



The Ol' Trout

The
Loudwater
Newsletter

No. 121

Autumn 2006

Chairman's Words



It is now 5 months since I became Chairman and the job has not been as bad as I expected! I hope it isn't the calm before the storm though. I am sure you will all agree that summer

time in Loudwater is quite beautiful. Whilst the summer seemed to take a long time to arrive, once it did, we were lucky to have many days of endless sunshine. I love walking around our area in the summer hearing children laughing and playing and people enjoying their barbecues. But the summer always seems so short. Already the leaves are turning and the nights are drawing in. So it is time for the Events sub committee to plan our autumn / winter programme. By the time you have received this we will be

holding our Harvest Supper Quiz. This is always a very happy and enjoyable event with our quiz masters, Buzz and Gary Coster making the questions achievable. **Finally, I have one big request. I am still organising all the theatre club trips but am unsure for how much longer I can do both roles. If you are computer literate and think you may like this job, then please call me to discuss what is involved. That just leaves me to say Happy Christmas!**

Penny Wilkinson

Editorial



I was having lunch with a fellow resident when he asked what the LRA Committee actually did. Well, let me tell you something about our duties. Our new and youngest-ever Chairman, Penny Wilkinson, has an almost full-time job looking

after the interests of the residents. Besides chairing meetings, Penny is at the moment particularly involved with the ongoing discussions regarding Micklefield Hall, and also our social events. Assisting her, she has a committee of eight. Vice Chairman is the effervescent, ebullient Tony Hale. He sits on the Events Sub-Committee, is official photographer, and prints all our flyers.

Then there is Roy Sterry. He was Chairman for three years, became Planning Secretary, managed to get TRDC to agree that the whole of Loudwater should have conservation status, and he is our new eminence grise. (Oh, yes, he is also responsible for the Diary of Events!) Next, there is our longest serving member, Sue Tippen. She is Honorary Secretary and Minutes Secretary. Honorary Treasurer is Nicholas Vaughton. He is a newcomer to the committee but has already shown how efficient he is, as, indeed, has Heather Kenison, another newcomer. Heather took on the most difficult of all portfolios - planning - and is doing the job brilliantly. She is also responsible for all matters to do with our roads. Colin Timms is Chairman of the Events Sub-Committee and helps plan all LRA events. Colin also takes care of our negotiations with Subud, who are the leaseholders of Loudwater Farm, and the Barn. Theresa Jubber is in charge of Membership, sends out the Welcome Packs to new residents, and is responsible for the distribution of the Ol' Trout, making sure that her team of distributors have the Ol' Trout on time. I edit the Ol' Trout. All of us spend a lot of time working for Loudwater. We meet about once a month and everything we do is voluntary and free. We do enjoy a glass or two of wine at our meetings but, other than the feeling that we are doing something for the Loudwater community, that is our only reward. Admittedly, there are quite a few residents on whose support we can always rely but it would be great to know that there are others too who are willing to lend a hand. After all, Loudwater is where we all live. And thus, to my fellow residents I say "it's not only a question of what the LRA can do for you, it's also a question of what you can do for the LRA!" **For instance, how about becoming Editor of the Ol' Trout? I am retiring at the next AGM. I'll edit the January issue with you, and then it's all yours, subject to the LRA Committee's approval.**

Peter Phillips

Welcome

Dr. and Mrs. Childs, Dacres, Troutstream Way,
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence, Dorney, Trout Rise,
John and Terri Chrisman, Bentley, Violet Way
Mr. B. Nagi, Homewood, Farm Lane.
Stephen and Vanessa Harker, Old Tiles, Troutstream Way.
John and Tanya Thompson, St. Cyrus, Trout Rise
Martin and Ann Oakton, Wychwood, Troutstream Way
Mr & Mrs. Constantinou, 11 Loudwater House

Loudwater Residents' Association

Chairman

Penny Wilkinson
Treetops, Cherry Hill
896380

Vice Chairman

Tony Hale
Karelia, Overstream
774374

Treasurer

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Kingswood,
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896666

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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



Obituary for John Hawxwell

A Good Friend

How best can you describe a really good friend?

