


Travellers Invade Watermead



What started as a drip turned into an all out flood!

It was on Tuesday 19th June when the first travellers arrived in the area, making camp in the public walk-way area next to the 'Horse and Jockey' pub on the Dutton Forshaw roundabout. Watermead saw its first arrivals the following Thursday afternoon (21st), a small group of travellers taking up residence on the cricket ground.

The cricket ground land is owned in trust for the Watermead community, with Michael Shrimpton the principal trustee. Unfortunately Michael was away on a business trip. He was tracked down in the USA and Phil Toler was empowered by Michael to act on his behalf, and the wheels were set in motion to evict the visitors. (...continued page 4) 

Welcome to our new residents on Watermead - 'Wildlife Watch' (see page 14)



WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE WATERMEAD'S PART TIME PARISH CLERK?

Applications are invited for the post of Clerk to the Watermead Parish Council. Council meetings are on the third Thursday evening of each month.

The Clerk will prepare agendas for meetings of the Council and its committees, attend all meetings and prepare minutes for approval. The Clerk will also be responsible for keeping financial records of the Council, dealing with correspondence, and ensuring that the legal and statutory aspects of running the Council are observed.

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WP and book keeping skills are essential. The successful applicant will work from home and will need to house a small amount of office equipment.

Applicants should submit a typed CV and covering letter including details of referees to arrive no later than 31st July 2001 to Mary Singleton, 6 Redwing, Watermead, Aylesbury HP19 0WB. If you require further information before making an application please drop Mary a note with your telephone number and she will call you to discuss the position.

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Not in the Picture? - TV reception in Watermead

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Watermead Children are Missing Out

PLUS OUR REGULAR FEATURES:
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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

A very warm welcome to our new Chinese restaurant, 'Lakeside Takeaway'. The food is excellent, good value and just a stroll away for most of us. They are now doing deliveries as well. I wish Guy Fung well in his new business and I'm delighted to see him off to such a good start (and no, I'm not on an extra helping of Special Fried Rice!).

I also wish our other new venture, the Parish Council, well. Obviously we will need to work out the relationship between Lakeside Land Ltd and the Council, but I am hopeful that a constructive relationship will soon be in place. It is important that any formal agreement be put to you for ratification, bearing in mind possible conflicts of interest. Of course both the council and the company will be working for Watermead. It was disappointing not to have had an election and it may be that the final relationship will not be worked out until after the next elections. It will take some time for the new Council to bed in and its budget will be limited for the next two years. There is plenty of time to get things right, however.

Congratulations to Councillor Andy Huxley on his election to Bucks County Council. I am sure his firm opposition to the ludicrous development on Weedon Hill did him no harm on Watermead. He is a good man and I am sure we will work well together in the interests of this community, not least in smashing Weedon Hill, which is to 21st century planning what the groundnuts scheme was to 20th century development.

Much has been written and said about the foot-and-mouth controls on Watermead. The facts are that this company acted at all times on official advice and in co-operation with the proper authorities. Those people, mostly non-residents, who took down or wrecked signs, committed criminal offences and should be ashamed of themselves. Fortunately the contempt for our farming community shown by this criminal and irresponsible minority was not the majority view on

Watermead. I was very grateful to receive the thanks of the NFU for our efforts on Watermead to protect neighbouring farms. Well done too to Bucks County Council - it is not by accident that our county was kept free of foot-and-mouth. Their performance in dealing with this rural emergency exceeded that of every other county council in England, many of whom were irresponsible to the point of recklessness and caved in far too easily to politically-motivated demands by ministers to re-open footpaths.

Our solicitors are in negotiation with Mr. Pardis' solicitors to resolve the fishing dispute. I am hopeful that a reasonable and sensible settlement can be reached. We have put well worked out and practical proposals on the table and expect a resolution soon.

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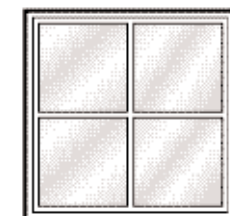
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Travellers on the cricket ground

(...continued from front cover)

Phil began working closely with Inspector Wharton of Thames Valley Police (TVP) and Terry Holland from Buckinghamshire County Council Travellers Services. It must be said that the first group of visitors, although being an eye sore, did not seem to be involved in any further criminal activity (bearing in mind the original trespass), apart from the 4 wheeled buggies that ran over the grass and paths around the small lake. In fact there were no reported incidents until the arrival of a second contingent on the evening of Monday 25th, criminally breaking into the land targeted for the new garden centre and setting up camp in their masses.

In the mean time, Phil, working alongside TVP and Bucks CC began legal proceedings to evict the original camp. The initial step was to meet with Inspector Wharton on site to review the situation. The Law states that police can only forcibly remove travellers if the police perceive them to be a threat or danger to the local community, and as

our initial visitors had not caused any reported disturbances, Inspector Wharton and TVP could not directly intervene at that time, the only offence so far being Trespass.

