

LOUDWATER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER No. 87

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Editor: John Jarrett

All right - that's it! What your Editor has feared for so long has happened, there is NO REAL NEWS!

What has happened to you all? Why haven't you done anything wonderful, wicked or even faintly interesting?

So - we will have to fall back on something that is continually asked for, the differences between the various associations in the area. Apologies for those members who've heard it all before, but it is true that hardly a month goes by without someone new to the area, or an informed member who's had to explain it to newcomers, asking for it to be explained again.

There are four major groups inside the Greater Loudwater area. The oldest is the Loudwater/Troutstream Estate, which represents all the houses within the gates area. It is run by a Board (Chairman Derrick Speight) and shares in the company can be held by anyone who has owned property in the Estate for a few years.

The Estate Company has legal powers by virtue of its ownership of the road and verges, some property in the garage area, and the covenants between it and property owners.

It maintains roads, gates and gullies within the Estate, for which it charges residents a not inconsiderable sum. It employs Richard Allen to look after the general appearance of the Estate. It should be consulted by those inside the Estate about planning issues, because it can - and, if absolutely necessary, will - take legal action to preserve the character of the Estate.

The Bridle Lane Estate is also quite large. It has a constitution and rules that members are expected to follow, though it does not own roads etc. It charges members for upkeep of roads, drains etc. The current chairman is David Silberman.

Smaller, but important bodies are the Chesshill/Chess Close Road Association. It does not have an annual subscription but raises money when necessary for its primary purpose of maintaining the roads in this complex.

The most recently formed is the Lower Plantation Management Company. Chairman Michael Geary.

It should also be noted that since the inhabitants of Loudwater House bought their freehold, they have also have formed themselves into a co-operative group, but of course, concern themselves only with the fabric and environs of the house.

The largest group is the Loudwater Residents Association. This was originally formed as a "ginger group" inside the Troutstream Estate but in 1974 found itself unable to carry on. The year after, it was relaunched when it seemed that although each organisation functioned well for its own patch, there was sometimes a lack of co-ordination, and also large numbers of houses in important roads were not covered by any single body. So the LRA reconstituted itself as an umbrella group covering the whole of Greater Loudwater, defined in the North as running from Solesbridge Lane to and including Lower Plantation and Bridle Lane and along L. Lane halfway to Croxley Green, in the West from Armitage Close down L. Lane up to the Chorleywood Road, and South from there along Chorleywood Road to the motorway.

It has no legal powers at all, but has influence though its size. Every other group (with the current exception of L. House) is represented on its committee. Its fee is £3 p.a. and the current Chairman is Godfrey Crook.

All groups share a common aim of preserving the character of the area from unsuitable development, maintaining the almost total Tree Preservation Orders etc.

MAPS AND MANUSCRIPTS

The note in the last Newsletter about maps brought an unusual number of interested queries.

One fascinating response was from Mr. Edmonds of Micklefield Hall, for many years the presiding genius of Clements Store. He sent me a copy of the history of Micklefield Hall, which listed some thirty names of its owners, dating from 1260 to 1844, including de Chilternes, Brundenells and even Offa. One section is worth quoting particularly when the Abbot of St. Albans seized the manor from John Creke in the early 1500's. John's widow, Joan, managed to get the manor back. In a letter written to Cromwell, asking his help, she stated that "four score years ago the then Abbot had wrongfully my husband's grandfather to his ward." When he was fourteen years old, the Abbot sold him to a fishmonger of London who kept him two years. The child then ran away from the fishmonger to a knight Sir Davy Philip. A strange insight into the wicked ways of the time.

CONSERVATION NEARER

Members may remember the news that the Estate Board had decided to look into the possibility of having the Estate declared a Conservation area. Following the matter being raised again at the AGM in 1977, the Board sent three separate letters to each resident.

The result was (from 125 responses) 101 votes in favour, and twenty against with 4 undecided or spoilt papers, an 81% vote in favour. The Board is now submitting an application for conservation status to the Three Rivers District Council for its views.

YOU WRITE

"My nephew would like to visit the UK this coming summer during July or August for three weeks to improve his English. He will be 15 by then and ideally would like to be an exchange guest to an English family with a child/children of similar age. His passion is computers. The British exchange guest would have an opportunity to visit Austria at his convenience. The family lives in a small town in Styria and has a holiday flat in the lake district of Carinthia, southern Austria, where they spend part of their summer holidays. For further information, please contact as below."

Annaliese Soteriou. Tile Barn, T.Rise 774562.

"The January newsletter states that pollution around the M25 is thought to be at its highest around K.Lure and Junction 18. I am an ignoramus about the relative causes and methods of measuring pollution. Perhaps one of our accredited experts could say whether the problem is aggravated by the fact that traffic transiting the three lane area appears to proceed for some hours of the day much more slowly than in the four or five lane areas thus taking longer to transit our area".

(Sir) Ivor Broom, Cherry Lawn, Bridle Lane.

AND A WELCOME TO...

Bridle Lane has covered itself with glory by sending a list of seven new arrivals. (Thank you, D.S.) So welcome to Tony and Mary D'Cruz in Borromor: Tom and Karen Marzilli and children (from the USA) in Chenies: Rob Hunter in Cranmore: Paul and Andi Roston and baby Rhiana in Fernworthy: Aran and Julia Sharpe and children Joseph and Arabella in Taormina: Gary Bulmer in The Old Stables: Phil and Jyoti Ball and children in Woodside.

