



# The <sup>Ol'</sup> Trout

No.117

Autumn 2005

## The Chairman's Writes ...

We have lived in Loudwater since 1972 and it makes me most unhappy that this year, my first as Chairman of the LRA, Loudwater has lost its prettiness, and no longer looks the place of great beauty I have always known.

Loudwater now appears to me as a building site with a second hand car and van lot on it. It's very ironic to think that about ten years ago the then Chairman of the LRA, Godfrey Crook, invited me to join one of the sub-committees to examine ways in which we could introduce road calming in Loudwater Lane. At the moment there are times that cars cannot move in the Lane due to the number of builders' lorries driving past, and the number of cars and vans parked around the area. So perhaps we should be thankful for small mercies! Maybe drivers will no longer use the Lane as a shortcut from the M25 and Chorleywood Road into Watford.

Look around you. Even though the LRA has fought hard on the residents' behalfs, (particularly former Planning Secretary Donald Cammell and current Planning Secretary Roy Sterry), Three Rivers District Council has given in to avaricious, selfish, inconsiderate owners and developers, and granted planning permission all over Loudwater. Their excuse has been that house building is in keeping with the desires of the government and John Prescott's office. If owners and developers took them to appeal, TRDC would probably lose, and this would mean losing thousands of pounds of council tax-payers' money in the fight. It's a defence with which it is hard to argue. But do the new houses have to be so large and so ugly? The developers are ruining Ladywood Close, Loudwater Heights, Trout Rise, Loudwater Drive, Armitage Close, and Loudwater Lane by putting up absolute monstrosities that fill the plots from side to side. This is completely out of keeping with the rural feel of Loudwater. Gone are the beautiful gardens, replaced by more and more ugly brickwork. I remember what peace and calm there was, driving down Loudwater Lane after commuting from London. It was real countryside with beautiful village-type houses. What an enormous pity it is that residents themselves have become philistines and greedy in allowing Loudwater to be ruined. No wonder there are so many houses up for sale. Your committee is doing its best. We object to just about every ugly new plan that is being submitted by owners and developers. So far, we have been successful in our objections about the dreadful Rasehill development plans to turn the houses there into flats. However, we do not think the fight is over yet. There is bound to be an appeal. Please help us save Loudwater by always making your opinions about planning applications, with which you disagree, known, loud and clear to the Three Rivers District Council.

### Loudwater Residents' Association

#### Chairman

Peter Phillips  
5 Armitage Close  
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#### Vice Chairman

Denise Preedy  
12 Harewood  
770280

#### Treasurer

Maurice Escow  
Wildwood, Loudwater Heights  
771810

#### Planning Secretary

Roy Sterry  
Mulberry Cottage T'stream Way  
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#### Secretary

June Curtis  
Whitewoods, Troutstream Way  
721583

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Sue Tippen  
Dunara, Chess Lane  
774016

#### Members

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

Peter Phillips

## ... And How Things Used To Be

*They don't write 'em like this anymore! I came across a delightful little brochure produced by The Loudwater Estate, circa 1920. I make no apology for reproducing it in full. Editor.*

### Natures Lovely Charm - The Troutstream Village

Loudwater, the village of natural country beauty and health, is unbelievably near London for the strenuous living man or woman, who must have both copious country air and restful allotment rightly, after the day in the city, to fit them physically and mentally for business and social perfection.

So exceptionally gettable, so secretly adjacent, to all a busy or retired man wants in country sporting opportunity, good social environment, yet central London is reached in fortyfive minutes by electric train, or a mile longer by the daily motor saloon service.

The type of house, the stamp of generous old English village growth, need no words here to those who see and love the absence of that towny suburban development.

Small wonder, then, that father blackbird and his mate have made Loudwater's sparkling stream valley their happy pitch, thrush and linnet, mallard and heron, nightingale and chaffinch, and even that gorgeous little chap, the kingfisher, have known the secret of Loudwater for generations; the wily speckled trout, too, beneath the stream's ripple and in the shady pools - all add to the irresistible fascination for nature lovers.

