

# Watermead elections 3rd May 2001

Our parish council now has full approval:  
A special meeting is to be held to enable you to find out more on **Friday 30th March 2001 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall**. Bring your questions. Forms for nominations will be available.

## MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT

Elections 8.00am to 9.00pm at Village Hall on Thursday 3rd May 2001. Full details about this exciting opportunity for Watermead on pages 12 and 13.

## Next 'Work-In' - 21st April

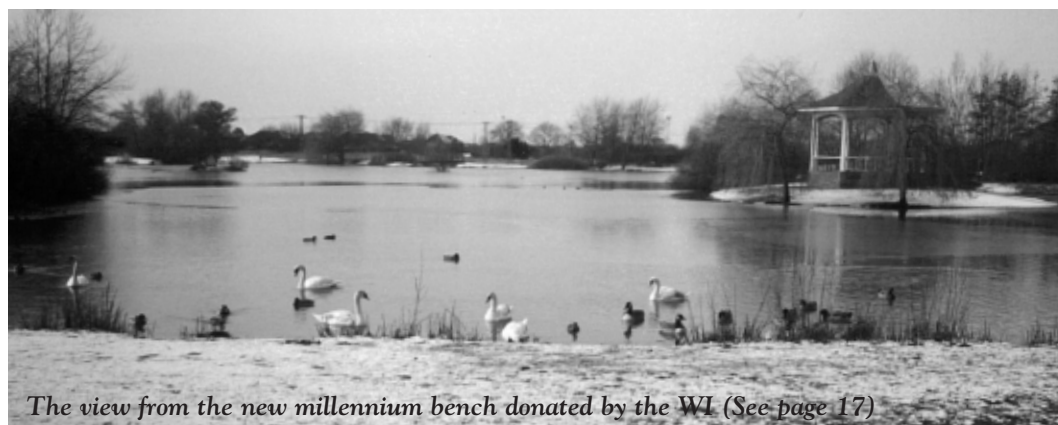
If you would like to help in the next 'Work-In' please see details on page 11.

## Nuserytime 'Viewing Evening' - 1st May

See page 21 for more details of Nursertimes pre-planning proposals.

## New takeaway opening mid April

See pages 3 and 15



*The view from the new millennium bench donated by the WI (See page 17)*

### In this issue:

*Riviera Restaurant*

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*Watermead the 'Water Meadow'*

*The story of Easter*

*Car Vandalism*

*Facilities on Watermead - Survey Results*

*Lakeside Takeaway*

*WI Millennium Bench donation*

*Thank you from Tiggywinkles*

*Neighbourhood Watch update*

### PLUS OUR REGULAR FEATURES:

*Chairman's View*  
*Wildlife Watch*  
*Community Forum*

**If you have any interesting stories /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

by Michael Shrimpton - Chairman of Lakeside Land Ltd

I hope this finds you all happy Easter bunnies. I am aware that a minority are unhappy bunnies at the County Council's decision to close off the land to the north of the spine road and the footpath to the west of the lower lake, but it was manifestly correct and entirely consistent with national and local policy. Save for one official, who had no responsibility for foot-and-mouth precautions and went off on a frolic of his own, removing signs which he had no business doing, we have been extended every courtesy and co-operation by Bucks County Council Trading Standards. The Council's energetic and responsible approach has won wide praise and rightly so. The Police have also been supportive - I am not always saying nice things about Thames Valley Police but this time they have been helpful.

Explanations should not be necessary in a time of crisis, but everyone is entitled to know the rationale of the decision, which is fully supported by the Board, albeit after vigorous discussion. Firstly, Watermead attracts visitors from all over,

including nearby counties where foot-and-mouth disease has been confirmed. Many bring their dogs onto Watermead for exercise, some from miles around. This is fine, but not in the middle of a foot-and-mouth epidemic when national policy is to restrict movement of people and vehicles in the countryside. Most attractions sited next to farmland have been closed down. Watermead is no different from Wendover Woods, National Trust properties, etc., all of which have been shut down. If a different policy were followed on Watermead you would get a cascade effect, with additional visitors.

Secondly, Watermead is immediately adjacent to open farmland, including land used to graze sheep and cattle. We have seven access points to farmland, all of which need to be protected.

Thirdly, Watermead is home to a small population of Muntjac deer. They can not only carry the disease, like dogs, but catch it as well. Their movements are notoriously difficult to track

and Watermead is a sensitive location with the animals able to get on to farmland. If foot-and-mouth disease were to get a hold in that population it could spread like wildfire. Most residents will not have seen the deer, but they are there - about three am is the best time to see them. It is important that residents decontaminate before returning to Watermead from infected farmland.

Fourthly Watermead is less than five miles from the nearest livestock movement restriction area and less than 20 miles from the nearest outbreak. Finally the Board has at all times acted on advice from the proper authorities including the Environment Agency

Watermead is an urban community in a rural environment. Few of us earn our living from the land (although some do and we have links with the farming community) but we should respect those who do. The ready and responsible acknowledgement from the majority of residents that some temporary interference with

leisure activity is inevitable has been good to see. The Board's policy is one of being good neighbours to our local farmers.

Lakeside Land Ltd is more than a resident's association or a glee club. This company was set up as a community initiative, to take responsibility for Watermead and safeguard its future. We are landowners with a sizeable landowning, bordering farmland. We have responsibilities, both moral and legal, to our neighbours at a time like this. We wish them well, we hope that Bucks will remain free of this terrible disease.

