

# LOUDWATER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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Larchmead  
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R. 772766

*Vice-Chairman*  
Jack Cognet  
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NEWSLETTER No. 47

APRIL 1988

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After that second mild Winter in succession, when we have been grateful not to have to grit and de-ice the roads, some of us have missed that dazzling beauty that transforms Loudwater into an Ice Queen's paradise. But now, in the words of William Miller (1810-72), "Spring comes linking and jinking through the woods, opening wi' gentle hand the bonny green and yellow buds" and gardens are alive with the buzz of lawn-mowers and people tilling the soil. You can even hear the birds above the noise of the M25!

## THIS AND THAT

1. The LRA Garden Party which, as announced in the last Newsletter, is to be held on Sunday 19th June, will be at Handa, Trout Rise, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Bianchin.

2. The speaker at the LRA AGM on Thursday 19th May will be Mr Dai Workman who is the Herts County Council area Advisor on management and conservation of open spaces and commons. The main interest to residents here is Chorleywood Common.

3. The one eyed swan cob, of aggressive memory, has been found a new home on a lovely lake surrounded by woods and with an island in the middle. Another swan has been introduced to him in the hope that they will mate.

4. A cow caused consternation in the camp a little while ago when it wandered away from its own meadow and could not find its way back. "It's making such a mess in our garden and my father's hitting it", said one little boy, laughing, "and it's a sacred cow!"

5. The Bridge Epic. Not quite in the same category as the River Quia Bridge but equally as traumatic for some of our residents. Who would have thought that bridges need replacing periodically? After all the Ponte Vecchio has been there since about 1350. Having discovered that our Chess bridges in Troutstream Way needed replacing immediately, the residents who attended the Estate A.G.M. without exception demanded immediate action and a flat rate charge of £100 per household. The Board set in motion the machinery to collect the cash and, except for a few residents who felt that the charge was a personal affront, the money came in without a hiccup. The order to commence work was given to the contractor, whose estimate of £17,500 plus VAT was a third of the next estimate, and he set to with little delay and completed the work well within the deadline agreed. There was a great sigh of relief when the Bridges were reopened again except for the odd bod who enjoyed the peace of very few cars between the bridges and Rickmansworth Road. What the replacement of the Bridges has proved once more is that when there is a calamity everyone puts his shoulder to the wheel and contributes in the way one is best able.

Our special thanks go to Mrs. and Miss Richards of Watersmead, who suffered without complaint, from noise, dust and the inconvenience of living between the two bridges during the reconstruction.

## 6. FROM REPORTS TO THE COUNCIL 19.4.88

### (i) M25 Motorway — Environmental Pollution

The Transport and Community Services Committee for 3 Rivers District Council has recommended that 3RDC join the Local Authorities M25 Consortium with a joining fee of £50 and represented at meetings of the Consortium by the Chief Environmental Health Officer. The aims of this Consortium of local Authorities are to undertake research and to approach the Dept. of Transport concerning traffic and environmental problems on the M25 Motorway.

### (ii) Excavation of Roman Villa

A grant of £2,500 has been requested by the Herts. Archaeological Trust in order that, with other monies, the continued excavation of a Roman Villa at Solesbridge Mill Water Gardens may be completed before the flooding of the site takes place (as part of development already approved). It is hoped that an exhibition will be provided by the 3RDC Museum.

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## FROM John Jarrett, Violey Way

Loudwater has always been coveted by developers. Its natural environmental beauty, the high standards of conservation set by the Troutstream Estate Company, and the Bridle Lane Co. Residents' Association, its Green Belt proximity to London and Watford have all lured those who would make money from beauty by spoiling it.

But over recent years — and particularly in the last two or three — the pressure has become much greater because of three factors: the transformation of the North Orbital into the M25, the boom in house prices in the prosperous South-East, and the Government's relaxation of development restrictions. The M25 may have lost some of its attraction but not much and the inevitable fourth lane, while it will damage the area, will also be seen as an advantage for would-be new residents. The house price boom is expanding outside the immediate Home Counties area but the often foretold fall in house prices shows no sign of coming yet. The Government's commitment to development will not change easily, and not merely are applications to develop coming thicker and faster but the percentage of appeals upheld by Inspectors has doubled in each of the last two years.

In such a climate, Loudwater becomes even more tempting. Many residents will be already aware of the many applications put forward by such firms as Berkeley Homes, Charles Church, Bruce Thomson etc. Some firms have offered residents non-returnable option fees of £1,000 or more to allow their properties to be included in a development proposal (though, seeing the prices Loudwater houses fetch, the money seems hardly significant). The gated area is probably safe, but it has long been recognised that its values cannot be preserved in isolation and the thrusts along Sarratt Lane and Loudwater Lane towards Solesbridge and Croxley Green, and the attempted thrusts into the valley from South and East of the Chorleywood Road menace the whole district.

The District Council opposes whenever it feels it has grounds — and is always grateful to have its case strengthened by local Associations and above all individual objections. But its task is becoming harder. There are many, including the present writer, who believe there is in fact no shortage of housing or buildable land in the area, especially not at prices of £200,000 plus, but developers make more and easier money from sites such as Loudwater than from out of the way or semi-urban sites.

All residents should be aware of the dangers around. Helping your local residents' association is vital; lobbying your local District or County Councillor is most useful; but above all, since Government policy is the developers' main ally, it would help to express views to our local MP Richard Page, who has expressed his own anxiety at the erosion of the environmental qualities of Chorleywood.

