

Ol' The Trout



Autumn 2004

Number 113

Editorial

As has been stated many times, the LRA represents the whole of Loudwater. I therefore often wonder why so few Bridle Lane or Lower Plantation residents, in particular, join in our social activities. I have been told that it is because we are heavily identified with the Estates Board, who, it is believed, considers itself Inner Loudwater while the rest is Outer Loudwater! What nonsense! Bridle Lane and Lower Plantation are as much Loudwater, and part of the LRA, as is the Troutstream Estate, and they should realise this. Indeed, of the 15 members on the LRA Executive committee - 7 are from the Troutstream Estate, and 8 from elsewhere, which is in proportion to the number of houses in Loudwater. So come on



Bridle Lane and Lower Plantation, join in. You're missing all the fun! And whilst talking about fun, yes, the LRA Executive Committee does support the Loudwater Clubs wholeheartedly, and now, almost a third of all our residents have been to some LRA or Club event. But let me emphasise as strongly as possible that the LRA Executive Committee still devotes most of its time to Planning, the Environment, the Roads - the upkeep of Loudwater as a place of unique beauty. We are deeply upset at the decisions the Three Rivers Council has made on Breydon; we are horrified at what one resident is doing to the fence of his garden in Loudwater Lane; we are aware of the goings-on at Rasehill, where some of the residents seem to want to make a quick buck by selling to speculative developers at the cost of spoiling the environment; we will object to the proposed developments at the Wheel House. Let me remind you. All of us on the LRA Executive Committee give our time free. What we do is for Loudwater. Let's have a bit of encouragement, support, and please do come to our events and Club activities. Remember, it wasn't that long ago when all we had was a Garden Party in the summer, and a very occasional musical or antiques evening. We only knew our neighbours and the people who might have been doing the same school run as ourselves. Haven't things changed - almost wondrously!

Peter Phillips

Thank You - Donald Cammell

We are very sorry to tell you that Donald Cammell, our Planning Secretary, is leaving Loudwater after 43 years. During that time, Don has served on the LRA Committee for nearly 25 years, being Vice Chairman and Chairman in the 1980's, as well as Planning Secretary, perhaps the most demanding responsibility of all, for over 20 years. Don's attention to the detail of hundreds of planning applications over that time has prevented many attempts at over-development of land in Loudwater. What's more, Don has forever harassed Hertfordshire Highways into many road repairs that otherwise would not have happened, as well as personally cutting back overgrown hedgerows in Sarratt Lane to improve drivers' vision around dangerous bends. He leaves Loudwater a much better place for his role on the LRA Committee, and we will greatly miss his wit and unstinting service. I suspect that Three Rivers District Council Planning Department and Hertfordshire Highways may breathe sighs of relief at his going, but I can assure them that Don has trained the Committee well and we will carry on his good work. The flow of letters will continue! Don is moving to Chesham where his daughter, son-in-law and young family live. We send Don our best wishes for a long and happy life there.

Roy Sterry

Au Revoir - John Renshaw

After living there since 1977, John and Hazel Renshaw have moved from Squirrel Cottage, Loudwater Lane to Salisbury. John was a member of the LRA Executive Committee for over 10 years, serving under three Chairmen, John Jarrett, Desmond Martin and Godfrey Crook. He was particularly active on the Roads Sub-Committee. I remember when I first became a committee member how helpful he was in telling me what's what and who's who. The biggest problem about "down-sizing", John says, was getting rid of his 50 plus years of National Geographic Magazines! He, and Hazel, will be greatly missed.

Peter Phillips

Two Important Announcements

From Denise Preedy and The LRA Events Group

Harvest/Quiz Supper

It will be held at the Barn in Loudwater Farm on Saturday, 6th November at 7.30pm.

