

Ol' The Trout



Spring 2004

Number 111

Chairman's Word

Winter is over and as we look forward to enjoying spring and summer in Loudwater, we can see how fortunate we are to have such green and pleasant surroundings. But these amenities are under threat from speeding cars, property developers and spending cuts by the local authorities. We have been discussing ways of improving our public roads with The Highways Agency - better surfaces, improved drainage and traffic calming. These discussions are slowly getting results but it would help if you could report potholes in Loudwater Lane and Sarratt Lane by ringing the POT-HOLE HOTLINE (01923 471320) or via www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults.

There are a lot of LRA activities for everyone to enjoy this summer, but I would like you to come along particularly to our AGM at The Barn on 13th May 2004. Meet, and give your support to our committee and the committees of our clubs, whose work helps to make Loudwater a special place to live. Hearty congratulations go to the Garden Club for arranging the tour of Highgrove. Well done to past and present committee members involved.

Roy Sterry

Loudwater Residents' Association

Chairman

Roy Sterry

Mulberry Cottage, T'steam Way
779599

Vice Chairman

Denise Preedy

12 Harewood
770280

Treasurer

Maurice Escow

Wood, Loudwater Heights
771810

Secretary

June Curtis

Whitewoods, Troutstream Way
771583

Minutes Secretary

Sue Tippen

Dunara, Chess Lane
774016

Planning Secretary

Donald Cammell

Martins, Ladywood Close
776126

Members

Mary-Jane Atkinson

Clive Fowler

Tony Hale

John Hawxwell

Theresa Jubber

Peter Phillips

Colin Timms

Penny Wilkinson

Editorial

I have received some criticism for publishing in the last issue, Mike Hrano's sarcastic letter attacking Mark Breslauer and Elizabeth Friedman's views on fireworks. Whilst not agreeing with either the message or the tone of Mike's letter, I defend his right to state what he thinks. My editorial policy is to publish all letters, whether I agree with them or not, as long as they are neither libellous nor racist. Another criticism I have heard recently is that the same names crop up in The Ol' Trout, issue after issue. I plead guilty to this but there is a good reason for it. The people I mention are the only ones I am aware of that do something for Loudwater - either on the environmental/planning side, or on the social side, like running the Clubs. I cannot write about happenings of which I am not told. If you have news about residents that you think deserve a mention please contact me. At the moment it seems that the same fifty people or so do everything. Prove me wrong!

AGM

The Loudwater Residents' Association Annual General Meeting will be held at the Barn, Loudwater Farm on Thursday, 13th May 2004 at 8.00pm. We hope as many residents as possible will attend.

New LRA Committee Members

Theresa Jubber of Bridle Lane and Clive Fowler of Trout Rise have been elected members of the Executive Committee of the LRA.

New Year's Eve Party 2003

I missed the LRA party last year. Luckily, I was there this year. What a success! Over 70 of us enjoyed a great evening at Loudwater Farm Barn. So here are the credits: Arabian nights set by Mary Jane Atkinson, showing high creativity and great imagination; food supervised by the indefatigable, indispensable Denise Preedy and her supporting cast; construction - Charles Homewood; sparks - Colin Timms; grip - Mike Wood; best boy - Tony Hale; best girl (no such thing, but never mind!) - Sue Tippen; gofer - Roy Sterry; box office - Maurice Escow; extras - the LRA committee and their spouses. (I was excused because of my back, but I did manage to win the raffle!) Well done, everyone!



Some of the LRA committee enjoying the festivities on New Year's Eve

"Equestrian April" The Return of Race Night

When: Saturday, 17th April at 7.45pm. First race at 8.15pm.

Where: The Barn, Loudwater Farm.

The Price: £12.50 per ticket. Bets: £1.

Included: 6 races, free Race Card, and Fish & Chips Supper.

Wine: Bring your own! Glasses and water provided!

Tickets: From Maurice Escow. Telephone 771810.

