



The Ol' Trout

Loudwater Residents' Association newsletter



WORDS FROM THE EDITOR AND CHAIRMAN

JUNE 2020

The lockdown edition

Welcome to a somewhat different edition of the Ol' Trout this time. Ordinarily we would be sharing with you updates on what the various Loudwater clubs have been up to and reporting back on LRA events. However, given the lockdown situation that commenced shortly after the spring issue, our usual content has been parked for now.

Instead, this time we'd like to reflect on the great sense of community spirit that has emerged from this extremely challenging season, and give a few people the opportunity to say thank you to neighbours who've extended kindness and much needed support.

There's no getting away from the fact that the last few months have been an extremely difficult and sad time for many, indeed we've experienced loss within our own committee and no doubt many of you have lost loved ones too. As a committee we'd like to extend our condolences and sympathy to anyone in that situation. We would

also like to thank, on behalf of all residents, those key workers and NHS heroes who have been on the front line, taking care of us all.

There have, however, been some heart-warming occasions during lockdown. It has been wonderful to see Loudwater residents embrace clapping for carers every Thursday and commemorating the 75th anniversary of VE day. The super weather is proving an enormous blessing as we collectively navigate our way through Covid-19, helping to lift our spirits and making our daily exercise that much more enjoyable. Living in such a beautiful neighbourhood has I'm sure made a huge difference to many, as it certainly has for me.

This issue is largely photograph based, seeking to spread a little more sunshine and positivity through this time. Thank you to everyone who has contributed pictures, anecdotes and thank you messages.

Stay safe everyone. Best wishes,
Andrea

Chairman's words

I hope you and your family are keeping safe and well, and all those who are home schooling their children are managing to maintain their sanity! As Andrea touched on, it has been a very strange few months during which the events we had planned have had to be cancelled or postponed. Our Easter Egg Hunt, Chairman's lunch and Annual General Meeting should all have taken place in recent weeks. The AGM is now scheduled to take place on Thursday 17 September and we'll confirm in early August whether it will be in person or via Zoom.

It is with great sadness that I need to report that Mike Sindic, our Planning Secretary, was lost to the virus in early April. We will miss him enormously and send his wife Linda and family all our love at this terribly difficult time. There is a tribute to him on page 7 and we will always be grateful for the contribution he made to our community. Please do take care all.

Alex Buxton, LRA Chairman

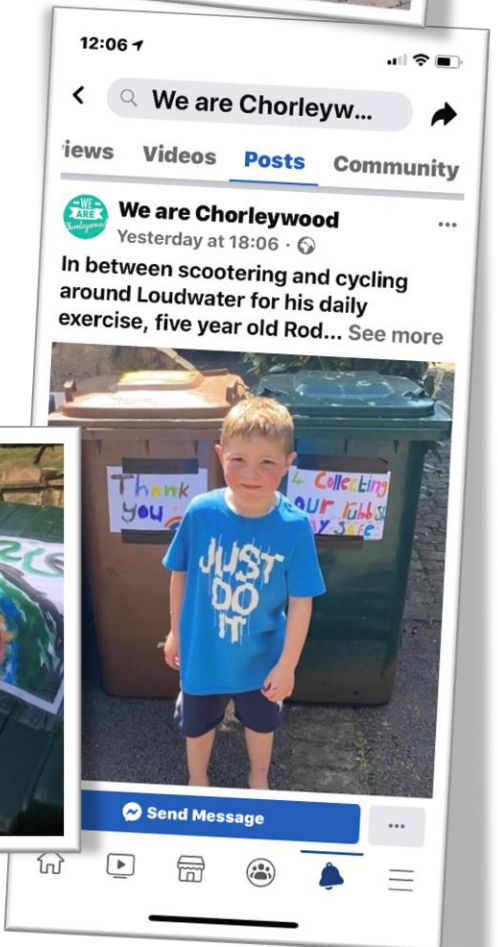
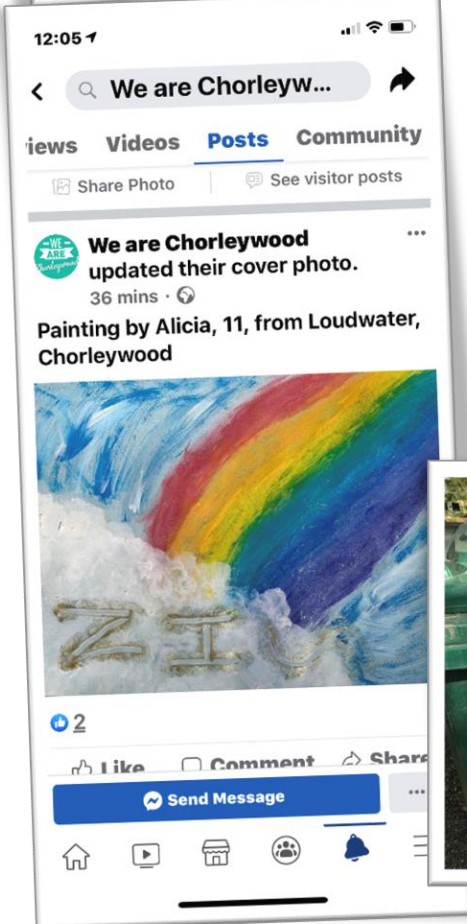
Thanking our keyworkers