Last year it was a huge success, thanks to our genial quizmasters Gary and Buzz Coster - yes Gary, "huge"! We had 80 keen participants, each one eager to win. (*What a competitive lot we are - perhaps that's why so many of you are so rich! Ed.*) Gary didn't make the questions too hard so we all thought we were a budding Fred Housego. Remember him - the taxi driver from Croxley Green who won Mastermind? You will be put into teams of seven or eight, and may the luckiest team win! But that's not all! When you arrive, there will be a welcoming drink, followed by a superb three-course meal served at your table. However, please do bring your own wine. Price only £23.50 per person. Send your cheque to Maurice Escow, Wildwood, Loudwater Heights, Loudwater, WD3 4AX. Hurry while seats still last!



Loudwater Residents' Association

Chairman

Roy Sterry

Mulberry Cottage, T'steam Way
779599

Vice Chairman

Denise Preedy

12 Harewood
770280

Treasurer

Maurice Escow

Wildwood, Loudwater Heights
771810

Secretary

June Curtis

Whitewoods, Troutstream Way
721583

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

Dennis Sare

Colin Timms

Penny Wilkinson

New Year's Eve

We know New Year's Eve seems months away, but we have to start planning for our party now. Again, it will be held at the Barn at Loudwater Farm, which will have a special theme designed by the talented Mary-Jane Atkinson. It'll be Black Tie, and all that entails. (*No, not tails! Ed.*) We're going to start at 8pm with a champagne reception, which will be followed by a sumptuous six-course meal. (We have new caterers who are really superb). This year we have a live-band, the famous Elastic Band all the way from Soho! The dance floor has been vastly improved, and when the band is on one of their drink breaks, we're going to have disco dancing. There's a possibility that there will be an entertainer - no, not one of the residents who is renowned for telling rather old

jokes! Then at midnight lots more champagne, since, after all, Loudwater is known to be partial to its bubbly! Cost is only £70 per person, but please do bring your own wine to drink with your meal. Because of the dancing, there will not be the same amount of space as at the Harvest/Quiz supper so, again, book early to avoid Maurice having to put you on the waiting list! Send your cheques to Maurice Escow, Wildwood, Loudwater Heights, WD3 4AX.



The LRA Summer Lunch

A sparkling river, freshly mown green pastures, warm dappled sunshine, welcoming smiles, dreamy conversations and laughter drifting over a Pimms - and this was only the beginning of the Summer Lunch.

Inside the Barn, diners sat at two long, linen-draped tables, beautifully decorated with fragrant flowers. The heady fine wines (sourced from the Loudwater Wine Club) accompanied the sumptuous lunch: smoked salmon with avocado pears, followed by tender chicken in champagne sauce, all drowned in lively chatter and infectious laughter. This was the community at its best.

Roy Sterry, Chair of the LRA thanked the Events Sub-Committee: Denise Preedy, Mary-Jane Atkinson, Tony Hale, Maurice Escow and Penny Wilkinson, along with the indefatigable Colin Timms. Everyone knew how very hard they must have worked and silently marvelled at their talent. Fruit sorbet baskets and more came, and then Peter Phillips, Editor of The Ol' Trout, was on his feet. He thanked Roger Giles (Robsons Estate Agents), an honorary guest who prints the Ol' Trout free for Loudwater. Roger was presented with a bottle of champagne, and we were invited to sell our houses through him! Everyone cheered. Then: coffee, conversations, wine, laughter. Mmmmm.....

Sue Tippen

Bridle Lane Garden Party

Men's Finals Day at Wimbledon means the Bridle Lane Garden Party. Sadly, this year it also coincided with the LRA Summer Lunch. In the cul-de-sac end of Bridle Lane, tables, chairs and a gazebo were put up on the verges and around the turning area. As always, excellent food and wine were served and, although a smaller number than usual attended, we had a great time meeting up with our neighbours for what has now become a very pleasurable annual event.

Theresa Jubber

Regional Golf Finalist

Congratulations to Lynn Viccars of Troutstream Way on reaching the Regional Golf Finals, at Gerrards Cross, of the Marie Curie Cancer Research Cup. There were only 20 finalists from Hertfordshire, with most clubs in the area having entered. Lynn plays her golf at



Aldenham, (her husband is a member of Batchworth Park), and has been playing there for 11 years. The Viccars came to Loudwater eight years ago. What with the number of golfers in Loudwater, perhaps we should have a Loudwater Golf Day? Problem is that people like Lynn would show me up! However, I believe the Events Group is looking into the idea.

