



The Ol' Trout

The
Loudwater
Newsletter

No. 120

Summer 2006

Chairman's Words

This is my first Ol' Trout as Chairman and rather than just being the person who emails the finished version to the format team, I find I now have to make a quarterly contribution! When we first moved

to Loudwater in September 1999 we did not know anyone. But we were lucky that a few months later there was a meeting to discuss the setting up of the Wine Club. My husband James went along and we became members straight away. This was the start of our involvement with Loudwater, and its events, and we haven't looked back. We love living in Loudwater – it is a safe environment to bring our children up in (although more priority could be given to pedestrians rather than drivers!) and we have become friends with some wonderful people. I believe I am the youngest Chairman the LRA has ever had and I am following in the footsteps of some rather illustrious former Chairmen. But I hope to continue the good work they have started, and keep Loudwater a green and pleasant place to live, with a thriving social scene.

Penny Wilkinson

Editorial

First of all I wish to apologise to you all for the lateness of the last issue of the Ol' Trout. We had printing problems. To explain the problems is both difficult and boring. Suffice to say that Robsons, who do our printing free, could not print the Ol' Trout in the format given to them by our designer. Unfortunately, Becky, our designer, went on holiday after handing the layouts to Robsons and though several IT experts tried, the problem could not be rectified until Becky's return. This meant the Ol' Trout was about three weeks late. Under normal circumstances, this would not have mattered too much. However, this was the issue in which we announced the AGM and three weeks notice has to be given

for an AGM. Thus, the AGM had to be postponed until 16th May. To make matters worse, whilst changing the date on the front page, I omitted to change it in the Diary of Events, thereby causing some confusion. All I can say is that I am sorry. I did my best, so did Becky and Robsons. This is the first time in five years as Editor that the Ol' Trout was late. I promise I will do my utmost to make sure it will never be late again!

As you all know by now, I am no longer Chairman. Penny Wilkinson – bless her – has taken over from me. I wish her all the very best.

Personally, I think she'll be brilliant. And whilst talking about "brilliant" I'd like to thank my Vice Chairman, Denise Preedy, for having been a brilliant member of the committee for so many years. She has now resigned to take a well-deserved break. But, knowing Denise, I am sure she'll still be around to help the committee whenever needed. Denise – I thank you for being such a good friend and for helping me over a most difficult year.

The Ol' Trout - a policy statement.

I wish to put into print something I said at the AGM in May. I do not believe it is right that I should ever omit letters sent to me simply because I do not agree with them. I remember a letter from a resident about fireworks some time ago with which I totally disagreed. However, I felt strongly that he had every right to air his views. In the April issue I published a letter from a resident to which another resident took exception. (The letter did not affect him but he was against it on principle). Seemingly, he thought it was unfair. As Editor, I do not decide what is fair or unfair. The letter writer wanted to put over a point of view. The Ol' Trout enabled him to do this. Therefore, please, if you disagree about anything you read in the Ol' Trout, don't just get angry but write to me and I promise I will publish your opinions too. I believe it is vital that the Ol' Trout never shows bias.

One further point. I have been criticised for writing about "warring neighbours". We residents of Armitage Close did not like the erection by the owner of four new houses on the Wheel House site. Here was a case of "warring neighbours", as are all planning disputes. Surely planning disputes should not be omitted from the Ol' Trout?

LRA Reprimanded

Mr and Mrs Davey of Bridle Lane accuse the LRA Executive Committee of "sleeping with the enemy" by having decided to hold the LRA Garden Party at Micklefield Hall. They believe that the planning applications made by Rankins, (who own Micklefield Hall) will cause potential disturbances and harm to the local environment. The Ol' Trout feels it fair that residents are made aware of the Davey's misgivings, and reports that letters from Graham Watt, Ian Sollen and Robert Hunter all of Bridle Lane were written to the same effect. *I would like to point out that the LRA has always objected to all the planning applications made by the Rankins to TRDC. Also, due to insufficient numbers, the Garden Party has been cancelled anyway. Ed.*



Loudwater Residents' Association

Chairman

Penny Wilkinson
Treetops, Cherry Hill
896380

Vice Chairman

Tony Hale
Karelia, Overstream
774374

Treasurer

Nicholas Vaughton
Kingswood
LoudwaterRidge
896666

Secretary

Sue Tippen
Dunara, Chess Lane
774016

Planning Secretary

Heather Kenison
Five Trees, Troutstream
Way
773683

Membership Secretary

Theresa Jubber
Hunters, Bridle Lane
772618

Members

Peter Phillips
Roy Sterry
Colin Timms

mattered too much. However, this was the issue in which we announced the AGM and three weeks notice has to be given



Penny Wilkinson – the new Chairman

Penny is by far the youngest LRA Chairman ever - by about 20 years!

