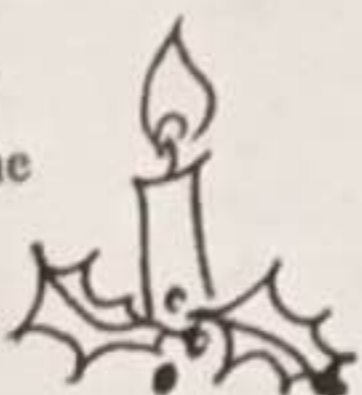


LOUDWATER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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



Vice-Chairman
Barnaby Usborne
Larchmead
Trout Rise
R. 72766



Treasurer
Cyril Brine
Arlesey House
Rooks Hill
R. 72508



Secretary
John Watkiss
Jordans
Trout Rise
R. 73781

NEWSLETTER No. 18

THE SEASONS GREETINGS!

JANUARY 1981

JANET MOORE WRITES:-

Reflecting back over last autumn, some things have stood apart as being worth a mention.

During the late summer and autumn, I was very conscious of the very large numbers and frequency of Canada Geese flying back and forth over Loudwater between the Colne valley and the agricultural land somewhere in the vicinity of Sarratt and perhaps Kings Langley (although their exact destination is not certain). Their distinctive "honking" flight calls, heard long before they put in an appearance, have become a regular feature in Loudwater and it seems they leave the Colne valley somewhere around 7 a.m. each morning and return at dusk, although a colleague of mine who lives in West Hyde tells me that there is very often a second outward flight around the middle of the day. Like many introduced species, the Canada Goose has got its feet fairly firmly under the table, so to speak, and having become such a successful breeder, its numbers are reaching nuisance proportions in some areas.

Unusual too have been the large numbers of mallard (up to 160 together) feeding on the stubble field immediately adjacent to the houses bordering Chess Close. Geese grazing agricultural land in winter is a common sight, but it is not usual for ducks to do this, especially so distant from water. Recent ploughing of the field saw the last of the big mallard flocks, but it was a spectacular sight as they rose in unison at dusk.

Heron have also been regular visitors to our part of the Chess from the summer onwards. Enormous birds though they are, it is a splendid sight to watch a Grey heron drifting slowly in to land.

Noticeable too this autumn have been Tawny Owls. Always a regular feature of Loudwater and although I have heard them regularly since 1973 when I moved here, their "nocturnal emanations" during this autumn have been particularly obvious. It could be that they have bred so successfully along the Chess valley that they are extending out to territories closer to Loudwater Lane now.

Our elusive friend, the Hawfinch, has been seen on four separate occasions in Loudwater from spring of this year between Loudwater Farm and Croxley, although its appearance on each occasion was fairly brief.

Migration on the whole, appears to be later this year, possibly due to the mild autumn, and I saw my last swallows on 8th October. On 26th October, a bat was spotted hunting round the trees in "Wanstead" garden, Loudwater Lane, which seems late in hibernating.

On 28th October, a fine-looking dog fox walked through the garden of Windy Ridge, Loudwater Lane. Despite the fact that foxes are very often associated with trouble-making, it is wrong to think they are automatically bound for the nearest chicken-run, rabbit hutch or whatever, although if there is easy access into these, there is no hesitation on the part of the fox. They are known to take a wide variety of food from fruit, fish, birds eggs, insects to mammals and carrion. Rats feature high in their diet so in this respect they do a great service.

I am delighted to report that "Hoppy", my garden robin crippled by frostbite in one leg in the severity of the 1979 winter weather, has raised yet another fine healthy brood this year, and is all keyed up for more of my "bird pudding" this winter!

CONGRATULATIONS

To Lady Lewis and family who were invited to a luncheon at the University of Wales at Cardiff on 26th November,

where a Chair of Cardiology was instituted and named the "Sir Thomas Lewis Chair", to honour the late Sir Thomas Lewis F.R.S. of Clearburn, Trout Rise.

To Mr. Charles Green, Marana Tha, Whisperwood, who has been elected to the House of Laity of the General Synod of the Church of England, which is the Parliament of the Established church. The Autumn four day session commenced on 12th November. Charles made his maiden speech on 'The Church and Politics'. Elections to office are for five years.

