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Editor: John Jarrett

Because there were no matters of major importance to discuss, we expected our AGM to be a quiet one. Nevertheless, some fifty people turned up. Our guest speaker was Mr Eddie Parrott, the presiding genius of the Three Rivers District Museum, formerly the Rickmansworth Museum. In a interesting talk, Mr Parrott focused on Loudwater House, which is perhaps our only claim to fame. Chorleywood, and indeed Loudwater, don't seem to have made big news ever -after all, the three most important people in the area all came from other parts of S.W. Herts - our one Pope came from Abbots Langley, our one founder of a religion, William Penn, lived in Rickmansworth first, and our one major group in the Industrial Revolution, the Chartists, came from Heronsgate.

Because our much loved Chairman, Dr Martin, has not been well, your Editor was asked to make the Chairman's report. He reported on a couple of Neighbourhood Watch successes, the sad death by fire of two people in Chess Way (the emergency service beg everyone to get smoke alarms). The invaluable Don Cammell spoke on the year's planning, which largely dealt with "Cariad" L. Lane (see below) and two of our small woods, those at Great Poplars, L. Lane and Beechengrove Wood, S. Lane, in both of which the owners want to do some felling and clearing after the ravages of the two hurricanes. Both tricky, but we have been lucky in that both owners have been kind enough to consult us as to how their natural practical concerns could be covered, while catering for the environment issues of the district.

Eric Tindall spoke about the M25. It seemed clear that the 12 - 14 lane widening proposal was now dead, but the LRA was in discussion with the local MP, Richard Page, to try to convey to him our views on the proper surface for the one extra lane, should that still be proposed. He also pointed out that some of the properties bought by the Dept. of the Environment on behalf of the Dept. of Transport on blight grounds (some in Loudwater) were now coming back on the market. Eric said that the LRA should be proud of its part in supporting and indeed starting NORMAL, whose campaign had had a major impact in getting the 14-lane scheme dropped.

A surprise visitor was Inspector Mark Crampton from Ricky Police Station who made three useful points. First, the notoriously poor phone system for police calls has been improved: second, that Neighbourhood Watch did work: and third that, regrettable though it might be, conspicuous display of stealable goods should be avoided.

Lastly, a request was reported from 3RDC for suggestions on improving the local bus service. Not surprisingly, this brought recollections of the "Harry" bus and Mr Peter Brooker, to whom suggestions should be made, will undoubtedly be told "What bus service? We ain't got none!"

IT RAINED ON OUR PARADE

Well, it had to happen, I suppose. In twenty years, we have only once had rain on our garden party but we got it this time. Grey skies and drizzle didn't deter some one hundred gallant souls from deserting England's collapse at Headingley, and England's triumph in the World Cup Rugby and turning up, but by half past one, we were all fleeing for cover. Our very sincere thanks to those who said that nevertheless it was a good do, but it wasn't what we hoped for. Our

apologies to all concerned, specially Mario and Margaret Bianchin, our hosts, who had gone to such lengths to make it a good time. The age range of those attending was from four to eightyfour and we were so grateful to see so many of you braving the elements to meet your neighbours. Better luck next year, we pray.

A PLANNING SUCCESS

Many members have told your Committee of their concern about the actions of the owners of "Cariad" at the junction of L. Lane and Sarratt Lane. This house was bought by an American corporation for the use of its visiting executives and there soon arose objections to their actions over a wall and some hedge planting which 3RDC said was without planning permission. The owners went to appeal on this and won. Even more concern was then expressed over the large black gate and gilded name plate that was put up, again according to 3RDC without permission. This was described by your Editor, speaking at the appeal hearing for the LRA, as looking like something out of "Dungeons and Dragons", "a fortress-like structure behind which lurked orcs, trolls and the spirits of the undead".

It was again sadly typical that, of the many people who had pressed the LRA to object, only two (apart from the LRA representation of John Renshaw and John Jarrett), bothered to come to the hearing. However, to our considerable satisfaction, the Inspector for the appeal, while recognising the desire of the one permanent occupant of Cariad for peace and security, did say that he thought the gates were over the top and must be replaced, giving six months for this to happen.

Members should recognise that successes such as these are achieved only because your Committee, especially Don Cammell, put much time and expertise into their proposals to the Inspector, and because some people do take the trouble to speak up. We shall now see what happens within the six months.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

A rich crop this issue. To begin with, how many Loudwater residents have had a book written about them? I can think of only two, the first being Ernest Saunders (formerly of T. Rise and a national figure because of his involvement in the controversy over the activities in Guinness shares). The other is the Bridle Lane resident, and President of the Rickmansworth Resident's Association, Sir Ivor Broom.

Air Marshal Sir Ivor Broom, KCB, CBE, DSO, DFC and two bars, AFC, has had his story told in a book which is available in Smiths in Ricky. This boy from the Rhondda enlisted, became a sergeant pilot and then rose to become an Air Marshal, which must be extremely rare. On the way, he won no fewer than three DFC's. His most distinguished for bravery flying was for low level flying in the defence of Malta, in which all the officer pilots of his squadron were eventually killed or missing. In 1955, he set a new speed record for Canada to England in a Canberra bomber. Subsequently, he became operational controller of the spectacular Red Arrows. In 1974 he was appointed Controller of the National Air Traffic Services.

His last major public appearance was as the representative of Bomber Command for the controversial Canadian film on Bomber

Command. Apart from being Chairman of the Bridle Lane Society, had has been active in many local organisations.

For those who want to buy the story of this exciting life, it is published by Crecy Books (01272 724248) at £17.99.

