



# The Ol' Trout

THE  
LOUDWATER  
NEWSLETTER

No. 123

April 2007

## Chairman's Word

Well, I am coming to the end of my first year as Chairman and whilst it has had its stressful moments, it has not been as bad as I had feared. This has been mainly due to the members of the LRA Committee who have supported and advised me this year. So thank you to you all! As you've been told probably many times before, I am the youngest Chairman the LRA has ever had. And when I agreed to become Chairman, I told the Committee that I wanted to try and involve the families again. Over the last year, many more families have moved onto Loudwater and so I arranged a coffee morning recently in order that those with children could meet each other. This was a huge success with the majority of the new Mums attending but it was also well attended by those Mums who have lived here for many years. Everyone had a common goal – to meet other families with children that were only a short walk away. We are planning another coffee morning on Thursday 14th June, so please call me if you want to be added to the email list for this event. There was a lot of enthusiasm for doing coffees and social events with the families. If you feel you would like to get involved with the community in which you live and run the families group, or if you have any ideas for family events, then please call me.

Penny Wilkinson

### **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

## LRA AGM

**The Loudwater Residents' Association Annual General Meeting will be held in the Barn at Loudwater Farm on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 8pm sharp. Please come to air your views on the work that your Committee has done over the year. There might even be a glass or two of wine to enjoy whilst meeting up with your fellow residents.**

## LRA New Year's Eve Party



Our New Year's Eve Party was a big success, and to those of you who

weren't there all I can say is "sorry, but you missed a lovely evening". The organiser was Colin Timms, and what a great job he and his committee did. He also added Denise Preedy to his team, a master-stroke because she proved again what a creative genius she is. Together, they all made the Sanctuary Hall at Loudwater Farm look like a private dining room in a five star hotel. The amount of hard work put in back-stage by Colin, Denise,

Sue and Dave Tippen and my wife, Davida, was enormous. As usual, Tony Hale was in charge of the drinks. Sadly, Don Moore and Stella Garner, who were supposed to be in charge of the music, were delayed at Miami airport but Colin, again, came up trumps. Besides laying the dance floor, he bought in his own music from home and Auld Lang Syne was sung with great gusto immediately after the chimes of Big Ben. On arrival we enjoyed delicious canapés and champagne before sitting down to a four-course dinner by candle-light. Then, after an abundance of more wine, came more champagne. Along with others, I may have had a sore head the next day but, believe me, it was worth it.

## Frank Sinatra Cabaret Night

We have lived in Loudwater for 35 years and attended many



LRA events in that time. The Frank Sinatra Cabaret Night was, undoubtedly, one of the best. Colin Timms, the organiser, should become an impresario. It was Colin who discovered Fred Gardner, the Frank Sinatra sound-alike, and Fred was fabulous. Fred had won "Stars in

Your Eyes" on TV and Michael Aspel said "I thought it was a Sinatra record playing when I first heard him". Suggs, the Night Fever TV presenter and leading vocalist of the group Madness introduced him on his show as "Frank Sinatra better known as Fred Gardner". Praise, indeed, and well deserved. Fred went through the usual repertoire of Sinatra classic hits but for me the highlight was when he and our Chairman, Penny Wilkinson, sang "Something Stupid". OK – so we knew Fred sounded like Frank but Penny had hidden from us that she could sing like Nancy! There were 63 of us in the Barn at Loudwater Farm and I have never seen so many couples dancing to song after song. The food was great too, with waitress service. An excellent watercress soup was followed by either poached salmon in white wine and dill sauce or chicken breast in tomato and basil sauce with olives. There was a big choice of desserts too, and in true Loudwater fashion, bottles and bottles of wine to enjoy. The MC was the incomparable Gary Coster and the first prize in the raffle – a DVD player – was won by Lorna Hawxwell. Congratulations to Colin and his Events Group but how do you follow that?

