The Watermead Village Newsletter

Winter 2000

# Watermead gets Parish Status!

The news from the Home Office is that Watermead can become a separate Parish! This will mean we can raise our own rate to cover work on Watermead. How this is spent will be decided by elected councillors of nine members. We are waiting to hear the precise details of the date as to when this is likely to happen.

Carols

Saturday 16 December 2000
6.00pm at The Piazza, Watermead

Everyone welcome!

Hamemade

mince pies

plus a special visit from
Father Christmas

A Watermead Parish Council would have the right to take decisions on the facilities we want provided in our village. For example, the childrens playground could be built by raising the money needed via the Parish rate. The maintenance work carried out by volunteers lead by Roy Hutchings could be supplied by professional contractors. What we want would be decided by the council that we elect. Everybody, like you, would have the chance to stand. (More details in the next issue).



#### STOP PRESS!!!

Watermead's Cygnets
Playgroup run by
Dot Toler has just been
adjudged EXCELLENT in
their recent OFSTED
inspection. Congratulations
to all concerned. (Details on
page 18).





## **Chairman's View**

by Michael Shrimpton - Chairman of Lakeside Land Ltd

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

A Happy Millennial Christmas to everybody. I hope to see you all at the Christmas Carol Concert in the Piazza on Saturday 16th December (wrap up warm!). We hope this year's will be the biggest and best ever. It's a great opportunity for everybody to get together.

#### **ACTION DAY**

Another great opportunity to get together is of course the seasonal action day. Despite the weather the last action day was a great success and many thanks are again due to Captain Roy and Sally Hutchings and the team for organising it. I would encourage everybody to volunteer - by the end of 2001 we should have the whole of the village looking very smart.

#### **DUMPED CARS**

Two things which detract from the Watermead environment are dumped cars and the sprouting of external TV aerials. LCAM has had considerable success in ridding the piazza car park of dumped cars, which were an eyesore and a safety hazard, with leaking petrol tanks etc. Legal notices were attached to the cars and after an opportunity was given to move them, the dumped vehicles were scrapped.

The dumpers (often shady second-hand car dealers) are well

aware that if they dump on the highway, cars can be removed by the local authority. They are careful to select private car parks, as on Watermead. The problem is not confined to the piazza - there is a dumped Honda (no tax, flat tyre, not moved in weeks) in one of the parking bays at Whinchat, taking up parking space. Neither Lakeside Land nor LCAM have any authority to remove dumped vehicles on Whinchat, but we would be happy to pass on our experience. It is not a straightforward matter, as one resident found when he took charge of an apparently dumped Reliant Scimitar (remember that one?) and found an (unnecessarily) irate alleged owner together with a policeman on his doorstep. Our experience is that although dumpers are careless of the property rights of others they are very jealous of their own.

#### **TV AERIALS**

I am getting a lot of adverse comment on TV aerials. I am surprised at the number of external aerials now going up, as it's an attractive feature of Watermead that TV aerials are all to be put indoors. The position is quite clear and will be found set out in the restrictive covenants attaching to every property in the village. External

television aerials are prohibited, unless the written consent of the developers or receivers (in the case of Royco homes) is obtained. The breach of covenant is not only actionable at the instance of the developers, but probably at the instance of neighbouring property owners, since the prohibition was part of an estate-wide scheme of development intended for the general benefit of all homeowners. If written permission is not obtained (and there is no reason why it should be) aerials should be resited indoors.

Because it is illegal to mount an external TV aerial some unusual consequences follow. Every contractor in Aylesbury ought to be aware of the ban on external aerials on Watermead - it was an innovative feature of the estate scheme and attracted favourable comment at the time. Once fixed with knowledge it follows that contractors will also be acting illegally, unless they obtain sight of a waiver before proceeding with installation. In my view any contract would probably be void, in accordance with the general rule whereby illegal contracts are a nullity. It follows that unless payment has been made in advance by cash (receipt of which could constitute a criminal offence

where a contractor was fixed with knowledge of the illegality of his actions) a contractor would not be able to sue on the invoice. (Residents should of course obtain their own legal advice before declining to pay).

My advice would be to relocate TV aerials indoors. We have encouraged the cabling of Watermead (which would allow all aerials including satellite dish aerials to be scrapped) but the cabling timetable has been put back repeatedly (it should have been completed by Easter 1999). Satellite dishes have also provoked controversy, although the new digital dishes are less obtrusive and generally can be sited sensitively, as opposed to the intrusive TV aerials (yes I did get a waiver before putting my dish up!). They cannot be mounted indoors and different considerations apply. Waiver should normally be granted in my view for a digital dish not mounted on a roof or in such a way as to cause a loss of visual amenity for other residents. The Board is working on a scheme which will provide for a uniform standard to be followed. It is in everybody's interests for the covenants, mutual observance of which adds value to each property, to be enforced, provided it is done reasonably and fairly.