The ultimate process and remedy to such a situation is to apply for, and then, when granted, serve a court order to the travellers requiring the parties to vacate the land within 24 hours. Then, and only then, can the police forcibly evict and impound vehicles.

However, an intermediate step is required prior to a court order application - that being to serve 'Directions' to vacate the land within 24 hours, which is issued by Bucks County Council Travellers Services. The 'Directions' notice was served 4pm Monday 25th.

Matters came to a head with the arrival of the second encampment (illegally breaking into the land next to Ski and Sail). A wave of criminal damage was caused to the property around the Riviera Restaurant, belonging to Mr Hamid Pardis, including lights smashed on the ski slope, boats illegally used on the lake and a raft being vandalised beyond repair. There was also a report of children playing in the fountain in the Piazza and stealing the money from the bottom of the pool (usually donated to charity), and making a nuisance of themselves in the local shops.

Newly appointed Councillors Dot Toler and Marcia Lang met with Mr Pardis. He was so concerned about the risk of further damage to his property, that he stayed over night at the Ski and Sail to deter further petty criminal behaviour.

The court order was served to the initial camp on the cricket ground, and, at the same time, to a third wave of travellers that had added to the original camp (arriving early Tuesday 26th). There was then a total of three camps i.e. the initial arrivals on the cricket ground Thursday evening, the second illegally breaking into the land next to Ski and Sail, and then the third and final camp adding to the original cricket ground group.

Due to the escalation in criminal activity the police were able to invoke special powers under the provision of Section 61. Due to the very real threat and danger, as a result of the criminal behaviour of the additional 2 waves of travellers, Section 61 allows the police to serve an immediate notice that requires the travellers to vacate the land within 4 hours, with the police able to forcibly remove vehicles and people if the notice is not adhered to.

The Section 61 notice was served late Tuesday afternoon and by early evening the first visitors began to leave. By Wednesday morning, all that remained of the camps was the inevitable rubbish, flattened grass and the clean up and repair work required as a result of the criminal damage caused.

And the outcome of all this? Lakeside Land had to fund the entire cost of the eviction by way of legal fees and service fees payable to Bucks CC. Without the hard work of Phil and Dot Toler, and Marcia Lang, this could not have been achieved. Also, a big thank you to Mick and Roy for clearing away all the debris on the cricket ground. Well done!

Watermead Parish Council Preparatory Meeting

In preparation for the Watermead Parish Council elections (initially scheduled for 3rd May and then moved to the 7th June due to the general election) AVDC held a public meeting at the Watermead Village Hall on the 30th March 2001.

The objective of the meeting was to provide an open forum where AVDC could communicate to the residents of Watermead what the implications of a parish council for our local community would be, the role and duties of a parish councillor and the process through which a parish council is established as well as providing an open platform for questions from interested residents.

The meeting was chaired by Jason Bray and hosted as grandly as ever by Dot Toler, with attendees from both AVDC (Les White), representatives of NALC (National Association of Local Councils) and BALC (Buckinghamshire Association of Local Councils) and over 30 Watermead residents.

Once the guest speakers completed presentations the meeting was opened to questions from the floor. There were a large number of questions from residents obviously interested in the possibility of being a Parish Councillor but unsure as to the level of commitment involved. One issue very quickly took centre stage - dealings and working relationships between the Parish Council and Lakeside Land. This turned into a lively debate, with one resident walking out of the meeting disillusioned with the perception "that the Parish Council meeting has turned into a Lakeside Land meeting!"

One thing became obvious from the discussions; the framework of the working relationship between the new Parish Council and Lakeside Land will take time to evolve and will be one of the first areas of focus once the elections are complete. (See page 8 & 9 for more on Parish Council news).



HELP WANTED!

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

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Watermead Community Forum

by Mary Singleton - Watermead Community Forum Director

The election over, we now look forward to a new beginning at Watermead with the formation of the Parish Council. I am very proud to be one of your councillors and hope to serve you well! We had our first meeting on Monday 18th June, the Agenda for which was posted on the noticeboard in the tunnel of the Piazza. Incidentally, Lakeside Land Ltd have agreed to replace the broken noticeboard with a new, more durable one.

We had a great 'Work-In' in April despite not being able to work on the land north of the spine road. The weather was kind. Lots of rubbish collection and clearing of undergrowth and 'overgrowth' was done around the cricket pitch and lower lake. It's hard work but very worthwhile.

Once again Roy Hutchings arranged a hot lunch (prepared and cooked by Dot Toler using our new cooker) which everyone enjoyed. It also provided an opportunity for socialising. It's good to see regular volunteers on these occasions but there's plenty of work for anyone who feels the urge to lend a hand.