### Welcome

Mr. & Mrs. Goodban, Cherry Lawn, Bridle Lane.  
Mr. Nicholas Pipping, Dene Cottage, Troutstream Way.  
Miss Marianne Montgomery & Mr. Keith Gibson, The Cottage, Trout Rise.  
Mr. & Mrs. H. Gray, The Croft, Farm Lane.  
Mr. & Mrs. M. Harrison, Windy Ridge, Loudwater Lane.  
Mr. & Mrs. R. Bailey and Alexandra, Greensleeves, Loudwater Drive.  
Jo Vaughan & Michael Clark, Overstream Cottage, Overstream.  
Ian & Catherine Dewar and their three children, Chartham Place, 3 Hayward Copse.  
The Hussein Family, Silverwood, Chorleywood Road.

## Golf Day

There are still a few places left for the annual Loudwater Golf Day to be held on Tuesday, 22nd May at Sandy Lodge Golf Club. This should be a very enjoyable occasion starting with coffee at 12.30 p.m. followed by an 18 hole Stableford, and then dinner and prize giving. The cost is £65 for the golf and dinner; alternatively, £25 for Sandy Lodge playing members or for dinner only. Anyone interested please contact Mike Holden on 779572 or e-mail. Don't worry if you haven't got a handicap. Sammy Davis Junior, when asked what his handicap was, replied, "I am one-eyed Jewish Negro. What other handicap do I need?" Enough said!  
[MBHolden@aol.com](mailto:MBHolden@aol.com)

## Over to you – Roy!

Roy Sterry has agreed to take over from me as Editor of the Ol' Trout, certainly for the next few issues. However, he wishes to be known as Acting Editor! Therefore, if any of you would like the job on a more permanent basis, the position is still open. Just contact Roy or LRA Chairman, Penny Wilkinson.

## **LRA FUTURE EVENTS**

### Come and join us for a coach and walking tour of the Old and New City of London.

Included in this 2-1/2 hour tour are the ruins of the Roman Londinium at the Barbican, where we will be told of the Roman occupancy and the influence it had on the building of the present day City. On the way we will see where Karl Marx worked. In the same area is the only medieval city gate to remind us of the influence of the Monasteries and the Catholic Church on life in the Middle Ages.

We next stop at St Paul's Cathedral to learn about its history as well as the famous people buried inside. Then onto St. Paul's Cross, which used to be the centre of information for the city dwellers. This is where they came to hear the Town-Criers read out all the news

From there, we continue along Cheapside, once a thriving trade centre where food and other commodities were sold. The nearby area was also lived in by several famous authors like John Milton, and perhaps even Shakespeare, some of whose friends and sponsors lie buried in the nearby churchyard.

We then walk to the imposing Guild Hall to hear about the ancient Trade Guilds which still exist and which have played such an important part in the building of the wealth of the City.

A short walk takes us to the Bank of England, and opposite the Bank stands the Mansion House, the home of the Lord Mayor of London. Afterwards, we will board our coach and drive to St. Katharine's Dock for a light luncheon at the Dickens' Inn. We will leave for this tour from the Royal Masonic School at 10.30a.m. and return at about 4 p.m.

Ritva Hale.

*Aren't we lucky to have Ritva as a member of the L.R.A. She is an official London Tourist Blue Badge and City of London Guide. Ed.*

THE LOUDWATER SUMMER LUNCH WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY 1ST JULY AT LOUDWATER FARM. PLEASE PUT THIS DATE INTO YOUR DIARY NOW. EXACT DETAILS WILL FOLLOW. IT'S OUR BIGGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR.

## John Stewart of Troutstream Way wrote to me about his son Paul...



Residents who remember the BBC TV programmes about the Galapagos last October might like to know that Paul Stewart, the principal cameraman and author of the book "Galapagos, the Islands that changed the World" first became interested in wildlife photography as a small boy, living on the Loudwater Troutstream Estate.

In those days Loudwater's road traffic was very much lighter, and the general scenario more tranquil. Muntjac, fox and badger trails criss-crossed the garden, and kingfishers, coots, mallard - and the less welcome herons - visited the garden pool. It was a seductive introduction to the natural world.

During one of his undergraduate years Paul took the opportunity to work as a guide in the Amazon rain-forest and on his way back spent several months helping to crew the tourist yachts sailing round the Galapagos Islands. It was during this time that his ideas for the Galapagos TV series took root.

