

## 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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Ladywood Close  
R. 776126

NEWSLETTER No. 43

APRIL 1987

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

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- (i) The AGM of the LRA will be held on Thursday 21st. May at 8.00 pm at Chorleywood House.
- (ii) The Annual Garden Party (for Loudwater residents only), will be held on June 14th. The venue will be announced later.
- (iii) The Musical Evening which has been arranged by popular demand, will take place on Sunday 12th April 1987 from 7.00 pm to 9.45 pm at Loudwater Farm and will be given by the Watford Ensemble, conductor David Dennis. Wine and refreshments will be served. Tickets £2.50. Seating is limited to 60. Please apply enclosing stamped, addressed envelope to Mr. C.R. Brine, Arlesey House, Rooks Hill, Loudwater, (Tel. 772508) with your cheque made payable to the L.R.A.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

In its heyday of evil printing habits, the Daily Telegraph was an invaluable source for the innocent game of seeing who could find the greatest number of printing errors, spelling mistakes, neglect of punctuation and downright bad grammar. I return herewith the January edition of the Newsletter with ten examples of the above, marked on each side of the sheet. Maybe you will find others which I have missed! You have beaten the Daily Telegraph in its heyday.

I write in no carping spirit. If — as it would appear — you are having difficulty with proof-reading, I shall be happy to offer my services. Yours sincerely, W. Desmond Martin, Chess Cottage, Loudwater Lane.

Editor's Note. Delighted that someone responded to the experiment! It just goes to show that some people read the Newsletter. I have taken Dr. Martin up on his offer to read the proofs.

Dear Editor, The problem of litter on our verges and wooded areas seems to be on the increase. The other day while walking in the wooded area bordering Troutstream Way, I filled a large refuse bag with a mixture of crisp bags, sweet wrappers, cigarette boxes and soggy newspapers. In this same area, close to the road I uncovered two piles of broken glass wrapped in paper plus a full refuse bag too heavy for me to remove — it remains there! It is difficult to know what can be done about this problem apart from impressing upon children not to drop litter about and each one of us picking up whatever we see lying near our own houses. We should also be on the look out for workmen or others using the woods as a convenient dump.

Finally, an effort to keep rubbish etc. arising from renovations, out of sight of people walking round the roads would be appreciated. One house has had an old bathroom wash basin in their front garden for many weeks. Yours, Joyce Dixon, Nantucket, Violet Way.

### TREES IN LOUDWATER

In a letter from Three Rivers D.C. dated 4th November 1986, many residents in Loudwater were informed that a "blanket" Tree Preservation Order had been introduced with immediate effect. In short it is now an offence (subject to a few exceptions) within the areas specified, to damage or destroy or even to lop any tree without the prior consent of the Council.

Although in some cases, these new regulations may be tiresome, they have been made for good and sufficient reasons, i.e., to protect the delightful area of Loudwater and to maintain its character as far as possible, bearing in mind particularly the ever increasing demand for house development.

In due course, the Council proposes to survey the area house by house and to record every single tree! Meanwhile any resident wishing to carry out any tree work should apply in writing to the Director of Planning, 46, High St., Rickmansworth giving details and locations. Further information can be obtained from the Council Offices — Mrs M. West (776611 Ext. 327).

It would be imprudent for any resident who has not received formal notice of the Order to ignore it as penalties can be heavy — up to £2000 per tree! New arrivals to Loudwater should heed this particularly. If in doubt, a call to Mrs West would be advisable. It is generally accepted that a householder has the right to cut off branches from neighbours' trees where they cross the boundary between the respective gardens, but in view of the current T.P.O. it would seem that Council approval is now required even for that. Incidentally, lopping must be done from your own side of the boundary (unless otherwise agreed) and in theory the cut off branches belong to your neighbours.

Finally although trees have great beauty and value, they can also be a hazard and residents may well be advised to check that their insurance policies cover any damage trees may cause. It is not unusual for policies to exclude loss or damage caused by felling or lopping by, or on behalf of, the Policyholder.

*Jack Cagnet, Broad Oaks, Trout Rise*

### MEMORIES OF LOUDWATER

Long before John Betjeman extolled the beauties of Loudwater in his television programme, "Metroland", there were some residents who had already been enjoying this rural retreat for many years. Kathleen Richards of Watersmead, Troutstream Way shares some memories with us.

— A small sketch of Loudwater as it was forty-seven years ago when we came to take up our abode here. —

Our previous visits had been made to the Estate before our house was built. We had always stopped by the bridges in Troutstream Way to admire the waterfall but little thought of ever finding a house in what we have since learned was a quince orchard! Although, in common with the rest of the country, it was overshadowed by war clouds, we found it a pleasant and friendly place. Building had ceased except perhaps for the construction of air raid shelters. There were few cars and the bridges had not been widened in Troutstream Way. There were three buses an hour up the main road and we had, for a time at least, our own little Estate bus for trains and shopping. However late the trains, the bus waited and stragglers were picked up. No-one was left behind and, where possible, passengers were set down at their gates. We did not need to lock up or to shut windows when we went out. Our kitchen window was always left open at nights for our cat's nocturnal excursions. Two milk roundsmen and two bakers called daily. There were, I think, only five houses on the left side of Overstream and none opposite. We were able to make a diagonal short cut through the corner plot from Troutstream Way to the bus stop at the top of Kingfisher Lure. This also served as a sleigh run!

