

Ol' The Trout



Chairman's Word



As I look back over my first 6 months as Chairman I am struck by two things; the amount of time given by the Committee Members to the maintenance of Loudwater, and just how much I enjoy living in such a pleasant community with such a wide range of activities available to us all.

The Golden Jubilee Street Party in June was a great success, attended by over 250 people. In August there was a Champagne trip to the races at Goodwood and in October, nearly 100 people sat down to a Harvest Quiz Supper in the Barn. And these were in addition to the events organized by the Garden, Wine and Theatre Clubs.

These events take a lot of planning and hard work on the day and many people do so much. I shall never forget the sense of Community spirit setting up and clearing up after the Jubilee Party. But this wasn't a one off, there were over 30 people helping to decorate the Barn for the Quiz Supper, mainly from the Garden Club, and what a display it was. I really am grateful to so many people that I find it difficult not to mention them all by name, but I would like to thank Denise Preedy and Mary-Jane Atkinson for their enthusiastic and tireless support.

Although we are proud that the number of residents participating in community events is growing, about one-third at present, my aim is that all Loudwater residents of any age feel welcome to join us at any event. Making that first step may be difficult but please find a way to join in the Community.

Finally I would like to thank Don Cammell, who acts on our behalf on all planning matters, Peter Phillips our Editor, and Maurice Escow our Treasurer: their tireless dedication to Loudwater is an example to us all.

Roy Sterry

Editorial

At the beginning of autumn the grass was so high at the end of Loudwater Lane where it meets Croxley Green that it was impossible to see any traffic coming from the right. Here was an accident waiting to happen. I heard lots of complaints, but nobody did anything about this danger spot. Why? All you needed to do was to ring Three Rivers Council (776611), and complain. I did, and within 72 hours the grass was cut. If there is excessive flooding in Loudwater Lane there is again an easy remedy. Ring the Highways Partnership (777320). I do and they are usually very helpful. (Recently the flooding in Loudwater Lane has been so bad that it has taken time for the water to drain away – if this is the case try using Sarratt Lane and Solesbridge Lane. These two lanes tend to flood less often). The LRA committee does its best to sort out some of these problems for you but you can help too. Just make the necessary 'phone call! Do you want action, for instance, on the right turn from Loudwater Lane to Sarratt

via Solesbridge Lane? It's a completely blind turning. Then join me in complaining to Three Rivers. And what about the right turn from Sarratt Road into Loudwater Lane by Croxley Green?

That's a blind turning too. Please realise you must complain to the right authorities to get things done. The LRA can't do it all for you.

Peter Phillips

Loudwater Personality - John Jarrett

My childhood might be thought Dickensian – born in London 1922 to a handsome but capricious and husband-less mother.

I was evacuated in the war, at which time my mother disappeared and I never saw her again.

I won a scholarship to Pembroke, Cambridge – bliss, even if (unlike today) my liquor intake was a bottle of sherry a term. Long a pacifist, I got exemption from the Services and joined the ARP, but, later frustrated, I went to the Navy Recruitment Centre and volunteered, saying, with cocky idiocy, that I would only serve in minesweepers. Later I was commissioned.

After demob, I finished my degree and passed for the Foreign Office, but newspapers paid better. I worked in Glasgow, Manchester, London, New York and Paris. I then became Executive Officer of Woman's Own and eventually No. 2 at the News of the World.

At Cambridge I had met an American who left her nuclear scientist husband for me, and an Earls Court bed-sit. But after a few years of flat dwelling, my pay-offs for being fired had produced a £4,000 deposit on a house in Loudwater.

She loved Loudwater, but coping with me, and three children, over-taxed her frail body and, after nineteen years of marriage, she died. Then I was fired again!

I joined Weidenfeld Publishers (where I met Margaret) and, having done much voluntary work and needing time with the children and my new wife, I became Deputy Director and eventually Chairman of the British Epilepsy Association and later General Secretary to the Freudian Institute of Psycho-analysis, where I survived for fourteen years till my retirement to face an even greater task of coping with the two (by now) teenage sons Margaret had given me. At Cambridge I had joined the Liberals and, after various national posts, was coerced into standing for Parliament in 1970 (disaster) and twice in 1974, coming second with the highest Liberal vote ever.

