

Village View now Official Magazine of Parish Council

Welcome to the first issue of the Village View published by the Parish Council. The transfer of name and assets from Lakeside Land has been completed in time for this Christmas issue.

Some members of the parish may well question why the Parish Council has invested the communities money in such a manner. In any circumstances where the communities money is being spent it is always good to question whether the investment decisions are sound.

From a personal point of view, as editor of the publication and Parish Councillor, I believe it is an excellent investment of the communities' money. Through the hard work and dedication of the editorial team, donating their valuable time over the last five years, the Village View has grown from strength to strength. Things have not always run smoothly and the publications are not always error free (here, I have to put up my hand as the culprit on most occasions), but never the less the View has become a very professional looking publication with an excellent reputation. With the transfer comes continuity both for our readers and, importantly, our advertisers.

The transfer presents an opportunity for the editorial team to analyse the goals and objectives of the publication, which we have agreed as below:

- To provide a vehicle for sharing local news and news that has local impact.
- Information distribution channel for the Parish Council.
- To harbour and support the spirit of the local community.
- To provide a forum for information feedback from the community.

I'm immensely pleased and feel very fortunate that the existing editorial team has agreed to continue to donate their free time and dedication. Without the hard work of the team the View would not be the quality publication it is today. With the addition of the Parish Clerk and the Parish Council Chairman to the team we are set for a great Christmas issue.

Editorial Team:
Sandra Landy - *Deputy Editor*
Rachel Baker - *Graphic Designer*
Paul Wilson - *Advertising Manager*
Victor Janulaitis - *Parish Clerk*
Michael Shrimpton - *Parish Council Chair*
Jason Bray - *Editorial Chair*



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Chairman’s Brief

Welcome to the first View under Parish Council ownership. The transfer from Lakeside control has proceeded smoothly, in line with the policy of both the Council and Board that there should be a gradual handover of responsibilities to the elected Council.

The 'social' functions of Lakeside Land have already been transferred and the Carol Concert this year will be run by the Council, save that the children’s presents are being sponsored by Lakeside Land, given the limitations on the Council’s powers. In accordance with Watermead tradition the Concert is on the last Saturday before Christmas (unless Saturday falls on Christmas Eve or the 23rd) at 6pm in the Piazza. I hope to see you all there.

Christmas next year is on Wednesday (the 25th !), so the 2002 Carol Concert will be at 6pm on Saturday 23rd December - mark your new diaries now. At a time of year when there are many parties and drinkies, and lots of visiting relatives you may think it an advantage to have the date fixed in advance. You won’t see much difference between this year’s Concert and last year’s, thank goodness, because we have found a formula which works and the event has attracted increasing community support. One good reason why you will see familiar faces on the Council (including mine) is that working for the community involves precisely that - work. As with most unpaid community tasks

it is more of a problem finding people than turning them away.

It has turned out to be much the same with the Parish Council. There was no competition for places when it was formed and we had to co-opt Councillors. I mention this particularly because resignations for personal reasons have left us two Councillors short. Elections will only take place if 10 or more people wish to stand for the 2 vacant positions. Alternatively the replacements would be ‘co-opted’ into the council by vote. Please contact Victor on 422373, our splendid new Parish Clerk, if you are interested. My thanks to Councillors Gardiner and Woodward, who unfortunately are standing down, for their contribution.

To be a Parish Councillor you only need to be reasonably articulate and sensible (if you aren’t sensible you might want to try being a government minister instead). The Council is not party-political - the last thing I want is party politics, as opposed to people with the interests of the community genuinely at heart, working together to get things done. It is important to be able to take decisions on the merits, and accept that the majority rules. If a vote goes against you, you just move on the next item.

The last observation applies as much to me as anyone else. The Council is entitled to a Coat of Arms, and I put some effort into looking into this, to the point of a preliminary meeting with Chester Herald at the College of Arms. I had visions of a rather splendid Coat

of Arms - a shield with blue wavy lines representing the lake, with three swans, incorporating devices from the County Arms, to represent Buckinghamshire, and the Arms of the Hampden family (the Earls of Buckinghamshire), representing the historic Civil War associations of this area (we are the closest community to the field of the Battle of Aylesbury). It seemed to me that this would be an excellent way of establishing the Parish Council’s new identity, but it does not have sufficient support, so there it is.

The Council has an important role in the planning process, and I attended the recent AVDC seminar on Weedon Hill, where the developers made a presentation. This ridiculous MDA (Major Development Area) is wholly unnecessary, and neither the developers nor AVDC could answer my two questions: how are they going to accommodate the extra traffic without causing serious congestion in the A413 corridor and if this is not the site of the Battle of Aylesbury how do they account for the 100-plus remains of men of military age recovered in 1819? Hopefully the Inspector will see sense and reach a rational conclusion, which will stop this nonsense in its tracks.

