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NEWSLETTER No. 93

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Editor: John Jarrett

Our AGM was, as usual, well attended for that type of meeting, and an unusually wide variety of subjects were covered, especially the success of the various clubs, of which perhaps the most surprising was the Children's contact group. Ann Garner started this because she felt that in an area that could be as isolated as this there was a need for a register of families with children so that they could meet together. Since it began in late 1997, no fewer than 32 families have joined with 63 children between them.

This is success by any standards, and Ann Garner is to be congratulated. An interesting by-product is that the club has also proved to be the focus of a social centre for the au pairs and child-carers of the club children.

The Bridge, Investment and Theatre Clubs all have had good years: another wine tasting is planned, as is another antiques evening; a gardening club and a tennis tournament are under discussion, the Masonic School (which is already kind to us by letting us use their car park as the Theatre Club's assembly point) having agreed we can use their courts.

MORE FROM THE AGM

The superbly tenacious Don Camell reported on planning that all applications that we objected to were turned down, but the saga of Hillpoint and Bridle Path Cottage continues, despite refusals. The site at Hillpoint, L. Lane, has been given reluctant approval by TRDC for the reduced number of four houses, but Tree Preservation orders are being upheld.

The continued attempt to get a vehicular access to Bridle Path Cottage is stymieing the repair of the Bridle Path ordered by the Inspector. Chairman Godfrey Crook urged members not to give up writing to TRDC with planning objections, as developers rely on wearing us down.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

June Curtis writes the following plea.

"Loudwater's very worthwhile N.W. organisation is in danger of breaking down in some areas. Within the gated area, less than half the houses have a co-ordinator living nearby and therefore are not getting warned of crimes near them. The end of this year has seen an unfortunate rise and the number of 1999 crimes has overtaken that of the admittedly low 1998 total.

"If you are in a N.W. scheme, you are made aware of a spate of garden shed/garage break-ins, or high performance cars being targeted or bogus utility officials trying their luck.

"All that is asked of a co-ordinator is to make two phone calls per crime, so that information can be passed on. The number of incidents, actual or possible, varies from 8-13 a year. If you think you could help to keep this vital community bond alive, and live in one of the following locations, please ring me.

"T. Way. Between Troutcote and Old Tiles: between Troutstream Lodge and Firs Lodge.

"T. Rise. Between Lilac Cottage and the Farm House: between Tara and The Warren; between Cherry Hill Cottage and Dorney: between South Winds and Beech Hill.

"Cherry Hill, and Glen Chess." June Curtis - 721583

LETTERS

"I was interested in Andrew Ducat's letter on the disappearance of our swans, and his attempts to re-introduce a pair.

"When I came here in 1976, a pair of swans made daily visits to the lake behind Glen Chess, as well as making excursions up stream. A few years ago, problems occurred with the old pair, and a new pair took over, but the pen seemed immature for breeding. However, a nest was built in April 1996, but not used. They reappeared and a nest was built in Spring 1997, but they again left till the Autumn. The story was repeated in 1998, but I hope they will return this Autumn.

"Why they behave this way is a mystery - I know it's the same pair, because the Cob always "talks" to me when I feed him, and surely the lake is more than adequate in depth even if river levels are down".

Derek Woolcott, Chess Falls, L. Lane

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"Are you a dog lover with free time during the week who would like to earn some pin money?

"We have a much-loved 10-year old Border Collie and 10 month-old Labrador who will be losing the retired couple who walk them during the week. (They are moving to the country, but have enjoyed exercising the dogs as well as earning some pin money while we are out at work.) If you would be interested, please contact Lesley on 01923 790927. We live on Loudwater Lane. Holidays or days when you cannot oblige can be managed with the help of family of friends."

Lesley Scott, Monticello, L. Lane.

CHECK WITH MORE KNIGHTS

Your Editor was one or two pieces short of a full board when he wrote of Loudwater having "its second knight".

In fact, Sir Gordon Jarvis was at least our sixth.

Our most senior was Sir Thomas Lewis, internationally famous cardiologist, and husband of Lady Lorna Lewis, for many years the power-house of Chorleywood local politics.

Others were Sir George Baker, High Court judge and pioneer of divorce law reform: Sir Kenneth Durham, a Chairman of Unilever, and last but not least and unforgivably omitted, the redoubtable Sir Ivor Broom, distinguished airman and now President of the Rickmansworth Society.

There was also Lord Diamond, Labour Financial Secretary to the Treasury in the Wilson Cabinet, who was ennobled shortly after leaving Rookery Wood, L. Lane.

To all, apologies.

BITS AND PIECES

Three Rivers Council has been conducting air pollution level studies now for three years, and Junction 18 has lost its reputation as the worst affected. It is now only second to Hornhill Road, Maple Cross, near Junction 17, which is at twice the recommended level. For the sake of children and old people with breathing problems, warnings will now be put out on local radio when levels are expected to be dangerous.

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It has been pointed out that the reference to the election of John Hauxwell as a District Councillor for Rickmansworth may not have conveyed to readers that Cllr. Hauxwell does in fact live in Bridle Lane.

