



# WATERMEAD 'ACTION DAY' A BIG SUCCESS!



Members of the 'action day' team - 23rd October

## Second 'action day' planned in the new year

What horrid weather, but oh what a wonderful day. About 40 people turned out to help on the Watermead 'action day'. There was a heavy downpour at 8:30am and I was in half a mind to cancel the project, but just at 9am the rain stopped and the teams started to arrive.

Plan 'A' was to restore the path to it's designed width along the lakeside from the Pub as far as the Cabin car park, as well as restoring the path along the spine road up to the end of the Balloon Meadow. We also wanted to do a similar thing with the paths around the little bandstand area. Sadly, the rain had done it's worst and the paths were just too muddy. Not to be outdone, the teams decided

to clear out the undergrowth around the same areas whilst Michael Shrimpton completed his advanced driving test on the Green Machine.

We broke for coffee in the Village Hall at 11am and as luck would have it, it rained during the coffee break and stopped almost completely just as the last dregs were consumed. The rain held off until just after 1pm when we broke for lunch at the Hutchings' house. Some folk had to give up after lunch because they had other commitments. The rest continued until about 4pm when we all retired soaked but happy. The rain had caught us out about an hour before the clearing up was completed. (...continued page 5) 🍷

## In this Xmas issue:

**'Vale Volunteers'**-  
would you like to  
be a volunteer?

***Meningitis*** - our local health visitor talks about the new vaccine meningitis 'c'

## Parish news update

**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.**

# WM NEWSAGENTS



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Watermead Village Piazza Tel: 338435

# Chairman's View

by Michael Shrimpton - Chairman of Lakeside Land Ltd

**Compliments of the season, a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Millennium to you all.**

Of course the place is looking a lot tidier than this time last year thanks in no small part to the excellent efforts of Gordon Bonnick and Roy Hutchings. October's 'action day' was a great success and we plan to have regular days from now on - they are a great way to engender community spirit, very worthwhile, good exercise and good fun. My thanks to everyone who took part, or supplied tools or kept the volunteers fed. Over the course of the year 2000 we should have every yard of path cleared and resurfaced and every copse tidied up and cut back.

I was asked by a number of the volunteers, many of whom were new to Watermead, whether or not we could have a fireworks

event next year. The response to the 'action day' was so encouraging, I think that it is seriously worth pursuing, possibly with sponsorship from the garden centre and the hotel/fitness centre, as well as the Watermead Inn. Comments would be welcome, as planning would have to start by the end of January (professional firework teams have to booked up to a year in advance for the first week in November and based on past experience we will need formal highway orders again to control traffic).

Construction of the garden centre should start by Easter - I am in touch with the developer, who is very conscious of the need to work with the local community. It should be open for the 2000 Christmas season.

I am asked constantly about the security point on the spine

road. This attractive feature was originally designed to house the security guards who were supposed to protect the estate, the idea being that the spine road would always be a private road, with a barrier. That all went with the ERM, the property crash and Royco's receivership. The receivers have not looked after the building and sadly it has fallen into disrepair. Lakeside Land Ltd does not own the building and has no control over it. Either it will be pulled down or the feature incorporated in some way into the garden centre. The garden centre are looking at that and I have asked for a way to be found to keep the 'hut'.

Many of you will have noticed the improvements to the central area, which continues to be administrated by LCAM. Mick Lewis (Avanti), who is a director of LCAM, has been particularly energetic in this respect and I am grateful to him. The bent lamp posts (constantly reversed into by commercial vehicles servicing the Piazza) have at last been straightened. If you see a vehicle hitting a lamp post, or causing other damage in the car park, please take its number and report it to a director of LCAM. Mention of the car park brings me onto the subject of vehicle dumping. This is largely under control, but LCAM's solicitors are having difficulties with the trustee in bankruptcy re. the dumped Rover 200. We cannot dispose of it and neither can the police or local authority, as it is not parked on the highway. The trustee will not be given forever to decide how to deal with it as he has been so lax in securing the bankrupt's property that its value must now be lower than the cost of recovery. It is now fit only for scrapping and we will tow it to the scrapyard once the trustee gives us approval.

We are still battling on the website and I am afraid that I can only ask you to watch this space! There is an unofficial website up-and-running. Lakeside Land Ltd have registered the name [www.watermead.co.uk](http://www.watermead.co.uk). I know that there are a number of entrepreneurs on at Watermead and we would be grateful to hear from them.

