



The ^{Ol'} Trout

No.116

Summer 2005

Chairman's Word



Some LRA members have accused me of being over-enthusiastic about the Loudwater Clubs. Now that I am Chairman, I shall try to learn from my predecessor, Roy Sterry, and be tactful. I shall not name these accusers, only to say that they are even older than me, and obviously very fuddy-duddy!

As I said at the AGM, there is nothing more important to me than the Loudwater environment. Roy Sterry's job, as our new Planning Secretary, is a vital one. We must stop greedy developers; we must fight infill; we must protest against changes that turn beautiful houses into ugly ones. In the past few years, more and more residents have been selling their house and garden to avaricious buyers who knock down the house and build, on the same site, four houses!

Just see what's happening at the Wheel House site in Armitage Close, in Ladywood Close, and, if some of the residents have their way, in Rasehill Close. Furthermore, the upkeep of the roads is, of course, vital. The state of Loudwater Lane and Sarratt Lane is very often disgraceful. So I say again. The most vital task that the LRA has to perform for its members is to make sure that Loudwater stays as one of the most desirable areas in Hertfordshire.

However, the Clubs are also of great significance to our community. When we first moved here in 1972 we came to know our immediate neighbours and, thanks to my wife, the other families who were on the same school run as her to Northwood. Other than these fine folk we did not know anyone! There was the annual Garden Party, usually held in the garden of a resident, and that was the only social event that took place. Now there are six clubs, (seven if you divide the Investment Clubs into two), and I belong to all but one. I personally know over 150 residents. This is great. We are a community. I have lots of friends and lots of acquaintances. We care about each other, and look out for each other. Being gregarious, I just would not be as happy living anywhere else. Each club holds its

own events, and, thanks to Denise Preedy and her team, the LRA itself runs four events per year as well. We are the envy of Rickmansworth, Chorleywood and Croxley. Do you, dear old chaps, still want to criticise the clubs? Write to our Editor, Tony Bradford, and tell us why you are against them, and why you won't join. To get you arguing, I maintain that they are as important to our community as any possible widening of the M25!

Peter Phillips

Editorial

This may be something of a record - an Editor who knows absolutely nothing about editing ... though perhaps some might say, "What's new"!

I used to fly aeroplanes for a living. It was dull and tedious work, but someone had to do it. For example ... how would you like to be dragged away from clearing the snow in mid-January - and be compelled to fly a 747 to Barbados, with nothing to do for three days except sit around, sweltering under a palm tree, sipping Pina Coladas and trying to keep your 17 rampant, party-mad cabin crew members in some semblance of order! Then, to add to the tedium, having to listen to their endless discussions on hair & make-up ... and that was just the Stewards! But I digress. What I was trying to infer, was that it's hardly a background to equip one for this journalistic task. (I'm hoping you haven't spotted my fiendish ploy - reduce expectations, then astonish with utter brilliance!). Seriously though, it is with some trepidation that I follow in the illustrious footsteps of Peter Phillips, John Jarrett and Dorothy Francis. I refuse to use that hackneyed old cliché about them being hard acts to follow ... but of course, they emphatically are.

I shall keep my designer's hat on, so the style will remain much the same - though I did feel that a change in the logo was appropriate. I hope you like it. I am not involved in Loudwater politics (at least, I'm trying not to be), so you won't find me pontificating a great deal on local issues. The Ol' Trout is produced under the auspices of the LRA, but with Peter's editorship, it was a colourful, entertaining and informative report on local concerns, people and activities. My intention is to keep it that way.

To a certain extent, the quality will depend on you, dear reader. You're a talented lot, and many interesting, well-written articles and letters have enhanced previous issues. I hope very much that this will continue. In fact, I would like to see an increase in the number of letters published. If some are a bit controversial, that's fine by me. As the Chairman discusses, it has been said that there's sometimes too much emphasis on the several Clubs that have thrived in our community. I agree entirely with Peter's sentiments, but nevertheless, I would warmly welcome contributions on other matters. So as they say ... keep those cards and letters coming in. I really will be delighted to hear from you.

