

Ol' The Trout



Summer 2003

Number 108

Chairman's Word

I celebrated my first full year as Chairman at the AGM held in April. For the first time in recent years we used the Barn, as we now have our own comfortable seats, recently installed lighting and heating, and even a temporary toilet! The main item on the agenda was "The Barn - a Village Hall?" as I wanted to gauge the level of support for this. It has been indicated that we might be able to take on the lease and that of the surrounding field. There are considerable financial and legal difficulties to overcome, but I thought we should at least look at this proposition. I was pleased with the unanimous support I had, and the Committee will now seek advice on the cost and implications of creating a Village Hall for the use of our residents.

Although we have enough tables and chairs for most events we hold, we regularly have to hire further equipment. This, in addition to the cost of insurance against accidents and losses (nearly £500 per annum), and postage etc., has led us to recommend an increase in membership subscriptions for 2004 onwards to £10 per annum. This is still a very modest sum to cover the expenses incurred. The AGM carried the motion unanimously.

Michael Nest, Anthony Moss and Sheila Fawkner-Corbett stood down from the committee after many years of service, the longest being 16 years by Michael, our Minutes Secretary. Anthony served 13 years, during which he set up the two Investment Clubs, which he continues to support. Sheila's contribution over the last four years has also been of great value, and I would like to thank them all for their service. I welcome Colin Timms onto the Committee: Colin has been a resident for over 20 years and has played a large part in many of our activities and, single-handedly, installed new heating and lighting circuits in the Barn.



The Loudwater Farm Barn

Without the enthusiastic efforts of all the Committee members we would not have such a thriving community and I am grateful to them all, as well as to the Club officers and Mike Hill, who audits our accounts.

Roy Sterry

Children's Safety

We are concerned over the recent letter that Loudwater Estate Board residents have received regarding children playing on our roads. The inference of the letter is that Loudwater children should neither be seen nor heard. To suggest that our children could be prosecuted as trespassers if they venture beyond their own garden is an absurd notion. The children of Loudwater help bring life to our community and are also its future. What we really should be doing is making the roads safer for all users, including children. The term 'road-user' surely should also include cyclists, dog walkers, horse-riders as well as (occasionally) children using their bicycles, scooters, and skateboards, etc.

Ann Garner, Ann Marie Hodges, Jennifer Comerford, Erica Bendall. (Dr Hilary Trudeau and Dr Philip Garner have also written on the same theme. Editor).

John Parsons, Chairman of the Estate Board, replies...

"Our Company is concerned about the dual risks of excessive vehicle speed and children playing on narrow, blind bends or using the hills as skateboard parks. The 'Children's Safety' letter talks about "making the roads safer for all users". That is precisely our intent. Using Kingfisher Lure (as the most dangerous example) for skateboarding is fraught with danger for ALL USERS of our roads. There are no footpaths or street lights in Loudwater - if we now pay some attention to avoidable risks then our purpose has been achieved and perhaps we have helped to prevent a serious incident"

Conservation

For residents who did not attend our AGM, a few words on matters of concern raised at the meeting. Preservation of our semi-rural environment is one of the primary aims of the LRA and we have constantly to watch out for changes or trends that would prejudice the character and quality of our environment. A few of the growing trends causing concern and needing some restrictions that we feel should be drawn to your attention are:

a) A 3rd floor - caused by roof extensions, and also new houses raising roof levels above the norm for the area.

b) Iron gates - tall (above 1 metre) and ostentatious iron gates and gate pillars that are out of character with our rural environment.

c) Infill and back development - such developments increasing the housing density are constant concerns, particularly in the Loudwater Lane/Chess Lane areas.

d) Field strips - we are surrounded by Green Belt farm-land which developers continuously eye with a view to seeking de-classification to "constructible" land. The latest move by speculators is to acquire Green Belt land and price off strips/plots for sale to buyers on the understanding that planning approval is a matter for the buyer. This leads to the land becoming overgrown and unkempt, subject to tipping, and unsuitable for proper agricultural use. Eventually, the local authority comes under pressure to re-classify the land, and more Green Belt is lost to the community.