She is married to James and they have two children, Bethan and Louisa. She is a local girl, having been educated at Dr. Challoner's Grammar School. James was at Dr. Challoner's too but it wasn't there that they met. "No, we met in a pub in Chesham" said Penny, "when I was doing my A Levels". They have been married for eleven years – but in a typical Penny way she added "we've been together for nineteen!" Immediately after marrying, James was posted to Tokyo. "There I taught English but I was mainly a typical ex-pat wife, doing very little", said Penny. Then, three years later they moved to Hong Kong. "There, I was a typical ex-pat wife too, but as I was now getting somewhat bored, I decided to take a job with my previous employer in London, Swiss Bank. It was in Hong Kong that Penny became pregnant, and James and Penny decided to return to the U.K. Luckily for Loudwater, they chose our neck of the woods, since both were familiar with the area. Ironically, they moved into the house once owned by Ernest Saunders of Guinness infamy. Penny is not very good at just sitting around and so, four years ago, she joined the LRA Executive Committee. Since that time, she has been the Theatre Club organiser, a member of the Wine Club, has helped me assemble the Ol' Trout, has run the Diary of Events, and recently been Chairman of the Events Sub-Committee.

I admit to being biased but I believe she will be a brilliant Chairman. She is immensely loyal and supportive. She inherits a strong committee and every committee member already has a portfolio for which he or she is responsible. Understandably, Penny would like to see more young people involved in LRA activities, and wants us to become more "family orientated".

Penny – bless you for taking over. It is not an easy job but I have every confidence that whatever you decide will be done on a fair, carefully considered and unbiased basis. You certainly have my 100% support.

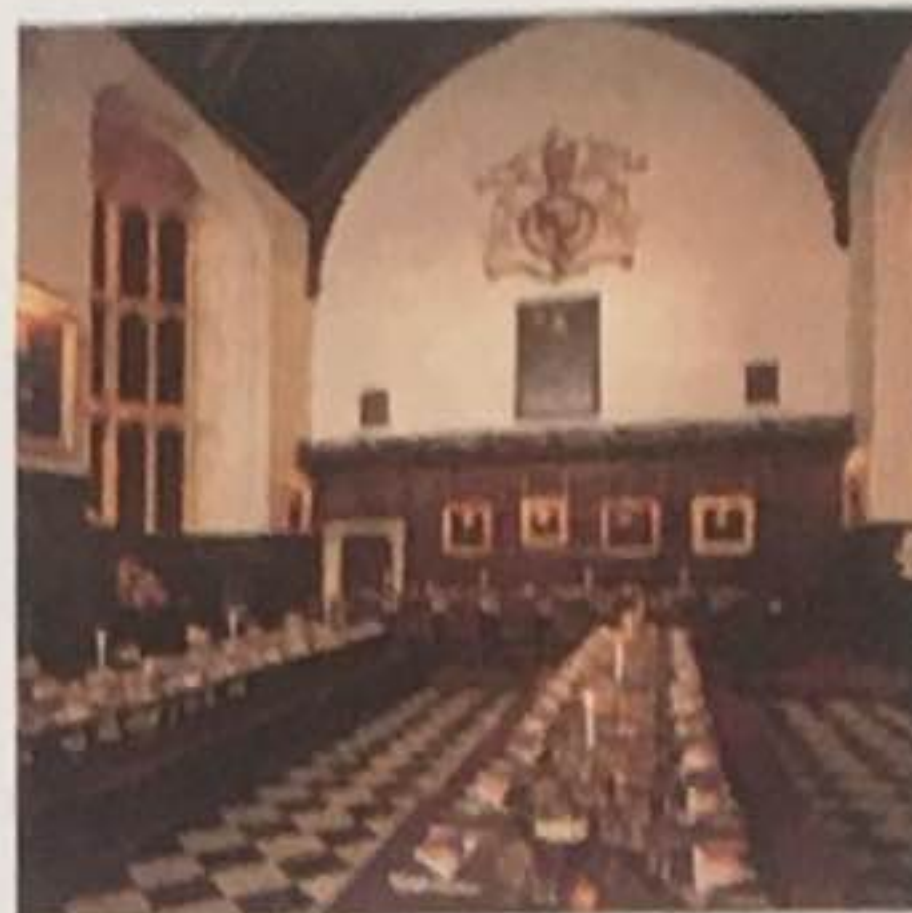


Tony Hale

Tony Hale is Chairman of the Wine Club. Tony Hale is Vice Chairman of the LRA. Tony Hale is on the Events Group Sub-Committee. Tony Hale is the LRA photographer. Tony Hale prints all the inserts and flyers for the LRA. Is there no limit to the talents of Tony Hale?

