

# LOUDWATER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

*Chairman*  
John Jarrett  
Martha's Vineyard  
Violet Way  
R. 74225

*Vice-Chairman*  
Barnaby Osborne  
Larchmead  
Trout Rise  
R. 72766

*Treasurer*  
Cyril Brine  
Arlsey House  
Rooks Hill  
R. 72508

*Secretary*  
John Watkiss  
Jordans  
Trout Rise  
R. 73781

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## NEWSLETTER No. 12

JULY 1979

### THE COCKTAIL PARTY

If the weather had run true to 1979 form on Sunday 17 June and drenched us all, we couldn't have complained – we have had it all so good the last three times, we can't expect it always!

However, Mrs Annie Wolf's special genius kept the clouds at bay whilst the adults circulated and renewed acquaintances or met new faces and the children fidgeted or got fat on crisps.

Altogether it was a pleasant gathering. Only 190+ guests, compared with the 210 guests of last year, perhaps because of the presence of Chris Evert-Lloyd at Moor Park, but even so, it was difficult to get around and talk to more than three or four groups of people in the allotted time.

We would be glad of any suggestions for the celebration of the next residents' garden party. (In fact, any suggestions at all about anything are always gratefully received.)

One idea that has illuminated the scene since 17 June is a miniature garden competition for the children. For those parents who will be prevailed upon to raid their borders and show how artistic they are, here are a few hints:

In a small tray place some soil and plant in it any of the following items: moss for lawns, twigs for trees – tiny for beds or borders – stones for a rockery, mirror for a pond, sand for paths, etc., the idea being that a tiny person could walk about it.

Of course, it could be a 'bonsai' type of arrangement or a flower and leaf design, although the latter needs to be done immediately beforehand so that it does not wither. The miniature garden has the advantage of being of more permanent delight. The value of this is that they can take it home afterwards and, as far as I can see, it does not need much organising. The gardens would merely be laid on the grass for all to see and judge. Perhaps a brave parent or two could act as final judges. We'll consider this one and let you know.

People came to the garden party from as far as half way to Croxley, and there were many guests from Bridle Lane whom we were pleased to welcome. Regrets were expressed that some representatives from Overstream who were expected didn't turn up after all. Although some people left after an hour or so, others came late so the bar was kept open for an extra hour. At this point I would like to mention our worthy band of helpers led by our organiser, Mr 'Nick' Nicholls, who slogged away faithfully to make everybody happy. Nick wishes to thank Stanley Mann, Tony Irwin, Jack Bennett and their additional helpers, Allan Rose and his son, and Morris Escow for their help at the bar, and he says that those people who called at all the houses to publicise the event and to sell tickets are especially to be thanked – so, Messrs Dove, Coles, Brine, Jarrett, Escow, Irwin, Cognet, Cammell, Bennett and Mrs Stratford, our sincere thanks herewith. Nick was particularly grateful for the nice way residents came and collected the tickets instead of leaving them for him to deliver to you. He asked me also to thank all those well behaved children. And, last but not least, we were pleased to see that Mrs Wolf's lawn stood up to the invasion so well after all that rain. Thank you, dear Annie, for your hospitality once again.

### CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS

An idea that may not work out but which your committee thinks might be fun to try –

Several times we've been told what a pity it is that there are few pictorial records of Loudwater. But in high summer (remember what that is?) or in snowy winter, Loudwater does look spectacular. We thought it would be pleasant if we could record this on a Christmas card for members of the Association. If it is practical, we would like to get two very good shots of Loudwater, one summer and one winter, and put them on a Christmas card which we would then give one copy free to every member, offering more (if requested) at a price. We don't know the economics yet – as even a considerable demand is still liable to be small in commercial terms, the cards may be too expensive but we are discussing this with printers at the moment. First of all, though, we've got to have the pictures. Would anyone who has a good picture or pictures of Loudwater (this year or last year) that could be printed up to about five inches by four from a negative, please send it as soon as possible and at the latest by 1 September to the Editor. Copyright, apart from the card, will of course remain with the owner – credit will be given on the card – and all pictures will be carefully returned. For further news, see the October newsletter.

### LOUDWATER IN THE NEWS

As he modestly kept his name out of it, those who read the Watford Observer story about the presentation to Dr Geoffrey Bond may not know that the moving spirit behind the whole exercise was Loudwater resident Group Captain Douglas Graham of Foxhill, Loudwater Drive. On hearing that Dr Bond was retiring after 32 years as head of the local practice in Mill End, Douglas thought the people of Loudwater, many of whose families had been on the practice's list, might like to say thank you. He wrote several hundred letters, joined in a similar plan for Mill End, and the splendid result was that the two appeals have to date produced over £1800 for Dr and Mrs Bond, which has been spent on such gifts as they wanted and a cheque towards a holiday in North America. The main presentation was at Watersmeet. Dr Bond was told that he was just coming to a dinner with his colleagues in the practice but when he turned up he found almost 300 people there to say thank you. Sir George Baker, another distinguished Loudwater resident, presented the gifts with a witty speech. To our committee member, Douglas, well done!

