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NEWSLETTER No. 88

JULY 1998

Editor: John Jarrett

This is your jubilant July Journal, because we have good news and good news and good news!

First, the Government Inspector has upheld the TRDC enforcement notice on the removal of Stalag Loudwater Lane. By the time you read this, the notorious fence should be down, the owners of Great Populars having accepted the decision. The fence will now be replaced lower down the bank where it will still protect the property, but be hardly visible from the road. At the LRA AGM, of which more below, Chairman Godfrey Crook stressed how valuable the many individual objections had been. The council, of course, pays great attention to submissions by the LRA, but the LRA listing in one document the names of objectors does not have as much force as twenty or thirty individual letters.

There remains, of course, the problem of safety on a road where a bank slopes so steeply down on to dangerous tree stumps, but that has been with us for over forty years.

Second good news - The Dell, L. Drive, has been given listed building status. This is our second listed building, the other being Flint Cottage, the former L. House laundry. The Dell's importance is that it is the only former lodge from Panmure Gordon's time that has retained much of the original facade and interior. It is certainly the smallest house in greater Loudwater and the only one with earth foundations! Listed building status presents an interesting question for The Dell's new owner, because not merely must the building not be significantly altered, but it must be maintained in good condition which The Dell certainly is not. We shall see.

Third good news (though not everyone will have been happy over it at the time) Loudwater Lane was patched from one end to the other. It was pretty much murder for everyone while they did it, but it has happened. It may be said that, while we have not had the traffic calming we asked for, it is probably only because of the efforts of the last three Chairmen of the LRA that we have got this far.

Fourth some so far, good news. TRDC has turned down the plan to develop the two houses in L. Drive adjoining the Bridle Path. This area has now been under continuous siege by one would-be developer for two years, of which details below. No doubt, there will be an appeal again.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

There was so much meat in the AGM it was a pity that it was so poorly attended.

Chairman Godfrey Cook took the meeting through the various planning issues, covered in detail by the meticulous Don Cammell, who keeps TRDC well on its toes. The attempt to make the bridle path up to Bridle Path Cottage into a carriageway which was refused and then lost on appeal has apparently now been taken to the House of Lords! The latest

plan for Bridle Pth Cottage asks for permission to add another storey, which will be opposed. The sting in the tail here is that the plan shows an access to Bridle path Cottage from the proposed re-development of Tall Trees and Willows. There has also been another development proposed for Hillpoint in L. Lane (for which a one-house permission has been granted)

Godfrey Crook said it was difficult to understand how one person could afford to lay the tens of thousands of pounds that these applications, appeals, legal submissions must have cost, which would certainly not be re-couped on the one success so far.

Godfrey also expressed his disappointment that we have not yet seen any sign of traffic calming measures he had suggested to Herts C.C. being activated. We have moved up from 38th to 36th in their priorities - big deal! The LRA plan involved calming measures from Glen Chess northwards to Rooks Hill. He suggested to the meeting that, if anything was to happen in our lifetime, the LRA should consider asking members to contribute to a fund to have the work done at our expense. It would, he admitted, run into thousands.

This produced a lively debate, both on the morality and legal possibility of pre-empting the County. The debate continues.....

The bad news from the AGM was that for the third year running, the accounts show a deficit. To be fair, most of this was to give the Bridge Club some start up money (tables, boxes etc) and by the time you read this most of it should be repaid. So, if this is so and if everybody pays the very modest subscription, the LRA should be in a healthy surplus next year. There can be very few people in Loudwater who have not benefited in some way from the Association's activities over recent years, so if you have missed a subscription payment, show your support by paying up, please. The LRA, for instance, has had a vital input in all the successes above.

However, even if all goes well financially, it has been six years since the sub went up. Few people will feel the LRA is out of line by setting the sub for the next year at £5 from the current £3. Those who don't pay are getting a free ride on their backs.

Other lesser, but important points from the AGM were as follows.

The Theatre Club had a most successful visit to "The Magistrate" with Ian Richardson at the Savoy Theatre, and a supper at Simpson's. The Club has now booked its next outing to see "Chicago" in July.

There have been some mutterings from members who complain they would have liked to have gone on this or that outing but never heard about it. Sorry, chums, you have

missed on vital point. When the Club was formed, all members were asked if they were interested. Only those who replied have been subsequently circularised with news of forthcoming trips. If you didn't join at the time, you would not have been notified, because it's a waste of time and money to circularise everyone. So, if you are interested, contact June Curtis (721583) NOW. There's a possible trip to Glyndebourne soon.

