

Loudwater Residents Association

SO HERE WE ARE OUR ONE HUNDREDTH NEWSLETTER MARKING TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF THE LRA. WE HAVE A SILVER ANNIVERSARY.

How has it been? Well, if you listen to some of those who've been here longest, the whole area has gone to Hell in a handcart. But then don't those of us in our sixties and seventies often feel that it was so much better when we were young?

But in fact over twenty-five years, Loudwater physically has changed very little. Once you allow for Lower Plantation, there has been very little extra housing. What has changed is that over one in four houses has been extended; what has changed is that, with property values rocketing, churning houses has increased turn-over of residents heavily. But what has perhaps changed most has been the multiplication of cars - almost no one without a car, most with two, many with three and some with four.

When your Editor first came to Loudwater, he was too poor to have a car. But he, his wife and their children went to work, to shop, school or for an evening out by public transport. The 336A, known as "Harry's bus" after its driver, Harry Cross, ran through Loudwater to Rickmansworth, or, if you wanted Watford or Amersham, deposited you in the Chorleywood Road, where two services ran every fifteen minutes to those places from morning till night. When that went, Loudwater without a car became impossible so we got one.

(One sad, and often unnoticed consequence of the need for a car is the number of elderly people who leave Loudwater before they really wish to, because they foresee the day they will no longer be able to drive.)

Incidentally, the car we got was, for someone working, unusual. It was not a company car - the kind that kept Rob's Garage in funds for years looking after cars that wives brought in to the garage for attention after they put their husbands on a train!

We had to talk

The disappearance of Harry's bus dealt two blows to Loudwater. The cars that were now essential meant more noise, pollution and more queues to get on to the main road - more, and bigger cars meant more dangerous and eroded verges and hedges in our back lanes. But there was also a blow to the social structure. By the very nature of its houses' size, Loudwater has never been a "chat-over-the-fence" place. But in the morning and evening peak bus services, twenty to thirty business men and women on each bus were able - indeed, almost forced - to talk to one another. Not much perhaps and not for long, but talk there was from people from all different parts of the area and

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they were the very people whose hours and work demands so often prevented them from any other LRA social activity

(And we mustn't forget that other rich vein of communication, the cleaning ladies who formed Harry's clientele mid-morning and mid-afternoon. Many a Loudwater housewife has been moved to help a neighbour after her cleaner dropped a casual remark about some problem passed on in a Harry chat - and one or two were subtly made aware that some of her household's activities were causing comment!)

It's gone, and may never return. But if any community-minded Loudwater millionaire wanted to show benevolence, financing another Loudwater bus would do much to bring Loudwater people together, which, after all, is what our one hundred issues have tried to do.



Our new Chairman Denise Preedy

Roy Preedy

Nothing from the Queen but...

All our former Chairmen have been kind enough to send us the following.

Jack Cagnet (1975-79)

"Warm congratulations to the LRA on the occasion of the 100th edition of the Newsletter.

"I am proud to think that I was the LRA Chairman (then a Committee of four!) when it was decided on John Jarrett's suggestion to produce a Newsletter. Since then he has been Editor, Production Manager, Chief contributor, and the person more than anyone else who has brought the LRA to its present very high standard. Every good wish for the future."

Don Cammell (1982-84)

"My Chairmanship was a most enjoyable experience in the heady days of 'guaranteed' sunshine for the Garden Party attended by over 250 residents and AGMs in Chorleywood House. But they were also the days of M25 noise suppression protests and the threat of a public service helicopter route over Loudwater, all of which we fought. Long may the LRA thrive in support of our community."

Maurice Escow (1984-86)

"Congratulations to the Editors on achieving this 100th edition of the excellent Newsletter. As Chairman, I was glad that so many people who came to Loudwater realised it was an area of tranquillity and natural beauty, where it is a privilege to be a resident. Alas, some come here because they can see profit from over-developing their homes to sell on, thereby desecrating the environment.

"I hope that anyone arriving here, or, more particularly

leaving here thinks before risking spoiling what the LRA have tried to preserve."