LRA Summer Lunch

Sunday, 4th July is the date for the LRA Summer Lunch, to be held at Loudwater Farm. Drinks will be served by the river, to be followed by a three-course lunch with wine in the Barn. Everyone will be seated. We hope this will be the perfect, relaxing Sunday lunch - drinks with neighbours and friends, and delicious home-cooked food. Traditionally Loudwater!

The price is only £25 per head. Obviously, due to the fact that everyone will be seated, the numbers have to be restricted so please book early.

Denise Preedy

Clements



The owners of Clements, the 105 year-old Watford Department Store, were Anna and Jamie Rankin of Micklefield Hall. This February the store closed its doors for ever. To mark the occasion, 240 people wined and dined on the old shop floor on a night of nostalgia, staged in aid of the Dick Edmonds Stroke Appeal - Dick was Anna's father. I feel it would have been remiss of The Ol' Trout to omit noting the sad closure of a fine store.

Golf Veterans Hand in Their Cards

Two of Loudwater's best-known golfers retired from their exalted positions recently. Eric Tindall of Overstream stepped down from being President of Moor Park at the end of last year. He had joined Moor Park in 1967, was Chairman of the House and Golf Committees in the 1980s, Captain 1989/90, and President from 1997 to 2003. His lowest handicap was 9, and even now, aged 79, he plays to 15. Besides golf, Eric is a notable bridge player. I should know. He and his wife Mabel regularly get the better of me, whoever my partner is!

Dr. Stanley Dixon of Violet Way was Chairman of Sandy Lodge - my club - for 11 years before resigning this January. A PhD from Birmingham University and Princeton, Stanley joined Sandy Lodge in 1964, became a member of the Board in 1978, and Chairman in 1993. During his reign he supervised over £1 million of refurbishment of the course and clubhouse. Aged 77, Stanley still plays to 13. A match between him and Eric should be worth watching!

Peter Phillips

January Visit to The Grove



There were more than 40 residents who took up The Grove's invitation to look around their health spa, Sequoia, on Tuesday, 13th January. Champagne and canopies, cream cakes and tea, it was all so enticing! The ladies were even allowed a free foot massage - which seemed a bit like favouritism, as there were no perks for men! There's no doubt, The Grove is a great venue, if you can afford it. Ideal for corporate entertainment, worth considering for birthdays and anniversaries, but not the place for a cheap evening out! The golf course and spa are impressive - but even Loudwater folk may find everything a bit expensive! I love the address - Chandlers Cross, near Rickmansworth. Why no mention of Watford?

No Joining Fee!

LRA Chairman Roy Sterry, has managed to save all Loudwater residents who wish to join the Grove's Sequoia Health Spa £500 for individual membership or £1000 for joint membership. He did this deal whilst lunching with one of the Grove's managers. We are being offered the corporate rate, which means no joining fee. I wish I'd had Roy negotiating for me when I was still in business!

Swanee!

This winter Roy Shearer of High Cleve, Kingfisher Lure, suddenly saw a swan in his garden pond. The RSPCA was immediately called, who advised that Swan Care should also be notified. Not knowing whether the swan was hurt or not, the Shearers fed it bread, but it just would not fly away! Indeed, it even knocked on one of the windows, asking for more! All's well that ends well, however. The following morning the RSPCA arrived, captured the bird, took it to Rickmansworth Aquadrome, and it peacefully flew away! The Estates Company sent Mrs. Dorer of Swan Care a donation for her advice and help. It seems likely that the swan was a resident here, had probably flown across the Chorleywood Road, become disorientated and landed as soon as it saw water. This happened to be in Roy's garden pond!

Wupster of Troutstream Way writes ...

As a Springer Spaniel living in Loudwater, I and my canine lady-friend Glory, feel compelled to make a stand for us Estate dogs. We refer to Sue Read's letter in the Ol' Trout wherein she writes that she is "having problems with certain neighbours not liking the fact that I walk my dog, a Great Dane, on the Estate."

To confine us to our gardens for exercise, no matter how big the garden might be, is simply not on. We need a daily walk and where better than lovely Loudwater to take one's constitutional. Obviously we should never venture out without being on a lead, or under close supervision, but provided you clear up after us, we see no reason why we should not be allowed to enjoy Loudwater too.