Services were held on Sunday afternoon in the little thatched chapel on the corner by the bus stop and out of doors in Summer, followed by tea provided by Mr. Jeffs, and the strains of hymn singing wafted down the valley. There were many wild flowers on the ground now covered by bricks and mortar. A mist of purple violets covered the steep plot at the bend in Trout Rise, and later, rose hips could

be gathered from the many bushes there. Children were encouraged to take them to school for use in producing Rose hip syrup, thought to be so essential in war time. Wild strawberries grew under the hedges and blackberries could be picked in Loudwater Heights. The evening air in Spring was sweet with perfume from the bluebell wood — now Lower Plantation and a nightingale sang from his tree at the corner of Violet Way! I once picked some pretty wild flowers that grew in the spinney beside the river path leading to Loudwater House. They turned out to be wild garlic! The river Chess mentioned by Isaac Walton in his 'Compleat Angler' was of course the great feature and at the time, full of fish of various kinds. Now, they and the ever lurking poachers are conspicuous only by their absence. We still have the swans, ducks, coots, moorhens and herons and the occasional pheasant. The cuckoo still calls, but not so much now that the trees are more sparse and the kingfishers still delight us with their glorious plumage. The snowdrops have again laid their white carpet, so ALL is not changed in Loudwater.

#### Machinating Magpies

I was watching my cat quietly eating his food from his own bowl the other day in my garden. It was one of those sudden mild days we are occasionally blessed with in the middle of an Arctic spell in Winter. Suddenly, from nowhere appeared a gang of magpies. They circled around and around my cat who just ignored them and went on eating. The leading magpie suddenly lifted itself into the air and began to dive bomb poor pussy. After his initial shock however, puss resumed his meal as before, ignoring all their concerted attempts to drive him away by persistent circling and dive-bombing. (R.D.)



#### OPEN UNIVERSITY DEGREE

If you have been awarded an Open University Degree this year, Alan Crisp of Burnside, Troutstream Way would like to hear from you. He knows that other Loudwater residents have succeeded, as he has, in obtaining this award and wonders who else is going on to an Honours course just for the fun of it. His interest is History, purely non-vocational and nothing to do with his job.

#### The first President of the Loudwater Troutstream Estate Co.

Lady Lewis has been given the distinction of becoming the first Honorary Life President of the Loudwater Troutstream Estate Co. in recognition of her many years of service to Loudwater.

A boy with an air gun has shot a duck so now the white Aylesbury has only two mallards to go with him on his rounds. A gardener working nearby has also been hit by a pellet from the air gun but luckily, he was wearing an anorak so it did not hurt him. He was lucky it was not his eye.

#### Beware villains about!

Two boats have recently been stolen from their river frontage moorings, an outboard motor and (from locked garages) a lawn mower and drinks, another lawn mower, and a chain saw and electric drill from another garage.

#### LOUDWATER ESTATE PART II

In Newsletter No 41, Mrs Mabel Tindall wrote the first part of a resumé of the recent history of Loudwater in which she outlined the ownership of Loudwater House and its Estate by Mr. James Hayward in 1841 and Mr Joseph Arden in 1868 who rented it to various people, the most memorable of these being Mr. Panmure Gordon. Here, she continues the story:—

Joseph Arden, who had bought the Loudwater Estate to add to Rickmansworth Park, left it in trust to his daughter Julia, and her husband John William Birch, who was a governor of the Bank of England; and although Panmure Gordon and others after him leased the estate, it remained in the possession of the Birch family as a single entity until about 1921. During the First World War it fell on hard times, becoming neglected and almost derelict — a great contrast to its glories under Panmure Gordon. Then the Birch grandson became bankrupt, and the estate was bought by Mr Cameron Jeffs, who promoted a company to develop it. He converted the House into flats and sold off parts of the land for building according to a carefully thought out plan through which its natural beauty could be permanently preserved. Wherever he sold land, he imposed strict covenants to protect this beauty; yet he was very practical and provided every amenity, including a bus. Of this, more later! Mr Jeffs died in 1944 and the estate, after being administered by trustees for some time, was sold — both House and land — in 1953. The covenants were vested in two companies formed by the Residents, as they are today, namely, Troutstream (Loudwater) Estates Ltd and Loudwater (Bridle Lane) Estates Ltd.

Chorleywood is now famous for having two cars per family, but in the early days of the Estate few people possessed even one. It was in 1928 that Cameron Jeffs saw the need for a bus to get commuters to the station and shoppers to the shops. His first bus was a char-a-banc with a folding canvas roof, and it was garaged in the old coach house which had housed Panmure Gordon's fantastic collection of vehicles. Although London Transport tried long and hard to have this competition abolished, and insisted on the bus following awkward and circuitous routes through Rickmansworth, it survived, with a succession of friendly drivers (of whom the last was 'Harry'), until ten years or so ago. In the early days, the passengers sometimes had to help push it up the hill! When the L.T.C. did take it over, they advertised it as a prime example of their excellent service.

Loudwater changes — the bus goes, the M25 comes. But the area is still exceptionally beautiful, with its lake, streams, trees and birds. We must keep it so.

#### Planning Applications

- \*8/890/86 Troutstream Lodge, Troutstream Way, two storey rear extension and alterations.
- \*8/914/86 Hendre, Loudwater Lane, swimming pool enclosure and conservatory.
- 8/952/86 Long Ridings Sarratt Lane, erection of detached house. (This was opposed and has been refused)
- \*8/956/86 Tayholm, 3, Lower Plantation, single storey side extension.
- \*8/27/87 Winbar, Troutstream Way, single storey side extension.
- \*8/52/87 Glen house, Overstream, single storey side and rear extension.
- \*8/57/87 The Warren, Trout Rise, two storey side extension.
- \*Delegated to Planning Director for a decision.