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THE GARDEN PARTY

This newsletter is written only a few hours after our garden party and we are still unable to believe our luck. In the past two years we have taken the gamble of hoping the sun would shine on us, and it has, in full measure. But then, 1976 and 1977 were years in which we had *some* summer so the chances looked good. This year we were trembling in our shoes as Test Matches, Henley and Wimbledon weekends were all hit by cold and wet and wind. But, lo and behold, the morning was, if cloudy, at any rate dry – at 12 noon the sun began to break through and from 12 till 2.30 on July 9 the gardens of Chess Lodge were bathed in sunshine. Lucky LRA!

One hundred and seventy tickets were sold in advance and some more were sold at the gate, so we reckon some 200 people all told turned up, not counting the children.

Mrs Wolff's new home again gave us a lovely setting [thank you, Annie, once more] and Nick Nicholls once more presided over an even larger but still superbly efficient bar squad at 'the sign of the Panama Hat'.

The Committee hopes everyone thought the occasion successful – if you did, tell anyone you know who hasn't yet joined the Association that this really is the best, if not the only, way of getting to meet a lot of your neighbours. (There's another thing, too – it looks as though we've got a stranglehold on the weather-maker, so if you want to be sure of a sunny Sunday, you've got to support our garden party).

THE A.G.M.

We were delighted that a record number of people turned up for our Annual General Meeting. By the end of the meeting there were more than 80 people – sorry that the late-comers did not get very comfortable seats. Without doubt, the star of the evening was Geoffrey Cornwall with his talk on the history of Loudwater. In his fifteen-minute talk Mr Cornwall could cover only one part of the story so he chose to concentrate on Loudwater House, and its most extravagant owners, Panmure Gordon and Cameron Jeffs.

Gordon was a stockbroker – indeed the firm still exists under that name. Having roamed around the world, he came back to settle here in the peace of Loudwater and indulge his hobbies of exotic wild life, newfangled forms of transport, entertainment and clothes. Mr Cornwall spoke of the vast numbers of suits, hats and walking sticks lodged in room after room at Loudwater House, of the wallabies and deer set free in Loudwater Park, and of the ever-growing number of vehicles, ranging from a mobile dining-room coupled to a mobile kitchen which served meals while travelling, to probably the first amphibious vehicle of the time, a coach that drove around the grounds and then, by a set of ingenious contrivances, converted into a boat which was launched into the lake.

Mr Cornwall then went on to the other great Loudwater figure, Cameron Jeffs, the man who really "sold" Loudwater. Mr Cornwall read out Jeffs's blurb which had the estate agents and builders in the audience green with envy.

Some of the best lines in this 1927 advertising epic were:

"Loudwater, the village of natural beauty and health, is unbelievably near London for the strenuous living man or woman, who must have copious country air and restful allurements nightly . . . to fit them . . . for business and social perfection . . . Central London is reached in forty-five minutes by electric train or a trifle longer by the daily motor saloon service . . . Father blackbird and his mate have made Loudwater's sparkling stream valley their happy pitch . . . even that gorgeous little chap, the kingfisher, has known the secret of Loudwater. It's the trees, the fairy dingles and a hundred and one things in which Dame Nature's fingers have lingered long . . . her work is so affectionately appreciated by the Estate Owners that they follow her lovely train in courteous imitation . . . except for the internal up-to-date equipment of electricity, gas, main drainage, etc., the spot is the home of beauty discerners."

Phew!

The meeting had paled by comparison after Mr Cornwall's talk, but for the record it had accepted the accounts which showed that by good stewardship funds had again been built up sufficiently so that we did not need to raise the sub. It has also re-elected the officers (see list below).

Mr Don Cammell, who worked so hard spearheading the opposition to the Beechen Grove Development (which the LRA opposed vigorously) gave a lucid and comprehensive survey of the development plan (see newsletter 7). We had hoped to bring you the result of this application but its discussion is continuously postponed, a process we do not deplore at all.

Jim Watkins spoke of his continuing attempts to get the last promised work on the orbital road finished and members will see that the last of the soundproofing panels have now been put up. Mr Watkins explained that although we had not succeeded in persuading the Eastern Road Construction Unit to plant mature trees, they had at least started planting, if only with forest whips. Mr Watkins also read a letter from the LRA representative on the A405 Committee, Mr Peter McGregor, which was strongly critical of the Committee's lack of vigour in making its case to District and County officials.

Mr Jarrett was warmly congratulated on the way the newsletter was creating a sense of community throughout Loudwater and the Chairman announced that the Estate Board, recognising the value of regular communication, was in fact giving a small subsidy to the production of the newsletter.

The Committee elected was Mr Jack Cognet (Chairman), Mr John Jarrett (Vice-Chairman and Editor), Mr Cyril Brine (Treasurer), Mr John Watkiss (Secretary), Mr D. Cammell, Mr Derek Speight, Mr Barnaby Osborne, Mr Jim Watkins and Mrs Annie Wolff.