I want to finish by giving my personal very best wishes to Peter, as the new Chairman of the LRA, who did so well in the way that he brought its Newsletter into the 21st century - and likewise to his predecessor, Roy Sterry, who did such an impressive job during his three-year tenure.

Tony Bradford



Loudwater Residents' Association

Chairman

Peter Phillips
5 Armitage Close
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Vice Chairman

Denise Preedy
12 Harewood
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Treasurer

Maurice Escow
Wildwood, Loudwater Heights
771810

Planning Secretary

Roy Sterry
Mulberry Cottage T'stream Way
779599

Secretary

June Curtis
Whitewoods, Troutstream Way
721583

Minutes Secretary

Sue Tippen
Dunara, Chess Lane
774016

Members

Tony Hale
John Hawxwell
Theresa Jubber
Peter Phillips
Dennis Sare
Colin Timms
Penny Wilkinson

A Summer Gala Evening



The lovely Emma Carrinton and her colleagues Rhys Jenkins and Emma Peaurt sing an excerpt from Mozart's *Così fan Tutti*.

The Gala Evening was magnificent: not just for the most beautifully decorated, flower laden marquee, nor the excellent champagne reception, nor the fun picnics (my dessert of vodka jellies even made me laugh at my own jokes), nor the wonderful atmosphere of pleasure and harmony, nor the most polished, brilliant performances by four young opera singers: Emma Carrington, Emma Peaurt, Simon Buttle, Rhys Jenkins and on piano, Simon Lane ... but because of them all.

Friends, neighbours, relatives both old and young, sat spellbound listening to music and song. It was enchanting: classic opera pieces in the first half and in the second, more modern songs from the shows, such as, *West Side Story*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Gilbert and Sullivan*. I heard someone young say 'I didn't think I would like opera, but now I want to go again, soon'.

The Events Committee (Denise Preedy, Penny Wilkinson *et al*) surpassed expectations and should feel justifiably proud of the results of their extraordinary hard work. Charles and Jo Homewood are to be thanked for hosting the evening in their lovely garden (I wondered if anyone else had vodka jellies and was tempted to jump into their invitingly, heated pool before leaving).

This delightful evening was rounded off with conversation, laughter, and for those who felt so inclined, dancing to a live band - the Clare Hirst Quartet. And finally ... bacon butties.

Sue Tippen

"... Loudwater Lane, Rickmansworth, ... murder, sex and love, and more than a hint of conspiracy theory."

I came across these words whilst casually browsing the Internet. Ah! I thought - just another routine, humdrum day in the life of our little community. It transpired that it was an extract from a review of a novel by Marcus Bolt, who writes below and who had looked after the Subud Group's facilities at the Loudwater Farm for 11 years. The venue was simply the author's address - and not the scene of these nefarious goings-on. What an anticlimax!

Tony Bradford



The Loudwater Farm caretakers move on

After eleven highly enjoyable years as caretakers of Loudwater Farm, my wife Rosalyn and I have moved, taking with us fond memories of working for the Loudwater community. We feel that one of our best contributions has been helping to facilitate the establishment of The Barn as the Loudwater community centre.

We took the job on to give me time to write, and Rosalyn time to start painting again. I managed three exhibitions of my work and wrote two books (one a novel called 'Monkey Trap' and the other an account of my thirty years membership of the Subud Organisation, called 'Saving Grace'). Another novel and a book on Adlerian psychotherapy are in the pipeline. Meanwhile, Rosalyn had a first (and very successful) exhibition of her paintings in June. We certainly didn't waste our 'down time'!

