

LOUDWATER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



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NEWSLETTER No. 30

A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

JANUARY 1984

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

A date for your diary:— Musical Evening on March 18th, 1984. 7.00 to 9.30 p.m. at Loudwater Farm. Tickets £1.50. Programme herewith.

The Watford Chamber Ensemble:— An introduction by David Dennis.

The Ensemble was founded in 1967 by three ex-pupils of Watford Grammar School, who coincidentally, had all continued their education at Cambridge University.

In recent years, the Ensemble has accepted invitations to give concerts elsewhere in Hertfordshire, beside regular ones at the Grammar School, and the idea for an event in Loudwater Farm grew out of a conversation between the Ensemble's conductor David Dennis, and Joan Martin of Chess Cottage, Loudwater Lane.

The concert on March 18th will be informally presented by five musicians who meet regularly to make music for their own enjoyment. They like to explore pieces which combine the different tone colours of wind and string instruments. They hope to demonstrate that 'chamber music' does not deserve its stuffy image and the emphasis will be firmly on variety and tunefulness, rather than on any attempt to test the powers of endurance of the audience. Vicky Walpole (oboe) and Sheila Peltzer (viola) are both music graduates from Manchester University and the London College of Music respectively. John Halsey (cello) was educated at Haberdasher Aske's School, Elstree and played in the National Youth Orchestra before reading Mathematics at Cambridge, where he also sang in King's College Choir and is a Gentleman of the Chapel Royal.

Elizabeth Ovenden (violin) and David Dennis (flute) both now use music making as a relaxation from other full time activities. Elizabeth is studying for an M.Sc. at University London. She studied the violin with Leonard Hirsch.

David Dennis, the Ensemble's conductor and one of its founder members, was brought up in Nightingale Road, Rickmansworth and moved back there two years ago. He was the principal flautist in the National Youth Orchestra before reading music at Kings College, Cambridge, where he conducted two of the University's Orchestras.

JANET MOORE WRITES:—

"After a really memorable late-starter of a summer this year, with temperatures well up into the 80⁰s, it all ended suddenly on 3rd September when the whole country was swept by fierce south-westerly gales, and unpredictable weather set in. Autumn had begun.

Those long hot summer days were blissful (unless you were confined to a classroom or office), yet they did create problems after a while for our wildlife. I started noticing birds visiting my garden, along with the resident ones, quite regularly which I know are not garden breeding birds.

But the appearance of new birds to the garden this year was clearly due to the magnetic attraction of water, for which they were sometimes quite desperate. My garden pond is a little one — yet it has been the focus of great activity throughout the summer. It would be too space-consuming to list all the birds that have been seen drinking or bathing there, but some of the shyest birds of the open countryside had no reservations about coming close and indulging in the coolness of the water. A pair of redpolls, one of our smallest finches with softly striped plumage, a crimson patch on the top of the head and a neat black bib, came regularly. All the resident garden birds like blackbird,

song thrush, wren, dunnock, great and blue tits, bullfinch etc. vied for a place at the pond to execute their ablutions! A nuthatch decided one hot day that he would make use of the garden sprinkler where the falling spray touched the fence and showered through the horizontal slats creating bigger droplets of water which became little streams. Here he twisted and turned in apparent bliss as the water ran through his hot and dusty feathers! Even a tree creeper came to drink at the birdbath, and it was a very surprised tree creeper and I that came face to face as I stood topping up the birdbath as he flew on to the silver birch not two feet away, preparatory to his morning dip!

Some were clearly heat-exhausted like the young sparrow I found one hot summer afternoon on my lawn, obviously very unwell and gave no resistance at all to being picked up and placed on the broad rim of the birdbath. I attempted to put droplets of water into its open beak but it suddenly became fearful and stumbled off the rim and into the hedge. Rather than terrify it, I retreated and waited, and within ten minutes or so, it had edged its way up the stems of the shrubs back to the rim of the birdbath. It seemed to know what to do this time and drank slowly, and after only a short time, it spread its wings and flew off and was just as perky as a young sparrow should be!

During August I even found that a whitethroat and a lesser whitethroat used the pond to drink: these birds are migrant and do not breed in the immediate vicinity, but during late July and August, they leave their breeding area to make tracks towards the coastline of south eastern England at the start of their long haul south to warmer climates.

In a river valley like ours, it sometimes puzzles me that birds who normally are intensely shy of people and habitations, push aside all reservations and come into gardens to drink at still water pools, be they puddles, birdbaths or ponds. Why do not they drink from the Chess at the shallow edges? I suppose the answer is that many birds do, but there are others that just cannot cope with the rapid eddying current of the river, even at the shallow edges, or cannot negotiate the vegetated banks that may be a little too high for them to reach water.

