

LOUDWATER RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
CHORLEYWOOD

*Chairman*  
J. L. Cognet  
Broad Oaks  
Trout Rise  
72306

*Vice-Chairman*  
John Jarrett  
Martha's Vineyard  
Violet Way  
74225

*Hon. Treasurer*  
Cyril Brine  
Arlesey  
Rooks Hill  
72508

*Hon. Secretary*  
Mrs Annie Wolff  
Greythorpe  
Trout Rise  
72472

NEWSLETTER No. 5

July 1977

### OUR GARDEN PARTY

The biggest social occasion ever held in Loudwater ... that was one verdict on this year's LRA party, and it was almost certainly right. Over 150 people turned up and we were again blessed with beautiful weather so that residents could not only take advantage of the beautiful grounds of Annie Wolff's house but also stroll around and get to know one another – which is the main point of the event. What was even nicer was to see the way in which some residents, who have appreciated what we are trying to do, made a point of circulating and introducing new arrivals to lots of other people. With help like this, we can't go wrong. I don't need to point out to the ladies who attended how much work was put in by Nick Nicholls and his helpers – organising drinks for seventy or more that turns out to be 150 (with enough soft drinks to satisfy the thirsts of a large number of children who, to our pleasure, turned up) is no light task and to Nick and every one of his energetic crew, we are much in debt – sorry he didn't wear his panama this time, but he said it was too hot work, but the aprons were splendid instead!

Now – lots of people said what else are you going to do? Well, we asked once before in the Newsletter if people would like an evening party or a dinner or dinner dance. Almost no one answered. This time, please tell your nearest Committee member if you like these ideas or have any others. So long as it helps people to get to know one another (and doesn't lose money!) we'll do it.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Not quite as many people turned up at this year's AGM as did last year. We suspect this was because we didn't give enough notice, for which apologies. The important events were the election of the Committee, where there were no changes; the agreement to raise the subscription to £2 yearly, a decision regretted but inescapable since we have still not succeeded in getting many more than one hundred and fifty of the households in Loudwater to join; a revision of the somewhat antiquated constitution of the LRA which contained two points of importance, first the freedom to concern ourselves with areas outside the boundaries of the Loudwater/Troutstream estate, and second, the abolition of the entrance fee; and an important and serious debate on the role of the LRA which is summarised below. Mr Peter McGregor volunteered to take the place on the A405 committee of Mr Peter Gruenthal who is leaving the district (good luck, Peter) and our Chairman has been nominated to serve on the local Crime Prevention Panel. To mark his appointment, the local Crime Prevention Squad showed a film about the way burglars operated, which was both interesting and disturbing. Will all residents please note that Det. Constable Smith of the Crime Prevention Squad at

Watford stated that any resident may call on the squad there for advice about making your home safer against burglary – just give them a ring. We have also been asked to nominate a member to serve on the local authority's public transport committee – volunteers wanted, please.

### THE ROLE OF THE LRA

As noted above, some members at the AGM speculated on whether the LRA, by trying to enrol and represent members all over Loudwater, might not disadvantageously dilute its representation of the interests of those in the gated area proper.

Let us restate the position of the three residents' associations. The Bridle Lane Association has certain powers over Bridle Lane, and the Loudwater/Troutstream Estate has powers of covenant over the Estate proper. While the LRA now has close and friendly relations with the Estate Board, and is hoping that the Bridle Lane Association will also be willing to let us work with them, it remains a fact that no attempt to influence either group by the LRA could succeed against the wishes of the shareholders of the Estate. If, for example, any proposal by the LRA on roads or gates in the gated area were accepted, it could only be because the Estate shareholders had wanted it to.

But Loudwater is not just the gated area. Your committee believes it is vital that some group speak for all of Loudwater – those inside the gated area who are not shareholders and those outside the gated area, as well as Estate shareholders. There are no second-class citizens in the LRA, and there is complete certainty that to defend any of Loudwater, we must try to defend all of it.

The gated area contains much attractive property and natural beauty. But it, like all of us, gains benefit from the leafy arch of Loudwater Lane, the woods behind Sarratt Lane and the views over the valley. All of these are outside 'the gated area'.

The LRA has concerned itself with speaking against proposals for building in the Masonic School grounds, against a heliport in one large property in the valley, and against the change of designation of Lower Plantation. They would all vitally affect the gated area but none are in it – two are not even in Chorleywood.

Lastly, Government, be it central or local, continually deploys more power and money behind its plans. To stand up to these plans one needs the voices and the money of as many people as can be properly involved. The LRA has claimed to be the one organisation able to represent all of Loudwater – it is becoming steadily recognised as such – and more and more residents seem to agree with us. There is no moat or wall or gate behind which any one sector of Loudwater can shelter and pretend the rest of the world does not exist.

## DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Rasehill site, Chorleywood Road. A big development of ten houses with various developers named, among them Impcave, Driftwood Lodge, Croxley Green, B. M. Thompson and Deaberry Properties. Early plans indicate that only 16 trees will be felled. The land to be developed backs on to Green Belt land. Plans 8/194/77, 8/271/77, 8/374/77, 8/371/77.

Far End, Wagon Way. Outline plan, J. Robert. 8/153/77, 8/180/77.

Bondues, Sarratt Lane. Detached double garage. J. Murray. 8/231/77.

Armitage Close. 1st floor side extension. V. Bohler. 8/289/77.

Kingfisher Lure, Troutstream Gate. Double garage with patio. J. H. King. 8/310/77.

Loudwater Drive, Trimbles. Single storey rear and side extensions. J. Staples. 8/327/77.

## LETTERS

I offer two suggestions for consideration by the Loudwater Residents' Association.

- (1) that a pictorial record be made of Loudwater before it all disappears (paintings, drawings, photos – perhaps a commissioned book.
- (2) that boards be put up at strategic points – bottom of Loudwater Lane, for instance – where complete maps of the area with house names could be displayed. Delivery men/strangers/visitors are always having to ask the way.

*Helen Graham  
Foxhill  
Loudwater Drive*

[The Committee will discuss the second proposal. For the first, has anyone any ideas? – Ed.]

Wouldn't it be a good idea if Loudwater got up a cricket team to see if anyone will take us on, have a bit of fun and a few friendly beers afterwards? I'm not looking for undiscovered Test talent, just anyone who's willing to have a go at a bit of sport just for the pleasure of it. Anyone interested, drop me a note, please.

*Tony Williams  
Long Riding  
Sarratt Lane*

## FROM THE ESTATE COMPANY

The work now causing a certain amount of havoc down Troutstream Way is at the instruction of the Water Company. Over the years the demands of Loudwater for water have steadily increased and the present size of pipes is no longer adequate. Accordingly, the Company has informed the Estate Board that new and larger pipes must be installed along the whole length of Troutstream Way from top to bottom. The work will probably finish in August and when completed should result in better pressure for those on high ground (i.e. the top of Trout Rise) and also cope with the new development in Lower Plantation. The Board apologises for any inconvenience.

The Board also asks us to repeat their warning about stones and logs on verges. The verges belong to the Estate Board and they would be liable for any accident caused by these stones or logs and so, while understanding the motives of those who wish to protect the grass outside their property, they still have to ask for an indemnity against such damage, or else ask to have the stones etc removed.

## LOUDWATER HISTORY No 2

Our history of Loudwater House seems to have pleased. Here is another piece of the background to today's Loudwater.

Almost exactly six years ago, the Loudwater bus service, despite local protests, ended. It began from very commercial reasons in the 30s when Cameron Jeffs found his building plots slow-selling because Loudwater was isolated by lack of transport. He started a service with two Lancia charabancs (grey, with exits for each aisle). The first driver was Mr Firth, subsequently the Estate handyman.

He and his successors established traditions that continued, even after the London Transport Act killed off all "pirate" schedules. Firstly, the passenger mattered. The bus, infallibly on time for trains to London, also infallibly met trains from London in the evenings, no matter how late snow, fog or accident made them. Secondly, Loudwater bus got through. It gave way to no-one, it ran whatever the weather and, if needs must, its last driver, Harry Cross, made no bones about ordering his passengers out to push – bowlers, umbrellas, pin-stripes and all. Thirdly, it was a social function and a service. Men said: "See you on the five past Harry bus," (never the 336, always the 'Harry bus'); women sent messages, posted parcels and got shopping done by the Harry bus; children learned their travelling manners from Harry's fierce look. On no other route, surely, would passengers waiting at a halt depute one member to collect their fares so that all could be handed in by one to save Harry time. (The Lancia fares in the 30s were one penny to the top of Loudwater Lane, twopence all the way).

This pioneer one-man route ended in 1971. Cyril Brine organised an official farewell and his energy produced a cheque for £105 handed to Harry by A.-V.-M. Wilf Oulton. Sadly, Harry died not many years after on holiday in Spain and, equally sadly, later plans to reinstate a service have fallen before London Country intransigence.

[The credit for the above goes to Cyril Brine, now the LRA treasurer, who came to Loudwater in 1935. Can anyone beat Cyril as Loudwater's longest resident?]

## KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE

In case you want to get in touch, apart from those listed at the top of your Newsletter, the other Committee members are:

Derek Speight, Upstream, Trout Rise (R.77431);  
Barnaby Usborne, Larchmead, Trout Rise (R. 72766);  
Jim Watkins, Medmills, Trout Rise (R. 74538); and  
John Watkiss, Jordans, Whisperwood (R. 73781).

## PS

Any more letters, contributions, small ads, will be welcomed by the Editor.

Any more subscriptions will be welcome by the Treasurer – £1 only (it goes up to £2 next year) gets you all the Newsletters, an invitation to our social events – and a voice in the affairs of Loudwater.