When I came to Loudwater it was a pretty

Loudwater Residents Association

Chairman

Roy Sterry

Mulberry Cottage, T'istream 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 Fawcner-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



snooty place, with little intercourse between the Estate and outlying districts. In 1974 the LRA (then a ginger group inside the Estate) collapsed and four of us under Jack Cagnet's leadership decided to reform it on a wider basis, recognising that the Estate and all the other areas could not act in isolation against the tide of would-be developers. It was just in time for all to support what had been a one-man campaign to prevent Lower Plantation being swamped with over 70 houses.

We also recognised that, without a pub or over-the-fence talks, people could be very isolated here. So we started the Newsletter, the Garden Party, musical evenings, etc., and this programme has now been expanded by later Chairmen. Today Loudwater is a much stronger and more friendly place than ever, thanks to scores of expert and hard working LRA members, with its greatest achievement perhaps being to launch the successful campaign against the widening of the M25.

For my 80th birthday, despite breaking her leg in August, Margaret managed to organize a gathering for lunch in the Old Library of my old college, in Cambridge. The family rallied round with transport, and we had a great day. The weather was perfect, people came from all over (Hong Kong, even), the lunch was excellent and the speeches not too long. Herself wheel chaired around in great style and I, for some reason, found myself awash in malt whiskies.

Racing Zimmers have been ordered for my 90th.

John Jarrett
Violet Way

Wine Club

The next 3 scheduled meetings are on Friday, 31st January when we will be tasting organic wines worldwide, courtesy of Vintage Roots; Friday, 28th February when we will be taken on a tasting tour of Iberian wines under the tutorage of John Ducker; and Friday, 28th March when we will be introduced to various grape varieties by Martin Strauss. In April some of our members are going to the Loire Valley to sample the wines and cuisine there. It should be great fun! To join the Wine Club email Loudwater.wineclub@virgin.net or talk to any of the committee.

Stella Garner
Chess Hill

Wine Club Day Trip to France

It is the company you keep which reflects your personality and interests.



This is almost certainly the case with the LRA Wine Club whose members shamelessly and selflessly devote much of their sporadic spare minutes to the research of global viticulture. Needless to say, with an onerous responsibility such as this, appropriate research in the field is an essential activity. So we students of the vine require unlimited access to the objects of our study.

It was to this end that some thirty or so hardy souls awoke early and boarded a coach bound for Folkestone and Calais. Ahead our taste buds could expect a gruelling workout.

First stop was the charming town of Ardres, with handsome period buildings neatly arranged around a cobbled square. The pleasurable atmosphere extended to the light and airy interior restaurant, Le Francois 1^{er}. Here we met Guy Boursot, who expertly guided us through seven wines that accompanied an exquisite lunch of simple quality found only in France.

Having partaken of more than was probably decent, and indeed comfortable, we travelled the short distance to Bois-

en-Ardors, home of Guy's Wine Collection. At this point, the tasting activity intensified, as new vintages were sampled and old vintages sampled ...again. The air resounded with corks bursting and credit cards groaning as they approached their elastic limits. After loading the coach - no mean feat after a five-course meal and more wine than you could shake a stick at, there followed a rapid raid on an unsuspecting hypermarket, where we revealed ourselves to be truly British - bustling up and down the aisles seeking out coffee, cheese, biscuits and, yes, more wine! Finally, time to pitch up back at the Channel Tunnel terminal.

So after another day at the office, you are quite entitled to ask in these performance-driven times "What was achieved? Did

we return with our knowledge in this peculiar science suitably advanced?" Well, yes! And those of you who went to the Harvest Quiz Supper or the New Year's Eve party should spare a thought for those of us who painstakingly selected the wines you savoured. Membership of the Wine Club is not only about learning, it is about sharing an interest with like-minded people. So come on, join, and make some new friends.