After taking a doctorate from Oxford University, Paul won a Churchill Travelling Fellowship. This enabled him to study the possibilities for filming wildlife in South East Asia and the Pacific Rim, and he subsequently accepted a bursary from the BBC to train as a wildlife film maker.

Since then he has worked in over 40 countries and his awards include a coveted primetime cinematography "Emmy" for contributions to David Attenborough's "Blue Planet". More recently he spent several months among the warring tribes of the jungles of Papua New Guinea filming the exotic but elusive birds of paradise for the forthcoming "Planet Earth" series.

Had it not been for the early influence of Loudwater's wildlife, Paul would probably have taken up a rather different occupation. But I doubt if it would have proved nearly as satisfying as that of a wildlife photographer.

*Have you any stories on how Loudwater changed the life of a member of your family? Please do share them with us. Ed.*

## Sarah Jolliffe

Congratulations to Sarah Jolliffe of Rooks Hill on becoming Lady Captain of golf at Moor Park. If I remember rightly, she did rather well in our Loudwater Golf Days. What with Eric Tindall being a former President of Moor Park and Stan Dixon a former Chairman of Sandy Lodge, Loudwater is gaining quite a reputation for good golfers.



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## EDITORIAL – MY SWAN SONG

This is my Swan Song – my last issue as Editor. As you may know, the words "Swan Song" have become an idiom referring to a final work. It carries the connotation of one's retirement. Chekhov's one-act play "The Swan Song" describes a man ruminating on his past. Well, modest as ever, I admit that I am no Chekhov but merely a hack who has edited the Ol' Trout (with the exception of two issues that were edited by Tony Bradford) since its inception in January 2002. What with four issues a year, that's 16 issues in all - a big bundle of Ol' Trouts! (Trout, I said, not tripe!) I have had my detractors – who hasn't? I almost came to blows with a friend in the Loudwater Farm Car Park over an article about which he objected but, generally, I have enjoyed being Editor. Another notable gentleman believes that I took the Ol' Trout too downmarket in comparison to its predecessor – the Newsletter. I would have taken his criticism more seriously had he not added that the residents of Loudwater had themselves gone down-market in the last twenty years, and that his main concern about receiving a rude letter from a resident was that the abusive names he was called were not spelt properly!

I became Editor of the Newsletter after John Jarrett had resigned. I got off to a bad start. In my eulogy to him I did not mention the delightful Dorothy Francis who had taken over from John at the time he was standing for Parliament. Slapped wrist! "How could I omit Dorothy", I was asked. The answer was "ignorance" - I didn't know about her. John (and Dorothy) produced a black and white two-sided sheet with no pictures, John bashing the copy out on his portable typewriter, Dorothy by fountain pen in her beautiful hand-writing. The printing was done in Rickmansworth, and paid for by the LRA. I knew immediately that I wanted to alter the way the Newsletter was produced, without adding to the costs.

The Newsletter had to be produced on a computer. It had to be in full colour, with pictures or artwork. It had to be topical, with less reminiscing about days gone-by and Harry's bus! Who was the most computer literate and creative person around who might be willing to help me? The solution turned out to be Buzz Coster. And how was I to get the Newsletter printed free? This time the solution was to chat up my next-door neighbour, Roland Baish.

Buzz and I dreamt up the name "The Ol' Trout" and though the words in the first issue were mainly mine, the design was entirely Buzz's. I asked for contributions from residents. Luckily, I got them – something that John Jarrett thought I'd find difficult.

We worked like this for a year. Buzz's and my relationship was a bit on the tempestuous side but they say that all the best creative work comes out of fierce arguments! Roland's team printed our work entirely free. The LRA will always be grateful



to him. However, after one year, Buzz decided that she'd had enough, particularly since she was starting a new permanent job, and the search began for a new designer. Roland, too, intimated that he'd prefer his team not to continue to print the Ol' Trout, so a search also had to start for another benefactor who could organise the printing free.

