

# LOUDWATER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

*Chairman*  
Maurice Escow  
Wildwood  
Loudwater Heights  
R. 771810

*Vice-Chairman*  
Barnaby Osborne  
Larchmead  
Trout Rise  
R. 772766

*Treasurer*  
Cyril Brine  
Arlesey House  
Rooks Hill  
R. 772508

*Correspondence Secretary*  
Don Cammell  
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R. 776126

NEWSLETTER No. 39

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

APRIL 1986

## NOTES FOR YOUR DIARY

The AGM of the LRA will be on Thursday 15th May at 8pm at Chorleywood House. The guest speaker will be from MAGNA the Motorway Action Group For Noise Abatement to which the LRA is now affiliated.

## GARDEN PARTY

The Garden Party will be held on Sunday 15th June from 12.00 noon to 2.00 pm so earmark that morning for bringing your garden furniture as before for the benefit of residents who are not as hale and hearty as they would wish to be. Tickets will only be available in advance from Maurice Escow, Wildwood, Loudwater Heights. Please send cheques made payable to the Loudwater Residents Association to Maurice and enclose a stamped addressed envelope as last year. The price will be £2.00 per person. The venue will be at Clearburn, Trout Rise, by kind permission of Lady Lewis.

## CARETAKERS-----CAREFUL TENANTS (Advertisement)

Local family on leave from Abu Dhabi require to rent Family house for one month- mid August to mid September. Own house in the area on long term tenancy.

Very careful tenants -good rent offered- and peace of mind while you enjoy your holiday.

Anyone interested telephone friend of above- Loudwater resident, Mrs Williams 770607

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH .A report by Jim Davis.

The question was bound to be asked as to whether the erection of Neighbourhood Watch signs would attract burglars.

The answer is definitely no because most of Watford, Rickmansworth and Chorleywood are covered by a multitude of such schemes and breaking and entering last year were down by an overall total of 75. Loudwater has just been unlucky and it is obviously down to one person or a team of two who have still to be apprehended.

A meeting of Watch schemes was held on 11th Feb at Rickmansworth Police station. Over 100 were present although each scheme was limited to one chief co-ordinator and one co-ordinator. There are now 61 schemes in the Watford / Rickmansworth area. It was stressed at the meeting that any suspicious circumstances must be reported by dialling 999. Loudwater is at the moment especially vulnerable and there is need for constant vigilance. The Police are working on a scheme to trap conmen (and con-children) Any suspicious callers, ring the Police. NEVER let them enter the house on any pretext whatsoever. Literature illustrating identity cards of Police, Water Board etc, etc. is in preparation.

Home Security Magazine (Dec. to Feb. issue) is available from me. One copy only is given to be loaned around the Estate to anyone interested. It is a mountain of information on locks, locksmiths etc.

The C.I.D. (Sgt. Hern) at Rickmansworth is very keen to know if anyone has had visits from Tarmac Contractors, tree loppers, odd job men, piano or harpsichord tuners over the last six months. (The latter with or without prior appointment). The C.I.D. is also in possession of a fork or spade handle with a blue plastic top and wants to know who has lost the spade or fork (bottom end is missing) and also another blue coloured instrument which could be a tyre lever or a crowbar.

Insp. Prosser at Watford Police Station is willing to hold judo classes for those interested.

Any problem, please ring me, Jim Davis, any time. My office number (daytime) is 774641.

## NATURE NOTES

"I do hope that everyone fed our beautiful song birds in those cold winter months as they give us so much pleasure in the Spring and Summer. It is very difficult for smaller birds to find food when the ground is frozen hard let alone find water when people forget to put it out. If the water freezes over quickly, a tip is to add a few drops of corn oil to prevent it freezing again.

If you are like me our great problem is the destruction of the food containers which for years have been destroyed by the squirrels. At last I had an elderly gentleman think up this ingenious swinging basket. It is wood at the top and bottom joined together by fine mesh. It has six openings, three at the top and three at the bottom, providing access for the birds to the interior of the basket. There is a lid at the top which you just lift out and with a hook you can put the ordinary long wire mesh food container (obtainable at any pet shop) into this basket.