## Go'callaghan Christmas Trees

Come and choose your fresh tree from the Christmas Tree Field, Aston Clinton.

Look out for the inflatable Father Christmas!

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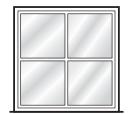
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#### **FISHING**

The riparian fishing licence for the syndicate on the top lake has been revoked for non-payment of licence fee. At the time of writing fishing is not permitted from any part of the company's land on the top lake. As many readers will know the fishing and riparian rights are split, reflecting different ownership of the lake and shoreline. Please let a director know if you see illegal fishing on the top lake. In accordance with the new security policy (designed to prevent physical confrontation so far as possible, following assaults upon directors) initial enforcement will be by megaphone across the lake. The half-million candlepower handportable searchlight has proved to be a great improvement over high-powered torches and will assist in intelligence-gathering. It can illuminate targets up to half a mile away and should permit acquisition by the new digital low-light camera. If trespass persists we may need to go to one million candlepower plus and I would be interested in hearing from any resident who might be able to recommend a supplier.

I have been asked by a number of residents whether cars can be parked on the "balloon land" close to the shore. In addition to trespassing on foot a number of fishermen (the fishing here has been advertised nationally in angling journals) have taken to vehicular trespass. The answer of course is that parking by the lake on our land is prohibited. I have also received a number of highly justified complaints about fouling of the land (this is a family publication), for which there is no excuse or lawful justification.

#### **BANDSTAND**

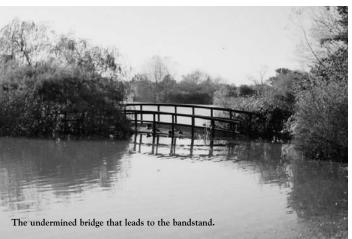
Sadly the day of the bridge to the bandstand on the lower lake may be over. The piling was undermined during the recent high water levels and the bridge is now both unstable and very slippery. It has been cordoned off and should not be used, as it is in an unsafe condition. The company cannot accept responsibility for persons going against the Board's advice. We have arranged for an expert's inspection and will be guided by him. It is an ill wind and it looks as though the vandals might have to swim to the bandstand although with a 25lb pike able to snack on a toe reputed to inhabit the lake system I wouldn't recommend it.

#### **FLOODING**

Please note that I did not use the expression 'flooding.' Watermead has sophisticated flood defences, which protect the north of Aylesbury and the lower Thame valley. Even in conditions of exceptional rainfall and widespread flooding elsewhere the contoured spillway was not used and the Environment Agency were able to control levels downstream of Watermead. Although the level may have looked high before any house was endangered the spillway would have 'kicked in.' Of course we kept an eye on levels and would have alerted the Environment Agency if there was cause for concern. We fully understand why the Agency wanted to maintain a high level on Watermead. The fitness centre car park and hotel area is designed for overspill.

Again, a Merry Christmas and Happy and Prosperous New Year to one and all.





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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our customers!

## Christmas



Even the word conjures up happiness, joy, excitement, presents and giving and perhaps receiving too. To others, one's thoughts perhaps turn to Christmas trees, baubles, tinsel and coloured lights, mince pies, roast turkey, plum pudding. Children get excited by seeing Santa Claus, pillow slips and stockings filled with toys and all the things they have wished for.

The women of the family think of all the catering over the holiday and perhaps buying Christmas cards to send to friends and other members of the extended family.

It should be a happy and exciting time. After all Christmas is the greatest festival in the year. It is a celebration but it is not all about eating and drinking and giving gifts.

In the Western world and many other cultures too, Christmas is the time when we celebrate God's greatest gift to the whole world, the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem some 2000 years ago. With the fall of Adam, the god of this world became the god of evil, Satan. All the crime, vandalism, hatred and bitterness are from Satan. In contrast to this God is love. He loves everyone irrespective of colour or belief. Can you imagine a world absolutely full of love? There would be no bitterness, no hatred, no wars - only love. We only have one word for love in the English language, whereas in the original Greek, the language of the early New Testament of the Bible, there were four words.

Phileo love is the love we have for our friends. Sturge love is the love we have for our children and parents. Eros love is the love generally recognised in the world today - sexual love. But the God/Christ love is the Agape love. This is complete love, whatever people do to you, you will still love them. Absolutely nothing will ever stop them loving you. Agape love is the love that god wants us to try and cultivate. This is very important all the time but especially at Christmas time.

