



Ol' The Trout



Winter 2005

Number 114

Chairman's Word

By the time you read this I hope I will have recovered from having seen in 2005 with a memorable New Year's Eve celebration at The Barn, organised by our Events Committee, chaired by Denise Preedy. On offer were a superb dinner, great wine, and live music for dancing, played by Soho's famous Elastic Band.

Looking back over the year, the community activities have gone from strength to strength, with new faces appearing at all our clubs and LRA events. If you haven't been to any of our activities, make a New Year's resolution to join a club now, and come to one of our special events too. I promise - you'll be sure of a real Loudwater welcome.

Last year was also a busy year on the Planning and Roads side of our work. We were sad to see Donald Cammell leave us for Chesham - his input as Planning Secretary was outstanding. We held a special celebration dinner for him at the Cock in Sarratt, where he was presented with an engraved decanter from the LRA Committee for his 26 years of service, during which time he was Vice Chairman, Chairman and Planning Secretary.

The Committee and I would like to wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

The gates at Trout Rise and Troutstream Way that lead onto Sarratt Lane



A number of residents who live in and around Sarratt Lane have asked the LRA why they cannot be allowed through the gates when there are road closures in Sarratt Lane or Loudwater Lane. We know this doesn't happen very often but when it does, those residents have extended journeys getting around the closures. We thought we should ask the directors of The Loudwater (Troutstream) Estate Ltd (who, amongst other things, are responsible for the gates and roads on the gated estate) whether access would be possible. After much consideration they felt that the risk of heavy vehicles damaging the fragile road surfaces and the bridges was too great for the residents of the gated estate to bear this cost. Recent investigations have shown that major repairs and improvements to road surfaces would cost over £1.5 million, and that this would have to be paid by residents of the gated estate. The Estate Board did suggest a plan that would have allowed restricted access to local residents but this would have meant that the LRA would have to constantly "man the gates" to prevent unauthorised access. This would have been too difficult to administer and, sadly, this is where the matter rests.

Roy Sterry

Editorial

I gather I ruffled a few feathers with my last editorial when criticising the indiscriminate building applications that are being put in on behalf of Loudwater residents. However, I do not retract one word! Imagine my horror when, in October, an Estate Agent wrote to me to say that the field behind Branksome Lodge in Loudwater Lane was up for sale. The bump he sent out admitted it was green-belt land but, cleverly, the picture showed, in the distance, a house! I telephoned the Estate Agent. Yes, it was green belt, he confirmed, and could only be used for keeping horses, or for minor farming. However, after a little pressuring from me, he admitted that it was possible that, in a few years, permission might be given to build houses on it. Now imagine! Heaven forbid, that the owners of the Wheel House are given their planning permission to build their four houses. Right next to that development would be this field. "Well, if there are already houses next door, why can't we build in the field?" would be the new owners' argument. And suddenly, Armitage Close, the Wheelhouse development, the houses on the field - they'd all link up to the Chess Close, Chess Hill, and Chess Lane estate. No! Not if I can help it! Assist me in stopping these greedy owners and developers from ruining Loudwater. Let's still be able to see green fields, handsome tall trees, and birds flying around, happy and unharmed. I am getting emotional because I want to keep Loudwater as beautiful as it was when we moved here in 1972. I hope you care as much.

Peter Phillips

Roger Fawkner-Corbett 1929-2004

All Roger's friends were deeply grieved at his death on 31st October.

He was educated at Rugby School, and after National Service, joined his family's shipping and forwarding firm. He then enjoyed a spell in Australia before returning to work in the City of London where he was a member of the Port of London Authority. He later joined the Junior Chamber of Commerce and this led to him becoming a member of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London.

Loudwater Residents' Association

Chairman and Planning Secretary

Roy Sterry
Mulberry Cottage, T'stream 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

Members

Mary-Jane Atkinson
Clive Fowler
Tony Hale
John Hawxwell
Theresa Jubber
Peter Phillips
Dennis Sare
Colin Timms
Penny Wilkinson

Roger developed a great love for the City Churches, and was Treasurer of the Friends of the City Churches.