I have received notification that the AVDC Dogs (Fouling of Land) Order 2001 came into force on 1st June 2001 and have placed an 'advert' on the noticeboard along with a leaflet on this subject. Signs will be appearing around Watermead warning dog owners of the consequences of not clearing up after their dogs. I have a small supply

of free 'poop-scoops' and can get more - so give me a call if you want some. I also have information packs for new or potential dog owners. Dog bins have been provided throughout Watermead so, dog owners, please use them!

The last item I need to bring to your attention is the planned extension of Nurserytime. A planning application has been lodged with AVDC. Some of you may have attended their open evening a few weeks ago when the plans were displayed. They want to build on land owned by Lakeside Land Limited which is adjacent to the current building. There has been some objection from residents of Guillemot Court who are situated directly opposite the proposed site. The matter is on the agenda for the first Parish Council meeting and will also be on the Lakeside Land Board agenda.

Finally, I was pleasantly surprised to receive a phone call from Anne King to congratulate me on becoming a Parish Councillor - she helped me with the initial consultations. She moved away from Watermead a year ago and is now nicely settled in the Isle of Wight. She sends her regards to all who remember her.

I am planning a social evening for all volunteers in Watermead for the beginning of September - please keep an eye on the noticeboard for more details.

'Work-In' update....

by Roy Hutchings - Maintenance Director

What a wonderful day we had. In spite of, or because of, the restrictions we had to endure, we had to accept a limited agenda. This meant that we all concentrated upon one task, keeping the edges of the meadows from gaining ground all the way round. We gave a good hack at the edges of the cricket pitch and the balloon meadow. In fact we were more enthusiastic than I had planned for, so much so, that several of us were clearing up the results of our endeavours well into the next couple of weeks. We are now waiting for a time when all the conditions are right to have a final bonfire at the back of the pitch. No rain, no wind, no vandals.

We broke for lunch somewhere about mid-day and found that Dorothy Toler had prepared a meal in the Village Hall and timed it to perfection for the hungry hoard. The lunch came from fellow villagers, Alan Perkins and his wife, who run a catering business called 'Alan Perkins Catering', phone number 07768 917265. I called him rather later than I should have done and, as the Aussies say, 'No worries', he pulled out all the stops to get some frozen packs ready for us on time. Alan Perkins, catering contractor, we are again obliged to you and your wife and thanks to you from all of us.

Have you noticed that the paths have been weed treated and very successfully too? We hope to do the same treatment periodically, say every two years or so. Let's see how it responds in the long term.

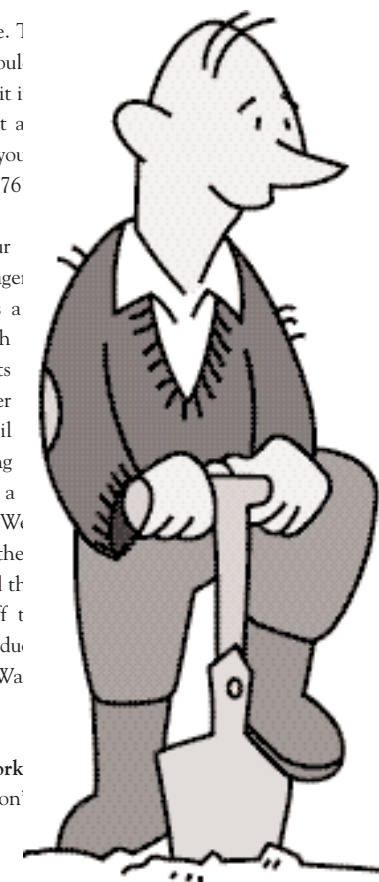
The ride on the mower is getting a little bumpier as time goes by. The moles have reduced some of the area to the smoothness of a ploughed field. I wish there was a pied piper of Watermead who would take all the moles and place them elsewhere. Suggestions please.

My thanks to the folk who have taken our litter pickers on long-term loan to

use on their walks around the village. If a few left in my shed if anyone would borrow one. It is surprising how easy it is to get a picker and a carrier bag and what a difference it makes to the area. If you like one, please give me a ring on 3976

One last thought for you. Behind our garage we have an old hay manger bolted to the wall. Sally uses it as a flower container in the summer. Each year she changes the soil and replants whatever. A few days ago she put her hand in there to pull out the old soil and almost screamed as something warm came to hand. Well, there is a duck in there sitting on eight eggs. We wondered how she was going to get the duck down to the ground, bearing in mind that the manger is about seven feet off the ground. Well I am assured that ducks can climb even nest in trees at some times. Wait for this space.

Hope we see you all at the next 'Work on Saturday 20th October 2001. Don't forget, put it in your diary now, everyone is most welcome.



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Inaugural Watermead Parish Council

Monday 18th June was a historic day for Watermead with the very first meeting of its newly established Parish Council, which was held at the village hall. With only 7 people standing for the 9 seats no elections were required on 7th June and the councillors (see pages 9 & 10 for a profile of each councillor) being elected by default.

