

# Ol' The Trout



Spring 2003

Number 107

## Policy Statement



I was criticised recently for being willing to publish a letter from a resident that was critical of something that had happened on the private estate in which she lived. As far as I am concerned, as Editor of the Ol' Trout, the official journal of the LRA, I will not agree to any form of censorship. If residents feel aggrieved about anything, and write to me about their grievances, I will advise them to talk first to their private estate's committee but if they do not obtain satisfaction, I reserve the right to publish their letter. The Ol' Trout, and the LRA, represent ALL the residents of Loudwater, wherever they live, and I am entitled to publish anything that comes within the LRA Aims and Objectives.

Editor

## Editorial

Our Neighbourhood Watch tries to protect us from criminals. June Curtis and her team of helpers do a wonderful job. But, what about someone starting up a different kind of Neighbourhood Watch – one helping our elderly and disabled residents to get around, whether they want to go shopping or socialising? There are lots of Loudwater folk living alone, with families many miles away. If you are willing to give up some of your time, and help those neighbours in need by taking them to the shops or to their friends, please let me know. I shall then start a register of helpers, and publicise this in the Ol' Trout in a section called Members Corner. Thank You.



## Loudwater and Sarratt Lanes

4 pm on a Friday afternoon may not seem the best time, for a group of people to walk Sarratt and Loudwater Lanes in search of ways to improve the safety and maintenance of these, but that is what I, a few of the LRA committee members, and Steve Wooding from Three Rivers Highways Partnership, did on 24th January. Surprisingly there was very little traffic but Steve did accept, and pledged to act on, our concerns. He is going to examine: the issue of speed on both Lanes and carry out a traffic survey to see if the speed limit can be lowered (although this is unlikely), and the installation, on the single track stretches, of passing places. He will carry out: a reinstatement of 'slow' signs on the tarmac, a repair to the road surface at the junction of Loudwater and Bridle Lane, clear out the clogged drains at the junction of Sarratt and Loudwater Lanes and improve signage. We also asked Steve to re-examine our ranking (currently 38th in the queue) for traffic calming measures: his traffic survey will help with this and he asks for anyone who has an accident, on either Lane, however small, to report it to the Police as the greater the number of reported accidents via the Police, the higher up the queue we will rise.

Sue Tippen  
Chess lane

## Neighbourhood Watch

If you've been living in your house for a few years and especially if you've never experienced the trauma of being burgled, chances are you've drifted into a few lax habits regarding home security. Do you always set the alarm when leaving the house, even if it's just for five minutes? Do you lock your windows? How many times do you nip out and leave a window open, thinking to yourself, it's only the loo window, and no one could possibly climb through there. Don't fool yourself! It's bad enough to return home and find you've had uninvited visitors, worse still if you're immediately hit by the realisation that you could have so easily prevented the situation. So please, just be careful and don't get caught out.

Vivien Schragger-Powell, Troutstream Way

*I totally agree. We were burgled on Wednesday, 26th Feb! Editor.*

## Thank You

If you liked the look of the last issue of the Ol' Trout, and most people did, praise must go to Tony Bradford of Overstream. He took over the Art Direction and did a great job. He will continue as Art Director (I hope!) and I thank him most sincerely for all the hard work he puts in, quietly and without fuss. Whilst in the mood of giving thanks, I would also like to commend my next-door neighbour, Roland Baish of Armitage Close, for continuing to do our printing free. Without Roland we could not afford to make the Ol' Trout look so good. And thank you, Penny Wilkinson of Cherry Hill, for helping me with all my computer problems!

Editor

## The Mystery of the Commemorative Bench

When we moved to Loudwater in 1994, there was a bench on the grass verge outside our house. What a lovely idea! Weary shoppers could rest awhile before plodding on; dog walkers could sit for a contemplative moment or two; runners might use it for hamstring stretches; or courting couples could - you get the picture? But as time passed, we quickly realised that the bench wasn't leading that sort of community life. The truth was quite a different story! Smokers were drawn to that bench like it was the meeting place for Loudwater's Smoke Yourself Silly Club. Discarded fag ends were