Next year marks the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen - the Council are working on plans to mark this great national event, and contributions or suggestions are very welcome. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you at the Carol Concert. *Mike Shrimpton*

Finance & General Purposes Committee

One of the key Committees of a Parish Council the F&G Committee is tasked with the diligent management of the council’s precept, budgets and financial activities. The council has legal responsibilities to produce accurate financial statements and reports detailing the financial activities of the body.

Working closely with the Parish Clerk, who is the Responsible Financial Officer and therefore tasked with ensuring we act in accordance with relevant laws and regulations, the F&G

Committee work with the other Parish council committees in setting budgets for projects and initiatives, liaise through the Parish Clerk for financial activities with AVDC and most importantly set the annual budget and corresponding precept to be collected through Council Tax charges.

To date, we have received all our precept from AVDC due through to 31st March 2002, circa £24,700. The budget for this year was inherited from AVDC as the Parish Council came into existence part way through the

current year. This budget included:

- Parish Council set up costs, including facilities required for the Parish Clerk, elections if required etc.
- Administration expenses
- Relevant maintenance charges, e.g. dog bin emptying
- Training and subscriptions

So far we have paid for a new ‘VANDAL’ Proof notice board in the Piazza, transfer of the Village View from Lakeside Land, annual service charge for the dog bins and subscriptions to Parish Council support bodies. Although the main tasks to date

have focused on the set up and operational infrastructure of the Parish Council, now we are up and running we are able to turn our attention to the goals for the coming years. We are currently building our budget for year ending 31st March 2003 which will be reflected in the precept collected in council tax charges for the corresponding year. The budget will be closely aligned with the Parish Council’s Year 02/03 Business Plan and Long Term Strategic Plan. The budget will be submitted to AVDC by 23rd January 2002 for inclusion in AVDC’s calculations.

Jason Bray

Strategic objectives

Aim
Our aim is to make Watermead the best possible place to live by responding positively to the needs and aspirations of all those who occupy property within the parish or who work here.

- Strategy**
The whole council is involved in decision making, to ensure that what it decides is consistent with our overall aims. This is underpinned by working groups, who should all be working to the same ends.
- **Finance & General** to make sure our resources are wisely used.
 - **Planning** to ensure that the estate continues to look good.
 - **Social** to involve all people in Watermead in activities which develop the community spirit.
 - **Editorial** to tell people what is happening and make them feel involved in Watermead.
 - **Ad hoc** to respond to issues as they arise.

Targets
In order to achieve our overall aims, it is suggested that the following targets should be achieved by March 2003:

1. The role of the parish clerk will be publicised and systems established to deal with the routine reporting of maintenance problems on the estate to the relevant authorities.
2. The parish newsletter will be developed to better reflect the concerns and interests of Watermead.
3. Activities to celebrate the Queen’s Jubilee will be arranged for 2002 as part of a positive effort to grow a good community spirit supported by ongoing social functions.
4. A board will be installed on or near the spine road to remind people of forthcoming events.
5. We will work with the police

- to improve relations with them and security on the estate. The police will be invited to give presentations and displays in Watermead. After an investigation of our problems on Watermead, at least one new security measure will be tried out.
6. An investigation into the possible provision of facilities for young people will be made, including the availability of external funding. A long-term plan will be drawn up, of what we would wish to do eventually. A start will be made on bringing at least one facility into use.
 7. The entry to Watermead will be clearly identified and the speed limit message reinforced. Note will be taken of Watermead traffic problems and ongoing consideration given to ways of controlling speeding, parking and road safety. A pedestrian crossing will be installed near the Piazza.
 8. A Planning Guide will be prepared to assist in the processing of planning applications. TV aerial restrictions will either be enforced or the policy changed.
 9. As soon as possible the cricket pitch will be transferred to the parish, with the responsibilities of the current trustee accepted by the parish.
 10. The assets and responsibilities of Lakeside Land will be fully detailed, so that proper discussion can take place on the transfer from the company to the council. Also the same discussion may take place with other owners of amenity and unused land.
 11. The action list will be maintained and developed for future amendments of our business plans.

Watermead to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. We would appreciate any suggestions you may have or offers of help. If anyone would like to contribute to Watermead community without the full commitment of being a Parish Councillor, here's your chance. My email address is marysingleton@bushinternet.com. and telephone number is 01296 428569.

Mary Singleton

PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING MATTERS

At the inaugural meeting of the Planning Committee on 24th October in the Village Hall, I was elected chairman and three planning applications were considered. It must be appreciated that as parish councillors we can only comment on planning issues as they affect Watermead as a whole and as it relates to the environmental and social impact. We cannot take up the cudgels on behalf of any individual, as one elector who turned up on my doorstep, wanted me to do.

