

# LOUDWATER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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Editor: John Jarrett

It may, we think, safely be said that the LRA Garden Party is back on the calendar. The second party since the resumption of this function was just as successful as the first - an excellent site (and one to the other side of the area, which is always good), fine weather and well over 200 people present. We are again in the debt of Mr and Mrs Jackson, who were kind enough to volunteer their house for the occasion and to the members of the Committee and their allies who helped with setting up, catering, clearing up etc.

Each Garden Party has its ups and downs, and this one had one special asset in that a whole field was available for parking (we are always a bit concerned that neighbours of whatever kind host we have may find cars a nuisance). The two downs were that we decided not to put out nibbles for children which was clearly a mistake, and we ran out of food - why, we are still trying to figure out, but some people really tucked in. Our apologies to the dozen or so people who missed out, although they were all very understanding.

Once again, we would urge everyone who has never been to one of these parties to try to come next time. It's always on the second or third Sunday in June, the sun always shines and residents have no better chance to make new acquaintances or renew old ones (and you don't have to cook Sunday lunch, ladies!)

## THE HERTS OPERATION

For the past two years, the future of the County Council, Three Rivers District Council, and Chorleywood Parish Council has been at question. Some time ago, the Government decided that the value of County Councils were questionable and set up the Local Government Commission to make recommendations for change, if it so felt. The Government thesis was that abolishing County Councils and replacing them with larger groups of District Councils would be more democratic. However, it is fair to say that the scheme has run into much opposition. While some small Counties, e.g. Rutland, would be delighted to be restored to an authority in its own right and others, such as Avon, have been felt to be artificial by many in the area, and criticisms have generally been levelled at many County Councils as too remote, the alternatives began to seem just as bad, if not worse.

For example, the Government said that if County Councils were to go, the several authorities in the County that should take their place would have to be with populations of between 190,000 and 250,000 and that would mean amalgamating District Councils. The first problem was that many adjoining Councils did not particularly like their nearby and apparently obvious partners. Three Rivers District Council, by a majority and across party vote, was in favour of County abolition and for joining with neighbours Watford and Dacorum. But Dacorum, while happy with Three Rivers, didn't want Watford, and Watford, while happy with Dacorum, didn't particularly want Three Rivers, and so it went throughout much of the Country.

The second problem was that while some activities, such as education, have been divorced from the County by Local School Management and Grant Maintained Schools, and some others might feasibly operate in this way, other activities such as strategic

Planning and Roads, for example, could not differ radically from one group of Councils to another, and some extra body (a Quango probably) would have to have these responsibilities. Lastly, it was generally agreed the cost of such changes would be substantial, millions certainly in each county. The Local Government Commission for Hertfordshire said that it thought the cost here would be recovered through efficient streamlining in ten years - opponents say much longer, if ever.

The nett result is that the Commission has just published its recommendation for Herts which is to leave it alone and preserve the existing set-up. The Commission is required to offer a second, less favoured choice, and that is the Three Rivers/Watford/Dacorum amalgamation.

All local groups or individuals are invited to comment. The report is "Future Local Government of Hertfordshire Draft Recommendations" (we understand copies will be in local libraries and at District and Parish Council Offices) and views should go to The Local Government Commission for England (Herts Review Team), Dolphyn Court, 10/11 Great Turnstile, Lincoln's Field, London, WC1V 7JU, by November 7th.

## PUTTING IT ON THE MAP

Some of you may have seen that Croxley Green Parish Council has produced a map of its area. That in itself doesn't sound much but it is a beauty. You can see it in the Croxley Green Library and you will discover that they have put into the map not merely very pleasant sketches of all present and past famous houses in Croxley, not only captions explaining all the background to Croxley but also paintings of all the local fauna and flora. The whole thing is very pretty and the Council, which had to be persuaded to undertake the project, has already sold out of copies.

Other parishes are doing the same thing and Chorleywood Parish hopes to do so, and, of course, this would include most of the LRA area, though not all - for instance the pest houses along the path behind the Masonic School and the Watercress beds are in Rickmansworth.

The Council wants to get on record the parts of Chorleywood that we all value - and those that have already disappeared. Those parishes that have issued on the maps have usually found that the difficulty is what to leave out. Obviously, we here would want the L. House complex, Christchurch School (showing the old great cedar, too), the Common etc. The Parish's first task is to find all this out. There will be a week-long display in Chorleywood Library on Monday September 26th to show the sort of thing in mind, but in the meanwhile the Parish Council would like to know what you want on the map and would miss if it disappeared, what you miss that has gone, what are your favourite buildings, walks, open spaces, what animals, trees, birds, flowers should be shown? Answers please, at the Library, to the Parish Council (marked Parish Map), or to the Council Chairman, Margaret Jarrett.

## A WORTHWHILE VICTORY

Loudwater is largely a creation of the early and middle 1900s.

That makes it more necessary to look after what we have got, and in June we did just that when the inspector upheld the refusal of permission to build in the property Flint Cottage in T.Way.

The house is not visible from the road and is nor particularly handsome but it was the old laundry for L. House when Panmure Gordon occupied it in the 1800's and some of the original laundry flooring can still be seen. We joined with the Estate Board in opposing the development (it was, after all, the good work of Don Cammell, acting for the LRA, that got it listed as a historic building) and I am glad to say we won. Our thanks to all who wrote to the D.o.E. supporting our objection.

While on the subject of architecture, some people will not have noticed another of the few original features left from Panmure Gordon's time.

