

LOUDWATER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER No. 32

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The L.R.A. Annual General Meeting

It is becoming the rule rather than the exception, that the room at Chorleywood House where the L.R.A. Annual General Meeting was held on Friday 18th May should be packed to capacity. (We really should try to get some more chairs!)

Approximately 90 people heard Chairman Don Cammell summarize the Association's activities during the year which included in an impressive list, the petition raised to oppose the change in Parish boundaries, signed by 299 Chorleywood Parish electors (the outcome of which is awaited), the successful result, after years of pressure, on the Dept. of Transport in getting the pledge to re-surface the A405 in black-top (in spite of the Inspector's Report!); the checking of Planning Lists and Council procedures in approval of Applications; the magnificent Musical Evening on March the 18th at Loudwater Farm - organised by Cyril Brine and not least, the salubrious Garden Party this time last year at Cressy House. Mr Cammell rounded off his report by making a few pleas. They were to do with dogs with foul intentions, cancerous bonfires, rubbish dumping, litter - (we need some 'Wombles of Wimbledon' or rather 'Loudwater Litter Snatchers'), careful driving - (country roads need careful drivers) children playing in roads, tidying verges - (do it yourself campaign) and checking safety of trees and branches.

After the spirited Treasurer's Report by Mr Brine our Treasurer, which showed Net Assets and Accumulated Funds at 31st December standing at £752.03, the election of new officers and re-election of others took place. Mr Don Cammell was given a hearty vote of thanks for his conscientious work during the last three years as Chairman and was pleased to hand over these public duties to Mr. Maurice Escow. Mr. Cammell accepted instead, the duties of Correspondence Secretary, Mr. Barnaby Osborne was elected Vice Chairman, Mrs Karen Read Minutes Secretary and Mrs Mary Filrose was elected as the representative for Bridle Lane.

Following this came the pleasant and informative address by Chief Inspector Watts on "Neighbourhood Watch" which gave us all much food for thought, not merely whilst we chatted over a glass of wine immediately afterwards.

Nature Notes Swans

"1983 was not a good year for our swans. Of the five cygnets that were born, two died young, the third developed a malformation of the beak which was found to be incurable and the male swan, as reported in Newsletter No. 27 became badly infected and needed two periods of treatment with anti-biotics. Fortunately the female has remained in excellent health and the two other cygnets have grown into fine birds. One, contrary to the usual practice, in the absence of the male has remained with its mother.

Unhappily the male has now died on the rough ground on the far side of the lake opposite Loudwater House, from causes unknown. It has been taken to Windsor for an autopsy, the result of which is awaited as this Newsletter is being published.

The medical treatment of the swans has been undertaken by Mr Cooke, a Veterinary Surgeon at Windsor and his wife Zyllah who is a qualified Animal nurse. They have promised a replacement for the dead swan and refused to accept any payment for their services even the expenses which they have incurred in travelling several times from Windsor to Loudwater.

In addition to the work provided by a flourishing business as a Vet, Mr and Mrs Cooke are fighting a vigorous battle in an endeavour to preserve the swans on the Thames, the numbers of which have fallen rapidly in recent years as a consequence of lead poisoning. The scale of their work can be judged from the fact that during 1981 they treated more than 300 swans and rarely have had less than 40 swans being cared for in the garden of their home at Windsor at any time and have raised £12,000 from private subscriptions to finance this work. The cost of treatment per swan is approximately £62.00. They have promised to render any assistance that we may need in the future and as several residents at Loudwater have said that they would like to subscribe to this work, it is suggested that subscriptions should be sent to Braywood Lodge, Oakley Green, Windsor, Berks. Cheques should be made payable to "Save Our Swans" (287719) which is a registered charity. Mrs Bicknell of Flint Cottage has already sent a substantial contribution." (D. Bicknell Troutstream Way)

Freak Foxglove Blooms

Have you had any foxgloves like this one?

Mr. Jack Bennett, had several splendid white ones in his garden, when he was living in Overstream. If so you may like to know that this is "the most common form of abnormal foxglove bloom. The plants bearing these flowers were self sown, but that has nothing to do with the occurrence". A letter from "Popular Gardening" in reply to an enquiry says, "Abnormal blooms, usually found in the tips of the spikes, though sometimes lower down the stems, are by no means unusual on foxgloves (*digitalis*). Some seasons produce a spate of them. Besides the kind illustrated here sometimes rather more closed blooms are seen, all of them being freaks. The colours accord with the variety. It has been suggested that they result from hybridising - or crossing - of the normal foxglove with some other flower, but it is just a freak".



Neighbourhood Watch.

At the A.G.M on May 18th the idea of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for Loudwater received much support from residents. A number of people offered to help as co-ordinators, and Jim Davis of Whisperwood House, Whisperwood, has kindly offered to get the scheme going. Mr Davis has had 34 years service with the Metropolitan Special Constabulary as an Inspector and later as Divisional Officer and we are very fortunate to be able to use his experience.

Within the next few days he will be contacting those who offered to help, to arrange a briefing meeting with the local police. Mr Davis hopes that at this meeting some simple guidelines can be established to assist the co-ordinators, as they will provide the vital link to make Neighbourhood Watch a success. In principle each co-ordinator is likely to be responsible for an area of up to 20 houses and

to be your link with the police.

So, before long, all being well, your local co-ordinator should be in touch with you to tell you of sensible precautions to take and to provide window stickers, telephone numbers and advice.