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With the glow from the M25, and with all our trees, the eclipse was never going to be spectacular in Loudwater. But a number of people did report seeing on their patios and drives a sudden pattern of little feathery crescents.

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Peter Tate of Rooks Hill, joined in the correspondence in the local paper about a World War II incident when a plane was brought down locally by our own AA guns. Peter writes that a Halifax was fired on by guns from Langley (Slough) and crashed at Lodge Farm, Chorleywood (almost Little Chalfont.)

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This seems to be a sackcloth and ashes issue. We also have to apologise to Mr. R. Blue of White Webs, Cherry Hill, for printing that his planning application had been refused. The eye slipped in that long list to type the wrong word, Mr. Blue's application was in fact agreed.

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The tedious difficulties with TRDC over replacing the community noticeboard in T. Way have been circumvented. The Estate Board had had its handyman build a very handsome board, half for the Board's use, and half for the LRA. It is covered and locked, so notices must be agreed with the relevant body. Many thanks to the Estate Board for this gesture.

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Sheila Fawkner-Corbett, of L. House, has been co-opted on to the Committee. Thank you, Sheila.

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Another of our popular wine tasting events will take place on November 19 in the restored barn at Loudwater Farm. But this will be something special- a "tutored tasting" by international wine judge Lilyane Weston. Apply on the form with this Newsletter.

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THE ESTATE BOARD AGM

The Estate Board AGM deserves a better attendance (fewer than twenty households represented) because there were weighty matters discussed. We summarise these.

Conservation Area status. John Watkiss said that the order for this, after much delay, was now virtually in place. Chimney, roof and fence regulations are now tighter. Permission is needed for any demolition. All trees are now covered by protection orders. (A rough definition of a "tree" is anything the width of a jam jar at six feet up.)

Planning. There was general dismay at the way new and architecturally sterile houses on the Chorleywood Road disfigured the Southern vista. The houses at the top of T. Way, purchased and then leased by the Highways authority for the now abandoned M25 widening, have been released for sale, ending occupation in one case by "neighbours from Hell", who were eventually evicted.

Committee. Maureen Salter, after years of great service in subscription collection, has retired, and is replaced by June Curtis.

ROADS

Built in the early 1930's, the roads on the Loudwater Estate are now over 60 years old. Their fragile foundations, by modern standards, carry many of the original essential services of gas,

electricity, water etc, most buried close to the road surface.

These roads with their narrow widths and tight corners, were never built to carry the huge weights (in some cases over 35 tonnes) and long lengths of present day Heavy Goods Vehicles. Once in the Estate, these lorries damage verges, corners the road surface, (which we all have to pay for) and the road foundations.

At the AGM, residents were told that the Estate Board was undertaking a survey to try to establish the condition of the old foundations and what damage they had suffered.

The residents at the AGM all agreed that an experiment should be started, in order to limit access of HGV's onto the Estate roads. The unique system of Bell Bollards will be used to restrict the wide entrance on the outside of the Troutstream Way gate, to stop HGVs being able to turn into the Estate.

These bollards are widely and effectively used in similar situations in and around central London. Access to the Estate for essential services vehicles will not be impaired and the Bell Bollards can be removed, at a cost and under special circumstances, such as road re-surfacing.

PLANNING

- 01185/99 The White House, T. Rise. Car Port. (Approved).
- 01212/99 Tall Pines, T. Way. Certificate of lawful development proposal. Partly demolish garage, construct new integral garages, snooker room, new porch. (Refused).
- 01283/99 Celandine, V. Way. Three-storey side extension and porch. (Approved).
- 01349/99 Tall Trees, L. Drive. Two-storey rear extension, rear conservatory, erect two out-buildings, widen drive. (Refused).
- 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. (Withdrawn).
- 01457/99 16, Lower Plantation. First-floor extension at side one-storey front extension. (Withdrawn).
- 01425/99 1&2 Rose Gardens. Three garages instead of four. (Refused).
- 01547/00 Greenacres, T. Way. Amend extension to add first floor extension, gable ends. (Approved).
- 01565/99 Jacasupi, Lower Plantation. One-storey and first-floor extension. (approved).
- 01581/99 Omega Lodge, T. Way. Convert garages to habitable rooms, erect one-storey detached double garage, pitched roof.
- 01594/99 Faraway Cottage, Bridle Lane. Convert garage to room. (Approved).
- 01602/99 The Dell, L. Drive. Two-storey annex with link. (Refused).
- 01749/99 Tall Trees, L. Drive. Erect detached double garage.
- 01788/99 Littlewold, S. Lane. Two-storey side and front extensions, conservatory at rear.
- 01731/99 2, Lower Plantation. One-storey side extension, rear conservatory.
- 01796/99 Bower Cottage, Rooks Hill. One-storey and rear extensions, replace garage.
- 01803/99 Emmanuel House, Timber Ridge. One-storey conservatory.
- 01876/99 Tall Trees, L. Drive. Certificate of lawful use for level hard surface for access to Bridle Path.
- 01894/99 Winbar, T. Way. Two-storey side extension
- 01968/99 Lower Plantation. Part two-storey extension and first-floor side extension.