Fishing continues to be a problem, due to the wilful trespass of a small number of individuals, who have now been identified. Fishing on both lakes is private and in addition to a fishing licence you need to be a member of either Watermead Piscatorials or the Captain's Cabin syndicate and have permission from Lakeside Land Ltd to exercise riparian rights from our land (which includes the land opposite the Watermead Inn). The Directors are adopting a tough policy on trespass - illegal fishing and camping not only endangers wildlife (eg through use of lead weights) and fish-stocks, but causes upset and inconvenience for residents and violates the rights of those who have paid to fish. Both lakes were stocked at private expense - the fish did not swim in - and the syndicates have responsibility for bailiffing the lakes and maintaining stocks.

I wish the Ducks the best of luck, after a troubled start to the season. Relations with the club are very good and I am grateful to the Directors (who were kind enough to invite me to the first home game of the season) for taking the trouble to try and keep fans' cars off the spine road. I think everyone recognises the limitations of the present site, but at least football is played at a reasonable hour. The long-term solution is a new home, but that is many years away. We would like to be good neighbours on Watermead and I look forward to continued co-operation between the two Boards of Directors (once the rescue package is in place) in the interests of the local community, the fans and the Ducks. They are after all the Home Team!

Again, my best wishes to everyone for the Festive Season. See you at the Carol Concert!■

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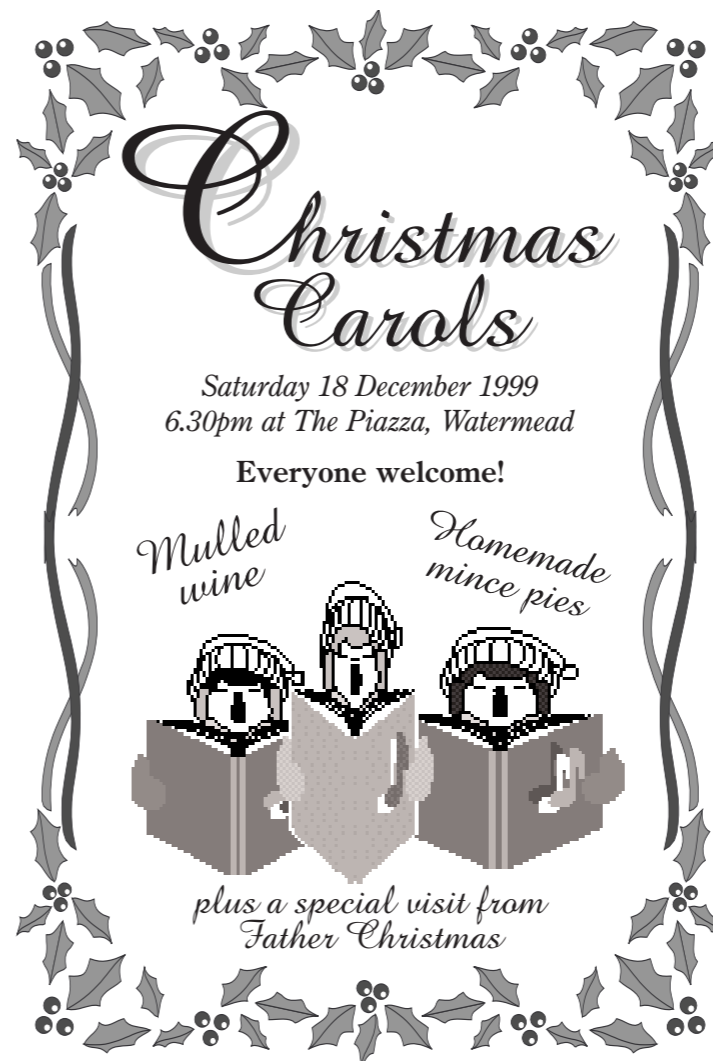
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# watermead & weedon women's institute

(Ladies that have fun)

Come along and join us on 6 January, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall for our 'New Members Party', and have a glass of wine and a scrumptious buffet, plus find out what we are all about. We are a young institute, our ages range from 29 to 66, and we are a very happy group, who enjoy doing lots of activities (we do not make Jam, or sing Jerusalem). A sample of the type of things we have done, and have planned for next year is as follows:

*tap dancing, theatre trips, quiz and fish and chip supper, BBQ (yet more food), treasure hunt, hypnotherapy (she's still asleep!!!), chocolate tasting, rambles (with supper at the end of course!), and visit to Chiltern Brewery.*

If you would like to join us, please either turn up on the night or contact the following members:

**Bridget - ☎ 420938 or Carol - ☎ 425896**

We look forward to meeting you in the New Year.