After his retirement Roger and his wife Sheila ran a bookshop in Pinner, a time about which he spoke with great enjoyment and enthusiasm. Their "final" retirement was to Loudwater. At this time they joined St. John's Church, Heronsgate. Roger was a deeply religious man and loved the beautiful traditional liturgy of the services. Roger became involved with many local charities.

Most important, Roger was a great family man, married to Sheila for 50 years in a life-enhancing partnership. He adored his two children, Louise, (the mother of three beloved granddaughters), and Tim who had so tragically died in an accident in his teens.

Roger was a man of great honesty, straightforwardness and courage. Three years of illness did not daunt him, nor dull the twinkle in his eye, nor silence his witty and lively conversation. We shall all miss him.

Eric and Mabel Tindall

To me, Roger F-C was Rodge, and I was Pete! Because Sheila was not too keen on Duplicate Bridge, I would partner him at "Duplicate". He was competitive, and woe betide me if I made mistakes! I also remember when I met up with Rodge at Ricky station. He was wearing Black-Tie. I asked him, in front of his companions, at which tables he was waiting that evening. He took the jibe well, but ignored me for the next month or so! Rodge - like Eric and Mabel, I'll miss you a lot. Ed.

Email Addresses

We think it will be useful to have on record all email addresses of members of the LRA. If you have no objection, please email yours to our Secretary, June Curtis, on pia265@talk21.com. Thank you.

The Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre 10k Run



The 'Loudwater Lopers' - looking amazingly fresh. Was this before or after the run?

The Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre 10k race held in late September has established itself as an excellent runners' event.

Starting from Merchant Taylor's School playing fields, the blissfully traffic-free route takes in the sights of Moor Park Estate and offers glorious early-autumnal views from the top of the golf course before heading back to Merchant Taylor's and the welcome sight of the finishing line.

The 2004 event saw four "Loudwater Lopers" taking part. Robert Kenison and Graham Batterham both finished the course in under an hour. Carrie James, who is new to running, kept me company all the time, and we did attract the inevitable "how can you run and chat at the same time?" type remarks!

The event is organised by Buzz Coster of Bridle Lane, who is Marketing Manager of the Centre. It is family orientated. Young runners can choose from races for the under 10s, under 12s and under 15s, while the last race, the 10K, is aimed at adults. Some

folk simply walk the course because their aim is just to raise money for charity through sponsorship. So come on you runners and walkers. Help support this really worthwhile local cause.

Viv Schrager-Powell

Sorry to boast! My son Richard who is a partner at lawyers MAB in Watford (how's that for a plug?) had a better time than all the Loudwater contestants. He came 106th out of 612 in the 10K run, at a time of 48 mins 12 secs! Ed.

Adds Buzz Coster...

Many of you will already know about the Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre and understand why over 1,000 people donned their running shoes last September.

For those of you who don't, the LJMC is the cancer support and information centre at Mount Vernon Hospital. Its main service is a drop-in centre that is open five days a week, staffed by volunteers and health care professionals. In addition to providing information about cancer and its treatments, as well as a listening ear to those who need it, the centre also offers complementary therapy treatments and counselling to people affected by cancer.

If you'd like to support the vital work of the LJMC in any capacity, or perhaps become a volunteer, please do call me for more information.

I'll hope you've been inspired by Viv *et al*, and are already in training for the 10k 2005!

Buzz Coster

Harvest Supper

When summer is gone and the nights draw in
Thoughts of idle evenings by the fire begin.
Just when the plants have been put to bed
Loudwater's Harvest Supper rears its head.

November brought us beautiful scenery
The barn was decked with produce and greenery
The Garden Club would have been full of pride
As the men got in touch with their feminine side!

