

LOUDWATER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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OCTOBER 1986

NEWSLETTER No. 41

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

LRA MEMBERSHIP and NEWSLETTER

As agreed at the AGM on the 15th May 1986, the Membership fee from 1st Jan. 1987 will be two pounds per year per household - a very modest figure made possible only through the time and talents given so freely and generously by the Committee members and by the distributors.

The Newsletter distributors will start to collect membership fees when delivering the January issue and prompt payment will be appreciated. In those cases where members happen to be out at collection time, the distributors will leave a stamped envelope addressed to Mr. J.L. Coonet, Broad Oaks, Trout Rise. We ask for the subscription to be posted promptly in this envelope and by these means we hope to achieve the following objects:-

1. To ease the burden of the distributors
2. To ensure that subscriptions are paid promptly
3. To keep us financially viable
4. To keep our Register of members up to date (with many changes of ownership this is a difficult task but an important one)

To date it has been the responsibility of Mr. Cyril Brine to maintain membership records in addition to his duties as Treasurer but with the appointment of Jack Coonet as Membership Secretary, the work load on Mr. Brine will be reduced. The new procedure will be that all subscriptions with names and addresses will be lodged with Jack Coonet (NOT Cyril Brine) and distributors are asked to note this particularly.

As a final plea, may we ask all residents to co-operate to change a somewhat onerous and cumbersome system into something simpler and more manageable. In turn this will help your committee to continue its task of protecting your interests in this beautiful district in which we are all privileged to live. J.L.C.

A LETTER FROM PAUL

(As most of you all know our friendly milkman Paul who took George's place when George had his accident and did his best to make us feel we were in good hands by every friendly act and solicitude in his job of delivering the milk to our doors, has suffered an accident himself by falling and cutting his hand badly.)

Mrs Baker of Sleepy Hollow has kindly forwarded this letter from Paul.

Dear Mrs Baker,

Just a few lines to say thankyou for your good wishes and to let you know how I am getting on after my accident.

I am now out of plaster and had 20 stitches taken out of my hand but the progress is very slow as I have to learn to use my hand and fingers again. I have exercises to do each day to build up the movement and strength. I can now carry a cup of coffee, HOORAY! The strength and movement I can build up but because of the damage to the nerves

in two of my fingers, I have no feeling in them nor the side of my hand and so I have to watch very carefully what I touch or try to pick up.

I am due to return to the hospital on Sept. 8th and eagerly await their next instructions.

Kindest regards Paul.

I am glad to report that Paul is now back at work. His hand looks very well but there is still lack of feeling in two of his fingers. We do hope this is the last of the unfortunate accidents happening to our milkmen.

A FRIGHTENING EXPERIENCE

Probably most people in Loudwater who were at home on Monday 23rd June will recollect the ear shattering and terrifying noise made by a military aircraft and two helicopters flying not much higher than tree top height. The military aircraft directly over my house and it seemed so low I thought it was going to crash.

Subsequent to contacting the Police and phoning the Aviation Controller at the Town Hall Watford, the enclosed letter was received. D. Baker, Dear Mr Baker, re. Low Flying Aircraft - 23rd June 1986.

With reference to your telephone call to my office on Monday 23rd June, I have now been able to ascertain that the aircraft involved was a Royal Navy Sea Harrier based at the Royal Naval Air Station, Yeovilton. The aircraft was taking part in rehearsals for the Channel 4 television programme "Treasure Hunt" and indeed apparently carried a similar manoeuvre at approximately 12.11 pm on Tuesday 24th June when the programme was actually recorded.

The aircraft was not operating from Leavesden Aerodrome at the time although it was within the controlled air space and under close observation by the Leavesden control tower.

Should you wish to pursue your complaint you may care to contact the producers of the programme, Chataworth Television whose telephone number is 01-734-4302, and R.B. McMillan Hon. Sec.

NATURE NOTES

During the month of August a considerable amount of misery was caused to a resident on behalf of an Aylesbury duck on the river which had caught its bill in a plastic holder for carrying cans. It had its bill in a narrow ring and had somehow got its neck caught up also in a wider part of the contraption. In spite of coaxing and trying to feed it and catch it with a salmon landing net specially borrowed for the purpose nothing could be done because it shot off as fast as its legs could waddle as soon as it saw any sort of implement being carried. Apart from plunging in to who knows what oozy depths and catching it on the swim it was impossible to do anything to relieve duck in its predicament.

This continued for many days. The duck was obviously able to retrieve some nourishment from small things it could suck up in the water because it did not show signs of starvation markedly. It was its distress that was worrying. The outcome of it all was that suddenly it appeared one morning to be fed completely free from its bondage to the great relief of all the residents up and down the river who had taken steps to try to help.

THE WORST ROAD IN EUROPE

That is the title by which our M25 has now been given. Not only is it a pain to our ears, a four lane traffic jam going at anything from 0 to 80 mph with no tolls like the French have to prevent short distance drivers from joining and leaving the queue, it is a nightmare to the eyes to drive on at night, even on a quiet Sunday night with the non-stop glare of hundreds of oncoming vehicles unshielded by any sort of light barrier. But that is another story. The one we are at present engaged by is the noise. The LRA has set up a sub committee to deal with it. Letters of protest have been sent to Derek Prague our EuroMP, to Richard Page our local MP and to Frank Coogan Chairman of the County Council.

THE LRA GARDEN PARTY

After a dismal start ,to June, we held our breath for some sun to grace our annual garden party and we were not disappointed" WE had a glorious day which brought out some 200 residents and their families to enjoy a very relaxed and friendly get together in the beautifully tended gardens of Lady Lewis at Clearburn.