One way I know, is to say a good friend is always easy to ask for help and know that it will be given with absolute grace and without need of thanks.

John Hawxwell was certainly one of these rare

people. He was a good friend to the neighbourhood serving as local councillor, as committee member of the LRA and board member of Bridle Lane Estates (BLE). As Chairman of BLE he took the lane through stormy seas at times and always acted "the proper gent". In all these areas of service to the community his integrity was difficult to challenge; whilst views may have differed, he commanded respect.

John had been a career soldier rising at an early age to Colonel. He was a great sailor too taking part in transatlantic as well as European area races. No doubt these endeavours helped in his calmness and consideration of all sides to any question or problem encountered. His views would always be considered with thought about the effect on the various members of the community he so much sought to improve.

He was a sober individual being the only member of the Wine Club who appeared to genuinely prefer Diet Coke to wine. However he rarely missed a meeting and travelled with us to France, Spain and Italy to sample what they had on offer. Whenever there was a call for volunteers to help in any project, pre or post event clearing up, or any other activity, he and his wife Lorna would always be there.

His tragic death has left a hole in our community and our hearts go out to Lorna, Emma and his other children who all attended the sad occasion of his funeral. The Church service held at St Mary's Rickmansworth saw so many of his friends and neighbours from the community and rightly gave testament to his life among us.

John may you rest in peace. Whilst we mourn your passing we will remember your stay here with us. What more can we say of an old friend.

Gary Coster

Golf Day

Please make a note in your diary now that the next Loudwater Golf Tournament will be on Tuesday 22nd May 2007 at Sandy Lodge Golf Club. The organiser is Mike Holden. Play will be in the afternoon and will be followed by dinner. Non-playing partners are welcome at the dinner.

Losers' Club

It's weight-losing that I'm writing about! If like Mike Wood and me you could do with losing a little (?) weight, get in touch with Mike on 01923 284141. He has been in contact with a dietician/personal trainer who would be willing to advise a small group on how to lose weight – which foods to eat, which to avoid, and what exercise would be beneficial. Once Mike knows how many of you are interested he will arrange an inaugural meeting with her.

Peter Phillips.

Not a nice letter!

Because I am against Rasehill Close being converted into flats, a Rasehill resident wrote to me a rather abusive letter which I was advised to ignore.

Those of you who know me realise that ignoring criticism goes against the grain. So, sorry!

I am still against Rasehill Close being re-developed, and always will be.

In his letter, the writer accuses me of being a womaniser, with little success! I won't argue that point! He also says that the only things I am good at are eating and drinking. Great! Here's a list of my favourite local eating and drinking places:

Italian

Maurizios, Church Street, Rickmansworth

Chinese

Peking Garden, Moor Park

Thai

Tamarind Café, Rickmansworth

Indian

Sathi, Chorleywood

Children Friendly

Blubeckers, Sarratt

A Bit Special

Artichoke, Amersham

Pubs

Red Lion, Chenies

Tell me which are your favourite eating places and watering holes. I'll publish them in our next issue. Ed.

Garden Club

"Summer time and the livin' is easy" – at least it is if you belong to the. Garden Club We enjoyed a rest from our labours, visiting the magnificent riverside garden of Colin Thomas and enjoying an 'in-house' summer supper evening - a title which took on a whole new meaning as, in this year of drought, we managed to choose an evening marked by torrential rain.

Club meetings take place on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 8.00pm. We restarted our programme on 26th September with a practical gardening talk on "Propagation" by RHS speaker Ray Broughton, held in the small barn Loudwater Farm. Next, we welcome a return visit by Brenda Harold to our 25th October meeting. She is a locally based, plant chemistry expert and will be talking about "Flower Power".

Christmas wouldn't be the same without our ever-popular "Gardeners' Question Time" as the concluding event for the year. It takes place on 22nd November, at the home of Ulla Hauser, and will see the return of the panel of experts, headed by RHS judge Jim Buttriss. This is always a very popular event and we welcome all residents and their friends, 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 we will be serving mulled wine and mince pies to help the evening along. Please let us have advance notice of your questions by contacting any of the committee members or email sj.stent@btinternet.com.