Watford Child Contact Centre

The Watford Child Contact Centre won the 2006 Audentior Award for "the outstanding charity in the Watford Area". Why mention this in the Ol' Trout? Because Davida, my wife, is the Co-Ordinator, and I am proud of her achievement.



Cambridge Trip

Three years ago the LRA arranged a trip to Oxford. This time it was Cambridge's turn. The coach picked around 30 of us up at the Royal Masonic School, we had a picnic lunch with wine (well, we would, wouldn't we – Tony Hale was in

charge!) and arrived outside Queen's College to be met by Tony's old school chum, Charlie Malyon. A tour of Cambridge is more complicated to arrange than a tour of Oxford. First, Ritva, though a London Tourist Blue Badge Guide, was not accepted as a Guide in Cambridge as she had been in Oxford so Charlie had to take over. Secondly, entrance to the colleges is much more expensive. However, Charlie showed us around Queens, which has the oldest Quads in the town and the famous Mathematical Bridge over the River Cam. Then we walked through the Backs to Kings, with its imposing Chapel. Our break was at the Eagle, famous as a rendezvous for RAF and USAF Officers during the war, and for being the pub most used by Nobel Prize winning scientists, Crick and Watson who discovered DNA. The choice of college for drinks and our dinner was more complicated, however. Originally, it was to be Downing, alma mater of our member, Trevor Slade. However, the Hall was too large and was under decoration anyway. So Ritva, Tony and I did a quick recce of other colleges and, on the recommendation of a friend, chose Christ's. Tony chose the wines with his usual punctiliousness, and the food was excellent, enjoyed in a hall of great beauty. Unfortunately, the weather wasn't too good. Whilst Oxford was very hot, Cambridge was very cold. Never mind – I think we all had a great time and enormous thanks go to Ritva and Tony, together with Charlie Malyon for arranging the trip.



Loudwater Golf Day

Well, a second success for Ros and Dennis Sare, who organised a perfect day at Northwood Golf Club. Twenty of Loudwater's

keenest players accepted the annual challenge to combat both neighbours and course. Numerous attractive prizes awaited those who could drive the extra yard or sink the amazing putt. After a fine match some quality players eventually prevailed, and Robert Fulker was the LRA Cup Winner with 31 Stableford points.

Guest, Roger Giles of local Estate Agents Robsons, won first prize with 34 points. This was a pleasing result particularly as Robsons, besides doing the printing of the Ol' Trout free, had generously donated the longest drive prize won by Robert Fulker and Sarah Jolliffe. Sarah also won third prize with 29 points. All golfers and dinner guests, including the new LRA Chairman Penny Wilkinson, (who presented the prizes), then enjoyed a marvellous meal from the panoramic dining room. If you play golf don't miss next year.

Henry Browne



Planning Applications

Decisions on previously reported applications

06/0333	Kingfisher Cottage, Trout Rise. Erection of double garage. Approved
06/0390	The Farm House, Trout Rise. Erection of garden log cabin. Approved
06/0255	Shiv Villa, Hillpoint, Loudwater Lane. Erection of boundary wall with railings. LRA objected. Refused
06/0473	Dorney, Trout Rise. Demolition of garage, 2 storey extension, conservatory. Approved
06/0474	CAC Dorney, Trout Rise. Demolition of garage. Approved
06/0456	OUT Land between Larchmead & The Farm House. Renewal of outline permission 00/00988 for det. House & garage. Approved
06/0406	Cool Bananas, Bridle Lane. Single storey extension. Approved
06/0447	Rose garden Mews, Troutstream Way. Conversion of garage & offices into 2 bed residence. Withdrawn
06/0564	2 Loudwater Ridge. 1st Floor side extension. Approved
06/0546	7 Harewood, Two storey side & single storey side extension. LRA objected to single storey extension. Granted
05/0768	Trout Rise Farm, Troutstream Way. Partial conversion of barn to habitable accommodation for groom. LRA objected. Refused. Appeal to DoE, now Approved.