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Filling one of the 17 sacks with litter found around Watermead.



Re-discovering the footpaths!



Dot Toler clearing the shrubs.



Jason Bray loading up one of the many trailer loads of clippings.



Roy Hutchings and his wife

(....from front cover) I tried to get all the names of the folk who made up the team and I would like you to know who they were: *Lee Tucker, John Cohen, Jessica Carter, Melita and Paul Smith, Chris Blackburn, Ann Bennison, Jennifer Seavers, Chris Stevens, Mary Lynes, Robin Pitblade, Michael Shrimpton, Ray Hitchen, Roy and Sally Hutchings, Brian Fludgate, Phil and Dot Toler, Dave and Marcia Lang and Paula, Tony Steadman and Julie, Bryan Mitcham, Robert Mclachlan and Seana, Jason Bray, Celia Gould, Mike and Jenny Maunder, Joan Fryer, Mary Singleton, Steve Burrows and Louise, Hugh Cox, Gordon Bonnick, Mandy Pearce and Matthew and Mike Hofman.* I fear that I have let one or two through the net and to them I apologise most sincerely.

The discussion amongst the team was about the next attempt at clearing up the rest of the village. Some suggested that we should do this every month - a noble suggestion, but I think rather more than a little ambitious. There were others who suggested that we should have a clearing up day about every three months whilst others said that we should meet up as and when necessary depending upon the degree of support we get from the rest of The Village. Comments would be very welcome please.

It was agreed by all that it was great fun and we should have another go at the project early in the new year. If you are interested in helping next time - keep watching the notice board under the arch. Certainly we have enough ideas for things to do to last us into the millennium after next.

This day produced about 20 trailer loads of grass, hedge clippings and tree boughs. Also the team picked up more than 17 sacks of litter of all sorts. It would be appropriate to warn you that we did find quite a lot of broken glass about, as I did when mowing the various bits of the village at the end of the summer. Might I respectfully suggest that bare feet in the park is not a good idea on Watermead.

I would like to thank everyone involved in the 'action day', I am sure all the Village will be grateful to you and will be pleased with the results of your efforts. My thanks to the owner of the Ski club who lent us a boat to clear out the junk which had been thrown into the lake in front of The Watermead Inn. Thanks to the chaps who cleared it out; to the many folk who lent us their garden tools, both hand and mechanical and to everyone for their elbow grease and their enthusiasm. We had a great day, didn't we?

Mr and Mrs Alan Perkins provided the food for our quite substantial lunch, including things for the youngsters such as chips and beans etc. They said that it was their contribution to the clear-up day. Alan, we enjoyed your thought and your delicious food. We thank both you and your wife very much. We didn't have as many children as originally expected. No doubt the weather had a lot to do with that. Dorothy Toler was the other stalwart who helped look after the inner man. Thank you Dorothy you're great.

We all look forward to another fun day soon and also to a goodly increase in the size of the team.■

*Roy Hutchings - Maintenance Director*

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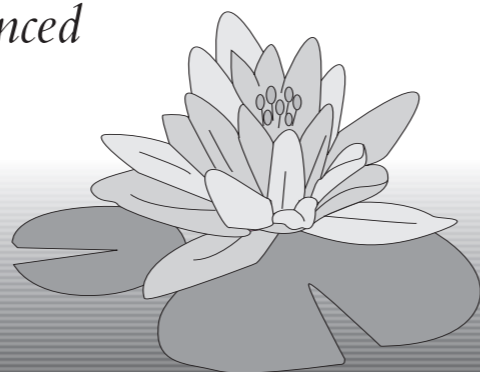
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*Waterlilies would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*



# Vale Volunteers - making the difference in Aylesbury Vale

**With winter time now upon us, what have we to look forward to? Months of dark evenings in front of the TV, cold grey days reducing outdoor activities. With more time on our hands now is the time to widen our interests.**

Why not try your hand at helping in the local community as a volunteer? But, where do you start and how do you choose the sort of volunteering which is right for you? 'Vale Volunteers' is the local 'Job Shop' for volunteering in the Aylesbury Vale. It exists to assist local charities and not-for-profit making organisations to find helpers and potential helpers to find the kind of voluntary work that suits them. It can match your needs and skills to the volunteering vacancies on its books, arrange introductions to community organisations and keep in touch to make sure you're settling in. At present the need for helpers is very great - over 250 groups in Aylesbury Vale are currently looking for additional unpaid help. What they seek covers a very wide range indeed, from people able to pop in to see a housebound neighbour for Age Concern, or help in schools giving about an hour once a week to listen to young readers, to those able to drive the disabled or elderly to a club, shopping or an appointment. There are also

opportunities for helpers with specialised skills such as computing, complementary therapies, secretarial or accounting. For those who can travel, the vast majority of groups looking for volunteers will pay a mileage rate, or re-imburse bus fares.

