

## LOUDWATER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER No. 60

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Editor: John Jarrett

So we had a defeat. Not on planning or any of the usual battles, but because we had to cancel the Garden Party. By the cut-off date, only some 40 people had bought tickets. That means a 15-year-old tradition has ended. Does it matter?

To answer that, we have (as often) to repeat what may be old hat to longer-term residents but not so well known to more recent arrivals.

When we re-launched the LRA, we felt that Loudwater could be kept the way we all want it *only* if people felt that they were members of a community. But at that time, so many people said they never saw any other residents, didn't know what was going on, felt it was an unfriendly place, that the community sense did not exist. So we started the newsletter to keep people informed, and we started some social events to bring people together. From 75 at the first Garden Party, we reached a point where we had to limit tickets to 220. And every comment we have had from those who've attended has been that it was a super do, well worth the money and they met lots of people.

But three years ago, the figures started to drop — 180, 160, 120 and now too few to go on, and an important contribution to making Loudwater more a community ends.

What should we do? Why did it happen? There are a selection of reasons put forward. A miserable June put people off. (Very possible). Too dear (£4 for 2½ hours drinking? Never.) Garden Parties are old-fashioned. (Perhaps). Should be outside the Estate (Possible). Not supported by growing Asian community (True, but why?). We would be most grateful if those who never come, and those who usually do but didn't want to this time, would somehow let us know. Equally, if you have other ideas, we'd like to hear. Suggestions have been a barbecue — maybe, but cooking for 200 is tricky; a quiz evening — but where could we seat 150-200 people?; a horse-racing competition, a whist drive (then I wouldn't be there. Ed.) Or should we try another Garden Party and this time put more effort into ensuring people came, as Nick Nickolls and his team used to?

At any rate, the Committee decided that we would not try to hold one next year. That will, we hope, give us time to get your views and we may even send round a questionnaire when we collect next year's subs. Whatever happens, it was sad. But we did manage to keep our connection with Jupiter Pluvius who's always provided us good weather for the Party in the past. We got the message to him that we were cancelling — and on the day we would have held it, it poured!

### THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM, perhaps the last we shall ever have in Chorleywood House, was attended, on a miserable evening, by some 50 people.

The Chairman said that much of your Committee's activities had been covered in the newsletter, but only by looking back could one see what a wide range of activities were covered. We had secured the change of status to Green Belt for the anomalous strip across T.Way to Cob Cottage, and listed building status for Flint Cottage, T.Way, the old wash-house and gardener's house for L.House in the 1800s. We had high hopes of a co-operative effort we had arranged to help renovate Beechengrove Wood and we were trying a new approach to secure tidying up of the V.Way/T.Way woodland. The down-turn in the property market had kept planning problems down and the Long Ridings, L.Drive, development

appeal had been withdrawn. We hoped that the bench in memory of Cyril Brine would be installed in T.Way in 1991.

The main issues of the year, however, had been Neighbourhood Watch, the pollution of the Chess, and the M 25 widening struggle.

Desmond Martin had agreed to take over as Chief Co-ordinator in place of Jim Davis who had wished to give up after doing so much to get our Neighbourhood Watch scheme going. But Dr. Martin wanted to make it very clear that Neighbourhood Watch, with all its potential and insurance benefits, would not work unless those who had promised to help did what they had guaranteed. Messages must be passed on as immediately as possible, co-ordinators must be told about absences etc. £173,000 had been stolen from Greater Loudwater last year. The Chairman, echoing these remarks, said that senior police officials were already showing signs of losing confidence in the scheme because residents continued to be careless about protecting their property, particularly valuable cassette-radios in cars, motor mowers and garden furniture.

Further action was promised after the local press had picked up our disclosure of the state of the River Chess. The Chairman said the author of the report, Miss Harrison, had promised to take more samples in a few months time to see if the National Rivers Authority was keeping its promise to improve conditions from the Chesham Sewage works and generally. A letter from Mr. Edmonds of Micklefield Hall, the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire, prophesied that if action were not taken soon, the District would have to change its name to Two Rivers.

Eric Tindall reported on the continuing opposition to the M 25 proposals. The original two protestors had grown to 14 local authorities and resident's associations in three counties. Attempts were being made to meet relevant officials of any consultants that had been appointed. In case feelings had changed, Eric asked for a vote that we should continue our opposition and the policy was agreed *nem con*.

But, Eric said, it was still important that we showed individual concern, and he urged everyone to write to the Minister, Rt. Hon. Malcolm Rifkind, House of Commons, London, to voice their disagreement with widening.

The Treasurer, John Reid, said that the Association's finances were still healthy with £2,012 in the General Fund and £4,430 in the M 25 Fund.