It has been a constant delight and surprise throughout this lovely summer to have some unusual and very welcome newcomers to the garden. It seems that the provision of water during the summer is as necessary as providing food in winter, though water is still needed in the cold months for drinking and the essential bathing they must do to keep their feathers clean so as to act as efficient insulators."

The A405 North Orbital Road, Hunton Bridge to Maple Cross

Success!! Everyone in Loudwater who is affected by noise from the A405 will be happy to learn that both carriage-ways of the North Orbital Road, between Ladywalk Roundabout and Hunton Bridge Roundabout are to be overlaid with rolled asphalt at a date in the near future, in ADVANCE of the completion of the M25. Your Committee, especially those involved in the detailed negotiations, are gratified that their efforts together with those of Chorleywood Residents Association working with Three Rivers D.C. have not been in vain, in spite of the gloomy results of the Inspector's Report at the end of the extensive public enquiry which was held in 1981. The enquiry was attended by representatives and witnesses from many associations besides those Residents Associations fighting for their particular interest, from County Councils, District Councils and Parish Councils — not Chorleywood Parish

Council – and although Loudwater Residents Association Committee offered £200 as a token payment towards the cost to be borne by Three Rivers D.C. they were dismayed at the Inspector's conclusions and thought all was lost.

However, in spite of these conclusions, (received 22.11.83 by T.R.D.C. and passed to us on 25.11.83) which were, and I quote:—

“The degree of extra traffic generated by the appropriation of the A405 to Motorway standards will be infinitesimal, — that black top on the length in question will give a barely if any perceptible noise attenuation and that there is a considerable screening from trees: and taking both noise and visual considerations into account, black top was not justified” and that if the cost difference between laying asphalt and concrete was large, it was to be purely a financial consideration and the cheaper method would win the contract.

You may be as baffled as we are that the Inspector should conclude that traffic flow would increase infinitesimally when another section of the enquiry report states that “noise will increase over the years with the forecast growth in traffic”. This forecast was earlier in the report and showed that the flow on the existing A405 Chorleywood to Hunton Bridge road, counted on vehicles per 16 hour weekday was 40,000 vehicles per day and would increase to 52,000 per day in 1986 and to 79,000 in 16 years time which is roughly twice the present flow.

However, in spite of all this, Three River D.C. have it stated in their Council Minutes (64L, 23.6.83) that BLACK TOP is to be the order of the day, because the road needs resurfacing!

Neighbourhood Watch

The Watchdog Committee has had a report from Moor Park Residents Association on their introduction of a scheme of Neighbourhood Watch for their Area. When Moor Park R.A. asked their members if they were interested, sixty replied so they booked a hall at Merchant Taylors School. 600 turned up and Police laid on 10 extra men and 2 cars to watch Moor Park homes. They now have the whole of the outside of Moor Park signposted with the WATCH warnings which are supposed to keep most crimes at bay! These signposts are metallic and indicate to a burglar that he/she is entering a guarded area. These signposts are special and are paid for by the Residents Association. 30 residents cover the whole of Moor Park as the Watchmen. Their responsibilities vary from a minimum of 5 houses to a maximum of 20 and they have been guided by the Police on what to look out for and how to contact the right people.

The thinking behind the scheme is PREVENTION. Making timely Police presence a certainty is essential if we are to prevent crime. The police are organised to react instantly to a 999 call but they need a watching force that can trigger the alert at the first sign of impending trouble and the best way of getting this is from watchful residents who are accustomed the norm of a locality and are thus sensitive to the abnormal. For the elderly and lonely this seems to be a scheme worth everyone's careful thought. Neighbourhood Groups are, it is necessary to add, only intended to supplement the eyes and ears of the Police and NOT their muscle. Vigilante type patrol are definitely NOT allowed.

Are you interested? If so, please contact the Secretary, Mr. Barnaby Osborne.

Pillar Boxes

Do you use your nearest pillar box? If not you may be in danger of losing it. In an effort to economise, the Postal Authorities conduct surveys to see which ones are not being used sufficiently to warrant collections. There is a proposal on hand to replace the pillar box outside Loudwater Farm and the one on the corner of Loudwater Lane and Sarratt Lane with only ONE at the entrance to Timber Ridge, that is, two for the price of one. However, if there is a public need to put another pillar box somewhere in Sarratt Lane, the Head Post master would welcome suggestions as to where it should be placed.

What do you think? If you have a strong opinion write to Barnaby Osborne, our devoted secretary.

