

LOUDWATER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Chairman
Maurice Escow
Wildwood
Loudwater Heights
R. 771810

Vice-Chairman
Barnaby Usborne
Larchmead
Trout Rise
R. 772766

Treasurer
Cyril Brine
Arlesey House
Rooks Hill
R. 772508

Correspondence Secretary
Don Cammell
Martins
Ladywood Close
R. 776126

NEWSLETTER No 36

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Editor: Mrs D. Francis, Dovecote, Troutstream Way. R. 770894

THE PREMIUM WE PUT ON A SMILE

As some of you already know, George's Fund reached a total of one thousand, six hundred and sixteen pounds and fifty pence. This was presented to George on 14th May by Mrs. Grant with a folder containing all the names of the contributors with many of their letters and cards.

It is a measure on one hand of the generosity and affluence of Loudwater residents and on the other, a reflection of the value we all put on simple kindness and the unfailing, cheerful friendliness of another human being. Are we all starving for this sort of friendship that demands nothing and makes us glad to be alive?

We are all Georges under the skin.

A full list of contributors' names and amounts donated will be kept at Dovecote for the present time should any resident wish to inspect it.

George writes, "Dear Mrs. Francis, I would be most grateful if you could enter the following in your next Newsletter, to show my appreciation to everyone for their wonderful kindness shown by the results of the fund that was set up for me. It came as a complete surprise to my wife and I, to have Mrs. Grant visit us with a cheque---we were completely overwhelmed and lost for words. We would like to thank each and everyone of you from the bottom of our hearts for your kindness and thoughtfulness in helping me this way after my accident. As some of you may know, our son and daughter-in-law in Canada are presenting us with our second grandchild in July. In view of this we have put the cheque into our bank account for safe keeping so that when the baby has arrived, we will, sometime in the near future be able to visit them. Thank you all once again for such a wonderful gift. It was truly appreciated. As for myself, I have seen the specialist again. I have to continue with with physio-therapy three days a week and hydro-therapy two days then go back to see him. If all goes well I will be fit enough to return to work by then. With kindest regards to you all. George and June Batchelor."

FROM MRS GRANT

"It gives me great pleasure to be able to report that I visited George and his wife at their Garston home on Tuesday evening 7th May and I was greeted by a familiar smiling face. I explained the purpose of my visit and presented George with a variety of letters and cards together with the cheque for £1610.50. Momentarily George was completely lost for words but the expression on his face really said it all.

At the time of my visit George was still quite badly incapacitated: his accident in January caused dislocation to the shoulder, a bone fracture and severe damage to ligaments, nerve tendons and the deltoid muscle. Unfortunately it is likely to be many weeks before he is fully recovered but I am sure everyone will be happy to know that as a result of our little campaign George will now be able to have the advantage of a recuperation holiday.

Despite his discomfort George is cheerful and optimistic and very determined to get back to his "round" as soon as possible. There can be no doubt that when he does return he will receive a warm welcome.

Finally I would like to express my personal thanks to everyone concerned for the wonderful response which was most heartwarming.

FROM THE ESTATE BOARD

The secretary wishes to express the thanks of the Directors of the Loudwater(Troutstream)Estate Company Ltd. to those residents who so gallantly manned the gates for the obligatory period on Good Friday.