In fact our owners reckon it's one of the safest places to take us, especially at night, if they've been too busy to walk us earlier. And perhaps we should point out that dogs do not drive their cars too fast, don't drop litter, or indeed do any of the other anti-social things some humans do on the roads.



Joan Townend of Bridle Lane writes...

I was rather shocked by the offensive tone of Mark Hrano's letter in The Ol' Trout on the subject of Fireworks/Bonfire Night. Would that it were only the one night, rather than the innumerable nights throughout November each year.

However, all that is needed is a little diplomacy. It would be an act of thoughtful courtesy and consideration towards one's neighbours to inform them in advance of the date and time of any celebrations. This would yield dividends of goodwill and friendship for both adults and children alike. Let's give it a try in 2004.

I agree. See editorial.

Dennis Player

It is with deep sadness that I report the sudden death of Dennis Player of Chess Cottage, Loudwater Lane on Saturday 17th January 2004.

Dennis and Claire moved to Loudwater only three years ago, but through their membership of The Wine Club and by attending Residents' Association functions they met and became friends of so many other residents. After retiring as an Accountant, Dennis involved himself with many charities and was always a willing helper at local events. He had an easy way with people and I shall always remember that wry grin that would appear regularly as stories were exchanged with a glass in hand. As a devoted husband of over 40 years to his lovely wife Claire, his support through her illness was an enormous comfort to her. Over 50 Loudwater friends attended the funeral service. To Claire and their children, we send our deepest condolences.

Roy Sterry



Planning Applications

Decisions on previously reported applications

- 01395/03 Chessbord, Troutstream Way: Replacement dwelling and garage. (Granted, LRA objected)
- 01500/03 White Violets, Troutstream Way: Single storey side extension with basement and room in roof with front and rear dormers. (Granted)
- 01561/03 The Dell, Loudwater Drive: Erection of detached double garage. (Refused, LRA objected)
- 01570/03 Tall Trees, Loudwater Drive: Demolition of bungalow and erection of replacement dwelling and garage. (Granted)
- 01576/03 Breydon, Troutstream Way: Open air swimming pool - retrospective. (Granted, LRA objected)
- 01617/03 Broadeaves, Trout Rise: New entrance gates with brick piers. (Granted)
- 01649/03 Dorney, Trout Rise: Renewal of outline permission to erect a detached house. (Granted, LRA objected)
- 01634/03 Trimbles, Loudwater Drive: Porch and bay window extensions and pitched roof over garage. (Granted)
- 01702/03 Breydon, Troutstream Way: Retrospective; variations to internal layout and increased glazing. (Granted, LRA objected)
- 00384/03 Tall Trees, Loudwater Drive: Erection of detached garage/workshop. (Refused, appeal to DOE dismissed)
- 00076/03 The Walled Garden, Troutstream Way: Single storey side extension to gardener's accom. (Refused, LRA objected; allowed on appeal)

New applications since January Ol' Trout to 3rd. March 2004

- 01753/03 The Orchard, Wagon Way: Single storey rear extension. (Granted)
- 01756/03 The Farm House, Trout Rise: Two storey front and single storey side extension, conversion of garage and new detached triple garage. (Refused, LRA objected)
- 00036/04 Five Trees: Erection of Summer House. (Granted)
- 00105/04 Stafford House, Loudwater Heights: Single storey side and rear extension and conversion of garage. (Delegated)
- 00208/04 Handa, Trout Rise: Two storey side and rear extension. (Delegated)
- 00228/04 Land at junction of Chorleywood Road and Rasehill: Erection of 12.5m. Mobile telephone mast plus equipment. (Delegated, LRA objected)
- 00252/04 Tall Trees, Loudwater Drive: Conversion of detached garage and erection of pitched roof building comprising swimming pool and changing rooms. (Delegated)
- 00262/04 Straw Hat, Whisperwood: Two storey front and rear extensions. (Delegated)
- 00287/04 Heathcote, Chess Close: Demolition and erection of a replacement dwelling. (Delegated)

Neighbourhood Watch



So far so good! Only two offences have taken place this year, one house burglary in Loudwater Lane and one case of stolen pedal bikes in Trout Rise. However, please do not get complacent. Stay vigilant, put things away, put locks on, and set the alarm, even if it's only for half an hour whilst doing the school run or nipping to the shops. Also,

remain suspicious of strangers at the door, and in the neighbourhood. In this way we can retain our very low crime rate for another year. We beat our neighbouring areas every year!

