

LOUDWATER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Chairman
Don Cammell
Martins
Ladywood Close
R. 776126

Vice-Chairman
Maurice Escow
Wildwood
Loudwater Heights
R. 771810

Treasurer
Cyril Brine
Arlesey House
Rooks Hill
R. 772508

Acting Secretary
Margaret Stratford
High End
Troutstream Way
R. 773959

NEWSLETTER No. 25

OCTOBER 1982

Editor: Mrs. D. Francis, Dovecote, Troutstream Way. Tel: Rickmansworth 770894

A note for your diaries:

AFTERNOON TEA AND ARTISTS' EXHIBITION

SUNDAY, 17th OCTOBER, 4.00 p.m.

Loudwater Farm, Loudwater Lane.

Admission 50p

Children free

THE OLDEST RESIDENT

John Sullivan was secretary to the Loudwater Estate Board for many years, and a vigorous one too. Who better then to answer our queries about the oldest and longest-established resident. He nominates two different contenders. For oldest resident, he nominates Mrs. Llewellyn of Winbar, who is 97, thus beating Lady Lewis who is 94. For longest-established, he nominates Mrs. Koch of Troutstream Lodge, whose plans were passed 1934 and who moved in during 1935/6.

John Jarrett

The winner of the title of Mr. Loudwater must, however, go to Mr. David Bicknell who writes:—

Dear Editor, In reply to Mr. John Jarrett's letter in the July Newsletter, my parents purchased Flint Cottage on 12th September 1925. A good deal of work had to be done before it was habitable so that we did not move in until 24th December 1925 and I have lived here ever since."

Can anyone beat that?

* * * *

Other letters to the Editor

From D.W. Lines Esq., Asst. Head Postmaster (Planning)
'Broad Oaks', Trout Rise.

"... Our reviews of posting boxes have been temporarily frustrated by other urgent tasks but it is extremely unlikely that the proliferation of 'pretty red letter boxes' will continue to enhance the undoubted charms of Loudwater for another 'two years'.

The two year 'stay of execution' published in Newsletter No. 24 should be changed to a more likely 'few months' ..."

The Editor has received some worried letters and communications about very young children playing on the Estate roads during the last summer holidays and repeatedly calling on houses for jam jars or for subscriptions to somewhat doubtful charities. The traffic speeds along Troutstream Way at more than fifty miles an hour, in spite of the ramps, and it swings imperiously around corners without care. In some places it is very difficult for the drivers to see pedestrians and especially little children. Here is an extract from one letter addressed to the Estate Company and forwarded to the Editor, which sums up the general feelings.

