



Ol' The Trout



Winter 2004

Number 110

Chairman's Word

2003 will go down as a vintage year. The winter didn't seem to last long, with early high temperatures and sunny days; spring was dry(ish), and summer was better and longer than even my recollection of the late seventies. And where better to spend those lovely days than in Loudwater, joining in the many and varied activities available to us? I would like to pay tribute to all the residents who make our clubs and events so successful, from the committee members who give up their time to those who attend and enrich the community spirit in Loudwater. In addition there has been an enormous amount of work done by Donald Cammell with Three Rivers District Council. He represents members' views on planning matters, and he puts pressure on The Highways Agency to make our roads safer. A meeting is being held in January to pursue our further suggestions for improvements.

We will be welcoming, in the New Year, Theresa Jubber from Bridle Lane and Clive Fowler from Cherry Hill to the LRA

Committee. They are known to many of you and they will bring support to a Committee whose duties have grown enormously over the past few years.

An example of how new Committee members can bring new initiatives to the Committee can be seen in Colin Timms' article, and I would urge you to support this important aspect of Loudwater life.

I wish you all a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Roy Sterry

Fundraising

Having recently joined the LRA Committee, it became apparent that we have insufficient funds to provide major equipment for events, or to fulfil our ambition to provide a comfortable community centre for the exclusive use of Loudwater residents. What's more, we are keen to support charities that benefit residents.

So, guess what? I'm in charge of Fundraising! We will start with a raffle at the New Year's Eve Dinner Dance, with the star prize being a case of mixed wine, donated by committee members. More events are planned over the next few months, so if you have any ideas or wish to help out occasionally, please contact me. It's all in a good cause, and an excellent way of meeting fellow residents.

Colin Timms

Loudwater (Troutstream) Estate Ltd AGM

At the meeting, held on September 18th, a presentation was made by Cllr. Margaret Jarrett on the woodlands within the Estate and the necessity of building a consensus among owners for a management programme for the long-term health of the wood, totalling about 2.5 acres. The Company, working with the government agency, CMS Southern, has submitted an application to the Forestry Commission for permission to implement a regeneration programme. The Chairman told owners that if approvals are forthcoming, full details will be sent to residents together with estimated costs, to see if owners are interested and also prepared to help finance recommended works. The general feeling at the meeting was one of interest and a desire to support such a project, subject to more detailed information and costings.

John Parsons
Troutstream Way

Flooding

For the second time in eight years I nearly had my car written-off due to the flooding in Loudwater Lane. The water was deep at both the Croxley Green and the Chorleywood Road ends. My wife (and car!)

got stuck in the flood at the Chorleywood Road end, she being rescued by the gallant Gary Coster of Bridle Lane, and the car by Green Flag. Had the car been a write-off, it would have cost me a fortune because what the insurers offer in compensation is worth peanuts. When I complained to Steve Wooding of the Highways Agency (who has many times, unsuccessfully, tried to solve the flooding problem) he blamed the leaves! Obviously he is learning from London Underground! Please flood Steve Wooding (Tel: 257 000) with complaints about the state of our drainage - NOW!

Peter Phillips



Snake in the Grass



Incredibly, a two-metre long boa constrictor from South America was found sliding along Loudwater Lane by George Dalton, aged 12, of Chess Hill. He was in a car driven by his mother, Lucy, when he saw this rare sight! Lucy stopped the car, and, together, they caught the snake.

Believing it to be injured, they covered it in a rug, before calling the RSPCA. Some two hours later the RSPCA arrived to collect it. Chances are that it was an abandoned pet. Does George have any desire to be a snake owner himself? Luckily for Lucy - no!

Peter Phillips

A Hard Act to Follow!

Sadly, June Curtis has stood down as Organiser of the Theatre Club. She was part of the committee since the beginning in 1997, and she was the one who organised the theatres, tickets, restaurants and coaches. She did a great job. Penny Wilkinson is replacing her. June will be a hard act to follow!