In Loudwater we've been enthusiastic in showing our appreciation for the keyworkers who've been keeping us safe and ensuring that essential services have been maintained through this difficult time. Clapping our carers at 8pm each Thursday has been a real highlight in the weekly calendar. Saucepans, car horns, trumpets and more have been deployed to make a rousing noise, with neighbours able to see each other while safely distancing.

There has been a universal recognition of the extreme circumstances those in the NHS have been dealing with and their bravery in tackling the unseen and deadly threat of Coronavirus. The resilience and commitment they have shown has been incredible. It's therefore been wonderful to see them receive the gratitude they so rightfully deserve. The rainbow pictures displayed in windows of homes have been a further lovely gesture from the neighbourhood children.

Our postmen and bin men have also continued to serve us diligently, and many of the children similarly posted thank you messages and drawings for them.

Thank you to Freddy, Austin, Gracie, Alicia, Kinaari and Roddie for sharing their artwork!



Supporting our neighbours

Community spirit appears to have been thriving over the last few months as neighbours have stepped up to show kindness and help those who've needed support. So here we share a few messages of thanks that folk have asked us to pass on.

Peter and Davida would like to thank Martin and Viv for bringing them their dinners on Saturdays and Sundays.

I think we should all thank Tricia and Jay Mukherjee of Overstream for fighting the Coronavirus from the front line on our behalf. Trish is a senior nurse in A&E at Northwick Park. Jay is an anaesthetist at Barnet General.

Peter Phillips

During the lockdown I have been so lucky to have so much support and help from so many neighbours in Loudwater, that it's difficult to mention all of them. But how lucky am I to live in such a wonderful community and so beautiful as well.

Maureen Bayliss moved into Loudwater in 2010 and since that time has not only been a neighbour but also a close friend. Maureen has shown me so many acts of kindness and support not just for lockdown but for the past ten Years so a very public thanks to Maureen a friend in need is a friend indeed.

Anne Pither

Woodcourt, Trout Rise

My wife and I have been self-isolating since March 14 having taken government advice to those of us over 70. We are so grateful to Vanessa who was at end of the phone. She twice has picked up prescriptions from Cornerstone Pharmacy on our behalf.

We are so very grateful, and for those in Loudwater who need help I share details below.

Freddie & Jenny Martin

Lea Cottage, Troustream Way

COVID-19 CHORLEYWOOD SUPPORT GROUP

If you are self-isolating and would like any help with food shopping etc, please get in touch with a volunteer. Check the website for updates on volunteers nearby. Phone 07872 903486 (Urgent and Escalations).

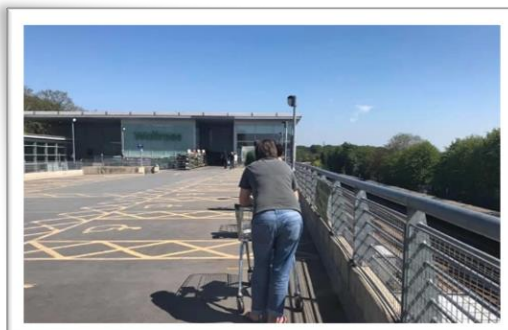
Thanks for all of the positive information and research done on local deliveries / plant companies, services etc. Loudwater WhatsApp has become a real joy to read at the moment - funnies, pictures and information. Best funny one to date was the escaped pygmy goats with coordinated jumpers!



Thank you for the reduction of bonfires - as we are all mostly at home this has impacted residents more than normal.

Thank you for residents who walk past our front lawn which is open with no hedges or fences and all have a smile and a hello - it's lovely.

Thank you to my neighbour Tam at The White House for the shout out: "It's time for a cuppa over the fence catch up".



Thank you to Victoria from The Thatch who always has a smile and a laugh especially as she has just run her 7k with Charlotte and finishes just after the hill on Trout Rise - less out of breath as the weeks go by and can actually talk now as she runs past for a quick catch up.

A thank you to the parents whose little ones have mastered coming up the hill now – the first few weeks there were a few tears and throwing of bikes in our drive (I had to stop the urge to run out and see if they were hurt) now they can shoot up there and still wave and beat their parents!