To the Newly Weds:-

Mr. & Mrs. J. Murray's (Silverdene, Sarratt Lane) daughter, Alison to Mr. Jack Friend on 5th October.

HONOURABLE MENTION

George Batchelor, our redoubtable milkman really deserves a medal, not only for his unfailing cheeriness and good humour but for his resourcefulness and courage.

Myra and Jack Murray would like to express their thanks to him for the way in which he prevented a serious burglary at their home by using his eyes, following up his suspicions and organising help.

On posting a note through the letter box he heard some scuffling, and knowing of the owners' absence, became suspicious. Instead of walking away, he looked through the box and saw a television standing in the hall. He went to get the help of some builders nearby and together they surrounded the house. There were two youths inside, one of whom they caught. The other escaped, but was later captured by the police. The public-spirited actions of the builders who helped George are also to be commended. George, however, appears to be in the habit of using his eyes and taking appropriate actions. He was instrumental in preventing a break-in at another house in the area a fortnight before this event. Thank you George!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I do a paper round which includes several houses in Loudwater Drive. The surface of that road is in an appalling condition and I have already had two punctures to my bike in the last couple of months. My mother's car had a puncture also, not long ago while driving me to a friend's house.

In addition to myself, milkmen, postmen and others who are expected to deliver goods to houses in Loudwater Drive must suffer equal inconvenience and hardship.

Although the residents of Loudwater have every right to live on a private road, do they not also have to take into account the position of other people whom they expect to provide them with services and ensure that the surface of the road is maintained in a reasonable condition?

From Rachel Hankinson, aged 14.

Rachel, who lives in Loudwater Lane, asks for comments on the legal position and whether residents think her views are as reasonable as she believes them to be. At present the Editor can only reply that it may be possible to charge extra for the services provided - "Danger Money" as it were.

JOHN JARRETT WRITES ABOUT THE ESTATE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Despite bitter cold some forty people attended the Estate's Annual General Meeting. The formal business of adopting the accounts and the Director's report was soon over. The

accounts showed the usual problem of collecting enough money fast enough to do all that is desirable and the Estate is now going to try to collect road dues before carrying out work instead of after. The other formal business was the election of directors to fill the vacancies after the obligatory retirement of the two longest serving directors, Mr. Alexander and Mr. Jarrett. There were no other nominations, Lady Lewis proposed their re-election and this was agreed.

As usual the open part of the meeting was more productive of discussion, though the subjects tended to be the same as usual. The answer to the question: "Why weren't the roads better swept?" was, "No reply at all to several advertisements which even said 'salary negotiable'. Grateful thanks were expressed that two student sons of residents took on the job, but a plea was made for more, with the assurance that they would be paid.

Information about the ramps:—

a) Two people wished that they had never been put in. Most people felt they should have been bigger. b) They were made of tarmac because it bonds better and can be resurfaced in the normal road works. c) Within twenty-four hours of signs being put up, two had been removed and one had since gone. They will be replaced. d) Several residents reported drivers deliberately going on to grass verges round ramps. Extensions will be considered. e) Because ramps are difficult to see, a white strip will be painted.

Other points:—

(i) Unhappiness at the importation of American Halloween customs was spoken of. (ii) A request for Whisperwood signs to be relocated will be looked into. (iii) The surface on Whisperwood is under guarantee and will be fixed. (Agreed work used too large gravel not enough tar). (iv) The answer to why the woodland between Loudwater House and Violet Way is allowed to go, perhaps to the point of danger, is that it is not the Estate's property. Representations have been made to its absentee owner who does not answer. (v) Lastly, thanks were given to Albert Wander for carrying out the tricky job of being the Estate Secretary.

WELCOME TO NEWCOMERS

Mr. Cyril Brine wishes to welcome the following new residents as members of the L.R.A.:—

- (i) Sheila & Geoffrey Liley, Wren Top, Bridle Lane.
- (ii) A. B. Coulson, Whitewoods, Troutstream Way.
- (iii) Michael Warnon, Dolphin Lodge, Loudwater Lane. He comes from Brussels.
- (iv) Miss Kathy Taylor, 14 Glen Chess, Loudwater Lane. She is a WREN officer on H.M.S. Warrior, Northwood, and is also a Scot from Edinburgh.