It's the trees, the fairy dingles, and a hundred and one things in which Dame Nature's fingers have lingered long in setting out this beautiful array of troutstream, wooded slope, meadow and hilltop sites; her work is so affectionately appreciated by the Estate Owners that they follow her lovely train in courteous imitation, so closely indeed that, except for the internal up-to-date house equipment of electricity, gas, main drainage, etc., the spot is becoming the home of beauty discerners, who yet are careful in harmonising their freeholds to such environment, old times thatched roofs being specially encouraged.

Of course, to look at pretty country is not alone the pleasure of living at Loudwater. There is that exhilarating health feeling which comes from air of the purest, free from the almost constant vapourising squelchy damp ground of London's clay. This to many families who live on Loudwater's gravel soil, which lies above the warm lime chalk, is worth untold pleasure, and has saved many a doctor's charge. Loudwater has a way of making one eat and sleep, in short, it yields good health to enjoy its wealth of natural attractions.

Perhaps the foregoing may sound almost a romance, to the suburb-stuffed resident; to such let it be said, call and see. It will pay you over and over again, in pleasure, in pocket, and in practical wisdom to have some of this really excellent English freehold for a home to yourself and your children for all time.

It will pay because land is cheaper, rates are lower, houses are as cheap. Moreover, supplies to your door by wellstocked local shops, or even London stores, deliver free daily. All are at competitive London prices.





Now, remembering this, enquire the business train service and season ticket rates, you will find it's but a few minutes longer enjoying your morning and evening paper in the train and a scarcely noticeable difference in season ticket cost.

Examine these particulars, begin now, for the sake of your wife, your children, yourself, whose health and pleasure is of supreme importance, and send a post-card for the homestead of your dreams, to Loudwater Estate, Rickmansworth. Telephone 67.

### Is There Life After Loudwater?



Thinking of moving house can be a daunting prospect. The thought of moving from Loudwater where, in the words of our last Chairman, 'It is a real privilege to live,' can be even more terrifying. On the other hand, 'Let's be positive,' I thought. Life is not static, it moves on. I found this sentiment succinctly put in Marika Cobbold's novel, 'Frozen Music'.

Admiring her surroundings, one of the characters said:-  
'Do you really think anything could be better than this? I mean are you serious about selling up?' 'I'm afraid so,' was the reply, 'Each place has its time and now it's time .... to move on.'

'My sentiments entirely,' I thought. 'Do we really need all these bedrooms and all these cupboards, storing other people's junk, as well as our own?' Moreover, we didn't really want to spend the rest of our days having to drive to the shops every time we needed a newspaper or a pint of milk. (Deliveries were given up long ago, as they do tend to arrive when you're not there and fail to turn up when you are!) So, after 200 visits to the dump and local charity shops, we went.

I have to admit, LUCK was on our side. Our house was on the market for only 5 days before it was 'Sale Agreed'. After some fruitless searching on our part, nearby, (for we were determined to be Country Members of the L.R.A.) our son found us the ideal house in Bovingdon, only about 10 minutes away. In 11 weeks we had moved in, so, feeling somewhat exhausted, we went off to Spain for 2 weeks. A few days after our return, these were our thoughts and they haven't changed!

So, where have all the builders gone?  
And what about the motorway?  
The only sound we hear at dawn  
Is song of birds from trees round our lawn.  
Was that a plaintive 'moo' I heard?  
Memories of Micklefield Farm (alas, no more!)

Just round the corner, on foot, of course,  
I buy my newspaper at friendly store.  
Hot rolls for breakfast, just like 'en France'  
Yes, the butcher, the baker, no not candlestick maker  
But Pete, the ironmonger, has everything there.  
No queue at the Post Office, Lloyds bank's open now.  
Back past small cottages with flowers galore,  
Just by the 'well', I'm home once more

The rest of the village, we'll visit tomorrow,  
Maybe walk down Church Lane to the fields beyond.  
So, if you decide it's time to move on,  
Don't be put off by your L.R.A. friends  
Who say, with raised eyebrows, 'Moving from Loudwater?'  
Just sell your house quickly! (Thanks Niv!)  
Find your dream house close by (Thanks Nev!)  
Turn out all your junk! Hey presto!  
You're off.

