

The Ol' Trout



Chairman's Word

We were delighted to hear your excellent response to The Ol' Trout and I must give enormous thanks to Buzz Coster who played such a large part in helping Peter Phillips in the planning and setting out of the new style newsletter. My grateful thanks also to Roland Baish who has very generously agreed to print The Ol' Trout free, asking us to put the saved money towards a special project to benefit Loudwater – more on ideas of this project in the next issue.



Apologies for a serious omission of thanks in the last newsletter. Dorothy Francis had in fact been editor of the newsletter for several years. I am sure she is delighted to see it still such an important part of Loudwater life.

We have several special events planned for this year. The major event is the 'Street Party' for the Golden Jubilee – we do hope to see all of you at what we hope will be a day full of fun for children (of all ages), with good company, food and wine, with a sprinkling of nostalgia – a memorable occasion.

On 2nd August a day at Glorious Goodwood has been arranged that includes Champagne, lunch, tea and entry to the races – so search out your hats and join us. Numbers are very limited for this event so remember to book early (Contact Mary-Jane Peet on 772486).

After the great success of last year's 'Harvest Quiz Supper' we have decided to run one again. Remember the date - October 12th.

To finish the year in high spirits a New Year's Eve party is planned at the Barn at Loudwater Farm and I am assured by the group organising it that it will be a marvellous affair.

Finally our AGM is on Wednesday 24th April at 8.00 pm at Loudwater Farm. We do hope you will all attend – we are there to help you and to try to answer any queries or problems you have regarding Loudwater. I will be standing down as Chairman at this time and Roy Sterry will be taking over from me.

We hope to see you at some or all of these events. In the meantime keep your views, comments and suggestions coming in to The Ol' Trout.

Denise Preedy

Neighbourhood Watch

With all the media attention at the beginning of the year, now is a good time to check your home security.

Thinking about a house alarm but don't know who to go to? The Crime Prevention officers at Watford Police Station are happy to visit your home by appointment to offer advice as to how to make your home as burglar-proof as possible. The service is free (they appreciate a cuppa though!) and you can contact either Ralph Durbridge or Mike Powell on 01923 472020. If you already have an alarm, don't forget to have it serviced every year.

The Police also recommend external lights, especially ones that are triggered by movement.

The added benefit is that you don't have to get in or out of the car in the dark.

In the evenings when you turn interior lights on do you close the curtains? If you don't you are effectively displaying your rooms to anyone outside.

Just a little thought and a few minor changes could make all the difference and greatly reduce the chance of becoming a victim.

June Curtis
Troutstream Way

The Editor writes...

My wife and I were in Australia when the first issue of The Ol' Trout was printed. I must say, immodestly, that I was absolutely delighted with it. My sincere thanks to Buzz Coster, the designer, Roland Baish, the printer, and Roy Sterry, the enthusiastic Head of Distribution. Without them I could not have produced The Ol' Trout at all. Buzz is such a genius on the computer that I have asked her to be my Co-Editor. Roland, my next-door neighbour, offered (after a few drinks!) to print it all in full colour, free. Roy encouraged us throughout each stage, proof-read, and did all the bits nobody else wanted to do.

Of course there were a few moaners. One or two did not like the name but, generally, the response has been very positive. I realise that there was a great deal of news about the clubs last time. I felt it important, and still do, to publicise them. Over one third of the households in Loudwater belong to one or more of the clubs. I, personally, have made many good friends through them. But that does not mean that we are forgetting about the roads, planning, or the environment in general. See for yourselves in this issue, and please read, in particular, Sue Tippen's article. The LRA committee meets about every six weeks and, believe me, we talk more about planning permissions, and the abuse of our roads, than anything else. Don Cammell has done, and is doing, a brilliant job, constantly talking and writing to Three Rivers Council and The Highways Partnership.

Since the first issue Loudwater has become famous in the National Press and Local Press for being the richest community in the UK! I should like to congratulate June Curtis, in her Neighbourhood Watch role, for being so quick off the mark in sending out letters to warn us that this kind of publicity will encourage thieves. However, do remember Disraeli's saying "there are lies, damned lies and statistics". I suppose the survey may help some of those trying to sell their properties in Loudwater but I am being a bit cynical!