There are so many volunteering opportunities in and around Aylesbury that it is impossible to list more than a representative few. Work with babies, children, animals, office work, shop work, driving, advice giving, environmental activities; the list goes on and on. Whatever you choose you will have the satisfaction of knowing that giving your time is making a real difference in the community.

Volunteering is not just a one way process. Obviously the organisation being helped gains your time, skills and enthusiasm, but as a volunteer you can also find your life enriched by new friendships and interests, and what you learn may also help you in other ways. There is no upper age limit, everyone who is willing and able to give time will be considered.

So decide to make this winter different and give volunteering a try.

Please contact: Karen Boddy at Vale Volunteers: Chiltern House, Oxford Road, Aylesbury HP1Q 3EQ. Phone or fax: 01296 337456 or email: valevol@bucksnet.co.uk for

further details. The office is usually open weekdays from 9am until 4pm or leave an answerphone message outside hours. Even if you aren't sure whether or not volunteering will be right for you, get in touch and we'll send you some information to help you decide. We would really love to hear from you!

Happy Christmas from Vale Volunteers.

*Editors note: and of course, Watermead itself is in need of community helpers as frequently mentioned in the 'Village View'. See list of contacts on back page.*

## £140 raised for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust

Adrian and Paula Duncan would like to thank those who made generous donations last Easter for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. This was very well received and very needed as Adrian and his brother have CF and have found the support given by the CF Trust to be of tremendous help.

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# On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me .....

Hello Folks! Here we are again, fast approaching Christmas. Where does the time go? The seasonal rush to migrate is still going on - a few Canada Geese landed on the 18th November and I couldn't believe my eyes for in amongst them, a very familiar shape - Mystery, the black swan had returned. Where has he been? What's he been up to? My last glimpse of him was late that afternoon. He must have taken off with the geese. Has he got an identity crisis and thinks he's one of them? If only he could talk... so many questions. We could do with Dr Doolittle!! Still, even though it was short, it was lovely to see him again. You never know he may return. Needless to say, Henry gave him and the geese the runaround (no change there then). Although it has to be said he and George are not so aggressive at this time of year, we have all to look forward to next century.

The cygnets are all doing

well and learning to fly. It's great watching them. They begin by just about skimming the water and gradually as time goes on they get bigger and stronger the higher they fly, ready for their journey into the wild blue yonder next year.

All the birds will be grateful for any food during the coming winter, so 'scatter your corn' and 'dunk your bread'! People are still asking me where they can buy mixed corn. There are pet shops in the High Street and down the escalators in Friars Square. Both sell all bird food.

Well this is the last time you'll hear from me this century (don't all cheer at once!). I look forward to catching up with you all in the new Millennium. I wonder what it holds in store for us and our feathered friends on the lakes? One thing is for sure, it's never boring!!

My best wishes to you all!!

Lynda Jones.



Bertie in a willow tree



2 Mandarins



3 Swans on ice



4 young Cygnets



5 dining Coots



6 boats-a-berthing



7 Swans-a-swimming



8 Geese-a-skating



9 ships-a-sailing



10 cuddly ducklings



11 trees with frost on



12 Ducks-a-paddling

....Wishing you all a very  
Merry Christmas, and a happy,  
peaceful new Millennium

Lynda Jones

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# Meningitis and the new meningitis 'C' vaccine

Pat Cowell - Watermead's Health Visitor

Currently we are getting many enquiries about meningitis and the new vaccine, as there has already been cases of meningitis in our area. So I will repeat the early signs and symptoms of this very serious disease and tell you about the meningitis 'C' vaccine.

The early signs may resemble flu or a hangover. These may include vomiting, fever, irritability and, in babies, a high-pitched cry or refusing feeds. There may be pain in the back or joints, a severe headache and a stiff neck.

Further very serious symptoms that may develop are:

- a severe dislike of light
- disorientation
- a bruise-like rash that does not fade under pressure with a glass tumbler
- decreasing consciousness

Urgent medical help is needed if meningitis is suspected, and swift action is required.

