



A view of Watermead taken from 'Polly' - the Hot Air Balloon, last June.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Can you spare anytime on Saturday 23rd October 1999?

Due to the high level of support received by Roy Hutchings for the maintenance of Watermead, a ‘call of action’ is in order. We are looking for volunteers of all ages to help with the following:

- Re-laying of jogging path
- Litter collection
- Shrub clipping
- General tidying up
- Sign repairs

Lakeside Land will kindly donate funds for refreshments (there’s an

opportunity not to be missed!). Breakfast and lunch will be provided for all volunteers along with tea, coffee and Bovril! Even a barbecue has been suggested, weather permitting!

Please contact any member of the board to volunteer. It would be a great community and family event.

Finally, if you have any ideas, or equipment, etc, which would help, it would be very much appreciated.

In this issue:

Caring for our Community - residents reaction to the last issues feature

Floods & Figures - how Watermead copes with the rain

..tantrums at the supermarket - the role of Health Visitors

PLUS OUR REGULAR FEATURES:

Chairman’s View

Wildlife Watch

St James the Great Community Forum

If you have any interesting articles for inclusion in the next edition please contact a member of the editorial board. Details inside.



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

CHAIRMAN’S VIEW

Hello again! A very happy autumn to everyone, especially to young Jessica Carter and Lee Tucker of Kestrel Way, who took the marvellous initiative to put up posters asking people to clear up after their dogs. I get a lot of feedback from residents about the amount of dog-poo left lying around by thoughtless dog-owners (strictly speaking of course by their dogs, but you get the drift). The less poo the better! Both Lakeside Land and AVDC have provided bins. Please use them.

We have made much progress on the website, thanks almost entirely to Aaron Cripps of Guillemot Court, who has put in a tremendous amount of effort into the site architecture, content and graphics. There are some unresolved issues over advertising and editorial responsibility and not all the

links to other sites are complete. It’s quite a big site by local community standards and should be on-line by the time you get your next View. Apologies to those who have clicked on expecting to see it up and running! We do have one or two Internet businesses and further offers of assistance are always welcome. My thanks to Mark and others for the technical advice and assistance already given. It’s been a long time in coming, but I think you will find it worth the wait.

Volunteers are always welcome for any of the community’s activities. We would like to recruit further directors and both the View and Community Forum can always do with more support. You may have noticed the great efforts made by the View’s team of distributors, who now aim to cover the entire estate on the day of publication (and I mean

every house and flat), but reinforcements would help. If I may I would particularly like to thank Rachel Baker, who has put an enormous amount of work into the View.

Roy Hutchings, our new Maintenance Director, also deserves a special thank you. You may have noticed that the Cricket Ground and the Balloon launching site are starting to look very smart and tidy, thanks largely to many hours on the ‘Green Machine’. We now have a small pool of volunteers to man the machine, but more would be welcome. The machine (a John Deere) is quite heavy duty by domestic standards and well up to cutting much of the land we own. Some of the land (eg to the north of Captain’s Cabin) requires ‘industrial strength’ machinery and the contractor will continue to do that.

I entirely applaud and support Roy’s splendid

initiative of an ‘Action Day’ and look forward to seeing many of you there. Anyone who walks around the top lake will be pleased to hear about our new tree-surgeon, who lives on Watermead and has already brought a professional input to our forestry management (which sounds grand, but we are in fact responsible for several small copses and own several acres of woodland). Soon you won’t have to duck as you walk around the lake!

It is nice to be able to do something to thank all those who help and I am very grateful to Mary Singleton, who put a lot of effort into organising the thank-you party on September 11th.

Sadly there has been a further incident of vandalism, caused by teenagers, who scrawled graffiti over the Piazza. These may have been the same youths responsible for the graffiti and woodwork damage on the bandstand on

the lower lake. I am hopeful that the photographic evidence of that incident will lead to a conviction. Increased vigilance is called for - if you do see an incident of vandalism please inform the Police immediately and contact a director. Criminal damage is an imprisonable offence and rightly so and vandalism will continue until those responsible realise that Watermead is a high-risk area for vandals. There have been some incidents of damage to the pillar box and our ‘one’ public telephone - it is particularly important that they are reported.