For the avoidance of doubt the land opposite the Watermead Inn is a controlled area all the way back to the entrance to the Riviera Restaurant, together of course with all the company's land to the north of the Riviera, right the way round to Kestrel Way. Some signs have been removed illegally but they have been replaced - please note that the unauthorised removal of a control sign does not decontrol an area in law, although it might be relevant to a decision

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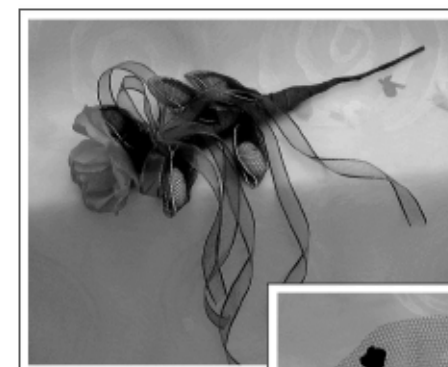
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to prosecute. Only the Police, an Inspector from the County Council, or a Director engaged in urgent land management tasks may enter onto the controlled area. Directors with duties in the controlled area will wear high-visibility jackets. It is an offence to interfere with a sign as well as to enter the controlled area. Everybody will be told when control is lifted, but please do not expect this to happen for another 30 - 60 days. These restrictions are official, under the Foot-and-Mouth Disease (England) Order, and the Board has no power to lift them. If you see someone on the controlled area who shouldn't be there please tell the Police or a Director - obviously prosecution would be a last resort, but deliberate foot-and-mouth control violations including tampering with signs are unlikely to be viewed benignly by local magistrates.

Please be aware that the Parish Council elections may be postponed either because of the General Election or foot-and-mouth. It is vital that able people stand for election to the Parish Council. Many are just talking shops and that won't work on Watermead. Shareholders at the AGM expressed concern about transferring the company's land to the Parish Council. The Board has responded to that concern and I think it fair to say that the balance of opinion on the Board has moved against an outright transfer, favouring

annual leasing instead. No decisions can be taken until the Council is elected. If the Council can't work with the Board or vice-versa there the company will retain full control over the land including of course the Village Hall, but the final decision will not be made by the board alone, that will be for the shareholders to decide. Given that Directors are standing for election (and rightly so) that may not happen. I stress again that no final decision will be taken by the Board - that will be for shareholders. I also stress, given the possibility of a conflict of interest, that I favour a local poll to approve any scheme involving payment of moneys by the Parish Council. Working out the relationship between the company and council will take time and goodwill on both sides, with the emphasis on transparency and democracy.

I am hopeful that the fishing dispute on the north lake is close to resolution. The Board favours an extension of the responsible Watermead Piscatorials syndicate to the north (or main) lake and support for that option is gaining ground with the main lake syndicate, which has lost members steadily as it has no riparian rights over any land worth fishing from. The new owner of Riviera will need to be part of any agreement. If he is not willing to come to the table, then so be it: there will be no fishing on his lake. The

Piscatorials proposal is a sensible compromise, which balances the needs of the community, both syndicates and the lake owner.

There is no fishing at the moment, indeed inland fishing is being restricted generally. Trespass will no longer be tolerated and will no longer work, not least because the Environment Agency have confirmed that inland fishing licences are not valid on our land without our permission (it is a licence to fish, not to trespass). The names of the worst offenders are now known and they will be notified by solicitors that rods will be confiscated if they trespass again (a job for security

professionals, given the use of violence by trespassers in the past), but hopefully that will not be necessary. One condition of the new agreement will be that toilet facilities must be used - you have rightly complained about one of the more unpleasant aspects of illegal night fishing. Two tips to save misdirected correspondence: Roy Hutchings is the shareholder database manager and conveyancing enquiries for LCAM should go to the company solicitors, Darbys Mallam Lewis, in Oxford. Barristers, including myself, couldn't convey a henhouse and Darbys are geared up to deal with all pre-contract enquiries. Happy Easter!

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# The Riviera Restaurant and Ski & Sail

It has been 3 months since the grand opening of the newly fitted out Riviera Restaurant at 'Ski and Sail' on Watermead. The proprietor, Hamid Pardis, has been involved in the retail catering industry for over 25 years, originally owning a chain of take away facilities and a Dinner & Dance restaurant in the Croydon area. Initially studying construction and design at Croydon Polytechnic, Hamid was drawn to the catering industry to fund his studies after his move to the UK from Iran.

Hamid relocated to the Aylesbury area 16 years ago and opened the Bon Appetit restaurant and takeaway in the centre of Aylesbury in 1986. "I was originally introduced to the Aylesbury area through driving my parents from London to visit my sister at the weekends, who owns the Bistro in Wendover. Eventually I became fed up with the driving and moved here".

Hamid had been interested in purchasing 'Ski and Sail' for over 2 years, but the timing and planning issues delayed the purchase until mid 2000, with the restaurant opening on December 12th 2000. "It's been a steady first 3 months since our opening and we're looking forward to a busy spring and summer as more people visit Watermead to enjoy the beautiful surroundings".

Looking to the future Hamid is hoping to recruit a new ski instructor shortly and would like to provide boating facilities, staff and customers depending. Already a revamp of the menu is planned, and with spring and summer close by (rain depending!!) outdoor seating facilities are also on the agenda. To better facilitate parking Hamid is currently investigating a major overhaul of the car park although this would be a very difficult and costly exercise.

We wish Hamid and his staff the very best of success at Ski & Sail and Riviera.

# The story of Easter

Easter Bonnets, the Easter Parade, Chocolate Eggs in all sizes, holiday time for some, springtime, the end of winter and hopefully, the beginning of sunny days - all these we associate with Easter.

