

LOUDWATER RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION CHORLEYWOOD

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Newsletter No. 3

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MEMBERSHIP

Our membership is steadily growing—but still fewer than half the residents in the Loudwater area belong to this Association, the only one that represents all of Loudwater. The Association needs support not far short of 100% for two reasons.

Firstly, more official bodies are contacting the LRA as the spokesman for the district. Since our last newsletter, Herts C.C., Three Rivers D.C., the local police and several individuals have all addressed themselves to us. To be sure of giving them the answers you want, we need your participation, and that means your membership. The whole of Loudwater is an area of beauty and value—it costs you only £1 to belong and to help protect it.

Secondly, since the LRA took on a wider role, it has done its best to serve the community energetically. It has:

- (1) Fought, and we believe won, the battle to have much better soundproofing and replanting along all of the North Orbital Road that affects Loudwater. (For details, see below)
- (2) Held the first ever Social Event in Loudwater designed to help residents get to know one another.
- (3) Made representations about developments in Loudwater that in at least one case have stopped a developer overstepping the mark.
- (4) Taken up cases of dog nuisance, light nuisance, alarm-bell nuisance, aircraft nuisance, etc.
- (5) Put out three newsletters this year, keeping resident members informed of all development plans and matters of interest.

All of this costs money. Providing expert evidence, for example, on noise levels and sound barriers to the County and the Department of the Environment has cost several hundred pounds—but without that expert evidence, the case would have been lost. It is vital that some organisation carries on this work—few individuals can but everyone can afford £1, and enough of those pounds will help us to keep fighting your cause.

To persuade more people to join, this newsletter is being delivered to every house in Loudwater (my thanks to our gallant distributor volunteers). If you are not a member, please join now—a form is attached overleaf.

OUR GARDEN PARTY

Nearly a hundred people turned up on what proved to be a really gorgeous July day which showed off Mrs Wolff's lovely garden to perfection. We are all in Annie's debt for opening her house to us, just as we are to Nick Nicholls and his band of helpers who worked for days beforehand and from early in the morning setting up a bar which was run with skill and a straw-hatted flourish by Nick. The party did just what we wanted it to in that a lot of people said "Why don't we meet one another more often?", and we've already decided on a repeat performance on Sunday, July 10, 1977. The Committee welcomes other ideas for social gatherings.

NORTH ORBITAL (continued)

Members will remember that we have been reporting on the gallant work by Jim Watkins and others to force into the open the fact that some parts of

Loudwater are already receiving more than a tolerable level of noise from the road and that more will do so as it becomes more heavily used. One major step in this was the formation of an A405 Committee which represented all areas affected. Peter Grunthal, the Loudwater representative on this Committee, backed up by all the evidence that Jim Watkins and the LRA had gathered, was able to help that committee to get Three Rivers D.C. Special Committee to make recommendations. Officialdom has now announced that funds are available to put up a proper two-metre high wood and concrete sound barrier all along large sections of the road and certainly all that affect us. We have also extracted a promise of planting large numbers of trees. We are still campaigning for re-surfacing of the road to reduce noise. We do, however, appear to have lost the fight for an extra central sound-proof barrier. The barriers and replanting are not under way yet but we shall maintain pressure to get them started as soon as possible.

TROUTSTREAM WAY TRAFFIC

Those who attended our AGM will remember the strong vote asking the LRA to urge the Loudwater (Troutstream) Estate to put into operation measures to reduce the amount and speed of traffic along Troutstream Way. We wrote to the Estate Company asking that they proceed to close the gate at the Sarratt Lane end of Troutstream Way and install "sleeping policemen" at certain points. The Estate company has replied that it is some time since the last survey of traffic along Troutstream Way and also some time since the residents were last asked their views on gate closing and therefore they asked the LRA to join in carrying out (a) a census of members on the question of gate closure and (b) a survey of the traffic. The Estate company also suggested that another answer would be to employ gatemen at the box in the middle of T. Way. The LRA committee has replied that it sees no reason for another census, since if opinion has changed, it has grown stronger in favour of gate closure, that there is no sign of traffic lessening and it will certainly become a greater hazard when the development in Lower Plantation is finished right opposite T. Way. We have repeated our plea to the Estate to go ahead with the measures we suggest as necessary and more economic than employing gatemen.