I am grateful to those residents who have reported incidents of trespass and illegal fishing on both lakes. It is illegal to fish inland waters without a licence and without the consent of the owners both of the fishing and riparian rights. Lakeside Land Ltd controls both fishing and riparian rights on the Lower Lake, and largely controls riparian rights on the Main Lake. In response to a number of residents queries I can confirm that it is illegal to fish from both the Piazza and the land opposite the Watermead Inn. The rights on the lower lake are leased to Watermead Piscatorials, a very

responsible syndicate who bailiff the Lower Lake, leave it clean and tidy and do their best to clean up after other people. They also paid substantial sums of money to stock both lakes with fish (and were rather badly treated when the the original lessee of the Main Lake went into receivership). The syndicate on the Main Lake is controlled by Captain’s Cabin, who lease the lake from Turfgreet Ltd. Fishermen from both syndicates should carry permits from their respective syndicate as well as a national rod licence. It is a criminal offence to fish without one and if you have reasonable cause to believe that an offence has been committed you may report it to the Police or to the Environment Agency (whose water bailiffs are empowered to demand production of rod licences on pain of criminal prosecution). The Watermead Lakes are controlled from the West Area Office of the Environment Agency, Isis House, Howbery Park, Crowmarsh Gifford, Oxon OX10 8BD. The general enquiry line for the Environment Agency is (0645) 33311. They are aware that we have problems with illegal fishermen. Illegal

fishing not only causes upset for residents (for example through fishermen urinating in public, which has led to several complaints) and interferes with management of the fish stocks, but it risks ‘our’ wildlife, through the use of lead weights and inadequate strength line.


Planning permission for the Garden Centre has finally been granted. We won’t be able to buy our Christmas trees there this year but the centre should be ready for the spring. I hope to bring you further news in the Christmas and Spring issues. I am aware of the

concerns about traffic but peak flows for the garden centre will not clash with the peak morning flow from Watermead, which has of course returned to its usual length now that the schools are back (wasn’t it wonderful in August, not having to queue to get out!).

The planning inquiry for the new Aylesbury Vale local plan will start in January 2000. Lakeside Land Ltd will be giving evidence.

Mike Shrimpton






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CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

by Roy Hutchings - Maintenance Director, Lakeside Land Ltd



Roy Hutchings on the 'Green machine'.

The response to my request for offers of helping to maintain Watermead has been encouraging. We now have four regulars and a couple of occasional grass cutter helpers. We could do with a few more so come on in and join the team. One gentleman called last time but never called back, lets hear from you Sir. The number to call is 397675.

Several folk have stopped me to talk about funding and I asked them to write to the 'Village View'. Here are just a couple of quotes from letters sent to me:

“In the days of public authority cash limits there is nobody out there who is going to do the work for us. Self-help is the order of the day and that can bring its own satisfaction. No doubt there will be those who take the attitude suggested in your article “I’m not in unless everybody’s in” but I agree with you, such attitudes should not be a deterrent. I am sure many residents would be very willing to subscribe to an organised scheme for the upkeep of Watermead’s public spaces, irrespective of the attitude of others. Please count me in.”

Tony and Julie Steadman, Kestrel Way.

“Referring to the suggestion contained in Roy Hutchings’ article ‘Caring for the Community’. He suggests upkeep being provided by muscle or money. There is one other consideration and that is time. There must be lots of residents who like me, really don’t have alot of spare time. Perhaps, also like me, they would like to become a subscriber to the maintenance fund, although a collection might be a problem. When it is decided as to how to collect the money please let me know and I will gladly sign the cheque.”

Madeleine Callaghan, Kestrel Way

It seems that there are quite a few who aren’t able to give physical help ‘cos of anno domini or because they can not commit the time but are willing to make a subscription. I would love to hear your opinions. Please write to Roy Hutchings, 2 Sandpiper or call 397675.