Mary Slade

### Obituary – Sir Frank Rogers

Sir Frank Rogers, who died on 20<sup>th</sup> July, was one of Loudwater's most distinguished public figures.

Born in Alsager, Cheshire in 1920, he had an outstanding career with the Daily Mirror Group, being successful in posts as various as Editor and Managing Director of the Mirror-owned Daily Times in Nigeria, Production Director of the Mirror, and finally, Managing Director of the printing and newspaper group, IPC. When he left IPC, he was head-hunted to take over Emap, then a minor provincial newspaper company, making £200,000 a year. By the time he left, it was worth £3 billion.

He was then asked to join the Board of the Daily Telegraph, eventually becoming Deputy Chairman. Throughout his career, whether directly running newspapers, or serving on many important industry-wide bodies, he kept a reputation as a strong, but scrupulously fair and trustworthy, negotiator.

Sir Frank, who was 85, was a long-term Loudwater resident, first in Overstream and then in Loudwater Drive. His first wife, Esma died in 1998. He is survived by his second wife Sheena, who cared for him in his long illness, and his two daughters of the first marriage.

John Jarrett

### Enterprising Youngsters



Our grandchildren and friend, whilst feeding the ducks, decided that an area under bushes by one of the bridges needed a clear-out, so they set to and retrieved a bin-liner full of cans, bottles, paper, plastic, plant pots etc - as you see spread out on the grass. There was also a certain amount of broken glass. It's a shame that even in such a pretty area as Loudwater, people still feel the need to throw their rubbish around rather than take it with them. It was entirely the children's own idea and we are very proud of them - and they don't even live here!

Sheena and Tony Thompson

### .... And One Just a Little Older

Grace Nichols was 90 in July. Many Loudwater residents will know Grace as the small, spare woman who has, for decades, come heat, cold or rain, patrolled the major roads of the area, picking up and disposing of any litter left on the roadside. If it were not for Grace, Loudwater would be a lesser place.

She was intrigued when someone suggested that a great birthday present would be a flight in one of those light aircraft, where you're allowed to take the controls for a while. She says she was touched, but a bit miffed, when all her family jumped on the idea with hobnailed boots!

John Jarrett

### Wheelies

The inventor may think they are beautiful. He, or indeed, she, has now given us a brown one as well as a green one. Well, I think they're ugly. Therefore, please, put them out of sight as soon as they are emptied. Loudwater is beautiful. Do take pride in it, and remove these monstrosities from our verges. Otherwise, the Wheelies police will come knocking on your door, and they're even uglier!

Peter Phillips





## Planning Applications

### Decisions on previously reported applications

- 04/0780 Greenbanks, Trout Rise: Two storey rear extension. (Refused, Appeal to DoE, Appeal dismissed)
- 05/0197 Thatches, Loudwater Lane: erection of detached double garage. (Withdrawn)
- 05/0557 Whisperwood Cottage, Whisperwood: Roof alteration to garage, to form habitable accommodation. Side/front dormers and velux windows to rear. (Granted)
- 05/0559 Chessbord, Troutstream Way: Amends to 04/1487; 04/0398 & 03/1394 Poolhouse, basement link with swimming pool and plant room. (Granted)
- 05/0587 Will O' Wisp, Chess Hill: Erection of 2m high side boundary fence. (Granted, LRA objected)
- 05/0650 Meadowside, Bridle Lane: First floor side and two storey rear extension. (Granted)
- 05/0653 Chiltern Cottage, Chorleywood Road: Single storey rear extension. (Granted)
- 05/0686 Overstream Cottage, Overstream: Two storey side and rear extension. Single storey rear extension and alterations to drive. (Refused, LRA objected)
- 05/0738 Woodlands, Whisperwood: Erection of entrance gates. (Granted)