God said in the bible that he so loved all people, the whole world, that he gave his only Son, Jesus Christ, to death on the cross, that whosoever believes in Him should not die but have eternal life. That means we can have life for evermore.

So at Christmas time we celebrate the birth of the saviour of the world, Jesus Christ. It is well worthy of a festival, don't you think?

If you haven't made up your mind, think about it. Instead of

going into oblivion, make Jesus your personal saviour and know for certainty that you will have eternal life.

There are many good churches in Aylesbury, some have towers and some have spires. Some meet in halls or schools. The church is not a building. The one that I recommend personally is Broughton Family Church - why not try it?

This Christmas I sincerely hope that you will be blessed and that everyone reading this will have a very Happy Christmas. Yours very sincerely

Hugh J E Cox - Sozo Clinic

#### CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S

**Sunday 10th December at 6.00pm** - Town Mayor's Carol Service A great procession from Market Square at 5.30pm. The service will include voices from the wider town community who will introduce the carols, and music will include the Aylesbury Community Band and school choirs - as well as St Mary's Choir. There will be punch to finish!

**Sunday 17th December at 6.00pm** - St Mary's Festival of Carols by Candlelight.

Friday 22nd December at 12.30pm - "Christmas Celebration for all Ages" prepared by young children at St Mary's with music. This will grow out of a children's workshop session in the morning and will include nativity dress and the story of the Christmas Birth. Phone the Church Office to book children in for the workshop session in the morning.

Christmas Eve at 8.00am and 10.00am - Eucharist. 3.00pm - Christingle Service. 5.00pm-11.00pm - Prayer Vigil - the church is open to light a candle for those who suffer tragic death and victims of road crash. 11.30pm - Midnight Mass by candlelight.

**Christmas Day** at 8.00 am - Holy Communion, Prayer Book (said) 10.00am - Carols, Children and Communion. 12.30pm Christmas Lunch and all the trimmings - arranged by those who want to spend the day with other people.

Phone Anja in the Church Office: 428518



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# A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!

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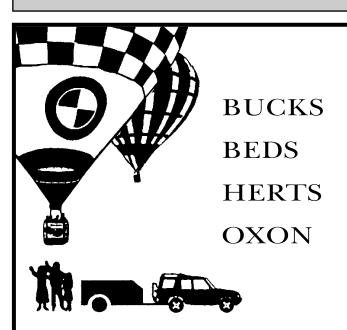
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#### **PUBLICATION DATES**

Easter - 1st April 2001 Summer - 24th June 2001 Autumn - 30th September 2001 Winter - 9th December 2001

#### ADVERTISEMENT RATES

#### Residents

1/4 page - £20 1/2 page - £35 full page - £70

#### Non residents

1/4 page - £35 1/2 page - £70 full page - £140

#### DISTRIBUTED TO AROUND 1200 HOMES

Please arrange advertisements at least 3 weeks prior to publication date and send to the Advertising Manager - Paul Wilson, Tel:488066, email:paulwilson@watermead.org.uk

If you have any suggestions for content/articles please contact any member of the editorial board

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## Watermead Neighbourhood Watch

I know it is some time since you last heard from the Neighbourhood Watch. The good news is that despite everything you may have read in the newspapers Watermead is still a relatively crime free area.

However due to the cut backs in Thames Valley Police there has never been a more important time to make sure that the Neighbourhood Watch is still alive and kicking.

Despite the recent comments in the Village View Neighbourhood Watch still has strong links with Aylesbury police. A new area beat officer has recently been appointed, but unfortunately he has to cover Watermead along with all his other duties.