But, Easter has much greater significance. The name is derived from Oestre, the Anglo-Saxon word for the goddess of spring. However the greatest significance worldwide lies with the Christian Church. We learned that in the beginning Adam and Eve committed sin by disobeying God and were thrown out of the Garden of Eden and therefore they and all their offspring became followers of Satan. To resolve this problem God worked out a great solution. He sent His one and only son into the world; to take all the sins of the world on his shoulders and accept death by the most cruel means; to allow Himself to be nailed to a cross with huge nails hammered into both his wrists and ankles.



This happened to Jesus Christ the Son of God at Calvary, just outside Jerusalem in Israel, some 2000 years ago. He had never committed any sin, but was chosen to die in this cruel way for you and for me, to pay the penalty for all our

That occurred on Good Friday all those years ago. He was buried in a tomb and a large boulder was placed outside. On the Sunday, three days later, even though soldiers were on guard, the boulder had been pushed aside and the tomb was empty. Later that day He was seen to have walked with His followers. He was alive. God had raised Him from the dead.

This was part of God's plan. That those who come to believe in Jesus and believe that He was crucified, died and buried and that God raised Him from the dead three days later, would have eternal life with Jesus Christ subsequent to their physical death.

I really hope that all who read this will now know the truth of Easter and have a complete belief in Jesus Christ. I wish you all a Happy Easter. Very sincerely in Jesus' Name - Hugh J E Cox



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**Maundy Thursday** at 8.00pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by the Prayer watch 'till midnight (a vigil in the chapel as with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemene the night before he died.)

**Good Friday** - All Ages at the Cross at 12.30pm

1.30pm - Stations of the Cross with music and communion.

**Easter Sunday** at 10.00am Eucharist and renewal of Baptism vows.



### PUBLICATION DATES

Summer - 24th June 2001  
Autumn - 30th September 2001  
Winter - 9th December 2001

### ADVERTISEMENT RATES

#### Residents

1/4 page - £20  
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full page - £70

#### Non residents

1/4 page - £35  
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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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When the sale of Watermead assets took place due to Royco's bankruptcy, Aftad Ahmed bought the hotel. Harpers Fitness Club bought the health club, which at that time was unfinished. It eventually opened in July 1994, with over 400 memberships pre-sold. Aftad Ahmed bought the club in 1997 and ran it with Harpers Fitness Club, but in 1999 the arrangement with Harpers came to an end and Reflexions opened under its new name and identity (one used by various Holiday Inn gyms).

Originally the dance studio was on a suspended floor over the incomplete swimming pool, but that was redesigned to meet the need to open the pool more often. It led to the present more convenient arrangement - though the floor was less well-sprung. The building currently contains the Dance and Aerobics Studio (where 41 classes are held each week), the Cardiovascular gym (bikes, rowing machines, etc), the resistance gym with air machines, swimming pool and the NBP (Nobody's Perfect) treatment rooms. Outside there are three tennis courts, and on Astroturf pitch and a car park that currently houses a Portacabin where the creche is run.

The creche will move to the first floor of a new extension when it's eventually built, along with a second studio, double size gym and a lounge area. Sadly, problems have delayed the building, but it's hoped that work will start soon.

All Watermead residents will be aware that the car park filled with water during the recent heavy rain. This is not flooding, but one of the planned ways to cope with excess water on our land. The gym was unaffected, but the Portacabin got its bottom wet and is being replaced by something standing on higher stilts.

Dale Fraser started as a fitness consultant back in 1994 and became the General Manager two years ago. 37 staff are needed because the business is open 102 hours a week, not that all those 102 hours are equally busy but, there are often a dozen people waiting when the club opens at 6.30am. The quietest time is mid-afternoon before people get home from work. The fitness staff take NVQs at Aylesbury College whilst working at the gym.

Various types of membership make it cheaper as well as quieter to attend at the off peak hours, the evening and weekend sessions being by far the busiest. Memberships are sold to families as well as individuals. In excess of 800 memberships provide members ranging from seven weeks to ninety year olds, though the majority are in the 25 to 40 age range. The seven-week old member uses the creche, which has fully qualified staff, whilst his mum uses the gym. The children come and use the swimming pool and can have special sessions in the school holidays. About 350 of the memberships belong to Watermead

residents - that is nearly a third of our households - so we must be a very fit bunch. Residents get a discount on the joining fee though still have to pay the normal subscription.

Most people join for general fitness and weight loss, but the staff can provide for specific sports if asked. We don't have any well-known sports star members. It's a friendly club that does its best to please everybody. Members come from quite a distance including Princes Risborough and Amersham -

# Watermead - 'Water Meadow'

Spring may be here and we all hope the weather will change for the better, but we will never forget the rains of last winter, the heaviest that Watermead has ever known. Remember when the ducks could walk ashore to the Watermead Inn, the lake covered the footpath and adjoining land, the bandstand bridge disappeared 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 Thames, therefore, the estate is designed to cope with a great deal of extra water. 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 Thames. At the moment this is looking rather choked with weeds, but it is regularly cleared. During high flows, the water from the Thames 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 quite high off the ground. The water height is measured at Holman's Bridge (on the A413 Buckingham Road by the football ground). During the Summer the average reading was 71.30 meters whereas last winter it reached over 74 meters above sea level (that is about 9 feet higher than normal!). The highest recorded level ever in this area was 82.80meters. The Thames Valley has an average annual rainfall of 650mm but this varies enormously. In December 1933 it was 9.3mm, but the following December it

surprising considering the number of clubs there are elsewhere.

Four times a year parties are held. 200-250 attend each one and quiz nights are just being introduced. Most members feel they are lucky to have such a facility on the doorstep. It has excellent parking (in dry weather) which is good, as not all the members are so fit that they actually walk or jog to their exercise sessions!

was 113.1mm. The final figures for last winter are not yet published, but you will see, we don't expect floods every year.