We must do our best to avoid all these blights to our environment.

Donald Cammell

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

Planning Consultant

Donald Cammell
Martins, Ladywood Close
776126

Members

Mary-Jane Atkinson
Loudwater Lane
June Curtis
Troutstream Way
Tony Hale
Overstream
John Hawxwell
Bridle Lane
Peter Phillips
Armitage Close
Colin Timms
Troutstream Way
Sue Tippen
Chess Lane
Penny Wilkinson

Loudwater House



On a crisp autumn day as you walk down Troutstream Way from Sarratt Lane, you glimpse through the trees the white bulk of the old mansion, crouched like some beached ocean-going liner. It lies there stranded with its iron-canopied entrance, a monument to an affluent past. An air of mystery surrounds it because it lies away from the main estate road hidden in the trees, its only approach, the narrow driveway past the Walled Garden.

The House, once the heart of a three hundred acre estate, was built in the 1820s - probably by French prisoners of war. It was owned by various families until it was leased in 1868 to Joseph Samuda, an engineer who later became an M.P. He lived at Loudwater House until his death in 1885. Undoubtedly the most colourful resident was Panmure Gordon - a City stockbroker. He improved the estate, building the Coach House and the wall around the kitchen garden; he planted many rare trees and shrubs, and gouged out the lake. He entertained lavishly and it is also rumoured that the future Edward VII used to meet Lily Langtry here.

After various changes of ownership the estate became derelict. In the 1920s it was bought by developers to be broken up into plots and the House was to be converted into flats, but owing to the Depression this scheme was never completely finished until some time after the Second World War.

The House is now divided into twelve flats, with Little Wing - thought to have been a chapel - added in the Victorian age. All are different shapes and sizes but all share the same splendid outlook over the lawn to the river. In 1996 the residents were able to buy the Freehold and subsequently embarked on a programme of repair and regeneration of both house and garden.

I remember how I first saw the house twenty years ago, lying peacefully in the late evening sunshine in somewhat decaying splendour... and as I was marvelling at this tranquil sight so near to the centre of the City two swans glided past emphasising the air of quiet mystery that still surrounds the House.

Sheila Fawkner-Corbett
Loudwater House

Loire Wine Trip

A somewhat bleary-eyed group of people gathered at Mike and Maureen Wood's house at the unearthly hour of 5am on the 9th April but once the journey got under way, the fun and laughter began, and continued throughout the 5-day tour.



In the grounds of Chateau Villandry, Loire Valley

After a night near Tours, we travelled along the Loire to our second destination, Saumur - stopping en-route for a visit to the beautiful Chateau Villandry. During our trip, we visited several vineyards and cellars in

the region and tasted a wide variety of wines. We enjoyed some excellent meals - some as part of the tour and others doing our own thing at assorted local eateries.

Journey's end at the Wood's house provided the usual flurry, with the wine tasters extracting their boxes from the coach before proudly carrying their treasures home!

Ritva Hale
Overstream

Loudwater Personality - Maurice Escow

You decide! Should Maurice Escow be known as Lord Loudwater, Baron Loudwater, or Marquis of Loudwater? Whichever you choose, the one thing I do know is that he deserves a grand title for all the hard work he has put in over many years to turn Loudwater into the great community it is.

Maurice is the Eminence Grise - except he has hardly any grey hair. (He swears this is NOT because he uses that product!). He is a Chartered Accountant by profession, Treasurer or Auditor of many of the Loudwater Clubs by choice. He is married to the immensely patient Carol, who most evenings ends up having to do her own thing (like studying for another degree!) because Maurice is busy working for Loudwater. They have two sons, Nicholas and Miles.

Besides being Treasurer of the LRA, Maurice is also Treasurer of Loudwater (Troutstream) Estate Limited (the main gated estate). And if that wasn't enough, he is Auditor of the Troutstream Investment Club, the Theatre Club and the Wine Club!

Maurice and Carol bought their house in Loudwater Heights in 1973 but obstructive neighbours served an injunction on their builder, who was making some alterations, and they weren't able to move in until 1975.

