

Ol' The Trout



Chairman's Word

It was with great sadness and a little panic I learnt from John Jarrett that he felt it time to 'hang up his typewriter ribbon' and retire as editor of the newsletter.

John has been very much the creator of the newsletter, being the sole editor for the 25 years of its existence. During these years, his knowledge of local history and the Loudwater inhabitants has kept us informed, amused and even intrigued. He has been so involved with every aspect of Loudwater, being one of the founder members of the LRA and twice Chairman; his contribution as editor has enabled us to reach out to the whole community in Loudwater. We owe him an enormous debt of thanks and he certainly will be a very hard act to follow.

However, the newsletter must go on, and Peter Phillips has courageously accepted the position of editor. So I am able to welcome you to a new style newsletter, to which we certainly hope you all will contribute, using it as a medium to highlight the thoughts and worries of Loudwater. The newsletter will also be keeping you up to date with the forthcoming events of the LRA. 2002 will be a busy year with a Golf Day, Garden Party, a Day at Goodwood Races and New Year's Eve party planned. I wish you all a very Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you all at these events.

Denise Preedy

The editor writes...

John Jarrett will be a hard act to follow as editor of the Loudwater newsletter – how do you replace someone who has done such a sterling job for so long? The simple answer is that you can't so we formed a committee of three to do the job – with me responsible for the content, Buzz Coster (Bridle Lane) to be responsible for the look and design, and Roy Sterry (Troutstream Way) to be responsible for production and distribution. They in turn will be answerable to the LRA committee, and its Chairman, Denise Preedy. From now on, this newsletter will be the official mouthpiece of the LRA.

It might, therefore, be useful for you to know who exactly sits on the LRA committee and so they are listed opposite. We meet about six times a year in each other's houses and you will see that the whole of Loudwater is represented – the Troutstream Estate, Bridle Lane, Chess Lane, Lower Plantation, Loudwater Lane, Sarratt Lane, Harewood and the two Closes, Ladywood and Armitage. By our constitution we may have 15 members. We are one short. Any volunteers?

However, please do not be under any illusion that we do all the work! We would be lost without the help other residents give us. Ask Roy Sterry where he would be without his newsletter distributors? Where would we be without our various Club Chairmen? We need volunteers to help in all sorts of things. If you'd like to help please contact any of the members of the committee that you know or, if you don't know any of them (shame!), contact our Chairman.

The idea behind this new newsletter is to get as many of you to contribute to it as we can. John wrote the previous newsletters all by himself but we see this as a joint effort by all the residents. If you want to tell us what your favourite walk in the area is – do! If you have a favourite local pub or restaurant, tell us about it. If a workman has done a particularly good job for you, don't keep it a secret. Let the rest of us also enjoy his expertise. Nature lovers – tell us about the unusual birds you have recently seen (the feathered variety I mean!). Let's pass on interesting and important information to each other through this newsletter.

We want "Letters to the Editorial Team". If you have complaints, tell us about them. If you think someone deserves praising, let us know. Buzz tells us that Bridle Lane has a list of approved workmen (and a black list too). How useful! Let's have one for the whole of Loudwater. As you can see, we are all quite excited about what we think the new-format newsletter can achieve. But we will only succeed with your help and your participation.

Peter Phillips

The Ol' Trout is the newsletter of the Loudwater Residents Association. It is published quarterly. Letters and articles are welcomed although the Editor reserves the right to shorten contributions as necessary.

Issue 102; January 2002

Editor

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Loudwater Residents Association

Chairman

Denise Preedy
12 Harewood
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Vice Chairman

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Treasurer

Maurice Escow
Wildwood, L'water Heights
771810

Correspondence Secretary

Don Cammell
Martins, Ladywood Close
776126

Members

June Curtis
Troutstream Way

Tony Moss
Lower Plantation

Sheila Fawcner-Corbett
Loudwater House

Mary-Jane Peet
Loudwater Lane

Tony Hale
Overstream

Peter Phillips
Armitage Close

John Hawxwell
Bridle Lane

Sue Tippen
Chess Lane

Michael Nest
Sarratt Lane

Penny Wilkinson
Cherry Lane

Club Scene

Chess Investment Club

Meets 5pm, 2nd Wednesday of month

Chairman
Anthony Moss (774907)

Treasurer
Sandy Parker

Secretary
Mary-Jane Peet

Troutstream Investment Club

Meets 8pm, 2nd Wednesday of month

Chairman
Godfrey Crook (776567)

Treasurer
Tony Bradford

Secretary
Trevor Slade

Theatre Club

Chairman
Denise Preedy

Members
June Curtis (721583)
Hazel Nest
Mary-Jane Peet
Penny Wilkinson

Wine Club

Meets 8pm, 4th Friday of month

Chairman
Tony Hale (774374)