Barnaby Osborne (1987-88)

"What a great achievement! Congratulations to the Editors and contributors who have kept going for one hundred editions. In its early days, I'm sure we dared not to hope it that the LRA would continue so long.

"Since leaving Loudwater in 1988, I have kept in touch as a 'Country Member' - that is, when I have remembered to pay my subscription. I am delighted to find that so little of significance has changed."

Joan Martin

(widow of Desmond Martin 1992-95)

"One of my earliest recollections of Loudwater is of Cyril Brine (plus dog) engaging Desmond in long talk at the cottage gate as Cyril distributed the Newsletter. How much quieter Loudwater Lane was then! This was our first contact with the LRA and led Desmond on to his work with Neighbourhood Watch and finally his Chairmanship. This was the start of many good friendships in the area."

Godfrey Crook (1995-2001)

"Congratulations on the 100th. issue. The Newsletter performs a very valuable function for the residents of Loudwater. Long may it continue."

Sharp-eyed readers will notice gaps in the roll of Chairman. That is because from 1980-81 and from 1988-91, the post was held by one John Jarrett who did not feel able to contribute, beyond a gruff: "Thanks. Now let's get on with the news."



Joan Townend

Dove Cottage, home of Hywel and Dorothy Francis was specially featured as "unique" in John Betjeman's TV film "Metroland" in sections about Loudwater.

Are the birds going?

That passionate conservationist (and owner of the only proper waterfall in Loudwater) Derek Woolcott sends this letter.

"I moved into Chess Falls in 1981 and found the density and variety of birdlife special, so began keeping a record. My list currently stands at 51, including the Greater Crested Grebe, Tree-creeper, Spotted Flycatcher, Goldfinch, Bullfinch, Kingfisher and Siskin. Since last Autumn, the number and variety has dropped dramatically. Nuts and seed foods have created little interest, and I am almost reduced to the Robin, Blackbird, Wren and Blue Tit - apart, of course, from the ubiquitous predators, Magpies and Jays.

"I wonder if other residents have noticed the same change. From time to time, a Sparrow-Hawk has a hunting spree, which does not help matters, but there is an unfortunate increase also in the number of cats.

"As regard to our swans, the young pair that made their home on the Chess for the past nine months have apparently fallen out with each other and since November only the pen has visited me. I'd be grateful if anyone has any news of the cob."

Derek Woolcott, Chess Falls, L. Lane.

Bits and pieces

Richard Page (Con.) was again re-elected as our M.P. but Chorleywood has a new County Councillor, Dr. Eleanor Clarke (Lib. Dem.) having taken the seat by a very narrow margin from Cty. Cllr. Gerry Pullman. Two good Cllrs and a pity one had to lose. Barbara Lamb held her county seat for our Ricky area.

Manorma Chopra's offer of Indian cookery lessons was very well received. The first session took place on June 6th. There were so many applicants that it is hoped she will be prepared to take another group of enthusiasts in the Autumn. All those who were disappointed at insufficient room first time around will be contacted later in the year.

Our immunity from crime had a setback recently when three incidents occurred. A soft-top car was cut through and a stereo removed, another car was burgled when each partner thought the other had secured it and The Walled Garden off T.Way had its delightful Welsh dragons taken away for the second time after the householders had gone to some expense to have replicas of the originals replaced after an original theft.

On 25th April an Open Evening for Beginners and those newly interested in Bridge was held at Loudwater Farm.

The organisers were delighted to welcome fourteen prospective members and, together with six current members, an enjoyable evening was had by all - particularly those new to the game who found that social bridge really can be fun.

Name badges helped break the ice with the introductions and play was at the usual tables of four with the Chicago system of scoring being used. Such was the success of the evening that another will be held in 2002.

Opening the woods closing the gates

Some years ago the Estate Board said it hoped to start a rolling programme of improving its woodlands. It seems that may now be a little nearer. Estate Chairman John Parsons sends this report.

"The two areas of Loudwater Estate woodlands are The Spinney, about 0.18 hectares opposite Trout Rise and Barnes Wood, about 0.73 hectares. The Company, at its own



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expense, has commissioned a report and proposed action plan from Chiltern Forestry, the company that is working with Chorleywood Parish Council on the Chorleywood Common project.