The meeting was well attended by representatives of our local government organisation and was chaired by Aylesbury Town Mayor Raj Khan. Attendees included Les White from AVDC, Andy Huxley - County Councillor, and Anne Hooton from BALC (Buckinghamshire Association of Local Councils).

Both Councillor Kahn and Councillor Huxley, congratulated the newly elected councillors on their appointment and wished the best of success for the coming election term.



The first item of business for Mr Kahn and the new councillors was the election of a chairperson to lead the council for the next 2 years. Mr Kahn, invited nominations and the first debate for the council started. After a vote by the 7 councillors Michael Shrimpton was elected chair on a split decision 4 to 3, 4 to Michael and 3 to Jason Bray. Jason was then elected Vice Chairman.



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In his acceptance speech Michael stated he was relishing the opportunity to lead the Parish Council and would immediately look to establish a co-operative and positive working relationship between the Parish and Lakeside Land.

- Three working committees have already been put in place:
- 1.Finance and General Committee – chaired by Jason Bray.
 - 2.Planning - Chairman to be establish, temporary chairman Jason Bray.
 - 3.Parish Clerk appointments committee - Chaired by Michael Shrimpton.

The council will meet on the 3rd Thursday of every month, and with the meeting being open, residents are more than welcome to attend. ***Prior to each meeting a 15 minute surgery will be held where residents can come and chat to the councillors to discuss any issues they would like to raise.*** There will also be an open forum towards the end of each meeting where residents can raise issues and question the council directly. Residents are also free to add any items to the agenda of a meeting through a councillor or directly with the Parish Clerk prior to the meeting taking place. As a point of process, the council can only act upon and make decisions concerning items placed on the agenda prior to a meeting. Items raised during the surgery and open forum can be discussed, but decisions can only be made at the following council meeting, and then only if the item has been put on the agenda.

It is the objective of all the councillors to ensure that the Parish Council be an open forum which all residents and commercial establishments have direct access to. The involvement and support of the community is greatly encouraged and will be most warmly welcomed.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 19th July at the Village Hall. Please feel free to come along and see the workings of your new council in action!

To allow the Planning Committee to review and respond to the planning proposal submitted by NurseryTime to AVDC for the extension of their facilities, the Planning Committee held an interim meeting on Thursday 28th June. The objective of this meeting was to review the proposal and respond to AVDC with comments. We are now formally part of any planning proposal review so please make your thoughts clear to the councillors.

The council is also in need to recruit a Parish Clerk - equipment and training will be provided. If interested please refer to the advert on the cover of this issue.

Introducing Watermead’s Parish Council Members...

Our new Parish Council is an exciting opportunity for Watermead to grow as a community. Whilst only seven people stood for the nine vacancies, we are lucky to have such suitable people – judge for yourself.

Jason Bray - Vice Chairman
Jason and his partner, Fiona, have been residents of Watermead for over 9 years, moving to the development in 1992 to take up residence in their newly built house. Both have been active participants in the local community since becoming Watermead residents, Jason being the editor of the Village View over the last 5 years. As well as being an active Rugby and Golf player Jason enjoys fine wine, good food, theatre and travel.



Jason is 31 and has been working in the high tech industry for the last 12 years, currently employed as a Business Development Director with a large US software company based in London.

On commenting on the establishment of a Parish Council for Watermead and his appointment as a member Jason said “It’s wonderful that Watermead now has it own local authority that can work with the community and for the community to continue to develop and enhance our very special and unique environment in and around Watermead. I am pleased to be able to donate my time and skills to that cause”.

Marcia Lang
Marcia Lang is a self-employed accountant, working for several companies including a sales marketing company in Barnet, a film company in Stoney Stratford and a solicitor in Hendon. She has been in this field for about 16 years, previously owning a café for 11 years in Hemel Hempstead.



Marcia, who is 52, has been married for 33 years and has two grown up children. For the past two years she has lived at Lakeside, above the Watermead Inn. She loves living here, looking out of her window and seeing the Lake.

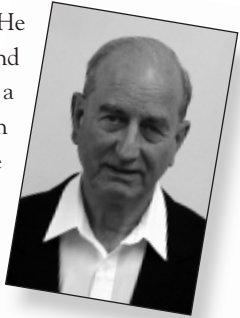
She uses local services - the Reflexions health club, the dentist and Avanti Hairdressers - and she has helped at the local Watermead ‘Work-In’ days. She is running a Neighbourhood Watch group and regards reducing crime as important.

She stood for the Parish Council because she believes in supporting the local community and felt she could make a worthwhile contribution to improve the local community spirit and help improve the facilities and the environment at Watermead, especially the central area. Whilst Marcia is not sure of her role in the new parish council she hopes her contribution will make a difference.