Tree Preservation Orders

T.P.O. No. 3 (9 Lower Plantation)

The present owners of the above property have expressed their indignation at the inclusion in the last Newsletter of the Three Rivers D.C. decision regarding their trees. They have taken the decision to the Secretary of the Environment to try to get it revoked because they are planting new trees. The editor is glad that the owners let her know of their feelings and their love of trees but feels it her duty to report, impartially, any Council decisions that affect residents. Only the briefest mention is made in the Newsletter and these are direct from the Council Minutes, as follows:—

Applications have been made and decisions taken by the Members Tree Panel in relation to tree work at the following locations:—

Chorleywood (Loudwater No. 3) T.P.O. 1971: two sycamore and two ash at Marwell, 10, Lower Plantation; two sycamore at Jacasupi, Lower Plantation and a beech tree and two sycamore at 6, Lower Plantation.

Rickmansworth (Loudwater No. 5) T.P.O. 1971, chestnuts T40 and T41 at Long Hedge, Loudwater Lane.

Three Rivers (Sarratt Lane, Loudwater) T.P.O. 1977, two oak and one hornbeam at Wedge wood, Sarratt Lane.

Welcome to Newcomers:—

1. Dr. and Mrs. Mashiter at Treetops, Trout Rise.
2. Mr. and Mrs. D.C. Garrett, with their two daughters, at Overtream Cottage, Overstream.
3. Mr. W.A. Perry, Flat 2, Loudwater House.
4. Mr. and Mrs. Michael Holden and their two children, Ian and Catherine at Blandings, (formerly Haytor) Loudwater Drive.

Planning Applications

8/558/83 Pitched roof over existing extension at Willow Cottage, Loudwater Lane for R. Buckland Esq.

8/549/83 Two storey side extension at Kytes, Loudwater Lane for Messrs C & J Hunt.

8/573/83 Erection of detached garage at Chess Falls, Loudwater Lane for W. Derek Woolcock Esq.

8/581/83 Garage extension and car port at Cherry Tree Cottage, Rooks Hill, for R.H. Staines Esq.

8/629/83 Conversion of games room into granny annexe at Woodend, Whisperwood, for L.S. Glanfield Esq.

8/649/83 Replacement garage/store/lobby to side at Kiriwana II, Overstream, for J. Price Esq.

Planning permission has been refused for the following:—

8/236/83 Erection of detached house — land adjacent to Woodlands, Sarratt Lane, Loudwater, for Mrs. Perks, on the grounds “that it would comprise a cramped form of development, out of character with the spacious layout of most properties in Loudwater.”

Planning Appeals

8/593/82 An appeal against the refusal for the erection of a single storey bungalow with integral garage at Gt. Poplars, Loudwater Lane was dismissed. Planning Committee Report 6.10.83.

8/165/82 and 8/180/82 Appeals by Mr. Kwinter of Great Poplars against the refusal of planning permission for land between Gt. Poplars and Rasehill Close were heard on 6.12.83 following previous dismissals by the Inspector, of several other appeals for development on the same land. The L.R.A. wrote opposing these appeals on behalf of residents.

According to Three Rivers D.C. minutes, it is the intention of the Council to put new Enforcement Notices on land at the West side of Loudwater Lane and the situation of the land remains exactly the same as it was prior to the issue of the previous Enforcement Notices.

Estate Jottings.

January 1984

A.G.M.

Most of you missed the Annual General Meeting of the Loudwater (Troutstream) Estate Company in November. It was a good night for the directors who could hardly have been said to have been savaged. Perhaps this was because attacking a newly installed and virginally innocent secretary is hardly cricket. Come along next year and see the fun! Of course there were the usual regular complaints about the state of the roads and the lack of signs. The accounts for last year were accepted with hardly a ripple and we adjourned for coffee. There were no biscuits because the sec. did not realise that he was also the catering manager.

After the break, the plebs were let loose. Did you know that the A.G.M. is only for the Directors and Shareholders while the remainder of the Estate householders wish to be present sit around in awed silence? After the break it is a free-for-all discussion with the Board being called to task for not rectifying such diverse matters as "Acts of God" or the uncontrolled driving of immature youths parading their potency via decrepit sports cars. This time it was the turn of Mr. and Mrs. Flint of Old Tiles and Mrs. Grant of Wychwood (if this were Wales she would be known as "Janet of the White Rocks") who, rightly, were very concerned with the danger to their homesteads from cars whizzing uncontrolledly from Kingfisher Lure into Troutstream Way. One suggestion was for the verge of both houses to be banked. When the cost was discovered to be in the region of £2,000 and that the bank could become a Brooklands camber, a take-off ramp leading into a bedroom or a pedestrian death trap, it was decided to accept a new halt sign and road marking at the bottom of Kingfisher Lure. In the light of the Board's readiness to try anything to relieve the householders' worries on this junction, Mrs. Grant has offered to pull her rocks into her hedge on April 1st. Do come along and cheer, it could develop into a party.