Editor

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

Minutes Secretary

Sue Tippen

Dunara, Chess Lane
774016

Planning Secretary

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

Penny Wilkinson

Cherry Hill

The Grove

The Press Relations Officer at the Grove, the new 5-star hotel set in Watford (they call it Chandler's Cross!), invited me to have a look around. I have to admit it - I was impressed! The décor is superb. The grounds are sumptuous, and there is an excellent new 18-hole golf course. "We will be the Gleneagles of the South", is the claim. (It may be - the prices are even higher!) There are three dining areas, Colettes, which it is hoped will challenge Chewton Glen's famous restaurant, the Glasshouse, which is a buffet style restaurant, and the Stables, where the food is really good value - not more expensive than your local pub! Besides all this, there are conference areas, banqueting halls, and above all, a Spa, gym and giant swimming pool, which the Grove calls Sequoia.

We lucky (and they think rich!) Loudwater residents have been invited to the Sequoia by Emeline Robertson to a champagne and canapé reception from 6pm-8pm on Tuesday, 13th January. You will meet the therapists, sample a mini treatment, and tour the facilities. Let Emeline know if you are coming by ringing her on 01923 294292 or email: emeline.robertson@thegrove.co.uk. Have a good time!

Peter Phillips

Harvest Supper



Whose idea was it to stage the third Harvest Supper on the same night as England's Euro 2004 qualifier with Turkey? Never mind! We tuned in the video, and 88 of us came along for a most enjoyable evening.

The Barn was the setting and it had

been beautifully decorated with greenery and flowers. The evening began with Dave and Ben Tippen entertaining us with their guitars, followed by a wonderful three-course dinner provided by Denise Preedy and her team. The wine flowed, courtesy of the Wine Club. After dinner Mabel Tindall played the piano for us, and Emma Carrington and Simon Buttle sang excerpts from "Phantom of the Opera", and also "Brindisi", the drinking song from La Traviata, so apt for Loudwater! The evening ended with a Quiz hosted and arranged by Gary and Buzz Coster. The final scores were very close and had I not overruled my husband James on two questions, we would have won (or so he kept telling me!). However that honour went to John Parsons and his fellow diners.

We all had a super evening and we cannot wait for next year.

Penny Wilkinson

I agree except that it should have been our table that won had we not all over-ruled each other! It was a privilege to comper the musical part of the evening. Editor.

Censored

Our Chairman, Roy Sterry, asked me to comper the musical part of the evening at our Harvest Supper. I wanted to tell the audience a piece of musical history. He censored me so I shall tell you instead! Sir Thomas Beecham, whilst rehearsing the Royal Philharmonic, stopped, banged his baton loudly, and said to a lady cellist, "Madam, you have an instrument between your legs capable of giving pleasure to thousands, yet all you do is sit there and scratch it!" Now I ask you, why was I censored? Anyway, Sir Thomas went to the same Oxford college as me, so he would never be rude, insulting or vulgar!

Peter Phillips



Thank you

An enormous thank you to all those wonderful people in Loudwater who supported the HMS Warrior dinner dance in aid of The Down Syndrome Educational Trust.

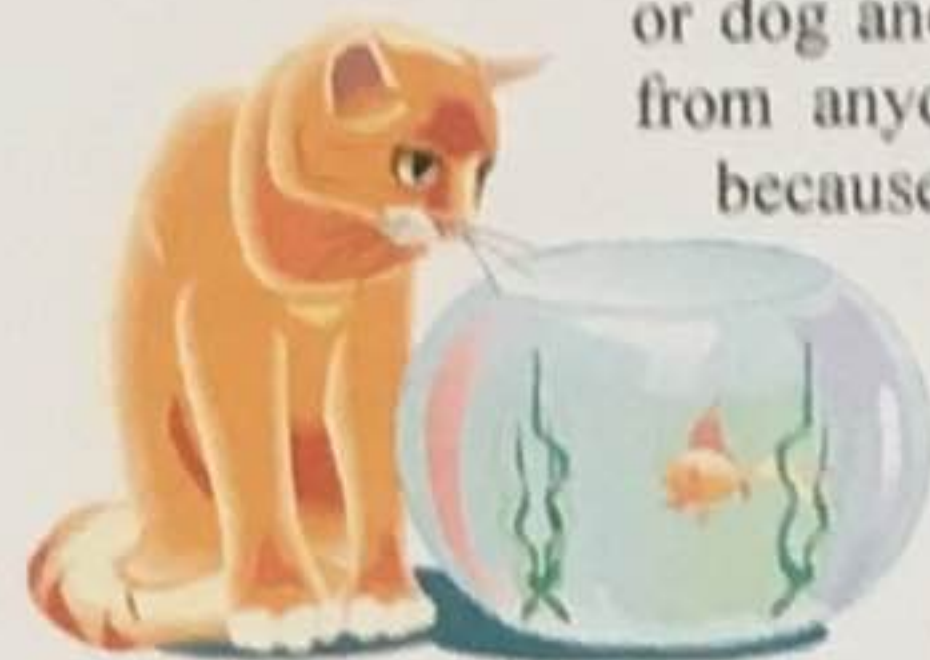
We were overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity. The evening was a great success and it was particularly rewarding to see everyone enjoying themselves and at the same time helping such a worthy cause. A special thank you also to those who could not be with us but sent such generous donations. The Trust was so grateful for your help.