The scene was set for the feast of the fall
A glass of champagne was welcomed by all.
A three-course dinner was served that night
To give us strength for the oncoming fight.

Now who would believe that yet another year
Has passed since we last put our brains into gear?
Trying to bring all those answers to mind
After copious quantities of food and wine.

Yes the infamous quiz is now a tradition
Whether one is an artist or mathematician
When to play one's Joker was the hardest decision
With rounds so cryptic causing so much derision!

There were tables of six and eight and nine
(My excuse was that the smallest was mine)
No handicapping here, you just had to be wise
If you wanted to avoid the booby prize.

I'm delighted to say the winners so tender
Consisted of a majority of the female gender
Which just goes to prove if you want to compare
Our brains may be smaller but not filled with air.

Congratulations to Don and his team
To all the helpers who set the scene,
To Buzz and Gary for an evening of fun
It got us all thinking, when all's said and done.



Christine Sterry

The winners of the Quiz were Donald Cammell and Janie, Jocelyn and Robin Douglas, Dorothy Francis, Peter Laule, Joan Martin, and Don and Stella Moore. Congratulations. Also congratulations to Gary and Buzz Coster for organizing the quiz and to Denise Preedy and her team for arranging the whole evening. Ed.



Planning Applications

Decisions on previously reported applications

- 04/1063/1143 The Farm House, Trout Rise: Demolition and erection of replacement dwelling. (Withdrawn)
- 04/1128 Foxhill, Loudwater Drive: Replacement detached dwelling and detached garage. (Granted)
- 04/1125 Will O' Wisp, Chess Lane: Single storey side extension. (Refused, LRA objected)
- 04/1182 Rookery Wood House, Loudwater Lane: One storey side, two storey rear extension, new entrance and 2 new dormer windows. (Granted)
- 04/1260 Will O' Wisp, Chess Lane: Erection of 1.8 m rear boundary fence. (Granted)
- 04/1303 Elm Cottage, Chess Lane: Two-storey rear ext. & replacement porch. (Granted)
- 04/1346 The Wheel House, Loudwater Lane: Demolition of existing house and erection of four 2 storey detached houses. (Refused, LRA objected)
- 04/1428 Cherry Trees, Loudwater Heights: Replacement double garage with room over and front dormer. (Withdrawn)
- 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. (Refused)

Awaiting Decisions

- 04/1343 9 Ladywood Close, Sarratt Lane: Single storey side extension and detached side double garage. (Delegated)
- 04/1402 5 Ladywood Close, Sarratt Lane: Demolition and erection of replacement dwelling. (Committee, LRA objected)

New applications since October Ol' Trout to 7th December 2004

- 04/0780 Greenbanks, Trout Rise: Two-storey rear extension. (Refused, Appeal to DoE)
- 04/1368 Heathcote, Chess Close: Replacement dwelling. (Granted)
- 04/1472 Thatches, Loudwater Lane: Erection of detached double garage. (Withdrawn)
- 04/1487 Chessbord, Troutstream Way: Basement link to poolroom & new swimming pool. (Granted)
- 04/1514 Foxhill, Loudwater Drive: Conservation Area Consent: demolition of dwelling. (Granted)
- 04/1505 8 Harewood: Rear conservatory. (Granted)
- 04/1582 Lilac Cottage, Trout Rise: Porch extension. (Granted)
- 04/1626 Flint Cottage, Troutstream Way: Erection of detached tractor shed and horse shelter. (Delegated)
- 04/1673 2 Ladywood Close: Replacement dwelling. (Delegated)
- 04/1647 Coppers, Sarratt Lane: Single storey side and rear extension for disabled person. (Delegated)
- 04/1692 Owl Cottage, Bridle Lane: Two storey front & rear, single storey front, rear & side extensions. (Delegated)
- 04/1757/8 The Farm House, Trout Rise: Conservation Area Consent, demolition & erection of replacement dwelling. (Delegated)
- 04/1774 Micklefield Hall, Sarratt Road: Demolition of farm buildings and erection of oak framed function room. (Delegated, LRA objected)
- 04/1808 Stafford House, Loudwater Heights: New 2 storey dwelling with further accommodation in roof with dormers to front & rear. (Delegated, LRA objected)
- 04/1826 Stepping Stones, Trout Rise: Amendment to 04/0333, roof alterations and side dormer. (Delegated)
- 04/1838 Glen Cottage, Trout Rise: Two single storey rear extensions. (Delegated)

Stella Garner writes...

