawing three matches and being runners up on a number of occasions.

The match against Isis on June 26th was particularly exciting, Isis winning by just one wicket, the final score being Watermead 131, Isis 133 for 9. Martin Bishop took seven wickets for 48 against Wingrove on July 17th. Philip Doyle, as always, put in some good all-round performances for both the first and second elevens, whilst David Hodgetts scored two excellent fifties for the second eleven.

Anyone interested in the game of cricket is welcome to join - we also need a club scorer! Membership is just £25.00 per year, payable in January, or three instalments of £10.00 payable before the beginning of the season. Social members are more than welcome. If you are unsure of your playing skills, don't worry: the second XI fixtures are played at a very friendly level and there will also be a programme of net practice and coaching sessions next year. Winter nets start on Tues 17th January.

The Club AGM has been set for Sunday 15th January at 7.30pm with the venue yet to be confirmed. New and prospective members are more than welcome to come along and take the opportunity to meet members and find out more about the Club.



# THE WATERMEAD INN

## Christmas Party Menu

**2 Three Course  
Carvery Meals for  
£9.99**

*Soup - Carvery - Sweet Trolley  
Starter Bar £2.00 extra per person*  
THE WATERMEAD INN  
Buckingham Road, West Piazza, Aylesbury  
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### STARTER

Soup of the Day

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### MAIN COURSE

Choose from our Traditional Carvery Roasts, freshly carved for you, including Roast Turkey with Chipolata Sausage & Stuffing or Roast Beef with Yorkshire Puddings

*or*

The Chef's Roast of the Day

*All served with roast & parsley potatoes, carrots, sprouts, and our Chef's special festive vegetable of the day.*

*or - for the Vegetarians*

Winter Vegetable Crumble

A delicious blend of vegetables in a cheese sauce with a walnut & crumble topping.

### DESSERT

*You choice from...*

Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce. Chef's Special Desserts including Rich Chocolate Fudge Log, Heaven on Earth, Caramel Commotion and Lemon Torte.

### COFFEE

Served with a luxury Chocolate Mint

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