Denise and Roy Preedy

Neighbourhood Watch

This was not one of our best years (9 incidents - 2 cars stolen and 7 burglaries). So please stay vigilant. Use the window and door locks (don't forget the shed), and activate the house alarm. NEVER leave anything in your car, not even a coat, as the thieves might think it is there to hide something of value.

Last year I received several calls from residents who had lost a cat or dog and who wanted to know if I had heard from anyone who had found it. I guess that, because I run NW, everyone thinks I know all about lost cats and dogs too!



It made me decide that I should run a lost and found service. From now, anyone in Loudwater who loses a pet can contact me (721583), and anyone finding a 'lost looking' pet can do the same. Hopefully I can then match up the pets to the owners, saving the animals and the humans undue worry. Even if you find a road accident fatality to a pet, please let me know, and then at the least the owner will know what's happened.

June Curtis

Bridge Club

This autumn we welcomed Barry Davey, a Loudwater resident, as our tutor for a well-attended Improvers' Course of six sessions. Our thanks go to Barry, not least for donating his fee to The Michael Sobell Hospice. We hope the participants will now join us at our meetings.

Attendance continues to be enthusiastic and caters for all levels of play, from those with a basic knowledge through to the more proficient. New players are always welcome and we hope will enjoy the pleasant, not too serious, evenings. Our Dial-a-Partner scheme, organised by Maureen Wood (775661), is ideal for those who do not have a regular playing partner.

June Baish has joined the committee to help organise events.

The Christmas Party on 17th December was, as always, well-attended. We hope that the New Year will bring good luck, health and, perhaps, the attendance of some of our more fickle members again!

Liz Crook
Chess Hill

Troutstream Investment Club

The upward trend in the market has continued, and at our Fifth Birthday - our November AGM - we were pleased to note that we are very near to recovering the loss we sustained over the past couple of years.

The investment success of our club depends on clairvoyant research, followed by prudent buying and selling within our portfolio - which means luck!

Success of any club also depends on organisation and we are blessed by having Mary & Trevor Slade, as joint honorary secretaries, and Tony Bradford, as honorary treasurer, buyer and seller. Many thanks for all their efforts.

I wish all members a lucky New Year. Whether the valuation goes up or down, we have created a monthly fellowship of friends for lively discussion, lubricated by a glass or two of wine - all of which adds up to good fun.

Do come and join us.

Godfrey Crook
Chess Hill

Chess Investment Club

Having weathered the economic down turn of the last few years, we look forward to a brighter future. We have almost wiped off our losses and, as the stock exchange moves up a gear and passes the 4400 level, we expect to make good profits in 2004.

There are 8 members - 6 who are active. We meet at my office in Lower Plantation. The meetings are friendly, with fresh coffee or wine being served. During the month, investment decisions are made by telephone conferences so we do not have to wait to meet. Do join!

Anthony Moss
Lower Plantation

Fine Dining Club 2004

Next dates for the Fine Dining Club's gourmet evenings are Saturday, 21st February and Saturday, 15th May. The venues have not, as yet, been chosen. For further information please contact the Club's Chairman, Clive Brothers on 773209.