Ron Pordage
Ron is one of our newest residents, having moved to Lark Vale just over one year ago. He lived in Pitstone and the Isle of Wight previously. At 70 he is our oldest councillor. Before his retirement in 1994, Ron worked in the defence industry as a Post-Design Services Officer. His wife has settled into the community and is a member of Watermead and Weedon WI. His two married children live nearby.

Ron’s hobby is target shooting and as a holder of a Firearms Certificate he has had to satisfy the police of his good character, just as he did when working in a job that needed the highest level of top secret grading.

He decided to stand for the Parish Council after attending the introductory meeting in March. He sees himself particularly representing the elderly and less well off members of the community. As a practical engineer who had to make things happen in a demanding industry, he has a valuable contribution to make. Ron is interested in the mapping of the estate and discovering exactly who owns all those odd bits of land that are not built on.



Michael Shrimpton - Chairman
Michael has lived on Watermead since 1992, being elected Chairman of the Residents Association in 1994. He took the lead in forming Lakeside Land Ltd later that year when Watermead was threatened by the building of a nightclub. He negotiated an option to buy the land. Lakeside Land closed the deal on time and the developer was defeated. Michael has been Chairman of Lakeside Land since its formation. He also took the initiative in setting up LCAM.

Michael organised the VE-Day 95 flypast over Watermead by the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, and the 1997 Remembrance Fireworks. He is an Honorary Life Member of Bomber Command Association and has strong service connections. A barrister and Bentley owner, he rose to national prominence in 1998 when he led the British bid for Rolls-Royce Motors. He defended the Metric Martyr Steven Thoburn in Sunderland. He loves Watermead and has always been prepared to stand up to vandalism and organised trespass. He has made many appearances on television in this country and worldwide and is Watermead’s best-known figure.



Michael would like to see a close working relationship between the Parish Council and Watermead’s community company in the interests of Watermead.

(...continued page 11)

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Mary Singleton

Mary is a Human Resources Manager for an international firm of Chartered accountants. Her first job was as a bi-lingual secretary but tempted by an offer of a job as an airline stewardess she moved, first to Amman, Jordan and later to Bahrain. After six years flying she became an airline cabin crew training instructor. On her eventual return to the UK, she trained as an HR professional.



She moved to Watermead in 1993 and in 1994 became the Minutes Secretary for Watermead Residents Association. After Lakeside Land took over running the Residents Association she became a Director of Lakeside Land. Her interest has always been in Watermead as a whole and so she became Community Forum Chair. Her main achievements have been the annual Christmas Carol Concert, the installation of 'doggie bins' in Watermead and arranging social gatherings of volunteers.

Mary has been the main contact for AVDC during the consultations for the Parish Council and she has put herself forward as a councillor so that she can continue the work already started and be instrumental in the transition of Watermead. She is interested in environmental issues and would like to see a gardener employed to ensure Watermead continues to look good (thinking of our house values!). She is keen to see a harmonious relationship develop between Lakeside Land and the Parish Council.

Dorothy Toler

Dot was born in Kuala Lumpar in Malaysia in 1954 and came to England in 1971. Having graduated as a Food Technologist and spent five years in Research and Development in the confectionery industry, she married and became a full time mother of two children. In 1992 she took a post-graduate degree in primary education, thus gaining 'qualified teacher status'. Her family moved to Chaffinch on Watermead in 1994 where she has been much involved in the local community.



She raised money to stop the nightclub by selling shares in the newly formed Lakeside Land Ltd, of which her husband Phil is Finance Director. She has had various roles, including Chairman, in the Aylesbury Grammar School and Aylesbury Music Centre PTA.

Dot is best known for her work as Watermead Village Hall Manager and with the Cygnets Playgroup that meets there. She led the Cygnets through their very successful Ofsted inspection that was reported recently in the View.

She stood for the Parish Council because she believes that Watermead is unique and that the Council must work with the residents and outside agencies for the good of our community. She believes her role on the Council will be to help enhance Watermead's amenities and beauty and make it a safe place to live.

Jacqueline Woodward

Jacki is a 48 years young Consultancy & Training Manager for a Services & Software company in Milton Keynes, but a move is planned as she is establishing her own fashion company - something that sounds very enterprising and interesting.

She is married to David and they have one son, Steven, who is 13. David and Jacki ran their own IT business for 15 years, starting up in Scotland and transferring to Aylesbury in 1991. She is passionate about cats. Yes, cats! - you've probably seen their two car registrations M10 CAT and C 4 CAT about the estate. She enjoys wine, foreign travel, art, gardening and eating out and the company of good friends.

She has lived in Ayleswater on Watermead for over ten years, since they moved from Scotland, and has seen the village grow from a building site to a thriving community. She still believes that there is a lot to do to improve and develop our village and community and would like to have a role in this through the new Parish Council. She particularly would like to help reduce vandalism and petty crime and to improve the facilities for all.



