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NEWSLETTER No. 42

THE SEASONS GREETINGS!

JANUARY 1987

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LOUDWATER LINKS WITH THE BARBICAN

On the 5th November Mr. David Bicknell, who has lived for 60 years at the Flint Cottage, Loudwater, opened at the Barbican Picture Gallery, in London, an important Exhibition of paintings made by his great grandfather David Roberts R.A. It is the most comprehensive assembly of this artist's work gathered since his death in 1864, comprising 230 exhibits made in oils, water colours and by lithograph.

David Roberts was born in Edinburgh in 1796 and was largely self taught. He began his artistic career as a scene painter in his native city but migrated to London in the 1820's to become the principal painter of stage sets at Drury Lane and later at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, where in 1826 he produced all the scenery for the first performances in London of Rossini's "Semeramide" and Mozart's "Il Seraglio" which were much appreciated by the critics.

But two years earlier he had exhibited his architectural painting and he was soon to abandon the stage to become one of the most admired painters of architectural subjects of his generation. In subsequent years, visits first to Spain (in 1832) and then to Belgium, France and Italy provided abundant subjects for his work and the peak of his career was reached when in 1839/40 he made a long and dangerous journey through Egypt, Nubia and the Holy Land, then a part of the Turkish Empire, from which he returned with more than 400 drawings which subsequently provided the material for the publication of 6 volumes of lithographs (now highly prized) and many oils.

He was elected A.R.A. in 1839 and R.A. in 1841.

Although there are examples of David Roberts work in the Tate, Wallace and Victoria and Albert Galleries in London, it is unlikely that another opportunity will occur for many years to be able to judge the scope of his achievements and his considerable talents on this scale and therefore those interested in fine paintings in many lands are urged to pay a visit.

The Gallery is open every day from Tuesday to Sunday (but closed on Monday.) There are two excellent restaurants!

A RAILWAY EXTRAVAGANZA

If the sound of a guard's whistles shattered the gloomy air of a late August afternoon around Laywood Close, it was not due to a time warped breeze from the old L.M.S. main line, but a celebration of the GRAND OPENING of a garden railway at Touchwood.

Over 60 neighbours, friends, magazine editors, not to mention barbecue experts and general revelers, gathered amongst the Union Jacks to cheer the inaugural running on the 'O' Gauge (7mm to 1 foot) layout.

It all started about four years ago at my old home in Cheshire when the idea of "trains amongst the flowers" first lured me into "Real Man!" modelling. When we moved to Loudwater last Autumn I had carefully to uplift the track and baseboards into 8ft. sections, transport them by container and store them around the garden until Winter was over.

In March I began by digging out our stoney soil for the shed that was to house the main station and later proceeded to erect the main baseboards. To make eventual running much easier, I wanted a level profile but because of the sloping part of the garden, the track had to be sometimes 4ft above the ground and sometimes a few feet below ground level in a 'cutting' across the lawn.

The route was to be roughly circular - with several diversions - so that I could relax and watch the spectacle of trains running through the 'countryside' without stopping and starting. The distance covered was to be over 80 yards of double track or nearly two miles in 7mm scale, so it was quite a task, as I had earlier committed myself to an 'opening day' on 30th August. Throughout the summer evenings I was working late into the night to the amusement and, I hope, not the annoyance of our neighbours. But the navvies used to build the real thing at the rate of a mile a week!

By July, all was going well until I decided it would be a fine scenic feature to have the rails running on a viaduct over a pond - and of course I had no pond! It's surprising what you can do when there's a deadline.

With a few weeks to go and two of them away on holiday I started to dig out the pond area which seemingly has to be twice as large as the end product. One month and one strained back later, with a newly aquired knowledge of things like marginals, oxygenating plants and shubunkins, the pond, viaduct and trackwork was complete. A week to go and not a wheel turned yet!

Every night of that last miserable week of August found me crouching over, or under the track installing electrics, sometimes by floodlight. I'm sure I diverted a few Jumbo's heading for Heathrow.

Nevertheless, the Touchwood Garden Railway opened on time with the rakes of crimson coaches behind LMS Jubilee locos snaking between the platforms, over the waterfall, through the rockeries and along the embankments to the appreciation of all, except to one little boy (my own) who could not understand why the engine was not also a "TRANSFORMER".

Bernard Greaves, Touchwood, Ladywood Close.

(Editor's Note) "Transformer"-This is a type of toy currently very popular with the under ten year olds which is being folded into different shapes such as humnoid robots and strange shaped vehicles. You see them in the kiddy cartoons on childrens' TV.

NEWS FROM BRIDLE LANE ESTATES LTD.

Garden Party

Bridle Lane held it first garden party in September... There had been a large number of new residents within the year and it was felt that this would be a good opportunity for them to meet each other...

Mr. & Mrs. Hope kindly allowed the party to take place at "Bois Cottage". Although the weather the previous week had been cool, Sunday September 7th was a warm sunny day.

A large number of residents attended what was a most enjoyable occasion and plans are now in hand to hold such a gathering on an annual basis.

Bumps

This is a subject that has appeared on our agendas for the past 20 years.

It is a subject that has both passionate advocates and adversaries and was the subject of a special meeting at Loudwater Farm. Both advocates and adversaries spoke, the meeting being impartially chaired by Sir Ivor Broom and whilst everyone agreed that the requested speed limit of 20mph should be maintained, the meeting voted by 26 to 17 against bumps being installed. It is a subject that will almost certainly be raised again.

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A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND WARMEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR

to all of my very dear friends at Loudwater, George Batchelor.

WELCOME TO NEWCOMERS

Susan and Michael Geasy, Malcolm and Hazel at Gresham House, Lower Plantation.

