

LOUDWATER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Chairman
Barnaby Osborne
Larchmead
Trout Rise
R. 772766

Vice-Chairman
to be
appointed

Treasurer
Cyril Brine
Arlesey House
Rooks Hill
R. 772508

Correspondence Secretary
Don Cammell
Martins
Ladywood Close
R. 776126

NEWSLETTER No. 44

JULY 1987

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THE L.R.A. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The A.G.M. at Chorleywood House on 21st May must have been the most poorly attended A.G.M. of a decade. Not more than 20 people attended apart from the committee.

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Barnaby Osborne with great aplomb and clarity, gave the year's report which included such items as:-

The Committee met five times in 1986-87 plus sub-committee meetings and meetings with the Loudwater Estate Co., one of whose Directors, Mr. William Hanman, has been welcomed as the Company's representative on the L.R.A. committee.

Worry about infilling and backland development continues unabated. Regrettably some things have slipped through because the L.R.A. was not informed.

The ownership of the woods in the Estate, road noise, Neighbourhood Watch, and the Treasurer's Report, (given by Jack Cagnet in the absence of Cyril Brine), followed the election of Mabel Tindall and the re-election of Maurice Escow, Mary Filose and Dorothy Francis to the Committee.

Our Hon. Auditor for the last 12 years, Mr. Jolliffe, has given notice that he wishes to resign. Grateful thanks were expressed for his cheerful help over the years in keeping the books in order, as indeed were expressed to Mrs. Karen Read who has produced beautifully presented minutes of meetings to each committee member for the last four years and has now resigned. Mr. Maurice Escow has decided to stand down as Chairman in favour of Mr. Barnaby Osborne.

Thank you Maurice for your gentle leadership of the L.R.A. during the last three years.

After the business, Ms Jill Saunders of the Herts. and Middlesex Trust showed slides of the Chess Valley through the seasons, from Latimer to Chorleywood. It was a cornucopia of Nature's riches from Potchard duck and blackthorn blossom to the toad route in Latimer, a badger's set, Guelder roses in damp woodland, Foxgloves under Alder trees at Chenies, all sorts of butterflies, Lady's Bedstraw, Betony, Hertfordshire Pudding Stone on Latimer Green, Squirrel's from North America and Muntjacs from China right on to Edible Dormice! — All of which were presented in a lucid style so that, instead of feeling it was all too familiar, everyone agreed, during the following wine and chit-chat, that it was quite the most refreshing talk they could remember, a feast that never sated.

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MUSICAL EVENING

On the 12th April 1987, we were again entertained by Watford Ensemble under Mr David Dennis, and an appreciative audience was treated to a very pleasant evening.

This well-supported event was arranged and organised by Mr. Cyril Brine and once again we were indebted to the organisation Susila Dharma and the Wardens, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Raimbach for making available to us the attractive facilities of Loudwater Farm.

Delicious "eats" were supplied by Mrs. Pam Cagnet and Mrs. Mary Filose, and wine by Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Escow. In all, it was a very worthwhile feature in the L.R.A. Calendar.

J.L.C.

LRA GARDEN PARTY

On Sunday 14th June the annual Garden Party was held at Handa, Trout Rise, by kind permission of Margaret and Mario Bianchin. It was a pleasure to be in a garden of such beauty. A magnificent waterfall led to a pool near the house with lawns and borders spreading down to the river. Someone there must surely have green fingers because every one of the species of plant in the borders was at an optimum of size and shape. The roses were all in bloom as they should be in June of course but it was surprising because of the cold weather we had been suffering for so long.

It was cold at the Garden party but at least it didn't rain! It was quieter than usual and all the people there seemed to know someone present. We were blessed by the freedom of being able to circulate and to chat to genuine residents in comparison with occasions in the past when one did not know if the people one did not recognise were someone's house guests or even further removed, and not new residents looking for a friendly face.

We are indebted to Maurice Escow, Michael Grundy, John Read, Stephen Short and the other kind souls who so valiantly braved the cold under shade of the trees dishing out the refreshments and to those who cleared away afterwards. Once again, a great big thank you to Margaret and Mario Bianchin, our hosts.