Next, thank you for your Letters to the Editor. John Jarrett complained that he hardly ever received any. I hope I never have to make the same complaint. Lastly, I should like to pay tribute to our Chairman, Denise Preedy, who is stepping down at the AGM. She has done a magnificent job, having taken over in rather difficult circumstances. Roy has a hard act to follow but, knowing him, he will be conscientious, diligent and very hard working. (okay, Roy, you now owe me a drink!). Please keep the letters coming. Thank you for all your encouragement.

Peter Phillips



Tell us if you remember this

Loudwater Residents Association

Chairman

Denise Preedy
12 Harewood
770280

Vice Chairman

Roy Sterry
Mulberry Cottage, T'steam Way
779599

Treasurer

Maurice Escow
Wildwood, L'water Heights
771810

Correspondence Secretary

Don Cammell
Martins, Ladywood Close
776126

Members

June Curtis
Troutstream Way
Sheila Fawcner-Corbett
Loudwater House
Tony Hale
Overstream
John Hawxwell
Bridle Lane
Michael Nest
Sarratt Lane
Anthony Moss
Lower Plantation
Mary-Jane Peet
Loudwater Lane
Peter Phillips
Armitage Close
Sue Tippen
Chess Lane
Penny Wilkinson
Cherry Hill

Club Scene

Chess Investment Club
Meets 5pm, 2nd
Wednesday of month
Chairman
Anthony Moss (774907)

Troutstream Investment
Club
Meets 8pm, 2nd
Wednesday of month
Chairman
Godfrey Crook (776567)

Theatre Club
Bookings
June Curtis (721583)

Wine Club
Meets 8pm, 4th Friday of
month
Chairman
Tony Hale (774374)

Bridge Club
Meets 7.30-10.30 pm, 1st
and 3rd Wednesdays of
month
Chairman
Liz Crook (776567)

Garden Club
Chairman
Anne Tate (773863)

Children's Club
Co-ordinator
Ann Garner (770633)

Diary

LRA AGM: 24th Apr
Street Party: 3rd Jun
Goodwood: 2nd Aug
Harvest Supper: 12th Oct
New Year's Eve:
31st Dec

Mike Wood and Gary Coster
proving what a tough time they
have running the Wine Club



Children's Contact Group – a new look

The Children's Contact Group has been renamed the 'Loudwater Children's Club' and a team of parents has agreed to join me in running the Club and its activities.

The Children's Contact Group started five years ago. The geography of Loudwater, with its large plots and high hedges, means it can be difficult for children to meet and form friendships in the area. The Group was established to provide a means by which they can develop a network of local friends and now comprises a large number of families with children of all ages.

Our first aim was to establish a confidential register of children living in Loudwater. This enables parents to identify where children of a similar age to their own are located. They may then contact them directly to arrange for their children to meet. The register is a key benefit to joining the group and access to it is limited to members only. *The list of members is strictly confidential.*

We run a Christmas and a Summer Party each year which provides an opportunity for children and parents/carers to get together in an informal setting. This year, the Summer Party will be incorporated into the Jubilee Street Party which will include lots of fun activities for children of all ages. The Club runs a baby-sitting register and an *au pair* contact register for those who wish to meet other *au pairs* in the neighbourhood. A pre-school Toddler Group will be re-established and new events for the older children organised. We have also decided to arrange periodic social get-togethers for parents in a local pub. Daytime meetings would naturally include children too.

Membership costs £10 per family per annum (this does not include the cost of tickets to individual events).

Ann Garner
Trout Rise

Investment Clubs

This has been a period of consolidation for both clubs. Much selling, little buying. Both clubs, independently, felt the stock market was too unstable to risk large investments. Having said that, as we go to press, Troutstream Club has just invested £7,000.