### Awaiting Decisions

- 04/1774 Micklefield Hall, Sarratt Road: Demolition of farm buildings and erection of oak framed function room. (Committee, LRA objected)
- 05/0226 Straw Hat, Whisperwood: Single storey front and side extension. (Delegated)
- 05/0357 Rookery Wood House, Loudwater Lane: Retrospective: Increase in height of existing piers and erection of gates and railings. (Refused, Appeal to DoE)

### New applications since July Ol' Trout to 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2005

- 05/0729 Dormy Wood, Bridle Lane: Loft conversion with dormer windows to rear. (Refused)
- 05/0768 Trout Rise Farm, Troutstream Way: Partial conversion of barn into habitable accommodation for use with existing livery yard. (Committee, LRA objected)
- 05/0802 The Farm House, Trout Rise: Erection of detached dwelling with basement. (Granted)
- 05/0857 Rasehill Close: Demolish 4 houses and erect 21 flats and associated parking. Outline application for siting and means of access only. (Refused, LRA objected)
- 05/0886 The Wheel House, Loudwater Lane: Erection of four two storey dwellings with further accommodation in the roof space and basements. (Granted)
- 05/0946 Tall Trees, Loudwater Drive: Erection of detached dwelling. (Committee)
- 05/0942 Trout Rise Farm: Installation of electric cable. (Granted, LRA objected)
- 05/0985 Stafford House, Loudwater Heights: Replacement two storey dwelling with accommodation in roof space and dormers to front/rear. (Delegated)
- 05/0986 2 Ladywood Close: Construction of new access to create carriage driveway. (Granted, LRA objected)



## Barnes Wood & The Spinney



Some years ago, the woodland known as Barnes Wood, which lies alongside Troutstream Way and Violet Way, was acquired by the Estate Company. It was transferred by the previous owner, for the benefit of the residents of the Loudwater Estate.

At the time, advice was given, to allow the woods to regenerate 'naturally' - as they had done for many years. However, recent concerns about the safety and potential dangers of some of the trees, has resulted in the formation of a Woodlands sub committee, with Peter Lough as the Chairman. This committee reports directly to the Board of the Estate Company.

In the first instance, the committees commissioned a survey on the condition of both Barnes Wood and the Spinney, which is next to the new flats. The Arboricultural Report, on the Woodlands safety, was done by Karen Lucas, who was recommended to us by Margaret Jarrett, who had been deeply involved in the regeneration programme of Chorleywood Common. This report was followed by a comprehensive Management plan.

These reports show that a huge amount of work needs to be done, in order to begin the long process of proper woodland regeneration. Many trees were identified as being dangerous, or dead and need to be felled as soon as possible. As a result, a letter of caution was sent to all the residents of the Estate and signs were erected, warning people and, in particular children, not to enter these woods, until they have been made safe.

Now that the work programme has been identified, the sub Committee is approaching registered firms of Tree Surgeons, in order to find out how much the work will cost. The next stage will be to obtain a felling licence, make sure that there are no bats or other wildlife that have to be identified and, more importantly, find ways of funding the programme!! The sub committee have already explored the possibility of obtaining grants for such work, but have so far drawn a blank.

After the initial regeneration work programme has been completed by professional registered tree surgeons, then the future management of the woods will need to be continued, for years to come.

*Peter Lough*

### **The Role of the LRA Planning Secretary**

The primary task of Planning Secretary is to review the Planning Applications to Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) from residents of Loudwater, and decide whether the application is likely to be detrimental to the character of the area or the amenities of those most closely affected. This involves looking at the plans submitted and, in the case of larger developments, sounding out the views of neighbours or LRA Committee Members in the vicinity. In the past year there have been 60 applications, mostly involving small extensions. The LRA has registered objections to 10 applications covering developments such as The Wheel House - demolition of one residence and its replacement by four large ones, and, of course, the plan to demolish four houses in Rasehill Close and replace them with 21 flats. On such matters we are able to call

on the support of The Chorleywood Parish Council and our District Councillors, all of whom are active in maintaining the character of Loudwater.

