

## LOUDWATER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

*Chairman*  
Godfrey Crook  
Keruing Cedar  
Chess Hill  
R. 776567

*Vice-Chairman*  
Denise Preedy  
12 Harewood  
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*Treasurer*  
Maurice Escow  
Wildwood  
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NEWSLETTER No. 92

JULY 1999

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Editor: John Jarrett

Unfortunately, the most important news for this issue is that our respite from burglaries seems to be over.

After several years when we had only a few incidents, there were five in April and May. To those who suffered it is small consolation that several of these attempts were frustrated and that losses were relatively small in all.

However, a couple of cases have produced some frustration for our hard-working Neighbourhood Watch scheme because the residents involved have demanded that the news not be put out on the N.W. network.

This, of course, is their right but it is difficult to understand. No-one should feel embarrassed at being burgled because it can happen to even the most careful residents. But one of the strengths of the N.W. network (when working properly) is that other residents in the same road or area can be alerted and reminded "It could be YOU!" Opting out is hardly fair on others.

Furthermore, the secrecy doesn't work. Police come to a house, they ask neighbours if they saw anything, those neighbours tell other neighbours and so on.

### THE BUSY, BUSY LRA

All the LRA community activities are thriving. We can do no more than list what's been decided or proposed.

There will be another wine tasting on November 26. The Theatre Club visit to Watersmeet for "Fiddler on the Roof" was attended by 24 people and the visit to The Globe was sold out and to quote one member, "I'm no Shakespeare merchant, but it was great!" Contact June Curtis (721583).

Both Investment Clubs are now in profit. There are still a few vacancies left - contact Tony Moss (774907). Discussions are still going on about another Antiques Roadshow, a Gardening Club and a Tennis Competition. The Bridge Club continues to thrive and has now repaid its loan from the LRA (for tables, etc.). Contact John Parsons (710633). Lastly, the Children's Contact Group is holding a party on Sunday, July 11th (contact Ann Garner (770633)).

A notice of the LRA AGM on June 23 should have gone out by now and of the fact that there is no Garden Party this year, but another Jazz Evening Party on July 10.

Some of these dates should have been in the last Newsletter but, because of a hiccup in communications, your Editor did not get this news. Sorry, but non mea culpa.

### THANK YOU AND WELCOME

Joan Martin, widow of our late much-loved Chairman, Desmond Martin, has left the area - but only to Rickmansworth. A tribute to Joan follows below. We are lucky that, even when we lose one or two good Committee members, others come forward. Thank you Joan, for all you did, and welcome to Mary Jane Peet of L. Lane, Peter Phillips of Armitage Close and Roy Sterry of Troutstream Way who have all joined the Committee. Welcome also Denise Preedy as the LRA's new Vice-Chairman.

### YOU WRITE

"It was the sort of occasion the LRA generates!

"Joan Martin of Chess Cottage is, alas, moving to the Bury, near St. Mary's, and said goodbye to friends and neighbours at a cheese and wine party on Friday, May 21. The friendship was palpable. Desmond Martin, Joan's late husband, gave several years' service to the LRA, first as the linch-pin of Neighbourhood Watch, and later as Chairman. When, later, Joan joined the Committee, she was a tower of strength in social events.

"Her farewell party spoke volumes for those who work for the LRA, serve on the Committee, help keep Loudwater a place that people want to live in and belong to. (Let us also pay tribute to those who deliver the Newsletter, particularly in Winter!)

"Each Chairman puts his stamp on the personality of Loudwater, not least the present Chairman, Godfrey Crook, for friendliness and social contact. But, above all, we owe a debt to John Jarrett, Chairman for 8 years and Editor of the Newsletter for so long, who has worked so hard during the past 20 + years to keep the people of Loudwater in touch.

"We need to support the LRA - it helps preserve Loudwater's essential character."

Dorothy Francis, Troutstream Way.

(Aw. Gee, shucks, Dorothy - you sorta make a feller plumb shy, y'do! Nobody should forget that Dorothy was for some years the Newsletter Editor and her husband Hywel an excellent Secretary of the Estate Board.)

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"We have lived at Swandrift in Trout Rise for 19 years. When we arrived, there was a beautiful pair of swans on the river, who swam past our windows so regularly that we persuaded some gullible visitors that these birds were radio controlled models!

"But one died, the other eventually flew away. Then we thought it would be a good idea to re-introduce another pair, so we contacted the Environment Agency who put us in touch with the Egham Swan Sanctuary. They were very helpful and advised us that the stretch of river parallel to the bottom of Trout Rise could sustain a pair that they would bring.

"They arrived in mid-May. But sadly the tale has no happy ending because the depth of the river in early summer was not enough for the swans to swim. They were taken back to Egham. The Sanctuary people were very disappointed because they thought that, otherwise, the Troutstream environment was ideal.

"Their time was not completely wasted, because they also released a number of ducklings. After a few days, there seemed to be a good proportion that had survived.

"Our plan, though unsuccessful, showed one thing that should concern all residents. The depth of the Chess has declined. If nothing is done, could it disappear like the



Misbourne at Amersham, leaving just a line of dusty pebbles where trout, grayling and roach once swam?"