You could make it yourself unless like me you are not very handy. We had it made at reasonable cost. There is a hanging chain affording means to hang from any tree branch, wall bracket etc., and which can be taken down for refilling in a few moments. I have had three of these baskets in my garden for 8

weeks now, and have found they have completely defeated the squirrels." B.B.

If you would like one made for you, Mrs Baker, Sleepy Hollow, Whisperwood has offered to approach her kindly old friend to make one for you. The cost is approximately £4.50. (Ed.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ref. Newsletter 38.-Gates- With regard to comments to the effect that visitors to the Estate are to blame for the gates being continually left open at Troutstream Way end, we would respectfully point out that visitors must have been given keys to enable them to enter the Estate in the first place. During the surveillance by the police not once was it mentioned that visitors are the main cause of the problem. The main cause stems from residents who dish out keys to gardeners, home helps and such who are just too lazy to close the gate. Living so close to the gate in question is no joy, especially when we are subject to verbal abuse from residents not visitors. We see who is to blame. We can give car numbers if necessary. A few residents in Loudwater House are not blameless, nor is Overstream and even a few from the top end of Trout Rise, to mention a few. The idea of closing the gate permanently is out of the question. As the residents at the top end mainly use this form of exit, we do not see why we should be made to suffer because of those few residents with their don't care attitude. We would therefore suggest that the lock is changed and only the few residents from Violet Way onwards be given keys as other residents would still have the key to Trout Rise gate. We are sure that the gate would then remain locked. Alternatively if people from outside the Estate wish to have a key they could purchase one from the Estate Company at a cost, the money being used for road maintenance. If however they do not comply with the rules of the Estate they would then have the key taken away. signed- Valerie Radford 'Uptop'. Fenelle Lloyd, 'Chantry House' Ed.

Next issue entries to the Editor by 1st June, please.



Dear Editor, your last Newsletter started me thinking about how much we can all do for Loudwater. You mentioned "stalwart citizens" cutting back growth at the dangerous corner opposite Loudwater Drive. I saw this being done and give credit to them for their efforts. Instead of just saying "THEY should do something", they were willing to expend time and energy doing the job themselves. In the same way Mrs. Baker doesn't just complain about litter- she does something by picking it up in her walks.

Similarly, twenty years after I first tried to get something done about the dangerous falls on either side of Loudwater Lane, someone has actually put up fencing alongside some of the bad drops. I don't know who did it but something was done and children and old people are less likely to be injured. Let's hope other bad sections will also be fenced. Can any of us help?

Lastly, one personal plea over something we don't seem to be able to do anything about. (I know the LRA has tried very hard.) My property adjoins the woodland between Loudwater House and Violet Way. During this blustery winter three of the scores of dead trees in the wood have smashed on to my fence. I should claim against the owner for the damage. But who is the owner? The land is registered but the Land Registry is forbidden to disclose the name. Only, I gather if something serious happens- a falling tree brings down power lines or injures someone in a car or a child playing in the wood is there any chance of flushing the owner out of hiding. A Law Commission has been sitting to report on this matter of ownership secrecy and is expected to recommend major change. Until it does, we have to wait for something nasty to happen. Has anyone any ideas? John Jarrett.

#### CONGRATULATIONS

to Sinclair Watson on attaining his "wings" at the age of 63 years and to his wife Pat on surviving a long ordeal of anxiety. She has written this article to celebrate the achievement.

"Intermittently, over a period of four years, sometimes with long gaps, Wednesday afternoons were a time of anxiety for me. Would my husband return home? He had had to wait 38 years to make these trips to Denham to train as a Pilot - an ambition he had nurtured since he was 25. Finally on 23rd January 1985, after countless hours of home studying, four years exams and a rigorous flight test he gained his Pilot's Licence at the age of 63 years. Champagne flowed at the school! Since then I have flown with him on many occasions including to Oxford, Old Warden, Cranfield, Cambridge and two long trips to Scotland, including crossing the Highlands to Mull for lunch and a Flight group- outing to the Isle of Man. At the time of writing we are hoping to go to Amsterdam on March 1st, again a Flight group- outing, with some 40 other enthusiasts.