However, now we both need to keep the wolf from the door (and a bottle of wine on the table), so Rosalyn does part time work in the public sector and I've regenerated my old graphics business. I now

specialise in logos, stationery ranges, brochures, websites and advertising - I have plenty of capacity should anyone be starting a new venture, or looking for a design makeover (and there's special rates for Loudwater people!). We both have no idea what the future holds, but continue to feel energetic, fit and reasonably ambitious.

Finally, we took our old Farm phone number with us (01923 777750) down into darkest Rickmansworth, so if anyone feels like a visit or chat, you know the number to call.

Marcus Bolt

Antiques Roadshow

The LRA Antiques Roadshow on 18th April was a superb evening. The number of people attending far exceeded expectations and the atmosphere was lovely. Guy Haskell from Bonhams began by giving an illustrated talk on how to value, which included some fascinating slides of various pieces that were of particular interest.



He emphasised the importance of detail and quality, but said that not much was selling at present; that "brown" furniture was unpopular; that 1960-70 tubular steel furniture was "in", and that the Internet had revolutionised the antiques business. As we were eating, Guy went around the tables valuing each item presented to him, and brought out a bottle of Champagne as a prize for the quiz he'd set us - which was won by the inestimable Sue Tippen.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Mary-Jane Atkinson, Denise Preedy and Davida Phillips for dishing out the dinner - a scrumptious feast and certainly not the 'light supper' advertised.

Dorothy Francis

Tearaway Toddlers

Dorothy Francis also writes about her daughter, Jo ...

If any of you have tiny toddlers to look after, you might have found guidance in dealing with them, by watching *The House of Tiny Tearaways* on BBC3 throughout May and June. Dr Tanya Byron was the clinical psychologist seen in action, helping parents.

My daughter, Jo Douglas of Loudwater Heights, was an advisor and consultant on the programmes, and took over Tanya's role for a little while when Tanya's father died.

The London Marathon

This was my first marathon and a really fantastic experience. The day started badly as I nearly missed the start due to a shambles with the trains that morning.

But what a fantastic sight. Thousands of runners and a glorious sunny day. Every pub in the East End had music playing, and cheering crowds offering support and beer. Too early for me. On to Tower Bridge, roughly half way, packed with spectators, all cheering. An amazing sight. After that the running got a lot tougher. The worst part was after about 18 miles. The top of the legs hurt, I slowed down for a few miles and sometimes walked. Next, the home straight along the Embankment, with the Houses of Parliament in sight. A most welcome view. Beginning to feel better, the cheering crowds really help.

Finally along the Mall and over the finish line. A great sense of achievement and relief, plus a time better than I hoped. Would I do it again? Absolutely YES. Finally, thank you to all in Loudwater who have made generous donations and encouraged me to run.

Dr Robert Kenison

Two other Loudwater people ran that day: Peter Phillips' son Richard participated on behalf of the Neurofibromatosis Association. In spite of an injured foot, Richard managed to finish in 4hrs 10mins. Kate Silbermann, of Bridle Lane, who's studying law at Norwich University, ran in aid of Children with Leukaemia, and made it in 4hrs 30mins. There was a generous response from the residents of Loudwater, so all three charities have benefited from the sheer guts and determination of these energetic and praiseworthy participants. Editor





Planning Applications

Decisions on previously reported applications

- 04/1808 Stafford House, Loudwater Heights: New 2 storey dwelling with further accommodation in roof with dormers to front and rear. (Granted, LRA Objected)
- 05/0026 The Wheel House, Loudwater Lane: Renewal of Application for the erection of 4 two storey dwellings. (Granted, LRA Objected)
- 05/0100 Petit Auberge, Loudwater Lane: Erection of detached double car port.(Granted)
- 05/0205 Chessbord, Troutstream Way: Alterations to basement link to underground swimming pool, plant room and gated entrance (Refused)
- 05/0258 TallTimbers, Rooks Hill: First floor side extension. (Granted)
- 05/0278 Coppers, Sarratt Lane: Two storey side and rear extension & first floor side extension and loft conversion. (Granted)
- 05/0255 Tanglewood, Trout Rise: First floor side and two storey side extensions and front porch. (Granted)
- 05/0298 2 Ladywood Close: Installation of rooflights to side and rear elevations. (Granted)
- 05/0325 Plots 5 & 6, Lower Plantation: Erection of 2 detached houses and detached garages - Scheme 1. (Granted)
- 05/0326 Plots 5 & 6, Lower Plantation: Erection of 2 detached houses and detached garages - Scheme 2. (Withdrawn)