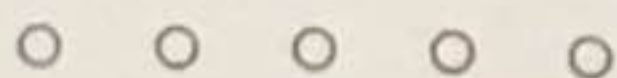
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Also in the Observer in recent weeks was a story about a former Loudwater resident, Mrs Elizabeth Sidney. Mrs Sidney, who lived until 1973 in Silverwood, Loudwater Lane, is an industrial training specialist. The occasion of the report in the paper was the news that she and Shirley Conran have written a book discussing the ways in which life can be coped with by women over 30.

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Inflation records. In the same week as petrol in Loudwater began to sell at over £1 a gallon, the first Loudwater house to be offered for sale at over £100,000 was advertised. It is Bentley in Violet Way, owned by American Thomas Bove. Bentley, at one time of the great houses of Loudwater, became somewhat neglected. It even made headlines when one owner and his then neighbour came to blows over a disputed right of way and both finished in Court. Mr Bove has done a great deal of work on Bentley, but £125,000 makes you think, doesn't it?



Readers of this month's Good Housekeeping magazine could be forgiven for missing one little item of Loudwater interest. An article called Family Reunion talked about one family's pleasant habit of assembling yearly at the home of their senior and distinguished uncle, one Henry Osborne. There are scores of them at these reunions and in the first picture, posing somewhat shyly on the extreme right of the picture are none other than the LRA's Vice Chairman, Barnaby Osborne, and his wife Patricia. Barnaby, Tricia and some of their children also appear in other pictures in the article which shows the Osbornes as a large and happy family.

#### THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It was encouraging to find that approximately 30 people braved the downpour on 10 June for our Annual General Meeting.

One important issue came up when Mr Don Cammell explained that the Herts and Middlesex Trust were still interested in acquiring Beechengrove Wood in order to preserve it. (Residents will remember that the LRA fought successfully to prevent building here). The ideas of nature conservation and its stewardship are to the heart of most Loudwater residents so the desirability of having nature reserves must therefore be self evident. We hope residents will be vigilant to report any attempts to cut down any trees covered by preservation orders, as Don Cammell pointed out. (For which trees are covered, see the last newsletter).

There were urgent calls also for vigilance concerning security. If you suspect anything, you are asked to telephone the police without hesitation as there have been a number of thefts recently.

It was pointed out that the planning application for housing in the meadow of Sarratt Lane by the top of Trout Rise had been turned down following protests from many people, supported by the LRA, and residents are asked to make a noise to prevent undesirable developments.

After the treacherous road conditions this winter, it was pointed out that there had not been enough rock salt and grit for the private roads. The committee promised to take this up with the Estate Company and residents are asked to help grit the roads as much as possible.

In his report, Chairman Jack Cognet reported that the committee had met a number of times in the past year and their activities had been reported regularly in the newsletter. The importance of the newsletter was emphasised as being a much-appreciated and useful feature of the Loudwater Residents Association and help with producing it was always welcome.

Mr Cognet ended his report by announcing that after

several years as Chairman of the Association he felt he should stand down. John Jarrett was elected as new Chairman and Mr Barnaby Osborne as Vice-Chairman. Mr Cyril Brine (Treasurer), Mr John Watkiss (Secretary), Mr Jack Cognet, Mr Jim Watkins, Mrs Annie Wolf, Mrs D. Francis and Mrs M. Stratford were other elected committee members, with Mr Douglas Graham and Mr Don Cammell co-opted and Col. Anderson representing Bridle Lane.

Finally, it was reported that the accounts for the year ended 31 December 1978 showed the funds to be in a strong position so that, in spite of the general devaluation of money, there would be no need to increase the subscriptions yet.

After the meeting the Chairman invited everybody to take wine with him [organised by Mr Nicholls - who else!].

#### NATURE NOTE

For those like the editor, who don't mind being called sappy, isn't it nice to see that our resident swans have raised no fewer than six cygnets - and a pretty sight they make, fluffy grey balls paddling along behind their mother on the lake. Now, like all babies, they are rapidly becoming adolescent.

#### EDITOR'S NOTE

After initiating the newsletter, which has so helped to increase the membership of the Loudwater Residents Association to some ninety per cent of the possible total number of residents, John Jarrett has relinquished the editorship of the newsletter for the duties of Chairman of the Association in place of Mr Cognet, whose services have been so appreciated. John's friendly style of writing and unflagging efforts to promote links between the people of Loudwater, by seeking to identify their common interests through the newsletter, must receive our grateful thanks. We are grateful also for his continued guidance and participation in the affairs of the Association.

This newsletter is the result of collaboration between Dorothy Francis and John. Dorothy is soon taking over and future items of interest and opinions that could be brought to the attention of readers should be addressed to her at Dovecote, Troutstream Way, telephone number 70663 (evenings).

#### MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Some readers have expressed a wish for a receipt for the £1.00 annual Membership subscription. We are in the process of considering this. In order to avoid increased bureaucracy, an idea has been put forward to leave a space at the bottom of the newsletter for the signature of the person who receives your sub. We'll decide when to start this soon.

#### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

8/296/79 Single-storey extension. Flint Cottage, Troutstream Way, for D. Bicknell. Permission withheld.

8/122/79 Single-storey side extension. Penwood House, off Loudwater Drive, for M. Kwinter. Permission granted.

8/197/79 Double detached garage. Handa, Trout Rise, for M. Bianchin.

Alterations and erection of one and two storey side and rear extensions, for R. Joliffe, The Cobblers, Rooks Hill, Loudwater.