Treasurer
Mike Wood

Secretary
Jane Goldthorpe

Co-ordinator
Gary Coster

Bridge Club

Meets 7.30-10.30pm, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of month

Chairman
Liz Crook (776567)

Committee
Maurice Escow
Fenella Lough
Peter Phillips
Dennis Sare

Garden Club

Chairman
Anne Tate

Treasurer
Carol Escow (771810)

Secretary
Denise Diamond

Children's Contact Group

Co-ordinator
Position vacant - are you interested in taking this on? if so, please contact the LRA Chairman

The Clubs whose reports appear here have been in existence for some time but this is the first opportunity they have had to report in full to the wider audience of Loudwater.

Originally the brainchild of Godfrey Crook and Maurice Escow, they have gone from strength to strength, providing opportunities for neighbours to meet each other. New friends have been made and much fun has been enjoyed, developing and encouraging the community spirit of Loudwater.

Everyone is welcome at any of the Clubs and contact numbers are listed so please come and join in.

What goes up must come down

The Loudwater Investment Clubs, *Chess* and *Troutstream* were formed in September 1998 and both reflect the down turn in the market showing losses of about 35%. The idea is to learn without tears, the minimum investment being £25 per month. We came into the market at or about the peak so at first we could not lose.

This year the markets dived and we had no stop loss policy, so we hung on. It's so easy to buy, so hard to sell. We can all spot good investments in hindsight and when to sell after the market makes the move. Now is a great time to learn and invest. *Troutstream* has now instigated a stop loss plan, which is now carefully monitored - if we make a profit or a loss we sell and don't hang on. It's so easy to get carried away.

Chess has 13 members and *Troutstream* has 18 members so there are some spaces (a maximum of 20 is permitted). Meetings are held at Loudwater Farm on the second Wednesday of the month. They are great fun and a good way to learn how to invest without losing your shirt. With the market at the bottom the only way is up - if only you can tell which way you are facing.

Anthony Moss
Lower Plantation

Theatre Club

The Theatre Club is one of the longest running of the clubs with 67 members (but there's always room for more).

2001 was another successful year with a visit to the Apollo to see *Fallen Angels*. Next was the Yvonne Arnaud theatre in Guildford to see *Nobody's Perfect*, followed by the ever popular Mill at Sonning. Music was the theme for the next two outings. Picnics were enjoyed in the grounds of Kenwood whilst listening to beautiful classical music and fireworks brought a marvellous evening to a close.

In complete contrast, a three course dinner went down very well at the delightful Grim's Dyke Hotel during which *The Mikado* was expertly performed by members of the Royal Opera House.

For 2002, we are planning trips to *Kiss Me Kate* and *The Play What I Wrote* in London, Pendley Manor Festival, the Water Mill at Newbury, Stratford and Richmond as well as an open air concert at either Audley End or Leeds Castle. We also hope to organise a trip to the pantomime (for children of all ages!).

June Curtis
Troutstream Way

Wine Club

By the time you read this report we will have held our second Christmas Dinner at Woodcote House with its unique private house ambience under the care of Colin and Annette Leveridge. Such was the reaction to our first gathering that the event was over subscribed and unfortunately some members could not be accommodated within the limit of 36 persons.

We now enjoy a membership in excess of 60 and have held 15 functions since our inaugural gathering on July 28th 2000 when Martin Strauss (Master of Wine) initiated us on our long road to enlightenment.

Regular attendances of 35 to 45, stimulated by knowledgeable guest speakers and 'modest tasting' ensure learning with conviviality. Indeed, comments like "We appreciate and enjoy our wine more now", and "We have got to know more residents/ friends in the last year than in all the time on the Estate", are frequently heard and are paramount in creating the club spirit desired.

Forthcoming events in 2002 (normally the fourth Friday in the month at Loudwater Farm - with its new chairs and tables!) are already planned through till June:

January 26th and February 22nd take the form of in depth study of Bordeaux wines utilising the 'Horizontal' and 'Vertical' tasting techniques!?!

Following on the successful Champagne trip, this April (10th to 14th) 30 members will be heading for Burgundy, again paying for the trip by the remarkable savings in shrewd purchases!

On Sunday May 19th we will again hold our annual lunch party at Loudwater Farm, which was so well attended and enjoyed last year.

In June (provisionally Saturday 29th) we are thinking of taking advantage of the good weather with a full day's outing to the vineyards of Kent, with light lunch and gourmet dinner at somewhere like Lamberhurst Priory included.

If your palate would like to know more or you would be interested in joining us, please give me a call.