Looking ahead to 2007 we shall start the year with an informal quiz evening on 24th January.

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



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Environmental Matters

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Planning Applications

Decisions on previously reported applications

- 06/0966 Corner Croft, Loudwater Heights. Single storey rear extension to kitchen to replace existing conservatory. Granted
- 06/0978 Stafford House, Loudwater Heights. Installation of wooden entrance gates. Granted
- 06/0988 Beechwood, Trout Rise. Amendment to 02/01644 2 storey side & single storey rear extension. Granted
- 06/0996 Aisling, Troutstream Way. Demolition & rebuilding of house & garage. Granted
- 06/1010 Stafford House, Loudwater Heights. Removal of conditions to 05/0985. Granted
- 06/1162 5 Ladywood Close. Erection of 2 pairs of gates and brick pillars. Refused
- 06/1165 Aisling, Troutstream Way. CAC: Demolition of house & garage. Granted

New applications until 1 September 2006

- 06/1120/LBC Loudwater Farm, Loudwater Lane. Replacement of timber door and frame. Delegated
- 06/1203 16, Lower Plantation. Single storey rear extension. Delegated
- 06/1228 Tile House, Trout Rise. Single storey rear extension. Delegated
- 06/1286 Mulberry House, Loudwater Heights. Replacement dwelling. Delegated
- 06/1305 Dorney, Trout Rise. Amendment to 06/0473. 2 storey & single storey rear extension, rear conservatory, loft conversion, change of access. Delegated
- 06/1373 Woodcroft, Trout Rise. 2 storey rear extension. Delegated
- 06/1381 Beltwood. Kingfisher Lure. Demolition of garage, new 2 storey extension, basement and raised terrace. Delegated
- 06/1381CAC Beltwood, Kingfisher Lure. Demolition of garage. Delegated.
- 06/1342 Land to rear of Dorney, Trout Rise. Erection of dwelling. Delegated

Watch the Birdies

When I was asked to write a piece on the birds we spy in Loudwater (*the feathered ones!* Ed.) I was a bit stumped. Firstly, I only see a small selection of the local birds so my view is not necessarily typical of Loudwater itself. Secondly, the impression I have is that there are less birds around. There are merely larger numbers of fewer species, Wood Pigeons and Magpies, for instance. Changes in bird numbers are a natural process, much of it caused by changes in the make-up of the district. There has been an increased density of houses, there are less open spaces such as lawns and, above all, Loudwater is a much tidier place with relatively little of the scrubby places so beloved of birds. Weed seeds provide a lot of food for Finches but small lawns are less attractive to Blackbirds and Thrushes. There is less suitable food for the birds and thus the smaller numbers. A further complicating factor is that at times in their