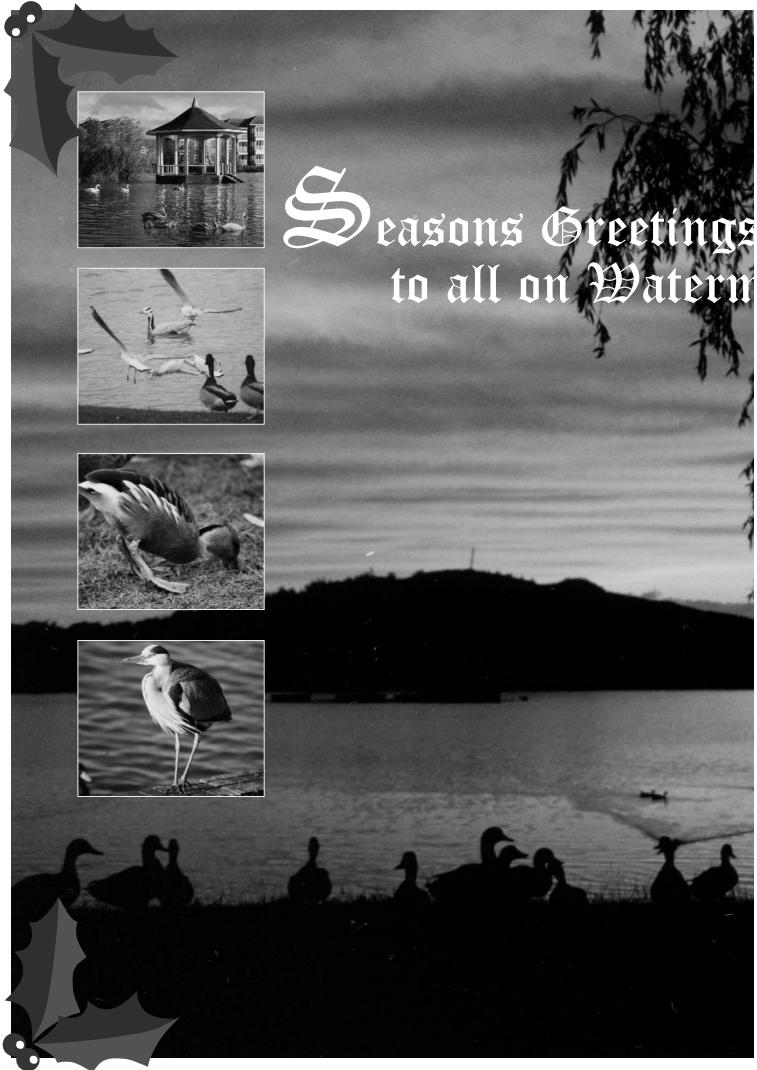
As so many people have come and gone over the last few years we would like to hold a meeting in January in the village hall to educate and or

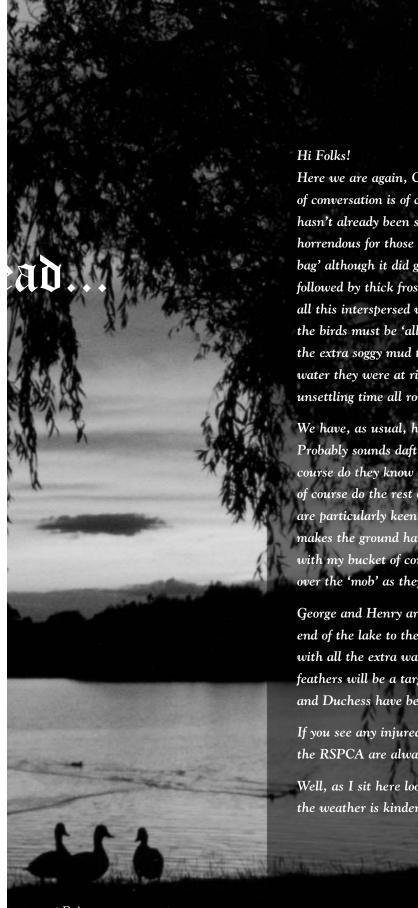
encourage people to become active members of the Neighbourhood Watch.

In view of this we would be grateful for your views and opinions as soon as possible. We are particularly interested if there is any way in which you would like the Neighbourhood Watch to run or of you live in an area where you would like the Neighbourhood Watch to become involved. Don't worry we won't feel offended by whatever you say. Although we have lived on Watermead for nine years we still care very deeply about what happens. However it is very important that you let us know how you feel.

Either drop us a line at 22 Lark Vale or alternatively ring us on 01296 420956.

Mike and Sandra Gowling





Here we are again, Christmas is coming etc...but the main topic of conversation is of course the weather! And what can I say that hasn't already been said? Compared to other parts of the country, horrendous for those who were flooded, we did not have to 'sand bag' although it did get pretty close at times - then we had gales, followed by thick frost, followed by thick mist, followed by hail, all this interspersed with glorious sunshine. If we were confused the birds must be 'all of a twitter'. They would certainly love all the extra soggy mud to dabble in, but as the islands were under water they were at risk from preditors at night - so a very unsettling time all round!

We have, as usual, hundreds of geese still heading south, Probably sounds daft, but I know many are old regulars, as of course do they know exactly where and when it's feeding time, as of course do the rest of the bird population on Watermead. They are particularly keen at this time of year as the cold weather makes the ground hard and difficult to dig for food. When I go out with my bucket of corn I have to be careful not to tread on or trip over the 'mob' as they surge forward.