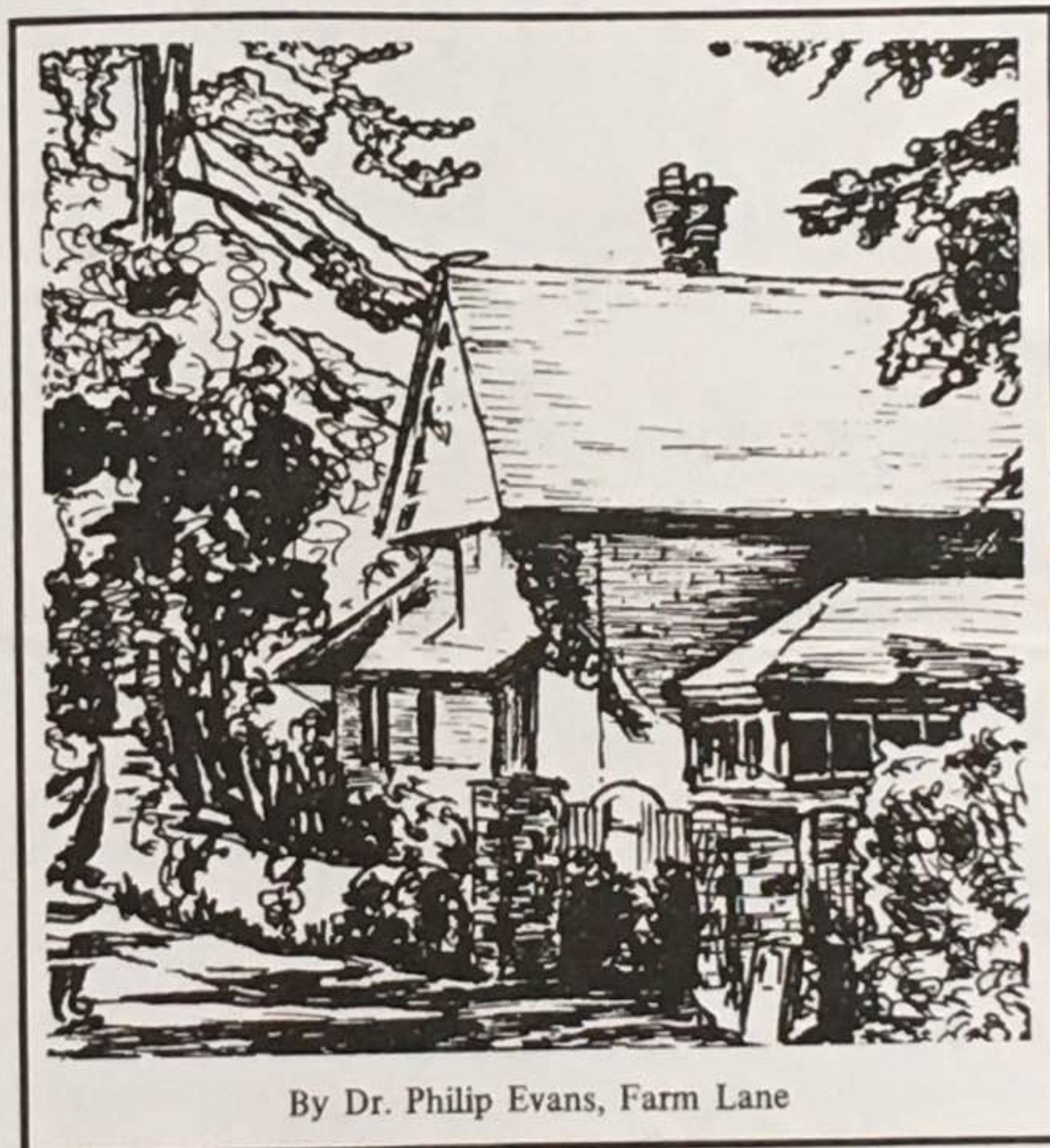
From D.A. Longman Esq., Violet Way

"I have become very concerned recently about the number of small children who are allowed to play on the estate roads.

When we first resided in the estate some 20 to 25 years ago, we also had four small children whom we kept on our premises and never allowed to wander on the estate roads. In those days the estate was less developed and the traffic much lighter. Today we have more development and much more traffic on the roads, and yet it is quite a common occurrence to meet children on tricycles or small bicycles at the junction of Violet Way with Troutstream Way, at the bridges crossed by Troutstream Way and at the junction of Troutstream Way with Overstream.

Clearly it is the responsibility of their parents who must have gardens of their own, to protect their young children from the dangers of traffic on the estate roads. It only needs a child to be hit by a car travelling at 5 m.p.h. for a fatal accident to occur particularly when children suddenly appear from below one of the bridges or suddenly come out of Overstream into Troutstream Way.

I am sure there will be a serious accident involving a young child one day and in all probability the driver of the car will not be to blame. It would be better if the parents now took steps to minimise the risk that this might happen."



By Dr. Philip Evans, Farm Lane

JANET MOORE writes some reflections on last winter:—

"It seems hardly possible that it was roughly seven months ago that we were struggling to recover from the devastating effects of last winter — and that we are on the threshold of winter again! And yet, despite the protracted spell of arctic weather which did untold damage to wildlife in the valley, when many trees and shrubs perished in the countryside and in our gardens, there were some magic moments too. Despite the icy grip of those grim nights, there were some sparkling, lovely days. Kestrels and sparrowhawks regularly hunted over the valley, and kingfishers were seen from time to time. On one occasion I watched two kingfishers with their extravagantly rich plumage, at play over the freshwater spring. Unaware that they had company, they skimmed through the vegetation overhead and alighted in the old oak by the path some eight feet above me!

On the day of the first great snowfall in December when flakes the size of 50p pieces fell for some 14 hours, I watched a fox stalking a group of woodpigeons hunched under trees on the field beyond End House in broad daylight, but before he could carry out his intended coup, he sensed danger, froze in his tracks and swiftly and silently retraced his steps towards the river. The woodpigeons appeared unaware of any excitement!

That particular day was spectacular too in the sheer quantity of snow that fell, and many trees and shrubs were

bent to the ground under its great weight.

At the freshwater spring, the shrubs had met overhead to form a white tunnel! Through a gap in the "wall", I watched 8 snipe feeding amongst the mud and stones of the open water and such was their expert camouflage, that even in these conditions, they took some detecting. A green sandpiper, an autumn and spring visitor to our valley, sometimes wintering here, rocked back and forth in a movement simulating the flow of the water over stones from spring to stream. A grey wagtail, one of the loveliest residents of the Chess Valley, delicately picked its way along the shallow edge of the pool.

It was by sheer chance that I happened to spot a dark bright eye studying me from the vegetation growing by the pool, just over the fence! I was delighted to see that it was a jack snipe with another, equally inconspicuous, close by. These rare visitors from arctic Russia, diminutive relatives of our own common snipe, are not normally seen in our stretch of the valley and I felt it was such a privilege to see them like this! When danger threatens, they elongate their necks and freeze in a crouched position near to vegetation, until it has passed and it is terribly easy to miss them!

Although the long winter gave our children some fun in the form of tobogganing, giant snowmen – and days off school occasionally! – it was a relief shared by all when the thaw came. Suddenly spring came and in the warm spell of weather in April, the valley erupted into new life! Coltsfoot and catkins, snowdrops and aconites appeared, and the songs of our resident birds were joined by the warblers which arrive during late March and April – willow warblers, chiff chaff, whitethroat, blackcap and garden warblers, not to mention the cuckoo!

