

## LOUDWATER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

*Chairman*  
John Jarrett  
Martha's Vineyard  
Violet Way  
R. 774225

*Vice-Chairman*  
Isobel Johnson  
The Tile House  
T. Rise  
R. 772873

*Treasurer*  
Cyril Brine  
Arlesey House  
Rooks Hill  
R. 772508

*Correspondence Secretary*  
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NEWSLETTER No. 54

JANUARY 1990

Editor: John Jarrett

We have taken a step into the age of technology! Since we reformed the LRA 13 years ago and put out the first newsletter in March 1976, deliverers and delivery organisers have changed and the turnover of residents has speeded up. Inevitably, a few gaps appeared — new residents not contacted, some small side roads missed etc. But now, thanks to Maurice Escow (and his long-suffering secretary), we have the membership list on computer.

Comparison with the electoral roll, and discussions with our wardens of the various delivery patches, soon showed us the gaps. We set out to look into these and we have managed to get our men in a way the Mounties would have admired. Our membership is now 420 out of a possible 446 in the Greater Loudwater area. In that area, there are only six people who do not wish to join — the others are empty houses, or leases under a year or residents who are in hospital or temporarily abroad.

The extra money we have collected is, of course, useful. But what is more important is the evidence of widening support. We can only argue with local or Governmental or statutory authorities if we can show that the community is behind us. Thank you all.

Thanks also to the gallant patch-wardens — special thanks to the tenacious Desmond Martin who doesn't deliver a patch but whom we turned loose on any residents no one else could find.

Since we are now on computer, we have to tell you what data we are entering. We have the name and initial of the subscription payer (just that if it's a man, Mrs. it's a woman), the address and the year the subscription was paid. Where the member is Honorary or an Associate Member (our new category for those who've left the district but wish to be kept in touch) this is also shown. Lastly, Maurice Escow is registered under the Data Protection Act.

### THE ESTATE AGM

From a sparsely attended Annual General Meeting of the Loudwater/Troutstream Estate Board, these items are worth mentioning. The Board has increased its maximum number of members to seven. Our local bobby, PC Hale, has left the district to work in Croxley Green. We wish him well and welcome his successor, PC Allen. Builder's lorries over the permitted weight for the Estate's bridges (5 tons) are still damaging roads and verges. The Board asks any resident who sees such offenders to try to note its number and contractor's name and tell a Director of the Estate. The major expenditure in 1989/90 will be on the trees on the Estate verges. Three Rivers DC has won the contract to do this work and will also be advising on all the trees in the Estate. The Board has requested that the verges of the wood property along T. Way and V. Way, where hurricane-damaged raffle still lies, be cleared up. No action by the owner has yet occurred.

The Board is supporting the LRA in its campaign against the proposal to widen the M25. There was also mention of the problem of the gates, of which more below.

Alan Crisp, Maurice Escow and Peter Lough were elected to the Board, joining Bill Hanman and Derek Speight who were re-elected.

### THOSE GATES

At the Estate Board AGM, the Chairman said that the new gates with non-copiable keys had been generally welcomed.

To prevent more vandalism (Loctite was poured into the lock of the Violet Way gate) the replacement was being fitted upside down.

Alas, it wasn't enough. The local vandal this time poured Loctite into the hasp. The Trout Rise gate was also vandalised and all gates when working are being regularly left open, so that our new bobby has expressed his alarm to the Board.

The LRA of course has no official standing in this matter. But your editor did promise the Board that, particularly for the benefit of newcomers, he would recapitulate the case.

1. The Estate company owns the roads and verges inside the gated area. It has rights over them and responsibility for them. It has a legal right to put up gates and close them as it wishes, providing it does so reasonably.

2. The Company has to pay to maintain the roads, gullies, trees on verges etc. It gets this money by taxing the residents on the Estate. These feel, not unreasonably, that they have the right to restrict access or deny it as regards traffic just using those roads as a short-cut and/or damaging them. They also wish to keep down traffic noise and pollution and keep the roads safer for old people and children.