"The report has not yet been before the Board, but I wanted to take the early opportunity of sharing some of the more important comments with residents. The suggested work is expensive, of course, but these wooded areas are at the heart of the Estate and their future is important to the rural charm of Loudwater. In a nutshell, the report recommends removing 25 trees in The Spinney together with an initial programme to clear and thin young regeneration in Barnes Wood, combined with widening of the major paths to about two metres. Chiltern Forestry would then assess all major trees in Barnes Wood.

"The thrust of the report is to create a better balance between mature and younger trees, and to increase light to the woodland floor. We hope shortly to inform all Estate residents about the reports, and an outline of costs and ideas on how they may be funded. To avoid any confusion, this has nothing to do with roads or associated eligible costs!"

While the new gate system seems to have been both successful and accepted, the Estate has had little luck with gatekeepers. The basic problem stems from the fact that the Royal Corps of Commissionaires can no longer rely on a supply of experienced ex-Servicemen to do what is, in our area, not the most exciting of jobs, and turnover has been more than they or the Estate Board would wish.

Lastly, the Estate Board has gained approval, after only a few minor variations suggested, of its new system of road charges.

Your Editor owes a threefold apology to Mr P. Laule of Overstream. First - the cardinal sin - for mis-spelling his name as Lawler in the last Newsletter. Second, of saying he had commented sarcastically upon an editorial mistake whereas he had merely commented, and thirdly for not publicising an interesting and profitable discovery for many of us. (Honestly, I didn't get the message, Peter!)

Mr Laule has discovered that any Loudwater resident who hasn't the facility of main road drainage (as most of us don't) can claim a rebate from the Water Authority. It can be upwards of £15 a year. But be warned - it means getting a form and waiting for ever to get paid.



Irene Richards

The late Kathleen Richards seen here on her 100th birthday

John Parsons, Chairman of the Estate Board, Cllr. Peter Lough, Godfrey Crook and your Editor (for the LRA) attended the service for the funeral of Kathleen Melville Richards of Watersmead, T. Way who died in June in her 102nd

year. Kathleen who came here in 1940 was our oldest resident. She died peacefully in her sleep and was lucid to the end.

Kathleen's husband, Melville Richards was for some years Secretary to the Estate Board and he, Kathleen, and their daughter Irene were part of the Loudwater fabric. Our condolences go to Irene.

Strangely enough, it is perhaps worth re-telling an item the Newsletter reported some time ago. Although the oldest resident, Kathleen was not the longest resident. We have one resident, now in his seventies, who lives in the house he was born in, a rare thing these mobile days.


You write

"The main duty of the LRA is to preserve the beauty of Loudwater. Sadly, we have not been too successful lately. Those of you worried by fast-moving traffic in L.Lane and wanting traffic-calming measures, relax. Soon you won't be able to move for lorries, skips etc.

"However, we have been very successful on the social side. We must be the most socially active community for miles. My daughter, who lives in Sarratt, is envious. Loudwater, after all, does not have a church, a pub, a community hall, or now, even a garage.

"The first club was formed five years ago - the Bridge Club with John Parsons as Chairman and a committee of Fenella Lough, Liz Cook, Maurice Escow and myself. Liz is now Chairman and Dennis Sare has joined the committee. The next was the Investment Clubs, chaired by Tony Moss with committee members Roy Sterry, Tony Bradford, Trevor Slade, Mike Wood and Mary-Jane Peet. Then came the Theatre Club. The work is done mainly by June Curtis, Denise Preedy and (again) Mary-Jane Peet. The biggest membership is in the Wine Club, run by Tony Hale, Mike Wood (again), Jane-Goldthorpe and Gary Coster. Ann Garner runs the childrens' contact Centre, and we are about to form a Gardening Club, Carol Escow, Ann Tate and Denise Diamond are the current Committee.

"They are all great fun and a great way to get people to meet each other.



Ugly Tree Stumps?