Andrew Ducat, Trout Rise.

(Andrew and Angie are an example to us all - like that other swan - lover, Derek Woolcot, Loudwater Lane. Older residents may remember the virtual disappearance of life from the Chess some 20 years ago, which the LRA finally tracked down to pollution released during re-building of Chesham Sewage Works. Slowly, the little shrimp came back and the fish followed. Then we had to fight extraction and nitrate run-off from the farms up-river. Now, again, fish are returning, but swans - and Loudwater always used to have a family - face two problems, one out of our control and one which can be tackled. The first is global warming and the massive increases in domestic and industrial water use. The second is the understandable, but unfortunate, wish of some riparian owners to tidy their water verge to look like a park. Swans need the protection of rough ground with cover in which their nest mounds can be safe. At least two traditional sites have been destroyed by "tidying", Ed.)

### THE COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The District Councillors for the Loudwater/Chorleywood area remain Carole Cohen (of Chalfont Lane) and Ken Morris (of Burfield Road). For the Loudwater (Rickmansworth) area they are John Hauxwell and F. Graham Williams, both of Rickmansworth.

But we now, once more, have a District Councillor in Loudwater, as Peter Lough of Troutstream Way was elected for Rickmansworth West. Congratulations, Peter!

It would do your Editor's domestic life no good if he did not report that Parish Cllr. Margaret Jarrett was re-elected and top of the poll for the Chorleywood Parish Council. She is now Vice Chairman.

The full Council picture is that Three Rivers District Council now has a Lib. Dem. majority. The Parish Council has 8 Con., 8 Lib., and 1 Ind.

P.S. We said in the last issue that Loudwater Farm was going, very conveniently, to be a polling station. Sorry - the arrangement broke down after we went to press.

### THE THREAT CONTINUES

Cllr. Shephard continues to try to develop in Loudwater. After previous rejections, new plans were put forward for Tall Trees and Bridle Path Cottage which, among other things, appeared to provide space for 7 cars. However, these were re-submitted (before reaching the Planning Committee) with variations. The attritional war goes on.

### BITS AND PIECES

An apology and an anecdote about the Newsletter.

The last issue made some people check their eyesight. The traditional Editor's get-out is always to blame the printer, but in this case it's true. His typesetter insists on trying to get all the text in, which is considerate, but means dropping the type size, whereas the instruction is to raise it if anything because the text can be cut.

The poor printer, when the fault was pointed out, was quite willing to re-print but he said "With so much election material to print, Heaven knows when you'll get it!" So we went ahead; this issue is the right size.

Now, on a different point, one member said "What I don't like about the Newsletter is it's very bitter." Alarmed, your Editor asked the next member he met what she thought the

main fault was. Her reply: "Well, you're a bit too frivolous sometimes." Perhaps this means we do strike a happy medium?

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We had, briefly, a second Knight in Loudwater (Sir Frank Rogers was the first). Gordon Jarvis, of Troutstream Way, was knighted last month for charitable services. We understand the Prime Minister rang to congratulate him. Sadly, Sir Gordon, already seriously ill, died shortly after the award.

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We have been informed of 3 new families joining us: Leslie Scott and Carrie Francis in Monticello (formerly White Cottage), Loudwater Lane; Stella and Don Garner, Chess Rise, Chess Hill; and Robert and Susan Stent and daughters in Chess House, Loudwater Lane. Hope you'll all be happy here.

### PLANNING

- 0060/99 14, Lower Plantation. Part two-storey rear extension and first floor extension. (Refused)
- 0112/99 Nightingale, Whisper Wood. One-storey rear extension. (Approved)
- 0128/99 Burnside, T. Way. Conservatory at rear. (Approved)
- 01140/99 St. Cyrus, T. Rise. Two-storey extension on both sides. (Refused)
- 01144/99 White Webbs, Cherry Hill. Two-storey extension. (Refused)
- 01194/99 Broad Oaks, T. Rise. Retrospective permission for gate piers etc. (Approved in Part)
- 01166/99 Shepherd's Gate, Wagon Way. One and two-storey extension, convert garage to habitable room, loft conversion. (Approved)
- 01185/99 The White House, T. Rise. Car Port.
- 01299/99 Woodcourt, T. Rise. One-storey and first floor extension. (Approved)
- 01284/99 Omega Lodge, T. Way. Convert garage into habitable room, erect double garage. (Refused)
- 01283/99 Celandine, Violet Way. Three-storey side extension and porch.
- 01349/99 Tall Trees, L. Drive. Two-storey rear extension, rear conservatory, erect two outbuildings, widen drive.
- 01350/99 Tall Trees, L. Drive. Demolish rear lounge and front lobby.
- 01364/99 Tall Trees, L. Drive. Extend driveway, erect double garage, pedestrian access to Bridle Path Cottage.
- 01457/99 16, Lower Plantation. First floor extension at side, one-storey front extension.
- 01547/99 Greenacres, T. Way. Amend extension to add first floor extension in gable ends.
- 01565/99 Jacasupi, Lower Plantation. One-storey and first-floor extension.