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Stephen Reece has over 18 years of experience in treating musculoskeletal injuries caused by sport and by life in general. The clinic also offers massage, osteopathy, reiki, medical herbalism and acupuncture.

Stephen Reece: 01296 336755

The Physio Clinic 115 Wendover Road Aylesbury



Hi Folks!

Flaming June started true to its name. It's been reasonably quiet on the lakes with all the nesting going on, however there was a lot of activity on the rooftops! Ducks and Drakes made themselves at home in whichever garden that took their fancy during the day, had a rummage round, a quick snooze and then perched

on fences, garages and yes - rooftops...weird behaviour! Also during this time, whilst George and Henry were otherwise engaged, a large

number of swans (counted 32 one day) appear to have taken up residence and what a wonderful sight they make. There have been attempts to clear them off, but so far, fingers crossed, they've dug their webbed feet well



and truly into Watermead. The geese have also been 'allowed' to come and go, but the telling time is coming up. Let's hope they all survive the challenge!

George and Lady produced four cygnets in May.

Unfortunately they lost one. I have no idea what has (or not) been happening in the Henry and Duchess camp. They appear to be 'swanning' around the islands but no sign of any youngsters yet. Unless they are working at it right now, this will be their second year without any youngsters. It's so sad because everyone looks forward to seeing both families on the lakes.

The ducks seem to have taken their time hatching this year, then, just like the buses, they all seem to come at once. One duck had 13 ducklings, I also saw a few ducks with 10 or more, with some little yellow fluffy bundles amongst the brown, which means the white call ducks



have been 'putting themselves about'. Still, it adds to the variety and we certainly have our fair share at the moment. The Drakes are going into eclipse (shedding old feathers to be replaced by new). They look extremely motheaten and sorry for themselves but they'll soon be back to their former glory. The pair I do feel sorry for are the Muscovy ducks. I saw them walking along the grass very like two OAP's (no letters please!). They are always on their own and appear cheesed off. I wonder where they came from?

Bertie, the Heron, is back on his patch, now the



Comorants appear to have vacated the boats in the middle of the lake. He has taken up residence and does his fishing from there. Sadly, that's not all he takes. Baby Coots, birds, etc, fall prey at this time of year so the poor little duckings and coots have to protect themselves from enemies above and below the water, where Pike lay in wait, it's a horrible time of year in that respect.

Onto some happier news; the hedgehogs have returned



and can be seen going about their business late at night. Amazing to think they can travel nine miles at night. No wonder they grunt and snort as they trundle along!

Well, I shall 'trundle along' myself. Enjoy the Summer! Linda Jones.



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

PARISH COUNCIL

Third Thursday of the Month
Surgery 7.45pm, Metting 8.00pm

AYLESBURY & DISTRICT PHILATELIC

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

WATERMEAD & WEEDON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

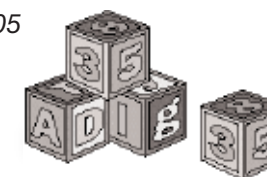
First Thursday of the month
7.30 ~ 9.30pm
Contact: Bridget Gibbard 420938

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





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Dot Toler 432405

**Discounts for Watermead residents*

Not in the Picture?

by Paul Wilson - Village View Advertising Manager

There's some very unhappy TV viewers on Watermead. They use words like poor, terrible, awful, and "can't get Ch5 at all". Five people who responded to my request for TV reception information in the last issue are not able to get a decent TV picture for every channel. In contrast, a 6th person, who lives in Kingfisher, enjoys terrific reception and puts it down to the great job done of fitting an indoor aerial with booster by Ivor Martin Aerials of Banbury (01295 263016). But don't get complacent: a booster isn't necessarily the magic ingredient. Even with a booster a Swan Close respondent gets poor reception on all 5 channels. A neighbour in Bitterne Way gets a better picture - but then she has TWO boosters!

One family in Kestrel Way gets such poor reception from their loft aerial that they use satellite for all channels except for ITV (which isn't provided on satellite). Strangely, I live close by in Mallard Close, and have a loft aerial that works fine. Digital TV is another alternative but it seems to have similar, if not worse reception problems, with On-Digital engineers advising people that only a 10ft pole will do the job - and even then the pictures aren't perfect.

There is clearly a reception problem in Watermead, though it does seem to be patchy. Without doing a lot of detailed analysis on a much larger number of households it's difficult to say whether the problems are linked to location, whether some booster systems work better than others or whether there is some other cause. Watermead covenants prevent the use of outdoor aerials even though, in some cases, it seems that the only way to get a decent picture is to have an outdoor aerial! I know that one person at least dislikes his outdoor aerial and regards it as an eyesore - and is anxiously awaiting cable so that he can dismantle it. Unfortunately, NTL (the primary cable provider in Aylesbury) seems to have no immediate plans to cable-up Watermead - despite advertising continuously and heavily in the area for several years....