Peter Phillips

Lynn adds, "the most exciting news at the moment is that my partner Vicki Stone and I have won 6 knock-out rounds, and have now qualified for the National Ladies Pairs in association with Golf UK Tournament Finals, which is being held at The Belfry on the Brabazon course - a Ryder Cup venue"

A Trophy For a Talented Trumpeter

At the Three Rivers Music Society "Young Musician of the Year" competition, the winner of the inaugural Hywel Francis Trumpet Award for 2004 was Lucy Ann Martin, aged 15 years, of Heathfield School, Pinner. She has been playing the trumpet since she was seven years old, and also sings in her school's choir. This year she attended the International Eisteddfod.



Dorothy Francis of Troutstream Way, widow of the late Hywel, made the award, which will be offered each year through the Three Rivers Music Society to the best trumpeter in the area.

Peter Phillips

Welcome To:

David & Cathy Vaughan at Overstream Cottage, Overstream.

David & Nikki Hance, and their four children, Natally, Maddie, Cameron and Dominic at Contino, Whisperwood.

Jonathan & Julie Robin and their children, Natasha and Charlotte at Old Meadow, Bridle Lane.

Andrew & Vanessa Morley and their children, Lewis and Joe at Dormer Cottage, Bridle Lane.

Bridge Club Dinner

Twenty-nine members and guests attended the annual Bridge Club Dinner at The Rose and Crown, Chorleywood. A specially selected menu, presented with flair by our hostess Rhonda, included for the first course, a choice of wonderful homemade pâté, or succulent garlic prawns. The culinary delights continued with a selection of four main courses, including roast lamb served a little rare to enhance the meat, which had all the taste buds tingling, or delicious medallions of pork, causing many to stop talking and concentrate totally on their meal. Homemade chocolate mallow torte, delicious summer berries, or a mouth-watering fruit crumble completed a memorable meal. Judging by the noise alone, everyone had a great time. Speeches were kept to a minimum but a special request, made by Bridge Club Chairman, June Baish, was for more regular attendance by all members at future meetings of the Club.

Dennis Sare

Move over Michael Winner. Dennis obviously wants your job as a food critic. Or, at least, a free meal at the Rose and Crown! Ed.

Investment Clubs

We continue to make progress after the Dot.com debacle, which had global repercussions - and which certainly did not leave us unscathed. Considering that they started when the market was near its peak, some 33% higher than current levels - Chess, down only 16.5% and Troutstream, actually up 2.5% - have done

A letter written last August by Steve Wooding of Hertfordshire Highways to LRA Chairman, Roy Sterry

Dear Roy,

Thanks for the photographs.

The survey work was completed and the drainage system was found to be OK.

The system will take the surface water from the highway and all the outlets discharge in to the river. We do have a problem with a number of gullies along the section that do require relocating and these will be done shortly. There is an issue with a soak away at the junction with Sarratt Lane and we are arranging for a tree to be removed so maintenance can be undertaken on this. It was pointed out to us that there was a large amount of surface water run off from private roads and properties in that area. There is also an issue with the amount of debris that runs down the lane, which does not help the system. We will be putting in a bid for funding for next year to try an increase the gully sizes, but this will be dependent on whether there is enough space within the highway due to the number of services within it

I have issued an order today to clear the gullies and sweep the road from the pumping station to Sarratt Lane after the recent storm.

Regards

Steve Wooding

Flooding



I hate floods. My wife hates them even more!

Anyway, bad flooding has returned to Loudwater Lane, this time at the junction with Sarratt Road and Croxley Green. Please, if you see flooding, immediately ring Steve Wooding of Hertfordshire Highways. If we don't nag, nothing will be done. There have been improvements in the part of Loudwater Lane leading up to the Chorleywood Road and, indeed, to the part of Loudwater Lane leading halfway up to Croxley Green. Now let's get the rest done.