Not everyone on the Estate agrees about the gates but a very substantial majority do and are willing to accept some inconvenience for the benefits. Members of the LRA outside the gated area are again naturally less happy, but nobody has ever asked us to protest, so presumably most either aren't bothered or accept the Estate's case.

3. Whatever your views, I am sure we all accept that it is outrageous that anyone in an area where we try to be neighbourly should vandalise so spitefully.

4. It may be true that having gates locked has a spin-off effect for all of us. Traffic cutting through the Estate almost certainly adds to road problems in Loudwater outside the Estate; and burglars, whether their target is the Estate or outside, must find access and escape more difficult if they meet locked gates anywhere. So, on balance, we believe we should all co-operate.

### NATURE MOVE

(We badly miss the skilled contributions from AVIS about Loudwater's bird life. We'd like them back. In the meantime, we offer an unskilled — and irreverent substitute).

There are three varieties of bird life unique to Loudwater — the Filofax Flicker, the Hyasa Kite and the Five-star Petrel. It has been suggested they are all relatives of the hummingbird, because of the habit of flocking each evening to sip a liquor from plants of the malt and juniper variety. This ceremony is reported to be often followed by rather bizarre courtship displays.

None of the Loudwater birds are normally aggressive, but they have been seen to produce threat postures by flashing wing coverts when disputing territorial rights on middle lanes of motorways.

The Filofax Flicker has a habit of moving into empty nests and embarking always on a vigorous programme of rebuilding and enlargement. After this work, the male often shows signs of tension and fatigue and develops great signs of nervousness if brought near to bank sites. The Hyasa Kite also occasionally follows this building pattern but this species also shows a Bower Bird tendency to decorate the outside of the nest with large white stones.

In the present season the Hyasa Kite can also demonstrate a persistent displacement behaviour of gathering large heaps of leaves together and moving them aimlessly to and fro.

The Five-star Petrel's colouration is always a rich true blue. The Flicker and the Kite occasionally show a yellow and gold variation somewhat muted but there have been no sighting of the rumoured Russian Red variety.

Mating habits appear to be changing. All three varieties at one time appeared to mate for life, like pigeons, but this habit seems to be no longer valid, both males and females more and more often leaving one nest to set up another with younger birds.

For those interested in further research, we recommend Alexander (Sandy) Lodge's study of the Bunker-haunting Moor (Park) Hen with its habit (shared only by the Galapagos Finch) of using sticks as tools to dig in holes.

### BITS AND PIECES

One of the nice things about the LRA is we never have to twist anyone's arm to get work done. Geoff Liley, who was co-ordinator of our M25 Committee, has moved to Burfield Road (best wishes there, Geoff). Hey presto, Eric Tindall of Overstream volunteered to take over. Eric has been in the transport business so knows the ropes. Thank you, Eric. We now wait for the first meeting of all concerned residents' associations.

We also have to thank Jim Davis who wrote as follows: "I would like to add my percentage to the list of those against the widening of the M25. A useless exercise, of course, since it has to be widened anyway. A letter to the Minister via Richard Page only produced an erudite reply on the collection of motorway litter!

We are 'protected' against noise by a small earth wall topped by a four-foot fence. From our house we can see every vehicle down to hub cap level. Five thousand pounds on double glazing has not alleviated matters. The racket is endless, our garden cannot be enjoyed by my wife and even the birds seem to have departed. I dread to think what levels of pollution would be found if our vegetable garden were tested.

The infuriating thing is that most of this noise can be eliminated, and some of the pollution. The German Autobahn-meistereii put up tasteful ornamental plastic walls and think nothing of creating an earth wall thirty or more feet high when circumstances warrant it.

I stand ready to contribute £250 whenever required toward legal costs."