### Loudwater Residents Association

#### Chairman

Roy Sterry  
Mulberry Cottage, T'stream Way  
779599

#### Vice Chairman

Denise Preedy  
12 Harewood  
770280

#### Treasurer

Maurice Escow  
Wildwood, L'water Heights  
771810

#### Correspondence Secretary

Don Cammell  
Martins, Ladywood Close  
776126

#### Members

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

scattered everywhere, some thoughtfully squashed into the muddy grass. Also, a wide variety of beverages were consumed there, judging by the empty cans and bottles found around its stubby wooden legs. And not wanting to be left out, the empty crisp packet, plus a variety of other wrappings, were left to drift up and down the road until I picked them up. What's more, the bench seemingly gave off a signal to the local dog community, compelling all to stop and use it as a canine Internet café. (Weemail, geddit?). So, when I discovered that the bench had disappeared, I was not altogether heartbroken.

Where it went remains a mystery. But if it ever does turn up, please, have it outside your house, with my blessing. But may I suggest you keep a good supply of black plastic bin bags and disposable rubber gloves handy.

**Vivien Schragger-Powell**  
Troutstream Way

*The LRA is very concerned that the bench went missing. It commemorated Cyril Brine. We are now looking for a way to commemorate him, and others who have given outstanding service to Loudwater, that is less susceptible to vandalism. Roy Sterry.*

## Obituary

Air Marshall Sir Ivor Broom, who died on Friday 24th January 2003, was awarded a DSO and three DFCs for his bravery and legendary skill as one of Britain's foremost pilots during World War II. Sir Ivor was a highly respected Loudwater resident who would always find time to get things done for his friends and the local community. He was Chairman or President of numerous local organisations and charities,

including Three Rivers Residents Association, Moor Park Golf Club, and Rickmansworth Society. He left the mark of his "do it now" approach on all of them. Sir Ivor's many grateful friends turned out to remember his life, and give their condolences to Lady Jess and family, at a very well attended service at Christ Church on Monday 3rd February. We have been fortunate in having such a great and brave man living among us. He has been a shining example for us all.

**John Hawxwell**  
Bridle Lane

## Bridge Club Christmas Party

Thanks mainly to Bridge Club Chairman Liz Crook, we enjoyed a really great Christmas party. The drinks, served by the worthy Dennis Sare, flowed; the little bites to eat - savoury or sweet - were great. Then, after an hour or so of revelry, 32 of us began to play Chicago-style Bridge, organised by the irrepressible Kevin Colling. There were many prizes - even I won one! Liz invited a few outsiders, i.e. non-Loudwater residents. Most were from the Michael Sobell Bridge Club. They had a super time, were very appreciative of our Club - and quite envious of it too!

## Bridge Club AGM

Two committee members have stood down - Maurice Escow and Peter Phillips. Roger Fawkner-Corbett was elected. The committee now comprises Liz Crook (Chair), Fenella Lough (Secretary), Roger Fawkner-Corbett (Treasurer), Dennis Sare and Maureen Wood.

## Oldest Resident

Happy birthday to Doris Cammell, who was 101 in February. For the last three years she has lived in Troutstream Hall. Doris is the mother of LRA past Chairman, Donald Cammell, who is now our hawk-eye on planning matters. We believe Doris is Loudwater's only centenarian. Any challengers?

## Wine Club

In April, we visit the Loire valley to sample their lovely wines.

On 25th May, lunch at the Barn, with a talk by Lindsay Oram on food and wine blending.

On 28th June, a day trip to an English vineyard.

On 25th July, a New Zealand wine tasting, led by Sandie Leckie.

**Stella Garner**  
Chess Hill

## Wine Club Dinner



The Wine Club doesn't hold an AGM. Instead it has an ADM, an Annual Dinner Meeting! Last November it was held at Roots, in Mill End, and it was the best ever. The food was superb, the wines included a French Cremant de Bourgogne, a New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc and a Spanish Valdepenas, proving beyond doubt that our committee really knows its wines! Henry Browne had flown back specially early from Madeira for the dinner and maintained it was as good as the one he had at Reids. Praise indeed. Wine Club Chairman

Tony Hale ran through the Club's programme for 2003. He gave special thanks to former Club Secretary Jane Baxter, formerly Goldthorpe, and Stella Garner for all their hard work. Roy Sterry, on behalf of the LRA, thanked the committee for their commitment!