Planning regulations can be very complex and we can only offer limited expertise when objecting to applications, but this is exactly what is required of us by TRDC. They have all the legal advice they need from the Council Officers but they want to know what the residents feel. Whilst they cannot always go against the legal advice the strength of feeling of residents and the LRA can lead to the imposition of conditions that benefit the local residents.

Mostly The LRA concentrates on those parts of Loudwater not covered by Estate Boards, e.g. Loudwater (Troutstream) Estate, Lower Plantation, Bridle Lane etc., as they have their own board of directors reviewing the same applications. We do however have a duty to members of the LRA to take up any matter referred to us from all parts of Loudwater and we would co-operate with the relevant Estate Board and the residents concerned to represent their interests as best as possible.

The Planning Secretary is chairman of The LRA Environment Sub-Committee, which comprises 3 other LRA Committee Members and we meet every month or so. This sub-committee is also responsible for maintaining pressure on The Highways Agency to maintain our roads - Loudwater Lane and Sarratt Lane, in particular - and to improve their safety.

The LRA has a good record of protecting Loudwater. At times it can be frustrating not to win every objection, or to achieve the kind of road safety and conditions we all desire, but without an active Environment Sub-Committee, I fear our little community would be much worse off.

*Roy Sterry*

*Roy is hoping to give up his role as Planning Secretary by the start of 2006. He has immediately prior to this job had the arduous task of being Chairman of the LRA for three years, and, rumour has it, he would now like to spend some much needed time on improving his golf! Anyone interested in replacing Roy should please contact me on 778431. Roy will still be there to help, and you will also have the aid of an excellent sub-committee.*

*Peter Phillips*

### **Raj Saujani Writes ...**

I understand that the builders at the Wheel House are under control in that they're not being a nuisance to residents, and are now parking their vehicles sensibly. However the builders at the top of Loudwater Lane seem to be a law unto themselves. This morning they had a large lorry parked in the middle of the road that made at least 5 or 6 cars turn back and take a different route. Can something not be done about this?

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

Recently, the Watford Observer published a detailed report about an incident in Lower Plantation. They valued the resident's home at £1.5 million and very helpfully published a map of the location. Television news reports and national newspapers have used the term 'Private Estate'. This reminds me of the Experian report published in 2002 when Loudwater was noted for having more millionaires per square foot than anywhere else in the UK. Maps and directions to the Estate were published. The crime rate for the following six months rocketed.

Being in the news again prompts me to issue a warning. Bearing in mind the past experience, please be on your guard. Think SECURITY. Be vigilant and careful in your security arrangements. Lock all windows and doors including garage and shed doors. Hide car keys when you go to bed, set the house alarm when you go out and if you can, mobilise the alarm for the ground floor when you retire for the night. We have had a brilliant year with just one incident - an all time record. I would be so disappointed to see it increase because of this incident. Think thieves, if you can get in so can they.

*June Curtis*



## Dr Hilary Trudeau Writes ...



I was enjoying a pleasant walk around our lovely Estate, with my dog (on a lead), and he was suddenly subjected to a frightening, totally unprovoked, savage attack from another dog. It appeared from the vicinity of a nearby house, bit my pet and pinned him to the ground, but ran off when I screamed and shouted. His owner then appeared and took the dog inside, with no comment to me at all. Luckily the injuries to my dog were minimal, but I was really shaken up. Can I please ask that owners with 'territorial' dogs ensure that they are secured within their gardens or houses at all times.

## Forthcoming Events

After a most wonderful Gala Evening, and many other successful events arranged by Denise Preedy, she decided that it was time to give someone else a chance to shine and resigned as Chairman from the Events Committee. I think I may have been in the wrong place at the wrong time and therefore I was asked to step into her shoes! It will be a very hard act to follow and I, together with fellow Events Committee members, would like to thank Denise for all her hard work. In addition we welcome Tracey Holden to the committee.

Our next event will be Race Night on 15<sup>th</sup> October, so come along and win some money! On another note and after much discussion, we have decided that we will not be holding a New Year's Eve Party this year. Whilst this year's party was a great success, we felt that we will give it a rest this year, but probably hold one again in 2006. However, we are in the process of putting together the events for 2006, details of which will be announced as soon as possible.