MISCELLANY

The Estate company has asked us to bring to everyone's attention the fact that the area near the garage is being used far too often for dumping rubbish. Please help to keep the appearance of the area pleasant by refraining from dumping rubbish and reporting to the Estate any dumping you see.

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We have now elicited that there is an official of Three Rivers D.C. who has the duty of taking up at any time cases of dog nuisance in the area. His name is Mr Miller, telephone numbers R. 76611 (office), CW 35871 (home). Anyone who has reason to complain of dog trespass, noise, damage or attacks by any dogs please contact Mr Miller and the police immediately so that the nuisance, damage or physical injury can be shown. Note details of time, place, and any witnesses, and there is a good chance of official action being taken. Alternatively, people can take action through the courts.

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Hazel Watkins, wife of LRA Committee stalwart Jim Watkins, has been in hospital recently and her condition gave rise to some anxiety. But she is now home again and we wish her a speedy recovery.

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Readers will remember that in our last newsletter we reported the disquieting news that a local firm of estate agents was inviting offers of purchase for the grounds in front of Loudwater House and that suggestions were being made that development was possible. The LRA at once drew this to the attention of the Estate Company and both bodies have conveyed their concern to the proper authorities. In order to preserve this vital amenity, bids have been put in for the property offered by both a group of L. House residents and by the Estate Company. As far as is known, these are the only bids and, of course, both parties are keeping each other informed. We ask all readers to inform the Estate Company and/or the LRA immediately if they hear any suggestions of any other plan in order that the essential speedy action may be taken.

P.S. As we go to press, a notice has appeared offering building plots on the west side of Loudwater

Lane, south of Glen Chess. We have no news of such permission being given but we are investigating. Objections, if thought fit, to the planning officer or to the councillors for Rickmansworth Town Ward.

HISTORY LESSON

Residents may be interested in a brief history of the centre of the estate, Loudwater House. The house is late Regency but the estate as a whole was first put together by a wealthy stockbroker called Panmure Gordon in the early 1890s. He planted rare trees and shrubs, built the walled garden, the coach house with its unusual wrought iron and glass-domed roof, the stables and coachmen's quarters. He laid out the grounds, made the lake and put deer and even kangaroos in the park. He entertained lavishly, the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) being among the guests. His sartorial splendour was confirmed by a room in the basement, adjoining the boiler-room, lined from wall to wall with oak presses, shelves and drawers.

The Estate then covered 650 acres, including most of what is now the Masonic School grounds and reaching Micklefield in the west and north-west. The Park was entered via the East Lodge (now The Dell) in Loudwater Drive, the North Lodge (now Loudwater Lodge) in Sarratt Lane and the South Lodge (now Troutcote) in Troutstream Way.

After Gordon's death, the estate deteriorated. In 1921, almost derelict, it was bought and some plots sold. In 1924, Cameron Jeffs became the owner and converted Loudwater House into flats. In 1932 he sold a large area, including a stretch of the Chess, Loudwater Farm and the Pest House, whose ruins are still visible along the footpath behind the Masonic School grounds, where bodies were cremated after plague death. Jeffs died in 1944 after which a charity trust for the aged administered the estate until what was left was sold, with the benefits of the covenants going to the two residents' associations in Troutstream Way and Bridle Lane. Though the house itself has undergone several changes of ownership since, the two Associations still control the covenants.

DEVELOPMENT PLANS

8/439/76 Eight houses and road Far End, Wagon Way and Lower Plantation by M. K. Swann (outline application).

8/440/76 Two houses linked with above, also by M. K. Swann (outline).

8/460/76 Five houses on road near Ghyllwood by Blue Ridge Development (revised application after development stopped by local authority as varying from plan).

8/606/76 Detached house, Plot 7, Lower Plantation, by J. Robert Construction.

8/669/76 Two-storey side extension Thatchways, Bridle Lane, by C. Kleanthous.

N.B. Planning Dept now 46 High Street Rickmansworth 76611.

To Cyril Brine, Hon. Treasurer,
LOUDWATER RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Please enrol me as a member of the Loudwater Residents' Association. I enclose £1 for a year's subscription.

Name & Address

Signed