There are a number of different viruses and bacteria that can cause meningitis but meningococcal group B and C bacteria cause a high number of cases in the UK. Group B is the commonest, but group C causes most deaths. In the UK we are now able to offer a vaccine against group C (but not group B).

Meningitis C is most common in babies and young people aged 15-17. The risk of dying is highest in the older group.

The new vaccine stocks are limited by speed of manufacture and so it is being offered to the most vulnerable first. When supplies are available, it will be given to the following:

- Young babies with their three routine immunisation appointments, as they need three doses.
- Babies of 4-12 months need two doses and they will be sent appointments and an explanatory leaflet in the new year.
- Toddlers having the MMR will be given one dose.
- Young people of 15-17 will be called at school or college for a single dose.

After these vulnerable groups have been immunised, other pre-school children will be called to the surgery and school children called at school. Everyone will be called when his or her turn comes and it is important to attend. Remember, the protection is lifelong, no boosters are needed.

If you require more information about the vaccine, contact your surgery or ask the Health Information Service on **Freephone 0800 665544**, available each weekday from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

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## What's on at the Watermead Village Hall

### Judy Walsh School of Dancing

**Club Dance (Salsa, Swing, Mambo, Merengue)**  
 Monday 10th January  
 7.30 ~ 8.30pm

**Rock 'n' Roll**  
 8.30 ~ 9.30pm

*Contact: Judy 482818*

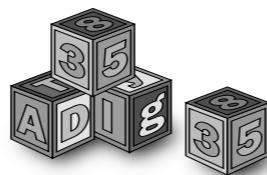
**Chinese Physical Culture**  
 (including Health Exercises)  
 Tuesday 7.30 ~ 9.30pm  
*Contact: Paul 01280 815282*

**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*



### Our Bells...

St. James the Great has a peal of six bells and a separate smaller bell with a higher pitch, usually known as the Sanctus (holy) bell. The main peal is rung from floor level in full view of the congregation. When not in use the bell ropes are drawn up into the tower, gracefully draped.

The full peal of bells is rung for our main Sunday Service, the 9am sung Holy Communion. It is also rung at 6pm on any Sunday when there is a special service, for example when Christine Brewster, our newly ordained priest celebrated the Holy Communion for the first time. Most wedding couples like to have the bells rung, and at the end of the wedding service, when they emerge from the Lady Chapel after signing the Register, the bell ropes are draped to make an arch through which they pass. The bells then ring out the joyful news of another wedding.

Other special occasions include Christmas and Easter, and on 1st January 2000 a special peal will be rung at midday to celebrate the new Millennium.

Bell ringers have to practice, of course, and ours ring from 7.30pm to 9pm on Friday evenings. We also welcome occasional groups of ringers from other churches, who come to try out a different peal. The times are chosen sensitively and not too often!

The traditional reason for having bells is to alert the faithful that a service is imminent. In the days when only the wealthy had clocks or watches, this was important. The small sanctus bell is still rung when the host (the consecrated bread and wine) is elevated at the climax of the Holy Communion service. In past times when there was a

# St. James the Great, Bierton

weekday celebration, a farm worker hearing the sanctus bell would pause, face the church and doff his hat for a moment. Another old custom was to toll a single bell when a local resident died, the number of strokes sometimes being equal to the age of the deceased. This usually allowed other local people to identify the deceased. Bells are sometimes half muffled for sad or solemn occasions, producing a very distinctive and sobering sound.

During World War II church bells were to be rung if an invasion of the country was imminent, and also rang when peace came. So church bells mark the life of the church and the community in many ways, regular worship, happy and sad times and sometimes, just people ringing for the joy of it. If you are interested in learning to ring, the Captain of the Tower at St. James the Great would be delighted to hear from you. Please ring 426743 for more information.

### Christmas 1999

As always there will be a wide range of services to celebrate the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The list below is not complete, as all homes on Watermead will receive full details during early December.

On Sunday 21st December we have our celebration of Christmas carols and readings at St. James's. This service really launches the Christmas season, although it is of course the 4th Sunday of Advent, our time of preparation for our Lord's coming.

On Christmas Eve at 5.30pm we have our Christingle Service at St. James's. This is a lovely service that explains the meaning of the Christingle, after which all the children present, and often most

of the adults receive a small Christingle. You do not have to be brought by a child to attend! Also on Christmas Eve, at 4pm, there is a service at All Saints Church, Hulcott at which the Christmas Crib is blessed.

