

# Loudwater Residents Association

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Maurice Escow  
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Editor: John Jarrett

With great immodesty, the Newsletter is leading this issue with a story about itself.

The next issue in July will be the one-hundredth, and signals the twenty-fifth birthday of the re-formed LRA. The Committee has been kind enough to allow extra money for this special edition which will be four-page and in colour, with illustrations.

For this, the Editor needs your help. There will be a need for pictures of Loudwater people, places, things, and at the moment they are short. It would be much appreciated if any resident who has such a picture send it to the Editor by the 1st June. Remember, any such picture must be capable of being reduced to the width of one of these columns. Any pictures sent will be returned and credit will be given to those kind enough to help.

☆ PLEASE HELP TO MAKE OUR SILVER ANNIVERSARY SPARKLE ☆

## An Advance on the AGM

Our AGM unfortunately comes after the deadline for this issue, so will have to be reported belatedly in July. However, it is clear that two major points will be the confirmation of Denise Preedy as Chairman (and fulfil your Editor's long wish that the LRA break the male succession !)

The other will be the proposition to adopt a new constitution as the old one does by now need clarification and up-dating in some points.

We will be losing two Committee members of long standing. Don Cammell has resisted all attempts to make him change his decision to stand down from his arduous duties on planning applications.

Godfrey Crook will also be resigning after 16 years of service, latterly as Chairman. Godfrey's enduring legacy will be the flourishing of social activities for members.

## Our thank you to Rob

After a number of annoying delays, the LRA cheque to Rob has been sent off. With a private collection by L.House and private gifts, the sum raised exceeded £1500. Rob has asked if we will print this letter.

"May we take the opportunity to convey our sincere appreciation to all members who contributed to our testimonial fund. We were overwhelmed by the generosity shown.

"Over the thirty years we worked at the garage, it was a pleasure to serve Loudwater residents and we have many fond memories. We will always treasure the friendships of so many loyal customers. Many of you will remember my father who worked in Loudwater from 1926 to 1975 and pioneered the garage service. I would like to consider this testimonial fund also as a well-deserved tribute to his endeavours. Our very best wishes to you all."

Rob and Kathy Simmonds, Cranworth Spring, Rose Nannon, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL 30 5 PL.

## How fast can you go?

Herts County Council has announced it intends to place a 30m.p.h limit on Sarratt Lane from Ladywood Close through to L.Lane's junction with Armitage Close, and also in Ladywood Close and Armitage Close.

Obviously, any attempts to stop speeding are welcome, but your Editor is little cheered by the news. The road covered, with its several blind bends, is not safe at 29m.p.h., while he doubts if anyone in Ladywood Close or Armitage Close, even with a Grand Prix team, can manage 30m.p.h. from garage to junction.

## Take Care - Take Advantage

The police have asked us to alert you to a scam. An unscrupulous company is working in our area to persuade owners, often elderly, to buy expensive security systems. They ring up, get invited in, and then try to sell products at very high prices. If they visit you, contact the police on 01923 472000

The Fire Brigade, on the other hand, want us to spread the news that they will fit smoke and fire alarms in your house free of charge. Contact Ricky Fire Station.

## Death of a designer

Belatedly, this Newsletter takes note of one of the more remarkable Loudwater characters, Roy King, who died last year.

Roy was an orphan who grew up in great poverty in London. From somewhere, there emerged an artistic talent which led him to working with jewellery. From humble apprenticeships to his own first faltering design attempts, he became an international designer for such firms as Cartier, Van Cleef etc and earned him a large obituary in The Times. Roy bought a house in T. Way from where he ran jewellery shops in London and Watford, although he was always more of an artist than a businessman. One of his sons, Benny King, later lived in Greythorpes in T.Rise. Though Roy's domestic life was somewhat chaotic, right up to his death he continued to win awards at international jewellery design competitions.

## Bits and Pieces

Your Editor has been sarcastically complimented for giving advice on how to stop junk mail and telephone salesmanship because (thank you, Mr. Lawler) it would have helped if he had not given the stop-post phone number for the stop-phone number and vice versa. Sorry - switch them round.