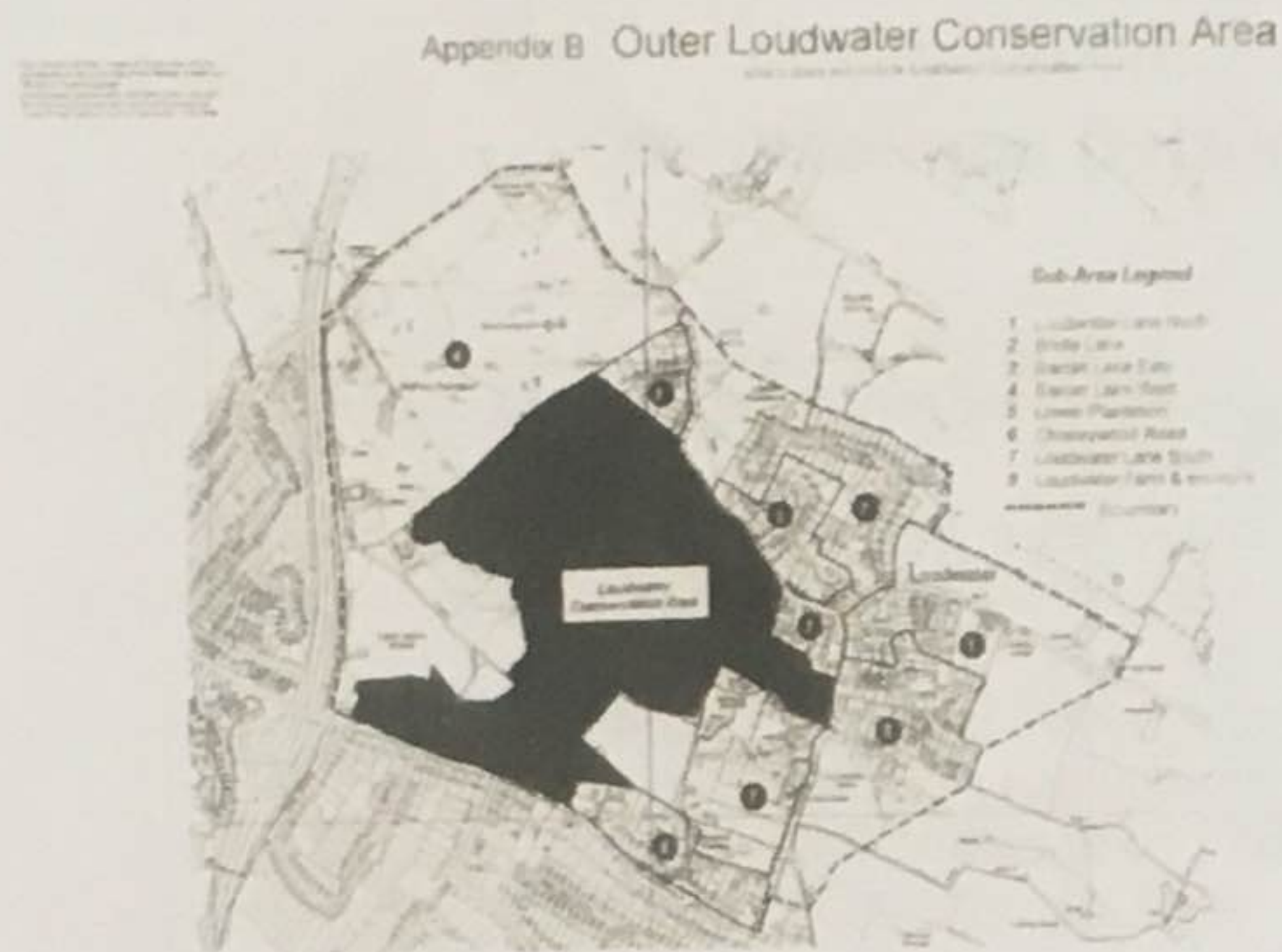
annual cycle, birds change their habits. For example, after the breeding season is over almost all species go into moult. At that time they are more vulnerable to their predators because often their powers of flight are somewhat impaired, or they lose some of their flight feathers temporarily. For this reason they make themselves less conspicuous to their enemies and to us also. They tend to stay in places with deeper vegetation like hedges and flower beds. Furthermore, once the breeding season is over, they are inclined to become less territorial, and often move into more open countryside. Tits, on the other hand, form quite large flocks and they do still fly around our gardens and countryside. They are rather less affected by farming or garden practices. Some time ago a flock of about 30 Blue and Great Tits appeared around my nut feeder for a while and then flew off leaving the garden almost empty. From around mid-August there are frequently a number of Gulls - mostly Black-headed ones - that cruise around the area looking for something worth eating. Look out for them because, sadly, only occasionally do they come that near us.

Peter Tate.

Outer Loudwater Conservation Area (OLCA)

Since writing in April, when I confirmed that Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) had approved the creation of OLCA, a draft Conservation Area Appraisal has been submitted by Loudwater Residents' Association.

Below is the area covered by OLCA, excluding the existing Loudwater Conservation Area.