Thanks to Gail and Pete From The Gate and Ann and Martin from Wychwood for the funny quiz night zoom sessions.

Big thanks to Maureen from Trees for finding me some eggs - and Carol Ellis from South Winds for the swap of orange juice for flour!

Erica and Tony Bendall

The Tile House, Trout Rise

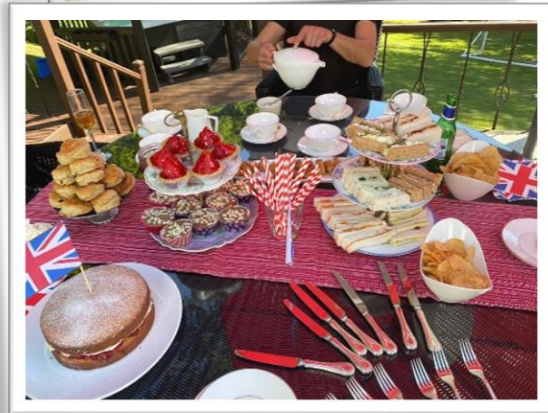


Commemorating VE Day

Friday 8 May 2020 marked the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. Although it was a few more months before the Second World War came to an end in its entirety, this was an extremely significant date and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to all those who fought, sacrificed their lives and supported the war effort.

Sadly, because of Covid-19, the nation was not able to celebrate to the extent we would have hoped. However, many Loudwater residents still took the opportunity to mark the occasion and celebrate the freedom we have been able to enjoy as a result.

Over the next couple of pages, are a selection of photos from folk who have shared their festivities with us, amid another beautiful sunshine filled day.





Marking the two-minute silence



Thank you very much to Ann Gardner, Ana Kluman, Erica Bendall, Lisa and Richard Marheineke, Lynn Viccars, Marion Browne, Zoe and Steve Wright-Brown and Robert Voss, Lord-Lieutenant of Hertfordshire and his wife, for sharing their beautiful photographs.



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Getting our daily exercise

One aspect of daily life that has been quite a blessing over the lockdown period, has been the opportunity to get out for some exercise. The fact that it has been spring and the weather has, for the most part, been really beautiful, has also helped us to deal with the enforced homestay.

Many of us have valued the chance to soak up the beauty of Loudwater, and to be able to chat with neighbours (albeit at a safe distance) as we venture out and about to get some air. In the midst of what is globally a grim time, nature and the landscape surrounding us have really come into their own. Walks through the country lanes, the various private estates, across the farmland and hills to Croxley Green and along the scenic River Chess have brought a great deal of relief from the bigger picture situation, and the cherry and apple blossom, wild garlic, magnolias and bluebells among other plant-life have been stunning.

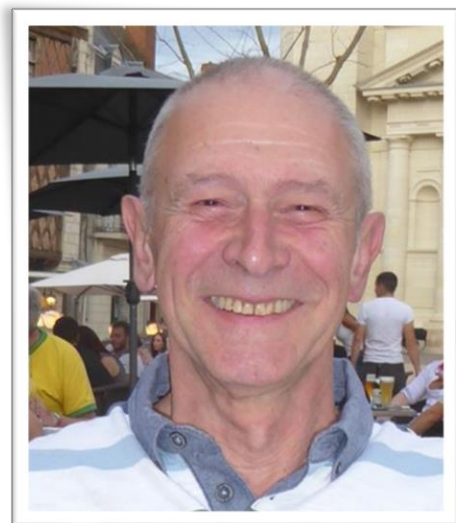
Celia and Clive Brothers kindly shared a beautiful picture of the bluebells in Beechengrove Wood off Sarratt Lane (see below), which has become one of their favorite local walks.

Never has there been a time when I've felt more blessed to live in Loudwater, and grateful for our community. Here we share a few photos of our lovely neighbourhood over the past weeks.

Andrea



Saying farewell to Mike Sindic



For some years now page 7 of the Ol' Trout has been the domain of LRA Planning Secretary, Mike Sindic. He has generously shared all manner of insights from his professional career as a building surveyor, guiding residents on topics as wide ranging as Japanese knot weed and what to be mindful of living in a conservation area, highlighting the rise of property fraud and outlining how to effectively object to a planning application. Mike has been an extremely knowledgeable and valuable resource, helping countless neighbours.

However, back in March both Mike and his wife Linda succumbed to the Coronavirus, and in early April Mike sadly died. Linda had the virus more mildly and has recovered but obviously continues to face a difficult time adjusting to life without Mike.

Mike will also be hugely missed by those of us on the LRA committee, neighbours and friends. He was a great and endlessly cheerful friend, always quick to lend his support and encouragement to whatever initiative we were working on. He was particularly passionate about planning and loved chatting about the intricacies of associated issues and

case law. He was enormously good fun and full of banter.