Peter Phillips

Ros Sare of Armitage Close wrote to Three Rivers District Council querying their recycling policy for plastics. She summarised their reply as follows:

Refuse and Recycling Collection

All types of plastic bottles are acceptable on the Three Rivers' recycling collection, whether they are for drinks, detergent or anything else.

There are several reasons why they do not accept a wider range of plastics:

Plastic trays, even when made from the same polymer as a plastic bottle go through different production processes and they will contaminate the plastic bottles.

Collecting bottles on a kerbside scheme account for 40% of plastics thrown away by householders and this is financially viable as long as the council can minimise costly transportation.

Some non-bottle plastics are recycled at present, but always from industrial sources since the plastics are cleaner, available in bulk, with minimal risk of contamination.

However, as technology improves, it is likely that it will be possible to recycle all plastics. Plastic recycling has already come a long way forward in a relatively short time and Three Rivers are hopeful that they will be able to accept more items in the future.

Letter to The Editor

Much as I sympathise with anyone turning right out of Loudwater Road, (*I think she means Lane, Ed.*) or Kingfisher Lure, I cannot agree that any car turning right off Chorleywood Road into these respective roads should allow a car out, especially now that the road markings make room for cars driving straight along to pass on the inside. They expect to go through and are in the right. I have seen near accidents with just this manoeuvre. I feel patience is the only answer.

Marion Smith
Chess Close

I understand what you mean, but there really isn't much room for cars to overtake on the inside. Do you think the markings are a help or a hindrance? Ed.

Vandalism

On the night of 13th /14th August vandals decided to make as much damage as they could to Loudwater Lane - from the Croxley Green end to the Chorleywood Road end. The Wheel House sign went missing, the Chess Lane sign was removed, the Pooh Corner sign was destroyed, as was the Rookery Hill House sign, and various Estate Agents' boards were uprooted. One can only surmise that this was the work of drunken louts, probably teenagers. On the other hand, it also is likely that the vandalism was caused by youths who know the area. Your sons and daughters may have friends who, after a few drinks, would like to cause damage to our beautiful surroundings out of jealousy of the area. Putting it bluntly, we think we know who the culprits are, but we cannot prove it. Believe me, if we could, we would prosecute. Please warn your youngsters.

Peter Phillips

Coming to Your Computers Soon

Your LRA Executive Committee has decided that we need a website, in order that you are constantly up-to-date with all our many events, and with what is going on in the world of Planning Applications to the Three Rivers Council. The Ol' Trout comes out quarterly. We think you should know what is going on weekly. For instance, did you know that the owners of the Wheel House, on the corner of Armitage Close, have put in an application to demolish their house and build four other houses in their grounds? This

is important information - the kind the website can bring you instantly. Of course, the Diary of Events will also always feature so that you can keep your own diaries more easily. The Webmaster will be Dennis Sare, who has vast experience of this kind of site in that he is also involved with the website for Northwood Golf Club. So, besides letting me know what is going on in Loudwater, in the New Year please let Dennis know too. Thank you.

Peter Phillips





Planning Applications

Decisions on previously reported applications

- 04/0287 Heathcote, Chess Close: Demolition and erection of replacement dwelling (Granted)
- 04/0382 Aisling, Troutstream Way: Two storey side extension with front and rear dormers (Granted)
- 04/0694 Cramond Lodge, Timberidge: Two storey side extension. (Granted)
- 04/0780 Greenbanks, Trout Rise: Two storey rear extension. (Refused)
- 02/1441 Breydon, Troutstream Way: Enforcement Notice to restore trees and realign drive (Appeal to DoE dismissed)
- 03/0067 Chess Place, Troutstream Way: Entrance Gates with brick pillars. (Appeal to DoE dismissed)

