

LOUDWATER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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John Jarrett
Martha's Vineyard
Violet Way
R. 74225

Vice-Chairman
Don Cammell
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R. 76126

Treasurer
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Arlesey House
Rooks Hill
R. 72508

Secretary
John Watkiss
Jordans
Trout Rise
R. 73781

NEWSLETTER No. 19

APRIL 1981

DATES TO REMEMBER

1. May 14th, Loudwater Residents Association Annual General Meeting, Chorleywood House, 8.00 p.m. The guest speaker will be Dr. Bond, the well-known local general practitioner.
2. June 21st L.R.A. garden party at Cressy House, Trout Rise, by kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. Ben King (Cressy House is next door to Chess Lodge, the previous venue).

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LOUDWATER RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION Report:—

Three long standing hassles in Loudwater have in two cases moved to a satisfactory conclusion. From the January Newsletter, members will have seen that the Council has required that the situation be remedied concerning the creation of a potential drive south of Glen Chess into Loudwater Lane. Your Association will continue to press for a total replacement of the previous fence line.

The alleged problems arising from the diversion of the River Chess inside the property of one riparian owner in Troutstream Way have also, we believe, been satisfactorily resolved. After several requests to the L.R.A. for help, a petition was signed by over a score of people which the L.R.A. drew to the attention of the householder concerned and to the Thames Water Conservancy Board. One of the complications in this business was that the same householder had in fact changed the course of the river before many years ago and there does not appear to be any trace that any concerted complaint had been made to the Residents Association which at that time did not carry out quite the same function as the present L.R.A., nor were the Thames Water Authorities consulted in the same way. Your chairman John Jarrett, is conscious that in his dealings in this matter he has had to disappoint some people who wished to raise issues arising from the first change of the river's course, but for the present L.R.A. to venture any opinion on what changes were made over ten years ago, changes moreover which were not officially protested against at the time, would be quite impractical. It is also true that questions of water level, flow, silting and mudding are very delicate ones because minor alterations of structure and use are constantly going on up and down stream, thus making it very difficult to blame any particular result on any particular cause.

However a Water Board official made several inspections of the alterations, some in the company of your chairman and finally in January, (at 10.30 on a Sunday morning, heaven help us!) a meeting was held at the site, to which the L.R.A. chairman and all riparian owners who were immediately affected, were invited. The position of the Water Board was made quite clear, i.e. that major alterations to the levels should not have been made, nor should be, if any one is contemplating this, without the Boards approval; that it had legal powers but preferred to arrange things amicably; and that in this case it required alterations to several weirs in this property, either of restitution, insertion or alteration. These have been carried out.

The Water Board made it clear, that for amenity waters, de-silting is the bank owners responsibility. They suggest that if three or four people have the problem, a joint approach is less expensive. They use and recommend E. J. Harris Ltd., Brentside Wharf, Dock Road, Brentford. (Telephone: Miss Ormond, 01-568 6893).

It was then agreed that another meeting should take place in one year's time. The date of this will be on January 17th or 24th 1982. A full year's experience of the river's behaviour is necessary before a reasonable judgment of the effectiveness of the new measures can be made. All present at the meeting expressed themselves as satisfied with the results. An instruction has since been issued to remove a tree which is partially blocking the waterway east of the bridge on Troutstream Way.

It would be churlish not to pay tribute to the work of Mr. Townsend, the Water Board official from the Reading office for his firm, diplomatic and expert help. It would also be unfair not to say that since your chairman became involved, he has had nothing but courteous co-operation from the householder concerned.

The third hassle still, alas, continues. This concerns the state of the woodland on the southern boundary of the footpath from Loudwater Lane westwards. Although work was, by efforts of residents and the L.R.A., stopped some time ago, the Forestry Commission has failed so far to be effective in having proper clearing and replanting carried out, or in having the existing shambles tidied. The help of the M.P. for South West Herts. has been invoked but again, promises of action have not borne fruit. We will continue.

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There still seems need to remind residents both of the need for vigilance and of what the L.R.A. can do.

For example, one recent application was carefully phrased to refer to land "south" of a certain point which seemed of little interest to anyone but as it turned out, "south" of that point also meant "north" of one notable beauty spot, and none of those living there worked that out. Luckily, others less directly concerned alerted the L.R.A. and our objection was able to be put in just thirty-six hours before the deadline for a discussion which might have led to an approval by the Council through lack of objection.

Secondly, another application which was turned down, met objections from one group of residents who had employed a solicitor at some expense, to present their case. This is, of course, anyone's clear right, but if they had made their feelings known to the L.R.A. they would have found out that rejection was almost certain and there were grounds for objection far wider than they had perceived. They would also have saved money. In the end all was well — but remember we can be of some use.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Foxhill, Loudwater Drive, from Mr. Douglas H.M. Graham.

Dear Editor,

With reference to the letter in the January Newsletter about Loudwater Drive, I sympathise with the young writer. The Graham family suffered from many a bicycle puncture in their younger days and I am not too happy about our car nowadays.

As I understand the position, nobody owns, or at least admits to owning, the Drive. It is clearly one of the original entrances to Loudwater House. "The Dell", which has a twin at the top end of Troutstream Way, was one of the lodges guarding it. Possibly the Estate Company or the owner of the freehold of Loudwater House, could, if either

wished, trace the Drive's history and ownership. The Company does not seem to have interested itself in the Drive during the 25 years since we bought our plot from the late Mr. Eric Swan, then of "Glen Chess". (Mr. Swan told me orally that he most probably owned the Drive but made it clear that he did not intend to accept any responsibility for it.)