Awaiting Decisions

- 04/0780 Greenbanks, Trout Rise: Two storey rear extension. Refused, Appeal to DoE)
- 04/1774 Micklefield Hall, Sarratt Road: Demolition of farm buildings a erection of oak framed function room.(Committee, LRA objected)
- 05/0197 Thatches, Loudwater Lane: Erection of detached double garage. (Delegated)
- 05/0226 Straw Hat, Whisperwood: Single storey front and side extension. (Delegated)

New applications since April Ol' Trout to 13th June 2005

- 05/0357 Rookery Wood House, Loudwater Lane: Retrospective: Increase in height of existing piers and erection of gates and railings. (Refused)
- 05/0378 8 Ladywood Close: Erection of rear conservatory. (Granted)
- 05/0407 Tall Trees, Loudwater Drive: Conservation Area Consent: Demolition of dwelling. (Granted)
- 05/0557 Whisperwood Cottage, Whisperwood: Roof alterations to garage to form habitable accommodation. With side/front dormers and velux windows to rear (Delegated)
- 05/0559 Chessbord, Troutstream Way: Amendments to 04/1487; 04/0398 & 03/1394 Poolhouse, basement link with underground swimming pool and plantroom. (Delegated)
- 05/0587 Will O' Wisp, Chess Hill: Erection of 2m high side boundary fence. (Delegated, LRA objected)
- 05/0650 Meadowside, Bridle Lane: First floor side and two storey rear extension. (Delegated)
- 05/0653 Chiltern Cottage, Chorleywood Road: Single storey rear extension. (Delegated)
- 05/0686 Overstream Cottage, Overstream: Two storey side & rear extension. Single storey rear ext & alterations to drive. (Delegated)
- 05/0738 Woodlands, Whisperwood: Erection of entrance gates. (Delegated)

An Appreciation

I would like to place on record on behalf of the many residents of Loudwater, who appreciate what they do, a sincere vote of thanks to outgoing Chairman Roy Sterry and incoming Chairman Peter Phillips.

If you have never undertaken voluntary work of this type you don't realise that although it is very interesting, enjoyable and worthwhile it does take up a lot of one's spare time and also there are usually significant expenses involved, many of which are not recoverable or indeed, not requested.

Roy Sterry has done an invaluable job for us all, leading teams to look at local roads, planning issues etc., as well as developing further the social aspects, with many of the Clubs thriving as never before.

So a big thank you to Roy and every success to Peter, who has done a tremendous job already with The Ol' Trout.

Anthony Gould

The Sword of Damocles?

Two years ago we warned in The Ol' Trout how developers were selling off plots of agricultural land to speculators who would attempt over time to get planning permission for residential properties.

This has now become big business and at least two companies are actively selling plots and promising to help with the planning permission to convert the land to residential use. One such company now owns the land between Troutstream Way and Trout Rise - over 20 acres - and has apparently sold some 48 plots to investors.

In addition, two acres of agricultural land in Loudwater Lane has been on the market for some months at a price that reflects residential potential.

A resident has been in touch with the Leader of Three Rivers District Council who has promised support against any attempt to convert Trout Rise Farm to residential use. But, sadly, that will not be the end of the matter as there is sure to be an appeal and possibly a reference to The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister - the final arbiter! Loudwater (Troutstream) Estate Ltd. has written to all its residents explaining the position and the action that is being taken.