New applications since July Ol' Trout to 21st. September 2004

- 04/0867 Breydon, Troutstream Way: Erection of boundary fencing on Chorleywood Road. (Granted)
- 04/0869 Chessbord, Troutstream Way: Revision of 04/0398 to include new stair enclosure and amendments to Conservatory. (Granted)
- 04/0897 Troutstream Way: Raising of entrance gates to pedestrian access from Chorleywood Road. (Granted)
- 04/0907 Park Road: Erection of 18.7 m telecommunication mast & associated equipment. (Granted, LRA objected)
- 04/0952 Oak House, Loudwater Lane: Two storey front and first floor side extension. (Granted)
- 04/0953 2 Ladywood Close, Sarratt Lane: Replacement detached dwelling. (Granted, LRA objected)
- 04/1021 Straw Hat, Whisperwood: Single storey front & side extension. (Refused, LRA objected)
- 04/1063/1143 The Farm House, Trout Rise: Demolition & erection of replacement dwelling. (Delegated)
- 04/1128 Foxhill, Loudwater Drive: Replacement detached dwelling and detached garage. (Delegated)
- 04/1125 Will O' Wisp, Chess Lane: Single storey side extension. (Committee decision, LRA objected)
- 04/1182 Rookery Wood House, Loudwater Lane: Single storey side, two storey rear extensions, new entrance and 2 new dormer windows. (Delegated)
- 04/1260 Will O' Wisp, Chess Lane: Erection of 1.8 m rear boundary fence. (Delegated, LRA objected)
- 04/1303 Elm Cottage, Chess Lane: Two storey rear extension and replacement porch. (Delegated)
- 04/1343 9 Ladywood Close, Sarratt Lane: Single storey side extension and detached side double garage. (Delegated)
- 04/1346 The Wheel House, Loudwater Lane: Demolition of existing house and erection of four 2 storey detached dwellings. (Delegated, LRA objected)
- 04/1402 5 Ladywood Close, Sarratt Lane: Demolition and erection of replacement dwelling. (Delegated)
- 04/1428 Cherry Trees, Loudwater Heights: Replacement double garage with room over and front dormer. (Delegated)
- 04/1429 Far End, Wagon Way: Single storey rear extension & two storey side extension. (Delegated)
- 04/1434 Squirrel Cottage, Loudwater Lane: Erection of triple carport. (Delegated)

remarkably well. We're obviously sticking our pins into the right places on the financial pages!

Tony Bradford

Theatre Club Visit to Cliveden Alan Bennett's "Wind in the Willows"

In a week when clouds rushed on in billows
The Wind was in more than the Willows.
The Theatre club left their dry abodes
In search of Ratty, Mole and Toad.

In the depths of Cliveden grounds they found
An amphitheatre with "surround sound".
A picnic spot to indulge their passion
Of wining and dining in Loudwater fashion.

The cast was superb and drove off the clouds.
Badger did Alan Bennett proud.

There was Albert, the show-stealing horse
from Brummy.

The weasels were evil, the hedgehogs funny.

Mole was timid while Ratty fussed.
But toad was outrageous - fit to bust.
With wonderful props and imagination
He thrilled and delighted the congregation.

The evening brought us pleasures untold
We left sated and happy - but freezing cold!

Christine Sterry

Christine wrote a brilliant poem for my birthday, so I challenged her to write the Cliveden Theatre review in verse. Superb! Well done, and thank you. Ed.

Kenwood Concert

After the wettest August on record, we prayed for a break. And got it! Kenwood stayed dry and 7,000 picknicking concertgoers celebrated. Of that huge number, ten were from Loudwater. Where were the rest of you? Sorry, folks, but you missed a great evening. There was all the usual "Last Night of the Proms" stuff, fine singing from the new star mezzo soprano Katherine Jenkins, that unique, flag-waving "British" feeling and ... those fireworks! Splendidly spectacular.

Bob Pickering

Theatre Club

Only one more event is scheduled for this year - an outing to the National Theatre to see the highly acclaimed "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" by Stephen Sondheim. Sorry, but all seats have been sold, though there may be the chance of "returns". Next year, please apply for tickets as early as you can.