Out-of-school club rejected
The planning application for the out-of-school club has been rejected by AVDC Development Control Committee for three planning reasons, not the least of which was that it would be in an existing flood area and would itself contribute to further flooding.

Planning is only one aspect of ensuring that we have a pleasant living environment. I would like to see Watermead residents taking more interest in their surroundings. Pick up that litter that has been lying in the gutter for weeks. Trim those hedges. Attend to those leaking gutters and dripping overflow pipes on the house. Apply a coat of paint to your window sills before they start rotting. Even if you are a tenant not a house owner, Watermead is still where you live – take pride in it.

That’s enough lecturing. If you want to comment on Watermead issues, please attend the council meetings and let your councillors know what you want. *Ron Pordage*



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or email to: watermeadview@hotmail.com

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Social Committee

The Parish Councillors supported by the Directors of Lakeside Land Ltd invite everyone to this year's carol concert which will be held at 6 pm on Saturday 22nd December 2001 in the Piazza. Aylesbury Town Band will be providing the music and a small group of

singers will lead the carol singing. Revd Peter Faulkner, vicar of St James's church at Bierton will be there to say a few words. Father Christmas will be jollyng things along with presents for children. Mince pies and mulled wine will be served too. Carol sheets are provided - you might need a candle to assist you in reading. Please return the carol sheets

to one of our helpers at the end of the concert. This event has been our most successful in Watermead - do come along - it is truly magical (especially if it snows as it did a couple of years ago).

Looking ahead to next year, we have set up an 'Events Group' to organise something in



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Watermead Snippets

Just a word of reassurance for those who may not have heard it before – Watermead did not have floods during October. You may have had to paddle across Reflexions car park or wear your wellies to go for a lakeside walk, but that is all part of the planned water overflow system. Heavy rainfall in Aylesbury Vale drains into the River Thames and causes the level to rise quickly. In years gone by, that water used to flood over the water meadows (like it still does in nearby areas). Hence our name, Watermead. When the estate was developed, the lake was dug to take the excess water and extra channels were provided, which could be opened to carry the water away when levels got higher. Certain land around the lake was designated to take the overflow until it could drain away. It is reassuring to recall that even with last winter's highest ever rainfall, not all the Watermead provisions were needed.



You had to be quick to see the latest car in the lake. It was stolen at 7.19am on 2nd October

and for some unknown reason the thief dumped it in the lake. Did he mistake the path to the lake as a road? By 12.22pm the same day it had been fished out and nobody seems to know the rest of the story, but our Village View photographer was there to record the scene.

Natasha Simmons from the Dental Practice in the Piazza is leaving us at the end of this year, though why she should prefer Australia to Watermead is hard to understand. We wish her all the best for a new life.

Particularly if you are a newcomer to Watermead, it can be hard to find tradesmen to do work around the house – painters, plumbers, electricians, grass cutters – you name it, someone needs one. So if you can recommend anybody who has done good work for you, please give Paul a ring on 488066 and tell him their name and phone number. Paul will contact them to place an advert in the Village View on our special page of useful people who like to work on Watermead.

The dispute over fishing rights between the Riviera Restaurant and Lakeside Land has cooled somewhat. It appears the legal eagles have taken over and the end may be in sight.

Village View is produced by a bunch of enthusiasts who work

hard to bring you the news. If you would like to join this small group of researchers, writers and advert collectors we would be pleased to hear from you. It involves keeping your nose to the ground to sniff out the news and a mad panic once a quarter to put the issue to bed.

Also we would like to have a gardening column, written by the sort of person who can explain how they manage to get their garden looking good on the rough assortment of builder's rubble and clay that passes for earth round here. Contact Sandra on 337330 if you can help in either capacity.

Southern Water spent a day on Watermead in November clearing our drains. Apparently the cause of this particular blockage was fat, probably put down the sink. This forms a large greasy ball in the drain. Please tip fat away on your garden where it will do good not harm.

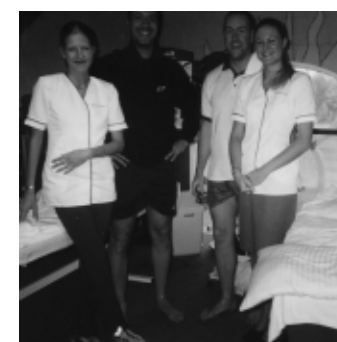
Reflexions manager Dale and fitness consultant Matt raised over £400 for Children in Need by having their legs waxed. A noisy crowd gathered to watch the torture but were disappointed that the waxing was only from the knees downwards – we all know that above the knees is a lot more painful.