In the meantime I would like to hear from anyone with information that can be shared with residents. I will create an Email list of residents who wish to be advised of any news, and will circulate regular updates. Please Email me on roy@sterry.go-plus.net.

Roy Sterry - Planning Secretary

Planning Applications - notifications to neighbours

Three Rivers District Council have a duty to notify at least four neighbouring properties of all Planning Applications received. The four are the immediate neighbours on either side, plus those in front and behind the property in question. In practice, the Planning Officer will decide if there are any other neighbours that might be affected. If you are aware of a Planning Application that affects you and you haven't been notified, you can ask to be included by ringing Mrs Val Judge - the Planning Department's very able and helpful secretary, on 01923 776611.

Roy Sterry

The Wheel House, Loudwater Lane

There's been a lot of activity by the LRA and Armitage Close residents, trying to prevent the demolition and replacement of one house by four, 4-storey houses. The Three Rivers District Council had rejected the application on the basis that this development was too far away from local shops and transport facilities (accessibility provisions within the District Plan). This was overturned by The East of England Regional Assembly and despite a spirited attempt by our new Chairman, Peter Phillips, and our local Councillor, The Development Control Committee had to accept the authority of The Assembly. TRDC is attempting to regain the powers they thought they had, but this will not be achievable until 2007. We would have preferred that the application was rejected on the grounds that 4 houses, where one previously stood, is not good for Loudwater - but this was not possible. The outcome is that Armitage Close will be adjacent to a building site for some while, and this will have an impact on traffic in that area. To reduce inconvenience, there will be restrictions on the builders - e.g. having to wash lorry tyres before leaving - and I am sure that Dennis Sare, our committee member on the spot, will take up with TRDC any abuses, so please contact him if you are affected.

Roy Sterry

Peter Phillips had two letters on the subject printed in the Watford Observer. He bemoaned what he considered the poor handling of the matter by the TRDC - only 48 hours postal notice of the final meeting; a resident not being allowed to speak at that meeting; the developers possibly being told of the outcome before that meeting; and bias by the Liberal Democrats on the committee against Loudwater. Above all, he claimed that the Case Officer ignored the most cogent reason to refuse planning permission - "inappropriate development". Editor.

Warring Neighbours

Stella Garner and Don Moore of Chess Hill have written a strong letter of protest about their neighbours at Will O' Wisp. Their letter was in response to an appeal by these neighbours, against a decision to refuse planning permission for a side extension, on the grounds that it would "... result in an erosion of space ... and the removal of boundary vegetation".

It was pointed out that "vegetation has already been eroded ... it no longer exists", that these people had "chopped down almost every tree and hedge on their property", and that "the view has been totally spoilt ... with houses in Loudwater Lane now visible, where once it had been only of trees". Stella and Don also wondered if their neighbours realised how much they had spoiled people's enjoyment of the area, and they suggested that the vegetation had been removed to make it look as though there was sufficient space for an extension. They made it clear that they'd make further representations to the Secretary of State to support their case.

The letter also protested about the state of their neighbour's front garden, which they felt had resembled a building site for several months. The view was described as "disgusting" and the neighbours were accused of being selfish and inconsiderate. It ended with Stella & Don wondering why these folk had moved to this green and rural area, since "all they'd done was to destroy every piece of vegetation and greenery around them". Editor.

John Hawxwell writes ...

I stood down as Conservative Councillor for the Rickmansworth Ward this spring. I have enjoyed my 6 years as Ward councillor for Rickmansworth and Loudwater, and shall continue to lobby to keep Loudwater protected from over-development. Lorna and I are deeply grateful for the wonderful support of our many local friends.