Hot Off The Press!

**The Solid Gold Cadillac, Garrick Theatre, London
Saturday 15th January 2005 - 2.30pm**

We have chosen the above for our first event of 2005 after recommendations from Theatre Club members who saw it before it came to the West End.

Written in 1953 this Broadway comedy became a major Hollywood film, and then first came to the West End in 1965 with Margaret Rutherford and Sidney James in the lead roles. This time, the roles are expected to be played by Patricia Routledge, star of *Keeping Up Appearances*, and Roy Hudd.

Described as a classic corporate comedy, the play is about a sweet little old lady who turns up at a shareholders' meeting and begins to ask embarrassing questions - such as why the senior executives are paid so much! Sounds fun! Do join us.

Penny Wilkinson



Loudwater Wine Club - Domaine Lucien Jacob

Tasting the Domaine Lucien Jacob wines from Burgundy in July was one of the highlights for the Club since its formation in 2000.

The vineyards now being tended by the third generation of Jacobs, Jean Michel and his wife Christine, and his sister Chantal, are spread over 40 kms from the Cote de Nuits in the north (Gevrey Chambertin, Chambolle and Forey) down to Beaune in the south (which includes the fine Savigny wines).

A report of the wines are included on our website, loudwaterwineclub.org.uk and thus duplication here is unnecessary. It's sufficient to comment that over 50 members enjoyed an educational and convivial evening coached directly by the winemakers themselves, Jean Michel and Christine.

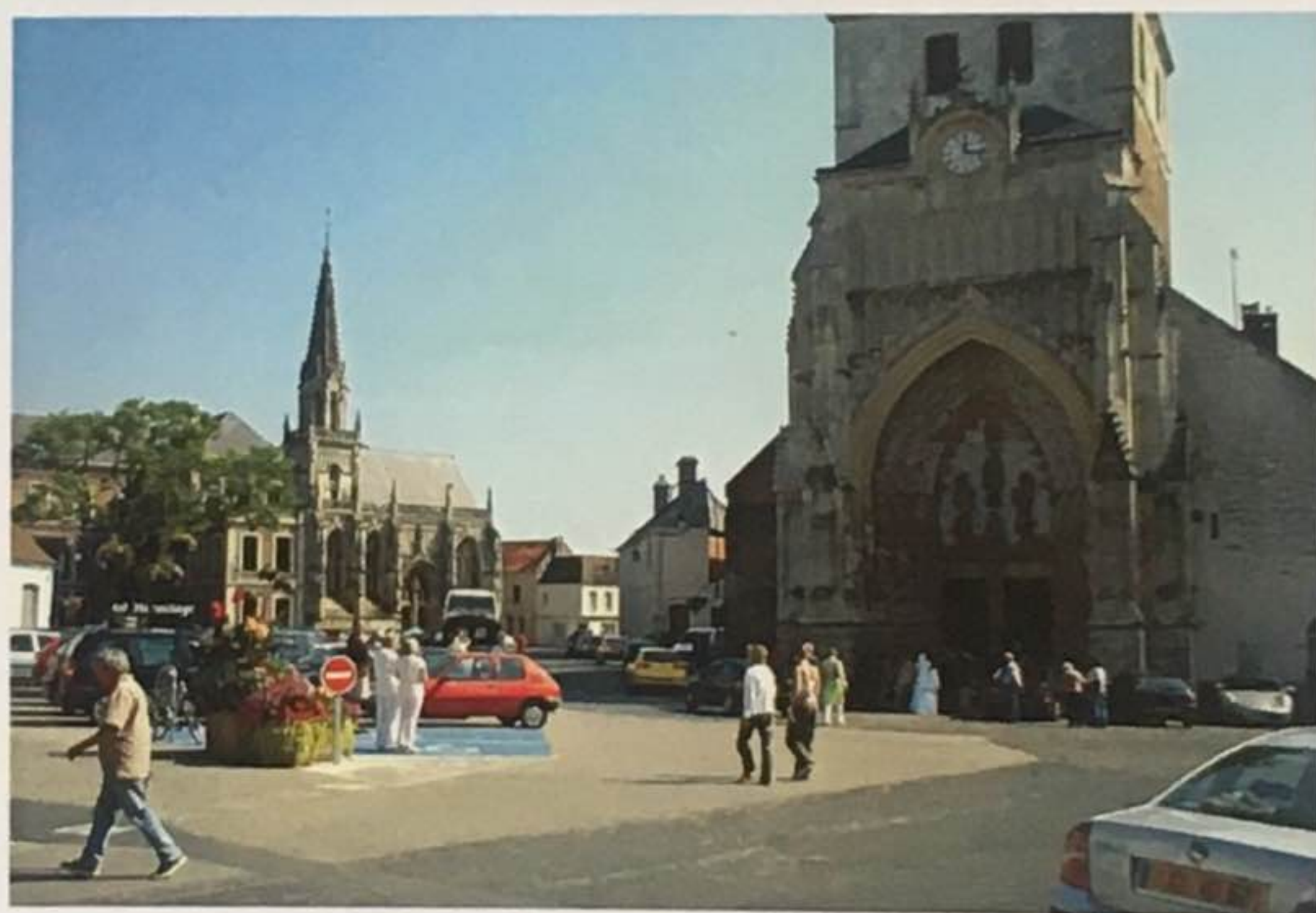
A quote from Jean Michel that he makes his wines from the grape and not from the oak will appeal to all those suffering 'Barrel Fatigue' from this year's tour to Rioja!