"The neighbours didn't become friendly for another ten years", said Maurice, with sadness. He continued, "and this unhappy experience led me to want to change the unfriendly face of Loudwater. We attended our first neighbourhood Garden Party, run by Nicky Nicholls, soon after we moved in. I volunteered to help, and then took over the running of it in 1983"

Before then, in January 1982, Donald Cammell, the LRA Chairman at the time, invited Maurice to join the LRA committee. Six months later he was Vice Chairman! From 1984-1987 he was Chairman. In 1994 he became Treasurer, and still is!

"Although we held occasional social events, in addition to the Garden Party, it was not until Godfrey Crook became Chairman in 1995 that we decided to explore the idea of forming recreational clubs", said Maurice. "We conducted a survey to find out what interested our residents most and in 1996 the first of the clubs was formed - the Bridge Club". The newest Club - the Fine Dining Club - was Maurice's brainchild.

Maurice is a gourmet, loving good food and fine wine. He recommended four restaurants in Barcelona to me and each was absolutely superb. He also adores going to the opera, especially seeing fringe operas like those performed at Wexford. His motto is "if you leave it to other people they tend to leave it to other people, and therefore nobody does it!" All three Chairmen under whom I have served as a LRA committee member constantly asked Maurice's advice. He is the "kingmaker", and would do anything for everyone. Above all, everybody likes him.

Peter Phillips

Roads

There have been several meetings between the LRA and the Highways Partnership about the state of our roads and the speed at which cars are travelling. The pot-holes in Loudwater Lane and Sarratt Lane were supposed to have been filled in last April! Councillor John Hawxwell, a member of the LRA committee,



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)

together with our Chairman and several other committee members have walked the lanes with Steve Wooding of the Highways Partnership. He now fully knows the problems. Hopefully, we will have some good news to report in our next issue.

Peter Phillips

Bridge Club

After the well attended Bridge Club AGM in March, a questionnaire was circulated so that the Committee could be made more aware of Members' needs and ideas. 82% of the members replied with the majority indicating that they wanted the status quo to remain. A new idea that will be launched soon is a Dial-a-Partner phone number. Lots wanted to play but didn't always have a partner, so they will be able to dial-in and be paired up. Nearly every player appreciated the benefits of playing Chicago Bridge with newer players soon picking up the easy bidding and scoring format.

June saw the Club holding its first Dinner - at Zaza's Restaurant in Rickmansworth. A full report will appear in our next edition.

An extra session for duplicate bridge is to be held on Wednesday 23 July at 7.30pm.

There will be an IMPROVERS COURSE on the second and fourth Wednesdays in September, October and November - from 8.00pm until 10pm, designed to have a closer look at bidding, declarer play and defence. All bridge players will be welcome - please contact me on 776567 for further details.

**Liz Crook
Chess Hill**

Garden Club



Sugar candy

Our April Bring & Buy Sale was well attended and gave us an opportunity to swap plants and cuttings. At the beginning of May six of us went on a Spring Walk around the gardens at Hughenden Manor, a pleasant afternoon, although we all found the new designs a little rigid. Early June some of us visited Beth Chatto's famous garden and on Sunday 29th June we are touring some of our own Loudwater Gardens, followed by a BBQ. On 2nd September we will be listening to Barbara Harold, an authority on wildflowers, whose lecture is entitled "Plant Reproduction - birds, bees and alternative sex". On the 28th September there will be another Bring and Buy Sale". On 6th November there will be a "hands-on" flower demonstration. Enjoy the Summer and Autumn!

**Linda Ann Fowler
Trout Rise**

Fine Dining Club

Loudwater's newest club is off to a flying start after its highly successful first event at "La Chouette" Westlington Green, near Aylesbury. Thirty four of the founder members were treated to an excellent 4-course dinner prepared by our genial Belgian chef,

Frederic. The ambiance was cosy and convivial, no doubt helped by generous amounts of wine and mouth watering food. The club looks forward to its next event. It's at Tylney Hall in Hampshire on Saturday, 23rd August, starting with champagne aperitifs and canapés on the Vista Terrace (weather permitting), or in one of the elegant lounges. This is followed by a gourmet four-course dinner. There'll be a glass of champagne to complement each course and a representative of the Champagne House will be on hand to discuss the champagnes.