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Peter Phillips, of Armitage Close and a Committee member, was mentioned in the local paper for two widely different events. As a former Vice-President of Watford F.C., he was a guest at the dinner to celebrate Graham Taylor's one thousandth match as a Manager. He also played a prominent part in working for the National Holocaust Remembrance Day in January this year on the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps in 1945.

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Members will shortly be receiving details of another special LRA social coup.

Richard Page MP has kindly agreed to act as host for a visit to the Houses of Parliament. There will be a tour of the Commons and the Lords, a reception on the terrace with drinks and a dinner in the Churchill Room. Numbers will be limited, so when you get your official form, don't delay because this, like our Millennium Event, is sure to be a sell-out.

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The Newsletter doesn't often get a chance to salute individual acts of community spirit, so it is a pleasant thing to mention young Mr. Trudeau of Trout Rise.

In January, a number of cars got stuck on the last few feet of K. Lure. Many of them would have been there for hours had it not been for Mr. Trudeau and his four-wheel drive car, who pulled them up on to the C/wood Road.

To one resident who said thank you, Mr. Trudeau replied: "Oh, please, don't bother. I've been doing this all day." Thank you, sir.

We had a loss of "power" early this year. John Power, whom we profiled in our last Newsletter as the Royal Corps of Commissionaires' occupant of the K. Lure hut, soon found that the considerable journey from his home was not to his liking.

His replacement is Stephen Welch. Mr. Welch is a former railwayman, the R.C.O.C no longer being comprised exclusively of ex-Servicemen. He lives in Three Rivers so does not find the journey too bad. He is also, I gather, a dab hand on the banjo, so anyone wanting George Formby songs knows where to apply.

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Once again, your Editor has received a flock of notifications of new arrivals. People do seem to be getting the message that it is both administratively important and socially benevolent to be able to announce the arrival of new Loudwaterians. (Ugh! Isn't that awful - what should we call ourselves? Chessmen perhaps?)

Whatever, welcome to Fernando and Melanie Getino, Sarratt Lane; Valerie and Martin Turner, Chess Hill; Major D.Sullivan and Mary and David, Sarratt Lane; Terry and Doreen Arons, L. House; and Robert and Patrick Long, also of L. House.

**For the Longs, it must be said hereby hangs a tale. On calling to welcome them, I was told there would be little chance of a meeting till later in the year, Mr. Long sr. being at that time somewhere off the Phillipines competing in a round-the-world yacht race. (Really, there's no keeping track of some of you!)**

### Checking the Chess

Parish Councillor Margaret Jarrett writes.

"Last November, the Chilterns A.O.N.B. Office asked me to help their officer, Sarah Bentley, to survey the Loudwater area of the Chess. As a chalk stream, it is of a kind special to Southern England and important for fish and river mammals.

"Almost all Loudwater riparian owners generously let us walk their back garden river frontages and - on the only fine morning for weeks! - we walked the river from Solesbridge Mill to L.Lane.

"Sarah has produced a first report which has been circulated to those who took part. It explains that simple changes, such as not boarding up banks and providing cover by leaving river edges unmown can make an enormous difference to wild life, particularly the water vole which is on the verge of extinction. There are bank supports that do allow voles to burrow, and native marginal plants can look better than a manicured lawn.

"We hope to repeat the walk in Summer. Thanks to all who helped - see you again."

### It's Becoming Loudmortar

Long-term residents are feeling that Loudwater has never been so much of a building site.

The last vacant plot in T.Rise is about to be one, L. Lane from the C/wood Road to Sarratt Lane has mansions going up, houses being knocked down to be replaced by larger ditto, infilling is pushing its way in all over, builders' lorries trundle to extensions in Bridle Lane and Wagon Way, L/water Drive is two-thirds turmoil, and V.Way has an extension that is now known as "The Mousetrap" because it seems to go on for ever.

