

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 Osborne
Larchmead
Trout Rise
R. 772766

NEWSLETTER No. 31

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

Have you heard the birds beginning their spring chorus yet? At present it is not too early when the sun rises for most of us lay-a-beds to hear some of their sweetest songs. We in the South are fortunate this year to have had such a mild Winter compared with the days of perpetual rain last year until April, and the severe cold of the previous one.

Enquiries about the missing swan from the River Chess reveal that the vet. has been called in to attend to it. Mrs Bicknell (Flint Cottage) says that this is the third time that the swan has had the attention of the vet. Mr. Cook from Maidenhead — who has the care of many swans and loves this one, has taken him away for treatment. He should be sailing up and down the river once again before many people receive this newsletter but the Editor thought you would like to know of the gentle care that the swans receive. This swan, the cob, is between six and eight years old, which is stated to be young for a swan, so lets hope for a long and healthy life for him.

Epitaph to a Muntjac

No more shall we see that tender doe,
That brown rump shining in that timid rush to cover,
No more the nipped off roses,
No more the hoof marked verge,
No more shall she stand in snow
Four footed tiptoe - watching us within,
Her eyes aglow.
No more shall we glimpse in the darkening light
Or early dawn
Her little fawn feeding on moss.
How great our loss
When they no more adorn
The countryside and garden!

A muntjac was killed on Chorleywood Road on Thursday, 1st March.

From Mary Endicott, Bridle Lane

"Dear Editor, Could I put in a plea for all the birds but particularly the young ones during the Spring and early Summer on our Estate roads and lanes.

Each year the carnage gets worse as cars speed along especially in the early morning, late for train, work or school (?)

It would only take a second to slow down and give them a chance to hop out of the way of your speeding death dealing wheels; thus giving us all a chance to enjoy their presence and song in our gardens and countryside later on in the year".

Notes for your diaries

The A.G.M. of this Association will be held on Friday 18th May at 8.00p.m. at Chorleywood House.

The Garden Party will be held on Sunday 17th June — (Father's Day). Entrance will be by ticket only at Chess Lodge, Trout Rise — 12.00 — 2.00p.m. by kind permission of Mr. Fitzgerald. Most people will remember this as Anne Wolff's garden where many previous L.R.A garden parties have been held.

Neighbourhood Watch

"There was a widespread, and on the whole, enthusiastic response to the suggestion made in the last Newsletter, that a Neighbourhood Watch scheme might be of interest to local residents.

The reservations concerned its appropriateness to Loudwater. Some asked whether we really wanted the

Moor Park type metallic notices. Others asked, would they not be an "advertisement" in the rural seclusion of Loudwater and others asked, is the crime rate in Loudwater high enough to warrant such a scheme?

Your Chairman and Secretary attended a meeting with the local police at which Neighbourhood Watch was discussed. To judge from that meeting the principle is one of encouraging self help and common sense precautions. It can be applied very flexibly and it should be possible to tailor a scheme to the special needs of Loudwater. A metal sign, is certainly not essential.

In view of the interest expressed, the Committee will be including Neighbourhood Watch on the agenda for the L.R.A. A.G.M. on 17th May. We do hope you will be there to listen and give your views. (Barnaby Osborne)"

Music at the Farm

"On the evening of Sunday 18th March, sixty Loudwater residents filled the Hall at Loudwater Farm for a concert given by the talented musicians of the Watford Chamber Ensemble, led by David Dennis on the flute. Vicky Walpole, oboe; Elizabeth Ovenden, violin; Sheila Peltzer, viola, and John Halsey, a man of many musical talents playing cello, harpsichord and singing counter tenor, entertained us with a wide ranging programme which included Mozart quartets, songs by John Doland and Henry Purcell and arrangements from shows by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

In the interval, conversation swelled as neighbours met old friends or made new contacts with other residents. Buck's Fizz was served by members of the Committee as well as a delicious finger buffet prepared by Gordon Done.

This concert was the idea of Cyril Brine our Treasurer. Our thanks to him for initiating another enjoyable Loudwater gathering which many in the audience requested might become an annual event. We are grateful also to Mrs Martin (Chess Cottage) for her part in introducing the ensemble. We extend our thanks to the Watford Chamber Ensemble who worked extremely hard and happily to make this a truly enjoyable musical evening and for presenting it in such a relaxed and friendly way.

Finally, Loudwater residents thank the Subud Society for their kind hospitality and the use of the hall, a setting which delighted both players and audience".

Mary Filose. (Bridle Lane)

Army Benevolent Fund

"Dear Editor, I would like to thank those residents of Loudwater who came to my Bring and Buy Bridge Luncheon in aid of the above fund. It was a tremendous success and we raised £366. I can assure you that this money will be devoted in full to the relief of distress among soldiers widows and the disabled.

Our soldiers work tirelessly — remember the fireman's strike. With next to no training, with inadequate equipment, and often without proper breathing apparatus, they took on the dangerous job for us. Remember the dustman's strike, and all our young soldiers did for us and the many other similar jobs outside their normal routine?

I do hope you will feel able to respond during this year, to express with us, the admiration and the gratitude which surely we all feel towards those to whom service to the Country has brought suffering and hardship to themselves and their dependants — too often in need of much more adequate and immediate help than is available to them by way of state aid and pensions. That this need is recognised, is shown by the fact that serving soldiers give one of their days pay annually towards this fund. You can show your

appreciation for what the British soldier has done and is still doing, for us all, by offering any good clothing, unwanted presents, or a very small cheque made payable to The A.B.F. to:

Mrs Marjorie J. Davis, Whisper Wood House,
Loudwater. Telephone Rickmansworth 774888".