**Clive Brothers
Troutstream Way**

Theatre Club

In the last quarter the Theatre Club has enjoyed a visit to the Watermill at Newbury to see "The Triumph of Love" (excellent, Editor), and to Cliveden to see Henry Fielding's "Tom Jones". On 19th July there are the Battlefield Proms at Hatfield House, and a visit to Stratford is planned for Saturday, 4th October to see "The Taming of the Shrew".



The Watermill Theatre at Newbury

June Curtis

Wine Club

In April the Wine Club visited the Loire Valley.

In May was the ever-popular wine club lunch at The Barn where Lindsay Oram presented a food and wine matching to a very noisy but very happy crowd of about 50 of us. 6 wines were tasted, including even one from Canada. A good time was had by one and all. Thankfully, the next day was a Bank Holiday!

In June there was a visit to English vineyards in Kent - to Penhurst (where Club members could also enjoy the sight of ostriches and wallabies!) and to Lamberhurst, near Tunbridge Wells. A gourmet buffet lunch was provided too.

Forthcoming events:

Friday, 25th July, a tasting of New Zealand Wines, with Sandy Leckie - at Loudwater Farm Barn.

30th August, a day trip to Ardres near Calais by coach. Stock up for Christmas then and enjoy a wonderful lunch at the Francois 1^{er} restaurant. This outing was one of our biggest successes last year.

Saturday, 20th September, there's a trip to the City of Wine, Vinopolis on the South Bank in London. Here you'll be given a unique tour of all the world's most famous wines.

Friday 24th October, we invite you to take wine with one of our all-time favourites - Vivienne Franks.

Tony Hale



Another hard day's wine tasting in France

Hello and Welcome to:

Mr and Mrs Naish
at 9 Ladywood Close.

Mr and Mrs Manji
at Dormeywood, Bridle Lane

The "rides of March"

On 15th March, 60 of the most hardened gamblers amongst us, met in the barn for a night of racing fun. The evening consisted of 8 races and plenty of wine to help us pick the

winners. With no form to follow, horses were picked on name alone - interestingly the most heavily backed horse of the night was called "Illicit Affair" - you may draw your own conclusions! Halfway through the evening, we were then provided with a supper of fish and chips in polystyrene boxes. To prevent any complaints at the lack of china plates and to ensure Loudwater standards were maintained, cutlery was also available.

Another few races followed and those of us, who had been successful at Goodwood last August, continued our run of luck with another profitable evening. Events concluded with a raffle for a Magnum of fine red wine and a speech from our Chairman who thanked James Wilkinson and Roy Preedy for acting as bankers. A night to recommend and repeat.



Penny Wilkinson

Suffice to say that the winners at Goodwood were Penny and James Wilkinson! Editor.

Sorry

Sorry - to Mark Breslauer and Elizabeth Friedman of Bridle Lane for holding their letter about fireworks over to our October issue. It will coincide more with Guy Fawkes Night then.

Sorry - to Phil Blowes of Timberidge. His nightmare story of what happened to him and his family in the gales is also more relevant next time. *Editor*

Oxford Trip



Have you booked your place on our trip to Oxford? It's on 9th August and there are only a few seats still available. There'll be a conducted tour of some of the colleges, and drinks at The Turf, Inspector Morse's favourite pub. You'll see the

Examination Schools, the Sheldonian Theatre and the Bodleian Library. But the climax, of course, will be dinner and drinks on high table at Wadham College - the finest college of all. *(Of course, I'm biased! Editor).*

For tickets ring Maurice Escow on 771810.

Dorothy Francis writes...

My thanks for the marvellous support I have received from my many friends in Loudwater. I could not have managed without the untold acts of kindness and hospitality I received, which I shall always cherish. Someone said - "a house only becomes decorative through the guests it entertains", and I think Loudwater is only beautiful because of the people who live here.