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St James's Bierton & All Saints Hulcott

Watermead is in the Ecclesiastical District covered by St James at Bierton, which is part of the Parish of Aylesbury with Bierton and Hulcott. The churches are getting ready to celebrate Christmas but for most of us the first official event will be the Watermead Carol service on 22nd December, where the Reverend Faulkner from St James will be saying a few words. After that, there are many Christmas services:

Sunday 23rd Dec	Carols and readings at St James's at 6.00pm.
Christmas Eve	Crib service in All Saints at 4.00pm. Christingle Service in St James's at 5.30pm. Midnight Mass in St James's at 11.30pm.
Christmas Day	Holy Communion in St James's at 8.00am. The Christ-Mass in St James's at 9.00am (less formal). Eucharist with carols in All Saints at 11.00am.
Sunday 30th Dec	Sung Eucharist in St James's at 9.00am. Matins in All Saints at 11.00am. Carols and readings in All Saints at 6.00pm.
Sunday 6th Jan	Epiphany carols in St James at 6.00pm.

Do introduce yourself when you go. You will be made to feel welcome. Any questions, ring Rev Peter Faulkner on 423920.

To find the churches from Watermead, turn left at the Horse and Jockey and left at the next roundabout onto the A418. St James is on the right hand side opposite the Red Lion. All Saints is through Bierton past the Bell. Turn right to Hulcott at Bob's Barn and Golf Centre.

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Work-In needs more helpers

Oh what a sad 'Work In' day it was and very disappointing too. In the beginning of the 'Work In' days there were about 48 people involved, then there were 24 and each time there has been fewer and fewer until last month there were only nine.

Gill Underwood
Kevin Groves
Dorothy Toler
Phil Toler
Tony Steadman
Sally Hutchings
Michael Shrimpton
Brian Garner
And me, Roy Hutchings

I refuse to believe that we nine are the only ones who care about our Watermead Village. Clearly, I must have selected the wrong date in the autumn season and for which I apologise. Perhaps it was school half term that had priority or something similar. It

would be very helpful if you would comment on the most suitable times for your personal circumstances. Dorothy and I will try to take these comments into account when fixing next year's calendar.

The team worked on the shores of the little lake and did a great job for which we are truly grateful. We didn't get round to doing all that we had hoped, never-the-less the results really do show when one looks over the south side of the spine road. Thank you team.

There are over a thousand dwellings in the Village. Surely we must be able to do better than produce less than a handful of folk who care. More than five years ago, when the grass was over a foot high, I borrowed a mini tractor and, with others, spent more than a week cutting

the grass on the cricket pitch, raking it up and bringing in the hay. Lots of people said how much better it looked and why doesn't somebody do something about it. Well, the short answer is, that 'somebody' is you and it is me. I cannot accept the excuse that "I never use the facilities of the Village". We all use them, even if only to drive in or out from time to time, or to show our visitors around the place with pride.

There will be no bottomless pot of money or resources to keep the wilderness at bay even with Watermead having a Parish status. Some of you may remember my day dreaming of every household paying just 40p per week and that would provide a full time maintenance team. The dream is still fairly close to the surface. It would certainly provide an alternative to muscle

power for those who, for good reason, were not able to lend a little elbow grease from time to time.

Please help me to help you remain proud of our Watermead Village.

Have a Happy Christmas and let's meet in spring.



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Watermead Inn

Watermead Inn, our pub in the Piazza, was one of the very first buildings to go up way back in 1985. The owners are, and have always been, Scottish and Newcastle, though it is fair to say that Watermead Inn is not considered one of their flagship establishments. Recently there was talk of a complete renovation, with cafe style eating in the Piazza (on dry days!). Sadly this hasn't yet happened but it is still in the pipeline. If nothing else we can surely hope for a fresh coat of paint.

In recent years there have been problems with the way things were run at the Watermead Inn, but last Easter a new manager was appointed who has done a lot to improve the facilities and atmosphere. Geraldine Dalton previously worked in various Surrey establishments belonging to Scottish and Newcastle, before getting her first manager's job at the very early age of 24. She is a lively, hard-working person with her own ideas of what can be done within Scottish and Newcastle's overall framework.

One of Geraldine's first innovations was the introduction of an all day menu of pub food;

maybe not the cheapest in town but providing freshly cooked food at a sensible price. Another is the catering for special functions, with food menus ranging from £6.95 to £12.50. You can even have it served on the bandstand if you want.

Watermead Inn is mostly frequented by people from off the estate, particularly in summer. At lunchtime, office workers like to escape to our peaceful surroundings. In the evenings, it is popular with younger people. The regulars mutter a bit about the price of drinks, but in fact they seem to be much the same as other Aylesbury pubs. Perhaps because of its earlier reputation rather than the price of beer, it has not been the haunt of the residents. A shame because the community needs the central focus of a popular gathering place. Perhaps the new quiz night on Sunday evenings will do something to remedy that.

There are 15 staff of whom half a dozen are full-time. A sudden burst of good weather at the weekend is one of the management headaches – if you go down on a really hot day there aren't enough staff to keep serving

and clear the glasses in the Piazza. Perhaps we could all help by taking glasses back inside. At slacker times, the staff are being encouraged to talk more to customers to create a good atmosphere.