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 looks after this on our behalf and lets out the fishing rights to the Angling Society. 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 - but don't check them out until the foot-and-mouth restrictions have been lifted!

This article is based on information provided by the Department of the Environment.



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## Can you spare a few hours for the next 'Work-In' - 21st April

Tony Steadman, Sally and I were walking round the village looking for the next 'Work-In' job. Well, there are two main ones. The first is to stop the encroachment of the hedges around the cricket pitch, the little bandstand meadow and the balloon meadow. The second is to restore the far side of the Big Lake beyond The Riviera Restaurant and to remove as much litter as possible from both places. We would be very grateful for as much help as possible.

If you are able to help, advanced notice would be appreciated as it would make it much easier for us to arrange the usual complimentary fork lunch and drinks in the Village Hall soon after midday at which all will be welcome. But, never the less, late helpers will still be welcome. Please call me on 397675 or Tony on 339951.

Let's look forward to a great sum when we all can enjoy the fruits of labours this spring and in a beautiful Watermead Village. Please come and help for a while, a morning or a full day. Oh, and please pray for a change from the usual weather - we need a really nice sunny day!

Finally, we would appreciate the use of as many tools as possible, such as bough cutters, barrows, forks and pruning saws. See you on the 21st

Roy, Sally and Tony.



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## Car vandalism

Local resident, Andrew Awadzi, was left in shock after discovering his car recklessly vandalised on Thursday 28th February. The vehicle had been broken into with the rear window smashed. The vandals had left a costly sum of damage. He automatically phoned the police to report the incident.

Most would expect an officer to ask about the incident - what happened, where and how? But instead Andrew was put through to the 'crime desk' consisting of an answer machine for people to talk about their problems. Andrew really wanted to speak to an officer about the incident so action could be taken. He tried again.....and again....but again he was put through to the answer machine. This time, fed-up and frustrated, he left a message expecting that someone would get back to him to discuss the matter further.

A week passed and he had still heard nothing from the police.

Disappointed, like most people would be, Andrew could do nothing apart from wait....

Such criminal incidents are relatively rare on Watermead, but recently there has been a spate of car and garage break-ins along with a general increase in vandalism. Despite the apparent 'poor' response in this case we would encourage all residents to report any criminal incidents to the proper authorities and to our neighbourhood watch representative, Sandra Gowling.

It is important for the community's safety and well being to have a reliable police force in the event of such incidents do occur. Neighbourhood Watch is an excellent initiative to spot crime. But once it has been spotted and reported, it is only fair for everyone concerned that the police take action. The new special beat officer that has been appointed this winter to patrol Watermead to deal with crime can further improvements expected in the future. However in the meantime it is rather unfair that people such as Andrew Awadzi have to suffer.

**Watermeads' Neighbourhood Watch**  
**Mike and Sandra Gowling**  
22 Lark Vale  
01296 420956.

(See page 22 for an update on Neighbourhood Watch)





# Watermead Parish Council

## What’s happening?

The last issue carried the news that Watermead was to get its own parish council. Since then things have been moving fast. AVDC Policy and Resources made a recommendation to council on 19th February, which was accepted by the full council on 7th March.

Two other new parishes are being formed in our area - Coldharbour (Fairford Leys) and Aylesbury Town Centre. All are subject to the same election procedure and timing. Provided there is not a general election on 3rd May (in which case it all gets delayed by three weeks) the countdown to the election looks like this:

Days before day of election	Latest date for activity	Activity
25	Monday 26th March	Notice of election formally given
19	Tuesday 3rd April	Noon. Delivery of nomination papers
17	Thursday 5th April	Publication of statement as to persons nominated
16	Friday 6th April	Notice of withdrawal of candidature
6	Wednesday 25th April	Notice of poll
5	Thursday 26th April	Appointment of polling or counting agents
0	<b>Thursday 3rd May</b>	<b>Election day</b>
	Thursday 17th May	Suggested date for first council meeting

## A meeting is to held on Friday 30th March to allow you to:

- Meet a representative from AVDC, who run the elections
- Hear from Anne Hooten of Bucks Association of Local Councils.
- Discover what it means to be a parish councillor. Collect an information pack if you wish to stand.
- Meet potential candidates. Hear what they have to say.

## To find out more come to the special meeting at the Village Hall at 8.00pm on Friday 30th March 2001.

Watermead parish covers the area you would expect - all the houses that can only reach a main road by going down our spine road, bounded by the A413 on that edge. At present six Watermead houses are in Berton parish and all the rest are in Weedon. There are 1,715 electors in the parish.

We need nine councillors. The period of office is two years initially, four years in the future. An election will only be held if more than nine papers are received and additional members can be co-opted if we don’t get enough nominations.

## What can a Parish Council do?

The powers of the council have been defined in acts of parliament over hundreds of years, so clearly some are less relevant nowadays. For some things we may be required to get the consent of another body. For instance planning permission from AVDC would be needed to build a new sports pavilion or the county council must approve if we want to provide a new car park. Those areas where we can exercise our power include:

- *Borrowing money for up to 25 years to implement our plans.*
- *Crime detection and prevention by installing equipment or by giving money to the police for them to do this.*
- *Entertainment Provision of any form of public entertainment or premises for giving entertainment.*
- *Provision of buildings for public meetings, functions, for indoor sports, for clubs and societies with recreational, social or athletic objectives.*

- *Legal proceedings can be taken in the interest of the inhabitants.*
- *Litter bins and anti-litter campaigns.*
- *Open spaces. Provision of parks, public spaces, village green, boating pools, walks, footpaths and roadside verges. Facilities in such public areas - signs, toilets, shelters, lighting, clocks, allotments,*
- *Planning. We will be notified of all applications and can comment on them.*

## How do we pay for this?

In order to do all these things the parish will receive a part of the rate that currently goes to AVDC - £25.15 per household. The parish council can decide whether to leave this amount as it is, or they are allowed to make a modest increase, subject to approval, in the future. The budget is already set for 2001/2002 and this will raise £24,700. A parish clerk will be needed to look after things. In most places this is a paid, part-time job of one or two days a week, depending on the duties allocated to the clerk. We will take on certain duties currently done for us, of which emptying the dog bins is the only one so far identified!