Also to Mr and Mrs R. Shearer who take over High Cleve (and the prayer meeting hut) in K. Lure: Caroline and Colin Bateman in Baystock, W. Wood: Mr and Mrs S. Martinelli and family in Honeyfields and Mr and Mrs J. Bond in Glen House, both in Overstream. Hope you've all joined the LRA, and that you'll be happy here.

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WILL HARRY RIDE AGAIN?

A faint, tentative but encouraging note for those of us who would like to cut down traffic.

Chorleywood Parish Council is looking to see whether it is possible to run hopper buses in areas of Chorleywood that had their transport so savagely cut years ago, and they have identified three areas where this seems most needed. That's the good news - the bad news is that, even in this very embryonic stage, Loudwater is only second priority.

What is encouraging, apart from the Government's apparent will to revive public transport, is that Herts County Council does have some money earmarked for such schemes and the Parish Council could also find a small amount.

One of the things that will decide who gets a bus, if any, will be the evidence of public demand. So if you feel that a Loudwater bus could be a good thing, write to the Chorleywood Parish Council. South Lodge, Rickmansworth Road, Herts and say so.

It may all come to nothing or another area may get a bus, but let's at least try.

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PLEASE CAN YOU HELP?

Checking though the files the other day, your editor discovered to his chagrin that there are two gaps in the collection of Newsletters, Nos. 34 and 74. They must have had something special in them, because two other members who have meticulously kept Newsletters find that they too are missing these issues, presumably all of us having lent them and not had them back. If anyone with these issues would be kind enough to say so, they will be collected, copied and returned the same day.

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MAKE THESE DATES, DON'T BE LATE

The LRA Annual General Meeting will be on Wednesday, May 27 at Loudwater Farm as usual, at 8pm also as usual. This is your chance to tell us what you want, what we've done right or wrong, and to meet other members.

The famous LRA Garden Party will also be at Loudwater Farm on Sunday June 21. (And don't say you can't come because its Fathers Day because this father knows that nobody ever takes any notice of poor fathers). As usual, there will be good food and wine at an incredibly cheap price, and not merely do kids get in cheap, but we're hoping to provide an entertainer for them. After a slump a few years ago, the turnout recently has been between a hundred and fifty and two hundred, so you'll see a lot of your neighbours.

And on the subject of LRA events, the Theatre Club event of a visit to see Pinero's "The Magistrate" with Ian Richardson in the lead, and supper at Simpson's after, was booked solid within 48 hours. If the Club goes on being this successful, we'll need a train, not a coach.

HELP THE POOR STRANGERS

There are increasing numbers of men from Spain, Portugal, the Phillipines etc working as gardeners and handymen etc in Loudwater and very useful they are, too. Few of them have much English, and quite understandably, none have any background of knowledge of what Loudwater standards are. Those who employ these men do need to get across that there are things we'd rather not have done. For instance, one man was cheerfully emptying great sacks of leaves into the Chess until stopped. It is, of course, bad for the river, and an offence. Bonfires are things not well understood by such workers - indeed, in at least one case the householder was encouraging his employee to put other refuse on as well, being either too ignorant or too lazy to use the local dump, or special collections.

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NOTE THESE NUMBERS

To save you wasting time, please note these numbers. If you want to know about the Bridge Club, please ring John Parsons at 778241. To find out about the Theatre Club plans, please ring June Curtis at 721583. Our chairman Godfrey Crook will give you their numbers but why bother an already busy man?

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PLANNING

- 0922/97 Dorney, T. Rise. Erect detached dwelling. (Refused)
- 0923/97 Krupa, Cherry Hill. One storey conservatory, garden room at rear, (Approved)
- 0925/97 Highacre, L. Heights. Erect two detached dwellings.
- 0926/97 Highacre, L. Heights. Erect one detached dwelling.
- 0911/97 Tree Tops, Cherry Hill. One-storey detached garage. (Approved)
- 0915/97 Clearburn, T. Rise. Detached garage for three cars. (Approved)
- 0973/97 Coachman's House and Ladywood House, T. Way. Certificate of lawful use for making two houses one unit. (Approved)
- 0019/98 8, Lower Plantation. One -storey detached garage. (Approved)
- 0988/97 Land at Hillpoint and Glenhayes. Erect six detached dwellings with garages.
- 0051/98 Highfields. T. Way. Convert garage into room, one-storey detached garage with store.
- 0059/98 Old Meadow, Wagon Way. Erect detached house and garage.
- 0070/98 Dacres, T. Way. One-storey rear extension.
- 0082/98 Barton Lodge, Bridle Lane. First floor extension and canopy.
- 0124/98 Arlesey House, Rooks Hill. Two-storey side and one-storey side extension to garage.
- 0145/98 Cherry Cottage, T. Way. One-storey garage extension to side.
- 0157/8 Riverview, L. Lane. Two-storey side and rear extension.
- 0178/98 Dorney, T. Rise. Erect detached dwelling.

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THE CRUELLEST MONTH

Was April, according to T.S. Eliot. Well we don't feel we are very cruel to remind you that it is the month membership subscriptions are due. You either have received or will receive a request for the £3, and the Committee will be very happy if you could respond soon. Because the collection mechanism went a bit pear-shaped after the departure of Isabel Johnson, some of you were not chased for subs last year. The note you get should cover this.