To be fair, only some of this is because of developers - most of it is generated by residents. Oh, won't we all be glad to see things calm down! But look at the planning list!

Great Poplars (L. Lane) failure to carry out all the required replanting has been referred to the notoriously slow Forestry Commission.

### A jolly good chapati

Mrs Manorma Chopra of Ladywood Close has kindly agreed to give a course of three Indian cookery lessons in her kitchen there. She aims to teach a few basic Indian sauces and is prepared to take the lucky group to Southall Market to buy herbs and spices for these dishes.

(She is also ready to organise a trip to the Temple at Neasden). Obviously, numbers for these lessons will be very restricted so if interested please phone: Sheila Fawcner-Corbett on 775695.

### And a very good deal

For those who'd like to play bridge but feel they're not up to standard, the Bridge Club is having a special "Learners and Beginners" evening on Wednesday, April 25th. For details, contact Liz Crook, 776567.

### The Keruing Cedar Debacle

The application to build on this site has been granted. It was passed four to two by the barely quorate Planning Committee which has eleven members. This was despite robust objections from the Planning Officer concerned (Planning Officer's recommendations for refusal are almost never overturned), scores of objections from local residents and strenuous, continuous objections from the LRA.

On January 18th, Godfrey Crook stood down as Chairman of the LRA and, will not stand for re-election to the Committee.

### Planning

- 0998/00 Land between Larchmead / The Farm House. Erect detached house, garage.
- 01094/00 - 01097/00 The Dell, L.Drive. One and two-storey side extensions.
- 01095/00 Keruing Cedar, Chess Hill. Erect detached house and garage (Objected, refused).
- 01137/00 Mansard Cottage, L.Lane. Demolish existing, erect new building. (Objected, refused)
- 01163/00 Tall Trees, L.Drive. Access via Tall Trees for Bridle Path Cottage (Objected, refused).
- 01178/00 Loudwater Garage, T.Way. Redevelop to form four residential units.
- 01336/00 Timberdene, Penwood, L.Drive. Build tennis court. (Approved).
- 01360/00 Cherry Hill Cottage, T.Rise. Alts. To gate, build glasshouse.
- 01392/00 Corner Croft, L.Heights. Two-storey side extension, replace garage. (Approved)
- 01457/00 Thatches, L.Lane. Two-storey front extension. (Approved).
- 01500/00 Old Meadow, Wagon Way. Build conservatory. (Approved).
- 01503/00 Willows, L.Drive. Build rear conservatory.
- 01559/00 Moonya, B.Lane. Two-storey rear extension.
- 01609/00 The Old Dairy, Micklefield Hall, Sarratt Lane. Change from farm building to residential.
- 01611/00 Listed building consent to change farm building to residential.
- 01635/00 Jasmine Cottage, R.Hill. Two-storey rear extension convert garage. Build garage. (Refused).
- 01620/00 Elm Cottage, Chess Lane. Demolish existing, build new house and garage.
- 00045/01 Dorney, T.Rise. Outline renewal to build detached house.
- 00047/01 The Brambles, L.Lane. First floor rear extension, one-storey garage extension. (Approved).
- 00103/01 Hazel Cottage, L.Lane. One storey rear extension.
- 00166/01 Littlewold, Sarratt Lane. Build car port.
- 00206/01 The White House, T.Rise. Build detached garage.
- 00225/01 Barton Lodge, Bridle Lane. Build rear conservatory.
- 00226/01 11, Ladywood Close. Loft conversion with dormer.
- 00240/01 Chessbord, T.Way. Demolish existing house, garage, out-buildings. Replace with new. (Objected).
- 00244/01 Oak End, Wagon Way. Alterations to elevation.
- 00251/01 Keruing Cedar, Chess Hill. Revised new house in garden. (Objected, approved).
- 00237/01 Land between Larchmead/The Farm House, T. Rise. Build two detached houses. (Objected).
- 00275/01 The Tile House, T.Rise. Two-storey and one-storey side extension, porch, internal alts.
- 00293/01 Far End, Wagon Way. One-storey side and rear extension.