### CHORLEYWOOD HOUSE

The speaker at our AGM was Mr. David Riley, one of the organisers of the Chorleywood Heritage Trust, whose aim is to preserve part of the building for community use. The present plan by the Council (under Government urging) is to lease the whole building area for flats and offices. Mr. Riley said his group believed the figures that Three Rivers quoted for maintenance and running of the building were exaggerated, as was their estimate of what it would let for. He felt that the fact that the Green Belt came right up to the windows of all the buildings would discourage many would-be occupants. However, although the Trust believed it could run the site viably while preserving community use, there was little hope that it could raise the several hundred thousand capital cost that would be needed to buy and modernise the buildings. The debate continues.

### SAUCE FOR THE GOOSE

That seems to be what Mario and Margaret Bianchin are being asked for, because their garden is becoming, in Margaret's words, "an avian soup-kitchen." Members may remember that last year, we had to persuade a pair of swans and their two cygnets and several families of ducks with ducklings to leave before we could set up our tables. Now the Bianchins tell us, the existing free-loaders have been joined by a pair of Canada geese and three goslings!

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Only a few days after your Chairman gave the warning about garden sheds, a neighbour came to him ruefully and said: "Despite your warning, my motor mower was stolen last night." And again, one of your Committee, calling round his patch during one of the few fine Sundays we've had, was able to walk into garages and living-rooms time and again, even after knocking and calling — the residents were out back on the lawn eating, chatting, enjoying the sun. No one wants to live in a fortress, but the fact remains he could have taken everything valuable in sight.

On a parallel theme, a member in the Chorleywood Road arrived on your Chairman's door one day earlier in the year, opened her boot and said: "Look what I've brought!" She had made one of her infrequent visits to a shed far down the bottom of their garden, coming down into the Estate, and found in it some 20 house name signs, road notice boards etc all from inside the Estate. Our local resident team of young layabouts (oh, yes, we all know who they are, but evidence is another thing) had presumably dumped their thefts in the shed after having their fun. The signs etc are now with Peter Lough, of the Estate Board.

The three young teenagers, all boys, can often be seen hanging around T.Way, smoking, swearing and being generally unpleasant to elderly residents, behaviour their parents are apparently unwilling or unable to prevent.

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We now have two Parish Councillors in Loudwater. Tony Williams, of Long Ridings, L.Drive, was elected in March to Chorleywood Parish Council. Margaret Jarrett, of Violet Way, who was elected some years ago, is now the Chairman, no less, of the Parish Council.

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Michael Beaver, our Bridle Lane representative on your Committee, had to resign after far too short a stay. He has been replaced as Secretary of the Bridle Lane Society, and on our Committee, by David Silberman of Polstreath, Bridle Lane. Lastly, to fill the place left by Margaret Homan, the

Committee has co-opted Mr John Renshaw, of Squirrel Cottage, L.Lane. John has been a very senior man at builders John Laing.

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Now a welcome to new residents Jamie and Jane Jackopin and young children Valerie and Sydney who have moved all the way from Delaware, USA to Lilac Cottage, T.Rise. They haven't met many other residents yet and would like to do so.

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Someone isn't put off by the property slump. A house in L/water has just been advertised for sale for £800,000! That shower of spondulicks gets you two acres, a gallery, a well, tennis court, swimming pool and umpteen rooms. AND it's outside the Estate. Your editor has long felt he has lost touch with today's money values — now he knows.

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We have just had what seems a slightly encouraging correction to the County's view on the M 25 scheme. We had been told that County was for the scheme. That now appears to be untrue. They had said they were not opposing it, but it was not made clear that they were also not favouring it. The official policy is "no view to be taken until detailed proposals."

### PLANNING

- 79/91 Willow Cottage, L.Lane. Single-storey side extension (Approved)
- 74/91 Homewood, Farm Lane. Erection of detached dwelling. (Objected, refused)
- 137/91 Thurlwood, L.Lane. Erection of detached garage. (Approved)
- 153/91 Tayholm, 3 Lower Plantation. First floor side extension.
- 257/91 Loudwater Farm, L.Lane. Conversion of store to residence.
- 261/91 Birchwood, T.Rise. Swimming pool enclosure, two-storey side extension and car port.
- 317/91 9 Ladywood Close. Single-storey front extension.
- 383/91 Cherry Hill Cottage, L.Lane. Two-storey side, single-storey rear extensions and detached garage.
- 400/91 Dovecote, T.Way. Single-storey rear extension.
- 401/91 Ladymead, L.Lane. Single-storey rear extension and conservatory.
- 404/91 Long Ridings, Sarratt Lane. Erection of new dwelling. (Opposed).

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 1991 SUBSCRIPTION YET?  
IT'S ONLY £2. IF YOU HAVEN'T, PLEASE GIVE TO  
YOUR PATCH WARDEN, OR SEND DIRECT TO  
JOHN REID, HON TREASURER (ADDRESS AT TOP OF NEWLETTER)