Penny Wilkinson

## Moor Park Charity Run

The annual 10km run in aid of the Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre will be taking place on Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October. The event is now in its 4<sup>th</sup> year, and the competitors have grown from 250 runners in 2002 to 722 last year, so it's making good progress. The start and finish facilities are on the fields of Merchant Taylors' School. Several stalwarts from Loudwater are going to take part. They've been training hard - sometimes in grim weather conditions - so we wish them all the very best of luck in their endeavours.

Tony Bradford

## Garden Club

During the summer the Garden Club visited a genuine 'jungle' garden in Watford and enjoyed a summer supper evening in Sarratt.

Our regular meetings take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 8.00pm in the small barn at Loudwater Farm. We recommenced in September with an evening about "An Organic Garden".

In light of the withdrawal from the garden centre shelves of many chemicals that we have used routinely in the garden, it was well worth finding out about environmentally friendly organic gardening methods.

Our meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> October sees the return of the panel of experts, headed by RHS judge Jim Buttress, for another "Gardeners' Question Time". This was a very popular event last year and we welcome all residents whether members or not to come to this enjoyable and informative evening. Whatever your gardening dilemma the experts are equipped to answer your questions, and Tony Hale is on hand to offer liquid refreshment to help the evening along. Please let us have advance notice of your questions by contacting any of the committee members or email to [sj.stent@btinternet.com](mailto:sj.stent@btinternet.com).

A talk on garden design by a representative from Ayletts nursery will be the subject of our November meeting, which we trust will inspire us with lots of new ideas to try out next season.

Our meetings are always open to guests - if you haven't been to our events before, do join us in the coming months.

Sue Stent

## Bridge Club

Despite the lure of the garden during the long summer evenings and our members' holiday arrangements, we have enjoyed our regular Bridge meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month. To add a little spice to proceedings, we have introduced a new style of scoring for occasional use. We are looking forward to seeing more of our Bridge companions as the evenings draw in.



Ros Sare

## Chess Investment Club

The Club has sold all its shares and invested *pro tem* in premium bonds instead! Do they know something the larger Troutstream Investment Club, to which I belong, does not know?

Peter Phillips

## Fine Dining Club

When it comes to lolling about in the long grass, looking like scene-setting extras in some glossy 'Glorious Britain' brochure, the deer at Woburn have cornered the market. As our coach trundled through an impressive stone archway and slowly made its way up the winding drive to Paris House, a hundred pairs of eyes watched our progress with little or no interest. It would take a heartless soul to suddenly fancy venison, having just spotted a Bambi look-alike under a tree with its mum, so it's reassuring to know that at Paris House, venison is not on the menu, and judging by their laid-back demeanour, the deer know it too.

Originally built in 1878 for the Paris Exhibition, Paris House was dismantled and brought to England by 'Hastings', the 9<sup>th</sup> Duke of Bedford, where it was rebuilt, piece-by-piece on the Woburn Estate. Why? I have no idea. I guess for no other reason than he was rich enough to do that sort of thing. Anyway, over the years, the black and white mock Tudor building fell into disrepair and it was not until 1983 that it underwent a total restoration, eventually opening as an elegant country house restaurant.



You'd have never guessed from the weather that day, but apparently it was still summer. Thankfully, by the time of our arrival the rain had stopped. We chatted and mingled and drank Pimms on the terrace outside as an evening mist descended over the deer in their ancient wooded parkland. Pimms being surprisingly more-ish, we had to be reminded at least twice before making our way to the dining room inside.

Twenty Fine Diners sat down to enjoy a delicious four-course meal, especially created for us by chef and owner, Peter Chandler, who studied under Albert and Michel Roux as their first English apprentice. An honourable mention deserves to go to the hot raspberry soufflé with ice cream, which is one of Peter's signature deserts. I was lost in a moment of taste bud heaven when Henry Browne, having finished his meal and laid his cutlery neatly in the centre of his empty plate, cheerily said, "Well, what's happening with the Loudwater Walking Club?" A timely reminder indeed.