This is our village and community! I would like to make a plea to all residents - lets make our village a clean and tidy place to live. It only takes one small action a day. Picking up a piece of litter whilst out walking, for example, would have a dramatic effect! I understand the temptation to feel “well I don’t make the mess, so why should I pick it up?” but if we can make the effort where other people fail, the better and safer the environment will be. I have already noticed a decrease in the amount of litter lying around. To whom it may concern, thank you and keep up the good work!

FLOODS AND FIGURES

by Sandra Landy - assistant editor, 'Village View'

The recent heavy rain, which saw the end of the hot humid summer, reminded us all of the rain last winter and the resulting floods. Remember when the ducks could walk ashore to the Watermead Inn, the lake rose to the top of the bandstand bridge and the fields and health club car park were awash. You might have wondered how safe the houses were.

The name Watermead means Water Meadow and has always been an overflow area for the River Thame, therefore, the estate is designed to cope with floods. In fact last winter was a very successful test of the system. Originally, the lake was dug out to provide an outlet for excess water and the spoil was used to create the ski slope. The lake is fed in various ways. When it rains the surface water drains into the lake via a pipe, which you can see on the lakeside near the crescent on Ayleswater.

In low water flows, water enters from the river via a small aperture in a concrete structure up stream of the ski slope.

The level is maintained at the exit point by a small weir, onto the Thame. At the moment this is looking rather choked with weeds, but it is regularly cleared.

During high flows, the water from the Thame enters via an engineered depression (about 10m long and 1m wide) and leaves from another engineered depression by the health club. Should there be too much water for the lake and river to cope with, parts of the estate are designed to flood including the grassy meadows and the low areas near the health club and hotel (you may have noticed they are built off the lower ground).

The water height is measured at Holman's Bridge (on the A413 Buckingham Road by the football ground). Last winter it reached 72.80 meters above sea level, whereas during the summer the average reading was 71.30 (about 5 feet higher) and the highest recorded level ever in the area was 82.80 meters.

The Thames Valley has an average annual rainfall of

650mm but this varies enormously. In Dec 1933 it was 9.3mm but the following December it was 113.1mm. So you will see, we don't expect floods every year - there could be a hose-pipe ban this winter!

As "riparian owners" we have a responsibility for various exit and entry points as well as rights for their use and for the lakeside. Lakeside Land look after this on our behalf. If you want to have a look at the features mentioned, they are all readily visible by taking a walk round the lake and the health club grounds.

Of course, flooding can come in other ways, as the residents of Lark Vale found recently. A blocked culvert caused the water to rise to within a foot of some front doors! An argument as to whose job it is to clear the culvert between Bucks County Council and Aylesbury Vale meant a longer delay in clearing the blockage that the owners would have wished. Whilst it was not our responsibility, Lakeside Land looked into the matter on behalf of the owners. We are very lucky to have such hard working volunteers.

This article is based on information provided by the Department of the Environment. Anyone interested in seeing the full details is invited to ring Sandra Landy on 337330.



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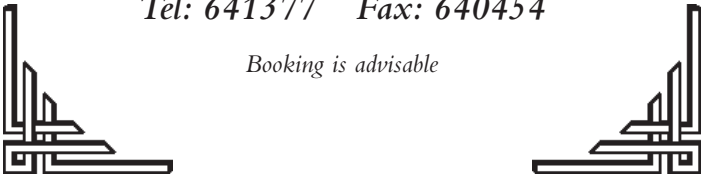
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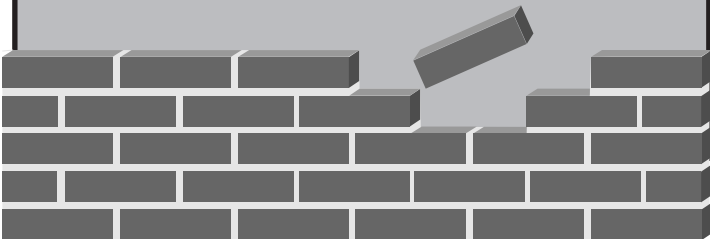
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“Children are lovely but... Have you ever seen a tantrum at the supermarket?”