Anna Rankin writes...

We have set up the Dick Edmonds Stroke Appeal to fully equip a new stroke unit at Watford General. We are aiming to raise £100,000 in my father's name, and we have lots of fund-raising

events in mind. The first is by The Garden Opera who will be performing Bizet's 'Carmen' in the white rose garden at Micklefield Hall on Monday 1st Sept 2003. I hope Loudwater will support us. For tickets, ring Sarah Edmonds on 774747.

Sue Read writes...

I am having problems with certain neighbours not liking the fact that I walk my dog, a Great Dane, on the Estate. They say that my garden is big enough and I should let him out there. I appreciate the fact that dogs do occasionally make messes but if the mess is scooped up, as I always do, I cannot understand their complaint. Is it not permissible to walk one's dog in Loudwater? What do other residents with dogs do?

I have every sympathy with you. As long as you clear up any mess the dog may make I see no reason why you cannot walk your dog on the Estate. Editor

Vivien Schragger-Powell writes...

"... to give a massive thank you to all those kind Loudwater people who sponsored my Flora London Marathon Run on behalf of the Wigan and Leigh Hospice".

LRA Diary of Events from July 2003

Friday 1st August - Goodwood Racing

Saturday 9th August - Oxford Colleges

Saturday 11th October - Harvest Supper Quiz/Musical Evening

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

Planning Applications

Decisions on previously reported applications

- 01615/02 Bridle Path Cottage, L.Lane: Extend garage roof etc. (Granted)
- 01644/02 Beehwood, Trout Rise: Part 2, extensions & conservatory (Granted).
- 01667/02 4 Lower Plantation: Conversion of garage and conversion of outbuildings into annex (Granted)
- 01696/02 Glen Cottage, Trout Rise: Two storey side/rear ext. (Refused)
- 01732/02 Broadeaves, Trout Rise: Two storey side extension (Granted)
- 01735/03 Silverwood/Sherwood, L.Lane: Erect. of two new dwellings (Granted)
- 00028/03 3 Lower Plantation: Single storey rear extension. (Granted)
- 00056/03 The Dell, Loudwater Drive: Removal of condition 10 from 00/01094 & 5 from 00/01097 LBC: driveway (Granted)
- 00067/03 Chess Place, Troutstream Way: Retrospective: Erection of entry gates with brick pillars (Refused)
- 00076/03 The Walled Garden, Troutstream Way: Single storey side extension to gardener's accommodation (Refused)
- 00084/03 White Violets, Troutstream Way: Rear conservatory (Granted)
- 00091/03 Handa, Trout Rise: S.storey rear, 2 storey front and side ext. incorp. accomm. in roof with dormer windows to front, rear and side (Refused)

New applications since April 01' Trout to 24 May

- 00209/03 Woodside, Bridle Lane: Two storey rear extension and rear conservatory (Granted)
- 00260/03 Mayfly, Troutstream Way: Amendment to 01698/01 extension to kitchen (Granted)
- 00310/03 Cool Bananas, Bridle Lane: Demolition of existing garage, 2 two storey extension, loft conversion with dormers (Granted)
- 00408/03 Ladygate, 11 Ladywood Close: Loft conversion with three dormers and garage extension (Granted).
- 00384/03 Tall Trees, L'water Drive: Erect.of det. double garage/works (Refused)
- 0040103 Traffic Attendants Hut, Kingfisher Lure: Renewal of 01/00742
- 00480/03 Carema, Timber Ridge: Erect. of double det. grge and 2 storey side ext.
- 00602/03 Handa, Trout Rise: Two storey side and rear extensions
- 00610/03 The Spinney, Kingfisher Lure: Two storey rear extension
- 00574/03 Greenway, Loudwater Drive: Retro. application for demolition (partial) and erection of new 3 storey dwelling and detached garage
- 00739/03 Broad Oaks, Trout Rise: Removal of Condition 1 of 01194/99 - removal

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

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