Neighbourhood Watch

At the risk of being a bore:

Please do not leave upstairs windows open at night unless you have fitted a locking device that stops thieves opening windows even further. These locks can be bought from any hardware store and can be fitted in minutes. They enable you to leave your windows ajar (not wide open) on hot nights without worrying about thieves getting in. Now that the sun loungers and barbecues are out, please don't forget to put them away unless of course your back garden is thief proof - possibly quite unlikely.

Gardeners. Please don't forget to put garden tools safely away in your locked garden shed when you have finished with them. They make very convenient implements for breaking windows or levering open doors.

Lastly, there has been a spate of cars being broken into for goodies such as laptops, mobiles, golf clubs etc. This usually occurs in pub car parks in the early evening, so if you are in the habit of stopping off for a swift half or a G&T between leaving work and arriving home - beware. This is when you are most vulnerable.

June Curtis

We have their number ...

Dennis Sare had his car broken into recently - and it prompted him to tell me of a non-emergency telephone number that the Hertfordshire police have established to help free-up the 999 system. The Telephone Number is 0845 3300222. Whilst we're on the subject, the Police Station at the Ebury roundabout is open from 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 6pm - the Telephone Number: 710071. Ed



The LRA's AGM



What a fun AGM: for on Thursday 28th April, over fifty people crammed into the Barn and amidst repartee, laughter and wine, heard the work of the LRA Executive Committee, the seven Clubs, and members comments (some too ribald to reveal).

How extraordinarily hard all the committees had worked, and everyone was very appreciative of their efforts: rarely do you see neighbours so cohesive, cooperative, and convivial. Roy Sterry, Chairman for the last three years, retired and Peter Phillips, the incoming Chair, paid tribute to Roy's fantastic work and achievements. Roy was presented with an engraved decanter as a token of the esteem in which he has been held by us all. Christine Sterry was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

Sue Tippen

Two days later, Roy was treated to a surprise lunch party given by the LRA committee and hosted by the vice-chairman Denise Preedy and her husband Roy, in their delightful home. Some 27 people associated with the committee sat down to a delicious and convivial meal, which, true to form, continued well into the evening! Roy was presented with a splendid painting of Loudwater Farm. Editor.

Obituary – Anne Tate

It was with enormous sadness that Loudwater bid farewell to one its longest standing residents at the end of March. Anne Tate had lived in Rooks Hill with her husband, Peter, for over 50 years and died on Good Friday following a period of illness which she bore with immense courage and dignity.

Anne was involved in a number of Loudwater activities, from delivering newsletters to being the founder Chairman of the Garden Club and she will be greatly missed by her many friends in the area. We send our sincerest condolences to Peter, Jonathan and Phillipa

Buzz Coster

LRA Golf Society

27 residents of Loudwater met on a lovely sunny day on 31st May to take part in the inaugural meeting of the LRA Golf Society at Moor Park Golf Club. Great fun was had by everyone competing in a Stableford competition, although some were feared lost on the course at one time, as the round took rather longer than anticipated. The event, organised by Ros and Dennis Sare, was carefully planned so that a Moor Park member was in every group of four, as was one lady golfer. Notwithstanding the skills of the visitors, Moor Park member Sarah Jolliffe won the LRA Golf Society Cup, and David Crook won the first prize. The prizes were presented by LRA Chairman Peter Phillips at a special dinner after the match when 40 diners applauded the prize winners. Dennis was pleased to announce that in 2006 the Society would be playing at Northwood Golf Club, where there has been a £1 million refit of the locker rooms, showers, new terrace, new greens and bunkers. A challenge to be eagerly anticipated.



Dennis Sare

Fine Dining on a Perfect Spring Evening

A distinct advantage to holding our Fine Dining Club events in non-London locations is the occasional opportunity to enjoy an alfresco aperitif or two in a glorious garden setting. And so it was with our visit to the French Horn at Sonning. The obligingly balmy night air meant that we could start the evening by gathering on the terrace, to chat and sip champagne whilst gazing out over a magnificent riverside garden sweeping down to the banks of the Thames. Frankly, we could have stayed there all evening, but much as we appreciate an impressive garden, and, it must be said, a drop or two of bubbly, we weren't slow on the uptake when Mr Emmanuel, the French Horn's proprietor, invited us in to dinner. His timing was impeccable because it had, just that moment, started to rain.