Awaiting Decisions

05/1720	Will O' Wisp, Chess Hill. Retro. Erection of pergola & playhouse. Delegated. LRA objected
05/0857	Rasehill Close. Dem. Of 4 houses and erection of 21 flats. Outline application for siting & means of access. Refused. LRA objected. Appeal to DoE
06/0572	The Tile House, Trout Rise. Renewal of 01/00275. 2 storey & single storey extension, front porch. Delegated

New applications until 10 June 2006

06/0625	Mulberry House, Loudwater Heights. Demolition & replacement of dwelling. Withdrawn
06/0700	Beltwood, Chorleywood Road, Conservation area consent. Delegated
06/0699	Beltwood, Chorleywood Road. Loft conversion, single storey infill, balconies, alteration to doors, porch. Delegated
06/0715	Tanglewood, Sarratt Lane. Amendment to 06/0087. Delegated
06/0720	Oak End, Wagon Way. Amendment to 02/00521. Delegated
06/0811	Chenies, Bridle Lane, Rear conservatory. Delegated
06/0804	Pheena, Chess Lane. 2 storey side extension. LRA objected. Delegated.
06/0966	Corner Croft, Loudwater Heights. Single storey rear extension to kitchen to replace existing conservatory. Delegated,
06/0978	Stafford House, Loudwater Heights. Installation of wooden entrance gates. Delegated

Heather Kenison, our Planning Secretary writes....

The main objective of the LRA is to maintain the character of the local environment. All planning applications submitted to Three Rivers District Council are reviewed weekly by a member of the Planning Sub-Committee. LRA can object, as can all members of the public, to TRDC about developments which they feel are inappropriate. However planning applications within the Loudwater Troutstream Estate are reviewed first by Loudwater (Troutstream) Estate Ltd.,

LRA is keen to preserve the spacious feeling of the area. It would consider buildings extending from boundary to boundary or increasing the height of existing buildings, to be undesirable, as houses which do this become too dominant and appear out of place in a semi rural environment. Some development proposals are inconsiderate, for example where side windows overlook the adjacent property, or the building of an extra storey can result in loss of privacy for neighbours.

The LRA will resist the removal of trees for development purposes. Within a Conservation Area the removal of trees also requires planning permission and the Council will check that development proposals do not destroy or damage trees. The erection of high fences, tall pillars and gates that are out of keeping with the semi-rural area are not supported. Extension of hard standing is similarly undesirable.

If you are concerned about a development in your area, write to TRDC and also contact me so that the LRA may be able to offer some assistance and the views of local residents can be represented. All enquires relating to the Loudwater Troutstream Estate should be directed to John Watkiss who has responsibility on the Estate Company Board for planning matters. However, remember, the final decision for all planning applications rests with TRDC.

Loudwater Lane

Many Loudwater residents have probably shared my experience of driving up, or down, Loudwater Lane and being confronted by a large lorry in the middle of the road. Indeed, of late, Loudwater Lane has become a trucking route used to service the many developments being undertaken following planning applications that have been granted with scant regard to the observations of those who live in Loudwater. Not only has this made driving a hazardous experience but it has resulted in damage to the road surface and the degradation of the banks and trees.

A turning point came for me when, on returning to my house, I found that a tree branch had been ripped off one of the trees on my property and was hanging across the middle of the road. Having removed it, I left it on the driveway for all to see and initiated correspondence with Local Government officials and councillors.

The response to this was variable and one of the points that has emerged is that there is no restriction contained within the terms of a planning approval with regard to the size of vehicles used to service developments. It seems paradoxical that our Local Government, reflecting what we must all consider to be a worthy objective of protecting our countryside, takes various initiatives to this end on the one hand, but is on the other destroying it through its planning process and inadequate controls: a paradox I have pointed out in the correspondence I have entered into. This is particularly so in the light of restrictions quite rightly placed on residents (ratepayers) themselves in terms, for example, of tree removal and fencing to 'protect the environment'.



Through this article I would encourage others to join me in lobbying Local Government to take action to rectify a clearly inequitable situation.

Robert Stent

Joan Townend of Ridings, Bridle Lane sent me a copy of a letter she wrote to Steve Wooding of Hertfordshire Highways.

I am writing to you as your name has cropped up at regular intervals in the Ol' Trout regarding the problems of flooding, and the terrible state of the road surface in Loudwater Lane.

I appreciate the fact that new drains have been installed over the past three years to alleviate flooding problems. On the other hand, I have to tell you that flooding now occurs in two other areas between Bridle Lane and Croxley Green – the first just beyond the 30 mph road sign past Branksome Lodge and the second in Parrott's Dell, by the entrance to Whitestocks Farm.