Pat Cowell - Watermead’s Health Visitor

Notice the child, screaming and thrashing his/her arms and legs, kicking and biting. How does the parent react? Does the parent seem embarrassed, angry, placatory or cool and sensible? Perhaps the parent has been up all night with a sleepless child. Perhaps the parent cannot get the child to eat and is worried it will starve. Perhaps there are several children squabbling.

Well family life isn’t always easy, is it? Before having children we may think we have all the answers. Afterwards, most of us realise we certainly do not. If I, as a Health Visitor to many of you, may be permitted a generalisation, Watermead parents seem to me to be a highly motivated and ambitious breed. So it can be an intense shock when the smallest person in the house makes you feel like a failure.

Well this sort of suffering by parents is brought to our attention every day. Can we help? Sometimes we can,

because we are trained to help and we are outside the situation. It may be that our support will enable the parent to reflect upon a more positive strategy, or we may be asked for more concrete advice. Sometimes we can refer to other agencies. So often we are able to relieve anxieties that are contributing to the problem.

There is widespread concern about the quality of family life and, currently there are many initiatives trying to improve this. The government recognises the role of the Health Visitor in this area. It may interest readers to know that, as part of our work locally, we have planned some parenting courses in the Aylesbury area. These are being run by Health Visitors from different surgeries in co-operation with each other at local venues. The Health Visitors from Elmhurst Surgery will be involved and if anyone would like more information, please contact the co-ordinator on **01296 431795**.

What’s on at the Watermead Village Hall

Judy Walsh School of Dancing

Line Dancing

Monday 8 ~ 9.30pm

Wednesday 4.30 ~ 5pm (under 5’s)
5 ~ 5.45pm (5 ~ 8 years)
5.45 ~ 6.30pm (9+)

Salsa Class

Starts Monday 6th September (4 weeks)
7.30 ~ 8.30pm

Contact: Judy 482818

Chinese Physical Culture

(including Health Exercises)
Tuesday 7.30 ~ 9.30pm
Contact: Paul 01280 815282

Aylesbury & District Philatelic

Second Wednesday of the month
7.30 ~ 10pm
Contact: Keith Johnson 435571

Watermead & Weedon Women’s Institute

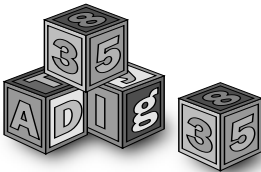
First Thursday of the month
7.30 ~ 9.30pm
Contact: Suzanne 487954

Watermead Cygnets Playgroup

Monday ~ Thursday
9.15 ~ 11.45am
Contact: Dot Toler 432405

Mother & Toddlers

Wednesday 2 ~ 4pm
Friday 10am ~ 12noon
Contact: Sue 482976



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shot at (two were found dead) on the little lake. Also ducks were being fed with harmful material. I am horrified by this news and if it proves to be the case, it is very worrying to think of such awful things happening here and where will it lead? I urge you to report any such activity. We live in a unique and picturesque setting with a glorious array of wildlife. Let's keep it that way!

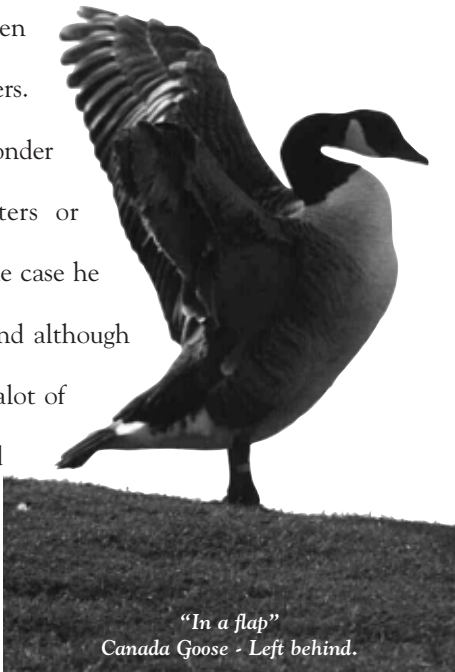


Bar Headed Goose
(aptly named)