Along came Tony Bradford, as designer, and Robson's, our local Estate Agents, as printers. I

knew Tony was a wizard on the computer, and I managed to persuade Roger Giles of Robson's, together with his wonderful assistant, Prue, that the amount of goodwill they would get from Loudwater for arranging free printing would far outweigh their expenditure. My relationship with Tony was not as fiery as mine with Buzz, which perhaps proves that you can also achieve good things the peaceful way!

Two other important cogs in the wheel now need mentioning. Penny Wilkinson, who helped me send all the articles from my computer to that of the designer. (She did this so much more efficiently than I could). And Roy Sterry, who proved to be a proof reader extraordinaire. Thank you both.

We continued in this way until I became Chairman of the LRA. I decided I could not be both Chairman and Editor at the same time so I invited Tony Bradford to become both Editor and Designer. He did this for two issues but objected to not having full editorial control and consequently resigned. (The LRA Executive Committee has the final say on content). So there I was, Editor again, but with no designer! A friend of Penny Wilkinson's, Becky Warren, was suggested. She took over for a couple of issues while our search for a designer from Loudwater continued. (Becky came from distant Rickmansworth!) Sue Tippen suggested Carole Timms, Carole said "yes" and she's now doing a grand job.

My dislikes? Only one really. I hated having to chase contributors for their articles, and to keep pointing out that the copy date was nigh. Tony Bradford believed that if Club Chairmen, for instance, missed the copy date, this was their problem. I wanted their reports so I nagged and nagged and nagged, before eventually succeeding. However, let me thank all Club Chairmen (or, in the case of the Wine Club, Buzz Coster) for their contributions, as well as those who accepted commissions from me to write articles, and those who sent me interesting, provocative letters. Without them, I could not have filled the Ol' Trout and, remember, one issue actually went to nine pages. Also, I would like to thank the LRA Chairmen under whom I served as Editor for their encouragement – Denise Preedy, Roy Sterry and Penny Wilkinson – as well as my fellow members of the Committee. I especially pick out Tony Hale for printing the Inserts and Theresa Jubber for being in charge of the distribution. Will I miss being Editor? Perhaps a little, but it certainly is now time for new blood, and new ideas.

Peter Phillips.



## Planning Applications

### Decisions on previously reported applications

- 04/1774 Micklefield Hall. Demolition of 2 farm buildings & erection of oak framed function room. LRA objected. Refused. Appeal to DoE. Withdrawn
- 06/1915 Wychwood, Troutstream Way. Single & two storey rear extensions & rear conservatory. Delegated. Granted
- 06/2006 Pheena, Chess Lane. 2 storey & single storey side extension, single rear extension, Delegated. LRA objected. Granted
- 06/2053 Chenies, Bridle lane. Amendment to 06/0811. Tiled roofs over single storey extensions instead of thatch. Delegated. Granted
- 06/2124CAC Beltwood, Kingfisher Lure. Erection of 1.9m high timber acoustic fence to boundaries & new walls. Delegated. Granted

### Applications awaiting decisions

- 06/1162 5 Ladywood Close. Retrospective erection of 2 pairs of gates & brick piers. LRA objected. Refused. Appeal to DoE

### New applications until 11<sup>th</sup> March 2007

- 06/2131 11 Loudwater House, Loudwater Drive. Replacement doors and windows. Delegated. Refused
- 06/2208 Beltwood, Kingfisher Lure. Erection of attached garage and extended driveway. Delegated. Granted
- 06/2213 The Orchard, Wagon Way. Removal of conservatory roof. 1st floor side extension. Delegated. Granted
- 06/2243 Atholl House, Sarratt Lane. Side & rear conservatory. Dormer to rear, window at side, excavate to form basement room. Delegated. Granted
- 07/0016 Roundspring Farm, Bridle Lane. Single storey & 2 storey front ext. & single rear ext., new chimney, internal alterations. Delegated. Granted.
- 07/0063CLE Trout Rise Farm, Cert. of lawfulness. Existing use: non-compliance with cond. 2 of planning permission 8/304/92 to allow access track to be tarmac. Delegated. Refused
- 07/0104 Greenway, Loudwater Lane. 2 bay windows, single rear infill & lantern roof over single storey rear orangery/conservatory. Delegated. Granted
- 07/0163RSP The Farm House, Trout Rise. Retrospective application: erection of metal front gates. Delegated. LRA objected
- 07/0245 Timberley, Troutstream Way. Single front extension under existing roof. Delegated
- 07/0282 Greenway, Loudwater Lane. Enlarge front 1st floor window & new 2nd floor window. Delegated
- 01/00692 Micklefield Hall, Sarratt Road. Change of use of old pavilion to offices. Refused. Appeal to DoE ( Ref 06/0109)