...of her concern that so many builders' vans and lorries, and, indeed, private cars, are parking on our grass verges. She thinks this may be in contradiction of some of our by-laws. I don't know about these by-laws, or covenants as she calls them, but I do know that she is right in saying that these vehicles are destroying our grass, and that house owners should advise their visitors to park much more carefully. She ends by asking whether she has turned into a "moany old person". *No, Stella, not you! Ed.*

Infill

In helping me argue at the Three Rivers District Council Development Committee meeting against the Wheel House owners' desire to build four new houses in their garden on the corner of Armitage Close and Loudwater Lane, Cllr. John Hawxwell made a very salient point. If the owners of the Wheel House are given permission, what is to stop anyone in Loudwater who has a largish garden from talking to developers about building new houses in their gardens? Do we want Loudwater to become an urban sprawl? I think not! If you think infill might happen near you, do get in touch with Roy Sterry, who is taking over as our Planning Secretary. We must combat this scourge urgently.

Peter Phillips

The Best Laid Plans...

One feature of living in Loudwater is that there will come a time when everyone, almost certainly, will come into contact with The Three Rivers Development Control Committee (Planning to you and me). Recently it was our turn - to argue against the proposed development at the Wheel House site. Filled with foreboding, my neighbour and I turned up half an hour before the start to register with the Clerk of the Committee. She needed to be informed early if you wished to speak about an application. A three-minute slot would be allocated to applicants, and another slot to objectors.

The Three Rivers Council Committee was very professional and used the latest high-tech equipment. Each pair of Councillors shared a computer monitor and the public was also able to view the same information on a large projector screen. The careful assembly of the facts by the officers was very impressive, having to keep within the law and legal precedents. Not to do so, and to reject an application that would later have a successful appeal, could prove very expensive, with costs possibly awarded against the Council.

With understandable caution, each application was considered diligently, with all arguments listened to, and commented upon.

We came away from the meeting late (they do go on a bit!) and, ironically, went on to a dinner to bid farewell to LRA planning guru, Donald Cammell. He made the job look so easy (which it isn't), but I do think that the efficiency of the TRDC must have been of great help to him.

Dennis Sare

*I was the poor neighbour who had to speak!
Thanks, Dennis, for holding my hand
(metaphorically - of course!) Ed.*



From the Troutstream Estate Company...

"It was on a Monday morning that the gas man came to call," as Flanders and Swann would say - except it was a Wednesday in this instance.

Gas was in the air, and the gasman did respond within an hour of the phone call. There is a fracture or leak in the gas main that is underneath Troutstream Way, adjacent to the Sarratt Lane gate. The reason is, the gas main is close to the surface of the road and the overweight traffic entering this gate to a building site in the centre of the Estate has caused damage.

This is a good example of why the Estate Company has weight restrictions - but we are not policemen and are unable to enforce at all times. However, when owners deliberately flaunt the restrictions, there is more likely to be a problem with utilities.

Other Estate Companies or Associations in the Loudwater Area may like to obtain copy maps of the layout of their utility services, if not already held - suggestions are gas, electricity, water - so that you at least have knowledge if vulnerable services are under your roads, and where the road may not have proper foundations.

John Parsons

Peter Tate studies the birds of Loudwater. (The feathered ones! Ed.)