Talking of wildlife, hundreds of Geese have been passing through, mainly Canada Geese but also the odd Snow Goose and Barheaded Goose, all heading south to warmer climes. I don't know what it is about Watermead but one goose always seems to get left behind. Maybe he likes it here, or just requires a bit more 'shut-eye'. We also have the cheeky visitors from the canal who pop over for B&B or a longer vacation. The latest arrivals include the Teal, Widgeon and of course the resplendent Mandarin. Although smaller than

our residents they are quite pushy little creatures and do their fair share of pecking and shoving. Still, it's great to see them.

Bertie, the Heron, still likes perching in the willows. He appears to have been joined by three others. What's the story? I wonder if they are youngsters or visitors. Whatever the case he doesn't appear to mind although he does spend quite alot of time on the moored boats - maybe he just needs some space.



"In a flap"
Canada Goose - Left behind.



Magnificent Manderin (and doesn't he know it?!)

Hello Folks!
Well, here we are in September, falling leaves and all that. The weather is hardly predictable - to say the least! Lashing with rain one minute, brilliant sunshine the next, cold then hot, but you're well aware of that. Our feathered friends remain quite oblivious, and love downpours, it makes for a lot of lovely muddy puddles and we all know how ducks LOVE mud. One mallard has produced the prettiest bunch of ducklings, all very different in colouring. It looks suspiciously like the little white Call duck is responsible as they are all quite small and resemble his shape.

George and Henry battle on but unfortunately we lost some of the cygnets and help had to be called for some injured birds. I heard some very disrupting reports of ducks apparently being



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Veering away from feathers and onto prickles. We have quite a colony of hedgehogs here. I know from experience! Late one night I heard piercing screams (similar to cats fighting). It was coming from my back garden so I called my neighbour and we ventured out with a torch. We saw two hedgehogs sitting in the middle of the garden. They didn't curl up in fear so we were able to see their little faces. I must confess I haven't been face-to-face with many hedgehogs, and was smitten. We left them alone and eventually one waddled off leaving the other. I now understand that this must have been a territorial fight (haven't we got enough space on the lake?) Since that night I have seen quite a few ambling about their business. Apparently they can easily cover a couple of miles in search of food and very welcome they are too as they eat the garden pests.

Well, back to the water, as I mentioned earlier, George and Henry are still 'at it' so nothing changes, but I have included a

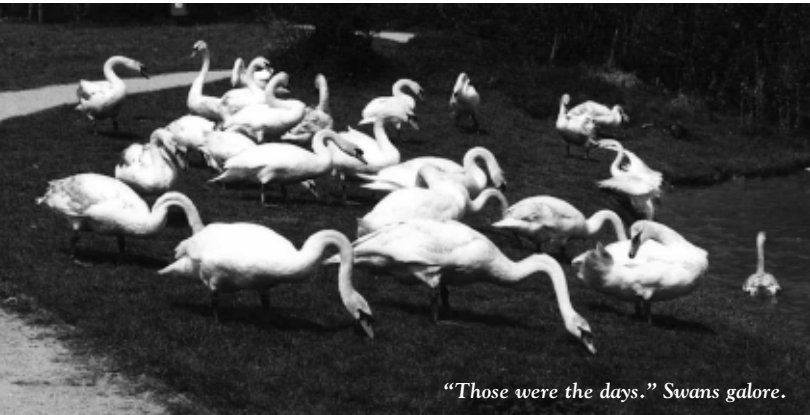
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"Those were the days." Swans galore.

photograph taken pre G & H to prove that 'once upon a time' we did have more than four adult swans here. The cygnets are all growing fast and although I hate to mention it Winter is fast approaching. (I know because they are already selling Christmas cards - in September - I ask you? It gets earlier every year!) Anyway, usual feeding tips, especially to newcomers - moist or wet bread, mixed corn, wheat and pellets - all obtainable from pet shops.