However, my main concern is the appalling state of the road surface, which makes every journey from my home in Bridle Lane to either Croxley Green or Chorleywood Road a source of misery and anxiety.

Misery - driving over the many stretches of broken and pitted roads; bumping up and down over the corrugated verges; tilting sideways when passing oncoming traffic so that you drive up on the banks which have spilled over on the road, reducing the width of the roads. (See, for example, the bend by Loudwater Farm, opposite River View Cottage).

Anxiety - not knowing if I am going to be confronted round a bend by a juggernaut vehicle delivering cement, materials, machinery or skips to a building site, and being forced to reverse for some distance to allow it to pass. It is this daily heavy traffic throughout the year which is largely responsible for the deterioration of the surface of Loudwater Lane, for the damage to the verges, banks, hedges and trees.

I would therefore suggest that every Planning Application for building which is approved and passed by TRDC should be subject to a fee of £1000 to be paid by the developer into a fund designated specifically for road repairs where the development is to take place, thereby negating the excuse that there are sufficient funds for repairs to be carried out.

Sadly Joan does not hold out much hope for a response but says she feels better for having unloaded her exasperation. I wish there were more residents like Joan. Ed.

Eric Carter of Bridle Lane writes...

I am writing to say "thank you" for your Chairmanship, and Editorship of the LRA. I have agreed with most (if not all!) of your opinions.

A plague, I say, on noise, developers, builders, noise, lorries, congestion, noise, pollution, badly maintained roads, noise, dangerous roads, the changing character of Loudwater, bonfires, the Planning Officers who give their approval. Once again, my thanks, and a big well done.

My Loudwater

Dorothy Francis

In recalling the changes, which have taken place in Loudwater in the last thirty years, my copies of the LRA Newsletter have been an essential aid. Fortunately I possess a complete set from its inauguration in 1975 by John Jarrett, then those edited by myself from July 1979 to April 1988 followed by a further stint by JJ until Peter Phillips took over as Editor in January 2002 (Issue No 102), and subsequently renamed it The Ol' Trout, and to our delight, produced it in full colour.



Cressy House, Trout Rise, owned by Benny King. Other residents also gave the use of their gardens, followed by Micklefield Hall and Loudwater Farm. These were annual occasions, which included concerts by the Watford Chamber Ensemble and Jazz bands. We had usually to take our own chairs when the gatherings were held in residents' gardens.

Personalities who have been residents of Loudwater include Sir Thomas Lewis, who held the Chair of Cardiology at the

I have frequently heard dismayed moans about Loudwater for not being what it used to be and that BIG is not necessarily beautiful with regard to buildings and that aesthetics are being overlooked or disregarded. I do not need to repeat what Peter Phillips and Mary Slade so expressively said in the Ol' Trout of Autumn 2005 but perhaps had we a more sympathetic local council, the mad rush to extend might slow down. However I do remember a similar thing happening in the 80's under the Thatcher government when a great number of houses in the Loudwater Estate and outside it were extended. My husband, Hywel, had the task of opposing many residents' plans on behalf of the Directors. He made few friends needless to say.

Perhaps I ought to put on record that the aims of the LRA have been faithfully adhered to through the last thirty years and hope that another 'Don Cammell', who cooperated so faithfully with Hywel, will again arise like a phoenix! Roy Sterry, as an Estate resident and former LRA Chairman and currently Heather Kenison, have succeeded Don as Planning Secretaries, and are continuing to protect our unique environment.

Before proceeding to the fruits of the labour of love of our environment performed by our Committee members, it might be appropriate to recount some points of interest and some achievements of our Association during the years on the social scene, especially for newcomers.

As the LRA is the umbrella association for Bridle Lane Estates Ltd, Lower Plantation Management Ltd, (from 1988), the Chess Hill area, and Troutstream Estate Ltd, each of which has its own organisation, plus other roads within the boundaries of Loudwater, a tribute is extended to each one for their cooperation and teamwork.

Before Godfrey Crook gave us the inspiration to start all the clubs which are so much enjoyed, the first Garden Party of the LRA, at which we always wore 'best' hats, was held way back in 1976 at Greythorpes, Trout Rise, then owned by Mrs Annie Wolff. Later it was held at

University of Wales, and had a stamp issued with his portrait on it by the President of Mauritius, who had been a student of Sir Thomas. Pat, his daughter, and her husband Sinclair Watson lived at Clearburn, Trout Rise, and owned sixty acres of land hereabouts, until they moved to Sarratt after her mother, Lady Lewis, died. Sinclair was Chairman of Chorleywood Players and was instrumental in putting on several plays at Chorleywood Memorial Hall where there is a plaque commemorating Lady Lewis. Incidentally, Lady Lewis displayed a huge scroll to Hywel and me, which was their family tree going back over a thousand years to Hywel Tha - Hywel the Great!