### Micklefield Hall: 04/1774

Three Rivers District Council has informed the LRA Planning Secretary, Heather Kenison, that Jamie and Anna Rankin have withdrawn their appeal against the refusal of TRDC to grant them planning permission to demolish two farm buildings and erect an oak framed function room at Micklefield Hall. The LRA Executive Committee has therefore decided that it is not necessary to print any more letters about this application in the Ol' Trout. *Ed.*

### Ridiculous Notice

Hertfordshire County Council has informed the LRA Planning Secretary, Heather Kenison that Loudwater Lane will be closed for three weeks to enable it to renew existing electrical cabling. Good! However, the Council would only commit itself to stating that the work would take place between 19<sup>th</sup> February 2007 and 18<sup>th</sup> August 2008. Ridiculous! Surely a more precise date could have been given, or have all the diaries in County Hall gone missing? (This, I assume, accounts for the intermittent closures of Loudwater Lane recently). Also, Heather asked Hertfordshire Highways to paint double yellow lines on the Chorleywood Road, just before you get to Rasehill, so that you can see what is coming from the right as you turn out of Loudwater Lane. It seems that this cannot be done for some time. Is it because Hertfordshire Highways have run out of yellow paint?

### A404 Rickmansworth-Chorleywood Road.

Loudwater Residents' Association has been approached by Loudwater (Troutstream) Estate Limited to consider joint action to attempt to improve the safety of the A404, the Chorleywood-Rickmansworth Road. Turning right onto this road from either Loudwater Lane or Kingfisher Lure is at times very dangerous due to the volume of fast moving traffic on this stretch of road. Six years ago Loudwater (Troutstream) Estate Limited began discussions with the Highways Agency, but there has been a lack of appreciable improvements. There has been some white lining on the A404 aimed at aiding cars turning off the road into the minor roads, but it has little effect and can at times enhance the danger. Councillor Leonard Spencer is supporting this initiative to again contact the Highways Agency to discuss possible solutions to this problem. Hopefully a joint approach can achieve success. There are several ways in which the speed of traffic can be reduced, including: installation of speed cameras, reducing the speed limit to 30mph, roundabouts, and pelican crossings. One method on its own will probably not be effective. It will be necessary to plan which combination will provide the most effective result. If you have any views or experiences of similar situations, please e-mail me at [fivetrees@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fivetrees@hotmail.co.uk), so that your comments can be considered.

Heather Kenison  
Planning Secretary

## M25

The Government plans to widen the M25 by adding an extra lane. It is hoped that the work will start early this year and be finished by 2016. The extra space will be gained by cutting the width and angle of the verges. The major change, compared to previous schemes, is that no land will be taken so there will be no housing blight. Another change is that the building of the extra lane will be a Private Finance Investment (PFI) venture. So, says the Department of Transport, it will not cost the taxpayers a penny. This seems duplicitous because, while the PFI cost of building is estimated at £1.6 billion, the contractors will receive £5.2 billion, justified, apparently, by their obligation to maintain and repair the extra lane for 20 years, and that extra money will come from the taxpayer.

One issue that does not appear to be dealt with in this early plan is that of junctions. The Government appears to have accepted that there is proof that extra lanes attract traffic and its own estimate is that traffic overall in the UK will increase by 20-30% by 2020/2050. It would seem that present junctions would not be able to handle extra traffic.

The Department claims that lights on the extra lane will be "sensitive" and better shaded. However, it is inescapable that there will be more lighting (and, of course, more car lights).

