

Watermead Christmas Carol Concert



Saturday 19th December 1998 Venue - The Pizza Time - From 6.00PM to 7.00PM



Live Music and Carol Singing Mulled Wine and Mince Pies Attendence by the Vicar of Bierton



Farther Christmas Will Find Time In His Busy Schedule To Drop In And Deliver Gifts To The Children



Village View on the

Internet



Web Address to be Advised

Editorial Mailbox - jasonbray@hotmail.com



Michael Shrimpton appearing on BBC Newsnight (By kind permission of the BBC)

I hope to see everybody at the Carol Concert in the Piazza on Saturday 19th at 6pm - this is our one community social event of the year. We shall again be welcoming the Vicar of Bierton, the Aylesbury Town Band and of course Father Christmas (and trying out our new portable speaker). I read with interest the thoughtful piece by Pat Cowell, our Health Visitor, in the last View. She is right of course, but sadly there is nothing to be done about a church or school, which ought perhaps to have been included in the original concept. In fairness to Royco however it is doubtful that the estate was ever going to be big enough to support our own school or church, nor was there support from the relevant authorities. There is a surgery nearby in Elmhurst, (where I am registered), with footpath access, and I think it unlikely any new practice will ever be established on Watermead in its own right, although a case could be made for an 'outsurgery.' We have an excellent hairdresser, dentist and vet, but each will confirm they could not survive on Watermead's custom alone. Organising events is a thankless task - the turnout for the auction in November 1995 was abysmal, the fireworks nights were badly supported.

CHAIRMAN'S VIEW

only a handful of residents turned up to the Watermead Ball organised by Captain's Cabin and smaller social events in the village hall have not proved an attraction. The most successful event was VE-Day 95, but even that was undermanned. No resident has responded to the suggestion of a millennial fireworks night and I have had to release the slot to another event. No one has put forward an alternative event and the issue sadly is off the agenda.

The playground scheme fell through for lack of support, despite valiant efforts. The Board was prepared to make the land available and the favoured site (opposite the Watermead Inn on the western shore) will be reserved, as the scheme might be revived in the future. The Elmhurst playground however provides a cautionary tale and concerns were raised about abuse and vandalism.

The Piazza carpark (it is managed by LCAM) is not a playground, nor a ballpark, and I would respectfully ask parents to make sure their children do not abuse it. There have been a number of silly incidents - youths skating out in front of cars and so on. Damage has been done and if there is an accident no doubt the poor car-driver or the LCAM Board will be blamed. When the fountain was vandalised the parents of those involved (not all Watermead residents) refused

to pay and tried to blame LCAM, apparently on the basis that the fountain was not strong enough for their offspring to climb over. The replacement fountain has now arrived from Italy and the contractors will be going on site as soon as the weather permits. The LCAM Board has approved a two-phase complete refurbishment programme, accommodated within the existing level of service charge.

I was surprised to learn that the solicitor for a prospective purchaser had been misled by a Lakeside tenant (helping another tenant to lose a sale), apparently with a suggestion that no sinking fund was available for the painting contract. Not only was there no sinking fund when LCAM took over in July 1996 but residents had been underbilled for about £5,000 of work, which had already been carried out. That position has now been reversed and the LCAM Board has no plans to increase the service charge for 1999, which will remain roughly in line with 1995 charges when inflation and under-billing are taken into account. Partly due to the weather, which has caused problems for all tenderers, the work will not commence now until the early spring, barring exceptionally fine weather in January/February, although certain urgent work (e.g. on windowsills) has been brought forward on a weather-

permitting basis. I am glad to say that the freehold has at long last been sold, to a Watermead based company, whose chairman has a seat on the LCAM Board. The two companies have established a good working relationship, for the benefit of all concerned except vandals and those breaching the entirely sensible regulations, which are there to ensure the safe enjoyment of this distinctive and attractive multimillion pound facility. Well done to Gordon Bonnick for supervising the 1.8k contract on the path at the southern end of the lake. which needed complete renewal. Only superficial damage appears to have been done by the subsequent

flooding, which saw

Watermead's well thought out

flood defences cope well with unusually high volumes of water and a Red Alert on the River Thame. Non-essential areas (like the fitness centre car park) are designated overspill areas, and the main run-offs were not even used. They have huge capacity and would take floodwater away from residential areas. Most of northern Aylesbury would be under water before Watermead. Although floodprevention is primarily an Environment Agency (ex-NRA) responsibility landowners are under an obligation to make sure that flood defences are not obstructed. We called in the NRA two years ago for a walk-round inspection and briefing and the Directors make regular checks. Our objection to the Deposit Draft of the town plan is in and

we will be making a full submission to the Planning Inquiry. The good news is that we have our strategic gap between Watermead and Bierton (they are also relieved) and the northern by-pass is now a dotted line on a map about as likely to happen as the re-opening and electrification of the Aylesbury-Cheddington line and the introduction of direct Aylesbury-Glasgow expresses with a proper restaurant car or the re-introduction of Pullman dining cars on the Chiltern line (i.e. not very likely).