Watermead Inn is actually two establishments, the pub and the Country Carvery Restaurant. At lunchtime and before 6.30pm you can get a good two-course meal for £5.95. After that time other dishes are on offer besides the chef's carvery, all at £6.95. The complete three course meal, described as 'not for the faint hearted,' is £11.95.

Watermead Inn is open 365 days a year. Even on Christmas Day you can wander down for a drink from 11.30pm to 3.00pm. It's too late now to book for the special Christmas Day lunch, though you might still find a space for lunch on one of the three special sittings on Boxing Day. And this year you can celebrate New Year's Eve at the Watermead Inn. The idea of a buffet for £5.00 may well attract residents who don't want to drink and drive. After all everybody's home is within walking distance.

Welcome our Parish Clerk - Victor Janulaitis



Victor came out of retirement to become our Parish Clerk on a part time basis, although he continues to pursue a longstanding interest in art by attending weekly painting classes in Amersham and Queen's Park Centre in Aylesbury. He says "I have been drawing ever since I could hold a pencil and some years later I discovered oils. Unfortunately

they are not easily portable, so after retiring I switched to watercolours to carry on doing something for which I previously never had enough time and in Buckinghamshire there is no excuse, the place is full of suitable subject matter...."

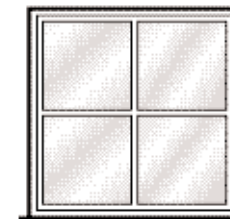
Much of Victor's professional career has been in logistics, mostly in this country, in industries such as steel, gas and electrical switchgear. He came to Aylesbury some ten years ago to join Bridge Oil Services (Overseas) Pty Ltd, a company based in Rickfords Hill, dealing with the needs of a diamond mine in Guinea, West Africa. Victor says "I was head hunted because I am fluent in French and Guinea was a former French colony.

It was a most unusual situation: an Australian oil company as the operator of a diamond mine in French speaking Africa, with a Belgian Manager, almost entirely serviced from Aylesbury..." The job involved considerable travel to source fuel, spare parts, food, medical supplies and a whole host of other things, arranging their shipment and air freighting from Antwerp and Brussels and then dealing with problems at the receiving end and their transport in the African bush.

When the Australian company decided to give up the joint venture, Victor was approached to assist with the launching of a gold mining project in Mali, in sub Saharan Africa, where temperatures rise to 40 degrees C. This involved Canadian and South African investment in the middle of nowhere, no infra - structure and even water having to be pumped from a river thirty miles away! The construction of the plant and an entire mining village, came on time and the mine was and still remains a major economic success for Mali. Victor remembers: "Mali has an ancient culture and its people though poor, are very friendly and co-operative. It was a wonderful experience being there, but also a difficult environment in which to work longer term, so as soon as things settled operationally, we came back to Aylesbury".

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Boddingtons	24 cans	£19.00
London Pride	24 cans	£28.00
Heineken	24 cans	£17.00
Carlsberg	24 cans	£18.00
Kronenbourg 1664	24 cans	£19.00
Carling Black Label	24 cans	£19.00
Miller	24 cans	£19.00
Red Stripe	24 cans	£19.00
Strong Bow - cider	24 cans	£16.00
Scumpy Jack - cider	24 cans	£19.00

BOTTLED BEER

Stella	24 bottles	£18.50
Fosters Ice	24 bottles	£19.00
Bud Ice	24 bottles	£19.00
Rolling Rock	24 bottles	£19.00
Becks	24 bottles	£19.00
San Miguel	24 bottles	£19.00
Heineken	24 bottles	£19.00

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Stella	6 for £5.40	Boddingtons	6 for £5.00
Fosters	6 for £5.00	Miller	6 for £5.00
Carling Black Label	6 for £5.00	Carlsberg	6 for £5.00
Holstein Pils	6 for £5.50	Draught Guinness	5 for £5.00
Grolsch	6 for £5.00		

BOTTLES - 330ml

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

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Security & safety on Watermead – do we have a problem?

WHY IS WATERMEAD DIFFERENT?

Watermead is a very beautiful and unique area, a place where people come from far and wide to visit. They walk their dogs, take a stroll around the lakes, visit the shops and have a drink or meal at the local pub or restaurant.

Most environments have to tolerate a certain amount of anti-social behaviour in the form of litter, dog fouling and vandalism. This is more prevalent in Watermead due to the larger numbers of visitors, some of whom show a lack of responsibility to our area. In addition, residents have suffered from car damage, theft, burglary and physical and verbal abuse.

WHAT DO THE POLICE DO?