## How do councillors act?

Councillors take office four days after the election. They are sworn in at the first meeting and are expected to attend the parish council meetings regularly, take part in them and take an active role in the community.

- In particular their over-riding duty as a councillor is to the whole community, not just to the people who voted for them.
- Whilst being open to influence by the views of others, it is the councillor’s responsibility alone to decide what view to take on any question.
- Public or private interests in matters that arise must be declared. Interests can be membership of other bodies or political parties, professional or business concerns, financial. Note this does not exclude people with business interests in Watermead from standing.
- Councillors should never do anything that cannot be justified in public – not just avoiding impropriety, but any occasion for suspicion. They are amongst the leaders of our community.

## Who can be a parish councillor?

- To be a parish councillor, you must be either:
- A local government elector in Watermead parish.
  - Have occupied for a full twelve months land or premises in the parish.
  - Have worked for a full twelve months in the parish.
  - Have lived within three miles of Watermead for a full twelve months.

There are some disqualifications and potential candidates are advised to look at the official papers.

## How do you stand for the council?

Every candidate must be nominated on the prescribed form, with a proposer and seconder. You can stand for a political party with their official approval, but on the whole candidates are people who want to work for the good of the parish and actually do things for us. It is not just a political talk shop but a forum for people who care about our community. There are lots of legal bits about being a candidate including declaring expenses and what constitutes corrupt practices. See leaflet PCE 16, which has full details.

## Relationship with Lakeside Land

From the list of possible activities given, it is easy to see that many of the responsibilities lie with Lakeside Land. Over time these will need to be rationalised. It is likely that some of Lakeside Land Board members will become councillors and this should ease the transition. The ‘Village View’ is currently subsidised by Lakeside Land, but in the future your editorial staff would hope to be producing the new parish magazine for Watermead and offer their services in that regard.

This report paraphrases what are lengthily written documents. For complete accuracy, you should refer to the originals.



Hi Folks!

Yes, it's that time of year again - the whole of the bird population from Sparrows to Swans are looking for suitable nesting sites. The ducks tend to be in the 'twilight zone' as they wander all over the place oblivious to danger on the roads etc. I only experienced this myself a few days ago - a duck took off suddenly from the side of the road and flew over the car. Please allow for this whilst driving as we have casualties every year. It's upsetting for everyone.



Now, what can I say about the weather? The lakes have been freezing and defrosting ...on...and off..., flooding...on...and off..., and we've had some beautiful sunny Springlike days...on...and off..., so I think unpredictable is the word! The snow and ice does make

everything look picturesque although it's not too kind to the feathered residents (or us I hear you say), however, birdlife carries on regardless. George and Henry are drawing their territorial lines. I hope Bonnie and Clyde manage to ride out the storm and stay. It would be lovely to have a larger Swan population. The young Grebe family appear to be doing very well. Let's hope the parents surprise us all again this year (bred for the first time on Watermead last year). The Coots always oblige, with the Moorhens rapidly catching up



in number. Speaking of which...one in particular appears to have 'camped' on Osprey Walk. He strides up and down alone with his huge yellowy green feet, red and yellow beak with white flashes on his side. He doesn't appear to have a mate and jostles along with the ducks to feed. We don't see many Moorhens on this side of the lake, so he's very welcome.

The Geese, as ever, are a delight to watch as they return from warmer climes. At the end of February they brought a rare visitor with them - a Shelduck. The largest British duck

(wildfowl as opposed to domestic ducks, ie Aylesbury Duck). They are very



striking with blood colouring, white, black and chestnut with a red bill, lives mainly on the coast, eating mussels and crab. (don't see too many of those around here!) I wonder where he came from? We've also had Pochards, Tufted Ducks, Mandarin Ducks, Lapwings - a pair actually landed and I rushed

for my camera only to find the battery had finally died.

A missed moment! The Cormorants are still perched on the boats - along with hundreds of Gulls all fishing and feasting. I haven't seen Bertie the Heron around lately - maybe he's dining somewhere else?!

Well, hopefully, we can look forward to lots of new life on the lakes. There's nothing like spotting the first little fluffy bundles bobbing about.

Wishing you all a Very Happy Easter. Linda Jones



## New 'Takeaway' on Watermead

Watermead is soon to get it's own Chinese takeaway - 'Lakeside Takeaway' located in the village Piazza. Mr Guy Fung and his wife Anna are planning their grand opening in mid April.

Guy and Anna, both originally from Hong Kong, relocated to the UK 28 years ago and have lived in the Aylesbury area for the past 22 years. For the last 7 years they have been the managers of the May Fu restaurant in Pitstone.

"We originally looked at opening a facility on Watermead around a year ago. We're very excited about opening our first business here and are pleased by the positive reception we have received so far".

They initially intend to employ 2 full time chefs, while they run the front of shop service area.

"We are currently planning a Chinese /Cantonese menu only to begin with, but will consider a more traditional fish and chip shop menu as the business grows. We will probably open 6 days a week at both lunchtimes and evenings."

Mr Fung has been involved in the retail catering industry for most of his working life and we wish him the very best of luck in his first business endeavour. Certainly it will save me a journey into town on a Friday evening!!

