

# LOUDWATER RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION CHORLEYWOOD

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## LOUDWATER FARM

Coincidentally, a planning application (see next page) has brought to our attention a question several people have asked. It is: "What is happening at Loudwater Farm?" The farm, which is rented out by the Masonic School, has had an unhappy time since its last long-term tenant (Mr George Fuerst who lived at Mont Au Source) left the district, with several changes of tenancy and periods of emptiness. Recently, both the farmhouse and the old barn and the yards around have been cleaned up, repaired and restored. The tenants who have done this welcome work are unlikely ones to find in this district. They are the Subud Human Welfare Trust.

Subud is an Eastern religious group. It arose in Indonesia in the 1930s under the leadership of a monk from there and came to this country in the 1960s. After much publicity, some good, some bad, it largely faded from the public eye but has concentrated on setting up half a dozen centres throughout the country where those who join the movement are trained. Loudwater Farm is the latest training centre.

It is not our place to make any judgement on the movement. Because of its insistence on the virtues of silent receptiveness and hard work, and its rejection of mystical transcendentalism (as well as of alcohol, drugs and ostentation), it has been called "an Eastern Quakerism". Whatever one's views of the sect (only some thousands strong in this country because of the difficulties of entry), it is a pleasure to see Loudwater Farm restored, because of its special place in Loudwater history. [We hope to write about this history in a later issue].

## ACTION MEN

The value of an organisation representing all Loudwater was nicely shown on three recent occasions.

First, a resident in Sarratt Lane was concerned about tree felling in the Lower Plantation development. He contacted the LRA. His complaint and one from the LRA (after inspection) went in that week. Within 48 hours (well done, Three Rivers), a site inspection took place. The Director of Planning has replied that some trees were found to have been removed unnecessarily. He is investigating.

Second, another resident in Glen Chess reported large clearances in the woods to the South of Glen Chess, at the rear of Rasehill. After enquiries by the resident and inspection by the LRA, letters went off. Three months later (tut-tut, Three Rivers) a reply revealed that the landowner had obtained Forestry Commission approval, modified by some Three Rivers conditions, to clear two acres on the site, taking out dead, diseased or dangerous trees, but by June 1979 to replant with Beech and Gean in matrix of Larch, all to be protected and weeded for ten years and made good if necessary. (No notification to adjoining residences etc is

necessary for woodland replanting, it seems). Following an inspection after our letter, proceedings were authorised over some trees that had been felled outside the permitted area. We also pointed to the damage to trees along the footpath caused by machines being driven along the original narrow path. There was no Tree Preservation Order on these, unfortunately. However, as a result of our letter, a Tree Preservation Order is to be made to cover this. No houses are going to be built on this land, although to the south of the woodland in residential development land one house has been planned (3/448/77), access from C/wood Road.

Lastly, great concern suddenly arose recently when it was learned that an application to build riding stables and a house in Beechen Grove Wood had been received. Some local residents and the LRA moved almost at once and a comprehensive organisation of protest was set up, by far the greatest brunt falling upon Mr D. Cammell of Loudwater Close and Mr B. Osborne of Trout Rise. The need for speed is shown by the fact that originally the matter was to come before Three Rivers less than a week after the news became public. Three Rivers officers very civilly extended the time for protest. The application will be discussed (under present plans) on March 20.

The motto for all three is clear – be vigilant, be prompt and let the LRA know.

## OUR AGM

Following the success of our burglary prevention talk last year, we've got another attraction for you for this year's AGM. It takes place on June 1 at Chorleywood House at 8.30 as usual, and well-known local historian Geoffrey Cornwall is coming to give us a talk about Loudwater.

We have one vacancy on the Committee, because Mr A. Hauck has unfortunately had to resign. We'd prefer someone from outside the gated area because we feel we need to keep the balance of the committee. Any volunteers, please put your names to the AGM.

## NEWS FROM THE ESTATE BOARD

After a full and friendly discussion between the Estate Board and Rob. Simmons, a new lease at a reasonable but economical rent has been arranged. Contracts are due to be signed any day. Nice to have you still with us, Rob.

The Board's troubles with the Water Board's work on the new pipes along Troutstream Way continue. Changes in contractors, bad weather and other factors are all quoted by the Water Board as reasons for the delay in finishing this work. The Water Board continues to reassure the Loudwater Board that all surfaces will be properly restored, but inevitably the first filling must be allowed to settle before the final top dressing is applied.