Another Bridle Lane member also made local headlines when Valeries Kleanthous became one of the first solicitors to be trained as a Family Mediator, a group set up to help couples through the hurt of divorce. Valerie, who was for years a magistrate on the Watford Bench, has been married for 32 years and had two sons for whose sake she happily put her career on hold. But those couples who do decide on divorce can call on the help of mediators to try to avoid the bitterness of legal wrangles over money, children, houses and that service would cost generally half of non-mediated divorces.

Another success story is that of of Mrs Carolyn Biro of Lodge Drive, whose campaign to help those with cardiomyopathy, in which she has a personal interest, took a major step forward when she was able to announce the opening of a new centre in Tolpits Lane for the chairty's work.

Mrs Tony Thompson, of Chorleywood Road, was quoted in our local paper over the latest court hearings about the Marchioness disaster, from which her son, on the boat at the time, luckily was rescued. Sheena Thompson was also one of those singing in Hyde Park in May for VE Day celebrations. She is a member of the Philharmonia Chorus.

(Sheena is one of many people who has noticed that we have twice referred to the forestry work proposed in L. Lane as being at "Great Populars". It is, of course, "Great Poplars."

OUR MP AND THE M 25

Richard Page MP kindly made time to discuss the M25 with a special LRA Committee Meeting. Nine specific points were put to him. He confirmed that the 14-lane plan was dead - it had, he said, been a non-starter from the outset. He was still in favour of the extra lane but had no idea when it might be built. Although he still thought porous asphalt would wear out faster, he would push for it as quieter, He was not in favour of a 50mph speed limit on the motorway, and could not say when an answer would come from the Environment Statement for our area. The idea of motorway tolls was moving forward. He was also asked why some houses outside the official blight area had been bought by the D.o.T., to have a noise study done for the whole of Loudwater, together with a general study of ways of reducing existing noise. We await results.

BITS AND PIECES

Local papers carried memories of the war on VE Day. Chorleywood was hit by 36 high explosive and 11 incendiary bombs. The worst effect was at White Webs, Cherry Hill, which was largely demolished.

One of the two thugs who went for two women residents in T. Rise has been arrested. Neighbourhood Watch evidence about the car used was very useful.

The Estate Company has asked us to say that it has one single and one double garage to let.

A number of you will be getting cheques in the near future from the LRA. When we started the anti-widening campaign, we asked

for donations to cover any public hearing costs. As the D.o.T. backed down, our only major cost was a very competent report on road surfaces. So about a quarter of the money is left. We promised any money left over when the 14-lane issue was settled would be returned. About one quarter is left, so if you gave £50, you'll see about £12 back - not much, but we've kept our word. AND we won. (Perhaps some of you who still haven't paid the £3 sub could now do so?).

WELCOME TO

A rush of new arrivals - are houses starting to move?

Welcome to Mr and Mrs H. De Mario, Chess Hill, Mr and Mrs Nigel Sheppard, Chess Lane: Sara Brown and Matthew Gunnell, Mark Shepherd and family and David Linch all in L. Lane: Roy and Sue Bayliss and Lee and Mr and Mrs Rowe in T. Way: David and Helle Bendel with Laura, Peter and Sophie in L. Drive, John and Elisa Wright and son in Whisperwood, also Mr and Mrs Mitha and son, Mr P.J. Brewster, L. Heights, Mr Ron Sobell in Harewood, P.J. Somerford and Jennifer Horwood in V. Way and Mr and Mrs C. Armstrong and children in T. Rise. Hope you're all happy here.

YOUR COMMITTEE

Once again, we are fortunate in having someone experienced, competent and pleasant to take over as Chairman from Dr Desmond Martin who has completed his stint in the Chair, but happily will remain on the Committee. His successor will be Godfrey Crook from Chess Hill, the first Chairman from that area. (Others have been from T. Way, T. Rise, L. Lane, Violet Way, Ladywood Close and Loudwater Heights). Godfrey is a civil engineer, a family man and has lived in the area for 35 years and been on the Committee for five years. He also restores the balance as being a younger man, still working - it's all too easy for organisations such as Residents Associations to be overweighted at the top by those who have retired. We wish him luck.

David Silbermann has resigned - thank you too, David - and his place on the Committee from the Bridle Lane area has been taken by Brenda Hope, whose arrival strengthens the female side of the group.

Your Editor is also leaving the Committee, but has been asked (forcibly) to continue the Newsletter. If a personal note may be forgiven, I have been on the Committee as Chairman (twice) or member for nearly twenty years, and I think that is a long enough stint. I joined when the original LRA collapsed for lack of support and four of us thought it was important to re-establish the organisation. By the end of our first year, we were proud to announce we had 49 members, and we dared to put the membership fee up to £1! We started the Newsletter, and the Garden Party. Now we have some 400 members and the sub is still, after twenty years, only £3. I have enjoyed every minute of my time on the LRA Committee, and I am immodest enough to think what has been achieved is something special.

PLANNING

8/0006/94 *Chess Place, L. Lane. New Balcony access, rear conservatory (Refused).*

8/0760/94 *Detached garage. Aiglemont, T. Rise.*

8/0033/95 *1/2 Rose Gardens, T. Way. Erection three pre-fab garages (Refused).*

8/0093/95 *Rookery Nook, V. Way. Single-storey side extension (Approved).*

8/0194/95 *Four detached houses, garages, access road land rear of Tilehurst and Dencombe, C/Wood Road.*

8/0209/95 *First floor extension and conservatory. Krupa, T. Rise.*

8/0294/95 *Balcony, stairs, conservatory at rear, Chess Place, L. Lane.*

8/0321/95 *One-storey rear garage extension, glasshouse over. Great Poplars, Rasehill Close.*