Please contact the police (01923 472000 - Suspicious Incidents) if you are the slightest bit worried. They take our concerns seriously and would rather be called out for perhaps nothing rather than miss the one important call.

June Curtis

Dennis Sare of Armitage Close writes...

The Loudwater Business Park

The benefits of living in Loudwater are never lost on the residents - the ambiance, peace, trees, birds, and general air of well-being are enjoyed by all. But time doesn't stand still and progress must take place and, with pension funds being hit severely, residents must look to other sources of income to maintain their lifestyles in Loudwater.



With this in mind, it looks like one resident has found a unique way of creating extra income - The Loudwater Business Park. Already there appears to be advance-building work taking place on the lower west side of Loudwater Lane. My information sources, usually totally reliable, reveal that the Loudwater Business Park may soon be more than a pipe dream and will be with us right in the middle of Loudwater - and, allegedly, the preliminary work is now taking place. It must be so, for what other reason can there be for the skips, heaps of building materials, old baths and sand strewn about over such a large area - and in full view of the road too?

What is of minor concern, is the possibility that the Change of Use for this site/garden has been achieved without Planning Permission. Still, Three Rivers, with their usual speedy attention, can be relied upon to deal with the problem with the same haste as they deal with road surface deterioration, blocked gullies and flooded roads. All will be well - perhaps.

Police Aware

More and more abandoned cars have "Police Aware" stickers showing. I am told that these stickers are there to stop residents telephoning the police to complain about abandoned cars. The Police maintain it is not their responsibility to remove cars, but that of the Council. However, Terry Read of Timberidge phoned to say a broken-down car was abandoned outside his house. The Police were aware, and even admitted that the car was registered as belonging to a Loudwater resident. However, the Police were not going to move it! Following the rules, I advised Terry to phone Three Rivers Council. After a month the car was still outside Terry's home. The Council maintains a car is not abandoned until the tax disc runs out! Interesting how our Council and our Police are trying to avoid responsibility by passing it on to each other!



Loudwater Lane Flooding

Having lived for the past 23 years at Chess Falls, which is adjacent to the scene of the major flooding in Loudwater Lane, I have been witness to the resultant chaos, which occurs on every occasion there is heavy rainfall. Numerous cars have been damaged, and traffic blocked many times. Whenever possible, I have donned my waders and ventured forth in order to clear the blocked drains. Over the years I have made countless calls and written letters to the Highways Agency (Steve Wooding) demanding action, i.e. additional drains and improved maintenance of them. Minor changes have been implemented, with negligible results, and finally in desperation I wrote to the Chief Engineer of Herts CC back in 2002, and again last year, explaining that the whole problem is caused by the entire run-off from Sarratt Lane into Loudwater Lane, where the few inadequate drains become blocked by debris. I have stated that, after all these years, it is ludicrous that their engineers are incapable of solving the problem, and that a resident, in his mid-seventies, is still having to venture forth to clear the drains and run the gauntlet of inconsiderate drivers who think it amusing to charge through regardless of me getting swamped at times. On 23rd September 2003 Herts CC confirmed that their design team would conduct a survey and report back. I sincerely hope that things will move finally, and that these people are more effective than those dealing with the "fly-tipping" opposite Glen Chess, which I reported to Head Office on 16th September 2003, and many times since. Needless to say, it is still there in 2004! Perhaps withholding payment of our excessive Community Charge will have some effect???

Derek Woolcock

Derek, you are one of the unsung heroes of Loudwater. Editor

Stella Garner of Chess Hill writes...

Passport control !