## Garden Club (Part 1)

First of all, congratulations to Linda Fowler on becoming the new Chairman. Secondly, our thanks go to Anne Tate for all the hard work she has put in as Chairman till now.

## Garden Club (Part 2)

As the new Chairperson and Events Organiser for The Garden Club I hope that we have a wonderful summer so that we can all enjoy our gardens and beautiful surroundings. Our next Bring & Buy is on Sunday 27th April at Pine Cottage on Cherry Hill at 11 o'clock. We hope to spend a summer Sunday visiting gardens here on the estate, possibly followed by a Barbeque. A trip to maybe Wisley or Loseley House for one of their specialist gardening events is under discussion for September/October. Later on in the year we will be holding a "hands on" flower demonstration that will give us all the chance to be creative, and there's a talk on conservation in the pipeline too. Enjoy your gardens.



**Linda Ann Fowler**  
Trout Rise

## Theatre Club

There have been two outings so far this year. It's such luxury to be picked up at the Royal Masonic School by coach, and then brought back there after an enjoyable evening out amongst friends. On 10th May, another trip to the Watermill Theatre in Newbury is planned, this time, to see "The Triumph of Love". On 27th June we are going to Cliveden for an open-air performance of Henry Fielding's Tom Jones. In July there are the Battlefield Proms at Hatfield House. Later in the year we're hoping to visit the Welsh National Opera at Oxford, and going to Stratford, to the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre. It's a great programme. Do join us.

**Denise Preedy**  
Harewood

# 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 Wednesday of month  
Chairman  
Liz Crook (776567)

## Garden Club

Chairman  
Linda Ann Fowler (775771)

## Children's Club

Co-ordinator  
Ann Garner (770633)

## Children's Club

This year the number of children who came to the Christmas party was even greater than last year. 66 children and twice as many Mums, Dads and Grandparents joined in on this fun get-together. For the first time we held the party in the Loudwater Farm Barn. Although a little cold and 'cobwebby', the character of this wonderful building just added to the atmosphere. This was helped by an excellent art exhibition by Marcus Bolt. We shall certainly use this venue again. The charms of Mr Marvel worked its usual wonders on the children and a rather exuberant Father Christmas put on a side-splitting performance. Thank you to Ann Marie Hodges, Jennifer Horwood and Tracey Holden who put in many long hours to make this event such a success.

Anne Garner  
Trout Rise

## Investment Club Dinner

This year the Investment Clubs chose Leveridge's in Chipperfield as the venue for their annual dinner. (We just about had enough money left to pay!). Leveridge's had been tried and tested by the Wine Club so it came well recommended! A coach picked up the members and their partners - about two dozen of us - from Loudwater Farm, so there were no problems about drink and drive. The meal was splendid, the wines excellent, the evening most convivial. Our thanks go to Godfrey Crook, and Trevor and Mary Slade, for their impeccable organisation.

## Phil Blowes of Timberidge writes ...

A key issue for many Loudwater residents is that we live in a beautiful area that has been sympathetically developed in a woodland environment, and no one wants to see that change. Unfortunately, these woodlands are getting old and we must now consider how to manage the situation where these very trees can become killers and cause enormous damage to property (in our case, clearance costs alone are well in excess of £20,000 - and rebuilding will be extra). The Tree Preservation Order system is adversarial and the way it is used by the Three Rivers Council does not assist in sensible long-term management of an ageing woodland population in a suburban environment.



He's right. Read his story in our next issue. It's quite frightening. Editor.

## Cathy Melvin of Whisperwood writes...

I was interested to read other people's views regarding the potential value of a Loudwater Bus. Every weekday morning a constant stream of cars, ours included, makes the short trip to and from Rickmansworth station to drop commuters and children. I would like to know whether residents would be keen to use a communal bus service, perhaps only at peak times and on a limited run. Far from increasing traffic, as suggested by the Cooks in a previous issue of the Ol' Trout, this can only result in a decrease.

Also, well done to the team on the new style newsletter. It is much appreciated and improves both communication and a sense of community spirit.

Thank you for the flattering last paragraph. The debate on whether we should have a bus or not will, I feel sure, go on and on. Editor.