Editor

FDC Recipe for Newbury Manor



Lavishly prepare sixteen Fine Diners in glorious evening dress with all the trimmings. Macerate with sparkling wine, then gently fold into intimate private dining room. Gradually introduce delicious five-course gourmet meal with appropriate fine wines for each dish. Liberally sprinkle with light-hearted conversation, spicy gossip and hearty laughter. Season with party poppers and Christmas crackers and garnish with paper crowns. Pop in surprise festive gift from Club Chairman Clive Brothers. Round off with zesty World Cup victory celebrations, being mindful not to stir up stewing Aussie waitress. Transport gently back home without shaking.

Vivien Schragger-Powell
Troutstream Way

Love it. Congratulations. Editor

Theatre Club 2004

As yet, the Theatre Club had not finalised its 2004 programme. Incidentally, if you're not a member, why not join? A coach picks you up from the Royal Masonic School, takes you to a restaurant, and the theatre, and brings you home well before midnight. There's no hassle, no bookings to make, no traffic jams, and no parking problems. For information about membership, please ring Penny Wilkinson on 896380.

Peter Phillips

Stratford-on-Avon

On 4th October a group of us from the Theatre Club travelled to Stratford to see Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew" performed by the RSC. It was very well acted, and ingeniously staged with a multiplicity of opening and closing doors. If this sounds too much like a French farce, it's because it sometimes resembled one. The director's interest lay in the raw exposure of the play's anti-feminism. To this end the 'Induction Scene', setting the main action as 'a play within a play', was omitted, and the 'love' finally generated between Katherine and Petruchio brushed in so very lightly as to pass almost unnoticed. A very enjoyable and interesting evening.

Carol Escow
Loudwater Heights



Wine Club Reports

Ritva Hale tells me that in September Gary Coster introduced the Club to a variety of wines ranging from France, Spain, New Zealand and Chile, which were complemented by delicious food prepared by Lorna Hawxwell. Mike Wood tells me that in October there was a blind-tasting quiz on Sauvignon Blanc and Syrah/Shiraz wines, which he maintains proved that all tuition had gone straight out of the window! "The Club's success revolves round fun and conviviality", he says. He's right! I'm sorry I missed both events.

Peter Phillips

Wine Club ADM (Annual Dinner Meeting)

Whilst most of our Clubs have AGMs, the Wine Club has an ADM, which is much more enjoyable! It was the 4th and this time it was held at Durrants. Following a champagne reception, 62 of us sat down to an excellent meal with, inevitably, superb wines. There was even a seating plan this year, so we all knew where to go! LRA Chairman, Roy Sterry, thanked the committee of Tony Hale, Mike Wood and Gary Coster (what a formidable trio!), and Club Secretaries, Stella Garner and Lorna Hawxwell, for the amount of work they have put in, while Tony Hale praised former LRA Chairmen, Godfrey Crook and Maurice Escow, for their initiative in forming the clubs. Inevitably, the Wine Club is the most successful of all. Our residents do like their alcohol! This time there was also an innovation - we had an entertainer, Margaret Knight, playing the harp. She was great - so good in fact that no one talked while she played! (This may have been because we couldn't hear each other anyway!) It really was a super evening, leaving us very happy if somewhat hoarse!

Peter Phillips

Children's Christmas Party

On a very cold Sunday morning, 40 children came to this year's party at the Barn. The entertainer was the excellent Mr Marvel, who performed magic tricks.

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
Liz Crook (776567)

Garden Club
Chairman
Sue Stent (712623)

Fine Dining Club
Chairman
Clive Brothers (773209)

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Editor
Peter Phillips (778431)
5 Armitage Close
peterphillips@supanet.com

This was followed by party food and then more fun and games. There was a surprise visit by Father Christmas who gave out wonderful gifts. The parents had an equally good time, helped by the consumption of mince pies and mulled wine!

Penny Wilkinson

Forthcoming Wine Club Events

Friday, 23rd January: Iris Ellerman - a tutored tasting of wines from Germany.

Friday, 27th February: Jeremy Wood on wines from Beaujolais.