Enjoy the Autumn. Bye for now, Lynda Jones.



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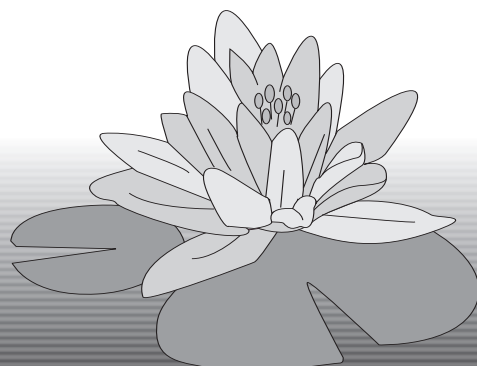
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The Church at work

In the summer, our regular schedule of Sunday and weekday services is supplemented by a variety of other services. We are just coming towards the end of another busy wedding season, signalled for us on Sunday mornings by the trail of confetti on the paths and the very special flower arrangements in church. There has also been a steady flow of Sunday afternoon baptisms.

There was a 'first' in August, when we held a Pet Service on a Sunday afternoon. For good reasons, we held this outside, in the churchyard under the East window. A number of pets brought their owners along, and each pet was individually blessed in the course of the service. The Vicarage cat (Carey) declined to attend but did stroll up afterwards to see that we tidied up properly.

In early September, we hosted the Annual Archdeaconry Mothers' Union service, which always starts with a procession of banners from various branches. Ten colourful banners were carried to the sanctuary this year, from locations such as Weston Turvill and Halton, as well as some from further afield. We sent our guests on their way with refreshment, following a service of

Holy Communion.

Late September will be Harvest Thanksgiving time, and then on Sunday, 3rd October, the Revd Christine Brewster will be ordained priest at Buckingham. A very important day in the life of our church, as Christine has been a member (and sometimes organist) for many years.

In early November, we shall hold an All Souls Day service, to pray for the souls of those who have died in the past year, or earlier. Please telephone for details if this service is of special interest to you.

The Church at play

I have occasionally mentioned the social activities of our church, which have recently included another very successful Summer Fete and a Family outing to Bekonscot Model Village, which was another 'first'. We walked round the Village in our own time and then ate our lunch together in the Picnic area. If you haven't visited Bekonscot, it is highly recommended.

At the beginning of September, we held yet another 'first', a Vicarage Garden Party, attended by about 30 people. Buck's Fizz started the event and a three course meal suitable for a blazing summer evening was served later.

Our season of social events kicks off with our very popular autumn Quiz Night,

held in the Jubilee Hall in mid-October, fish and chips being served at half time.

Our social committee often serve refreshments after formal events in church, and also provide them every Saturday morning between 10am and 12 noon in church. The aim is to allow people to stroll in and see our lovely old building at leisure, and then enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, served under the bell tower. Weddings and baptisms can be arranged in the church in this period, as the Vicar is always present. You will sometimes see flower arrangers at work, or people polishing brass candlesticks.

There is a guide to the church available and also somewhere that you can sit if you just wish to be quiet for a while. Please drop in and see us sometime!

Looking further ahead, we shall be planning some special events for the millennium year of 2000. More information will be available in the next edition of Village View.

For information about any of our services or other activities, please ring either the Reverend Peter Faulkner on 423920 or me, Anne King on 426743.



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Watermead Community Forum

by Mary Singleton - Watermead Community Forum Director

Good news from AVDC regarding Watermead becoming a parish in its own right. I have been informed that consultation will commence in the autumn and have put the letter on the notice board in the 'tunnel' of the Piazza for everyone to see.