George and Henry are still chasing Bonnie and Clyde from one end of the lake to the other though, they do fair slightly better with all the extra water. But, come Jan/Feb anything with feathers will be a target as the 'mating game' begins. Hope Henry and Duchess have better luck next spring.

If you see any injured birds please report it. St Tiggywinkles or the RSPCA are always helpful.

Well, as I sit here looking out, sun glinting on the lake, let's hope the weather is kinder to everyone.



Wishing you all a very Alerry Christmas, and a happy, healthy, peaceful 2001

Lynda Jones

## **Watermead Community Forum**

by Mary Singleton - Watermead Community Forum Director

Christmas is less than a month away and our preparation is well under way for the Carol Concert which will be held in the Piazza at 6.00 pm on Saturday 16 December. Father Christmas has confirmed he will be able to make it and he will be armed with presents for the children. The Vicar of Bierton, Peter Faulkner, will be attending. We will be serving mulled wine with homemade mince pies and sausage rolls made by the WI ladies. We are very lucky to have a contingent from the Aylesbury Town Band to play for us. At the moment I have only one volunteer to lead the singing - if you would like to join her or know a group of singers (we are prepared to pay!!!) please let me know.

I now have an email address - mary.singleton@ntlworld.com and my phone number is on the inside back cover of this publication.

I have received a number of comments

about TV aerials being put up which are unsightly. I know some people move into properties that already sport an aerial on the chimney pot. I assume that the covenant in their deeds has been overlooked. Please be aware that outside TV aerials/satellite dishes are not permitted on Watermead. We are fortunate in this area that reception is good even with an aerial indoors.

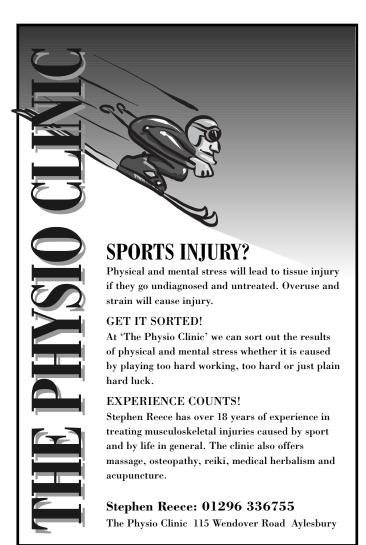
In the same vein, 'For Sale' signs seem to be on the increase again, particularly as you drive into Watermead. It is in our own interest to maintain the unique appearance of Watermead so that our properties remain desirable thereby maintaining a premium on their value.

The October 'work-in' was again dogged with bad weather, so we are extra grateful to those who turned up to help and to Roy Hutchings for all the excellent work he does in organising the event. Watermead is very lucky to have someone like Roy

and the least we can do is support his efforts. The 2001 work-ins are planned for 21st April and 20th October. Please put the dates in your diary and start praying that we get a dry day for once!

The park benches are on their way - to be situated around the lower lake (one being presented by the Watermead & Weedon Womens Institute and the other by Lakeside Land in memory of Michael Long). Their installation has been postponed until the weather and ground conditions improve.

Watermead Community Forum look forward to seeing you at the Carol Concert - bring along candles if you wish and we will provide you with a carol sheet. This event has proved to be our most successful social occasion and last year it started snowing as we begun to sing our first carol - it was truly magical!



## VILLAGE

#### **REPORTERS WANTED!**

Could you spare a few hours to write/research articles for the 'Village View'?

Excellent experience for young people/students.

If so please contact: Jason Bray - 425094 jasonbray@watermead.org.uk

or Sandra Landy - 337330 sandralandy@watermead.org.uk

## watermead & weedon women's institute

(Ladies who have now done their calendar!!!)

Our October meeting was absolutely wonderful, with a talk by Mr John Woolley, on his experiences as the first police officer on the scene at the 'Great Train Robbery'. He held our attention all evening with his story, which he made so interesting you almost felt that you were there, he also made us laugh lots. The report of our evening even made Page Three of the Bucks Herald!!!. During the evening we took the photos for our Calendar, which caused more laughter.

The trip to France was enjoyed by 45 people and despite the very early start of 5am!!, we set off with high spirits. After a shopping stop at the Hypermarket we went to St Omer for lunch and a look around, plus spend any money we had left. This is an annual event which we all look forward to very much.

Some of us attended a Group Meeting at Ashendon WI on October 19th, where the speaker was Wesley Smith from Carlton TV. He gave a very interesting talk on what goes on behind the scenes, and how he got into TV. Before the end of the evening we presented him with one of our calendars, and got him to autograph one for us. (Perhaps our calendar will appear on TV?)