Next there was David Bicknell, whose parents bought Flint Cottage in Troutstream Way on the 12th September 1925. Whilst recording for EMI, David recorded the world famous violinist, Gioconda de Vito, a close friend of Yehudi Menuhin, who refers to her in his book, 'The Unfinished Journey'. David, Manager of HMV and classical record supremo for EMI, married Gioconda and brought her to live in 'Flint', as she called it, until first David, in 1988, then Gioconda, passed away. She died in Rome on the 24th October 1994. Gioconda received the Premio Amadeus, (top player of Mozart), in 1991, to which ceremony at the Italian Embassy, Hywel and I were invited. Gioconda played a Stradivarius violin, which had been presented, to her by the Italian government for the duration of her life. It had been made in 1723.

Other notable residents have been the entertainer Jimmy Tarbuck, who lived in Glen Cottage, Trout Rise from 1966-1971, Lily Langtree, the mistress of Edward VII, (before my time), and Lord Diamond, a Labour peer, who lived in Rookery Wood House, Loudwater Lane who was Financial Secretary to the Wilson government. There was also Ernest Saunders who was Chairman of Guinness and whose house our current Chairman occupies. Air Vice-Marshal William Oulton lived in Overstream, as did Sir George Baker, a High Court judge, who used to call me 'Dorothy Ducat, (for Dovecote), and I remember him being very concerned over the badgers' set in his garden.

Sir Kenneth Durham lived next door to Dovecote. I remember hearing the lovely low lullaby songs his wife sang as she cleaned their front windows.

Air Marshall Sir Ivor Broom KCB, DSO, DFC and two bars, was Chairman of the Bridle Lane Society, and then there was Sir Frank Rogers, initially of Overstream and later Loudwater Drive and many other notables. The old generation has passed and the main change for me is that when I came to live here I was ten-plus years younger than anyone else I knew, and now I am ten-plus years older!

The younger generations of today, involved in our social clubs, lovely and generous in their friendship, are of course NOT those greedy concrete and brick developers, so, who are those people? Don't forget, the green grass will always push up the concrete, so don't despair!

Now to the nitty-gritty of the hard labour put in on our behalf by Officers of the LRA down the years. The LRA fought for and won better soundproofing and the replanting of trees along the North Orbital Road that affected Loudwater when the A405 Committee was formed. Noise level was subsequently reduced, and concrete walls were erected on each side of the A405/M25. Later on, 'black top', ie tarmac surfacing was fought for and obtained in 1984.

Once the Lower Plantation development had been completed, the LRA asked the Troutstream Estate Board for the gate at the Sarratt Lane junction with Troutstream Way to be closed and for the installation of 'sleeping policemen,' in order to control the volume of traffic in Troutstream Way. The gate was closed in early 1977 after a five-year campaign. Ramps were reconsidered in 1980 and subsequently installed.

John Watkiss and Jim Watkins attended several meetings of the Three Rivers Watchdog Committee, which was formed in 1997 by several local residents' associations to check on how the council was spending our money.

After the blanket Tree Preservation Order was put into effect from the 4th November 1986, a TPO map was published for residents' benefit through the efforts of Derrick Speight and members of Three Rivers District Council Planning Department.

It is of interest that in October 1988 The Three Rivers Draft District Plan Policy 68 (2), stated that the erection of new flats would not be permitted in any part of Loudwater and that any extensions to existing dwellings will be of a high standard to ensure that the visual



Dovecote built before 1860 in the style of John Nash.

Painted by Hywel.

Thank you, Dorothy.

I shall merely add that Conservation status was achieved for Outer Loudwater in 2006, thanks to the LRA team led by Roy Sterry. Ed.

amenity and low density character of the Loudwater area is not adversely affected.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) planned to set up a helicopter route from Milton Keynes to Heathrow, which would have involved low flying aircraft passing over our estate. The LRA worked hard to prevent this and won a long running battle throughout the 1980's, including threatening to go to court, to protect us from this noise pollution.

A Neighbourhood Watch scheme was instigated in 1984. The chief coordinator was Jim Davis. Des Martin took over, but now the estimable June Curtis is the Kingpin - or Queen-pin.