Tony Hale
Overstream

Bridge Club

The Loudwater Bridge Club meets every first and third Wednesday of the month and has a membership of 31 with an average of 16 players per session. We have a fairly relaxed attitude towards the Bridge, but not towards the Costco biscuits! We are lucky to be able to meet at Loudwater Farm which is very convenient.

Recently we held a most valuable study evening for 16 members and four visitors and were fortunate to have Jean Patefield again as our tutor. Overcalls and Responses were our chosen subject. *[If this means little to you, you obviously need to join the Bridge Club. Ed]* We have had fewer duplicate evenings than usual.



In October, John Armstrong died and his ready help and pithy comments will be sorely missed. Our sympathy goes to Barbara and family. Our sympathy also to Sally Levinson, a regular member, on the death of her husband.

We hope there are some Bridge players amongst the new residents of Loudwater. They will be most welcome to come along, with or without a playing partner.

**Liz Crook
Chess Hill**

Garden Club

The first meeting of the Loudwater Garden Club was held on 30th May 2001. At a subsequent meeting, a committee was formed and a yearly subscription of £10 agreed.

Following a 'brainstorming' session in September, interest was expressed in hearing talks from various garden experts, particularly on local problems, soil conditions, wildlife, etc. Members were also keen that there should be an exchange of surplus plants and cuttings at meetings.

Two successful outings to Leeds Castle Flower Festival and Wisley have taken place; also an Arboreal Amble and a demonstration using garden greenery for Christmas decorations. More events are planned for next year.

**Anne Tate
Rooks Hill**

Neighbourhood Watch

Last year was another year with very little crime. We seem to do far better than our two immediate neighbours – Loudwater Solesbridge and Loudwater Valley (Valley Road and surroundings) and I'm sure it has a lot to do with the fact we are, with the exception of Sarratt Lane, an area made up of cul-de-sacs. Thieves generally dislike having to make their exit the same way as they came in. Chorleywood, Rickmansworth, Money Hill and Mill End also have a lot more crime than we do.

I am still desperately in need of co-ordinators in Trout Rise and would appreciate at least 3 or 4 more people to help with communication in the event of security incidents. I have just one willing person at the moment which means that most of Trout Rise residents are completely unaware of what is going on and that seems a pity. A few hours a year is all that is required of a co-ordinator. On that note I would like to thank the 22 co-ordinators that are dotted throughout Loudwater for their continued support last year.

**June Curtis
Troutstream Way**

Dealing with Over-development

Loudwater has had an eventful year, with many trying to cash in on the recent property boom by trying to turn our beautiful tree lined lanes into a building site. Such actions serve to unite the residents, most of whom wish nothing more than to live in Loudwater and enjoy their homes and friendships.

In their wisdom Three Rivers District Council apply the planning law, grant permission for a modified application, impose restrictions, and then enforce any illegal action by the developer. By that time trees are killed (albeit with the threat of a £2,000 fine per tree), neighbours are upset and the developers enhance their profits. Without seeming uncharitable, as that is not our style, we shall not be sad to see developers suffer a loss in valuation caused by the mess their greed has created.

A local property developer was overheard to say that "nothing is selling". Sad news for developers. Wonderful news for those of us who love to live quietly in Loudwater enjoying our idyllic homes amidst glorious scenery.

**John Hawxwell
Bridle Lane**

Harvest Supper

If you were not at the Harvest Supper on Saturday 29th September, then you cannot truly know the majesty of what you missed.

The location was the Old Barn at Loudwater Farm, which had been decorated during the day by the Gardening Club and Denise Preedy to stunning effect. Walls hung with berries, branches and ivy. Beautiful collections of fruit and flowers adorned the edges and tables and fell in decorative hangings. New chairs, lit candles, polished cutlery and empty glasses, waiting to be filled, greeted everyone.

Mike Wood and Tony Hale provided the benefit of their sampling talents with wonderful (and very plentiful) wine. A fine three course dinner, during the wine consumption, was efficiently and slickly served and the evening was rounded off with a testing quiz.

Tony McQuennie was the Quizmaster and his round of Dingbats was particularly challenging (did anyone get 'chance in a million?'). Personally, I blame the large consumption of delicious wine for my table, which tied with Peter Phillips' table in coming last!

The Committee is to be thanked for producing such a fabulous evening (in particular, Denise Preedy, who brought her consummate creative skills to bear) and were in evidence the following morning, happily clearing up, somewhat the worse for wear!

**Sue Tippen
Chess Lane**

**The barn at
Loudwater Farm,
bedecked for the
Harvest Supper**



Hello Loudwater

Having been brought up locally, we were always aware of the existence of Loudwater. We moved here in September 1999 after spending five years in Asia. We were expecting our daughter and were therefore looking for a place to bring her up. We tried the Harpenden area first but found the houses to have very little character so we were pleased when we found our existing house. Loudwater seemed to have everything we were looking for – it was close to our families (but not so close that they would always be dropping in!), the roads were safe and quiet and the local schools would provide the education we would want for our children. It was also easily accessible to London by road and rail.