The Scottish trip was great fun in spite of mechanical problems. Landing at Newcastle to refuel he found he had no right hand brake and could only turn left! This caused some confusion as we were stuck in the middle of the taxiway with large Jets queuing behind us. The Fire Tender rushed to our rescue and four of us pushed the plane to the stand. Well at least we provided an amusing spectacle for the 100 or so onlookers!

At 3500 feet, crossing the Highlands was quite beautiful with views of lochs Earn, Tay and many other smaller lochs hidden in the hills. Mull only has a small grass strip (Phone before departure to have the cows moved to another field!) with a log cabin Hotel alongside which serves excellent food. A quick look round the Tobermoray coastline at 1000 ft. and back to Dundee, our base. The late afternoon light was even more beautiful, but did emphasise the rugged and sometimes barren nature of the area. NOT the best place to have an engine failure as gravity has the last word! I now look forward to more lovely trips with Sinclair at the controls.

Pat Watson.

#### WELCOME TO NEWCOMERS

Peter and Kathy Laule to Son Trobat, Overstream.  
John and Patricia Parsons to Appleton, Troutstream Way.

#### CONGRATULATIONS

To Mrs. Margaret Jarrett, Violet Way, on becoming a Parish Councillor for Chorleywood.

#### THE MILK ROUND

Paul Noon, the person who has so ably helped out on the milk round since George had his accident, has informed the Editor that he is taking over the round on a permanent basis and hopes to maintain the same standards of service that George gave. He was however worried at the beginning of the Arctic freeze when he found that people had not spread sand where George had his accident even when the sand bin was full and hoped he would not go the same way.

#### LETTER FROM GEORGE

Dear Mrs Francis, I would like to express my deepest gratitude and thanks to all of my very dear friends at Loudwater for the kindness, understanding and many other things that have made my 23 years on the round a most treasured memory and something I will never forget. I will not be returning to the round owing to not being able to carry out my duties due to the results of my accident, so once again, "Thankyou all" for my many happy years amongst you.  
Yours sincerely George Batchelor.

#### FURTHER GREEN BELT DEVELOPMENT

Forty six people signed the attendance register at the Appeal hearing on 18th March at Chorleywood House concerning the development of Green Belt land into an estate of five houses (formerly nine at the first planning application) and the majority stayed all day to hear residents put their objections forward at the end of the long hearing. Mrs. Hazel Nest very ably and clearly voiced the most cogent objections on behalf of residents and Mr. D.W. Whitaker filled in much of the local detail in a carefully thought out attack on the reasons and motivations of the developers during which his legal background was apparent. Among other speakers, representations were made by the Secretary of the Bridle Lane Estate Co. and Mr Maurice Escow elicited the fact that only letters sent to the Inspector were taken into his considerations, those sent to Three Rivers D.C. being retained by them after coming to the decision to turn down the application which was now the subject of the Appeal. Mr Phil Tyler came across the grain of the objections by suggesting that if the Appeal was successful, rather than maintain the ancient rural Sarratt Lane in its present lethal form the Council might need to upgrade Sarratt Lane into a 15ft wide carriageway which some people do not want. More than one car a minute passed down that part of Sarratt Lane on an average during the day and much anxiety was expressed over adding to this burden. The Inspector said that this did not come within the terms of the hearing but that he would take it into consideration. The appellants counsel was however extremely persuasive and put himself into the Inspectors position by suggesting ways of thinking of answers to the questions that the Inspector might have in mind concerning Green Belt uses and Government Policy guidelines where housing need was urgent (although objectors pointed out that there was no such demand in Loudwater with so many houses on the market for lengthy periods of time.) The meeting was closed when the Inspector left with Mr Chapman for Lesser Homes (the developers) and Mr Turk for Three Rivers D.C. to inspect the site. We are at present awaiting the Inspectors decision.

#### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

8/0894/85 Erection of a detached double garage at Woodlands Sarratt Lane, Loudwater, for D. Bailey Esq.  
8/0007/86 Single storey rear extension at 11, Ladywood Close, Loudwater, for P. Lovegrove Esq.  
8/0044/86 Two storey front extension at 3 Armitage Close, Loudwater, for J. Pendlebury Esq.