As for the M25 - well! The DOT cock-ups on traffic forecasts were unbelievable! The pollution anxieties and the naming of it as the worst road in Europe were only part of the story. What about those extra lanes!

Perhaps I should briefly mention the gift of the woodlands in Violet Way by Mr and Mrs Barnes of Chessboard in 1993. This ensured that the woods will be maintained properly and remain unthreatened by developers. Any more offers anyone?

The installation of the electronic gates on the 25th September 1997 caused the volume of traffic through Troutstream Estate to go down 20%, according to several surveys.

On the 15th October 1998, after much work by John Watkiss, John Parsons and Derrick Speight, Conservation status was given to the Troutstream Estate. In the same month, the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust included Beechengrove Wood, the River Chess and its banks, Little Lady's Wood and Lower Plantation in its list of areas of significant wildlife value.

To conclude - the impact of climate change has had the effect of diminishing the variety of some species of wildlife, both flora and fauna, as has the excess building in Loudwater. But perhaps I had better leave that to another contributor.

It is to be hoped that the interest of the Betjamin Society, will continue, and that Loudwater will remain forever a focus of admiration as a beautiful part of Metroland.

WINE CLUB



Members enjoying their Lamb Roast

Having already explored Champagne, both from the comfort of the Barn and also on our first trip overseas, we ventured further afield to see what the rest of the world had to offer in the way of fizz. This was a fascinating evening led by Wink Lorch.

Earlier in the year, the Committee were planning the summer luncheon and had a vision. How about a champagne reception by the river, followed by a sumptuous lamb roast, echoing the hog roast that was so successful last year?

Ulla Hauser generously offered her delightful garden, which backs on to the River Chess, and a marquee was ordered to provide some shade – after all, this would be the ‘summer’ event. Perfect!

What a pity that it poured with rain all day. Summer frocks, bought for the occasion, were put back into wardrobes and galoshes became the fashionable footwear in which to be seen. Fortunately, the good food, wine and company made up for the weather.

As always, details about all our events can be found on the club’s website: www.loudwaterwineclub.org.uk

Buzz Coster



GARDEN CLUB

Although the cool spring disrupted some of our plans for May, we had a most enjoyable Plant Exchange at the home of Charles and Jo Homewood where many ‘swaps’ were tendered and new plants purchased. June is often one of the

months when gardens can be seen in their full glory, and judging by the gardens of some of our members, this year has been no exception. An evening in the Mill End garden of retired local vet Colin Thomas was chosen for our June event – a special opening of a very special garden to raise funds for Michael Sobell House in memory of Fenny Lough. Club activities take a break in July – allowing us time to sit back and admire our gardens – drought permitting. Our summer supper will be held on 23 August at the home of Eric & Mabel Tindall and this will be followed in September by a talk from RHS speaker Ray Broughton giving us advice on various methods of propagation. New members and guests are welcome at all our events.

Sue Stent

FINE DINING CLUB – The Old Plow at Speen

According to the Old Plow’s brochure, past customers have included Samuel Pepys and King Charles II. We ponder how they found their way through those endless, winding lanes,

deep into the heart of the Chiltern Hills, all those centuries before Sat Nav. Once off the M40, it became apparent that our coach driver did not possess their navigational skills (or indeed Sat Nav), as he tried, unconvincingly, to reassure us that it would be “just around the next bend,” whilst adopting that cheery optimism that the hopelessly lost are inclined to muster, just before bursting into tears.

We got there in the end. Welcoming glasses of chilled Cava Marques de Monistrol Reserve Privada 1999 awaited us, as did dish after dish of chefs canapés. It was a perfect opportunity for Club members to mix and mingle in the small, low-beamed bar before dinner.

Dinner was served. Twenty-four Fine Diners sat down to enjoy their selection from the extensive menu offered by chef/proprietor Malcolm Cowan, who, together with his wife Olivia, has owned The Old Plow for the past fourteen years, which in Old Plow years is a mere moment. Malcolm’s style of cuisine is a mixture of his classical French training, combined with his own individual approach to food, best described as modern, with a strong emphasis on classic sauces. The menu is highly seasonal, making use of local produce where possible. This is stylish but casual dining – just the sort of traditional British establishment that overseas visitors imagine themselves going to when “doing” England. I hope it’s still there in another three hundred years time, offering a precious glimpse into a history-book world, by then changed out of all recognition and long after the memories of our Fine Dining Club evenings have evaporated into the mists of time.