I have lived here for 52 years and have seen a great many changes in both the number and variety of birds. Not all have been negative but it must be said that there have been less birds around.

To be certain of the reason is not easy but a few thoughts come to mind. Everywhere is much too tidy, and there are much less rough and neglected places that provide seeds for Finches and Sparrows in which they can nest. The more general use of insecticides both in the garden and home has resulted in there being many less flies, midges, etc. which are food for many species such as Swallow House Martins and Spotted Flycatchers. In the local area there are fewer animals apart from some horses. Loudwater Farm has no muck heaps, and the farm at Lady Lewis's is alas no more. This has reduced the birds' food supply.

Tidy lawns and weed killers have made many gardens less suitable for the Thrush family although, luckily, there are quite a few still around. When we first came here Nightingales sang along Loudwater Drive and Violet Way but with the disappearance of thick undergrowth and bushes, the Nightingales left.

All, however, is not ornithological gloom, and several very interesting birds have appeared in the sky above us, such as Ospreys, a White Stork, and a few Buzzards, while the occasional Red Kite and Little Egret have graced us with their presence too. We're still very lucky.

Neighbourhood Watch



Our average crime figures for the last 9 years have been 8 per year, not including the terrible 2002. This year, 2004, we have had just 5 incidents, but please don't get complacent. I had an attempted break-in in October, which gave me quite a fright. A low-life, spotting a bedroom window ajar, tried to open it further to gain access, but hadn't bargained on the fact that I have window locks stopping the window being opened any more. Needless to say they went away empty handed.

I know it's a palaver to put locks, bars, bolts and alarms on, but it is worth it. Just a few minutes of your time can save you from the distress of a break in, and the loss of valuable and sentimental items. Try and think thief. If you can gain access, so can they! The same goes for cars, garages and garden sheds. What you may look upon as an innocuous item such as a trowel, spade, broom, or even a ladder left in the garden, could become a valuable tool for the burglar. And finally, a big thank you to all the co-ordinators. Your efforts are much appreciated.

June Curtis - Area Co-ordinator

Chairman's Party

This event is organised for those who give so much of their time to assist in some way with the various activities of the LRA. The scope and breadth of these activities are well illustrated by the number attending: some 75 people were treated to an enormously entertaining evening at the Loudwater Farm Barn. Christine Sterry did a superb job in providing us all with a delicious home cooked platter. To cater for that number is impressive - but to do it with such style and grace ... one is lost for words!!

Roy Sterry addressed the assembled throng with warm and appreciative words. Initially, he studiously avoided mentioning any names - probably because we'd have been there all night if he'd started! Inevitably though, a few did come out: Donald Cammell - who's been so conscientious in the field of Planning; Peter Phillips who will succeed Roy as Chairman ... and my wife Lynda - who's birthday it was. I'd been accused of being a bit of a cheapskate when, on being asked where I was taking her for a birthday treat, I'd replied, "The Chairman's Party". I was doubly miffed therefore, when Roy seemed to over-emphasise how very young Lynda must have been when we got married!!

The Barn was beautifully decorated with attractive flora from Charles and Jo Homewood's garden. The food, the drink, the company, the ambiance - all were exemplary. Yet another highly successful get-together within the Loudwater community.

Tony Bradford

When, heaven help me, I take over as Chairman next April, Tony Bradford is taking over as Editor. I will have been Editor for 4 years, and the next issue will be my 16th and last. I have every confidence in Tony as Editor. I have a much more difficult act to follow, coming after Roy! Ed.

Golf

The inaugural meeting of the LRA Golf Society will be on Tuesday, 21st May at Moor Park Golf Club. Please see enclosed flyer.