Road Repairs

The contractor accepts all your protestations for the poor repairs. I will not bore you with his excuses but the matter will be rectified, we trust, as soon as the weather permits. When next the roads need maintenance, a different contractor will be tried. Meanwhile if you would like some grit for your driveways to combat the imminent snow and ice, take a bucket and spade along to the gutter opposite Med Mills in Trout Rise where the rain and cars have swept it from the road. This is by way of telling you not to steal grit from the grit stations on the Estate roads which is there to attempt to keep the roads passable in due course.

Directors and Shareholders

Mr. W.J. Pitt-Ford, who moved into Loudwater some 35 years ago, has been elected to a directorship on the Board. He lives in Little Thatch on the corner of Trout Rise and Upper Cherry Hill. This makes him readily accessible to the residents of Loudwater Heights and Upper Trout Rise. Do call on him if you need information or advice. Mr. and Mrs. Peter McGregor of Dacres, Troutstream Way, have just become joint shareholders in the Company.

Anyone living on the Estate may become a shareholder but cannot vote until they have lived here for six years. There are 50 shareholders holding 5 x £1 shares each. If you wish to have your name considered, please write to me stating when you took up residence here. When a vacancy occurs the Board decides who is to be offered the block of shares, keeping in mind the length of residence, the spread throughout the Estate and their judgement as to the applicant's involvement in the Estate. The latter seems to be a complete failure when the turnout of shareholders to the A.G.M. is considered.

Trout Rise Hill

There seems little doubt that the hill on Trout Rise is a dangerous bottleneck to cars exceeding the 20 m.p.h. speed limit. John Watkiss of Jordans has designed and sited road signs at the top and bottom of the hill on behalf of the Board in the pious hope that they may have some effect on drivers.

Loudwater Brochure

The Board is pleased that the pamphlet has been received with such general acclaim. Dennis Longman of Violet Way is one, however, who has reservations. He suggests that the Board may be shutting the stable door after the horse has bolted. While the Board agree that there have been some inconsistencies, its aim has been to limit the wilder exuberancies of residents while showing consideration where possible. When sticking to their rules they are called dictatorial and when resilient they are called inconsistent. It is a catch 22 situation. If residents intending to extend and change their property in some way would contact a director or the secretary prior to seeing an architect, they could save themselves time and money. They would be told what the Board is likely to accept before the plans are drawn up. When the plans are passed by the Board, this information can go with their plans to the Three Rivers Planning Department. This would undoubtedly ease the passage of their proposals. As it is at this moment, three residents have submitted plans to Three Rivers without contacting the Board. These may be accepted there and later rejected by the Board thus entailing the expense of a new set of plans and resubmission to Three Rivers.

Garages Galore

The Board is going ahead early this spring with the erection of eight garages which will be let to needy Estate residents. They will be sited in the yard behind Loudwater Garage. Six have already been promised, so if you are interested hurry with your reservation. If you are a shareholder do not for a moment expect a dividend out of this venture. We will probably be in debt to the bank well into the next century.

Co-operation

This has been beautifully typed by Verna Hanman of Chess Place, Troutstream Way; sorted by Pauline Irwin of Tile Barn, Trout Rise; and delivered by voluntary menials of the L.R.A. Our thanks go to them all.

Hywel Francis
Secretary to the Board.

LOUDWATER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

CONCERT

at

LOUDWATER FARM

on

Sunday 18th March 1984

7.00-9.45 pm.

WATFORD CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

Programme to include:-

- Mozart - Quartet for flute and strings
- Mozart - Quartet for oboe and strings
- J.C. Bach - Quintet for flute, oboe and strings
- Beethoven - Movements for string trio
- Lloyd-Webber - Arrangements from Shows.
- Ibert - Two Interludes for flute, violin and harpsichord

18th Century Sonatas for various instruments with harpsichord.

WINE & REFRESHMENTS

TICKETS £1.50

(Seating Limited to 60)

TICKET APPLICATION FORM

Name: Tel No.:

Address:
.....

No. of tickets required ; Cheque/PO enclosed for £.....

Please send Remittance Payable to L.R.A.
with S.A.E. to:

C.R.T. Brine, Esq.,
Arlesley House,
Rooks Hill, Loudwater,
Rickmansworth, Herts.