Front Door Foods

The recent toting for custom for frozen foods to be delivered to your door is a phenomenon to be deplored not only because it may be the fore runner of many such, but because it encourages extra traffic on the private roads in Loudwater, especially of heavy vans which park on the verge or on the road for varying lengths of time, causing obstruction, willy nilly, or without wishing to be a nuisance but being unable to avoid it. If residents require deliveries, private arrangements can be made with some local grocers.

The Estate Gates

The value of keeping the Troutstream Estate gates closed has recently been demonstrated although they have suffered in the process.

In early March the police were able to catch a thief in a stolen car which attempted to escape through the Estate. Foiled by the closed gates and in a hurry to get away, the thief reversed into the gates and smashed one of them but the delay allowed time for the police to catch him.

Planning Applications:— Delegation of decision making to the Director of Planning

"In order to overcome the general criticism that Local Authorities were taking too long in dealing with planning applications, arrangements were made under Standing Orders allowing the Director of Planning to make a decision in certain cases and categories without the necessity of the documentation being placed before the full Planning Committee.

There is, therefore, considerable responsibility placed on the Director of Planning in dealing with cases where he takes action. These cases are marked with an asterisk on the Weekly published lists which are displayed at the Local Authority Offices, Public Libraries, and sent to the Parish Councils and the Press. Our Association is also forwarded a copy for perusal. The L.R.A. therefore helps to provide a monitoring service, but it must be stressed that the prime responsibility is the individual occupier who must be alert, and make certain that a letter with reasons for objection to any proposal is made to the Local Authority. If there are controversial or contentious cases where occupiers of immediately adjoining premises have strong objections, the signatures of four Local Councillors supporting the objections can be lodged and in those cases the matter is dealt with by the full Planning Committee. Although there is no legal requirement/Three Rivers District Council send a specific notice to those adjoining owners who are considered to be affected by a particular development.

There is a very helpful and informative booklet called "Planning Information Handbook" available at the Local Planning Office giving full details of normal procedures and containing interesting details about Tree Preservation Orders, Listed Buildings, Conservation of the Environment etc. which will help to assist those concerned in maintaining the high standard of our local amenities".

L. Wretham (Violet Way)

The Fire Service

The Herts. County Council Fire and Public Protection Committee are again giving consideration to the proposal put forward in 1982 to end twenty-four hour manning of our local fire station in Rickmansworth and to introduce day manning i.e. 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays only in order to effect a saving on the County rate.

During the evening, night and at week-ends when the Home Office say that 60% of all fire emergencies occur (and in Rickmansworth, during 1983, 278 out of 422 calls came within this category), the firemen would have to be called from their homes to man the appliances when emergency calls were received. To minimise the delay in responding to such calls the Herts. C.C. are proposing to

accommodate the reduced team of firemen (down from 26 to 12) in council owned dwelling houses purchased from the area 'near to' the fire station.

It is estimated that the one time cost of this operation would be in the order of £1 million and this would have to be recovered within county rate charges. In the long term (5-10 years) a cost saving would be effected but at what price to community safety? When the fire service is needed it is needed quickly! No figures have been given by Herts. C.C. for reduced response times.

In 1982 over 3000 residents affected by the proposals objected in writing and the project was turned down. Have we changed our minds in 1984 or do we still oppose the change? Please express your views either direct to Herts. C.C. or to Don Cammell L.R.A. Chairman who will present out combined views to the local authorities".

Don Cammell

Road News

The M25 will be tarmaced, thank goodness! But, has anyone noticed the increase in heavy lorries going up Chorleywood Road already!

It is to be hoped that when the M25 is in full operation that the powers that be will have a plan for the heavies to be diverted to proper slip ways and tributaries without them having to filter up through Chorleywood Road, making a nuisance with noise and making access virtually impossible from Kingfisher Lure. The road is a great worry to residents already and now that more houses are in the process of being built, the number of cars using it will increase proportionately.

Loudwater Farm

The proposed nursery school at Loudwater Farm is a welcome project for some mothers but doubts have been expressed about parking problems when mothers drop off or pick up their children. It would probably be of great value if mothers using the nursery will park and turn in the grounds of the farm. There has been another accident there recently — one of many! The problem is that because of potholes in the road in Chess Lane at its junction with Loudwater Lane and also at the junction of Loudwater Drive, people are so busy watching the surface of the road that they don't notice the approaching traffic. Visibility is difficult there anyway, with the curve in the road.

Planning Applications

8/27/84 Erection of Detached House at Pine Cottage, Trout Rise for W. Reece Esq.

8/79/84 Detached house and garage at Southwinds, Cherry Hill, for Mr. A.G. Horsburgh, ? access.

8/98/84 Partial change of use to Nursery School at Loudwater Farm, Loudwater Lane, for Priory Nursery School, Rickmansworth.

8/110/84 Retention of existing garage at Chess Cottage, Loudwater Lane for Dr. D. Martin.

8/161/84 Single storey rear extension at Willow Cottage, Loudwater Lane, for Mr. Buckland.

8/164/84 Replacement single storey side extension at Polstreath, Bridle Lane for L. Jones Esq.

8/165/84 Two storey front and rear extensions to detached garage at Chess Bank House, Trout Rise, for J.R.W. Ansdell Esq.

8/103/83 Woodlands, Whisperwood. In spite of the protestations of neighbours, the L.R.A., the Loudwater Estate Board and the Three Rivers District Council, the appeal to the Dept. of the Environment concerning infill building behind Woodlands, has been allowed. We trust that this will not cause a flood of similar requests from other Loudwater residents in an attempt to grab a little extra money before leaving the area. It seems a pity that residents who have enjoyed the amenities of the valley should wish to leave it less attractive for future residents.

A note from the Editor:-

If you think as I do that this Newsletter is too weighty, I would welcome any contributions that will lighten the bread:

D.F.