THE LRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General meeting of the LRA, which was held at Chorleywood House on 16th May was attended by approximately 60 people. Chairman Maurice Escow nobly gave the opening address even though he was suffering from the after effects of flu. He summarised the activities of the LRA during the year, proposed the amendment to the rules to allow the Committee to be elected by members as usual but that the Committee elect their officers to the various positions of responsibility on the Committee. After this was seconded, new officers elected and the accounts approved in the absence of the Treasurer, certain matters were discussed. Mr Escow reported that a very good relationship had developed with the Loudwater Estate Board; that the Sarratt Lane development was not known about and was consequently not opposed, that it is up to individual residents to voice their opposition to development plans and to ask the LRA to support them as needed.. Don Cammell our correspondence Secretary asked residents to give clear directions to their callers and visitors as to the whereabouts of their houses in order to avoid the nuisance caused to residents living close to the verges of roads in the Estate being awakened at midnight in some instances to be asked the way to someone's home. This can be quite alarming for someone who is fragile or living on their own especially when the caller turns out to be the undertaker or when a woman in a state of agitation says she has been hunting for an address for the best part of an hour and is then joined by a very burly, serious man when the door has been opened. These occurrences are worrying because they always happen after dark. One resident expressed his deep concern about the splitting of gardens and the massive amount of building that was going on. One could almost see the density of houses rising to such an extent that Loudwater will lose its gardens altogether.

Replacing members who have resigned, your newly elected members of the LRA Committee are:-Maureen Grundy (Sarratt Lane), Dick Bilton (Lower Plantation), Terry Harle (Upper Troutstream Way), and of course Jack Cognet who is already well known and is the present membership Secretary.

MUSICAL EVENING

After the huge success of the musical evening held in 1983, it is hoped to arrange another such occasion in October this year. Details of this will be published later.

CONCERNING THE GPO INFORMATION PACK

In reply to Hugh Matthews letter about the unsatisfactory mail collections in Loudwater, there being two so close together and the queues in Rickmansworth P.O. with seldom more than two windows manned because of tea breaks for the staff, Mr Staines the Head Post master to whom he wrote says that the collections are timed to meet specific objectives; the 0800 hours is for 1st class letters to be delivered locally on the same day as the collection; the 1500 hour for connecting with despatches to Scotland and Northern Ireland and the 1700 hour is the latest time the boxes can be cleared and still achieve 1st delivery of 1st class letters the following day. The queues at the P.O. should now have been reduced because of staffing adjustments. Thankyou Mr. Staines.

THE LRA GARDEN PARTY

Fathers' Day would not be the same without the LRA Garden Party and this year was no exception, as happy fathers thronged the bar to celebrate their day. More than 250 residents attended with over 100 children which reflects the high level of productivity in our area. Your Committee had especially commissioned perfect weather to grace the occasion, which with the beautiful setting of Cressy House and gardens combined to make this a very happy and successful party with a welcome number of new faces getting to know the older ones. It was especially good to see Nick Nicholls there in such fine form.

Our very grateful thanks go to Pascale and Benny King for granting us the use of their lovely garden. Evidently close on ten men and a dog had been at work into the wee small hours, ensuring that the gardens were in perfect condition. They were certainly much admired and enjoyed by both young and old. Benny and Pascale also arranged for the delightful

background music which had several feet tapping and more than a few voices crooning along with the excellent vocalist. Our thanks are also due to Maurice Escow and his merry band of bar men, and to Mary Filose who didn't just collect tickets but welcomed everyone too. Fathers' Day and the LRA garden party again made a joyful start to summer and we look forward to seeing you all again next year with your families." (Maureen Grundy)



NATURE NOTES

The heron, as you probably know is a resident in Britain. It is grey and dark slate in colour with a strong yellow beak and long greenish brown legs. It feeds mainly on fishes and frogs and other riverside creatures so watch out for your gold fish if you see one flying overhead. It nests usually in a colony or heronry which consists in most cases of platforms of sticks in tall trees but in colder regions such as Britain it nests in bushes, reed beds or on cliff edges. The same nest is used year after so that it often reaches a size that is several feet across. The editor saw two flying past recently, one was flying west towards the trout farm.

TRYING TO SWAT A MOTH MENACE

The brown tailed moths that are troubling Londoners and said to be spreading up the Thames causing rashes from the hairs from their tails and from their caterpillars hairs which are blown on the wind, are smallish, white moths with a noticeable brown tail. Having caught a large brown moth in the garden which had a brown tail the Editor checked a Natural History book for identification. If you should come across a brown tailed moth you should not spray it with an insecticide because this causes it to release the hairs from its tail, you should perhaps cremate it. Southwark Council has reported that the cocoons which spend the winter hanging in trees, should be cut out and burned.