Viv Schragger-Powell

INVESTMENT CLUBS’ DINNER

The Troutstream and Chess Investment Clubs Dinner was held at The Bedford Arms this year and was considered by all the diners as the best yet. Organised by Mary Slade, Joint-Secretary of the Troutstream Investment Club, together with her husband, Trevor, the venue was perfect, and the food and wine quite excellent. On behalf of the LRA, Peter Phillips thanked Mary for all the hard work she had put in to organise the event, and he went on to mention that throughout the year the Troutstream Club had outshone the FTSE 100. Special praise was given to Club Chairman Godfrey Crook; Club Treasurer Tony Bradford; Anthony Moss, in whose home almost all the meetings were held; and Michael Beaver for his great knowledge of the stock market.



THEATRE CLUB

Forthcoming Events

7th July – Hobson’s Choice at the Watermill, in Newbury (sold out)
25th August – Last night of the Kenwood Proms, Hampstead. (sold out)

I am looking for an organiser to take over my role. If you have computer and admin skills please call Penny Wilkinson on 896380.

SORRY

As you know, we had printing problems on the April issue of the Ol’ Trout. This meant there were a few mistakes. One was that Peter Laule’s name was omitted as author of the Theatre Club piece. Sorry, Peter.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



So far this year no crimes have been committed in our area, but I have noticed a worrying trend occurring in neighbouring areas. As an Area Co-ordinator I receive crime figures for other areas and there seems to be a large increase of theft from motor vehicles. Croxley Green, Mill End, Moneyhill and Rickmansworth are suffering from this type of theft. The thieves are smashing side windows in

vehicles that are parked in car parks or drives and making off with Sat Nav systems, gizmos that detect speed cameras and anything else they can lay their hands on – mobiles, laptops, golf-clubs etc.

The Police used to say 'Lock it or lose it', now they are saying 'Remove it or lose it'. They even go so far as to say leave the glove compartment open when you leave your car so that the thieves can see there is nothing to steal. In other words, do not leave anything in your car – take it with you.

Finally, summer is approaching, so please remember, do not leave window or door locks off, secure everything, and above all do not leave sheds and garages unlocked. Just recently an unsecured garage was broken into and a ladder was used to gain entry to a first floor bedroom. (Not in Loudwater).

June Curtis

Welcome to ...

Mr. Lawrence Frampton, Med Mills,
Trout Rise.

Mr and Mrs. Michael Levy, (and sons
Joshua, 13 years, and Kaine, 10 years),
Caldbec, Troutstream Way.

Mr. & Mrs. Clive Bellinger, 3 Loudwater
Ridge.

LOUDWATER LANE – 6TH AND 7TH APRIL.



O.K. Who knew Loudwater Lane would be closed on Thursday 6th and Friday, 7th April? Except in the case of emergencies, aren't we supposed to always receive warning notices of road closures? Well, this time we didn't. So I telephoned Three Rivers District Council.

"No, the road is not closed", I was told. "It is", I maintained, so TRDC referred me to Hertfordshire Highways. "No, sir, the road is not closed" I was told again. Highly frustrated and irate, I asked to be put through to a supervisor. I held on for about five minutes. The reply then came. "Sorry, the supervisor is out at lunch, he won't be back this afternoon, try him again in the morning". What is going on? Are TRDC and Hertfordshire Highways really so useless and

inefficient? Don't answer that!

TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS!

Recently, I received a solicitor's letter because one of our contributors referred to one of our residents as a "developer". This gentleman had sought legal advice because he maintained he was a "builder" not a "developer". Odd what makes some people take offence. "Developer", "Builder" – what does it matter as long as you love your mother? You don't want to be known as a "developer", sir? OK. You're a "builder". Let's hope that puts an end to the matter.

Club Scene

Chess Investment Club
Meets 5pm, 2nd Wednesday of month
Chairman
Anthony Moss (774907)

Troutstream Investment Club
Meets 8pm, 3rd Thursday 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 7.30pm, 1st and 3rdrd Wednesday of month
Chairman
June Baish (775808)

Garden Club
Chairman
Sue Stent (712623)

Fine Dining Club
Chairman
Viv Schragger-Powell (896198)

The Ol' Trout is the newsletter of the Loudwater Residents' Association. It is published quarterly.
Editor: Peter Phillips (778431).
Email: peterphillips@supanet.com
Final copy date for October 2006 issue - Friday 20th September.

The printing of The Ol' Trout is sponsored thanks to

ROBSONS

ESTATE AGENTS