Our AGM was held on November 2nd, and after the business part of the evening we had a demonstration of Indian Head Massage, which we all participated in. There wasn't a dry eye in the hall, we all looked so funny, and were glad the hall curtains were shut. We were also glad that the Secretary had forgotten her camera.

Our Project for the Millennium has been to raise funds for a Bench to be sited at the small lake, and hopefully it will be in place by the time you read this. We hope to have a photo of the Grand Opening in the next issue!

We do not have a meeting in December as we go out for a meal, but if you would like to join us please come along to our New Members Evening/Party on January 4th 2001 at 7.30pm. We will be pleased to see you. We have an exciting programme lined up for next year, including talks on Indian Culture, Theatrical Life, Trekking in Nepal, Basketry and Cane for the garden, and Life as a fund-raiser. We also have our annual Quiz/Fish and Chip supper and a Mystery Picnic.

Bridget - ☎ 420938 or Carol - ☎ 425896

We look forward to meeting you.

## What's on at the Watermead Village Hall

#### JUDY WALSH SCHOOL OF DANCING

Mondays: 7.30 ~ 9.30pm

#### **Childrens Dance**

Wednesdays: 3-6 years 4.30 ~ 5pm

Beginners 5 ~ 5.45pm

Advanced 5.45pm ~ 6.30pm

Contact: Judy 482818

#### Irish Dancing

Every Wednesday except second Wednesday

of each month: 7.00 ~ 8.00pm

Contact: Edwina McGill 01908 374273

#### **Avlesbury & 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: Bridget Gibbard 420938

#### **Watermead Cygnets Playgroup**

Monday ~ Thursday

9.15 ~ 11.45am

Contact: Dot Toler 432405

#### **Mother & Toddlers**

Wednesday 2 ~ 4pm

Friday 10am ~ 12noon

Contact: Vicki Tagg 339262



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Big Budweiser	4 for £5.00	Becks	6 for £5				
Fosters Ice	6 for £5	Barcardi Breezer	4 for £5				
Stella	6 for £5	Rolling Rock	6 for £5				
Bud Ice	6 for £5	Vodka Source	4 for £4.50				
Heineken Export	6 for £5	Vodka Ice	5 for £5				
San Miguel	6 for £5	Smirnoff Ice	4 for £5				

WINES				
1 red & 1 white (special offer)	£5.99			
Jacobs Creek Semillon Chardonnay	£4.89			
French Merlot	£3.79			
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#### CHRISTMAS SPECIAL - SPEND MORE THAN \$100 - GET SOME FREE!

Open: Mon-Thurs 3pm - 10:15pm Fri-Sat 12noon - 10:30pm, Sun 12noon - 10pm

## MAK WINES

158 Buckingham Road (Opposite Dutton Forshaw) Tel: 436705

A Warm Welcome to Watermead's new Health Visitor

Any family with children under the age of 5 years will know who their designated health visitor is. This will depend upon which GP Surgery the family are registered with, eg.

Meadowcroft, Poplar Grove, Oakfield etc. Chris MacMillan and myself, Paula Daly are based at Elmhurst Surgery.

Many families registered at Elmhurst will, no doubt, already have met us.

Chris is a very experienced health visitor, having been based at Elmhurst for several years.

I qualified as a health visitor in July this year, with a degree in Public Health Nursing. I am also a Registered Nurse and Midwife. My main experience being in Special and Intensive Care of the New-born. I worked for 3 years at Kings College Hospital, London, and then spent 11 years at the John Radcliffe Neonatal Unit. The past few months, therefore, has been a huge learning curve for me, working within the community setting and primary care.

Health visitors are fully qualified nurses who have taken additional training, covering child development, public health, sociology, psychology, health promotion, management skills and teaching. We provide a service to families and individuals in the community. The services provided by health visitors are client led ie. dependent upon the needs of that particular population. Some health visitors visit and support the elderly for instance, some provide family planning clinics or provide support for families with adolescents.

For new mother's, once discharged by the community midwife, we provide supportive visits and post natal support groups. We aim to help parents who may have difficulties in adjusting to the arrival of the baby. We screen for early signs of post natal depression, which research indicates can be experienced by between 10 and 30 percent of women. We provide listening visits and referral where needed.

Within the surgery, we provide drop in well-baby clinics for weighing and advice on a range of issues such as weaning and diet, colic, sleeping problems, behavioural problems, eczema, accident prevention, constipation, bedwetting, immunisations, and minor illnesses. Appropriately qualified health visitors can now prescribe from a Nurses Formulary for minor problems such as Thrush infections, headlice and threadworms etc.