The Happiest of Christmases and the Merriest of New Years to you all. Michael Shrimpton, Chairman, Lakeside Land Ltd

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Watermead CygnetPlaygroup

Watermead Cygnets Playgroup was established in 1991 in the Village Hall and is run by a parent management committee. The group is a member of the pre-school Learning Alliance and draws on a learning approach to the early years. Children between the ages of 2.5 and 5 years play in a safe, secure and happy environment from Mondays to Thursdays- 9.15 a.m. to 11.45 a.m.

During the last two and a half years, the playgroup has been under my leadership. With a dedicated staff and encouraging parental support, we have been able to make great improvements to the quality of education for our little ones. We have sought to provide:

An effective early years curriculum in all six areas of learning (For the less initiated these are: Language & Literacy, Mathematics, Knowledge & Understanding of the World, Creative Development, Physical Development, and Personal & Social Development) using appropriate activities and a range of equipment and materials Staff with the commitment (and a sense of humour) to encourage every child to achieve to their best of their abilities

Pre-school sessions of writing, mathematical and literacy skills Sound development of children's self-esteem, independence, and care and consideration for others

A partnership between parent(s), children and staff.

Last year, the playgroup joined the recently formed Buckinghamshire Early Years Partnership (1 998-2001). This means that every four-year-old is eligible for 'free places' from the local authority two terms before their fifth birthday. This move also resulted in a visit from a very pleasant OFSTED inspector in July. We were indeed very confident that the final report would be of a high standard but it was 'icing on the cake' to see our achievements in black & white. The verdict was 'two to four years' - in official language this means: that the quality and standards of the educational provision provided by us are acceptable in promoting the desirable outcomes for the children's learning, and that the next visit is a long way off'

Some excellent news arrived in the early part of last year in the form of a lottery grant of £750 spread over two years. We were indeed over-the-moon and we were able to purchase a range of educational equipment and materials. Due to the rising demand for places, we are now operating an admission policy-giving children living in Watermead first preference, subject to availability.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for their support and wish you all;

A Peaceful Christmas and New Year

Dot Toler

Christmastide at St. James the Great, Bierton

One effect of the increasing commercialism of Christmas is that for the world at large, 'Christmas' has been brought forward, and is practically over by 26th December. But the church jealously guards the weeks leading up to 25th December. We do not feel able to celebrate our Lord's birth without some preparation. So we have a month in which to think about the meaning of our Lord's coming, but do not yet celebrate it. In fact from Christmas Day, we shall be celebrating it virtually up to 2nd February, "Candlemas". Our Christmas tree will be come an Epiphany Tree on 5th January.

As usual, we offer you a warm welcome to any of our Christmas Services. Our first special event is the Family Service at 1lam on Sunday 20th December, the central part of which is the Sunday school Nativity Play. Later that day, at 6pm we have our main Carol Service, a mixture of traditional and newer carols.

On Christmas Eve, there is a Crib Service at All Saints Church, Hulcott (about 2 miles the other side of Bierton). If you haven't seen this little church on the Green, it is worth a visit.

Still on Christmas Eve, but back at Bierton, we have our children's Christingle Service at 5pm. This was tried experimentally in 1996, and has already become a fixture in our Christmas calendar; come early for the best seats! As 1 said last year, the children love it and we find that what children are enjoying, adults invariably enjoy as well!

Our Midnight Service of Holy Communion starts at 1 1.30pm on Christmas Eve, and for a more informal 'all-age' Family Communion with carols, you could come along at 9am on Christmas Day. A little later on Christmas Day, at 1 lam, there is a Eucharist with Carols at All Saints Church, Hulcott.

If you miss the Bierton Carol Service on 20th, there is another one at 6pm on the 27th at All Saints Church,

Hulcott. (There will be no service at St. James the Great on the 27th).

There are some other quieter services over Christmas to which you are welcome; please telephone if you are interested or if you would like directions to All Saints, Hulcott. You should also have received a Christmas card from the church giving details of all our services for the festive season. Please ring 426743 if you have not received one.

Your Parish

Watermead is in the Anglican (C of E) parish of St. James the Great, which is your church. We are here to serve you at all times. Drop in any Saturday morning between 10am and 12 noon for a coffee and a look at your church, to arrange a baptism or a wedding, or just for a few quiet minutes away from the hustle and bustle of life.