Jason Bray - Editor



# watermead & weedon women's institute

The new year started with our Party in January and the food as usual was absolutely wonderful. The members really excelled themselves. The evening was mainly a chance to socialise, but we played a game, the object being trying to guess which celebrity's name was pinned to your back by asking other people questions, but they could only answer yes or no. There was lots of laughter and it certainly got people talking. January meant we could now begin to enjoy using the calendar we made for 2001 which included lots of recipes for cakes!!!

In February, our president, Bridget Gibbard, was pleased to inform us that at last the 'bench', which has been our Millennium project, has been purchased and installed by the small lake. We raised the money for the bench from having two market stalls selling bric-a-brac and all had a good time in doing so. We had a letter from Manor House Hospital to thank us for the lovely Christmas presents that we gave all the patients. We shall continue to raise money and support the ward this year.

Our speaker for February was Mrs Pancholi, who spoke about Indian Culture. She showed us how to put on a sari, which was modelled beautifully by one of our ladies, together with some lovely jewellery. Mrs Pancholi spoke about the role of women in India, their daily lives and their jewellery and make up. We then had a demonstration of body henna painting on a willing volunteer. We were also told a bit about the Earthquake in India and shown a map of the areas affected. It was hard to believe the scale of devastation. Mrs Pancholi donated her fee for the evening to the Earthquake Appeal.

The speaker for our March meeting was Mr Nicholls who talked about 'Painting to Deceive'. Mr Nicholls kept us entertained all evening showing us his painting, mainly for scenery for amateur productions and it was amazing to discover what could be achieved with paper and paint. He also told us little about the shows he has worked on and showed us scale models of some sets. I don't think we had all laughed so much for ages as Mr Nicholls had some very funny stories to tell us. The next time any of us go to the theatre I am sure we will spend a long time looking at the scenery now we know the secrets!

On a cold Saturday morning, 3rd March, several of our members gathered together with Lakeside Land members for the official opening of the bench as it had been a joint venture. We hope that lots of you get to enjoy sitting on the bench and admiring the lovely view.

Our next meeting on 5th April is at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. The speaker is Mrs Viall who will demonstrate how to make things for the garden out of basketry and cane. Visitors and new Members always welcome.

Please note our May meeting is on 10th May due to local elections.

Come and visit us and see for yourself what fun we have.

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

We look forward to meeting you.

## Women's Institute donate bench to Watermead Community to celebrate the new Millennium

After a few delays (mainly due to the abundance of water!) the Watermead community is now a proud recipient of a new bench on the lower lake.

A kind gift from the local Women's Institute, the bench has been donated as a celebration of the new millennium for the Watermead community to enjoy.

The dedication ceremony was held Saturday 3rd March and was well attended by around 15 people on a picturesque cold and frosty morning. Bridget Gibbard and Mary Singleton made the presentation of the bench, in which even the local Wildfowl wanted to get involved with (see picture on page 17).

Also in attendance was a photographer and journalist from the Bucks Herald, seems Watermead is big news!!!

# Watermead Community Forum

by Mary Singleton - Watermead Community Forum Director

The Christmas Carol Concert was once again a great success. We plan to do something similar this year at 6.30 pm on Saturday 22nd December 2001. Nothing like planning ahead!

Also, looking to the future, the Government have indicated that there may be an extra bank holiday on 3rd June 2002 to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. We have been talking about staging an event at Watermead, a fete perhaps, to mark the day. I would like to hear from anyone with experience of organising such an event or anyone who would like to become involved.

Information is available from AVDC about the Parish Council. Please refer to the full article on pages 12 and 13 for a complete overview of the process and relevant dates. The Parish Council will be comprised of nine councillors who will elect a chair person - if nine or less people stand there will be no need for an election. I would encourage everybody to get involved and support this initiative. This is our opportunity to build our community. Lets make it count!!!

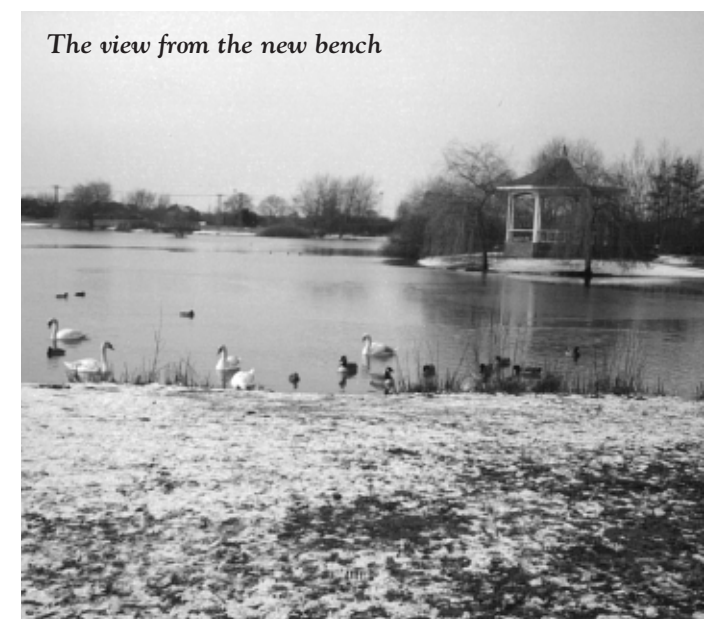
A notice has been issued by AVDC of its proposal to make an 'Order under Section 2 of the Dogs Fouling of Land Act 1996' to designate certain areas of land within its boundaries where it would be unlawful for a person in charge of a dog not to remove dog faeces deposited by that dog. Land owned by Lakeside Land will be included in these boundaries. I have placed a copy of the notice on our notice board in the Piazza. Maps can be seen at Council offices.