A number of things have caught my attention recently, the first of which is speeding cars in and out of Watermead. One morning on my way to work I noticed police about a quarter of the way into Watermead on the spine road and they appeared

to be monitoring the speed of vehicles. Of course at 8am cars are unable to go very fast due to the queue! However please remember that there are many people walking and trying to cross the road. The bends in the road can hamper your vision as a motorist and it can be precarious crossing the road especially if you are elderly or have young children or a dog with you.

I have witnessed a number of vans that speed in at 6am and appear to speed out again! Are they coming to pick you up? If so, please ask them to take more care. Would you want to be involved in an accident where someone is knocked down?

While on the subject of cars, there have been a number of quibbles about parking. Please be considerate when parking your car and ensure that your visitors do not park in neighbours' parking spaces. Discuss this problem or anything else with your neighbour and by doing so I am sure that any discord will soon be resolved!

While the amount of rubbish has not diminished it appears that more people are picking it up! May I remind you that we have no contractors to pick up rubbish around Watermead and it is therefore left to residents to keep our patch tidy.

At last I got round to organising a social event which took place on Saturday 11th September. I was unable to invite everyone because there is a limit of 70 people allowed in the village hall for safety reasons. I therefore invited anyone who is involved in Watermead community activities, however small, that I am aware of. If you feel you should have been invited and were not, my apologies. Please drop me a line and I will add you to our list. Volunteers are always welcome.

Thinking ahead now. Firework

night approaches. Again, I ask for your consideration for your neighbours. Last year my neighbour aimed his fireworks at my house!! One hit my dinning room window and terrified both me, my dog and cat!!! Perhaps drop a note through their door to let them know when you intend to have your firework party so that they can arrange to keep pets indoors and brace themselves. As you may gather I am not a fan of fireworks and think they should be restricted to public displays.

Finally, we intend to have Christmas Carols again at 6.30pm Saturday 18 December 1999 in the Piazza. Do come along and make it an even better than last year's wonderful event. Some people bought along candles which I thought created a lovely atmosphere. We plan to decorate the Piazza this year. We will offer mulled wine and homemade mince pies and there will be lots of singing and merriment, not forgetting father Christmas with presents for the children!

L A K E S I D E L A N D B O A R D M E M B E R S

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------|--------------|
| Chairman of the Board | Michael Shrimpton | 7 Willow Herb | Tel: | 01296 397963 |
| | | | Fax: | 01296 393151 |
| | | | Mobile: | 0468 350751 |

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|-------------------|-------------|------------------|------|--------------|
| Company Secretary | Len Staines | 21 Waxwing Close | Tel: | 01296 487954 |
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| Finance Director | Philip Toler | 3 Chaffinch | Tel: | 01296 432405 |
| | | | Work Tel: | 01582 681204 |
| | | | Work Fax: | 01582 681217 |

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|--|------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|
| Commercial Director/ Village View Advertising | Gary Poole | 22 Ayleswater | Tel: | 01296 432052 |
| | | | One-Call: | 0171 310 1757 |

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| Director | Gordon Bonnick | 30 Brambling | Tel: | 01296 434062 |
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|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------|--------------|
| Director/ Village View Advertising | Michael Long | 28 Guillemot Court | Tel: | 01296 336577 |
| | | | Mobile: | 0860 285366 |
| | | | Work: | 01296 612979 |

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|-------------------|-----------|--|------|--------------|
| Minutes Secretary | Pat Bevan | | Tel: | 01296 338826 |
|-------------------|-----------|--|------|--------------|

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|----------------------|---------------|-------------|------|--------------|
| Maintenance Director | Roy Hutchings | 2 Sandpiper | Tel: | 01296 397675 |
|----------------------|---------------|-------------|------|--------------|

OTHER CONTACTS

| | | | | |
|--------------|------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Village View | Jason Bray | 9 Owl Close | Tel: | 01296 425094 |
| | | | Mobile/fax: | 0704 4069931 |

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|---------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|------|--------------|
| Watermead Community Forum Director | Mary Singleton | 6 Redwing | Tel: | 01296 428569 |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|------|--------------|

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.

L A K E S I D E L A N D L T D M I S S I O N S T A T E M E N T

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