

LOUDWATER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

CHORLEYWOOD

Chairman
J. L. Cagnet
Broad Oaks
Trout Rise
72306

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

Hon. Treasurer
Cyril Brine
Arlesey House
Rooks Hill
72508

Hon. Secretary
John Watkiss
Jordans
Whisperwood
73781

NEWSLETTER No 10

January 1979

An issue of bits and pieces, alas. For once, no major news, rows, changes, and almost nothing important has hit Loudwater, apart from the snow. Our condolences to all those who had to walk or take taxis because they couldn't get out of their drives, to those whose pipes froze or burst, to those whose fuel supplies ran out, to those who couldn't get off on or back from holiday – and our thanks to those few but good people who helped out old or solitary neighbours with lifts, fuel or just a steady arm.

THE ESTATE AGM

Yes, the closing of the Troutstream Way gate came up again, but now the argument, apart from the views of a few people who are more inconvenienced than the majority, seems to be whether there is not some other way of doing what the gate certainly has done, that is cut down fast through traffic. The favourite suggestion is to open the gates and put down sleeping policemen (ramps which produce some expensive noises from your car if you go at more than 10 m.p.h. over them). Quite a number of people argued strongly for them but as the meeting went on, dissent was increasingly heard. It came from those who didn't want to be thus restricted in speed, those who didn't like the thought of the notices that would have to be put up to warn of the ramps, those who felt ramps would be dangerous when covered with snow and – from the Estate – concern about the cost (£220–£300 per ramp). The Estate Board does not have the legal power to charge this amount on the road dues and hasn't, it feels, either the money to pay from its general fund or much hope of getting residents in general to pay a special levy. There was also a general feeling that such fast driving as still occurs in Loudwater was by the younger members of residents' families in cars which accelerate fast enough not to be noticeably slowed down by ramps. The debate, no doubt, will continue.

Other points from the AGM – The Board was urged to get tougher with those slow to pay their road dues and with those allowing builders' lorries

working at their houses also to damage roads and verges generally. There was much criticism of the Estate Board that leaves had not been swept up and that verges were being neglected; the Board answering that labour was difficult and hard to find, and did residents want to pay more for better service? Some residents felt that we were all too cowardly and lazy and that if any of us saw damage and rubbish on the verges, we should speak to the resident concerned, or even clear it up for them, because we all have an interest in keeping Loudwater attractive.

HALL OF FAME

Many famous people have lived in Loudwater, and not a few on their way to fame live here now. But the records are thin, so I am very grateful to Mr Douglas Graham, of Foxhill, Loudwater Drive, for this bit of Loudwater fame, printed as Mr Graham sent it to me.

A Well-known Former Resident of Loudwater

In his interesting autobiography "Towards Tomorrow", (available in the Rickmansworth library), Lord Fenner Brockway, who at the age of 90 is still an active member of the House of Lords, tells how he and his family "moved to Loudwater, near Rickmansworth, a wooded house in lovely country well north of London". This move must have occurred before 1926, because he goes on to say how, as a result of his sympathy with the miners after the General Strike, the Brockways "welcomed a Welsh boy, Raymond, from Pontypridd . . . and Raymond became almost a son. Up and down the country the miners' children live in ILP homes".

At another point Lord Brockway refers to passing many evenings with Jawaharlal Nehru on his frequent visits to London. "He spent his last weekend in our Rickmansworth home and, after the children had reluctantly been packed off to bed, we passed a large part of the night in discussion, my tired wife making us repeated cups of tea".

The book does not state when the Brockways

left Loudwater but it is clear from another reference that his wife and family were still living here until shortly before the outbreak of World War II.

Lord Brockway does not identify the house in his book but in response to my enquiry has told me that it was called 'The Spinney' and adds: "It stood just at the top of the hill rising from a farm by the little river. Just as we were leaving, a road was being built at the side which I believe now has houses. The head of Madame Tussaud's bought it from us, though I don't believe he now lives there."

The road referred to is in fact Kingfisher Lure. Mr Bernard Tussaud, who bought 'The Spinney' before the war, has since died and I believe the house has changed hands more than once since.

☆ ☆ ☆

The present owners of The Spinney are Mr and Mrs McInnes. Did you know all this, sir and madam?