The five-course menu was carefully selected with the assistance of Mr Emmanuel and his team. Fine wines accompanied classic French cuisine favourites such as Foie Gras, Beouf Roti en Croute and Loup de Mer. Members were especially impressed with charming touches like the beautifully presented individual menus with our personal food choices printed on them.

If you were there, wasn't it a fabulous evening? If you weren't, then why not come along to our next outing? We love welcoming new members, so if you do fancy joining us, what's stopping you?

The first AGM for the Fine Dining Club was held in The Barn on the 25th April 2005. Chairman Clive Brothers gave an overview of the Club's activities for the year, then Treasurer Mike Hill read out the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2005. With the re-election of the previous Committee, the formal part of the evening was concluded, and there followed a brief informal discussion amongst Club members and the Committee.

Viv Schragger-Powell

Tuscany

This year, for the Wine Club's annual pilgrimage, we ventured further afield and headed for Italy. We were rather chuffed to find our own private check-in desk at Gatwick, albeit it with a large sign for the 'Chorleywood Wine Circle', but the clerks looked bored, so we enlivened their morning, firstly checking that the plane was one that could, if disaster arose, be flown by our own resident pilot, Tony Bradford - editing this august publication is not his only skill. *Spare my blushes, Buzz! Ed.*

The committee had polled members to find out what they wanted from this trip and had put together an itinerary to meet everyone's demands - wine, food, sight-seeing and shopping were all catered for, albeit in a whistle-stop way as we chased around the stunning countryside of Tuscany.

Each day, sightseeing was interspersed with a fabulous wine-tasting and lunch, all in the beautiful settings of the vineyards. Then it was back on the coach and on to the next place - Pisa, Florence, Siena, Lucca, Montepulciano, Vinci (those of who had read 'the book' felt smug) and San Gimignano. A lot to see in a short time, but it gave us a taste of the region and a yearning to return.

Culture was also included and we enjoyed a performance of 'Tosca' in Florence, although the singing on the coach on the way back to the hotel left us wondering whether or not there was scope for a Loudwater Music Club after all.

The trip culminated in a gala dinner in a spectacular castle in the Chianti Classico region, with a wonderful meal washed down with excellent wines, accompanied by the constant chatter of happy diners.

You can read more about our trip and see the photos on the website: www.loudwaterwineclub.org.uk

Buzz Coster



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

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Final copy date for the October 2005 issue is Friday 16th September

The Wine Club

In April we were pleased to welcome back Wink Lorch, one of the first tutors at the Club, to talk about wines from Chile, an area in which she specialises. She brought along a broad selection to show off the different grape varieties from

this diverse country, and particularly stressed how much the wine industry in Chile had developed in just the last ten years.

Our annual summer luncheon was a spectacular event - a hog roast down at the farm. Driving past the farm in the morning, we could already smell the most divine aromas wafting through Loudwater. On arrival, we were greeted by costumed serving wenches proffering glasses of English wine and an endless supply of canapés. Then, with a huge flourish, the hog was brought in on a large platter and was carved to order, accompanied by a range of salads, and followed by delicious crumble puddings.

Future events include more tastings and a weekend in France planned for early September. As always, full details are on the website.

Buzz Coster

Investment Clubs' Dinner

The Troutstream and Chess Investment Clubs were delighted that 34 members and guests attended their annual dinner at the Cock Inn, Sarratt on Friday 15th April.

The evening was highly pleasurable with good food, good wine, good company and good venue stimulating a convivial evening, much enjoyed by all - thanks to the excellent arrangements of Mary Slade. The Cock Inn was selected again following the successful 2004 dinner.