TRDC has compiled a photographic record of all properties within OLCA and now proposes to identify those properties where they can apply for further protection under an Article 4 Direction. To quote from TRDC -

"Following on from the photographic survey we've made an initial attempt to identify those properties and areas where additional controls via Article 4 might be considered. We've used a similar format to the original Article 4 with "thatch, windows, chimneys, hard standings and gates" as criteria, as well as a pre- and post-war split for the dates on non-thatched properties."

One of the most attractive aspects of Loudwater that affects a lot of properties, whether they be recently built or not, is the absence of walls, fences and gates to the frontages. It could be that although a house is not subject to Article 4 its frontage is. We would welcome any views on this particular point.

These additional controls can be in relation to one or more of the criteria above, depending upon the individual properties. TRDC has a limited resource for carrying out this analysis and an assessment of the resource requirement is being worked on now to present to the Housing and Environment Policy Panel on 7th November, which would then make recommendations to Executive Committee on 27th November.

What does this mean to those residents who have a property that is subject to an article 4 Direction? Put simply, they would have to submit plans to TRDC for any work on the criteria that are subject to the Article 4 Direction.

I would be pleased to discuss any matters regarding Conservation with any resident, please Email me at roy@sterry.go-plus.net.

Roy Sterry

Closure of Loudwater Lane

Thanks to the pressure put on Hertfordshire Highways by the LRA, particularly Roy Sterry and Heather Kension, Loudwater Lane from the Chorleywood Road to Sarratt Lane was closed from 18th September for a week for necessary road repairs. The part of Loudwater Lane to Croxley Green should be under repair very shortly.

An Historic Flight



After four years, the long awaited 30 minute flights for my son and myself in the historic Spitfire ML407, finally took place at Duxford on April 28th This was the plane flown by Johnny Houlton on D-Day June 6th 1944, and credited with shooting down the first German aircraft over Normandy. All this came about from a conversation I had with Sir Ivor Broom back in 2001, when I mentioned that my son John was keen to have a trip in a fighter, and at Ivor's suggestion, I made contact with Carolyn Grace who owned and operated this plane. When I told Lady Broom of the approaching flight, she kindly offered me the use of Sir Ivor's flying suit, a gesture that I found amazingly kind and humbling. I was first to go after an intensive briefing, so wearing the suit and insignias of an Air Marshal, and strapped into the rear cockpit complete with parachute, I hurtled into the sky under the practiced hands of a pilot Peter Kinsey, who specialised in aerial aerobatics. After a series of Victory Rolls and loops in the clouds above the Cambridgeshire countryside, my special moment came when I was allowed to take over control for a few limited manoeuvres. The final flourish was a low level pass at speed over the runway, culminating in another Victory Roll. My son then took off for his "thrill of a lifetime" and we still talk of that magical day, hurtling through the blue sky and clumps of white cloud in that truly beautiful piece of aviation history.

Derek Woolcock

Neighbourhood Watch

I am writing this in mid-September and we have had no crimes committed in Loudwater. Unbelievable!! It is the best year since 1994 when I took over running the scheme. We are all obviously being more careful and perhaps word has got round that there is a Dragon running Neighbourhood Watch so steer clear! Please stay security minded and not let the 'low life' get away with anything.

May I remind you that as the nights draw in, don't forget to close your curtains at night so that your possessions are not illuminated for all to see. If your Christmas tree can be seen from outside it's not a good idea to pile up the presents underneath however lovely it looks. It's a temptation for a thief to do his Christmas shopping in your home.

June Curtis

Micklefield Hall Farm

Dear Sir,

You have already reported on concerns from some residents who believe there is a conflict of interest between the LRA using the facilities at Micklefield Hall Farm (MHF) whilst also opposing MHF's planning applications.

However, many residents may not be aware of the plans of the owners of MHF, Mr and Mrs. Rankin, who have applied to Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) to become an enlarged function centre catering for multiple events.

They can already hold such functions for up to 28 days per year but plan many more, catering for unlimited numbers of people. The result has been that they have created a noise nuisance over a large area with music, helicopters, quad bikes, 4x4s, etc.