Those creatures that did manage to come through the winter were obviously the toughest, and will no doubt have produced a very sturdy new generation this year. But let us hope that winters ahead of us will not challenge their endurance qualities to quite the same limit for some time to come!"

THIS AND THAT

Intruder alarm noise

(a) A Code of Practice on Intruder Alarms produced by the Department of the Environment has been put before Three Rivers Council. This Code suggests that automatic cut out devices should be fitted to silence alarms after 20 minutes or arrangements made for them to be turned off. Alarm installers were recommended to notify the police of new installations, to indicate whether an automatic cut out was provided and details of key holders.

(b) Have you noticed increased helicopter noise lately? Some of these small helicopters have displayed red, white and blue markings. Those of you who are statistically minded might like to keep a tally of the frequency and timing of their passing over the valley so that we may have some evidence with which to make enquiries of the Civil Aviation Authority again.

It would be unfortunate if more and more were used and then after a period of time find that they had decided to regularise the route because no-one had seen fit to complain.

(c) Have any residents who live in the vicinity of the two bridges noticed any difference in the flow of water in the river since it was diverted last year? If so will they please let Don Cammell know?

(d) Who has been cutting their laurel and dumping it right in the middle of Violet Way? Did it fall off a roof rack on the way to the Riverside Amenity Dump – open from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. every day? Was it a case of disorientation by a dastardly outsider? Or what?

(e) Chorleywood Players open their 32nd season on November 11th, 12th and 13th with a comedy, "Everybody Loves Opal" by John Patrick who wrote the "Curious Savage". Tickets can be ordered through Sinclair Watson by phone, R. 772286 any time now.

(f) Extract from Daily Telegraph, 24.8.82., 'BONFIRES ARE A HEALTH HAZARD'

The National Society for clean air points out that bonfire smoke contains 70 parts per million of the cancer-causing compound, benzopyrene. Cigarette smoke holds only 0.2 parts per million. It advises householders to compost as much garden rubbish as possible or take it to the local Amenity dump. It is against lighting bonfires within an hour of sunset and leaving them alight more than an hour afterwards when smoke might hang in the air. It urges dousing them with water to prevent smouldering, and it draws attention to the fact that under Section 16 of the clean air act 1956, a smoky bonfire could be actionable in a magistrates court if the local authority is satisfied that a nuisance has occurred or is likely to recur.

Tree Preservation Orders

Three Rivers (Ghyllwood, Loudwater Lane) T.P.O. 1976 Cupressus trees adjacent to Southern boundary of Cranland Lodge, Timber Ridge, Loudwater. Tree work decision by Members panel. Applicants have been informed that the consent of the Council was not required for specified work on the undermentioned cases:—

1. Chorleywood (Loudwater No.3) T.P.O. 1971 at 5 Lower Plantation, Sarratt Lane.
2. Chorleywood (Loudwater No.4) T.P.O. 1971: Beech tree at Chessbord, Troutstream Way.

Unauthorised lopping, topping and felling of trees at Chessbord, Troutstream Way was reported on eleven trees. Subject to the Solicitor to the Council being satisfied as to the evidence, proceedings will be taken against the persons concerned (with reference to two Beeches, an Ash and a Sycamore).

From the Estate Board Troutstream Estates Ltd.

Before the next Newsletter comes round it is more than possible that we will have had another snow fall so Dr. Wander would like to remind residents, and to inform new ones, that the Estate Board is responsible only for the upkeep of the roads and not for snow clearance; that grit is made available on a grace and favour basis; and that much was used up by individual householders last winter for their own drives and none was left for the roads. He is grateful for those people who did in fact look after their own patch and he appeals for residents with any snow clearing equipment to contact him.

Planning Applications

8/327/82 Four detached houses with double garages, land between and to the rear of Loudwater Lodge and Dahilea, Sarratt Lane, (outline application) for Messrs P. Sturman and Kingston.

8/468/82 Single storey side extension and 26 ft. high chimney at Chess Way, Loudwater Lane for Dr S.Shaw.

8/465/82 Detached house (detailed drawings) at Lower Plantation, Loudwater, for B.M.Thompson Properties.

8/469/82 Single storey dwelling with integral garage, land between Great Poplars and Rasehill Close, Chorleywood, for M.Kwintner, Esq.

8/484/82 Two storey side extension Chess Lodge, Trout Rise, for M.Fitzgerald, Esq.

An appeal against the refusal for a detached dwelling to be erected at Old Tiles, Troutstream Way, has been unsuccessful.

After an inspection of the site at Trout Cottage, Troutstream Way on 29th June, and amended plans submitted, it was resolved that, subject to the applicant entering into a Section 52 Agreement restricting the occupation and use of the studio building, that permission be granted.

8/29/81 Permission has been granted subject to conditions, for the 8 Lock-up garages at Loudwater Garage.