Oliver Atkinson
Loudwater Lane



Are Loudwater Ladies Layabouts?

Garden Club

The Garden Club exists for all people interested in gardening and who are environmentally aware of the lovely surroundings of our community. You do not have to be an expert - indeed, we enjoy learning from each other. We



already have two speakers for next year: a talk on water gardens on January 30th at 8pm at Mont-au-Source, Loudwater Drive, by kind permission of Mrs. Charles Hauser. The speaker will be Graham Robb from Chenies Water Gardens who took home a gold medal and the coveted "Tudor Rose" at the Hampton Court Flower Show this year. Then on February 26th a specialist pelargonium grower, Derek Lloyd Dean, will be talking to us, while our popular "Bring & Buy" sale will be held again in April. We are also planning visits to gardens here in Loudwater and to one of the specialist gardening events at Losely House.

Linda Ann Fowler
Trout Rise

Theatre Club

Two new venues helped make 2002 another successful year. Because of their popularity, The Watermill, Newbury and The Battle Proms Concert are being included in the 2003 list of outings, along with Mrs. Warren's Profession by George Bernard Shaw at the Strand Theatre in January, HMS Pinafore at the Savoy Theatre in March and a trip to Oxford and Stratford later on in the year.

June Curtis
Troutsream Way

Bridge Club

The Rubber Bridge sessions on the 4th Wednesday of the month are cancelled due to lack of demand. There will no Bridge on the 1st January. There will be Duplicate Bridge on 29th January.

Liz Crook
Chess 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)

Children's Club

We are helping in a fund-raising project for the Rickmansworth Aquadrome Adventure Playground. The aim is to raise £50,000 funds for new equipment at the playground, which urgently needs upgrading with new items for all children, able-bodied, disabled, old and young. We are hoping for contributions from Loudwater. The Three Rivers Council is committed to the project and has pledged £15,000. Thank you to those who have already donated. If you haven't pledged please send your money to Ann-Marie Hodges, Woodlands, Loudwater Lane, WD3 4HP.

Ann Garner
Trout Rise

Music Evening

The Tippen family are talented musicians. Not quite in the class of the Trapp family, but almost! Here we have a guitarist, a banjo player and a singer. Lorna Hawxwell's daughter, Emma, is training to be an opera singer. The next Maria Callas? Who knows! Do any of the rest of our LRA members play an instrument, or sing? We want to stage a Music Evening at Loudwater Farm on 7th or 8th March. If you are interested in taking part please contact Sue Tippen before the end of January. Her telephone number is 01923 774016, her email address is sue.tippen@mshouse.co.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

2002 was the worst year since I took over the scheme in 1994. The number of crimes in the first six months was equal to the TOTAL of the last three years. Let's hope there are no more wealth surveys published!



I know I've said it all before, but please remember to close your curtains at night when interior lights are on, otherwise you display your contents to the world. DO take your car keys upstairs at night and DO activate your house alarm on the ground floor when you go to bed if your system will allow you to do this.

Once again, my sincere thanks to all the Co-ordinators dotted throughout Loudwater (except Bridle Lane) who've had to work hard this year. Without you the scheme couldn't exist - thank you very much for your commitment to the community.

June Curtis

Tassy

Tassy was our cat. We loved her very much.

On Saturday, 28th September we went with the Wine Club to France, for a splendid lunch and to stock up with wine for the Christmas period. We left at about 7am, and returned at about 11pm. When we came home there was no sign of Tassy. At the risk of waking the neighbours, I called her. She didn't come. The food we had left out for her had been eaten (we had a cat-flap), perhaps she wasn't hungry, we rationalised, and she'd be back in the morning. She wasn't. On Monday we pinned a "Missing" sign up near the two pillar-boxes in Loudwater Lane. In the afternoon we received

the telephone call we half expected and dreaded. Some kind lady called to tell us that she had seen a cat of Tassy's description dead in Loudwater Lane, just past Walden Lodge. At least we were able to give her a burial in our garden, next to Joseph. She was only two years old.