Friday, 28th March: 41 members are going by cruise ship to Santander, and then sampling wines in Rioja for six days.

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

Sunday, 23rd May: Wine Club lunch. There's a range of Australian wines to be tasted, plus a Barbecue to enjoy at Loudwater Farm.

See the club website - www.loudwaterwineclub.org.uk. Watch out particularly for Coster's Quaffers - a good guide on inexpensive wines at your local off-licenses and supermarkets.

Garden Club

Coffee, scones and Chardonnay - that's what you get at our Bring & Buy! Our next plant exchange is at the end of April.

A talk on wildflowers started the October programme, followed later in the month by the AGM, at which the new committee was elected. A vote of thanks was given to outgoing Chair, Linda Fowler, who gave much energy and enthusiasm in helping to get the Club launched.

Our 'hands-on' evening in November, described as "a master class", was held at the Barn, and was attended by members ranging from the truly talented to the downright hopeless, like me! Always ready to rise to the challenge Gudrun Fickling demonstrated how to "Welcome with Flowers". Assessing our own vases and chamber pots (!), she advised on how best they might be used for floral decorations and even our humblest efforts were turned into worthy adornments for our entrance halls.

The programme for 2004 commences with a talk on 22nd January by a Gold Medal winner at Chelsea, Graham Robb from Chenies Aquatics. A talk on Tree Conservation is scheduled for February, and in March we are giving advice on "Getting the garden ready for summer", with specific reference to the growing conditions in Loudwater, together with suggestions on how to salvage our lawns after last summer's heat wave. Looking further ahead to the summer, we plan to have another "galloping gardens" event - if any residents are willing to open their gardens please get in touch.

Guests are welcome at all our events. For details about the programme, the exact dates, and how to join please contact me.

Sue Stent
Loudwater Lane

Congratulations on becoming Chair, Sue. Editor

Margaret Bianchin

It is with great sadness that we announce the death in Spain in late October of Margaret Bianchin. She hosted some wonderful LRA Garden Parties for us, when residing at Handa in Trout Rise. She will always be remembered for her generosity. Our condolences go to son, Davide. There was a Memorial Service in November at Our Lady's Catholic Church, Rickmansworth.

Editor

LRA Race Night 2004

Following the enormous success of "the r'Ides of March" Race Night last year at the Barn, we are holding another - on Saturday, 17th April. Please put this date into your diary now.

Also there will be a LRA Summer Event on either 3rd or 10th July.

Letter to the Editor

I felt compelled to add my comments to the debate opened up by Mark Breslauer and Elizabeth Friedman regarding Fireworks Night.

I believe that not only should Loudwater residents actively seek to curb and restrict the occasion of Fireworks Night - or, to give it its correct title 'Bonfire or Guy Fawkes Night' - but they should also endorse the following:

1): The banning of all children's birthday parties within the estate. We can't have the joyous, excited squeals of under-age residents piercing the natural quiet of our neighbourhood. Come to think of it, children should not be allowed outside for any reason - they can be rather fun-loving and noisy.

2): An immediate outlawing of the practice whereby, at around Christmas time, we are often subjected to unsolicited visits by beaming people - frequently in groups - who begin singing happy, festive songs, right on our very doorsteps, without even having been invited to do so. It's called 'Carol Singing' - and it must be stopped.

3): An end to New Year's Eve parties. You may already be aware of these unnecessary, extremely noisy events yourself but, in case you are not, they involve people of all ages being happy as they eat, drink and make merry (sometimes they even dance) in order to 'celebrate' the arrival of another year. Of course, I could go on, but I am confident that you will have got my message by now. Mark Breslauer and Elizabeth Friedman are, I believe, killjoys. They have forgotten how special November 5th is to children. And I should know - I have three of them!

If they so crave peace and quiet, they should re-locate to the middle of an isolated field somewhere. What they have no right to do is to inflict their demands and wishes on other, more tolerant folk.

Although I do not anticipate that you will print my comments, I would welcome it.