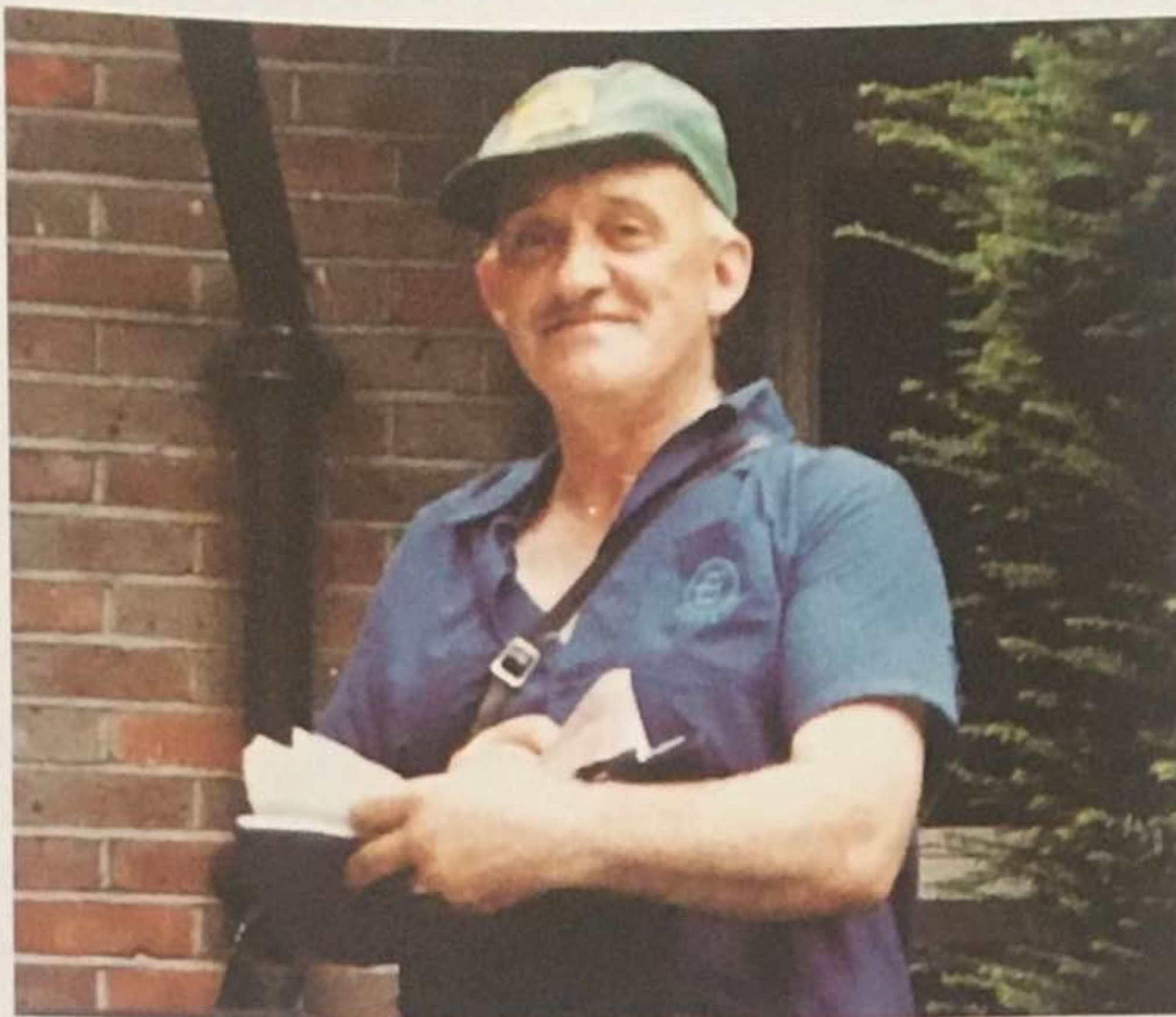
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Joan Townend

Loudwater has been very lucky in its milkmen - though as three of them have been injured here, they may have felt differently. Cheerful George Batchelor, seen above had to retire when he badly injured an arm trying to save his milk lorry when it was sent careering downhill by a passing car.