Joseph? Yes, he was our cat before Tassy. About three years ago, Joseph was killed in Loudwater Lane, and was found by the side of Mansard Cottage. He, too, was only two years old. Our neighbours have lost cats too. Elvis, The Rees' cat from 3 Armitage Close, was killed in Loudwater Lane. My next-door neighbours, Roland and June Baish, had a cat killed in Loudwater Lane. Jack Way, my other next-door neighbour, lost one of his dogs, also killed in Loudwater Lane.



What is wrong with Loudwater Lane? What isn't? We must have traffic-calming. I don't want other residents ever to have to go through the anguish we have suffered with the death of Tassy and Joseph. Till something is done, we certainly will never have a cat again. The LRA applied to Three Rivers Council for some form of traffic-calming about five years ago. We were put very low on the waiting list because, among other reasons, there have not been any human fatalities. How cynical is that?

Peter Phillips

Harvest Quiz Supper

The inhabitants of Loudwater were hardly celebrating the successful gathering of the Harvest on October 12th, but they were certainly enjoying the Harvest Supper.

The Barn naturally provided a most suitable setting - and it looked splendid swathed in greenery by the Garden Club and decorated with balloons by the indefatigable Maurice Escow. The tables were laid with green and white, and decorated with candles and flowers. Denise Preedy produced a splendid 3-course meal with the aid of her kitchen, situated in the Farm some distance away.

120 bottles of wine were disposed of by 92 Happy Harvesters. Not altogether surprising they were so happy when an internal auditor worked out the consumption per head averaged one and one-third bottles...

The Quiz was great fun - provoking much mirth and bitter rivalry; but despite the absence of questions on Pop and Sport, I thought the Question Master asked all the wrong questions - tho' probably the Brothers Grimm (the winning team) would not agree!

This was the second Harvest Quiz Supper and although we may not have gathered much in the way of the produce in the Barn - I am sure we all garnered much in the way of friendship.

Sheila Fawkner-Corbett
Loudwater House



I should like to thank Clive Fowler for sending me an Ode to the Harvest Supper. Hopefully, I'll be able to print it in the next edition. *Editor.*

Hywel Francis Art Exhibition

Some of the paintings by the late Hywel Francis were exhibited at the Three Rivers Council Offices in October and at the Baptist Church, Rickmansworth in November. His widow, Dorothy very generously donated the proceeds of the sales of the paintings to the Harefield Heart Science Centre, so that it could keep up its "good work in the research of the heart".

Hello to:

Len and Margarita Wright,
Cherry Trees, Cherry Walk,
Sarratt Lane.

and

Simon and Karen Post and
their three children, Lauren,
Scott and Zachary, Handa,
Trout Rise.

Troutstream Way

Goodbye to:

Mario, Margaret and
Davide Bianchin who
have left Loudwater
after 26 years.

Buzz Coster

First, I should like to thank Buzz greatly for all the invaluable help she has given me in producing The Ol' Trout. Sadly, she has decided to step down due to pressure of other work. I shall miss her - she is an absolute genius at the computer and in design work. Tony Bradford is replacing her. Hers will be a hard act to follow. Luckily, Penny Wilkinson is staying on in the team to try to keep me calm and to help me with all those technical problems I don't understand! So is our Chairman, Roy Sterry, without whom I really could

not manage. By the way, did you see Buzz's picture in the Watford Observer? As Events Manager at the Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre at Mount Vernon Hospital she ran the Christmas raffle, which included prizes donated by the BBC medical drama, Holby City.

Peter Phillips

No Joke!

Stella Garner of Chess Hill writes, "On Saturday, 1st November at about 3.30am, we thought someone was trying to gain entry into our house. All appeared OK. Then at 7.45am a neighbour rang, asking if we had yet seen our cars? They had been decorated, as had the front of our house, with 36 Tesco Value eggs, 1x2 litre bottle of Ashbourne Spring Sparkling mineral water, 6 toilet rolls (white), approx 1kg bacon, 1x1.5kg Tesco Value plain flour, 750g Organic Dutch tomatoes and 1x750g squeeze bottle of Heinz Tomato Ketchup". How did she know all the makes? Easy! All the containers had been left on the road and in her drive! A Halloween joke? Not to Stella and Don!