THE SWANS

In reply to the enquiry by Peggy Watson concerning the aggression of the cob who has been dastardly enough to frighten people away from the edge of the river in their own gardens, Mr. Bicknell has reported that the cob which was brought to replace the deceased husband was driven off by the pen in no uncertain manner and had to be retrieved from miles away. It is well known that swans make mates for life and rarely if ever find a new mate when one has perished. The present swan cob, the son, who is daily defending his widowed mother is not savage. Mrs Bicknell says that he does not his use his wings which would be dangerous indeed, he merely nips with his beak and desists from this if you throw him some bread. As he is only one year old, one can assume that he is also playful. Because of the fidelity of mated swans and because of the cob's tender years it comes as no surprise that the eggs are infertile.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Chief Inspector Still addressed the meeting about the value of Neighbourhood Watch schemes in Hertfordshire in capturing criminals, particularly when residents notice the numbers on strange cars lurking in the vicinity and notify the car number to the Police. He stressed the importance of watching out for cars in summer holiday periods, especially, and he could not emphasize vehemently enough the vital importance of keeping the Estate gates closed for the security of the residents of Loudwater Estate. He said that once criminals are inside the Estate they may fear they cannot get out so that in itself is a deterrent. He said N. Watch was a bonus for the Police because of the wealth of information they get. It is not a Neighbourhood spy system, it is a self help security system which is paying dividends. He said that the telephone system was being reconstructed, that to ring 444444 connects us to Watford Police and that we should always ring 999 in an emergency.

Chorleywood was now split into two parts, he said with P.C. Brian Hopkins looking after Chorleywood and P.C. Stuart Pinkney looking after Loudwater. P.C. Pinkney promised to give a profile of himself to the Editor for a future Newsletter.

Mr. James Davis the chief co-ordinator followed the Chief Inspector by saying that he personally wished for the gates at Troutstream Way to be closed permanently and bricked in if necessary and for Trout Rise gates to remain openable. An electronic closing system might be devised for that gate in such an event but it would be very expensive.

The LRA Committee has subsequently endorsed the decision reached at the AGM to erect official signs for Neighbourhood Watch in the Loudwater area and is prepared to finance the project.

The names of the co-ordinators for the area are as follows:-Bridle Lane - Valerie Kleanthous, Chess Lane - John Boone, Kingfisher Lure - Brian Homan, Loudwater Drive - Alex. Crisp, Loudwater Heights - R.D.Sheret, Loudwater Lane - John Renshaw and Phil Tyler, Overstream - George Pritchard and Fred Mitchell, Rooks Hill - John Renshaw, Sarratt Lane - R.D.Sheret, Timber Ridge - John Boone, Trout Rise - John Watkiss and Jack Cognet, Troutstream Way - Alan Crisp and Brian Homan, Violet Way - Adrian Mead, Whisperwood - John Watkiss. Volunteers are required for Armitage Close, Cherry Hill, Cherry Tree Walk, Chess Close, Chess Hill, Farm Lane, Harewood, Ladywood Close, Lower Plantation and Wagon Way.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

8/0141/85 Two storey side extension at Scheherezade, Bridle Lane, Loudwater, for Mr & Mrs W. Knight.

8/0135/85 Single storey extension at Flint Cottage, Troutstream Way, for J.D.Bicknell Esq.

8/0167/85 Erection of detached house with integral garage at land rear of Ringway and South Winds fronting Cherry Hill, Loudwater, for Bruce Thomson Properties Ltd.

8/0272/85 Erection of detached house with integral garage at land adjacent to Woodlands, Sarratt Lane, for D.Bailey Esq.

We are indebted to Mrs Joyce Wretham for the drawing of the Heron for this Newsletter.

Next issue entries to the Editor by 1st Sept. please.