"The only snag is that the memberships are a lot of the same people. So, to those who don't belong to any, I say: "Come on in, the water's lovely." We moved to Loudwater in 1972 and, except for our immediate neighbours, I hardly knew a soul. Now I know lots of you and you're not a bad bunch!!"

Peter Phillips, Armitage Close.

The Gardening Club Peter mentions is now in being and has made its first booking, a tour of Waddesden Manor on August 8th. Joining the club costs £10. More details from its Chairman, Ann Tate - 773863. Ed.)

Welcome to: Mr Jason Carey in Glen Chess, L. Lane, Mr Zangora in Cherry Hill Mr and Mrs Hallworth in T. Way John and Sally Beck in Sarratt Lane. Hope you're very happy here.

Getting into Parliament

The LRA trip to the Houses of Parliament was a smash hit for some 70 of us. Fascinating tours, superb meals, wine on a sunlit terrace. full report next issue as too close to deadline to carry here.

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I am a fully qualified Personal Trainer and Fitness Instructor to SNVQ standard, through to YMCA and Royal Society of Arts, already established in Loudwater area. You may have even seen me around! My qualifications include Fitness Assessment & Exercise Counselling; Walking Nutrition & Weight Management, Exercise for the Older Person and many more.

Planning

- 01094/-97/00 The Dell, L.Drive. One and two-storey side extensions.
- 01178/00 Loudwater Garage, T.Way. Redevelop to form four residential units.
- 01360/00 Cherry Hill Cottage, T.Rise. Alts. To gate, build glasshouse. (Approved).
- 01503/00 Willows, L.Drive. Build rear conservatory. (Approved).
- 01559/00 Moonya, B.Lane. Two-storey rear extension.
- 01609/01 The Old Dairy, Micklefield Hall, Sarratt Lane. Change from farm buildings to residential. (Approved).
- 01620/00 Elm Cottage, Chess Lane. Demolish existing, build new house and garage. (Approved).
- 00045/01 Dorney, T.Rise. Outline renewal to build detached house. (Approved).
- 00103/01 Hazel Cottage, L.Lane. One-storey rear extension. (Approved).
- 00166/01 Littlewold, Sarratt Lane. Build car port. (Approved).
- 00206/01 The White House, T.Rise. Build detached garage. (Approved).
- 00225/01 Barton Lodge, Bridle Lane. Build rear conservatory. (Approved).
- 00226/01 11, Ladywood Close. Loft conversion with dormer. (Approved).
- 00240/01 Chessbord, T.Way. Demolish existing house, garage, out-buildings. Replace with new. (Objected, withdrawn).
- 00244/01 Oak End, Wagon Way. Alterations to elevation. (Approved).
- 00237/01 Land between Larchmead/The Farm House, T. Rise. Build two detached houses. (Objected, refused).
- 00275/01 The Tile House, T.Rise. Two and one-storey side extension, porch, internal alts. (Approved).
- 00293/01 Far End, Wagon Way. One-storey side and rear extension. (Approved).
- 00317/01 Land behind Rookery Wood, L.Lane. Build detached house.
- 00356/01 Jasmine Cottage, Rooks Hill. Two-storey rear extension, garage conversion, detached garage. (Approved).
- 00362/01 Greenway, L.Lane. Two-storey side rear and roof extension. Demolish garage, build new, new access. (Refused).
- 00388/01 Micklefield Farm, Sarratt Lane. Erect 30m. monopole mast, radio cabin. (Objected, refused).
- 00493/01 Med. Hills, T.Rise. First-floor rear extension, dormer.
- 00501/01 Thurwin, L.Heights. Part one, part two-storey front and rear extensions.(Objected, refused).
- 00559/01 Oak End, Wagon Way. Front Porch.
- 00590/01 Woodlands, L.Lane. Two-storey side extension.
- 00645/01 Mansard Cottage, L.Lane. Demolish existing house, build new.
- 00676/01 Montecello, L.Lane. One-storey extension.
- 00678/01 Wren Top, Bridle Lane. Two-storey side extension, alts to roof.

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