Bridge Club

It is with much sadness that my report begins with the announcement of the death of our Treasurer, Roger Fawcner-Corbett. He will be greatly missed. Discussions on whether we should use bidding boxes will never be the same again without Roger! Each year he argued against them but was cruelly overruled! We are delighted that Roger's wife, Sheila, will continue as a member. All are already lining up to partner her! Our new initiative - a short discussion and then playing an interesting hand - has been a success, and we intend to continue this experiment. By the time you read this report we will have had our Christmas meeting, with wine, mince pies, fun and games (Bridge, of course!), and we all look forward to many happy Bridge Wednesdays in 2005. In the New Year, my neighbour Janis Rees is taking over as Treasurer. Thank you, Janis.

June Baish

What's wrong with Armitage Close? June is Chairman of the Bridge Club, Ros Sare is Secretary, Janis is Treasurer, and Dennis Sare is also on the committee. I was on the committee at its inception - indeed, even Chairman for a day! Do we Armitage Close dwellers have nothing better to do than play Bridge? Ed.

Investment Clubs

Troutstream

In the elusive and unpredictable world of equity investment, the relative success of the Troutstream Club continues unabated. At the end of November our profits had reached 13.7% on subscriptions paid in - which is the best we've seen since August 2000, near the height of the stockmarket boom. Our total assets stand at over £48,000 in spite of very modest monthly

subscriptions by the members - and our portfolio gain so far this year is double the increase in the FTSE 100 index. Not a bad effort from a bunch of amateurs!

Tony Bradford

Many thanks to Godfrey Crook, Tony Bradford, and Trevor and Mary Slade for all the work they have put in to help our Club become so successful. Also, thank you, Anthony Moss, for the use of your office for our meetings. Being able to check our shares on a big screen has proved most helpful. Ed.

Chess

Last month the Chess Investment Club gained 6.5% in value, but we are the smaller of the Investment Clubs, having only 9 members, with only 5 attending regularly. The injection of a few active members would therefore be welcomed. Please phone me on 07802 783039.

Anthony Moss

Theatre Club

We have had an excellent response to our first trip in 2005, which is to see "The Solid Gold Cadillac" starring Patricia Routledge and Roy Hudd. Our next event is at the Oxford Playhouse to see "Round the Horne Revisited" on 1st April. I have tickets held until 11th January, so please call me soon. We are in the process of arranging the rest of the year's events, which may include a visit to the newly refurbished Palace Theatre in Watford, the ever-popular Watermill, an outdoor concert, and maybe a ballet. Details will follow. Subscriptions for 2005 are now due and are £5 per person or £7.50 per couple. Please contact me if you wish to become a member.