A further plus was that those in the know were able to pre-order and receive some wines during their visit, while others were at least able to place orders on the night. This facility is still available, and any member interested should link with me so that I can forward the order, and plan collection from Ardres in the near future - possibly to include lunch for the 'mules' at the superb Le Francois 1^{er}, the venue of our 2002 and 2003 Day Trips to France.

Tony Hale

Wine Club Day Trip to France

Saturday 4th September. Off to Montreuil-sur-Mer by Eurotunnel. (Why "sur-Mer" - it's nowhere near the sea?). Coach at 6am from the Royal Masonic. Organiser Mike Wood. Champagne served, inevitably, by 6.15am. Waiters Mike Wood and Don Moore. Perfect rail crossing from Folkestone. Arrive in Calais already feeling somewhat tiddly. Montreuil is a typically northern France small town. Two beautiful town squares, and what a great cheese shop. Bought enough cheese to smell out my house for a fortnight!



One of the beautiful town squares in Montreuil-sur-Mer

Beginning to feel backache. Stop for another drink with my colleague Tony Bradford and our wives. An understanding lot! Feel even more tiddly! Off to the restaurant - Le Cocquempot. Meet up with the other 40 odd Loudwater wine buffs. Food and wine excellent. Beginning to forget about my backache as more wine is consumed with the delicious meal. Oh and look - there's the Wine Club Chairman, Tony Hale. He and his wife Ritva have travelled back from their holiday, and he is sitting at our table. He'll be good for another bottle! Now we're off again, reeling! Mike tells us it's time to sample the wines. Let's be honest. We couldn't tell one wine from another. The shop was also a bit disorganised and a bit expensive, but who cared? As a group we only bought a tenth of what we did last year (statistics by kind permission of Dennis Sare) but we all had a great time.

Editor

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

Designer

Tony Bradford (773071)

Final copy date for the Jan 2005 issue is Friday 10th December

We persuade Mike NOT to stop on the motorway back in England for fried Spam and chips! We arrive in good time back at the Royal Masonic for my wife, Davida, to drive me home and tuck me up safely in bed. I awaited a hangover!

Peter Phillips

PS. Tony Hale asks whether a day trip is too short and maybe we should have a stopover or long weekend next time. Good idea!

Loudwater Wine Club - The Rhône Valley

The presentation for our September meeting was given by the now familiar, Sandy Leckie - who always impresses with the depth and breadth of his knowledge.