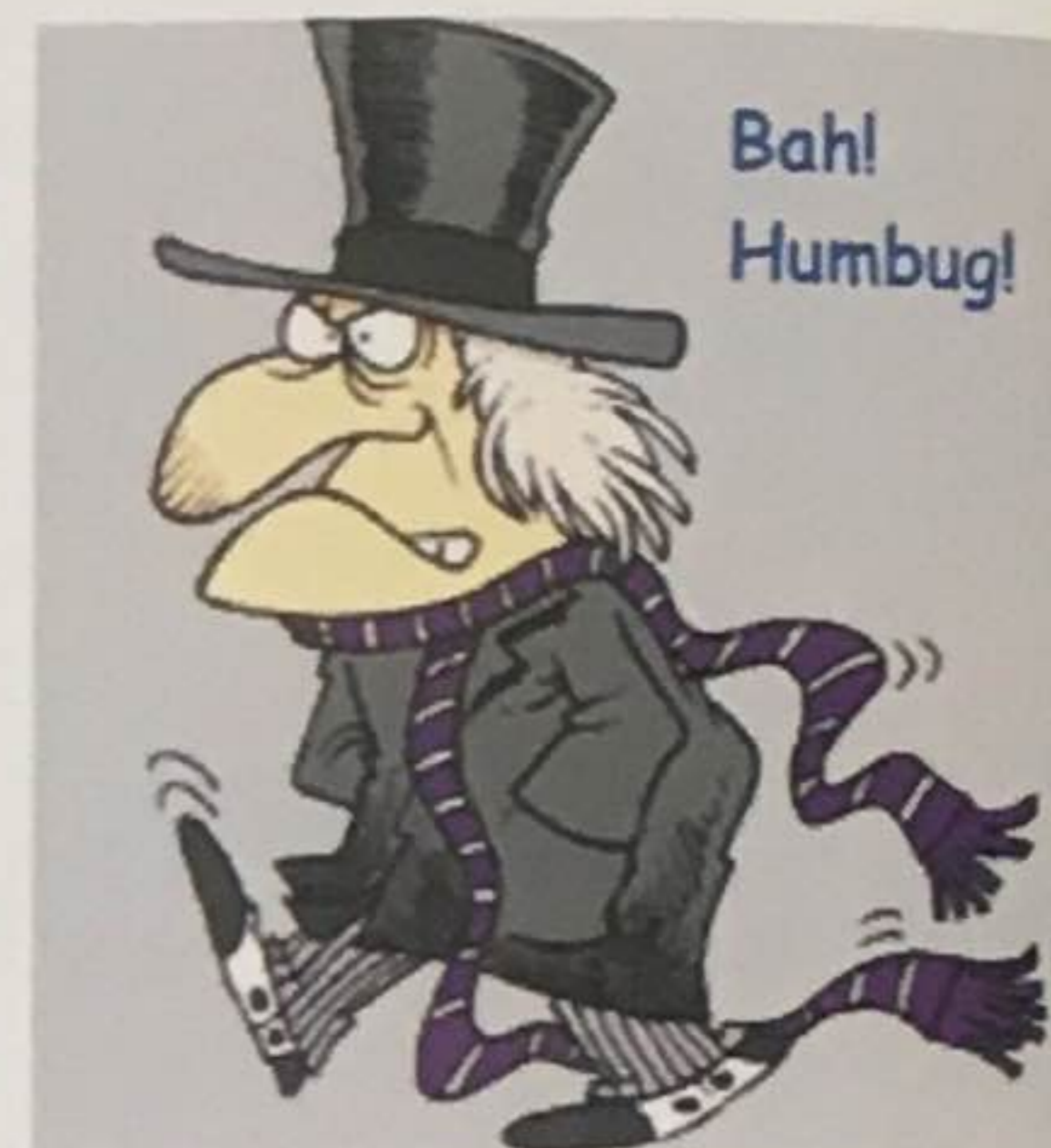
Mike Hrano
Trout Rise

Nothing like a bit of disagreement! Editor

Wupster and Glory

Due to lack of space, I have had to hold over to the next issue a letter from Wupster and Glory about dog walking in Loudwater! Sorry!

Editor



Hello and Welcome to:

Mr V. Amin and Mrs J. Amin, and their two children, who have moved to Violet Way.

Mr and Mrs Feagles, and their five children, who have moved to Bridle Lane.