Loudwater (Troutstream) Estate Board AGM — There was a small attendance at the AGM, both because (through unavoidable accounting delays) the date was so late and it was at the height of the freeze.

Road markings, verge protection, the gate closure and (as above) the damage to the road caused by the pipe-laying were the main topics.

Mr G. Lang having moved out of the Estate, a new chairman had to be elected. (In fact, for a few minutes, John Jarrett was the only Director!). Mrs Pam Fuller was elected Chairman and the other directors—Lady Lewis, Derek Speight—were re-elected. Mr E. W. O. Alexander was nominated to fill the vacancy as director; and Dr Albert Wander cheerfully submitted to carrying on the thankless chore of Secretary to the Board.

Lastly, most of the vacant shareholdings have been taken up, but those who have been resident on the estate for some time but have not yet applied for shares should do so, as, at the time of going to press, one or two shares will still be available.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

An apology! Through sheer editorial inefficiency, we never printed (as we promised the Estate we would do) the list of those who helped man the gate on Kingfisher Lure for the annual gate closure (to protect the right-of-way covenant) last Good Friday. As it's nearly time to do it again, perhaps we should give the names now, with the Estate's thanks.

The helpers were D. S. Barber: V. J. Hemming: James and Charles Gadd: Clive Fuller: Mrs J. P. Smith: H. Nicholls: John, David and Michael Barker: Nicholas Wiltshear: Tom Davis and brothers: Philippe Wander and Dr Wander.

Three Rivers is preparing its district plan, showing its views on what will happen in the District over the next ten years as regards population, housing, employment, transport, the environment, recreation and shopping. A first draft will be published this spring, after which three months will be given for residents to express views on what the District has outlined. But if you wish to draw attention to a particular issue, you can do so now to the Director of Planning, Three Rivers, 46 High Street, by letter or in person, or by phone (Rick 76611, Ext. 93).

#### PLANNING

- 8/803/77 Det. house, garage grounds, Rookery Wood House, L. Lane (Mr Domican — outline)
- 8/857/77 Demolish side garage, erect two-storey extension, Chalmadale, Trout Rise (C. B. Colls)
- 8/791/77 Demolish existing structure, erect detached bungalow, garage, access, The Stables, L. Lane (W. T. Western, outline)
- 8/814/77 Single-storey front and rear extension, Wingsyde, L. House (Mrs P. Watson)
- 8/747/77 Stable block, The Orchard, L. Lane (T. W. Norris)
- 8/740/77 Detached house, garage, rear of Rasehill (M. Kwintner)
- 8/18/78 Review temporary consent existing use for group meetings, worship (Subud Human Welfare Trust)
- 8/58/78 Two single-storey rear extensions, two dormer windows, Tara, T. Rise (M. Breschi)
- 8/ . . /78 Single-storey front extension, Stepping Stones, T. Rise (B. L. Williams)
- 8/60/78 Detached house, garage, Plot, 18 Lower Plantation, (Robert Construction)  
Detached house, garage, Plot, 13 Lower Plantation (A. L. Merry)
- 8/67/78 Two-storey extension at rear, Kytes, L. Lane (J. Hunt)
- 8/80/78 Detached house, integral garage, plot adjoining Trees, T. Rise (B. M. Thomson Properties)
- 8/96/78 Riding stables, associated house, Beechen Grove Wood, Sarratt Lane (Mr Clutterbuck)
- 8/688/77 Two detached dwellings and garage, Dalilia, Sarratt Lane (G. Kingston) REFUSED.

Tree Preservation Orders — Two emergency orders have been placed (Planning date 8/12/77) on area NE of Trees, T. Rise, and SW of Wildwood, L. Heights; and for 28 trees in grounds of Dalilia, L. Lodge and Wedgewood in L. Lane. Proceedings were authorised (same date) over 3 trees removed improperly NE of Rasehill.

#### MEMBERS? MEMBERS? MEMBERS?

Our figures keep mounting. Please tell any newcomers near you about us, because the sooner they join, the sooner they too can be with us all in our joint efforts to preserve this beautiful area. Because more people have joined lately, we've decided we can keep the subscription down to £1 after all.

#### STOP PRESS

Our garden party — THE social event of Loudwater — takes place on July 9. Watch out for further notice.