### Other concerns of the LRA

Loudwater Residents Association subscribes to three other associations and asks a representative to attend their meetings where possible. One of these associations is local and the others London based. They are as follows:- *The London Green Belt Association (L.G.B.A.)*, *The Motorway Action Group for Noise Abatement (M.A.G.N.A.)* *The Three Rivers Watchdog Committee.*

The LGBA discusses problems concerned with the Green Belt and the almost continuous threat of encroachment by 'developers', roadbuilders and even Councils themselves! We are also alerted to the latest ploys used by developers to attempt to get planning permission to build, — yes it can be done legally, although in a deceitful way.

MAGNA is principally concerned, as its name implies, with the nuisance of motorway noise. This is a widespread problem in the British Isles mainly due to the Ministry of Transport steadfastly refusing to accept the technical know-how available from Europe, principally Holland, which has been researched there to very good effect. It has been noticed by MAGNA, however, that where motorways run near the private residences of Government Officials, these sections have efficient noise reduction features — sheer co-incidence of course!

The Three Rivers Watchdog Committee does not, as its name implies, take a "big brother" attitude on the Council so much as work in collaboration with it. It is true that an eye is kept on the TRDC's activities, such as the "re-development" of Penn Place in Rickmansworth. The main function is to discuss grievances brought to meetings, and then find ways in which to solve these problems, probably ending up with a letter to the Council, or in difficult cases, meeting the official concerned.

(M. Nest)

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

**LOUDWATER BEAT (From: P.C. H. Hale our neighbourhood Bobby)**

Bulletin H.D.H/5: January 1988

#### Door to Door Salesmen — PEDLARS

I have been asked by several people as to the legality of those youngsters who from time to time invade the area, I hope to make the position a little clearer in this article. The Pedlars Act 1871, defines a Pedlar thus:-

Any Pedlar, Hawker, Petty Chapman, Tinker, Caster of Metals, Mender of Chairs, or Other Person who, without any horse or other beast bearing or drawing burden, **TRAVELS AND TRADES ON FOOT**, And goes from town to town or to other mens houses, carrying to sell, or exposing for sale any goods, wares or merchandise, or procuring order for goods immediately to be delivered, or selling or offering for sale his skill in handicrafts.

As you can see it is a bit of a mouthful and rather old but it still holds true and recent case law has held that although modern day pedlars travel from town to town in a vehicle they still trade on foot and that brings them within the bounds of the Act. Marvellous I hear you cry but what does it mean? Well the Act goes on to say that any person who acts as a pedlar must obtain a certificate and it is an offence to act without one.

So far all practical purposes so long as the person has a valid Pedlars Certificate he is at liberty to go from house to house selling his wares. But you the householder have certain rights. You can demand to see his certificate and if he fails to show it he commits an offence. **THE ONLY THING THAT WILL DO IS THE ACTUAL PEDLARS CERTIFICATE.** Not the so called I.D. cards issued by the firms NOR the receipt issued for monies received in respect of a PEDLARS CERTIFICATE, because although it is issued by a Police Officer it is only the first stage in the issue of a certificate and the likelihood is that the checks into the applicants background have not been made.

The benefits of checking the certificates are twofold. Firstly it will stop the uncertificated operator as they will get fed up with the police prosecuting them for offences and secondly it will keep the certificated ones on the straight and narrow because as I have already stated you are entitled to see the certificate and note down any details.

**IF A PERSON HAS NO CERTIFICATE OR REFUSES TO SHOW YOU HIS CERTIFICATE CONTACT THE POLICE.**

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### BURGLARY

There have only been a total of 22 Burglaries during 1987 in the Neighbourhood area which covers Loudwater Estate, Chorleywood Road, Valley Road, The Drive, all roads off these roads, Sarratt Lane, Sarratt Road as far as the M25 Bridge, all roads off these roads, you can see that it covers a large area of very high quality housing and an obvious target to thieves, so 22 Burglaries in the whole year is, I think you will agree, quite good, and even better is that of these 22 Burglaries only 15 were at residential properties. A comparison with the previous years figures, which were 30 in 1986 and 34 in 1985 shows that we are heading in the right direction.

### Further Information

1. Attempted Burglary, BRIDLE LANE, between 1700 + 1800 on Friday 29-1-88 an attempt was made to get into a house in Bridle Lane, a brick was thrown through the French Window, fortunately this activated the Alarm and nothing was stolen, seen in the area at the time of the offence was a metallic grey estate, possibly a Renault Espace, no index number taken.

2. At 2140 hours 31-1-88 a person was disturbed at the back of a house in Bridle Lane, described as a white male, 6'0" tall, slim build, wearing dark woollen pullover, no jacket, dark trousers, dark shoes and a dark woollen "Benny" hat.

It is reasonable to assume that the two incidents are connected.

**BE WARNED — Any sightings to the Police PLEASE.**

3. A garden shed at a house in Troutstream Way was broken into, but nothing was taken. This could be the start of a new wave of Lawnmower Thefts or Residential Burglaries.

Can you all be extra vigilant and report anything you see. I will be doing some observations to try and nip anything in the bud, before it has time to become a problem.

In closing, I would like to thank all Co-Ordinators in their efforts and ask them to take heart from the above figures because I know you do come up against a wall of apathy at times. I therefore hope that these figures will give you some ammunition to show that Neighbourhood Watch is working.

H. Hale P.C. 1003

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### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

8/004/88 Briar Cottage, Chess Lane, Two storey side extension (opposed)

8/006/88 Briar Cottage, Chess Lane, erection of detached dwelling with integral garage (opposed)

8/043/88 Oakdene, Chess Lane, first floor side extension

8/0082/88 Random Cottage, Bridle Lane, two storey side extension, part single rear extension and erection of porch.

8/0129/88 Far End, Wagon Way, single storey side extension.

8/0166/88 Littlefold, Trout Rise, conversion of garage and single storey front extension to form garage.

8/0186/88 Dormer Cottage, Bridle Lane, two storey and rear extensions.