Loudwater Lane! Am I missing a Passport Control at the Lane's junction with Chorleywood Road? Drivers appear to be under the illusion that they have entered another country, where it is mandatory to drive on the right. Or is my eyesight getting so bad



that I simply do not see Passport Control when I drive down Loudwater Lane to my house? More importantly, am I committing a motoring offence by driving on the left? Perhaps other residents can advise.

Roland Baish of Armitage Close writes...

There's not much point in having your car cleaned in Loudwater, is there? Driving down Loudwater Lane, before you get to the intersection with Sarratt Lane, your car inevitably gets covered with dirt. I can only assume it's from the building works going on around there.

Agreed. Editor.

Loudwater PhD

I saw Dorothy Francis in Ricky late in February. She looked unhappy. "I can't stand the potholes in Loudwater Lane", she exclaimed. "No problem", I replied. You need a PhD. "What's that?" she asked. "A pothole detector" was the answer. (Joke by courtesy of a taxi driver whilst on holiday in Grenada).

Fundraising

Many thanks to all those attending the New Year's Eve Ball, and who bought raffle tickets that raised £310 for Mencap, and £100 for Michael Sobell House.

A small surplus from the Harvest Supper allowed the Executive Committee to donate a further £100 to the Peace Hospice.

Meanwhile if any residents have goods or items surplus to requirement which we could use for fundraising purposes, please contact me on 776681 or e-mail colincarole@aol.com.

Colin Timms

Striders and Strollers



On the initiative of Wine Club Treasurer, Mike Wood, 40 or so are meeting on 4th April at the Sarratt Lane end of Troutstream Way, to walk through the woods, onto Sarratt Bottom, resting at the Cock Inn, and then returning home, presumably feeling fitter. He gave the walk the name "Striders and Strollers". If only I joined them he could call it "Striders, Strollers and Stragglers!"

Peter Phillips

Bridge Club AGM

After 4 years, Liz Crook has stood down as Chairman of the Bridge Club. Liz, a very talented player, succeeded John Parsons, the Club's first Chairman. She brought great enthusiasm to the Club and introduced many new members. She remains on the committee. Her replacement is June Baish, a founder member, who will doubtless help build up the social side. Fenella Lough,

another founder member, and Secretary, has also stood down. Ros Sare replaces her. Roger Fawcner-Corbett stays as Treasurer, and Dennis Sare and Maureen Wood also remain on the committee. Roy Sterry represents the LRA. Barry Davey of Bridle Lane was congratulated for his tutorials. Thanks to him, the Club raised £300, which was donated to Michael Sobell House.

The Bridge Club dinner will be held on 30th June at the Rose and Crown, Chorleywood Common.

Investment Clubs' Dinner

25 members and guests enjoyed an excellent evening at the Investment Clubs' (Troutstream and Chess) dinner held at the Cock Inn, Sarratt on 5th March. Superbly arranged by Mary and Trevor Slade - we all knew where to sit and were even reminded of what we'd ordered! The food was good, the wine more than abundant, and the company ebullient. Godfrey Crook, Chairman of the Troutstream Club, welcomed the diners. Roy Sterry, LRA Chairman, thanked Mary and Trevor for putting on such a successful evening. And just think - both Investment Clubs are in profit too!

Pinter at Oxford

On Saturday 28th February, 26 of us enjoyed a matinee performance of Harold Pinter's *The Dumb Waiter* and *Other Pieces* at the Oxford Playhouse. All seven pieces were dialogues of encounter, brilliantly performed by Toby Jones and Jason Walters. In *Victoria Station* a controller grew increasingly

demented listening to the uncommunicative replies of a cabbie, whose female passenger (was there one?) lay asleep (dead?) in the back of his cab. In *The Dumb Waiter* two assassins awaited their victim in a windowless room, where the dumb waiter like a *deus ex machina* altered mood and increased tension.

The set (a mirror image of the separate, yet linked pieces), the switch in lighting from gloom (*Victoria Station*) to stark brilliance (*The Dumb Waiter*), the dissonant music - all contributed greatly to a superb performance.

Carol Escow

Theatre Club

The trip to Oxford to see the Pinter plays was a huge success. It was our first matinee, which gave members a chance to look around Oxford after the play before sitting down to a leisurely meal at Fishers Restaurant. We have booked the following events:

Saturday, 24th April - "All's Well that Ends Well", starring Judi Dench. Sorry sold out!