Fireworks

I received a letter from Mark Breslauer and Elizabeth Friedman of Bridle Lane about the thoughtlessness of some Loudwater residents who let off fireworks until very late at night, frightening children, upsetting animals and distressing the elderly. I have total sympathy with Mark and Elizabeth and will publish their letter in full in our next edition. Several other residents have also written complaining about the incessant fireworks. Are the culprits taking note?

Peter Phillips

Letter to the Editor

Having read your article in the last 'Ol' Trout', inviting 'feedback', my wife and I certainly have comments to make.

We are utterly frustrated with the apparent lack of respect by some residents for the presentation of the area on our side of Loudwater. In Loudwater Lane we see black bin liners full of rubbish left continuously at the front entrance of a substantial property. Moving on, we see unkempt grounds fronting the Lane, and unkempt verges in parts of Chess Lane and Chess Hill. We naturally feel let down by those Residents who just do not care.

We do not understand why the Highways Partnership cannot find the money to install traffic calming in Loudwater Lane, which is evermore used as a rat run. The speed of the traffic (including some residents) is making walking along the Lane very dangerous. Does it really have to take a serious accident before calming is installed?

We also object to developers constantly trying to build new houses in Loudwater. Loudwater is quite busy enough and should not be overdeveloped. Again, more new houses will only result in Loudwater losing its uniqueness.

Regarding the suggestion of a bus service and shop in Loudwater, we feel neither of these proposals are viable. A bus would rarely be used because residents are much more likely to use their own transport for the freedom and convenience it offers. A shop is unlikely to be able to compete with supermarkets or even existing local newsagents in and around Rickmansworth. Both suggestions would inevitably result in the volume of traffic increasing, something none of us wants.

We appreciate and enjoy living in Loudwater and love its uniqueness. We cannot be alone in wishing to see it maintained to a high standard. We also do not wish to see it deteriorate by over-development, untidiness and a general lack of consideration.

Rob and Lesley Cook
Chess Close

Stop Press: The Gourmet Club is to have its inaugural meeting in February. If you're interested in joining, please contact Maurice Escow (771810)



THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMITTEE OF THE LRA
HOPE YOU ENJOYED A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND WISH YOU A HEALTHY AND
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.



Planning Applications

Decisions on previously reported applications

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 00770/02 | Highfields, Troutstream Way: Sliding swimming pool cover & det. Shed (Granted) |
| 00795/02 | 3 Rose Gardens, Troutstream Way: First floor rear ext. (Refused) |
| 00829/02 | Land at Tall Trees & The Willows, Loudwater Drive: Erection of det. dwelling (Refused) |
| 00830/02 | Land at Tall Trees & The Willows, Loudwater Drive: Erection of det. bungalow (Refused) |
| 00854/02 | White Violets, Troutstream Way: Single storey side ext., part basement & rear cons. (Refused) |
| 00911/02 | Plots 5&6 L. Plantation: Var. of cond. of Pl. Perm. 8/719/79 Ext of time to submit reserved matters (Withdrawn) |
| 00941/02 | Loudwater Garage, T. Way: Conv. of 2 garages into C'tee room & offices (Granted) |

New applications since October Ol' Trout to 17th November 2002

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 01110/02 | Cherryhill Cottage, Trout Rise: First floor side ext. & loft conversion (Granted) |
| 01137/02 | Cherry Trees, Sarratt Lane: Convert garage, rear ext & new garage (Granted) |
| 01208/02 | 16 Lower Plantation: First floor side extension & porch (Granted) |
| 01252/02 | The White House, Trout Rise: Postal pouch installation (Withdrawn) |
| 01297/02 | Burnside, Troutstream Way: Retrospective applic. erection of boundary wall with 1.2m high pillars (Delegated Decision) |
| Note 1 | Micklefield Farm Development Plans: 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 Editor reserves the right to shorten contributions as necessary.
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