Their application to operate for 100 days was rejected by TRDC, citing excessive traffic volumes and inappropriate development for the Green Belt and surrounding areas. The Rankins plan to appeal and if they lose are threatening other developments.

Since their plans would fundamentally change the desirability of the Loudwater area and reduce the value of our homes, we should be opposing these plans with all our might and not be misled by their hospitality.

Concerned residents need to protest as vigorously as they can in the event of noise or traffic pollution (as well as an expected appeal by MHF) by writing to the TRDC Planning Dept. We have the power of The Environment Protection Act to prevent noise nuisance including Notice to prevent re-occurrence. It's our neighbourhood and we need to protect it.

Graham Watt, Bridle Lane.

Dear Sir,

We moved to Micklefield Hall in 1997. It is a relatively small estate but with interesting buildings, mostly listed. The demise of farming has made some buildings redundant and others are in need of repair; but how do we generate an income to pay for maintenance and restoration?

We have done film shoots, corporate training, family fun days and weddings. It soon became clear that Micklefield Hall makes a wonderful wedding venue.

In July 2003 we consulted local organisations and residents. Many responded and visited the site. We reflected their views in submitting the planning application for a purpose built barn in which to hold weddings.

The irony is that a small but vocal group of local residents objected to our proposal. We therefore addressed the issues that most concern them - noise and traffic. The barn would be soundproofed; the marquee we use now is not. We can have unlimited numbers now but we would be limited to an average of 150 in the purpose built barn. The commercial traffic would have been reduced because all the kit would be on site and not brought in every time.

It is essential that we do not disturb the 20 families that live within the curtilage of the farm let alone the 420 families of Loudwater, so please come to see for yourself how our proposal will help the community. We will be delighted to show you around. Telephone us on 778898.

Anna and Jamie Rankin.

Our previous Planning Secretary, Donald Cammell, and our current Planning sub-committee have gone into all of MHF's plans in some detail with Mr and Mrs Rankin. The Rankins have already promised the LRA that there will be no further helicopter flights. We would encourage all concerned residents to accept their offer, as we firmly believe that effective dialogue is the way forward.

Penny Wilkinson

Wine Club

The last couple of events have incorporated a few 'firsts' for the club.

In July, instead of a tasting of wines from a specific part of the world, we learned about Cellaring – what wines to keep, how and for how long? This was a fascinating evening and we all learned a great deal from our tutor, Tim Syrad, who was making his first visit to the club.

For this event, we moved from our usual haunt down at the Barn to the other side of Loudwater. Our venue for the evening was Micklefield Hall and we were given the opportunity to explore the magnificent cellars there, to reinforce our new knowledge.

August usually sees us go out for the day. This year, however, we stayed at home for a fun evening of 'Call My Bluff' led by Vivienne Franks. Following the familiar format of the TV show, three members of each team described the wine to the rest of the audience who had to guess who was telling the truth. Knowledge of wine appeared less important than the ability to detect a porkie at twenty paces. Can you trust your neighbours? Definitely not!

As always, you can read more about the club's exploits, past and future, on www.loudwaterwineclub.org.uk

Buzz Coster

Wine Club Trip to Alsace



This year the Wine Club chose Alsace to taste some of the finest wines of Europe. A five day excursion to Alsace allowed members to taste no fewer than seven wine varieties – Riesling, Pinot Blanc, Pinot Noir, Muscat, Pinot Gris, Gewürztraminer and, of course, Alsace Grand Cru. Five tastings were organised as well as two lunches – all of which were enormous fun. There was just enough time for members to see some of Strasbourg. One of the highlights was the drive through the route du vin in the Alsace countryside to see the beautiful villages decked out with so many flowers – it really took your breath away. And, of course, there was the odd stork or two!

Mike Wood.

The trip was led by none other than the bubbly Mike Wood. Puzzles me, though, why he was looking for storks! Ed.