Saturday, 12th June - "The Venetian Twins" a hilarious farce by Carlo Goldoni, at the Watermill Theatre, Newbury.

Friday, 9th July - "The Wind in the Willows" by Kenneth Grahame, adapted by Alan Bennett, at Cliveden's Open Air Theatre. To book contact me on 896380.

Penny Wilkinson

German Wines



The first meeting of the Wine Club this year welcomed over 56 members and guests to be instructed on, and taste, the teutonic and broadly unknown delights of German wines. During the session an opportunity was taken to drink a toast to the memory of the popular and bon vivant Dennis Player who passed away a few days before the meeting.

Led by the ebullient Gary Coster (who replaced Iris Ellerman at short notice), white and red wines from all over Germany were sampled enthusiastically. Most were created from the Riesling or Pinot Noir grapes. As an accompaniment

to the wines, Lorna Hawxwell cleverly supplied Frankfurters!

The complexities of making wine in a north European country were expertly explained, and the sample bottles well demonstrated the variety of German wines available.

Dennis Sare

Testing the Taste of the Wines from Beaujolais

Tests, examinations and assessments. If you've ever sat an O-Level, anxiously waited for a son or daughter to squeak and scratch their way through violin Grade 2, or even just

hoped the old banger would wheeze its way through an MOT, you'll know that they're a bit of an ordeal. It's always good to get away from the stress and indulge in an activity that is relaxed, no strings attached (preferably the aforementioned violin), and in the convivial company of one's neighbours.

And that's how the Loudwater Wine Club has always operated. Until now! Time to turn the screw. We've had a great time at all those tasting evenings and vineyard visits, but what have we actually learned?



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

Organiser

Penny Wilkinson (896380)

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

June Baish (775808)

Garden Club

Chairman

Sue Stent (712623)

Fine Dining Club

Chairman

Clive Brothers (773209)

Using some fine wines from the Beaujolais and Macon regions, time to put it to the dreaded test. Enter Jeremy Wood armed with handfuls of tasting notes. This was looking serious. The bottle labels had been cunningly concealed with numbered paper sleeves and our task was to match description to wine. Well, actually we all did remarkably well, the only table not getting full marks being the one where our esteemed club chairman, Tony Hale, was seated. He looked utterly "tired and emotional" - must have been up all night revising!

Oliver Atkinson

Forthcoming Wine Club Events

Friday 23rd April: Guy Boursot of the Wine Collection, Ardres, conducts a tasting of various Champagnes and sparkling wines.

Sunday, 23rd May: Wine Club lunch. A range of Australian wines will be tasted, and there's a barbecue too.

Sunday, 19th June: Visit to Ridgeview Estate in Ditchling Common, East Sussex. Taste their Champagne-style wines. Enjoy an evening buffet dinner.

Friday, 16th July (not the usual 4th Friday): Burgundy wines from Domaine Lucien Jacob, introduced by Christine Jacob.

Saturday, 4th September: A day trip to France. Eat at Le Cocquempot, Montreuil-sur-Mer. Buy your wines cheaper.

A report on the Club's 6-day visit to Spain and its sampling of Riojas will appear in the next issue.

Remember to visit our website - www.loudwaterwineclub.org.uk

Garden Club

Inspiration was the theme when the Garden Club kicked off 2004 with a behind the scenes insight into how to design and implement an award winning show garden. In February, environmental issues were on the agenda. Members braved a freezing cold evening to learn more from Margaret Jarrett about the Loudwater Woodland Trust - an important environmental project to actively manage the woodlands in Loudwater, which, through neglect, have fallen into decay. For many, March heralded the start of the gardening season. In a new development to our programme the Garden Club provides help to ensure that members are well prepared. The formula of a practical demonstration of how to plant containers and hanging baskets, combined with the opportunity to purchase garden equipment and plants at discount prices, gives us all we need with which to do-it-ourselves.