I have heard from Environmental Services on the 'speeding' issue and have been sent information on traffic calming schemes. We are now on the list to be considered, but limited Council funds are available. Those sites with a significant record of injury accidents take priority. It is important, therefore, that any such accidents are reported. A traffic calming scheme may have to be funded by the Parish Council! I have received confirmation that all adopted roads in Watermead are subject to a 30 mph speed limit by virtue of the fact that a full system of lighting is provided.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Action Day on 21st April - do come along - it's really quite fun!



*'Cutting the Ribbon' for the new Watermead bench*



*The view from the new bench*

Children with Disabilities

The Social Services would like you to contact them if your child has a disability which includes:

- physical disability
- significant visual or hearing impairment
- developmental delay and learning difficulties
- speech or language difficulties
- social communication disorders
- severe mental health conditions
- chronic ill health

Social services will be working with Health, Education and voluntary organisations to plan services for children. To assist this work they are creating a 'Buckinghamshire Planning Database for Children with Disabilities.' This will be used to contact families and send them newsletters and useful information about local and national developments

Parents with children in the 0-19 age range are asked to contact:

Planning Database Co-ordinator at Social Services on 01296 382356 or 383036.



HELP WANTED!

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

Or help with distribution?  
Or contribute in any other way?

If so please contact:

Jason Bray - 425094

or Sandra Landy - 337330

watermeadview@hotmail.com

St Tiggywinkles send their heartfelt thanks

“It was an absolute delight to receive the wonderful donation of £105.00, your kind support is much needed and greatly appreciated. Thanks to all those involved in the Christmas Carols evening in December.

At this time of year your donations will really make a difference. Thank you for your terrific help, it will have an immediate impact in our lifesaving work. As you are probably aware, we do not have millions in the bank or receive government help, yet with the help of a handful of caring individuals like yourselves, we are able to maintain the highest standards and levels of treatment available anywhere in the world.

Our heartfelt thanks again for helping us. Your kind support will save lives.” Les Stocker MBE



Braving the cold winter night as carol singers raise money for our local wildlife last December



MANY PRODUCTS  
CHEAPER THAN SUPERSTORES

CANS - 500ml

Heineken	8 for £6	Carling Black Label	6 for £5
Hofmeister	8 for £5	Skol	8 for £5
Stella	6 for £5	Grolsch	6 for £5.70
Fosters	6 for £5	Murphy's	5 for £5
		Caffreys	5 for £5

BOTTLES - 330ml

Big Budweiser	4 for £5	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
Liebfraumilch	£2.49
California Red/White	£3.69

Italian Wines:	
Frascati, Ouitro, Chardonnay, Valpolicello,	
Cabernet Veneto, Merlot	£2.99

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

MAK WINES

158 Buckingham Road (Opposite Dutton Forshaw) Tel: 436705



# 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

## YOGA

Every Tuesday 6.30 ~ 7.30pm  
 and 7.30 ~ 8.30pm

Contact: Gail Smith 747900

## 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: Bridget Gibbard 420938

## Watermead Cygnets Playgroup

Monday ~ Thursday

9.15 ~ 11.45am

Contact: Dot Toler 432405

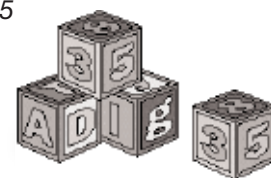
## Mother & Toddlers

Wednesday 2 ~ 4pm

Friday 10am ~ 12noon

Contact: Jayne Plowman 331664

Jo Bridson 392071



# Watermead Mother and Toddler Group

Calling all expectant Mums, new parents or parents/carers of young children age 0 - 3 years. We are a friendly group who meet each Wednesday 2 pm to 4 pm and Friday 10 am - 12 noon in the village hall.

We are actively seeking new members to fill vacancies left by children who have moved on to Preschool.

Each session is run following a flexible timetable which includes free play where children can choose from a wide variety of activities including puzzles, books, a slide and see-saw, various trains and cars, play kitchen equipment and accessories, work bench and much more. There is also a set activity such as play dough, gluing, painting or making seasonal objects. This is followed by juice and biscuit (coffee/tea for parents or carers) and then a song time session where all are encouraged to join in. We finish the session with large toys which includes tractors, tricycles and sit on trucks. All in all a very good time is had by the children and carers! All members are encouraged to participate in the smooth running of the group (ie. getting toys out and putting away, making coffee, clearing up and leaving the hall clean and tidy).

If you would like to come along to find out more please drop in to any session or alternatively telephone Jayne Plowman on Aylesbury 331664 for more information. Remember, even if you are eagerly awaiting the arrival of your baby, you are most welcome to drop in for a coffee and chat. There is bound to be someone who will be able to share experiences and offer practical tips!



You are invited to attend our

# 'VIEWING EVENING'

on Tuesday 1st May 2001

6.30 pm to 9 pm at

Nurserytime, The Pavilion  
 Watermead

to see the PRE-PLANNING application drawings  
 of the

# PROPOSED OUT OF SCHOOL / HOLIDAY CLUB

Our architect Mr Malcolm Nickolls  
 (LLB (hons), DipArch, ARIBA, DipLA, MLI, MCIArb, FRSA)

and both NURSERYTIME Company Directors  
 will be available throughout the evening to answer  
 your questions.

# Results of last issues facilities survey

- 8 responses
- Three quarters say we need more facilities and more info about what facilities there are
- Ideas include a Post Office, chemist, bakery, takeaway and coffee shop.