I had the privilege of extending a hearty welcome to the members and their guests - and Roy Sterry, the LRA Chairman, thanked Mary for organising such a successful event.

Godfrey Crook

Theatre Club

On 25th April we held our first AGM at the barn. The purpose of the meeting was to agree last year's accounts and elect the committee of: Mary-Jane Atkinson, Chairman; Maurice Escow, Treasurer; Penny Wilkinson, Secretary; and Hazel Nest. Peter Laule was elected to replace June Curtis, who decided to stand down after many years running the club so well. It was agreed that from 2006, subscriptions will be £5 per person. Also, with immediate effect, non-members will be charged extra to attend the events so that all our costs are covered. The meeting was well attended and we had some good suggestions for future events.

Events planned for the rest of the year are: a trip to Windsor in August, Stratford in September and maybe an opera in October. We also hope to include a ballet at the beginning of 2006. Please call me should you want to become a member and receive details of our programme. **Stop Press:** Peter Laule has just become Chairman.

Penny Wilkinson

Round The Horn ... Revisited

The Theatre Club's April visit saw us boarding a coach at the Masonic school, for a trip down memory lane. The destination was the Oxford Playhouse and the occasion was a matinée performance of "Round the Horne ... Revisited".

Somehow, this vintage smash-hit comedy of the mid-60s, which had 15 million listeners glued to their radios every week, didn't seem to age very well. The constant double entendres, the innuendo, the *Peasemold Gruntfuttocks* and the *Daphne Whitethighs*, all of which had us falling about in paroxysms of mirth at the time, just didn't seem so hilarious anymore. There were of



course some very funny moments - when the script was the work of comic writers with the brilliance of Marty Feldman and Barry Took, one would expect nothing less - but overall, it was disappointing.

Tony Bradford

Alfie

We made our separate ways to the recently refurbished Watford Palace Theatre - and the venue was both inviting and comfortable. The cast weren't exactly household names and the songs, written for this musical, were new to us. Alfie, a 1960's womanising layabout, was played by Darren Day, perhaps the best known member of the cast. He was very impressive in a most demanding role. He was ably supported by young, good-looking, very energetic and talented actors. As the show progressed we were carried along by their sheer enthusiasm, vitality and obvious love of their work. The essence of the plot is the havoc Alfie causes to the lives of the women he sleeps with, those around them, and his eventual come-uppance. The show provided some exceptional dancing, good numbers and powerful singing. I think we were all glad to have been there - as a companion said, "it was a sparkling performance"

Peter Laule

Garden Club

Once again the Garden Club has been out and about. During April we visited the Daffodil Festival at RHS Wisley - in reality the early spring meant it was nearer a tulip festival, but that didn't matter. Following the May AGM, we held a very enjoyable quiz evening, with those members who know their daisies from their dahlias triumphing in a close fought contest. Did you realise that we live on the edge of a jungle? On 27th July an evening visit is arranged to a local 'Jungle' garden in Watford - open under the National Gardens Scheme.

Our annual supper evening will be held in August. For further details of these events please contact me.

Sue Stent

Bridge Club

The duplicate evening held at John & Pat Parsons' home at the end of March was very well supported and enjoyed by all who played. More duplicate evenings are planned for the last Wednesdays in June, August and November. If anyone who is not a member of the Bridge Club and would like to join us, please let me know - you will be most welcome.

24 members and guests enjoyed a superb meal at our Annual Dinner held at the Rose & Crown, Chorleywood Common on 16th June. There was a lively atmosphere with plenty of animated chat.

June Baish

Stop Press from the Fine Dining Club:

Don't forget to make a date for our next event at Paris House, Woburn Park, on Friday 19th August.

Welcome

Mr Karim Abu, who has bought 4, Rose Garden Mews.

Mr & Mrs Simon North, who have moved to Woodlands in Whisperwood.

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

Peter Laule (778114)

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)