We learnt about the steep valleys of the northern region, where the Syrah grape is dominant. It's here, that the prestigious reds are produced - dark, spicy and powerful - Côte-Rôtie and Hermitage being the most famous appellations. Then there's the warmer, flatter southern region. There's a greater diversity of grapes here, and this is typified by the celebrated Châteauneuf-du-Pape, which can be made from a blend of no less than 13 grape varieties!

We had seven assorted wines to taste. The first few were relatively modest samples of their genre: a white and a rosé, followed by two reds (Grenache and Syrah). But sights were raised with a delicious 2000 Hermitage and, the *pièce de résistance*, a powerful 10-year-old Châteauneuf-du-Pape from Sandy's own cellar. The presentation ended with a thick, sweet, but considerably alluring, 'pudding' wine.

After giving Sandy his thanks, our charismatic chairman, Tony Hale, mentioned that it was Christine Sterry's birthday. This prompted our equally charismatic treasurer, Mike Wood (Oh! - we're simply oozing charisma in this Wine Club!), to orchestrate the entire gathering into a moderately tuneful rendition of "Happy Birthday". As ever, an excellent evening was had by all!

Tony Bradford

Wine Club Future Events

Coming up on Friday, 22nd October is Lindsay Oram on wines from Argentina and Chile. (*She's great. Ed.*)

Also we have the Christmas Dinner at Durrants on Friday 26th November, and the AGM on Sunday, 12th December at the Loudwater Farm barn.

Tony Hale

Know Your Onions? (Your Dahlias? Your Greenfly?)

Whether you think you do - or know you don't - you are warmly invited to the LRA Garden Club Gardeners'

Question Time event to be held on 27th October at Loudwater Farm - small barn.

James Buttress, an RHS judge, will head a panel of experts who are ready and able to tackle your questions on all aspects of gardening. The evening starts at 7.30 p.m. with a plant exchange - just bring your superfluous plants, cuttings, bulbs etc. no money changes hands; just a swap between neighbours.

Our speaker for the September meeting was Sarah Cole, a lecturer in horticulture at Southampton, and one of the inspectors for the Daily Telegraph "Good Garden Guide". Unexpectedly, the subject of her talk was about Herbs - their range and uses. As well as their well-known culinary uses we learnt about their value as medicine, fragrance and dyes, and their symbolic use in art. Not quite what we expected but enjoyable none the less.

As the leaves change colour they signal that the Christmas season is approaching fast and, in preparation, on 24th November we will be holding an evening to set the mood with a demonstration by Aurie Anderson from Ruislip Northwood Flower Arranging Club, followed by a workshop to put what we've seen into practice.

Do join us at these events if you can.

Sue Stent

A Taste of Japan

As members of the Fine Dining Club can now testify, there's definitely more to Japanese food than the clichéd raw fish. In fact, the only raw fish in evidence at the Japanese Soiree, which was held in Clive and Celia Brothers picture-book garden, were those lurking nervously in the ornamental pond.

In order to minimise any concerns over the unfamiliarity of the food on the big night, your Fine Dining Committee plus intrepid other-halves underwent the rigours of a pre-Soiree test-meal.

Honestly, the lengths we go to on behalf of our Club members ... but our "guinea pig" efforts were more than rewarded when we saw everyone enjoying themselves so much on the actual night.

And what a night it was - Clive and Celia generously donated a magnificent marquee with no visible signs of anxiety over the cost to their immaculate lawn, the talented and highly creative Japanese chef, Kei Shiba, was brought in to provide the food and create the decor, and following Clive's introduction of "Someone's daughter", Emily Brothers and her group, The Detours, provided a wonderfully witty post-dinner cabaret. We sampled Japanese plum wine over crushed ice as an aperitif and tasted traditional Sake with our meal. And even though we might not be able to remember exactly what Yakitori, Teriyaki or indeed Sushi rolls are, we can at least say with confidence that they're delicious.

Viv Schragger-Powell



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)



Emily Brothers and The Detours during their Cabaret