A Christmas message

If this has been a difficult year for you in any way, you may find comfort in joining one of our Christmas services, which not only celebrate a Birth, but also acknowledge sadness and in which you may find warmth, love, hope and even joy.

May Christmas bring peace and quiet happiness to you, whether you acknowledge any form of faith or none. A kind word and help with service times awaits anyone who rings either of the numbers below. May God bless you and your home.

Rev. Peter Fauikner, The Vicarage, Bierton. Tel 423920

Anne King, 6, Fieldfare, Watermead. Tel 426743



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A Very Merry Christmas and A **Prosperous New Year**

The Board Looks Forward to another



Year Supporting Watermead's Community and Our **Unique Village**





VILLAGE VIEW BOARD MEMBERS

Jason Bray - Editor Tel: (01296) 425094 Mobile: 0802 241247

Rachel Baker - Graphic Designer Tel: (01296) 485101

Michael Long - Advertising Management Tel: (01296) 336577 Mobile: 0860 285366

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What's On at the Watermead Village Hall

Watermead Cygnets Playgroup

Mon - Thurs 9:15am - 11:45am Contact: Dot Toler (432405)

Judy Walsh School of Dancing

Weds

4:30 - 5pm (unders 5's)

5 - 5:45pm (5 - 8 yrs)

5:45-6:30pm (9yrs+)

Contact:

Judy (482818)

Aylesbury Community Concert

Band

Weds

7:30pm - 9:30pm

Contact: Carol (485552) Paul (481909)

Watermead & Weedon Women's

Institute

1st Thurs of the month

7:30pm - 9:30pm

Contact

Suzanne (487954)

Mothers & Toddlers

Weds

2pm - 4pm

Fri

10am - 12noon

Contact:

Lynn (437254)

Line Dancing

Mon

8:30pm - 10pm

Contact

Judy (482818)

Chinese Physical Culture

(inc. Health Exercises)

Tues

7:30pm - 9:30pm

Contact

Paul (01280 815282)

Belly Dancing

Tuesday

1pm - 2pm

Contact

Steffi (482929)

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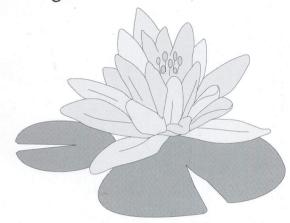
Tel 01296 331313 1 The Piazza, Watermead, Aylesbury (opposite The Watermead Inn)

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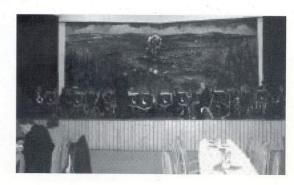
In October, the Aylesbury Community Concert Band toured the picturesque towns of Cochem and Bernkastel in the wine-producing Mosel region of Germany. It was the band's first trip abroad carrying the Aylesbury Duck flag. The ferry crossings, both outward and inward bound were, to say the least, a little on the rough-side ... we had to pick the worst weekend in October!! After umpteenth videos, rest-stops and a Cash & Carry, we arrived at our destination exhausted and glad to sleep horizontally.

Under the excellent leadership of Alan Mosford, the conductor, the band entertained our germanic eurofolk to a wide selection of music from Les Miserables, Beatles, Glen Miller, to Gustav Hoist. They even managed a version of the Floral Dance sung by one of the players in German!

The best part of the tour was the winetasting and the beer-drinking (for some of us anyway!!). The accomodation was comfortable and warm, resulting in great frivolity and comradeship, thanks to the owner Herr Charles. We look forward to another tour, perhaps in the next year.

If you would like to know more about the band, catch them at the Carol Evening at the Piazza on Saturday the 19th December, or call at the Village Hall on a Wednesday evening. The band rehearse between 7.30 and 9.30 p.m.

Supporters Club Dot Toler



Lakeside Land Ltd is the Watermead community company representing the interests and views of the Watermead community as a whole. To this end we have included the published mission statement below to underline that commitment.

LAKESIDE LAND LTD MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of Lakeside Land Ltd to:

- * Represent the interests of the whole village as Watermead's Community Company
- * Encourage positive development in keeping with the unique character of Watermead
 - * Provide a forum for community involvement

and feedback

- * Support and encourage local enterprise
- * Protect and enhance Watermead's natural environment
- * Manage the company's assets efficiently and maximise revenue for the benefit of the community

NB: Nothing in the above shall conflict or take precedence over the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company

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OTHER CONTACTS Village View	Jason Bray	9 Owl Close	Tel 01296 425094 Mobile: 0802 241247
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