LOUDWATER PERSONALITIES

Congratulations

To Rev. Pauline Green of Christ Church, Chorleywood, who has now made history by becoming one of the first women deacons in the Church of England.

Pauline has been living in Whisperwood, Loudwater, since 1974 with her husband Charles. She has three children and two grandchildren. She was ordained Deacon on 23rd May at All Saints, Hertford by the Bishop of Hertford.

Anne Walker of Bridle Lane was able to go to the service, which she says was, "moving and unforgettable as, for the first time women are admitted to the threefold ministry of bishops, priests and deacons. Sixteen deaconesses were ordained and are now able to take wedding services". Anne says that the Church at Hertford was absolutely full but it was freezing cold because the heaters had broken down. She remembers the faces of many little children all agog, the hearty singing, the deaconesses in their blue or black cassocks and white surplices moving gravely up the aisle (Pauline wore a blue cassock) carrying their white stoles on their arm, the laying on of hands by the Bishop, the placing of the stole over the left shoulder and, last but not least, the blackbird that was sitting on its nest in the Church porch amid a bunch of dead leaves and flowers as she walked out afterwards.

For Pauline, a most treasured memory was that she wore the same stole that her son Martin used when he was ordained three years ago. Furthermore, both she and Martin represented their peers by reading the Gospel at their services of ordination . . . like son, . . . like mother.

MOTORWAY NOISE

In the January Newsletter we reported on the problems of obtaining compensation for the ever-increasing noise of the Motorway. One can be sure that where one or two people from Loudwater are gathered together, the subject of discussion will inevitably turn to the motorway noise. Yet only two people have told us they would like to seek compensation if it were available. This may be realistic as we do not rate the chances of getting the necessary change to the regulations very high, yet we think it worth trying for.

You may have seen in the local press that our M.P., Mr Page, was asking for complaints regarding the M25 and its noise to be sent to him before his meeting with the Ministry of Transport. We took this opportunity and produced a comprehensive brief. We included a detailed report from Mr. Turner of Cubitt and West on the unfairness of the Land Compensation Act of 1973 as it applies to our stretch of the M25, and also an itemised request for additional sound reducing measures. John Jarrett made a special journey to the House of Commons to ensure that Mr Page received our brief on time.

We think it unlikely we will obtain all our requests, however desirable they might seem. Our main fear is what might happen if and when an extra lane is built. We must be prepared.

B. Osborne, Larchmead, Trout Rise.

WHO LIVES IN LOUDWATER

By John Jarrett, Martha's Vineyard, Violet Way

This is a very simple attempt to produce a survey of who lives in Loudwater. For either the Residents' Association or my political party, I have looked after the "patch" of Violet Way, Loudwater Drive and Loudwater House for over 15 years (I have lived here longer than that, but looked after the patch for only the 15 year span.) I have analysed the two roads' occupancies in that time under 11 headings. I have omitted Loudwater House because flats show a different pattern, described at the end of this piece.

The 16 houses covered have had 27 occupancies in the 15 years, an average of 1.7 occupancies per 15 years. Eleven of the 27 occupancies have been for over 15 years, 4 for 10-15 years, 2 for 5-10 years and 10 for under 5 years. (This statistic is swayed by one house having had 6 occupancies in the time.)

All occupancies were by married couples, two becoming widowed during residence. Thirteen occupancies were with resident children, 9 had children already living away, 5 were childless. The average number of children was 2.6. Two occupancies included older relatives.

The median age for moving to Loudwater was 40-50. Two moved in at over 50, 7 at between 30-40. No male occupants appeared to be under 30 at time of arrival (the survey needs more courage than I have to estimate the female ages).

The most represented occupations were oil, chemicals and finance (banking, broking, accountancy). Only two wives worked full or part-time. Five occupants were not British citizens. Average car ownership was 1.5, swayed by two houses with teenage sons where 4-5 cars were often used. Of community activities, three appeared to be involved with church work, three with residents' associations, two with politics, five with charities. Only three of these were not women. I suspect this picture is not too different from the rest of Loudwater, except in its lack of notable variants. We have not had any of the following which I know to exist in other parts as follows. Peers (2), pop stars (1), variety stars (2), M.P.s (3). But we have had one senior Service officer (4) and two criminals (one in prison, the other being sought (the rest of Loudwater 4).