One of the problems is that when people have reported this anti-social behaviour to the local police, limited action is taken, leading to falling confidence in the police. This has been, in some part, due to the number of police officers available. We have been informed that Thames Valley Police Force is up to strength but that does not mean that there are sufficient officers to deal adequately with each crime reported, let alone provide a beat policeman. Currently, when a crime is reported, say two burglaries, AND a police officer is available, that police officer would be given both jobs and will most likely attend the nearest crime scene. As Watermead is outside the normal patrol area we could expect to wait four or more hours to meet with a police officer.

In the light of this, the residents on Watermead have two stark choices: either put up with the status quo when, in reality, there will never be sufficient officers to deal adequately with the crimes reported, or work with the police to try to minimise the crime and anti-social behaviour by taking responsibility for our property (in particular) and environment ourselves.

WHAT MIGHT WE DO?

The first option is probably the most attractive to most people. DO NOTHING. It works well because it is assumed that crime happens to 'other people'. It is only when the individual is the victim of crime (no matter how trivial) that this policy becomes unacceptable.

The second option is to ask, "What added security do we want and how much as a parish are we prepared to pay." The following details are some of the ideas suggested by the police, which we might use:

1. Educate Watermead residents in the service they are likely to receive from the police and how the law is implemented. The police would be pleased to give a talk to Watermead residents.
2. The police have a mobile information centre which could visit Watermead to tell residents about security measures to safeguard their own person and property. A free information pack is available or for £5 you can buy a pack to security mark your possessions.

3. Activate (and reactivate where necessary) Neighbourhood Watch groups. They work well in other areas and the DIY approach costs almost nothing.
4. There are a number of security firms in our region. We could engage one to patrol the public areas at busy or at times when trouble is more likely (e.g. after pub closing, weekends, etc.)
5. Install CCTV for the public areas where vandalism has been more prevalent. There is already one camera in the Piazza but this could be extended to the car parks or spine road.
6. Provide for and involve the youth of Watermead, since at the moment no facilities exist for sport or a place to meet. Ideas include:
 - A safe playground for smaller children.
 - A robustly constructed 'shelter' that offers a personal meeting place for the older children.
 - A skateboarding park.

Obviously items 4, 5 and 6 cost money, which will have to come out of the parish rates and may lead to a small increase in those rates. Please tell the parish council what matters most to you.

Fill in the questionnaire below or write on a separate sheet. Return it to any parish councillor, to the box in the dentist or to me personally at 5 Lakeside.

Marcia Lang - Watermead Parish Councillor.

Waterlilies

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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:

Improving Security and Safety on Watermead

Please tell us if you think Watermead has safety and security problems and what you think are the solutions. Your taxes will pay for what we do. Help us make sure they are spent wisely.

Your Name (optional) _____ Phone _____

Your Address _____

Number of people in your house: Under 5 ____ 5-17 ____ 18 to 59 ____ Over 60 ____

What three aspects of safety and security concern you most?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What three things would you most like to see done to improve matters?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

When you have completed this survey, please return it to one of the following: The dentist in the Piazza or any Parish Councillor. The organiser of this survey is Marcia Lang at 5 Lakeside, Watermead, tel: 435544 to talk to her. Please put any ideas or comments you would like to make to the Parish Council on a separate sheet. The data collected will not be given to third parties or sold for commercial purposes.

WATERMEAD WILDLIFE WATCH

Hi Folks!
It's a cold and frosty morning. I'm expecting some 'deep and crisp and even' snow. I wonder if we'll have a white Christmas? It's a testing time for all our feathered friends. We have so many ducks on both lakes now and they wander all over the place - I had to stop the car whilst a duck took her time crossing the



Oystercatcher - a very rare visitor

road. Just as well it wasn't a few days before when a *** Racer (not being sexist) roared past me just after Nurserytime - pity we can't have a ducks crossing sign. Hopefully the number of casualties will fall, it just takes a little extra care.



Off on their hols - Canada Geese

They appear early morn, and disappear at dusk. Where to? It's a mystery. I'm of course talking about the Gulls. There are many varieties, the Common Gull making up the majority along with the Artic Tern which are slightly smaller - they look as if they're wearing little black caps. I have to admit to mixed feelings at times - on the one hand they are wonderful to watch as they ride 'the thermals' on the other, I hate it when they attack other birds for a crumb of bread. On that subject, when feeding please make sure bread is wet, and mixed corn (available from pet shops) is always very acceptable, especially during the winter months to the whole bird population.

This time of year, we should have quite a few



Swan Lake

visitors. For those who missed the last article (you don't escape that easy!) watch out for Tufted Ducks, Pochards, Wigeon, etc. We have already had the magnificent Mandarin pay us a visit. Always so pushy for such a little chap and a master at catching food mid-air leaving the residents well miffed!

The Canada Geese are still passing through. They are usually in large numbers and sometimes hidden amongst them, are lone Barnacle Goose, Snow Goose, Greylag or Bar Headed Goose, so its worth having a closer look.