Mr and Mrs. Joliffe at Five Trees, Troutstream Way.

Jocelyn and Robin Douglas, Alexandra and Amanda at Ladymead, Loudwater Heights.

Drs. Rosemary and John Toy at Chalmadale, Troutstream Way.

Larry and Jane Calfe and family at "Moonya", Bridle Lane.

Dale and Andrea Kinstead and family at "Tumbleweed", Bridle Lane.

Alan and Dee Schofield and family at "Meadowside", Bridle Lane.

THIS AND THAT

REFUSE SACKS:- New residents may be under a misapprehension about the customary method of collection in Loudwater. Plastic bin bags should not be brought out. They should be kept in the containers from which they are collected near to the house and as far as possible out of sight of neighbours. Dogs and squirrels can cause a nuisance when they tear them open looking for food.

PARKING:-

Party time is upon us. A special plea has been put to all residents. One distraught lady whose husband had to be rushed to Mount Vernon Hospital could not be taken in an ambulance because there was no room for an ambulance to get through parked cars near her house where a party was being held and she did not have time to go round finding out which neighbour was host. PLEASE COULD YOU SEE THAT YOUR GUESTS PARK THEIR CARS SAFELY AND CORRECTLY SO THAT NO INCONVIENENCE is caused and essential traffic can get past or into and out from neighbours' houses.

ARE YOU MOVING?

If you are moving and have articles for disposal which you would consider suitable for selling for charity, please remember Cancer Research Campaign has a monthly stall in Sarratt for which Kathy Laule at Son Trobat an the corner of Overstream has kindly offered to receive the items.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

At this time of year your Newsletter distributor has the tiresome task of trying to collect your annual subscription. The committee is helped out by 14 other kindly souls who have in some cases for many years tramped your drives every quarter to deliver your Newsletter. The committee would like all of the distributors, to feel that their efforts are deeply appreciated not only by them but by all members of the LRA.

NEWS FROM DON CAMELL

The ban on heavy goods vehicles in Ladywood Close and Solesbrige lane has been renewed and a new heavy goods vehicle ban has been placed on Sarratt Lane.

The LRA is actively co-operating with other Associations. Besides MAGNA and the Chiltern Society, it has joined the London Green Belt Council, a prestigious group of Associations who objects are to preserve and extend the Grren Belt round London and to consider and advise on the use of Green Belt land and open spaces. It is non political.

MOTORWAY NOISE

The LRA Committee has been continuing its efforts to obtain some amelioration from the ever increasing noise of the motorway. It will be a long haul with no immediate benefits in sight. We are in regular touch with MAGNA - the Motorway Action Group who spoke out at our last AGM. They are doing their best to raise the political awareness of the problem while providing a centre of expertise on which we can draw for help. We feel that it will be best to work through MAGNA for action that needs to be undertaken on a national level or for changes in legislation.

We have been in touch with Mr. Robert Turner, a chartered surveyor, who has much experience of claiming compensation on behalf of householders who are affected by motorway noise. Mr Turner has offered to help us free of charge. But we suffer from two major drawbacks. The road, albeit not always classified as a motorway, has been in existance for more than the statutory 7 years during which one can normally claim compensation. Secondly, compensation can only be claimed by householders who have owned their property since before the road opened. There clearly are extenuating circumstances in the case of our stretch of the M25, as for one or two other streches in the same position as ourselves. However, if we want a legislative waiver to enable Loudwater residents to claim compensation we will have to lobby hard and long. There is no guarantee we will succeed at the end of the day.

I would be grateful if all those who would like to try for compensation could contact me. If there are sufficient numbers I will arrange a meeting with Mr Turner so we can decide how to proceed further. If there is insufficient support we will let the matter drop.
Barnaby Usbourn

Several people have applied for rate reduction and are awaiting the result. Results of applications will be put in the Newsletter. Our thanks are due to Barnaby Usbourne, Don Cammell, and Mary Filose among others for much arduous work. Barnaby has been good enough to travel to London to attend the meetings of MAGNA. (Ed)

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Jim Davis aska resident to keep a sharp look out because the two burglaries that took place in the area a month ago are only the beginning. They will be back!

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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| 8/372/86 | Two Bridges, Troutstream Way, First floor side extension: opposed by the LRA. |
| 8/378/86 | Cherry Tree Cottage, Rooks Hill, Loudwater: Two storey rear extension |
| 8/428/86 | Loudwater Ridge, Sarratt Lane.: Erect six houses: Opposed by the LRA: Permission granted on appeal. |
| 8/482/86 | Hathaway House, Loudwater Lane, Two storey side extension: conditional permission granted. |
| 8/603/86 | Tay Holme, 3 Lower Plantation, first floor bathroom and bedroom and additional garage to side of house. |
| 8/604/86 | The Brambles, Loudwater Lane, replacement of detached garage |
| 8/714/86 | Woodlands, Whisperwood: erection of detached dwelling |
| 8/720/86 | Tumbleweed, Bridle Lane, Single storey front extension, conditional permission granted. |
| 8/772/86 | Dalilea, Sarratt Lane, erection of detached house and garage. |
| 8/776/86 | The Spinney, Sarratt Lane, (junction with Bridle Lane) erection of five bedroom detached house |
| 8/800/86 | Long Ridge, Loudwater Lane, horticultural nursery |
| 8/801/86 | Furze Hill, Lower Plantation, single storey extension to form swimming pool annexe |
| 7/787/86 | 6 Ladywood Close, Two storey side extension |
| 8/879/86 | Imber, Bridle Lane, Single storey rear extension. |