## Marcelle Rogers of Chess Hill writes...

In a letter to our Chairman, Roy Sterry, Marcelle writes a sad letter about the neglect and lack of care shown by some of the residents in the part of Loudwater in which she lives - Chess Hill/Chess Lane. We agree!

Unkempt verges, overgrown hedges, misplaced rocks/stones, rubble, dustbin bags, visible dustbins, broken fences, derelict garages, lots of litter - all are inexcusable. After investigating the area, Roy has written to Marcelle to point out that some of the damage has been caused by builders' vehicles and some by one resident, not a member of the LRA, who does not seem to care. However, it has to be up to the residents of their respective areas to look after their own private roads in a proper fashion. If they do not, other than reprimanding them, there is nothing that the LRA can do to help. We want a high standard shown throughout Loudwater. We are delighted that your road has been resurfaced. But, on your own admission, it took a 20-year struggle to achieve this, so you know the problems. Tony Fairweather and Nigel Shephard of your Estates Committee are doing their best. Please give them encouragement. They really would appreciate it.



## Margaret White of Lower Plantation wrote...

...about the grass at the end of Loudwater Lane, where the Lane meets Croxley Green. Having a low-slung sports car she could not see any traffic coming from either way at the crossing. She telephoned Three Rivers Highways Partnership for help six times. She was passed from department to department. Nothing was done for almost three months. Eventually the grass was cut on the right but not on the left! So, Margaret had no alternative but to travel to Watford, where she works, the long way round, via

## Fine Dining Club

On Sunday 16th February, over a glass or two of champagne, thirty residents interested in forming a Fine Dining Club met at the Barn in Loudwater Farm to discuss this new project. The host was LRA Treasurer, Maurice Escow, whose brainchild it was. After a short question and answer session a committee was formed consisting of Clive Brothers - a big boss at Weight Watchers! - (Chair), Christine Sterry, Lorna Hawxwell, Linda James, Viv Schragger-Powell and Mike Hill.

## New Art Club

For beginners, experienced amateurs and professionals. Drawing and painting in all media, figure drawing, tuition, visiting lecturers, art appreciation, work sharing, discussions, gallery visits, etc.

Inaugural meeting 8.00pm Wednesday May 14th at Loudwater Farm: Contact Rosalyn Bolt: 01923 777750.

Email: [marcusbolt@easynet.co.uk](mailto:marcusbolt@easynet.co.uk)

Rosalyn studied painting and drawing at the Ruskin School of Art, Oxford. She has recently completed an Open College

of the Arts Course in painting and is currently undertaking a refresher course at Amersham Art College. She specialises in landscape and still life in oils.



Hello to:  
Mr M Ackenson, "Ladygate"  
11 Ladywood Close  
and  
To Mr & Mrs Erivona  
Batu Mas, Bridle Lane

Rickmansworth. I congratulate her on nagging the Council. I am sorry she had such a poor response. The LRA will certainly keep an eye on this dangerous spot when the grass starts growing again.

P.S. Thank you for your kind comments about the Ol' Trout. It is flattering to hear that it has now made its premiere appearance in the U.S. I shall certainly, as you suggest, date the issues more clearly.

Editor

## New Year's Eve Party



*They were having a good time at the New Year's Eve party weren't they?*

It was a tremendous success! The evening got off to a 'sparkling' start with a champagne reception and a professional performance of Blues and Blue Grass music by Dave and Ben Tippen (Chess Hill) on banjo and guitar, vocals by Ben. An excellent five-course dinner followed and, at its conclusion, Emma Carrington (Bridle Lane) and

Simon Buttle, students at the Royal Northern College of Music, sang a varied programme to a standard that augurs well for their future careers. Everyone later danced into the 'small hours', with great enjoyment, to music supplied by Don Moore.

The New Year's Eve party would not have been practicable nor the great success it was without a great deal of preparation and dedication by members of the LRA Committee and other volunteers.

A number of problems seemed insurmountable, namely supply of electricity and lack of sanitation. For months Colin Timms (Trout Rise) spent his spare time rigging lighting circuits, and thus an adequate power supply, to enable the event to be catered on site. Charles Homewood, working at great speed, put in a temporary indoor 'loo' in twenty-four hours, which came as a great relief to all of us!