Peter Phillips

Wine Club

Wine is very much part of our lives today yet most of us admit to knowing very little about it and would love to learn more. The LRA Wine Club offers tastings and events aimed at learning about wine in a fun way and enjoying the good company of our neighbours.

Already this year we have sampled wines from Bordeaux and Switzerland and, in April, 30 members will enjoy five days of feasting and fine wines in lovely Burgundy. We will be holding our Spring Lunch on 19th May with a tutored tasting of Northern Italian wines and Italian cuisine to accompany it. Last year, nearly 50 people attended and the socialising lasted for the rest of the day and into the night!

On 29th June there is an outing to Denbies, Britain's largest winery. This will include a tour through every facet of winemaking as well as a formal tasting and three-course lunch.



As you can imagine, it's a very tough life for Wine Club members – if you think you could cope with it, we'd love to see you.

Gary Coster
Bridle Lane

Theatre Club

On a crisp, dry evening in February, twenty-five Theatre Club members and their guests set off by coach for London's Victoria Theatre to see *Kiss Me Kate*. This highly acclaimed revival of Cole Porter's great musical fully lived up to expectations. It was a magical evening – wonderful cast, great tunes, beautifully staged. Loosely based on Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, the haunting melodies ("Wonderbar", "So in Love" etc) brought back happy memories of the late 1940s and early 1950s for the older members of the group, and the younger ones were equally captivated by the acting, the music, and the traditions of this fine entertainment. Despite not having the customary pre-theatre supper together on this occasion, the evening was judged to be a huge success, and the Theatre Club look forward to their next outing on 13th April, to see *The Play What I Wrote* at Wyndham's Theatre.

Hazel Neill
Sarratt Lane

Bridge Club

Bridge is a vehicle for much community spirit and, in addition to our own regular meetings, some of our members have also taken their playing cards out and about in aid of charity. Roger and Sheila Fawcner-Corbett (Loudwater House) organised and took part in a Bridge Drive for 72 people at St John's Church, Heronsgate and, in January, Liz Crook (Chess Hill) and Fenella Lough (Troutstream Way) played in the Bridge Marathon at Michael Sobell House. At the latter event, 65 people played over 220 hours of Bridge in a 24-hour period. Well done!

Peter Phillips



Garden Club

Hopefully every household in Loudwater will have received a copy of the Garden Club programme and booking form for 2002. We have tried to offer as wide a programme as possible, ranging from visits to historic houses and gardens to "Summer Swing" – an evening of jazz with Jools Holland at Kew.

A purely local event will be the first "Bring and Buy" morning at Pine Cottage on Sunday, 28th April. There will be plant cuttings, produce, seeds and various garden wares on offer. So do come and join us for a cup of coffee, home made cakes, a chat with friends and, possibly, some good bargains.

As the latest of the Loudwater clubs we are still very much feeling our way. There's no need to think you have to be an expert gardener to join – just a love of gardens and gardening.

Anne Tate
Rooks Hill

Jogging along

Roughly speaking, we are divided into three groups; those who would rather jump off a cliff than do it, those who do it willingly and those who think they ought to do it. What am I on about? Why, running of course. If you happen to fall into either of the latter two categories, then lucky you, because one of the best short running routes is right outside your very own front door.

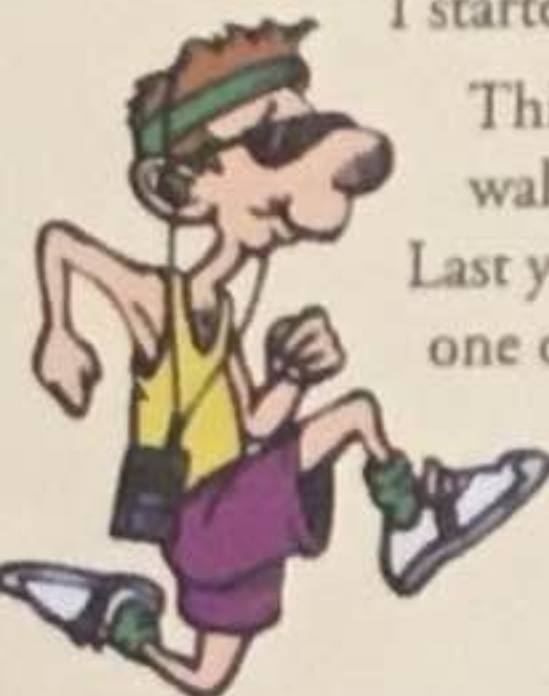
Let me share my running route with you. This won't hurt, I promise. Starting along Troutstream Way with a brisk warm-