Does anyone else have any stories of previous residents whose names have later become house-hold words?

THEY MADE NEWS

Two Loudwater residents were featured in the local press recently. Mr John Overend, of Hautbois, Loudwater Heights, had a delightful picture of him playing host to 75 Vietnamese child refugees for whom he had a tea party to celebrate his 25 years trading in his Ricky electrical shop. John has been active in the local Chamber of Commerce, etc., in many distinguished ways.

Tony Williams, of Long Ridings, Sarratt Lane, set up another water speed record at 112.6 m.p.h. on Lake Windermere, becoming one of only eleven men who have won the Donald Campbell Gold Star for going faster than 100 m.p.h. on water.

THE A405

The Herts County Council has refused to support totally the idea of a new surface, but it says that it will support the ideal that specifications for future motorways should be altered to incorporate an improved surface. (Great, isn't it, to know that no one else will suffer what we've suffered, even if we aren't going to have it put right for us!) The LRA has supported Cllr Crockett in asking for a meeting between the County Council, the District Council and the A405 Committee, but the District Council has refused to attend. We and the A405 Committee are returning to the fray.

RAPPED KNUCKLES DEPARTMENT

1. The District Council minutes show that notice was taken of representations (by the LRA and some residents) of alleged improper tree-felling at Plots 9-14 in Lower Plantation, Sarratt Lane. The report says that wounds to retained trees had not been treated in accordance with British Standards and at least two live trees had been felled and two badly damaged. The developer has been told of the Council's concern and asked to replant.

2. At Nirvana, Timberidge, Loudwater Lane, legal proceedings against the builder (which had been authorised) had not been carried out for lack of statutory time. The enforcement notices, requiring removal or rectification of the defective works, have, however, now been complied with.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 8/762/78 Detached garage, Silverwood, Chorleywood Road - R. Murins
8/765/78 Extension to garage, Silverwood, Chorleywood Road - R. Murins
8/806/78 Detached house and garage, land adjoining Up Top, T.Way - H. Nicholls
8/802/78 Two detached houses and garages, Plots 9 and 10, Lower Plantation, Sarratt Lane - Robert Construction
8/928/78 Additional double garage and conservatory, Brae Cottage, T. Rise - B. E. Carrell
8/826/78 Garage, changing rooms, store, Woodcourt, T. Rise - J. Pither
8/899/78 Indoor swimming pool and car port, Valley House, T. Way - G. Jarvis
8/915/78 Detached house and garage, Plot 15, Lower Plantation, Sarratt Lane - Robert Construction

FOOTNOTES

Have some sympathy for the District Council, if you're feeling charitable this New Year. The last minutes show that they had planned to have to allow money each year for recruiting and training a 13% staff turnover—it turned out to be 18%—and this year they expect to face a turnover of 25%.

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

It has come to the Editor's ears that some of you actually live next door to residents who are *not* members of the LRA. Such eccentricity cannot be tolerated. Show them the newsletter and tell them to mend their ways, especially in view of the fact that next quarter's issue will contain something no householder here can afford to be without - a list and map of all the areas in Loudwater that are covered by tree preservation orders. Do you know which of the trees you own or look out on or walk by can or cannot be cut down? Unless you are sure of this, you cannot afford to miss next quarter's issue of the newsletter, nor can your neighbour.

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

No one has yet come up to rival the bird record of Mr Beharrell, but Mrs Belle Baker of Sleepy Hollow, Whisperwood, has kindly told me of her foxes. Two years ago, Mr and Mrs Baker saw a tired and mangy-looking dog fox in their drive and, out of sympathy, put out some scraps. Now, two years later, the Bakers have become a nightly stopping place for a dog fox and his vixen and their two cubs, who come to the drive for marrow bones, 'petmince' and Winalot biscuits. The Bakers have heard the pups playing in the farm nearby.

(The Editor wonders if anyone has ever seen an encounter between the foxes that frequent Loudwater and the rarer but not uncommon Muntjak deer?).

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Early notice for your diary—Our Annual General Meeting is on May 10 and our Garden Party - *the* social event of Loudwater - is on June 10. See you there!

John Jarrett, Editor