Penny Wilkinson

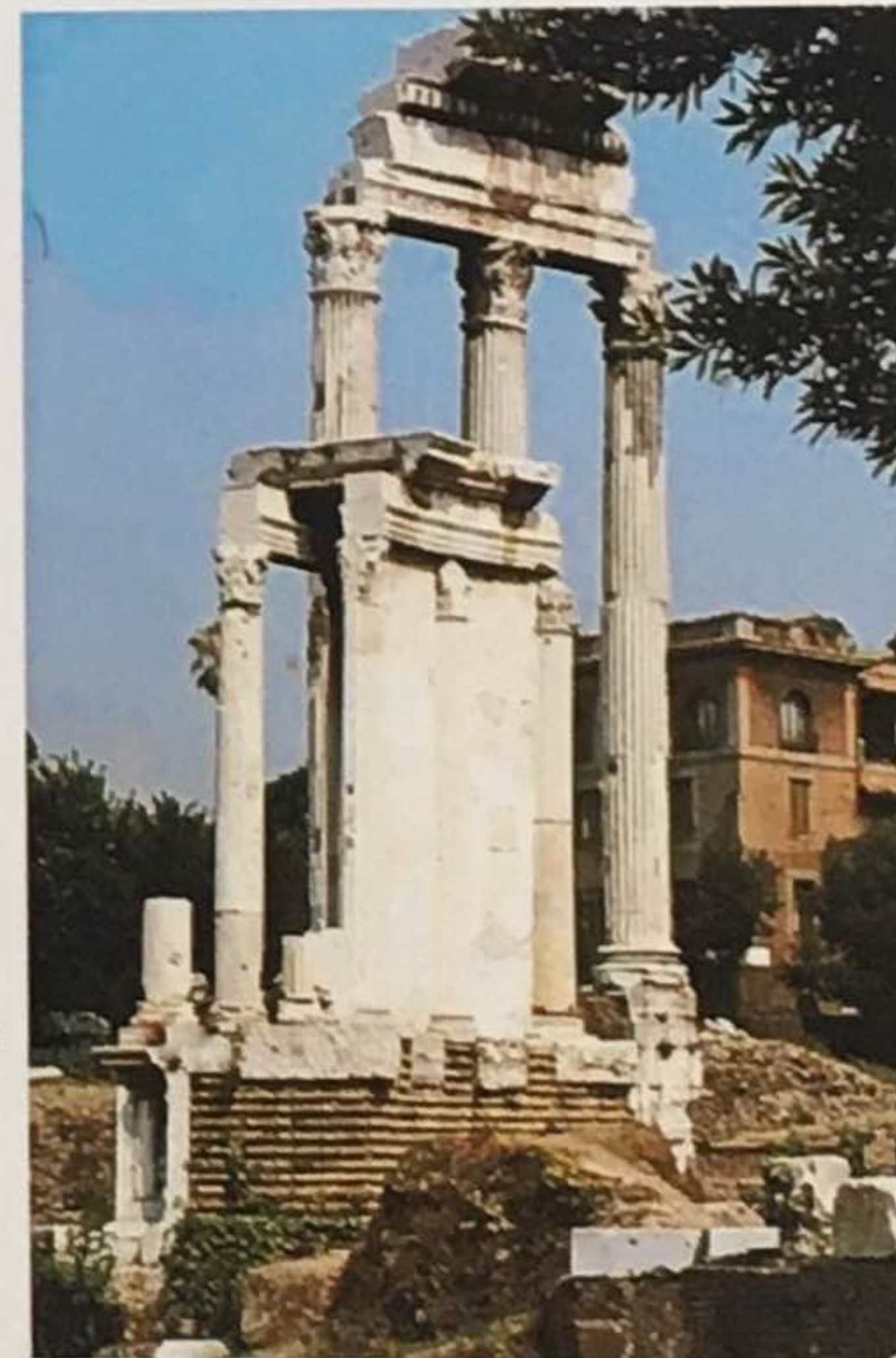
Congratulations to Mary-Jane Atkinson on taking over as Chairman of the Club from Denise Preedy, who had been the highly successful Chairman since the inception of the Club. Ed.

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

In October, 15 members of the Theatre Club went to see "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" at the Olivier Theatre. We met, as usual, in the car park of the Royal Masonic School to travel to London by coach. The journey seems to take such a short time when chatting with neighbours and friends. With plenty of time before the start of the play we were able to enjoy a relaxed meal in the Mezzanine Restaurant of the National Theatre complex.

The play is set in Rome two hundred years before the Christian era and is based on the book by Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart. Stephen Sondheim wrote the music and lyrics. I had forgotten how funny and slapstick it was, and kept remembering Frankie Howerd in the star role. At this performance Desmond Barrit took the part of Prologus. It was an excellent cast with Isla Blair playing the part of Domina, having taken the role of Philia in the original production.

Theresa Jubber



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

Designer

Tony Bradford (773071)

Final copy date for the April 2005 issue is Friday 18th March

Wine Club

Members enjoyed a whistle stop tour round South America in October - oenologically speaking, that is. Tasting wines from Chile and Argentina under the tutelage of Lindsay Oram, they found great variety in styles of wine-making between the two countries. There are more Argentinian wines for

sale in the UK these days, many of questionable quality, so it was a treat to be guided round some of the better ones.