In the beginning we missed the convenience of a local shop and pub, but we soon got used to this. Having lived in apartments, we also missed our neighbours being right next door. Our house seemed quite isolated in comparison, but by joining the Children's Contact Group and Wine Club we have made some good friends and soon realised that the residents of Loudwater were more sociable than appeared on first impression. We have been very happy since moving to Loudwater and we also encouraged our friends to move here when they returned from Asia. We hope to continue to be happy here and bring our children up within its green and safe environment.

Penny & James Wilkinson
Cherry Hill

Letter to the Editor

Loudwater is a choice place to live. We have enjoyed its peace and contentment, semi-rural state for nearly 25 years. Our home is in Loudwater Lane.

The aim is to leave Loudwater better, if possible, and definitely not worse than when we found it.

For many months each year, the Lane has a canopy of broad-leaved trees extending to some length, giving an air of the country, added to by the birds and other wildlife. We much regret the loss of the wood at the junction with the A404.

We enjoy the privacy of the area and yet the neighbourliness without intrusion. Walking in the Lane was a great pleasure, sadly no longer safe owing to the traffic. The late Tiny Thorndick, with her beloved dog, used it several times a day!

The challenge we all have is to retain our unique situation. Firstly, we need to reduce the amount of traffic, particularly heavy vehicles. Speed also needs moderating – by rumble strips or even narrowing means. Currently, the building spree makes things even more difficult.

We all need to support LRA and Three Rivers in combating the trend to over-build. The only gainers from this are the property speculators and perhaps people who have not quite absorbed the special Loudwater feeling.

Lastly, we all need to be vigilant to enhance and protect what we treasure for our families and their successors. Long may it all last.

John Renshaw
Loudwater Lane

A warm welcome to...

Roger & Jean Woodroffe

(Chesswood, L Lane)

Paul, Tracy & Oliver Ness

(Mansard Cottage, L Lane)

Mr & Mrs Kerr

(Tanglewood, Sarratt Lane)

and

Elizabeth Bischoff

(Taorima, Bridle Lane)

Planning Applications

Decisions on previously reported applications

- 01178-9/00 Loudwater Garage, Troutstream Way (Granted)
- 00237/01 Larchmead to The Farmhouse, Trout Rise (Appeal dismissed)
- 00501/01 Thurwin, Loudwater Heights (Appeal dec. pending)
- 00671/01 Roundspring Farm, Bridle Lane (Granted)
- 00742/01 Traffic Attendant's Hut, Kingfisher Lure (Granted - 2 years)
- 00901/01 Greenway, Loudwater Lane (Granted)

New Applications since last Newsletter to 14th December 2001

- 01079/01 Rookery Wood House, Loudwater Lane: Erection of det. house & garage (Refused)
- 01102/01 Mansard Cottage, Loudwater Lane: Erection of double garage (Granted)
- 01119/01 Broadeaves, Trout Rise: Erection of det. double garage (Granted)
- 01120/01 Broadeaves, Trout Rise: First floor side extension (Granted)
- 01148/01 Langley Bury, Chess Close: Alt. to doors & windows (Granted)
- 01183/01 Mayfield, Loudwater Heights: First floor side & rear extensions (Refused)
- 01229/01 Old Tiles, Troutstream Way: Outline application: erection of dwelling (Refused)
- 01251/01 Bridle Path Cottage, Loudwater Lane: Demolish & replace existing dwelling (Deferred for site visit)
- 01262/01 Littlewold, Sarratt Lane: Two storey side extension (Granted)
- 01272/01 Lavender Cottage, Chess Hill: Rear conservatory (Granted)
- 01285/01 Brambledew, Rasehill Close: First floor side extension (Granted)
- 01344/01 Langley Bury, Chess Close: Rear conservatory (Granted)
- 01382/01 La Mimosa, Sarratt Lane: Single storey front & side extension (Delegated dec)
- 01429/01 2 Glen Chess, Loudwater Lane: Listed building consent: external alterations (Delegated dec)
- 01444/01 16 Lower Plantation: First floor side extension (Delegated dec)
- 01455/01 Woodleigh, Overstream: Demolish garage; single storey side & first floor extensions (Delegated dec)
- 01463/01 Lower Plantation: 1.6 m entrance piers to side road (Delegated dec)
- 01484/01 Cherry Trees, Loudwater Heights: Two storey side extension and erection of det. garage (Delegated dec)
- 01424/01 Ladymead, Loudwater Heights: Two storey rear extension (Delegated dec)