A few young Swans attempted a stop-over in early November only to be seen-off by George and Henry, on patrol as usual. It's sad, for whatever

reason, we haven't had any young cygnets on the lakes this year to watch and take pleasure in. Hopefully next Spring things will be back to normal.

Two other families - the Grebes, are going strong , although they are still juveniles they dart around diving for fish. A pair nested on the little lake for the first time last year and another family appeared on the large lake for the first time this year.

Bye for now, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. Let's hope it's a good one for all Watermead residents on and off the lakes!

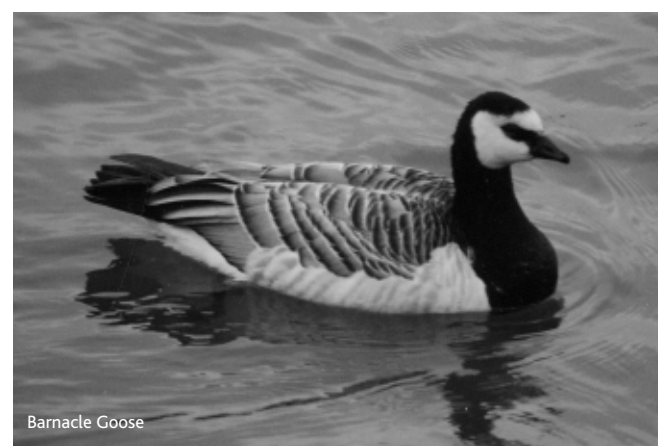
Linda Jones



Hot pursuit - he did get away



A cold and frosty morning



Barnacle Goose



Walk this way - resident Gull

Letter to the Editor

Sir, I refer to the contribution 'Recent Report On Travellers' in the Autumn Issue.

I find it extremely difficult to feel any sympathy of the New Age Travellers having just returned from cutting the grass on the cricket pitch. The three invasions this year by the New Age Travellers and their cars, vans, trucks and lorries have left ruts which have shaken the mower and me to bits. It normally takes two hours to cut the pitch, now it takes almost twice that time because of the necessity to reduce the speed dramatically.

This summer we have spent a lot of time clearing up the litter and rubbish they left behind. We took 17 black sacks full to the tip in Rabans Lane. There was everything from milk bottles to Mr Macdonalds cartons to household rubbish to well filled nappies. What an unpleasant chore it was and it is still not finished. We took at least ten trailer loads of tree loppings to Rabans Lane as well as a hammock frame and a dismantled garden shed, having first cleared up the broken glass windows from it. After a while we decided that it might be easier to burn the loppings on the hard standing behind the pitch. This endeavour is still to be completed by us as the local council cannot remove the rubbish from private land.

If I might digress a little, it was on one of these trips that I was passed by a new Rover Discovery advertising tree lopping services and a mobile phone number to contact. It was his tree loppings which he had discarded onto our cricket pitch and that I was taking to the tip. In an interview with the Bucks Herald a spokesman for the travellers said that he liked Aylesbury as there was so much work available. Not a mention of the work that they leave in their wake that has to be paid for either by an aggrieved individual or by the tax payer.

There has to be a reason why councils are closing the sites to which the study refers and I would suggest that the most probable one is that New Age Travellers respect no body or nothing other than fellow travellers and they wear out their welcome pretty soon. Ask many of the local farmers and see what they say. Why does it take the law so long to stop these unwelcome invasions of one's privacy? Two or three years ago when the travellers invaded us they left a pile of asphalt under the shrubbery, which is still there to this day.

Roy Hutchings



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What can be done about our traffic?

People mention traffic more than any other topic when asked about problems on Watermead. Particularly parents with younger children express real concern at the traffic speeding and the way people seem to ignore all the rules. What can be done?

THE SPINE ROAD

Parking on the spine road is often mentioned as being dangerous. But the Bucks CC experts say that this irritating parking is in fact a traffic calming measure. It makes drivers slow down; it is only with difficulty that two cars going in opposite directions can pass. So we must live with those parked cars, they are doing us a favour!



Speeding seems to be a way of life for our motorists. Watermead is part of the 30 mph limit that operates in the A413, but clearly many drivers think the spine is unrestricted and so travel at even more. With a great show of speed and noise, they overtake doing only 30 mph. Ways of enforcing the limit at the entry to the village will be introduced but in

the end it is driver discipline that is needed – and that means YOU!

Crossing the spine road is a hazard for all pedestrians, particularly those with children. An application for a pedestrian crossing is being made to the committee that deals with these things and it is hoped they will support a crossing somewhere near the post box.

ESTATE ROADS

Traffic calming measures on the main estate roads have been suggested. Bucks CC will only pay for these if there are enough accidents and deaths on our roads and thankfully this has not yet happened. Until traffic calming (bumps, bends and islands) has been introduced we cannot apply to have a 20 mph limit on estate roads. The parish council could try to pay for these measures out of our budget but it would take two years money to pay for a set of bumps.