up walk to the first of the two bridges, I pause for a brief stretch. When the morning sun glints through the trees this becomes a magical spot. Muscles stretched, I start jogging towards the junction. Now, big decision, do I turn left along Trout Rise which means tackling that long steep hill before Whisper Wood, or should I turn right and have to face the long climb to Violet Way? Oh, what the heck, they're both a swine of a climb, so I alternate the route with each run.

One thing's for sure, whichever route I take I whoop with exhilaration when I finally pant and gasp my way to the flat bit at the top. If I'm running up Trout Rise, it's then a pleasant distance to the bend at the end, then a bit of an incline, through the gate and a right turn onto Sarratt Lane. Just mind those cars. In summer the shade from the trees makes a pleasant interlude before turning right and back through the other gate and into the Estate again. The next bit, being downhill, is easy peasy, then back over the bridges and the home straight, finishing with a spirited sprint up the incline before the Kingfisher Lure junction. OK, so it's hardly long distance endurance, but it suits me and hey, I can always do it twice.

By running through Loudwater I really get to experience the changing seasons first hand, so right now I'm seeing the green shoots coming through, noticing the light changing from winter haze to spring crispness, even feeling the temperature difference between running in the shady bits and the places where the sun shines through the trees.

I'm well aware that running is not everyone's idea of a good time, but it has given me a sense of the Estate as a whole as opposed to the little bit where I live, and of course, there are other benefits such as weight loss and increased fitness. Non-runners may find this hard to believe, but there is little to top the feeling of achievement when you manage to run the route, hilly bits included, non-stop, for the first time. Having such a great environment in which to do it is one of the reasons I started running in the first place.



This route is just as enjoyable if you choose to walk, which I also do quite often with my dog. Last year I was doing it almost every day since it was one of the few decent local places I could take him due to the foot and mouth closures. Yet another reason to be glad to live in Loudwater.

Vivien Schrager-Powell
Troutstream Way

Loudwater Lane

I don't consider myself an unusually timid driver but as I perilously mounted the bank on two wheels in order to avoid an oncoming vehicle which was travelling far too fast, I reflected that things were not always this bad in Loudwater Lane. Many parts felt as if I was driving 'off road' as my wheels engaged with the various potholes and then, of course, there was the flood.

I am sure you are all familiar with the expanse of water that presents itself after nearly every downpour. An abandoned car gave silent warning that one inch deeper and wading would be the next option. Then Derek Woolcot (absolute saint) appeared from Chess Falls with a rodding implement and began ensuring that the water level dropped. Phew! When I returned later the various developments, some of which the Committee have strenuously fought unsuccessfully, superimposed a further predicament. Lorries, vans and earthmovers blocked the way. Nightmare!



Well, what have the committee done about this deteriorating situation? Already a huge amount of work has been undertaken. A bulging file going back to 1990 evidences traffic counts,

surveys, questionnaires, a plan requesting the introduction of chicanes, platforms and rumble strips, extensive correspondence and a letter from the Highways Partnership which indicates that Loudwater Lane is number 34 in the queue for traffic calming measures. Recently a double line opposite Chess Lane, to stop people cutting the corner, and posts, with reflectors, on the slope near Glen Chess have been installed. Don Cammell has met the Area Engineer to raise awareness of the potholes (and has got some filled in) and the collapsed foundations on part of the Lanes. He is still seeking to get the level raised by 6-12" around the bend to prevent the Lane flooding. Don has also cut hedges in Sarratt Lane to maintain its width, much to their owners' gratitude.