If you'd like to be part of a group looking into these problems, let me know and I'll put you in touch with each other - 488066.

Lakeside Care Centre

Few Watermead residents will have followed the signs taking them along Stonechat, right into Brambling and straight ahead down the road, to our own elegant, purpose designed nursing home on the southeast edge of the small lake. The Care Centre part of the original development but now run by Ashbourne Homes, has been in business for more than ten years.

The Care Centre provides nursing care to its patients, so at any one time a matron and two nurses are on duty. It mostly caters for the elderly, from about their late sixties up to the oldest, a splendid 102. People often come to the home after a severe illness in hospital, such as a stroke. Whilst only a few lived on Watermead previously, they come from all parts of the country to be near their family.

Fifty-two people, in en-suite single rooms, are happily resident there. The décor is pleasant, the atmosphere fresh, the rooms light and bright, the food is good. With more than half of the rooms having at least a partial view of the lake, it's a pleasant place to stay.

Residential homes providing nursing care are not cheap to run. Under the manager Marlyn McDougall, sixty-five staff are needed to run the



three shift system. These include the carers, chefs, cleaners, maintenance, laundry and managers. The home is self sufficient in providing for its needs and the staff are all locally based, including a number who live on Watermead.

One unexpected person to meet is the activities organiser Moira Sullivan. In the morning Moira visits residents individually to see what she can provide for them. In the afternoon, Moira provides a daily programme of activities - including a whole range of games, Movement to Music, Quizzes, Art, and Live Performances from local singers. Even a visit from Nursery Time children is planned.

A couple of Watermead residents run a knitting circle, producing blankets for Romania but

Moira would appreciate more volunteer helpers from the community, particularly with craft skills. Residents without visitors appreciate someone to talk to or take them on a walk round the lake. Moira asks that you just drop in to see what you might do to help or give her a ring on 393166. You could even bring your well-behaved pet. Bracken visits as a feeler dog and the therapy of having something live to touch helps those feeling a bit below par.

In November an Autumn Fair is planned to raise money for the residents fund. More details next issue. In the meantime, do think about how you might offer a little of your time to befriend an elderly person who has lost touch with their friends.

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:

WATERMEAD PARISH COUNCIL

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

1. Are you pleased that Watermead has its own Parish Council? **YES** ☐ **NO** ☐
2. Would you like the Parish Council to campaign for the introduction of Cable TV in Watermead? **YES** ☐ **NO** ☐
3. Are there any actions you would like the Parish Council to take? **YES** ☐ **NO** ☐
If yes, please write below.

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 Parish Council

Watermead Children are Missing Out....

Are parents on Watermead aware that there is a caring, special and quality staffed school in the locality?....This school boasts, according to the powers that be at County Hall, that "More progress is made by the children in this school than in any other school in Aylesbury."

There is a leading Literacy ‘Teacher of Excellence’ in Year 2. She is supported by a first class practitioner in Numeracy, and has added support of a forward thinking Assessment Co-ordinator. The Year 2 SATS results have increased at Level 2 and above by 42% in one year. Work done in the Early Years Department is second to none in Aylesbury and the children make exceptional progress in a caring and progressive environment.

The latest techniques for assessment and reporting have been put into place in this school far ahead of other schools in the area. Where other schools are trying out approaches, this school already has them in place and is making use of the data generated.

There is a special work group for more able children who are able to progress at their own rate and reach their potential more easily.

The pupils in this school raise money for charity, sing to the elderly in our old peoples homes, perform elaborate musicals at St. Mary’s Church, put on the biggest and most intricate Christmas performances seen in Aylesbury, and sponsor a child in the Third World. Is this the school in the nearby village?.....Is it quite close to Adams Garage?.....No. It is a walk away on Dunsham Lane.

Elmhurst Infant School can boast all of the above and more. Yes, there is a high proportion of children who have English as an additional language. How many of the children on Watermead are fluent in 2 or 3 languages and still succeed in achieving good results? Yes, there is a high proportion of Special Needs. Specific Learning Difficulties such as Dyslexia and Dyspraxia, moderate learning difficulties, physical problems, in fact a good cross section of a normal community. Oh yes, and a first class Department for Children on the Autistic Spectrum.

Despite all of this, the children in this school are still making more progress over the year than their counterparts in the so- called ‘Best schools’ in Aylesbury.....Oh and by-the-way, the class sizes are much smaller than in more ‘popular’ schools too.

Isn’t it time your children had the best?

LAKESIDE LAND BOARD MEMBERS

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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

Published by Lakeside Land Registered Office: 25 Walton Street Aylesbury Buckinghamshire HP21 7QH A Limited Company Registered in England No.2975417

Watermead Fun Day!