The club returned to Durrants in Croxley Green for its Christmas Dinner in November. The hard-working Committee had toiled long and hard to select wines for the evening, which necessitated at least a couple of trips to Majestic in Amersham. By way of expressing its appreciation for their labours, the membership chattered long and hard all evening and had a great, social evening.

Despite having been going strong for over four years, the club held its first AGM in December. Following dire threats from the Chairman that no wine would be poured until the business of the meeting was complete, proceedings were over very swiftly with the Committee re-elected to carry on planning the wine education of the members for another year.

A delicious spread was prepared by Lorna Hawxwell, after which everyone was challenged to dredge the recesses of their minds with a music quiz. There was clear evidence of mis-spent youth, demonstrated in particular by Gary Coster, Henry Browne and the afore-mentioned Lindsay Oram who were part of the winning team, in no part hindered by the 'tuneful' singing by Mike Wood.

2005 promises to be another good vintage year for the Wine Club. Dates and details of forthcoming events can be found on: www.loudwaterwineclub.org.uk



Buzz Coster

Garden Club

Watch out! Next summer you can expect that our fruit trees will bear bumper crops, the lawns will have neither moss nor weeds, and the clematis will bloom in cascades - at least that will be the case in the gardens of members of our Garden Club following the Gardeners' Question Time held in October! Judging from the record number of attendees, the range of questions answered, and the lively interaction between members and the panel of experts, this format is likely to be a regular item in future.

Our 2005 programme kicks off on 26th January with a talk by John Amand, a Director of Jacques Amand, the renowned bulb nursery, on 'Bulbs Year-round'. Orders can be placed on the night.

On 23rd February we shall be giving ourselves a mid-winter tonic by making a daytime visit to the

Orchid Festival at Kew Gardens. This wonderful annual exhibition is a 'must-see'. Our group will have the services of a private guide so that we get the very best from the day. We hope to leave at 10.00am, using car pool arrangements, and to start the tour at 11.30am. This will be followed by lunch



for those able to spend a little longer at Kew. Please contact me (712623) or Sigi Enbergs (772893) for further details. Bookings close - 21st January.

To avoid clashes with Easter, our March meeting will be held on the 30th, and will be a talk on "The Development of a Garden" by RHS speaker, Patricia Liechti-Clarke, who, until recently, lived at Camden Cottage, Chesham Bois, and is thus familiar with the local growing conditions.

Do put these dates in your diaries for 2005. We look forward to seeing you!

Sue Stent

Fine Dining in Gerrards Cross

"See if you can find another local restaurant as good as The Artichoke," our Fine Dining club members had been saying, and so we have. It's called Etcetera, and it's in Gerrards Cross.

In November, nineteen club members experienced a gourmet five-course taster menu created exclusively for us by restaurant owner Kevin Farran and his talented team of international chefs.

Etcetera's aim is to blend classic culinary techniques with the wealth of multi-cultural cooking talent from their seven chefs, all hailing from different countries. For example, game and meat dishes are frequently prepared along classic European lines, whilst fish might be cooked in a Pacific Rim style. In short, Etcetera offered us classic cooking in a contemporary fashion, with many global influences. Wines to enhance each course were carefully selected by local fine wine specialist Robert Dale. Robert's short introduction to each wine was both enlightening and entertaining. He told me afterwards "it was a pleasure to address such an enthusiastic group."

Our next event is at Moor Park Golf Club on Friday 18th February 2005. The building has undergone extensive renovations and their new French chef, William Morvan, is proving to be quite superb, so this promises to be an excellent evening - don't miss it! Full information will be sent out in early January.

Viv Schragger-Powell

Welcome:

Jacquie and Derek Crane, together with their children Carly, Sam and Ben, to Petit Auberge (known formerly as Squirrel Cottage), in Loudwater Lane.

Sanjay and Tina Sehgal to Mulberry House (known formerly as Thurwin), in Loudwater Heights.

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
Chairman
Mary-Jane Atkinson (772486)
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)