We provide home visits when needed eg. on housing issues, relationship problems, domestic violence and marital breakdown. We can provide information on a range of local services such as parenting courses, and baby massage classes. We are aware of diversity issues and have knowledge of local facilities for ethnic minorities. We participate in the local Health Improvement Programme, (HiMP), by raising awareness of In Car Safety issues and encouraging the use of appropriate car safety seats, for instance. Within the course of our work, we interact with many local agencies and services such as community nurses and



community paediatricians and psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, counsellors, the Citizens Advice Bureau, Social Services, Nurseries and Playgroups.

Health visitors also participate in the developmental screening of young children in order to detect the earliest sign of deviation from normal development, (8 month, 18 month and 3 year checks.) Referrals may be made, particularly if there is parental concern, to the appropriate agencies eg. audiometry, speech therapy, orthoptic department or the Child Development Team.

Health visitors therefore aim to prevent chronic ill health problems by bringing in the early intervention of other health professionals. Health visitors work to tackle health inequalities, acting as facilitators to negotiate access to both health and social services within the community.

# Results of last issues Nurserytime Survey

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- · 32 Responses
- Roughly two-thirds give the thumbs-up to Nurserytime's development proposals
- Some angry residents say it will spoil their view and keep them awake
- A few people are still miffed at the short shrift given to cricket

Building in Watermead is an emotive subject so it's not surprising we got a good number of responses to last issue's survey on Nurserytimes proposals to extend their premises. Three of those responses took a very clear line - there should be no more building on our green spaces. Three others said that Lakeside Land must not make a decision like this without consulting shareholders. Slippery slope's were mentioned - and that wasn't a comment on our skiing facilities!

But, despite these strong views, a substantial majority of people seem to be in favour of Nurserytime's proposals. And the reasons came through loud and clear - working parents need child care - especially those who have moved to Aylesbury from elsewhere in the country and who do not have an extended family living locally who can help them out. Indeed, one person cited the presence of Nurserytime as being one of the reasons they had chosen Watermead when moving down from Scotland.

It seems that people are concerned about three aspects of child care: firstly, child care through the day for pre-school children; secondly, child care before and after school for schoolchildren; and thirdly child care for school children during the holidays. Four people were particularly in favour of Nurserytime providing the last of these as, it

seems, there is currently a shortage of holiday clubs in Aylesbury and such facilities keep children off the street. The rhetorical question asked by one respondent - "why bother to have kids in the first place if you have to drop them off to a stranger at 7.30 am and collect them at 7.00 pm?" - seems slightly inflammatory and is probably not a useful question to be dwelling on in this article.

OK. There's clearly a demand for the services that Nurserytime want to provide. But are there any downsides? Yes, shout 4 of you - we already have too much traffic! Yes shouts another - there'll be too much noise. Rubbish, yell

2 more - noise won't be a problem. And anyway, shrieks one, I used to live on Guillemot and never heard any noise from Nurserytime. Hey, can we get a word in edgeways, say three worried looking residents - we're going to be personally impacted by this. The wonderful view for which we paid a premium price when we bought our properties is going to be permanently sullied. And, says one of them, I'm already fed up with the security lights on the existing building which, in the recent high winds, stayed permanently on all night shining into my lounge and both my bedrooms. What's it going to be like with security lights even closer to my flat?

Hmm. This isn't so straightforward is it?

While you're digesting those rather serious issues, lets just round off by stirring the pot again. It seems that some of our residents are still smarting at having their cricketing facilities taken away from them. According to one individual - and I've no idea if what he says is correct or not - the village cricket club was disbanded due to Nurserytime's refusal to allow access to the cricket pavillion at weekends, even though it was legally bound to through covenant. Ooooo! There's a worm or two in this can! Another cricketer is quite clear about what should happen - they should close Nurserytime down and return

the premises to the local community as a sports pavilion!! Hold on, a more phlegmatic disciple of the willow pipes up, lets get real. All we want is for Nurserytime to sponsor village cricket, maintain the pitch and provide us with a pavilion! Now there's a thought.

#### Detailed results:

A: Should Nurserytime be allowed to extend its premises? 20 Yes, 11 No, 1 no response

B: Do you think it would benefit Watermead? 19 Yes, 12 No, 1 no response

C: Should Lakeside Land lease any of its land for building purposes?

19 Yes, 10 No, 3 no response

If you have any ideas for topics for future surveys please let me know. We will be giving a bottle of wine away to the person who's suggested topic is adopted for a future issue.

Paul Wilson



## WEBMASTER WANTED!

Our new web site is being developed and we need a WebMaster.