His greatest passion, however, was his family. He spoke often, and with great affection, of his children and grandchildren and loved the time he got to spend with them.

Mike also loved to travel with Linda, and typically had a succession of trips lined up at any one time.

Linda has kindly shared with us a bit about the remarkable life he had: "Mike was born in Serbia in November 1944 and moved to the UK at the age of nine. His father, along with many of his fellow compatriots, had to leave what was then Yugoslavia a few weeks before Mike was born due to political reasons. He ended up joining up with the British Army in Italy and came to England towards the end of the war. It took him nine years to trace his family and get them out of communist Yugoslavia to join him in England. They finally arrived in the summer of 1954. Mike was immediately enrolled in Primary School, not speaking a word of English, but went on to pass the 11+ and go on to Grammar School. He subsequently made a career as a Building Surveyor working for many years in Local Government. In the early 1990s he left the London Borough of Camden to set up his own business as a Surveyor specialising in Party Wall Awards and Rights of Light. The business went on to become very successful and Mike finally retired in 2012 but carried on working in a part time capacity as a consultant for another Building Surveying Practice.

Mike and Linda moved to the outskirts of Loudwater in 1994 and then moved down into Loudwater itself in 2013."

It's fair to say that he leaves quite a legacy and will be sadly missed.

Andrea

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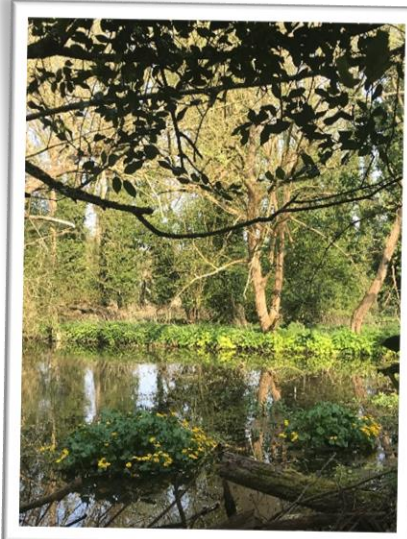
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Events update



Hardy plants for sale

We've sadly been unable to hold the charity plant sale that was planned. However, Roger Trigg is happy to sell his plants throughout the summer. If interested, you can call him on 01923 774293 or 07810 464623 to request an email list of what he has available. His address is 7 Armitage Close, WD3 4HL. At present he has good stocks of astilbes and phlox and highly recommends them, especially if you have a damp spot in your garden. Proceeds will be given to the National Gardens Scheme charities.

AGM

As Alex mentioned on the front page, we have had to postpone the LRA AGM which had been scheduled to take place on 14 May. It will now take place on Thursday 17 September. We can't yet advise whether it will be in person or via Zoom, but we will confirm in early August.

You may also recall that Alex is due to step down as Chairman following the AGM so we are looking for someone new to fill this role. If you might be interested and would like to hear more about what it involves, please contact Alex for details.

chairman@lraonline.org.uk
07931 697796

Macmillan Coffee Morning

This will go ahead one way or another!

Somehow on Friday 25 September we will together hold Loudwater's Biggest Coffee Morning to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Our fundraising pack has been ordered so watch this space for details soon.

Cheese and wine evening

At the LRA we were excitedly planning a summer evening cheese and wine event at Micklefield Hall. Anna and Jamie Rankin have generously offered us the use of their beautiful grounds, and this get-together was due to take place in July. However, our Events Secretary Zoe assures us that we'll put this idea on hold for now, but absolutely intend to try and organise this and other events like it at some point in the future. We hope to see you there before too long.

This issue of the Ol' Trout is being distributed to all residents of Loudwater, regardless of whether an LRA member, so that we can wish you well during this difficult time. We hope that sharing some of our local news with you will help you feel connected to our community and bring you a few smiles.

LRA Golf day 2020?

I trust all LRA golfers and supporters are keeping safe and well. As with most events the meeting we were planning for mid-May has had to be put on hold.

In my last article I asked people interested in taking part in a golf day to get in touch and it's encouraging that a significant number of new names came forward - albeit we've not been able to go ahead with this as yet.

As you may be aware, golf has fared well in the recent relaxation of government restrictions and golf clubs can now allow members to play within a certain set of conditions. We're still some way off being able to hold an event but at least golf can be played.

For now, all we can do is hope that we get to a position where restrictions are relaxed even more - we'd really like to arrange something in the autumn, so we'll keep the matter under review. I'll keep all interested parties updated directly by email.

If you are interested in the golf event and have not yet made contact with me, then please register your interest by emailing me with your contact details.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Percy McCloskey

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