Our children play on the minor roads and surely no driver wants to hit one, so keeping speed down below 20 mph makes sense, even if there are no bumps as reminders. At the moment there are no white lines, where minor roads meet the more major roads, but surely all drivers know they should pause

when they join Watermeadow or Ayleswater, our two most used roads, not shoot out at high speed.

Parking on the more major roads is causing problems, both for cars to see and pass oncoming traffic and for making it difficult for emergency vehicles to reach an emergency call. Every house on Watermead has its own parking. If a house has so many cars they don't all fit in the garage or on the drive, there is extra parking at the Piazza and elsewhere. The road outside your house is not provided as a long-term parking lot.

LEAVING THE ESTATE

It seems that just about everybody on Watermead owns a car, since no one mentioned buses as an issue for concern. A pity since public transport and alternatives do seem to be available.

As mentioned in the last issue, the new development area on Weedon Hill will mean changes to our roundabout. No plans will be announced until the inspector's report on the development is accepted, but the Parish Council is watching matters. Councillors would be happy hear of suggestions on this and other road safety matters.

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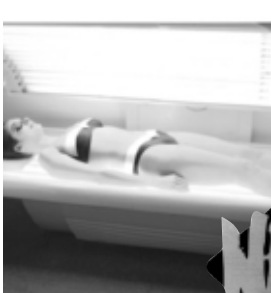
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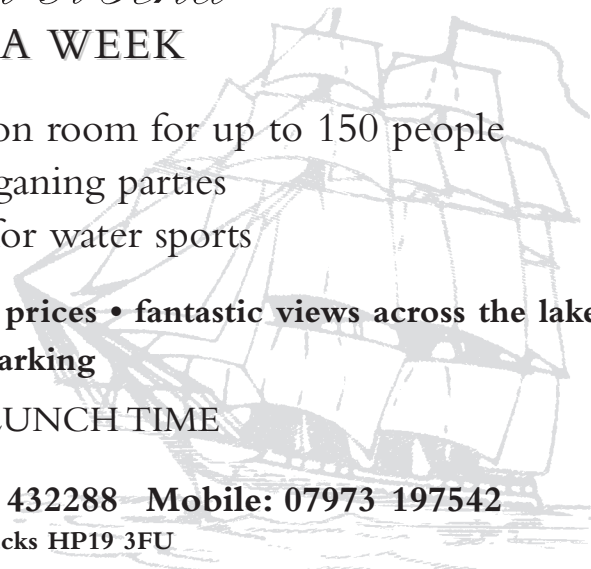
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Jo Bridson takes over Women's Institute Presidency

The October meeting we had lots of ladies attending, including several new faces. After the business of the evening and a cup of tea, our speaker Mrs Page entertained us with 'A little bit of Variety'. She used a few props such as hats, glasses etc. and performed several monologues, one of which she adapted to include the names of our committee, which was very entertaining and had most of us rolling around with laughter and tears running down our faces. The humour directed at the committee was taken very well and Mrs Page was allowed to continue! She then did several other monologues including one from Joyce Grenfell. Unfortunately the end came all too soon, but we all agreed it had been a wonderful evening.

In November we had our AGM, which once again was well attended. Mrs Joy Button, a W I Adviser, came to help us with the election of the new president. Reports were given by the Minutes Secretary, the Treasurer and finally a report by the resigning President Bridget Gibbard, who thanked the committee for all their hard work in the last year. The newly elected President is Jo Bridson, whom we are sure, will do a wonderful job. We of course then had tea together with the most delicious home made scones (our secretary is wonderful) with clotted cream and jam. There followed some social time and a short competition, which helped to keep the grey matter ticking over.

For the December meeting we went for our Christmas meal at The Chequers at Weston Turville.

On 3rd January 2002 we are holding our new members evening, so please come along to the village hall at 7.30pm, you will get a warm welcome. We will of course have food and drink. We look forward to meeting you.

**Jo - ☎ 747465 or
Carol - ☎ 425896**

We look forward to meeting you.

What's on at the Watermead Village Hall

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Wednesdays: 3-6 years 4.30 ~ 5pm
Beginners 5 ~ 5.45pm
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Contact: Judy 482818

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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, Meeting 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: Jo Bridson 747465

WATERMEAD CYGNETS PLAYGROUP

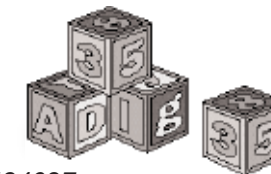
Monday ~ Thursday
9.15 ~ 11.45am

Contact: Dot Toler 432405

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Wednesday 2 ~ 4pm
Friday 10am ~ 12noon

Contact: Melanie Simpson 424097





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