After Easter we have a special trip to visit the garden at Highgrove House and on 25th April there will be a plant exchange at End House, Chess Lane from 11.00am onwards. In May, a brief AGM on the 26th will be followed by a talk on "Colour with drought tolerant shrubs & perennials by Jean Bliss. If you missed the first Arboreal Amble and wished you hadn't there's another opportunity to join the walk at 7.30pm on 9th June. It will be led by Paul Akers, Arboreal Manager for Westminster City Council. Linking with our February talk, we will be starting the walk at Barnes Wood and will end with liquid refreshments at Chess Lodge, home of Jane Prickett. Call me for any further details.

Sue Stent

Fine Dining at The Artichoke

Any pretence at New Year's dieting was gladly abandoned as the Fine Dining Club took over The Artichoke, Old Amersham's choicest restaurant, for an exclusive Loudwater evening.

Cordon bleu-trained chef and proprietor, Laurie Gear, created a superb five-course taster menu, incorporating the finest seasonal produce featuring some locally reared game. We were greeted with a glass of chilled Champagne and went on to enjoy the selection of fine wines, which accompanied each course. So perhaps it was due to the success of the evening, that the main

topic of conversation was the introduction of a Loudwater country-walking club!

Don't forget the next Fine Dining event. It's on Friday, 7th May at the Inn on the Green, Cookham.

Vivien Schragger-Powell

Loudwater Personality - Penny Wilkinson



I like Penny Wilkinson! When former LRA Chairman, Denise Preedy, invited her to join the LRA committee to represent the young people of Loudwater I was delighted. She is fun, lively and intelligent. Also, with the risk of sounding ageist, she is almost 20 years younger than the rest of us!

Penny moved to Loudwater in September 1999. She and husband James both went to Dr. Challoner's Grammar Schools, but, oddly, they didn't meet

there. Instead the romance started, where else, than in a pub? James is a trader in the City with Nomura, dealing in Euro bonds. Penny was in banking too - with TSB. Soon after getting married James was sent overseas, first to Tokyo, then to Hong Kong.

In Hong Kong, Penny became pregnant with Bethan, so she and James returned to England. They found Tree Tops, in Cherry Hill, liked it, and became Loudwater residents. (She swears she had no idea that this was the house of former Guinness boss, Ernest Saunders). For six months Penny and James didn't know anyone. "Loudwater is not a place where you meet new neighbours across the garden fence", said Penny. She joined Christ Church, and there got to know Ann Garner, who was running the Children's Club. Penny and Bethan joined but, being gregarious, she still felt she didn't know enough people locally. So she and James went to the inaugural meeting of the Wine Club, and they've not been lonely since! (James is into wines in a big way - a reason they bought Tree Tops was, I am told, its Wine Cellar!)

Besides being a mum, Penny's other interests are cooking, "being social", and playing fairly competitive tennis. She's appeared on TV - in "The Weakest Link", where, she bravely informed me that she was the first to do the "Walk of Shame", and in "Defectors", a quiz show I have not heard of! "I have had my 15 minutes of fame", said Penny.

On the LRA committee Penny is in charge of the Diary of Events, helps me with The Ol' Trout (she's a computer expert), and last year she ran the Children's Club Christmas party. "Besides wanting to make sure Loudwater remains its beautiful self, I want to encourage the social side of the community. It's so important", she said. She has also recently become the Theatre Club Organiser - and pregnant!

I'm sure there are other young residents like Penny who would enjoy doing their bit for Loudwater. Don't be shy! Just get in touch with LRA Chairman, Roy Sterry, or any of the committee. You'll be made most welcome.

Peter Phillips.

Hello and Welcome to:

Mr. Adnan and Mrs. Farah Khan, Tudor Cottage, Overstream.

Mr. David Goodwin and Miss Finola Maher, 1 Loudwater House.

The printing of the Ol' Trout is sponsored thanks to

Peter Robson & Co.

ESTATE AGENTS - AUCTIONEERS - VALUERS - SURVEYORS

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

Editor

Peter Phillips (778431)

5 Armitage Close

peterphillips@supanet.com

Design

Tony Bradford (773071)