Mr Davis is still short of co-ordinators and anyone willing to volunteer would be very welcome, and should contact Jim Davis at Whisperwood House. (B. Usborne)

The Muntjac

"Sad though the death of the muntjac was (last Newsletter), we were overjoyed recently to have not one but a pair come through our garden. They may be the ugliest of the deer family but I for one am glad to see that these descendants of escapees from Woburn have decided to make Loudwater part of their route which seems to be in a circle from Sarratt Lane, Violet Way, Loudwater House, Troutstream Way and back up.

So far we have had pheasants, horses, foxes and a donkey through the garden and ducks in the house. The only more exotic visitors in our early days here were courting couples who used to drive cars amongst our trees – interesting as well as exotic, because one couple I remonstrated with included a local lady I knew and HE was not her husband.

PS. I know its not Loudwater, but I heard a Nightingale singing (of all places) in the Ricky station roundabout trees!" (J. Jarrett)

From A.G. Crisp, Burnside, Troutstream Way.

"It may be of interest to residents to note that I am restocking the River Chess along my frontage with native British crayfish, which I have acquired from a specialist breeder in Somerset.

British crayfish are seen occasionally in the stream and as the Chess at present has water of the right temperature, is well oxygenated and free from pollution, it seemed a worthwhile experiment to see whether they would thrive.

Their only natural enemies are water rats, trout and the little Grebe, but as there are plentiful hiding places within the banks they should be able to at least survive in some numbers. It will be a year or so before I will know whether the experiment has been a success".

From Loudwater House

In a recent letter to the Daily Telegraph the owner of a house with a large garden described the frustration and annoyance caused by people who constantly treated her land as a public right of way. When she found some of them having a picnic on it she asked where they came from and, at the first opportunity, packed a hamper, gathered her family about her, and set off to picnic in THEIR back garden. She made her point!

In Loudwater House we have more than a sneaking sympathy for that lady.

Our gardens, back and front, are owned by the residents of Loudwater House (and the drive to it is also private). Just like any houseowner we pay for them, care for them, enjoy them and use them. But unlike other houseowners we are increasingly denied the privacy which they enjoy. Despite clear notices at each entrance we find, more and more, that we are expected to share our garden with cyclists, strollers, short-cutters, Sunday-afternoon-family-hikers, dog-walkers (which can be particularly unpleasant because we are precluded by our Lease from keeping our own pets), and even horse-riders. As the summer approaches, so the numbers increase.

The majority of the walkers would seem to be residents of the Loudwater Estate so please may we ask you to help us by example. If you are seen to trespass (and IT IS TRESPASSING) then visitors to the area, who do not know any better, assume that Loudwater House is a public right of way. We would like to enjoy our garden and the privacy which is every houseowner's right. Next time you or any member of your family wants to take a short cut, or to walk the dog through our garden, stop and ask yourselves how you'd feel if we all did the same to you. Please respect our privacy as we respect yours.

L.R.A. Garden Party

The L.R.A. Garden Party was as usual a friendly meeting of old friends and new, about 270 – not including the children. It was Father's Day of course, and really should have had the mothers catering for them at the bar but Maurice Escow who organised it, said the ladies would have wilted under the strain- so busy were they! The bar didn't run dry! Luckily a sharp downpour filled the empty glasses and although conversations were cut short occasionally for a frantic rush to cover (the ladies loo coming in quite useful!) the cloud bursts did not shorten the proceedings. People just did not want to go away afterwards.

Our grateful thanks are due – as Don Cammel said to those who could hear him, to Mick and Susan Fitzgerald who granted us the use of their garden – the old stomping ground of the L.R.A. Garden Parties in days of yore! – and so kindly provided the music. David Braund of Hemel Hempstead produced 'middle of the road' disco music and Roger Lewis – a talented acoustic and Electric Pianist and vocalist, a selection of well known and well loved blues and jazz pieces with some pop music too. Altogether it was a very successful occasion and the children's swings were a great attraction for the young ones. There were some sad comments here and there about the passing of Sir George Baker who was held by all who knew him in such high esteem and of course the illness of 'Nick' Nicholls who used to organise these parties year after year so successfully gave many of us cause for concern and sympathy for Grace his wife. Their straw hats were once a feature of the L.R.A. Garden Parties and we hope they will be again next year.

If any resident would like to receive free logs, would they kindly get in touch with Mr Bicknell, Rickmansworth 772865 who will provide details.

Residents are asked to send their outstanding current year subscriptions to their distributors because several have not been collected so far. It will be appreciated that it is relatively easy to distribute Newsletters but to knock on doors for a sub, and often return repeatedly is quite an arduous task.

"APOLOGY"

The April Newsletter contained in the list of planning applications, criticism of the owners of Woodlands, Whisperwood, who, it was suggested were attempting to grab a little extra money before leaving the area by building on their land. It has been drawn to the editor's attention that the owners of Woodlands have, and never have had any intention of moving and that accordingly this remark was unfounded.

We therefore withdraw unhesitatingly and unreservedly this remark and apologise to the owners of Woodlands for the considerable distress which they have been caused.

Planning Applications

8/275/84 Single storey rear conservatory at Cressy House, Trout Rise, for B. King Esq.

8/298/84 Single storey rear extension at Tall Trees, Loudwater Lane, for Mr & Mrs R. Harvey.

8/287/84 Single storey side extension at 9 Lower Plantation, for Mr & Mrs Dean.

8/391/84 Erection of detached triple garage with playroom and utility room at rear at Wild Wood, Loudwater, for M. Escow Esq.

8/424/84 Two storey side extension at Burnside, Troutstream Way, for A.J. Crisp Esq.

8/429/84 Erection of car port at Chenies, Bridle Lane, for K. Bell Esq.

8/434/84 Single storey rear extension, convert garage to bedroom and erect detached double garage at Lightwoods, Troutstream Way, for M.J. Thompson Esq.