One day, perhaps, the owners of the houses gaining access from Loudwater Drive will be forced to get together to repair it. (When Mr. George Fuerst lived at Mont-au-Source, some years ago, he and I made a tentative effort in this direction, without success.) Meanwhile, our potholes are probably at least as effective in discouraging unauthorised use and excessive speeding as the Estate's sleeping policemen.

It might be worth noting that people in Heronsgate recently got together to repair a road there. The aged owner provided the materials and they provided the muscle. The Editor is pleased to report that the Committee intends to recompense Rachel for the expense she has incurred.

From Dr. Philip Evans, Consultant Psychiatrist, of Farm Lane, Loudwater.

Residents may like to know that several of us have been working together for the past two years to set up a local industrial workshop providing sheltered work for the psychiatrically disabled. Mr. John Pither (Trout Rise), Dr. Albert Wander, Mr. Ron Amey (Farm Lane) and myself are co-directors with others of Industrial Therapy Organisation (Watford) Ltd., a voluntary, charitable body in Oxhey with close links with health services and industry. The idea is that if we are able to begin to create alternative places of 'asylum' in the community in the form of a range of protected work and also accommodation then we can anticipate the eventual closure of the traditional mental hospital, out of sight, out of mind and out of time. New industrial and executive blood welcome; details from any one of us!

Brambles, Lower Plantation, from Mr. R. Bilton.

Dear Editor,

We enjoyed reading Newsletter No. 18 and would like to say how interesting we find them. One of the drawbacks to living in Loudwater is that without a church or a 'local', it sometimes takes a while for news to circulate and a regular newsletter helps everyone to keep in touch. I particularly enjoyed Janet Moore's article on the natural history of Loudwater. We really are fortunate to live in an area so rich in wild life. On a recent walk along the Chess I saw, within ten yards of each other, a grey wagtail, a kingfisher and a snipe. A few days later I saw another snipe and three teal duck.

I have seen many foxes in Sarratt Lane, particularly at the Solesbridge Lane end, have watched badgers late one summer's evening not more than half a mile from here, and three weeks ago we saw a Muntjac deer at the bottom of our garden.

Editors Note: The Muntjac deer is a regular visitor to Loudwater. Two or three have often been seen in Flint Cottage and Dovecote gardens in the evening or the early morning. Some have also been seen picking their delicate way along the grass verge in Troutstream Way, so motorists, please take care! At Lightwoods, Troutstream Way, they appear to follow a set path.

Apparently they were first recorded in Hertfordshire in the 1920's based on escapes from Woburn and the Hoddesdon Estate of Major Pam. They breed continuously with a gestation period of seven months but are widely dispersed so that they seldom produce forestry or agricultural damage. Dr. Dansie of the Herts. and Middlesex Trust suggests that the deer presence in the county be documented on a continuous basis for purposes of control or of support and

conservation, so if you can identify any, please let them know at the Headquarters of the County Trust, Offley Place Great Offley, Hitchin (Offley 357).

Thatches, Loudwater Lane, from José and Geoffrey Bendel.

One crisp January morning, unusually sunny for so early in the year, I took a stroll, as a newcomer to the district to discover the delights of my new country surroundings.

Starting off walking along the winding country road from the top of Loudwater Lane towards Croxley Green I turned right, after walking about half a mile, down a footpath. To my left I began to see the rolling fields, some cultivated, when suddenly a large flock of pigeons white and blue in the rays of the sun, took wing as one, in a blend of colours. A Red Setter came bounding up to say hello and there, at a moment in time, a large bird sat on the hedge chirping merrily, ignoring my presence.

At the junction of the footpaths I turned right towards the river Chess and at once came upon the sight of a white shaggy pony wading contentedly in the river, and further around a bend two chestnut ponies clip clopping along the edge and splashing through the water to gallop in abandon across the fields. I noticed that the sheep and cows also had their own spots to drink and wade.

Any of these scenes could have been straight out of a Gainsborough painting.

The only thing to mar this enchanting walk was the heavy mud, and next time I will remember to wear my 'wellies and enjoy many happy hours discovering the natural loveliness of this beautiful valley.

WELCOME TO NEWCOMERS

Mr. & Mrs. Trevor Tull, and their children Andrew and Caroline are the new residents at Trimbles, Loudwater Drive.

TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

A report has been made on the decisions of the Members Panel concerning tree work on

(i) Chorleywood (Loudwater No. 3) T.P.O. 1971. Six Sycamore, three Cherry and one Beech at plot 19, Lower Plantation.

(ii) Chorleywood (Loudwater No. 3) T.P.O. 1971, Sycamore at plot No. 10, Lower Plantation.

(iii) Chorleywood (Loudwater No. 3) T.P.O. 1971 trees at 15 Lower Plantation.

It has been reported that the Director of Planning had authorised the making of a T.P.O. on trees on land adjacent to and south of Bridle Path Cottage as there was reason to believe that the trees were threatened, Three Rivers (Loudwater No. 1) T.P.O. 1980. This has now been confirmed.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 8/798/80 Front entrance porch and dormer extensions, Mayfield, Loudwater Heights, for Stephen Hickey Esq.
- 8/895/80 Two storey side extension, Timberley, Troutstream Way, for R.P. Fulker Esq.
- 8/868/80 & 8/97/81 Erection of detached house, (detailed drawings) land adjoining The Spinney, Lower Plantation, Sarratt Lane, Loudwater, for Mr. & Mrs. P. Rice.
- 8/84/81 Single storey rear extension, 1 Armitage Close, Loudwater for Mr. & Mrs. D.A.P. Jeffreys.
- 8/152/81 Erection of rear extension to garage to enclose swimming pool, Woodcourt, Trout Rise, for J. Pither Esq.
- 8/131/81 Erection of three detached garages, 2, 3, & 4, New Cottages, Solesbridge Lane, for J. H. Clutterbuck Esq.