If you can help please

contact:

Jason Bray - 425094 jasonbray@watermead.org.uk

or Sandra Landy - 337330

FROM TIME TO TIME WE WILL BE ASSESSING THE OPINION OF WATERMEAD RESIDENTS ABOUT A RANGE OF SUBJECTS AND REPORTING THE RESULTS IN SUBSEQUENT NEWSLETTERS

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

### **DO WE NEED MORE FACILITIES ON WATERMEAD?**

Please answer the following questions and send your answers to the address below (tick where appropriate):

1. Do we need more facilities on Watermead? YES NO If yes, what facilities would you like to see?

2. Would you like more information about what facilities we have on Watermead? YES NO If yes, what did you think of it? If no, why?

If you would like to make any further comments please write here:

Please send or deliver this slip to:

Paul Wilson, 8 Mallard Close (off Kestrel Way), Watermead, or alternatively send your answers by email to: paulwilson@watermead.org.uk
All comments will be forwarded to the Board of Lakeside Land

# The 'Excellent' Watermead Cygnets Playgroup

Watermead Cygnets gained an all round excellent report from OFSTED following their visit at the end of October. Having awarded top marks in each of the six categories, the Inspector, Olive Fraser said 'What a wonderful place'. In particular her report commented more formally:

- The playgroup staff create an environment in which all children are confident and respond well to each other and adults. Staff have good relationships with children.
- Children progress well towards the early learning goals, particularly in personal, social and emotional development, which is very good. They make good progress in communication, language and literacy, knowledge and understanding of the world, physical and creative development.
- Teaching and planning are good; staff make effective use
  of observation, evaluations of activities and assessment to
  help the children to make good progress in their learning
- Staff have high expectations to which the children respond, enabling them to fully enjoy their learning.
- Staff work well in partnership with parents and carers; good communication and involvement helps the children to settle into the playgroup happily and progress effectively in their learning.

And parents too are enthusiastic about how well the two

years their children spent with the Cygnets prepared the children to listen, learn and enjoy primary school, when they move on at five years old – perhaps the most important outcome of all.

Watermead Cygnets, who were established in 1991, meet for 36 weeks a year from Monday to Friday in Watermead Village Hall, 9.15am to 11.45am. Children usually start when they are  $2^{1}/2$ , provided there is a space (and you do need to book in good time). Priority is given to Watermead children, though a few are from off the estate. Currently the roll is 28, twenty of whom pay £5 per session to attend on any one day along with Dot Toler, the lead practitioner, three helpers and one parent. It is this 4:1 ratio plus Dot's experience as a trained primary teacher and the enthusiasm she brings to the job, that generates the excellent outcomes found by the OFSTED inspector.

Watermead Hall, not being a dedicated school, has to be set up each day and taken down each night, but this does not prevent the provision of a good range of activities and the, shortly to be paved, outside area means the children get out in good weather. Over the year there are many visitors to the school and visits out to places of interest.

Our congratulations to Dot and her helpers Penny, Linda, Chris and Carolyn and the parents and children of Watermead for creating a school in which there were no significant weaknesses and much of which we can all be proud. Well done!





#### VILLAGE VIEW MEMBERS

Jason Bray - Editor Tel: 425094

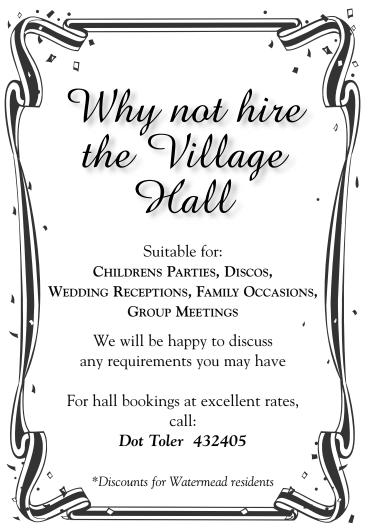
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Director	Sally Long		Tel:	01296 336577
Minutes Secretary	Pat Bevan		Tel:	01296 338826
Maintenance Director	Roy Hutchings	2 Sandpiper	Tel:	01296 397675
Watermead Community Forum Director	Mary Singleton		Tel:	01296 428569

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.

#### 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

- $\bullet \ \text{Encourage positive development in keeping with the unique character of Watermead} \quad \bullet \ \text{Provide a forum for community involvement and feedback}$ 
  - $\bullet$  Support and encourage local enterprise  $\phantom{a}\bullet$  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

## WM NEWSAGENTS

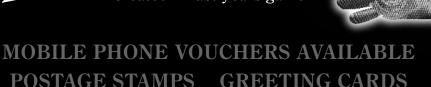


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We wish all our customers a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!