Our next event will be on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November at Peking Garden, Moor Park. Details of this will be sent out shortly.

Viv Schrage-Powell



## A Reminder ...

The LRA Race Night is on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October at the Barn. If you have not got your tickets yet please call Maurice Escow on 771810. Tickets are £12.50 each to include a fish and chip supper, so come along and try your luck!



## Theatre Club



The Theatre Club committee has made a few changes in recent months. We were sorry to receive Mary-Jane's resignation after many years of support and I would like to thank her for all her help in running the Club. I would also like to welcome Peter Laule as our new Chairman. We are now coming to the end of our theatre club year. We have had many successful visits, including Alan Ayckbourn's *Absurd Person Singular* - of which **Dorothy**

**Francis** writes ... *We arrived at Windsor in sunlight and blue skies, with wonderful clouds over the Castle. It was a preposterous but amusing drama showing the stresses and strains of Christmas on three dysfunctional marriages. Misunderstandings abounded, but with the help of lashings of booze, they ended up unharmed. Our meal at Monty's riverside Restaurant was excellent, and everyone felt much cheered by the companionship of the members of the Theatre Club.*

After Windsor, our next visit was to see Joanna Trollope's *Marrying the Mistress*, at Guildford. The last trip planned for 2005 is to Oxford for *The Merry Widow* on 27<sup>th</sup> October. This one is full, but please call me, to be placed on the waiting list. We have also planned our first outing of 2006, which is to see *Sleeping Beauty* at the Coliseum. This sold out before the deadline and is one of our most popular events in recent years, with 35 people attending. I am sure it will be excellent.

**Penny Wilkinson**

## Wine Club

September saw another 'first' for the Wine Club, with a trip to the 31<sup>st</sup> English Wine & Regional Food Festival at Alfriston in East Sussex. On arrival, we were each given our own tasting glass, then let loose in the glorious sunshine to sample the fare on offer.

The organiser of the event reminisced about the first Festival, describing the



wines of 30 years ago as "seriously individual and best drunk by the producer" - so the gauntlet was well and truly thrown down to the modern winemaker.

Most of the wines on show came from the south-east of England and it was great to be able to try wines from lesser-known grape varieties such as Ortega and Bacchus. There were also fruit liqueurs and several types of cider, as well as a ginger wine reputed to help with arthritis. A number of bottles were purchased by members and we look forward to hearing of any results.

Local cheeses and pickles were also available, as well as the local delicacy, Sussex Churdles, a delicious pastry made with lamb's liver and smoked bacon. All these were sampled as a jazz band played throughout the day.

As for the verdict on the quality of English wines in 2005? The vast majority were extremely drinkable beverages with a few outstanding wines that could hold their own among their continental counterparts.

Talking of the continent, our July tasting was of Vins de Pays, the products of anarchic winemakers who are breaking the local appellation rules and doing their own thing. Like English wines, Vins de Pays have had a bit of an image problem, so we were delighted to be guided through some of the better examples of creative œnology by one of our favourite tutors, Lindsay Oram. You certainly need to know what you are doing when buying these wines but Lindsay proved that, even if a wine isn't typical of its geographic origin, it doesn't mean it's a bad wine.

You can read about our adventures in wine-land on our website: [www.loudwaterwineclub.org.uk](http://www.loudwaterwineclub.org.uk), as well as find out the answer to the perennial question "What shall we drink with our Christmas dinner?"

**Buzz Coster**

## Welcome To ...

Mr Graham and Mrs Mary Warrellow, of Whisperwood House, Whisperwood.

Mr Raj and Mrs Roopa Sanjani, and their daughter Sonali, of 1 Armitage Close.

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

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Final copy date for the January 2006 issue is Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December

## 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, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of month

Chairman

June Baish (775808)

### Garden Club

Chairman

Sue Stent (712623)

### Fine Dining Club

Chairman

Clive Brothers (773209)