James Davis, Whisperwood House, Whisperwood  
The best argument we can find against Jim's pessimism is his own action. We have not asked for a penny yet, but we have pledges of over £2,000! Jim is letting the M25 sub-committee have pictures of the German Motorway walls, and we have also had a picture from Derek Symmons of Lower Plantation, with a contact for an acoustic insulation firm who totally reject the D. of Transport's claim that good sound insulation is too expensive. Thank you, Derek.

Your Chairman was invited to the AGM of the Chess Hill/Chess Close Association (shame, shame, we didn't even know there was one) and was able to respond to this kind invitation by announcing that our pressure has ensured that the white lines down the north section of Loudwater Lane will be replaced. Apparently the contractor missed them. We continue to argue about sleeping policemen in both sections of L.Lane.

We are pleased to report that, following representations by the LRA, the intrusive and unpermitted advertisement hoarding on a property in L.Lane has been removed.

Garden refuse is always a problem, particularly since fears of the carcinogenic effect of leaf-burning. Most people know the Three Rivers refuse dump on Riverside Drive will take garden refuse — perhaps fewer know that the dustmen will collect it, if bagged in special sacks, available from the Council at 40p each.

The LRA was invited to contribute to two meetings over the future of Chorleywood House. There will be another full public meeting (better advertised, we hope, than the last) and at that it is expected that the Three Rivers Council will recommend that the buildings — the grounds are sacrosanct — will be converted into flats and offices, with a conference centre the second option. Nothing else appears likely to make the site financially viable. The crucial question is how much of it will be reserved for community use.

A New Year welcome, in some cases, alas, belated to: Terry and Linda Ride, and daughter Sophie, Dormer Cottage, Bridge Lane.

Laurence and Irene Conway, Wren Top, Bridle Lane.  
Mr. and Mrs. Coulsden and sons Aran and Blair, Barton Lodge, Bridle Lane.

Peter and Vicki Cooper and three children, Woodend, Whisperwood.

Mr. R. Fraval and Miss R. Ingalls, Willowisp, Chess Hill.

### PLANNING

- 8/0933/88 *The Coppers, Sarratt Lane. First floor rear extension. (Withdrawn)*
- 8/1145/88 *Lightwoods, T.Way. Erection of three detached dwellings. (Opposed. Appeal dismissed)*
- 8/034/89 *Chess Place, L.Lane. Erection of detached dwelling. (Opposed, refused)*
- 8/0293/89 *Cob Cottage. Detached dwelling. (Opposed, withdrawn, resubmitted to Appeal)*
- 8/0532/89 *1, Ladywood Close. Single storey rear extension. (Approved)*
- 8/0573/89 *Timberdene, L.Drive. Tennis Court. (Refused)*
- 8/0630/89 *Chessholme, T.Way. Ingle nook fireplace. (Approved)*
- 8/0636/89 *Four End, Wagon Way. Two-storey extension. (Approved)*
- 8/0680/89 *Barton Lodge, Bridle Lane. Two-storey and single-storey extension. (Approved)*
- 8/0743/89 *Water Garden, L.Plantation. Studio room over garage. (Refused)*
- 8/0771/89 *Bowden, Bridle Lane, Garage conversion, kitchen extension. (Approved)*
- 8/0774/89 *Tile Barn, T.Rise. Two-storey side extension. (Opposed, approved)*
- 8/0910/89 *Wildwoods, L.Heights. Single-storey extension.*
- 8/0914/89 *Dormer Cottage, Bridle Lane. Two-storey side. One-storey rear extensions, new porch.*
- 8/0927/89 *Briar Cottage, Chess Lane. Detached dwelling.*
- 8/0985/89 *Scriven House, Clwood Road. Two-storey side extension, swimming pool, detached garage.*
- 8/1040/89 *Carema, Timber Ridge. Two-storey rear extension.*
- 8/1114/89 *Beechwood, T.Rise. Front and rear ground floor extension.*

### AND FINALLY WE SAY . . .

To all the Committee, to all our deliverers, to those who help us in so many ways, and to all of our readers, may the New Year be all you hope for.