Originally, the Home Farm (as it was then called) had gatekeeper's lodges at three exits, i.e. in T.Way, Sarratt Lane and L. Drive. All three houses have been much altered but all still have one common feature, a colonnaded veranda with columns and arches, easy to see in The Dell (L.Drive) and Troutcott (T.Way) and vestigially at Loudwater Lodge, S. Lane.

#### YOU WRITE

"I am a Loudwater garage fan and an account holder. It is very time consuming and annoying to be told to 'go round' to get petrol or for maintenance problems when the car's about to conk out. Mr Simmond's business must suffer and I for one would be very sorry if he ever closed because he is a service Loudwater would miss.

"He has approached the Estate Company on behalf of his clients but requests have been denied. I hear the arguments for the gates all the time but I wonder how emergency services manage and I can't think it helps keeping burglars out or that many people want to cut through now there are sleeping policemen.

"Another problem. When I walk to the Chess via the pathways through Loudwater, I am often harassed by dogs. Frightened that they might get out (some have), I've made many a quick u-turn on occasions. Dog owners should not let their pets be so aggressive toward those merely enjoying a walk.

"Finally, I worry about the speed of cars on Sarratt Lane, which I walk daily. It is not only through traffic but also residents who belt round bends and make pedestrians jump back.

"Please don't publish my name and address, as I sound old and crotchety, which I'm not! I'm only sorry to have these grouses when Loudwater is still a lovely place to live."

Anon

(The LRA has previously passed on to the Estate Board similar views on behalf of LRA members both inside and outside the Estate, but the policy is supported by most inside the Estate and the Board says making exceptions causes all sorts of problems. The emergency services do have keys. Ed.)

"Together with my husband Martin and elderly dog Potsworth. I moved into the Loudwater area in January this year. I wanted to say how much we enjoy your newsletter. It keeps us informed of very local happenings and gives an insight into a community with which we are not yet personally familiar.

"On a more serious note, on Easter Monday someone drove across the lawn at the front of our hedge and on another occasion we had our house sign removed (fortunatley later found in a neighbour's garden). Also a large branch from a tree at the front of our property was discovered lying in the road one morning. Heavy squirrels?

"I am curious to know if anyone else is subjected to the same petty vandalism, something I've not been used to. Moving on to better things - how come the badgers don't visit our garden - anyone bothered should feel free to direct them our way?" Vivien Schragger-Powell, Winbar, T.Way.

(We had a spate of sign removal some years ago, all over the

Estate. The culprits - oh, we knew them - moved. Recently, we've got this plague again, though to a lesser degree. We don't know who is responsible this time, but I'm afraid it's local teenagers.

The Police know and are watching.

Potsworth???? Ed.)

#### ODDS AND ENDS

Two members were in the news recently. Consultant psychiatrist Dr. Philip Evans (Farm Lane) has retired after 22 years at Shrodells Unit in Watford General. In the latter part of his career, Philip specialised in the mental problems of the elderly and of their carers.

Michael Warburg, not actually a resident but close by, was shown in BBC's Nature Detective programme. After Ken Livingstone, Michael is probably Britain's best known devotee of newts and he has been very helpful in the job of putting newts back into the ponds on Chorleywood Common.

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People of many different nationalities have from time lived in Loudwater - I could list nineteen without trying. It was sad therefore to hear of the death of Mr. Whitehead (T.Way) who was probably the only Red Indian ever to live here. Members may have wondered about the totem pole in his garden.

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Welcome to the following Dr. Philip and Ann Garner (T.Rise), Tom, Jennifer and Patrick McDermott (The Walled Garden, T.Way) who added a baby girl to their family within a few weeks of arriving here, Gareth and Meredith Melia plus Alexandra and Augusta in The Rose Garden, T.Way and from Canada Steve O'Reilly and Regine Perron plus Jim and Joey in High End, T.Way.

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Again outside the area, but fans of the Last Night of the Proms may not know that the founder of the Proms, Sir Henry Wood, used to live at Apple Tree Farm in Dog Kennel Lane and in his letters mentions walking in Loudwater.

#### PLANNING

- 8/25/94 Pheena, Chess Lane. Two-storey side extension and dormer (Approved).
- 8/035/94 The White House, T.Rise. Single-storey garage extension. (Objected, refused).
- 8/0443/94 Mulberry Cottage, T.Way. (Private objection, refused).
- 8/058/94 Bowden, Bridle Lane. Conversion of garage to kitchen/diner. (Approved).
- 8/0523/94 Rooks Hill Cottage, Rooks Hill. Two-storey side extension and detached garage. (Approved).
- 8/0551/94 Erection of dwelling and garage land adjacent to Old Meadow, Bridle Lane. (Objected).
- 8/0552/94 Old Meadow, Bridle Lane. Two-storey extension.
- 8/0560/94 Hathaway House, L.Lane. Infilling of porch and single-storey conservatory. (Approved).
- 8/0579 Aiglemont, T.Rise. Erection of detached garage. (Refused).
- 8/0587 Cherry Hill Cottage, T.Rise. Front extension and alterations at rear. (Approved).
- 8/0604/94 Broad Oaks, T.Rise. Single-storey rear extension to house swimming pool. (Objected).
- 8/0626/94 Lowlands, C/Wood Road. Certificate of extension of business and residential use.
- 8/0661/94 Chessway, L.Lane. Single-storey rear extension and conservatory to rear.