The garden party is always an occasion for meeting old friends and renewing acquaintances and this year we had a very special "star" guest in George Batchelor, our much loved former milkman. This particular "old friend" and his wife and son were besieged by residents, anxious to see for themselves that George was on the mend. It was a pleasure to have George back among us again. Our very grateful thanks to Lady Lewis for lending us her lovely grounds - they were much appreciated by young and old. The band of gentlemen who tended the bar did an excellent job and our thanks go to them and to all who helped to make it a happy and successful day.

LOUDWATER ESTATE Part 1

This area of the Chess Valley has been inhabited since Roman times. Local school children go on expeditions to search for signs of Roman vineyards on the slopes of the valley; house owners whose gardens the river can tell you tales of old mills and water cress beds. One senses that succeeding generations have each left their mark on an ever changing landscape.

The present Loudwater House, whose architecture is basically Regency, was probably built between 1822 and 1830, and, since a type of wood rot more usually found in France has been discovered in the house, one guess is that French prisoners of war from the Napoleonic wars may have been used in building it; the spores of the rot would be hidden in the dust of their pockets. The first record of ownership is in 1841. A Mr. James Hayward lived in the house then. He left it before he died in 1856. In 1868 it belonged to Mr Joseph Arden of Rickmansworth Park. His family seem to have treated it as an investment property, letting it out to various rich and well known people. One such was the marine engineer, Joseph Samuda. In 1868 he rented the 'mansion, pleasure gardens, lands lodges and stables'. A further area of 400 acres- Loudwater Farm, Home Farm, grasslands, cottages and plantations- was let out separately to Mrs Payne. Joseph Samuda founded the Institute of Naval Architects and became M.P. for Tower Hamlets in 1868.

The tenant who left the greatest impression on the house and estate was Mr Panmure Gordon, founder of the Stockbroking firm who leased the house in the 1890's and it seems the story-book setting of the house today is his achievement. He built walled gardens and planted rare trees; he built hot houses and the odd and pretty Coach House (now Loudwater Garage) to house his great collection of carriages. He created the lake where swans glide today. Panmure Gordon seems to have been larger than life. He collected among other necessities, 900 pairs of trousers and lost 1,100 ties in a fire which damaged the house. At a time when a working man earned about two pounds a week, he thought a gentleman would need two thousand pounds a month merely to live in the style expected of him. "Luxuries" would cost more. His most famous quest at Loudwater was King Edward VII and he bequeathed his "water carriage" to Emperor Frederick of Germany. ----to be continued-----
Acknowledgments: George E.Ray History of Chorleywood and Panmure Gordon & Co. "A Century of Stockbroking"-----Mabel Tindall Overstream.

THIS AND THAT

There are problems like perennial weeds that keep on surfacing at different times of the year and these are as follows:-

Bonfires!

Bonfires are a HEALTH HAZARD. Not only do they cause great worry from falling and drifting sparks on to the many thatched roofs in Loudwater (Many people remember that a house was burnt to the ground not so long ago through a neighbour's bonfire sparks) but they can be actionable under Section 16 of the Clean Air Act 1956. Bonfire smoke contains 70 parts per million of the cancer producing compound, benzpyrene. Cigarette smoke contains only 0.2 parts per million by comparison.

Dogs!

Dogs that roam through free through other people's gardens leaving their excrement on extra special lawns and footpaths where children have had the misfortune to get it all over them to the worry and trouble of their irate parents.

Party Noise!

Luckily most people are considerate over warning their immediate neighbours when their youngsters are going to have a party but as we are all well aware now-a-days, noise carries very eccentrically so that your next door neighbour is not worried but someone half a mile away may be getting the full blast! Answer:- Keep the volume down- most youngsters won't -or shut your windows and doors.

Snow!

Before the next Newsletter comes round it is more than likely that we will have had another snow fall so Mr Francis, the Secretary of the Loudwater Estate Company, would like to remind residents and to inform new ones, that the Estate Company is responsible only for the upkeep of the Estate roads and not for snow clearance; that grit is made available on a grace and favour basis for residents to spread on the roads they use. He says he was so encouraged last year to see that many able bodied householders had looked after their own patch of road very well last winter and hopes that this caring effort will become a habit.

WARNING.

A man of about 5'10"', thinnish, 40-ish, long dark hair and thin face, with a lad in his late teens and with a white van has been going around shooting squirrels. He has claimed he is the Estate caretaker and says he has permission from the Estate and from the police. This is not true. Mr Francis, the Secretary of the Estate Company says that only Mr Clive Fuller and Mr Tom Phipps have authority to do any work for the Company within the boundaries of the Estate.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 8/321/86 Erection of dwelling at land adjoining the White Cottage, Loudwater Lane for G.Joll Esq.
- 8/433/86 Single and two storey rear extension at Lanqleybury, Chess Close, Loudwater for P.A. Oppenheimer Esq.
- 8/509/86 Single storey rear extension at Batu Mass, Bridle Lane, Loudwater for A.Astram Esq.
- 8/629/86 Two storey side extension at Cranham, Loudwater Lane, for C. Appleton Esq.
- 8/654/86 Single storey side extensions and pitched roof over dining room at 2, Ladywood Close, Loudwater for P. Holt Esq.

The following quotation from the Pinner Observer of 4/9/86 has been sent to the Editor:-

ESTATE PAYS FOR A FIGHT

Residents have set up a special fund to limit the building of houses on the Dean Estate, Eastcote. They have pledged more than two thousand pounds to pay for legal fees to be spent on defending the Estate's restrictive covenants which allow only one house per plot. "It is terrible that we have to look for money to defend what we already have, said the Chairman, but we intend to maintain our environment and wildlife".

Next issue entries to the Editor by 1st December please!