

LOUDWATER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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Violet Way
R. 74225

Vice-Chairman
Barnaby Usborne
Larchmead
Trout Rise
R. 72766

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Trout Rise
R. 73781

NEWSLETTER No. 13

OCTOBER 1979

GREETINGS!

The holidays are over, the children are all packed off to school and Christmas is coming! Although the weather has been so unreliable, Loudwater still looks lovely and we are now waiting for those wonderful photographs for a Christmas card for the Residents Association. Perhaps we will have some in time for next year. In the meantime another suggestion is that a painting of Loudwater may be more suitable for reproductions. Have you one that you would like to see used for this purpose?

THE A405 CONTROVERSY

A correspondence which started in May 1978 by Peter McGregor, Dacres, has now been brought to an end. At that time he had been appointed L.R.A. representative on the A405 Co-ordinating Committee, and he decided he would try to get the matter of the road surface and tree planting into the in-tray of William Rodgers, who was then Secretary of State for Transport. Until that time the local District and County Councils had been unsuccessful in offering a solution as had the local M.P.

A lively correspondence ensued which culminated in the Secretary of State saying in March 1979 that there were several points which had been raised which he wished to re-examine. This was overtaken by the Election; since when the job has been given to a Minister, Norman Fowler, who appears reluctant to take action.

Peter told Rodgers that the insistence by the Director of the Eastern Road Construction Unit, that concrete was as quiet as "black top" was contrary to all the evidence. Nearly all the motorways in Europe except in this area were being built in "black top".

All residents affected by the road are recommended to make as big an impact as possible when the public enquiry for the next stage takes place when the Department of Transport may be more susceptible to reasoned argument. This correspondence together with the much more detailed and lengthier correspondence with officials, by those residents who fought the main "battle of the road" has gone into the Association archives. Subsequently, it has been reported in the Watford Observer that preliminary enquiries about the extension of the A25 from Maple Cross to Egham and from Hunton Bridge to South Mimms are due to begin. The committee is keeping close contacts with the enquiry because if "black top" is used for those extensions why not for the A405!

GARDEN BONFIRES

The Three Rivers Information Officer has asked that your attention be drawn to the nuisance that bonfires cause. The council does not have any bye-laws prohibiting them or restricting the hours during which they may be lit but the Health Department prefer people to light them after sunset. You are especially asked to see that as little smoke as possible is caused. In extreme cases, statutory action under the Clean Air Act can be taken.

FAMOUS RESIDENTS OF LOUDWATER — PAST AND PRESENT

If you have read Yehudi Menuhin's autobiography, "Unfinished Journey" you will not have missed the section on page 165 which reads:—

"Much of the credit for the longevity and agreeableness of my relationship with H.M.V. (later E.M.I.) must go to David Bicknell, who represented the company at the signing of that first contract in 1929 and continued so to represent it for many years thereafter. His warm, always smiling rubicund English face brought a sense of friendliness to every kind of discussion. Both he and his wife, the adorable and warm-hearted Italian violinist Giaconda da Vita, with whom I have played and recorded, have now retired to cultivate their garden near London in contentment. I see them far too rarely."

The garden that David and his wife cultivate near London is, as many of you no doubt already know, in our own Troutstream Way, and their house, Flint Cottage is, with Dovecote, one of the oldest in the Estate.

MISCELLANY

Many people have expressed their deep sympathy to the owners of 3a, Rose Garden, Nora and Philip Macken at the terrible burning of their beautiful house.

The secretary would like it made known that there is a vein of Roman pottery running through the valley. This interests the County Architect so much that it brings him here post haste when plans are submitted by people who are unwittingly putting their future hopes over a Roman pot. Apparently they have actuated a law that might be used to stop them building.

Alarm has been expressed at the way some cars have been allowed to be parked for extensive periods on the roads of the Estate. Unless residents who allow this to happen are deliberately causing "chicanes" to slow down the speed of traffic passing their homes, it would be appreciated if ways could be found of parking visiting cars and other vehicles in such a manner as to prevent accidents occurring.

Dear Harry Jackson, many people have asked that their grateful thanks may be expressed to you for your vigilant closing of the gates on Trout Rise, not only to you but also to other members of your family. We are of course aware of the demands this makes and would ask residents to help out by closing the gates themselves even if they are only going out for a little while.

Hooray for the sparkling new white paint on the gates at the top of Kingfisher Lure! There you are, Clive Colls of 'Chalmsdale': "They that ask shall receive!"

Mr. Jack Bennett, Muirside, Overstream would like to express his appreciation of the public spirit shown by Mrs. Verna Hanman, Chess Place, Troutstream Way, who has so cheerfully and uncomplainingly cleared some of the right of way path from Troutstream Way to Loudwater Lane.

NATURE NOTES

Concerning Trees:

If you have crab apple trees in your garden, watch out for blight! The crab apple trees on Chorley Wood Common that have fireblight, are to be felled by order of the Parish Council, together with some dead elms. This is to prevent the blight from spreading, which it does only too easily.

**19.6.79. Tree Preservation Orders (Loudwater No. 5)
Cupressus at White Cottage, Loudwater Lane.**

Consent has been granted for its removal subject to a suitable replacement tree being planted as soon as possible.

Ivy

Although ivy makes good ground cover, it makes good tree cover too. How much damage does the Common Ivy do to trees? One opinion is that it eventually causes trees to die. Another opinion is that it does not need living trees to grow on and that it merely causes adventitious roots to penetrate into fissures in bark and crevices in walls in order to climb, not to tap for moisture. Like honeysuckle it takes its nourishment from the ground.