The Bedgrove Dynamo Junior Football Club earned enough money at their Fun Day on Sunday 24th June to increase the club funds and to make a good contribution to the entry fees for all twenty of their teams in the local league next season - at £50 per team they need some help.

Bedgrove Dynamos have over 250 young members who come from all over Aylesbury and their teams range from the Under 7's to the most senior 17-18 year olds. In some age ranges they have as many as three teams entered. Running such an enthusiastic group of youngsters must be hard work and all credit must go to the local organisers for their efforts.

This is the second Fun Day held in the grounds of the Riviera Restaurant and ski slope. Last year it was the previous owner, Chris Floyd, who allowed the event and this year the new owner Hamid Pardis was happy to continue the arrangement. He not only leased out his premises but also gave 100 burgers to help with the sales at the Barbecue.

There were many activities well suited to young footballers and their parents, the most popular being tobogganing on the ski slope. But others included Boating on the lake, Speedball, Golf, a Scalectrix track and a small funfair.

There was even the chance to win a Ford Puma, provided by Aylesbury Ford - just throw seven dice and get seven sixes and the car is yours - every throw carefully captured on video to show the insurance company in case someone actually won. Although at nearly three million to 1 your chances of winning were better than the National Lottery, they weren't that much better and no one managed to claim the prize.

Mark Shotliff, one of the organisers commented "The event is a lot of

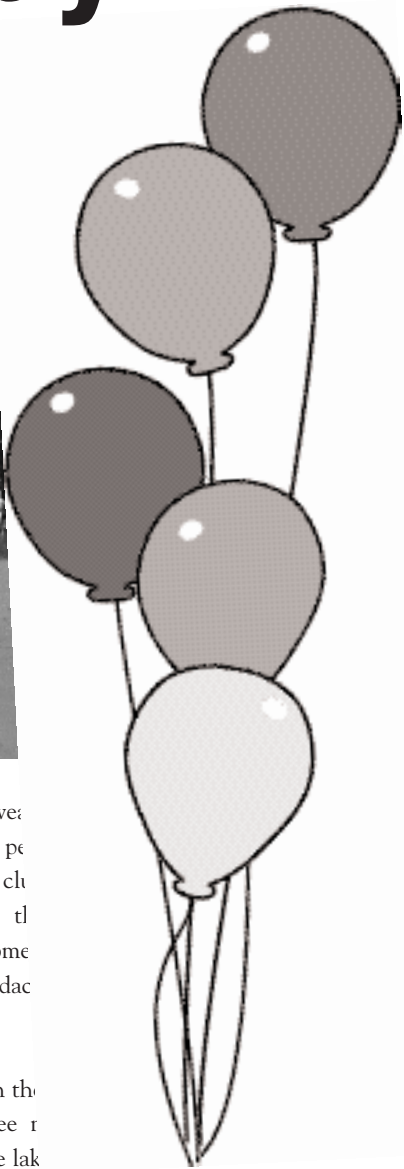
work. We were lucky with the weather, it must have brought in a thousand people, which allowed us to raise money for the club. I think we could have done without the rain, but it was wandering in from the encampment next field to cause an extra headache. It had to be watched all the time".

Mr Pardis says he was happy with the day went and would like to see more activities being booked to use the lake and surrounding land.

Bedgrove Dynamos currently hold an annual prize giving at the Civic Centre for all their young players, every player wins a prize. If your sons and daughters would like to know more about them contact Dick



Guymner on 484932. They are an active club and whilst we would be happy to see them back next year, residents of Watermead would no doubt appreciate better publicity for this event since many people did not know what was happening. For most of us it was only the signs on the roundabout that alerted us to a good day out on our own doorstep.



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If Mallard, Teal or Swans have a place in your affections, please read on and consider what we offer as a gift idea or an exclusive antique display for your own home. Our handmounted and traditionally framed sets of cigarette cards are becoming regarded as the best in England. To commemorate our stay on Watermead we offer full or part sets of antique cards, custom mounted to order, with inlaid engraving and glass back.

Whether the subject is sports, wildlife, floral, steam trains, military, etc we take pleasure in obtaining top grade pre-war cards and pride in creating a unique display for you as seen at our antique fairs and craft exhibitions. Please contact us (without any obligation) or look at the card section on **www.antiques-online.uk.com**

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50 Butterflies 1932 by Players	£120
50 Aviary Birds 1933 by Players	£120
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50 Steam Engines 1936 by Wills	£130
50 Military Uniforms 1938 by Players	£110

Part Sets

16 Players Waterbirds 1927	£60
20 Wills British Birds 1915	£60
8 Gallaher British Birds 1937	£28
16 Players Game Birds 1927	£60
18 Wills Cricketers 1928	£50
8 Players Aviary Birds 1933	£28
16 Players Butterflies 1932	£50

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