Lastly, the children's contact group has had some thirty expressions of interest. If you've teens or sub-teens looking for peer group acquaintances, contact Ann Garner (720561).

No, that wasn't lastly-sorry. There are vacancies on LRA Committee, particularly for the L.Drive, V. Way and L.House area. It is often assumed because your Editor is in V.Way, he represents that patch. Not true-he has no status other than passing on what the committee decides.

BITS AND PIECES

This Newsletter must be, and indeed wishes to be, neutral politically. So here is a thoroughly neutral bouquet and brickbat for the same party. Jane Weitzmann, who was the Conservative Councillor for this area (and who, indeed, hoped, in vain, to move into Loudwater) has been elected for the Ricky Town area where she now lives. We found her both courteous and efficient in our interest and she will be a hard act to follow. Her successor is Cllr. Carole Cohen, of Chalfont Lane.

In the same Council elections, the Conservative nominee for the safe Tory seat of Carpenders Park was a Mr Mark Shepherd. He now sits on a TRDC Council committed to resist unwelcome development, particularly in sensitive areas such as Loudwater.

Er-surely not the same Mr Shepherd who has fought the Council over Bridle Path Cottage, Hillpoint etc? Er-well, yes, actually!

The new Chairman of Chorlywood Parish Council is former Bridle Lane resident Geoff Liley. We wish him well and are glad to have someone there who knows Loudwater.

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Micklefield Hall has been awash with stars of stage and screen recently. For the third time, this very splendid estate has been chosen for the background to a film or television drama.

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Our freedom from crime miraculously continues. But, as N. Watch representative John Reshaw said in his admirably brief AGM report, Vigilance is the answer. Lock your doors, back and front, keep valuables out of sight, get them marked or take photographs, don't leave your garage doors open for hours, put a decent lock on sheds where you keep motor mowers, etc.

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Many, many thanks to the several people who were kind enough to respond to the plea for missing newsletters. Not merely have the gaps been filled, but the incompetence of your Editor has been exposed. In saying he had no No.74, he found that the reason was that, stupidly, he had numbered No.73 twice. So all who have a collection (more than you

would have thought), my apologies and please number Jan 1995 as 73a.

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David Silbermann, the current Chairman of Bridle Lane (Estates) Ltd., quite rightly takes me gently to task over what I said about that organisation in the last issue. He writes: "It is important to correct that Bridle Lane (Estates) Ltd., does own the road known as Bridle Lane and also the cul-de-sac off it known as Wagon Way. The company's principal activity is to act for the mutual benefit of the company's shareholders in respect of Bridle Lane's surroundings and amenities. The company's 57 members are the owners of properties in those two roads. They each hold five shares. The company charges an annual levy for road maintenance etc".

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PLANNING

- 0925/97 Highacre, L. Height. Erect two detached dwellings. (Refused).
- 0926/97 Highacre, L. Height. one detached dwelling. (Refused).
- 0988/97 Land at Hillpoint and Glenhayes. Erect six detached dwellings with garages. (Refused, appealed).
- 0051/98 Highfields, T. Way. Convert garage into room, one-storey detached garage with store. (Approved).
- 0059/98 Old Meadow, Wagon Way. Erect detached house and garage. (Approved).
- 0070/98 Dacres, T. Way One-Storey rear extension. (Approved).
- 0082/98 Barton Lodge, Bridle Lane. First floor extension and canopy. (Approved).
- 0124/98 Arlesey House, Rooks Hill. Two-storey side and rear extension. (Approved).
- 0145/98 Cherry Cottage, T. Way. One-storey garage extension to side. (Approved).
- 0157/98 Riverview, L. Lane. Two-storey side and rear extension. (Approved).
- 0178/98 Dorney, T. Rise. Erect detached dwelling. (Approved).
- 0126/98 Clarnish, Lodge Drive. Certificate of lawfulness-proposed use for one-storey extension.
- 0199/98 Land at Tall Trees and Willows, L. Drive. Erect three detached dwellings and garages to replace existing dwelling and garage. (Refused).
- 0204/98 Land at Hillpoint and Glenhayes. Erect detached house with garage and new access.
- 0264/99 Lower Plantation. Part two, part one single-storey side extension.
- 0267/98 Bridle Path Cottage, L. Lane. Alterations and extensions to existing one-storey building to create two-storey dwelling with new access via Tall Trees and across Bridle Path (Refused).
- 0272/98 The Spinney, Bridle Lane. One-storey conservatory at rear.
- 0288/98 The Spinney, Bridle Lane. One-storey front and side extension, erect one-storey detached garage.
- 0377/98 Bentley, V. Way. Replace flat roof with pitched roof.