Many others have sought to improve the situation and although a lot has and is being done, the issues in both Sarratt and Loudwater Lane require almost constant attention. What is needed is someone with time, interest and energy to volunteer to take these forward. Loudwater needs a Lane Tzar—could you help with this task?

Sue Tippen
Chess Lane



Report from the Estate Board

The flurry of publicity which erupted in January and February was most unwelcome and has caused worry for some owners and "head scratching" by many others. Let us hope that it has come to an end and that whatever report Experian generates next time will miss Loudwater. Apparently their economic data is collated and then tabulated by postcode. The Estate Company decided to conduct a questionnaire of the 171 owners. The questions focused on security aspects of the Estate. The results are being tabulated and will then be reviewed with the intention of informing owners of the key results as soon as possible. About 120 owners responded. The granting of Planning Approval for the conversion of the Garage into four flats is good news as the fabric of the empty building is deteriorating with non-use. Any commencement of work is many months away. The results of ground testing are awaited to ensure there is no contamination following many years of use as a working garage and repair business. Preparation of tender documents and the tender process will be the next steps in the process. Lastly, The Spinney and Barnes Wood have been assessed by a woodland conservancy specialist who has produced a report with recommended works. The ecological aspect also has to be studied and we are trying to arrange for this assessment over the next few months.

John Parsons
Troutstream Way

The Jubilee Jamboree

Come along and join in the fun and games for all ages at Loudwater's greatest ever Summer Event on 3rd June. We're combining the Garden Party with the Children's Summer Party into one great big Street Party to be held in the grounds of Loudwater Farm. Starting at Noon there will be live music, games for adults and children, good food and wine, and plenty of space just to relax and chat with friends. It will be the best combination of traditional Street Party activities and modern entertainment. Nostalgia will be a recurring theme and there might even be a prize for the best "1952 story" told on the day. So please book early by calling Maurice Escow (771810). Admission will be by ticket only (Adults: £15, Children: £5, Family of 5: £35).

Roy Sterry
Troutstream Way

The Loudwater Jubilee 'Street Party'



Join the Jamboree at Loudwater Farm
Monday 3rd June 12:00noon - 4:00p

For more details contact: Maurice Escow Tel: 01923 771

Obituary

It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of John Boon MC of Timberidge on 13th February after a short illness. John was a distributor of the newsletter for over 20 years and his cheery nature will be much missed. Our condolences and best wishes go to his wife, Frankie, and the family.

Ornithological Update

Don't be alarmed if you hear the sound of rapid gunfire over the next few weeks - it's probably a Greater Spotted Woodpecker trying to attract a mate. It's that time of year when you'll see more bird life in your garden as the migratory birds start to return. You should be able to spot Swifts flying over and see Sedge Warblers in the vegetation down by the concrete bridge over the Chess. Listen out for the mellow warbling of the Blackcap and the Chiffchaff chirping out its name in the tall trees. Sparrowhawks now outnumber Kestrels in the area so pity the House Martin, back from Africa, and likely to become lunch for one of these birds of prey.



Peter Tate
Rooks Hill

Letters to the Editor

Regretfully the first issue of The Ol' Trout contains an inaccuracy. John Jarrett was not in fact sole Editor over the past 25 years.

When in 1979 John took over as Chairman of the LRA, Dorothy Francis took over as Editor in which role she excelled and produced our newsletter (Edition Nos 12-47) from July 1979 to April 1988.

During my three years' tenure as Chairman, Dorothy produced carefully crafted newsletters with minimal involvement by myself, for which I was truly grateful. She was a first class Editor and I wish, on behalf of long standing residents who enjoyed reading her interesting and informative newsletters, to pay tribute to her efforts and to thank her for the contribution she made to our love of Loudwater and its community spirit.

Donald Cammell
Ladywood Close

[We also received letters from John Jarrett and Mary Slade reminding us of Dorothy's role as Editor.]