Our great Christmas celebration of the Holy Communion starts at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve. It is usually standing room only by about 11.20pm, so come early!

As December 26th is a Sunday, our normal services will be held, with Christmas hymns and carols, of course.

On New Year's Eve, there will be a service in church around midnight, to mark the 2000th anniversary of our Lord's birth. As some people will prefer to be elsewhere around this time, we shall also have a service of celebration on New Year's Day at 11am

As we distribute about 3,500 Christmas leaflets in December, we may slip up and miss one or two homes (and we may deliver two or more to others!) All our distributors are volunteers and may work during the week, they will be delivering when they can. So if you haven't received a leaflet by mid-December, please ring ☎ 426743.

*We wish all residents, of any faith or none, a joyful and peaceful Christmas and a specially happy New Year.*

Rev. Peter Faulkner ☎ (423920)  
 Anne King ☎ (426743)



# Watermead Community Forum

by Mary Singleton - Watermead Community Forum Director

I am very pleased to tell you that I have been successful in my efforts to get the council to provide ‘dog bins’ for Watermead. I attended the council meeting during November 1999 at which my request for ten more dog bins for Watermead was debated. Raj Khan did a great job of persuading councillors that we need ten, rather than the six they had previously agreed and accounted for. I was not permitted to take part but it was an interesting discussion to listen to. For example, it

## Proposal 7: The establishment of a new parish in the Watermead Area - Update

Proposal 7 is still progressing. Initial feedback is that no fundamental objections has been received although the proposal is still under consideration by AVDC. All being well the proposal will be passed to the government for approval during next year, and who knows in 12 months time we could be voting for our own parish council members. For any enquiries or information regarding Proposal 7, please contact: Margaret Yates - ☎ 01296 585060.

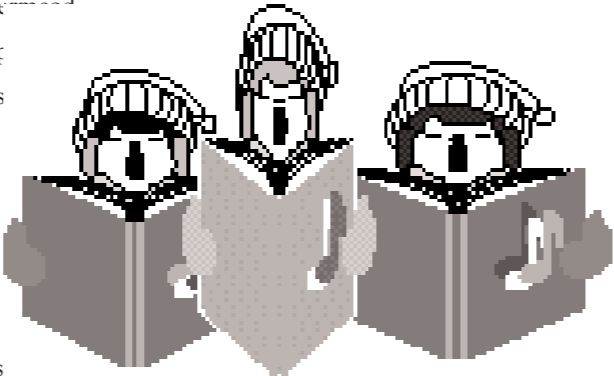
covered the average number of bins per capita in Aylesbury as a whole, the assumption that there were more dogs per capita on Watermead, the fact that people from all over Aylesbury bring their dogs to Watermead for a walk and the costs involved in providing the service. Dog bins were also discussed in general terms. Did you know that they are emptied twice a week in summer and once a week in winter, the colour of the bin bags is alternated (yellow and black) to make monitoring easier? If you missed the article in the Bucks Herald, I have placed it on our notice board in the Piazza along with a map showing the proposed site for bins. If you have any comment, please let me know.

The changes to the parishes in Aylesbury were also discussed during this meeting and, despite one objection from a member of the Old Town Residents Association (who, by the way, made objections to a number of proposed changes), it was agreed that Watermead should become a parish on its own. Consultation was made as requested by the Charter Trustees by placing copies of the proposals with relevant maps on our notice board. I was rather disappointed that there was very little response from Watermead residents in favour of the proposal. As I understand it, there are some discussions to take place with regard to other proposed changes but the proposals will then be put to the government for approval. I will post any news

on our notice board, so remember to check it from time to time. Incidentally we will have nine councillors in Watermead.

I am sure that mention of the ‘Action Day’ has already been made but I must say that it was very encouraging to see so many volunteers come forward to help with clearing the shrubbery and picking up litter on Watermead. It certainly has made a difference. I think we all enjoyed ourselves, and the lunch! I felt quite invigorated although exhausted by the time I got home - rather like having been skiing!!

Finally don’t forget to come to the **Carol Concert in the Piazza at 6.00pm on Saturday 18th December.** A lot of effort is put into this event and I will, as usual, be selling mulled wine and home-made mince pies to warm you up whilst singing. We are lucky enough to have part of Aylesbury Town Band to provide the music and, of course, Father Christmas to drop in and see the children. We also expect the vicar of Bierton to attend. Any volunteers to help control the children or serve mulled wine will be more than welcome. I shall look forward to seeing you there.



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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.

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- 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
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