Only 8 people replied to our survey last issue, but their message was quite clear. There's still room for more facilities on Watermead. The two who suggested that Watermead needs a takeaway are going to feel elated that their suggestion has been acted upon so quickly with the Lakeside Chinese (see ad on page 3) opening up shortly in the unit between Avanti and the Newsagent. Since this is the last available unit in the Piazza, it's not clear if there is actually room for anything else, but a Post Office, chemist, bakery, coffee shop and bookies were all mentioned.

Some of the things that people thought Watermead is short of are actually already in place: rowing boat hire is available from the ski bar / restaurant; and videos (the ideal accompaniment to a chinese from our new takeaway!) are already available from the Newsagents (new titles are always listed in the Newsagent's ad in the View – see page 4). This gives substance to the general feeling that the facilities that we do have ought to be advertised more. The new restaurant next to the ski slope was particularly highlighted for not

doing more to tell residents about what it has to offer - but the Riviera advertisement on page 4 should go some way to overcoming that problem.

Some shortcomings around the lakes were mentioned. The paths being unusable in bad weather was one; another was the lack of litter bins (no wonder we get rubbish left around the estate....); and a third was the lack of pushchair / wheelchair access to the waters edge around the piazza.

Finally, on a more technological front, suggestions were made for greater use of CCTV to deter criminals and vandals, and for cable TV. Regarding the latter, our respondent informs us that he can't get a decent TV signal and that all the new aerials require a 20 ft extension pole on the roof to ensure an adequate signal. Is this other people's experience? - I get decent reception with an aerial in my loft. Let me know if you have a TV reception problem and I'll report back in the next issue.

Paul Wilson, email paulwilson@watermead.org.uk, 8 Mallard Close, tel 488066.

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.

## Watermead Neighbourhood Watch

### Neighbourhood Watch Update:

Due to the lack of response, unfortunately Neighbourhood Watch will only cover the following areas of Watermead:

Curlew  
Owl Close  
Partridge Way  
Lark Vale, between the start and Avocet Way  
Bullfinch Close

It is difficult to comment on an individual case, without knowing the circumstances concerning the reported lack of response from TVP regarding the car break in as

reported earlier in the Village View. From information received, the majority of theft from motor vehicles occur when property (brief cases or mobile phones) are left in full view.

If you live in other area and would like to be represented, or would benefit from being a member of Neighbourhood Watch contact  
**Mike or Sandra Gowling 01296 420956.**

The Neighbourhood Watch does offer guidelines and advice on the protection of property. Please contact on the above number if you would like information regarding these guidelines.



### VILLAGE VIEW MEMBERS

Jason Bray - Editor  
Tel: 425094  
email: jasonbray@hotmail.com

Sandra Landy - Assistant Editor  
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email: s.landy@ebu.co.uk

Rachel Baker - Graphic Designer  
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email: rachel@baker52.freemove.co.uk

Paul Wilson - Advertising Manager  
Tel: 488066  
email: paulwilson@watermead.org.uk

Solo Awadzi - Distribution Manager  
Tel: 489384

or email to: watermeadview@hotmail.com

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Hall

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**Dot Toler 432405**

*\*Discounts for Watermead residents*

### LAKESIDE LAND BOARD MEMBERS

Chairman	Michael Shrimpton	7 Willow Herb	Tel: 01296 397963 Fax: 01296 393151
Company Secretary	Len Staines	21 Waxwing Close	Tel: 01296 487954
Finance Director	Philip Toler	3 Chaffinch	Tel: 01296 432405 Work Fax: 01582 681217
Maintenance Director	Roy Hutchings	2 Sandpiper	Tel: 01296 397675
Director	Tony Steadman	33 Kestrel Way	Tel: 01296 339951
Director	Sally Long		Tel: 01296 336577
Director	Mary Singleton		Tel: 01296 428569
Minutes Secretary	Melita Smith		Tel: 01296 431994

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

### LAKESIDE LAND LTD MISSION STATEMENT

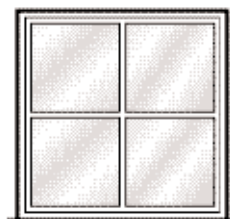
- It is the mission of Lakeside Land Ltd to:
- Represent the interests of the whole village as Watermead's Community Company
  - Encourage positive development in keeping with the unique character of Watermead
  - Provide a forum for community involvement and feedback
  - Support and encourage local enterprise
  - Protect and enhance Watermead's natural environment
  - Manage the company's assets efficiently and maximise revenue for the benefit of the community

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



# SAMSON WINDOWS

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As a local company with over 20 years experience, we pride ourselves on supplying products with genuine and honest service - our outstanding local reputation speaks for itself.

Throughout the region we are supplying a range of products and services to the highest quality - with satisfaction always guaranteed: windows, doors, & conservatories - PVC-U, aluminium or timber.

We specialise in 'traditional style sliding sash windows' and 'neo-Georgian' types, including 'arched head frames' and 'horned sashes', as found in the Watermead houses. We can refer you to residents who are more than pleased!

With no pressure and no gimmicks - we promise you a 'first class' service that will satisfy your needs entirely.



**FREEPHONE 0800 146 165**

**www.samsonwindows.co.uk**

Aylesbury High Wycombe Watford Slough Maidenhead Windsor Woking Reading

# Waterlilies

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*Needlecraft to suit beginners and experienced stitchers of all ages.*

**Tel: 331313**

1 The Piazza, Watermead, Aylesbury  
(opposite The Watermead Inn)

*Waterlilies would like to wish you all a Happy Easter!*

Open:  
Tues to Sat 9.30am-5pm  
Sun 10am-3.30pm  
Good Friday 13th April - Closed  
Saturday 14th April - 9.30am - 5.00pm  
Sunday 15th April - Closed  
Easter Monday 16th April - Closed

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with this voucher  
until 1st May!