The hall was superbly decorated under the supervision of Mary-Jane Atkinson (Loudwater Lane), with the enthusiastic help of the Garden Club and Jo Marler (Chess Lane). All this could not have taken place without Denise Preedy (Harewood) picking up on the idea and having the organisational skills to carry it forward to such a successful conclusion.

A few years ago an event like this would have been unimaginable let alone achievable. Impetus came from the formation of clubs of general interest, which, in turn, generated such a growth in community spirit.



*New Year's Eve! Christine Sterry, wife of LRA Chairman Roy, at the first sitting, with thanks to master plumber, Charles Homewood*

Carol Escow  
Loudwater Heights

## The "r'lides of March"

What a brilliant name for the LRA Race night at the Barn in Loudwater Farm on 15th March. Congratulations to James Wilkinson who thought it up. I'm sure the evening was a great success. Sadly, we couldn't be there because we were in Oz. A bit of gambling, some fish and chips, fine wine and convivial company - what more could anyone want?

Editor

## Electric Piano Wanted

The LRA wants to buy an electric piano or full-size keyboard. If you have one or other for sale please contact Sue Tippen on 774016 (evenings).

## AGM 2003

The LRA AGM will be held at Loudwater Farm, Thursday 24th April. Please come - please air your views.

## Diary of Events

Saturday 15th March - Race Night, Loudwater Barn.

Thursday 24th April - LRA AGM.

Sunday 6th July - Garden Party at Loudwater Farm.

Friday 1st August - Goodwood Races.

Saturday 9th August - Tour of Oxford Colleges, including reception and dinner.

Saturday 30th August - Jazz at Richmond.

Saturday 11th October - Harvest Supper Quiz/Musical Evening.

Wednesday 31st December - New Year's Eve Party.

## In our next issue ...

A profile of LRA Treasurer, Maurice Escow of Loudwater Heights; an article by Sue Tippen of Chess Lane on how and why she joined the LRA committee; a history of Loudwater House by Shelia Fawkner-Corbett; a letter by Mark Breslauer and Elizabeth Friedman of Bridle Lane on fireworks etiquette; and a chilling story from Phil Blowes of Timberidge on how he and his family were nearly killed by the recent gales.

## Planning Applications

### Decisions on previously reported applications

01297/02 Burnside, Troutstream Way: Retrospective: Erection of boundary wall with 1.2m high pillars (Refused: DoE Appeal).

### New applications since January 01' Trout to 23 February 2003

01548/02 4 Ladywood Close: Rear conservatory (Granted).

01615/02 Bridle Path Cottage, L.Lane: Extend garage roof and insert velux windows and additional windows at first floor level.

01644/02 Beechwood, Trout Rise: Part two, single storey side and rear extensions, single storey rear conservatory.

01667/02 4 Lower Plantation: Conv. of garage into habitable accom. rear cons. and 1st. floor side ext. erection of det. garage and conv. of outbuildings into annex.

01696/02 Glen Cottage, Trout Rise: Two storey side and rear extension and single storey front extension.

01732/02 Broadeaves, Trout Rise: Two storey side extension.

01735/02 Silverwood & Sherwood. Loudwater Lane: Erection of 2 new dwellings with detached garages to replace existing dwellings.

01739/02 Lamp Post No.227 at land adjacent Chorleywood Lane: Replica lamp post and 2 small microwave equipment cabinets (Refused).

00028/03 3 Lower Plantation: Single storey rear extension and front porch.

00056/03 The Dell, Loudwater Drive: Removal of condition 10 from 00/01094 and condition 5 from 00/01097 LBC: surface of driveway

00067/03 Chess Place, Troutstream Way: Retrospective: erection of entrance gates with block pillars.

00076/03 The Walled Garden, Troutstream Way: Single storey side extension to gardener's accommodation.

00084/03 White Violets, Troutstream Way: Rear conservatory.

00091/03 Handa, Trout Rise: Single storey rear, two-storey front and side ext. incorp. accommodation in roof space with dormer windows to front, rear and side.

Note: Micklefield Farm Development Plans: Negotiations continue.

The Ol' Trout is the newsletter of the Loudwater Residents Association. It is published quarterly.

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