

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

Correspondence Secretary
Barnaby Usborne
Larchmead
Trout Rise
R.772508

Minutes Secretary
Margaret Stratford
High End
Troutstream Way
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NEWSLETTER No. 26

* * * A Happy New Year! * * *

JANUARY 1983

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The L.R.A. Afternoon Tea and Artists Exhibition on 17th October was a pleasant occasion and many compliments have been received by members of the committee concerning the quality of the paintings by the artists of Loudwater.

The members of the Subud Society added a warm and lively touch by providing not only finished articles for display but also demonstrations of spinning and weaving, pottery and lampshade making, in a room adjoining the main hall, where Stanley Lukes' table of highly original decorative work, using polished semi-precious stones intrigued everyone.

Grateful thanks to all those who came along in the morning to help hang the pictures and especially to Eloise and Maxwell Jackson, the wardens of Loudwater Farm, whose pleasant personalities did much to enhance the occasion in their quiet way.

It was obvious from the busy hum and the atmosphere, that the people who came enjoyed it and tucked in to the scrumptious homemade cakes provided by the members of the committee.

It is hoped that at the next social gathering of Loudwater residents at the Farm, we will be able to put on a small Chamber Orchestra by arrangement with Neil Grant-Richardson, to entertain you at the beginning and end of the tea. Any resident with a talent for singing and who is willing to be drawn upon should contact the secretary of the L.R.A.

We are delighted to see Barnaby Usborne back home again safe and sound after his two years sojourn in Belgium, especially as he has so good humouredly stepped into the shoes of Jack Cagnet who has had to relinquish his position as correspondence secretary through pressure of business. We are all very sorry to see Jack go after he so nobly helped out last year. Thank you Jack. It is sad to see a founder member retiring!! — and welcome Barnaby to the top of the Newsletter headings where you once held special mention as Vice-Chairman.

THE GATE PROBLEM

The shutting of the Troutstream Way gates remains a problem because of the difficulty people are suffering with the chain and padlock system which is so difficult to undo and such a nuisance to shut after passing through. Is there anyone on the Estate with a gift for mechanical engineering or who has an employee who is talented in this field? Any ideas for non-powered barricades which are self locking, or self shutting at least, would be welcomed.

FROM THE LOUDWATER ESTATE BOARD.

The Loudwater Troutstream Estate Annual General Meeting on November 26th attracted a larger attendance than usual. (Perhaps the L.R.A.'s attempts to convince residents that we must all take part in protecting our beautiful environment is getting through.) There were also many more questions than usual (which was rotten luck for your correspondent who was lumbered with the job of acting secretary because of the absence of Dr. Wander because of a family bereavement).

Even the formal business of the report to the shareholders produced a number of lively discussions, and these were inevitably carried on in the informal part of the proceedings. There was as usual some comment about the

feeling which understandably arises from time to time about the artificial division between shareholders and non-shareholders. The Chairman, Pamela Fuller, explained that the original articles of the company committed it to being a company with not more than fifty shareholders. However some members felt that it would not be as impossible, as it once was, to change this status and thus allow participation by more residents in an official capacity. The Board will look into this. Shareholdings, when they fall vacant, are always advertised, it was stressed. The correctness of the Board's decision to let it be known that some residents had attempted to proceed with plans despite refusal by the Board was criticised. A request that the Board provide stickers for the cars entitled to use the Estate roads was welcomed and will be examined and Mrs. Baker was warmly thanked for a survey she did over several hours and days at the T.Way gate which proved (as suspected) that a number of non-permitted cars and vans were frequently using the Estate roads. Questions were raised about how well the local Council communicated with and sympathised with the Board in its attempts to ensure that buildings were a certain distance away from boundaries. With reference to the possibility of changing the covenant and shareholder structure, the point was made (as it has been for some time) that the frontage was hardly an equitable standard on which to base road fund charges since some houses with small frontage harboured several cars. The Chairman also announced that Mr. Eric Alexander would be retiring from the Board as he was moving from the district and that Dr. Wander had indicated that he wished to lay down his task as Secretary to the Board by the end of 1983. Mrs. Fuller said that the sterling service given by Dr. Wander and Mr. Alexander made their loss a severe blow. All members were asked to turn their minds to nominations to fill the vacancies.

John Jarrett

CALL FOR GEORGE

If you need an extra pinta,
Call for George,
If you need your letter posted,
Call for George,
If you need some tea-bags fetching
Or a load of pine wood chopping,
If you need a hand with shopping
Call for George!

George Batchelor our milk roundsman, is probably the most well known personality in our area. What is not so well known is the fact that he spent six and a half years in the R.A.F. as a Physical Education instructor — no wonder he is good at burglar catching! — He has also trained men in parachute jumping.

After the war he visited Palestine and then the far East. He says he did not enjoy his spell of duty in West Africa because he lost so much weight and all his hair, adding that he has put all the weight back on but none of the hair! George says he enjoys his outdoor life and wouldn't exchange it for any other job. He is happy to give a helping hand to people but he makes a special plea: "Don't ask me for parachute training please!"

He is now the proud grandfather of a six and a half pound baby boy, Ian David, born on 2nd December to his

daughter. This is his first grandchild and he looks just like him! — no hair!

I am sure everyone will rejoice with George who will no doubt spend his time from now on, passing on all the P.E. skills he can remember to his grandson!

Puzzle!

Who is the demon barber of Loudwater who cuts the white hair off Welsh border puppy dogs tails? The owner Mrs. Y.J.Groves of The Dingle, Whisperwood, is anxious that the young Sweeny Todd be checked before it is too late!