Fine Dining – The Club With Perfect Table Manners

Since the Fine Dining Club's February 2004 visit to the Artichoke in Old Amersham, chef/proprietor Laurie Gear has become a Master Chef of Great Britain, his restaurant has been awarded two AA rosettes, and his cooking received praise from the likes of the Evening Standard's Fay Maschler. So time for a return visit to what is undoubtedly one of the leading restaurants in the Home Counties.

For our August 2006 event Laurie created an exclusive tasting menu, with each dish accompanied by different Tattinger champagne. Justine Llewelyn, Tattinger's UK "Ambassador," was on hand to describe briefly what we were drinking and give an insight into the world of Tattinger. A man with a dream job if ever there was one. For the main course – if there is such a thing in a tasting menu, there was a choice of meat or fish. Now, one would suppose that at this point Tattinger would bow out and a suitable red wine be offered, but no, they specially made for us a small quantity of Avant Garde Pinot Noir 2002, as a bit of an experiment, and this was readily road-tested, or tasted, by Club members. Laurie's cooking was up to standard with small but perfectly formed taster menu portions of hot smoked salmon, petits pois a la Francaise, pastilla of Anjou pigeon, chocolate, cherries and pine nuts, and generous main portions of either lamb or John Dory. Desserts – raspberry panna cotta, praline toffee water and iced lemon verbena sherbet, were well worth blowing any diet for.

We held our AGM in July at which Mary-Jane Atkinson was formally welcomed onto the Committee. After the close of formalities we had a general discussion about restaurants, food, and all manner of things concerned with fine dining – which is what you'd expect at a Fine Dining Club AGM!

Our November event is going to be something very different indeed. Chef Kei Shiba, who created the food for our Japanese Soirée, has invited the Fine Dining Club into her home to experience an evening of her innovative contemporary Japanese cuisine. Full details will be e-mailed /snail-mailed to Club members in due course (or may have already gone out, depending on when this edition hits the streets).

Viv Schragger-Powell

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Bridge Club Summer Party

The Loudwater Bridge Club held a Summer Party at Loudwater Farm on 2nd August. When planning the event, we imagined a balmy evening, strolling in the garden by the Chess, sipping wine and nibbling delicate morsels. In fact, the heavens opened at about 7.15 and it tipped down with rain all evening. Nevertheless we had a great time because June Baish, our Chairman, and Janis Rees, our Treasurer, organised things so well in advance.

25 of us gathered in the kitchen of the Farm, enjoying a glass of sparkling Cava courtesy of June. Her husband, Roland Baish, had created delicious nibbles of smoked fish and, not to be outdone, Dennis Sare baked some very tasty cheese straws. The wine flowed and we then proceeded to enjoy a buffet supper, sitting at tables in the large room where we normally play Bridge. Janis Rees made an appetising potato salad and Liz Crook created a colourful Greek salad and baked the garlic bread to go with the other savoury dishes on offer. For dessert, Sheila Fawkner-Corbett made a wonderful fruit salad of berries and the redoubtable Roland created an exotic fruit salad, both of which were quite gorgeous. Our friends stayed on, drinking wine, chatting and creating a most relaxed atmosphere. We had intended to close the evening at 9.30, but were still there at 11.00 o'clock.

Ros Sare

Theatre Club Forthcoming Events

Saturday 14th October – The Alchemist by Ben Jonson National Theatre, South Bank, London- 2pm

Friday 8th December – Cosi Fan Tutte by Mozart Performed by the Glyndebourne Touring Company At Sadlers Wells Theatre, London – 7.15pm

Club Scene

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

Troutstream Investment Club
Meets 8pm, 2nd Thursday of month
Chairman
Godfrey Crook (776567)

Theatre Club
Chairman
Peter Laule (77811)
Organiser
Penny Wilkinson (896380)

Wine Club
Meets 8pm, 4th Friday of month
Chairman
Tony Hale (774374)

Bridge Club
Meets 7.30pm, 1st and 3rd Wednesday of month
Chairman
June Baish (775808)

Garden Club
Chairman
Sue Stent (712623)

Fine Dining Club
Chairman
Viv Schragger-Powell (806198)

ROBSONS

ESTATE AGENTS