(Note: Loudwater House flats as expected, change much more often, have many fewer couples with children, more widows/widowers and a small number of unmarried occupants).

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Jim Davis, our Chief Co-Ordinator, spoke at some length at the A.G.M. of the Residents Association, but in view of the fact that so many did not attend, the gist of his remarks is repeated again for the benefit of all residents.

There is always the attitude that "it won't happen to me" and this of course is completely false. In the past year we have had a few minor events, but really only thefts that can be attributed to opportunist amateurs. The proximity of the motorway must always be remembered, because the easy access and departure amounts to a villains' paradise. Other areas near motorways have suffered, and it will almost certainly be our turn again at some unknown date.

There is the attitude that one does not want to look silly, by raising an alarm which turns out to be unfounded. The Police will cheerfully deal with ninety nine well-intentioned false alarms, to get the hundredth one. That one will usually clear up a number of crimes in many areas. In any case the police will check excise and driving licenses, tyres, etc and generally convey the impression that people without sound business are not welcome in the area. This particularly applies to unknown vehicles and of course door-to-door salesmen. *Always* remember to get a vehicle number, and make and colour if you can. If the number is false, at least that gives the Police a good start.

There have been recent mentions in the London press to the effect that Neighbourhood Watch is not worth the trouble. That

may or may not be so in London, where there is a drug problem, the problem of a mobile population with many itinerants, etc, but not the problem we have here. Residents can rest assured that the Watford area figures speak for themselves, and happily we are well below even those figures at the time of writing these notes.

The only sure defence is constant vigilance by each and every householder. The Police cannot patrol the Estate all the time, but they are on call if needed. Just dial 44444 and ask for Rickmansworth. There are vacancies for Co-ordinators to cover Armitage Close, Chorleywood Road, Farm Lane, Trout Rise (top end), Loudwater Heights and Loudwater House, Lower Plantation, Sarratt Lane East, the unmade continuation of Violet Way, and finally Wagon Way. Some of these are small, but our existing fourteen co-ordinators cannot take on areas outside their own "beats".

Keep up the vigilance at all times, and contact Jim Davis if you want to help with an unprotected area. (J.D.)

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From Mrs. Y.J. Groves, The Dingle, Whisper Wood.

Dear Editor,

I have been urged to write to you on behalf of many people about residents domestically feeding wild animals — featured in your Nature Notes from time to time. I am told that all wild animals fend very well for themselves with suitable diets for their needs without any help from us humans. Wild animals should not be encouraged near our homes but I do know of one resident who actually employs a Pet Agency to feed them whilst away from home on holiday. Wild animals carry parasitic and infectious diseases and are a positive health hazard to domestic pets and any of their infections can also be transmitted to us humans too.

My dog never leaves our own fenced back garden, is a nuisance to no-one, and yet is constantly being infected by wild animals, requiring expensive Veterinary treatment to help him to overcome infections such as Mange from the Foxes and also parasites from the Foxes, Hedgehogs etc. Wild animals somehow enter our woodland garden, probably by jumping over our fences or sliding underneath them! It is very distressing to all who see my dog when he is suffering. The necessary treatment is traumatic for him and for us to cope with for weeks at a time. Another course of treatment is just complete and a cheque has been sent to the Veterinary Surgeon who has been treating him.

So-called animal lovers do nothing but give the wild animals they feed a good dose of indigestion and our lovable pets and us diseases. Let's be realistic about it.

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PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 8/135/87 Detached house and garage at Dalilea, Sarratt Lane.
- 8/185/87 Timberdene, Loudwater Drive, one and two storey alterations.
- 8/234/87 2, Ladywood Close, erection of pitched roof over breakfast room and garage.
- 8/274/87 Nakuru, Bridle Lane, replacement garage and single storey extension to join conservatory.
- 8/295/87 Squirrel Cottage, Loudwater Lane, one and two storey extensions
- 8/326/87 1, Lower Plantation, single storey side and rear extensions.
- 8/344/87 Chauminette, Trout Rise, two storey side extension.
- 8/348/87 Loudwater Ridge, Sarratt Lane, erection of six houses and garages and access road.
- 8/426/87 Broadlands, Sarratt Lane, roof extension to form second storey.