Mrs. G. R. Jarvis wishes residents to welcome Mr. & Mrs. Geewala, the newcomers to Valley House, Troutstream Way.

TROUTSTREAM HALL EXTENSION

The Coffee Morning held at Troutstream Hall, on Tuesday morning 4th November was a great success. There were several stalls, the most popular being the Christmas stall although the White Elephant and the Cake stalls did well too. Altogether, a very satisfactory £113 was made in aid of the proposed extension.

TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

Officers Decisions:—

Applicants in the following cases have been informed that the consent of the council was not required in respect of the stated work, as it referred to trees which were dead, dying or dangerous.

1. Chorleywood (Loudwater No. 3) Tree Pres. Ord. 1971 : Trees at No. 9 Lower Plantation.
2. Rickmansworth (Loudwater No. 3) Tree Pres. Ord. 1971 : Trees at Glen Chess, Loudwater Lane.

The Members Panel has inspected trees at Aigkmont, Trout Rise, under Three Rivers (Trout Rise, Loudwater) Tree Pres. Order 1977 and a report has been made. A report has also

been made on trees at No. 17 Lower Plantation (Loudwater No. 3) Tree Pres. Order 1971.

M25 MOTORWAY

Hunton Bridge to Maple Cross Section and connecting roads.

A report was made to the Council on the publication by the Department of Transport of a draft scheme and Order, providing for the appropriation to motorway status of the five mile length of the A405 from its junction with A412 link road and Long Lane at Heronsgate to the Hunton Bridge Roundabout. Since the road had been built originally to motorway standards, no roadworks would be involved, other than the installation of telephones and alterations to signing. The Council has objected to the proposed appropriation of this section of the A405, to motorway status on the grounds that such a proposal would be likely to attract additional vehicles to the road, which is considered unsuitable at present, and that prior to such appropriation the road should be surfaced with bitumen or black top material on noise attenuation and appearance grounds as long sections pass through areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty or Great Landscape Value.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

8/570/80 Single storey side extension, High End, Troutstream Way for H. M. Stratford Esq.

8/586/80 Erection of detached dwelling and garage — land to south of Rasehill Farm Cottage, off Chorleywood Road, Rickmansworth, for M. B. Popper. Permission refused as 1) the site is within the Metropolitan Green Belt, 2) the dwelling would be out of keeping with nearby residential properties and detrimental to the character of the area.

8/665/80 Enclosed fire escape — Troutstream Hall, Troutstream Way, for the Trustees of Troutstream Hall

8/749/80 Single storey side extension, Larchmead, Trout Rise, for B. H. Osborne Esq.

8/762/80 Five detached houses with double garages — Loudwater Lodge and land to the rear of Dalilea, Sarratt Lane, for P. Sturman and Mr. Kingston.

8/771/80 Single storey side extension, Hunters, Bridle Lane, for M. H. Jubber Esq.

8/768/80 Single storey side extension — Lightwoods, Troutstream Way, for M. Thompson Esq.

8/474/80 Permission has been granted for the erection of a cattery for boarding of a maximum of 25 cats at Hatchery Cottage, Solesbridge Lane, for Miss V. D. Burland. The permission is limited to 31.12.81 when the planning authority may review the position and take into account the effect of the use on the amenities of the locality.

Contravention of Planning Control

A recent determination (ref. 8/279/80D) that planning permission was required to extend and make-up the driveway between Loudwater Lane and Penn Wood house, was brought to the attention of the Council at their last meeting, plus the fact that it now appeared that work had been carried out to create a residential access Drive to the Round House across an adjoining open field, which was considered inappropriate in this attractive Green Belt setting.

The Chairman of the Committee had already given authority under emergency powers for enforcement action to be taken if necessary and it was resolved that the Chairman's action be confirmed and that the Chief Executive be authorised 1) to Serve Requisitions for information (Section 284 Town & Country Planning Act 1971); 2) to serve Enforcement Notices on the owner and occupier requiring the breach of planning control to be remedied, 3) to institute legal proceedings against any person who fails to give the required information within the required period, or fails to comply with the requirements of the Enforcement Notice.