FROM THE ESTATE BOARD

On July 1st, Mr and Mrs Roy Ongley moved into No 1 Flat, Rose Gardens. Roy Ongley is a milkman on rounds in

Croxley Green. In his spare time he will be employed by Loudwater (Troutstream) Estate Ltd on maintenance work on the estate. Mrs Heather Ongley is a nurse working at Mount Vernon Hospital. They took over the Company's flat from Mr and Mrs David L. Neale, who have moved to Mill End as the flat was getting too small for them and their two boys. Mr Neale had been in part-time employment with the Company since June 1975.

The other part-time employee of the Company is Mr John Freeth, who in spite of advanced age and ailments is still willing to do odd jobs and to give the benefit of his vast experience and knowledge of Loudwater Estate acquired over the many years of service with the Company. He is a honorary Knight of St John's, bestowed on him in 1976 after many years of distinguished service with Rickmansworth St John's Ambulances.

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Tree surgery for 1977/78 has recently been completed after having been delayed considerably by the weather. This first stage has covered the areas of Kingfisher Lure, parts of Troutstream Way and the Spinney, next to the Garage. The stages planned for 1979 and 1980 will include the remaining parts of the Estate. It is also planned to have the trees which had to be felled replaced by young ones.

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There are two shareholdings available. Those interested and resident the necessary number of years should contact Dr Wander.

TREE PRESERVATION

There is an assumption generally made that all or most of Loudwater is covered by tree preservation orders. This is not so. But it is open to anyone to ask for an order for any tree or group of trees, on your own property or elsewhere. The LRA is considering doing so for certain important woodlands. Any member who wishes to know how to apply, please consult Mr Derek Speight who has the information.

HERE AND THERE

We are grateful to the public spirit shown by the residents of Loudwater House. After several residents had complained that litter was being dragged by dogs across their verges and gardens in Loudwater Drive, litter which the dogs were getting by raiding over-flowing dustbins in Loudwater House's rubbish area, a smart wattle fencing with gate has been built around the area and the nuisance has stopped. Now, *providing* no one leaves the gate open *and* the dog-owners (come on, you know who you are!) of the dogs responsible stop them high-jumping over the fence, we should be all right!

* * *

Your Committee has taken up with the Estate Board the question of what we feel is a dangerous camber on parts of

Trout Rise: the need for caravans, if accepted at all, to be screened and not permanent-based; and the general untidiness of some verges on the Estate and other untidiness, caused partly by dogs roaming wild.

We have raised with Three Rivers our concern about the appearance of Loudwater Lane from Bridle Lane to Croxley, where so many dead elms have had to be felled.

We are glad to tell you that the Council have agreed that the elm stumps will be removed and oak and ash to replace them will be planted as soon as possible.

We have supported the Council's opposition to an appeal against the Council's decision to refuse permission for several houses to be built behind Dalilea, Sarratt Lane. The appeal was lost and the decision not to allow building upheld.

BIRDS - GOT ANY?

The Editor is determined to get somebody to write to him somehow! So We can all talk about the richness of wild life in Loudwater but we don't have any facts. What birds, for example, do we have in Loudwater? The Editor's list of what he has had in *his* garden over the past three years follows. (R = rarely seen).

Chaffinch, bullfinch, hawfinch, greenfinch, goldfinch, robin, blackbird, song thrush, mistle thrush, redwing, jay, magpie, jackdaw, crow, hedge sparrow, house sparrow, blue tit, great tit, coal tit, long-tailed tit, lesser spotted woodpecker (R), green woodpecker (R), barn owl, tawny owl, wren, flycatcher, pied wagtail (R), nuthatch, goldcrest, starling, nightjar (R), wood pigeon, collared dove, moorhen, coot, mallard (R), common gull (R), pheasant (R).

Will other readers either send me their lists in full or tell of any not on my list that they can claim. Not fair to claim birds that you have just seen passing - List those you've actually had on your ground, trees, fences, etc.

If anyone wants to start a list of mammals, I'd be happy to do that, too.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 8/170/78 Det. house, garage, adjoining Campions, L. Lane - Mrs B. Woodhouse (outline)
- 8/202/78 First floor extens. Trout Cottage, T. Way - P. R. Webb
- 8/256/78 Two storey extens. The Walled Garden, T. Way - J. G. Bews
- 8/302/78 Det. garage. Tanglewood, T. Rise - L. C. Bradman
- 8/315/78 Two storey rear extens. Larchmead, T. Rise - B. Osborne
- 8/352/78 Det. house, garage, land rear of Rasehill, C/wood Rd - M. Kwintner
- 8/408/78 Det. house, garage. land rear of Cob Cottage, T. Rise - Mrs P. E. Meltzer (outline)
- 8/437/78 4 det. houses. Plots 9, 10, 11, 14 Lower Plantation - Robert Construction
- 8/454/78 Alterations and infilling of garage, Loudwater Garage, T. Way - R. M. Simmonds
- 8/506/78 First floor extens. Chess Place, L. Lane - P. B. Cox