DISCRIMINATION!!!!?

Did you know that if you are over 60 and a woman you can get a full British Railcard which costs £10 from British Rail, for only £7.50 from Three Rivers D.C. at 17-23 High Street, near the Methodist Church.

This enables you to get from here to anywhere in London for £1.20 return or go on holiday for a month for half the fare by train. You can get it at any time of the year and it lasts for a year from the date it is bought.

It also entitles you to a reduction in passenger fare as follows:

30 per cent off Sealink, Sea Speed, Hovercraft and West German rail travel, and

50 per cent off Belgian, Dutch, French, Luxembourg, Portugese and Spanish rail travel.

A rail card for Day travel returning on the same day costs only £3.75 from Three Rivers whereas it costs £5.00 from British Rail. It also entitles you to travel half fare and to the £1.20 return fare to anywhere in London.

Men have to be 65 years of age even if they have retired before they can get the same benefits.

Bus Times

The bus service remains unpredictable but the 336 from Ley Hill to Rickmansworth and Watford passes the Kingfisher Lure gates at about 15 minutes to each hour except at 13.00 and returns from Rickmansworth Station at 4 minutes to each hour usually. There is an extra one at 16.41 which is reliable and the 16.00 train from Baker St. just catches it.

Helicopter Routes

Don Cammell has been informed by the C.A.A. that no further applications for new Helicopter routes have been made despite the fact that we are having an increased number of helicopters of all sizes and markings coming over, including the military. Don is keeping an eye on the situation.

LOUDWATER HISTORY

Residents may not know that the Loudwater Estate was at one time occupied by the Romans! At least, from finds of fragments of roofing tile found at Clearburn by Sir Thomas Lewis, from a single coin and other evidence taken along the Chess Valley and from an aerial survey taken in 1957 which shows the presence of a Roman road from Verulamium to Silchester across the Chess Valley (along the line of Green Street and on to Chalfont St.Giles), it is estimated that the holding, probably about 450-500 acres, Roman Villa included, continued from circa A.D.130 or 40 to about the beginning of the 4th Century.

The River Chess has had a number of different names

through the ages, such as Isen (Saxon) and Pitel's Burn (from Pital, a mousehawk, and burna, a brook). In 1381 it was called Pichelsburn when the tenants of Rickmansworth —at the time of Watt Tyler's rebellion—wring a charter from the Abbot of St. Albans which included the rights of free fishing in the river. Later it was called Lowde Water, then the Chesham River and finally the Chess. Thus the town of Chesham influenced the name of the river. Chesham might have been called Pitalsham had it been the other way round, or even Lowwatersham!

In 1805 Loudwater had no buildings of any size except Loudwater Mill which was owned by Mr. Jones. In 1848 it was bought by Mr. Herbert Ingram (M.P. for Boston 1856-60) who built Glen Chess and started the *Illustrated London News*.

There is not very much known about the early history of the Loudwater Estate but from the architectural style of Loudwater House and some circumstantial evidence — such as when the last available accounts of the overseer terminate, it was erected between 1822 and 1830. The first definite record of Loudwater House is found in the census of 1841 when it was owned by James Hayward Esq. Later, it was bought by Joseph Arden of Rickmansworth Park who left it to his daughter Julia and her husband John Birch (Governor of the Bank of England) in trust for his grandson Henry Birch (also a Governor of the Bank of England who went bankrupt in 1921).

The Estate was then bought on 16th May 1922 by a Company formed by Cameron Jeffs, who then sold off part of the land for building, and converted the house into flats. From 1855 onwards the property was regarded more as an investment than as a home, being let to a number of notabilities of whom probably the most colourful was Mr. Panmure Gordon who was a wealthy stockbroker. He leased the Estate in the 1890's and planted many rare trees and shrubs, built the wall around the kitchen garden and the hot houses, added the unique coach house with its wrought iron and glass domed roof (later to become Loudwater Garage) and formed the lake through which the River Chess wends its way.

Would residents like to read more about Loudwater's history? If so by kind permission of Mr. G.E.Ray of Chorleywood whose *History of Chorleywood* I have freely used and Panmore Gordon and Co. I shall continue to include items from their published books.

(Editor)

Welcome to Newcomers:—

Mike and Georgina Flint at Old Tiles, Troutstream Way, from Chalfont St.Giles. They have two daughters aged 7 and 4 years. Mike is a Director of an advertising agency who was responsible for the well known "Clunk-Click" and the Goodyear Tyre advertisement by Sir Robert Mark which were shown on T.V.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

8/524/82 Extension to provide granny flat, "Hendre" Loudwater Lane, for Mr. and Mrs. S.S.G.Mugford.

8/533/82 Single storey and first floor extension "Imber", Bridle Lane, Loudwater, for G.Watt Esq.

8/542/82 Erection of detached house with integral garages at Lower Plantation for Bruce M. Thomson Properties (Details)

8/546/82 Erection of double garage (revised scheme) at 3 The Rose Gardens, Troutstream Way, for R.Peter Ross Esq.

8/552/82 Conversion of existing garage to living accommodation and erection of new double garage with 9ft high link wall to existing building at Old Tiles, Troutstream Way, for M.Flint Esq.

8/593/82 New bungalow with integral garage — land at Rasehill Close for Mrs. Kwintner.

8/638/82 Single storey side extension at "White Stocks" Loudwater Lane for B.Whitewood Esq.