Many readers will know that, for the second time in a year, a planning application has been made to erect a 30m telecommunications mast on land at Micklefield Hall Farm, just 75m from the nearest houses in Sarratt Lane and Bridle Lane. Once again, it has aroused a great deal of anxiety and anger.

This time, the mast was designed to look vaguely like an unnaturally high replica water tower, thereby making it an even bigger intrusion on the beauty of the Green Belt landscape. Apart from the detrimental visual effect, there is grave concern regarding possible health risks. Government research continues on this and we are all aware of mistakes made in the past over health matters.

Designed for national coverage use, the mast would protrude 10m above the treetops, beaming out its radiation into our homes and gardens. This is not conducive to peace of mind. Three Rivers

District Council received more than 70 letters of objection and thanks are due to Barry and Helen Paydon (Sarratt Lane) for their diligence in helping to alert the area. The support from Loudwater has been impressive and much appreciated.

Hazel Nest
Sarratt Lane



Community Corner

As part of Parkinsons Awareness Week, the Parkinson's Disease Society is holding an Information Day on 10th April at Watersmeet, Rickmansworth. Further information from Ron and Joan Poole (776152)

Planning Applications

Decisions on previously reported applications

| | |
|----------|--|
| 01163/00 | Tall Trees, Loudwater Drive (Public Enquiry 8th May 2002) |
| 00748/01 | Tall Trees/Bridle Path Cott (DoE Appeal) |
| 00755/01 | Bridle Path Cottage (DoE Appeal) |
| 00317/01 | Rookery Wood House L. Lane (DoE Appeal) |
| 00501/01 | Thurwin. L. Heights (Appeal allowed) |
| 01251/01 | Bridle Path Cottage, L. Lane (Granted with restriction) |
| 01382/01 | La Mimosa, Sarratt Lane (Granted) |
| 01429/01 | 2 Glen Chess, L. Lane (Granted) |
| 01444/01 | 16 Lower Plantation (Granted) |
| 01455/01 | Woodleigh, Overstream (Granted) |
| 01463/01 | Lower Plantation-side road (Granted) |
| 01484/01 | Cherry Trees, L. Heights (Granted) |
| 01424/01 | Ladymead, L. Heights (Granted) |

New applications since last Newsletter to 13th March 2002

| | |
|----------|--|
| 01644/01 | Micklefield Farm, Sarratt Lane: Erection of 30m comms tower (C'tee dec./LRA Objected) |
| 01689/01 | Chesswood, Loudwater Lane: Amendment to 00680/001 (Granted) |
| 01698/01 | Mayfly, Troutstream Way: Replacement dwelling (Granted) |
| 00028/02 | Aisling, Troutstream Way: Two storey side ext. with dormers (Delegated dec.) |
| 00053/02 | 11 Ladywood Close: Two storey side ext. & cons. to rear (Delegated dec.) |
| 00076/02 | Broadeaves, Trout Rise: Front/Side ext. (C'tee dec./LRA Objected) |
| 00092/02 | Bridle Path Cottage, L. Lane: Demolish & erect replacement dwelling (C'tee dec./LRA Objected) |
| 00126/02 | Chessholme, Troutstream Way: Two storey rear ext. (Delegated dec.) |
| 00144/02 | 17 Lower Plantation: Two storey side ext. (Delegated dec.) |
| 00161/02 | Wildwood, Loudwater Heights: Side extension over existing garage (Delegated dec.) |
| 00183/02 | The Spinney, Bridle Lane: Side & front ext. & new det. garage (C'tee dec.) |
| 00214/02 | Sherwood, Loudwater Lane: Two storey side & single storey rear ext. (Delegated dec.) |
| 00247/02 | Thatches, Loudwater Lane: Addition of basement to extension (Delegated dec.) |

Note: Micklefield Farm Development Plans: Applicants & District Council negotiations continue

The Ol' Trout is the newsletter of the Loudwater Residents Association. It is published quarterly. Letters and articles (ideally no more than 250 words) are welcomed although the Editors reserve the right to shorten contributions as necessary.
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Copy for the next issue should be sent to Peter Phillips by 1st June 2002