Janet Moore, Windy Ridge, Loudwater Lane, has been kind enough to confirm that although ivy does not drain the tree of nourishment, its roots can open up the bark to fungus or tree diseases which can be very damaging. On the other hand, however, it affords great protection for overwintering larvae of many different insects and of course shelter for small birds in the cold of winter nights. Janet is the representative for Rickmansworth and Loudwater, to the Herts. and Middlesex Trust.

For the benefit of those people who fear the effect of ivy, one solution has been offered. If old Col. Cameron Jeffs, who did so much to institute the Estate Company could go about with his little hatchet and wearing his chamois leather gloves and cut the stems of ivy on trees he passed, in order to maintain their natural beauty where it was necessary, so too might others of like mind. It has been suggested that if anyone's sons need a useful outlet for their winter holiday energies, they might like to take a leaf out of Col. Jeffs' book and form an ivy cutters league.

Apologies to all swan lovers. It has been pointed out to me by more than one person that there are seven cygnets not six as reported in the last newsletter. These are now fully grown and need feeding if we are to keep them in our waters. Their feeding time is between nine o'clock and ten o'clock in the mornings or five and six o'clock in the evenings, at which time they gather in the vicinity of the bridge between Watersmead and Flint Cottage, Troutstream Way. Bring your stale bread!

One of last year's cygnets that is now fully grown, lives in Anne Wolff's garden. It lives a stormy life even in this haven of tranquility. At one time it tried to go back to its mother but the father of this year's brood nearly battered it to death. He apparently held its head under water and in the struggle one of its wings broke. "It" took refuge in Anne's garden where it now pursues a daily battle with Anne's little dog for squatting rights on a ledge on the river side. "It" has adopted a mallard duck with three babies this year but has not had an easy time with them either. Even his name is not his own for Anne has blessed him with the name of "Henry Or" because she did not know at first whether he was Henry or Henrietta.

Autumn in Loudwater, means frantic preparation for the onset of winter by hedgehogs, badgers, foxes, woodmice, squirrels, bats and grass snakes. It means that with the leaves falling, we are able more easily to see a Sparrow in flight, a Kestrel hovering, or down by the Chess, the flirting tails of the Grey and Pied Wagtails alighting on a stone or bank. Janet Moore says it is the time to watch out for the winter Scandinavian visitors like the Redwing and Fieldfare, or for a fascinating variety of fungi on rotting tree stumps or on the woodland floor.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Sir George Baker on his retirement from the High Court where he has served as a judge for more than eighteen years. We all wish him the kind of retirement he most desires.

To Marion and Peter Macgregor (Dacres) and their daughter

Fiona who were personally introduced to Prince Philip at the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace at the beginning of August.

To Jonathan Gowshall of Chess Hill, who was one of the winners of the recent "Moonraker" film competition at the beginning of August. I wonder what Jonathan thought of the film when he saw it? His prize was two tickets to see "Moonraker" at Watford Odeon.

To the Newlyweds we offer our best wishes:

Mr. & Mrs. S. Mugfords (Loudwater Lane) daughter Alison to Gary Carlidge, Mr. & Mrs. A. Van Schaik's (The Coachman's House), daughter Hedy to Guy D. Briault, Mr. J. Jarrett's (your chairman) daughter Martha to Christopher Whittle.

From the Estate Board

Dr. Wander requires tough plastic bags to stock-pile rock salt for winter roads. Please bring them to the yard near Loudwater Garage.

Planning Applications

8/147/79 Residential development - Land between Upper Plantation and Plot 18, Lower Plantation, Sarratt Lane for John Robert Permission REFUSED.

The L.R.A. warned residents in the April Newsletter that this was coming up. The result is gratifying.

With further reference to the development at 'The Plantation', the editor has received via your chairman, a letter from Christopher Rowland on behalf of Mr. J. Roberts who has asked Mr. Carrington to try to improve upon the relationships that exist between Mr. Roberts and the residents. Mr. Carrington writes: "It seems that most of the residents are now under the impression that our client Mr. Roberts is responsible for desecrating the fields and woodlands which we all enjoy but in my opinion, this is simply not true . . . to the best of my knowledge, the outline planning application had nothing to do with him - he merely purchased the site that was advertised for sale.

The editor would like to add that although she is happy to make this clear, the problem still remains that people are not happy about the development and the difficulties that have been experienced, which have been extreme to say the least!

8/517/79 Detached house and garage, Plot 19, Lower Plantation, Sarratt Lane, Loudwater, for John Robert Construction.

8/548/79 Alterations and extensions to roof area, Chateau Tranquille, Sarratt Lane, for Mr. and Mrs. P. Crowe.

8/279/79 Two storey side extension and single storey front extension, Chess Way, Loudwater Land, for D.S. Shaw.

8/205/79 Two storey side extension Broad Eaves, Trout Rise for D. Korsin.

8/288/79 Detached garage Holly Trees, Trout Rise for S.A. Budrells.

8/413/79 Single storey extensions Mayfield, Loudwater Heights for S. Hickey.

8/421/79 Garage Plot One, Far End, Loudwater for J. Robert.

8/443/79 First floor rear extension, The Old Mill House, Loudwater Lane for J. Lipton.

8/460/79 Single storey side and two storey side and rear extensions, White Violets, Troutstream Way for E. Browne.

8/493/79 Detached garage, Trees, Trout Rise, for M. Carrington.

8/353/79 Single storey rear extension, Dimara, Chess Lane for J. Fitzpatrick.