The Department says the new surface will be quieter but admits there will be more noise. Yet it claims that by 2030, as more efficient engines are installed, the level will drop from whatever peak noise reaches by some 20/30%. But it would seem that a 25/30% rise in the number of cars will simply cancel the gain.

Air pollution is the least ascertainable issue and the Department merely offers, as it always has done, major planting, roadside monitoring, and cleaner engines as protection. The arguments above seem again to apply.

Lastly there is the issue of worth and value for money. The Department does not appear to have retracted the admission forced out of them at a public meeting shortly before the previous plan to widen was dropped – namely that the new lanes proposed would be estimated to be at capacity level in 25/30 years.

The Department for some bizarre reason has consulted local Parish Councils that could be affected. (No District Councils have been involved). The statement above, which can guarantee no accuracy, comes from Parish Councils other than Chorleywood, the media and my own research.

John Jarrett.

## The storms of 18<sup>th</sup> January, reported by Victoria Levy



I thought that other residents might be interested in seeing what happened to our 50 plus foot old conifer in the winds on Thursday 18 January.

I was actually in the house and saw this enormous tree snap in half as if it were a toothpick, and start to fall as if by slow

motion. You can see the size of the bark immediately behind the other tree with the bird feeder on it. I can say I was absolutely petrified as I was sure it was going to fall on the house (and with me in it!). Luckily you will all be happy to hear that thank goodness it avoided us both, and our gardener who had in the minutes before been sweeping the leaves right under the tree. It crashed with an almighty thud and just missed the patio and front door, taking over a very large proportion of the front lawn as it fell.

Funnily enough I had cancelled all my arrangements that day as I was too scared to go out in the morning in case I got

hit by a tree. The moral of the story is that next time there are high winds, I am taking my chances and going out!

Victoria Levy, (not forgetting Michael, Joshua and Kaine)  
Caldbec, Troutstream Way

*We too lost an enormously tall fir tree. Luckily, nobody was hurt as it fell, and the only damage it did was to destroy an arch on which my wife trailed roses. I am sure that most residents suffered some damage to their gardens during the storms so I think we might go to Australia next January to avoid all the chaos! Ed.*

## A letter from Hilary Trudeau, of Chesters, Trout Rise

**"This is to inform you that my credit card was cloned at a BP petrol station this week and £500 was spent on it. I have been advised by Lloyds Bank that there is a huge fraud ring operating at BP, Shell and Texaco petrol stations and Lloyds are advising us to pay with cash to avoid this (or to buy petrol elsewhere - Tesco seem to be ok!) Mine got cloned at the Amersham BP Station on White Lion Rd. The bank does pay you back but it's all very annoying!"**

Penny Wilkinson adds:

You may also be interested to know that credit card cloning happened to my father locally too. He has since been told by the police that in the petrol stations there are many CCTV cameras and that there often is one behind you. It is this one that can see the PIN number you are putting in, which is then used for the cloned card. He was told to place his hand over the numbers to shield the PIN in future. I hope this hint helps.

## Loudwater and Chorleywood

Loudwater is part Rickmansworth, part Chorleywood. I think the dividing line as far as Three Rivers District Council is concerned is the part of Loudwater Lane leading to the Chorleywood (or Rickmansworth!) Road. Coming from Sarratt Lane, the left is Rickmansworth, the right is Chorleywood. I live on the left so I am in Rickmansworth. My friend and colleague, Roy Sterry, lives on the right so he is in Chorleywood. Some while ago he passed on to me the Chorleywood Newsletter (autumn edition, published biannually). What a good newsletter it is! It's too late for me to take lessons from it but my successor might do well to consider it.

In the autumn edition there was a headline "AGM alarm at threat to our gardens". It states that the Chairman wanted the Chorleywood Residents' Association to close a loophole in the legislation which allows developers to treat gardens as "brownfield" land suitable for development. It wants the government to remove gardens from the "brownfield" definition. The article continues "backland development and schemes for two or more replacement dwellings by demolishing one house on a plot had been fought by Three Rivers District Council but this had resulted in a spate of appeals from developers challenging these refusals". It is made very clear that the Chorleywood Residents' Association objects in principle to the redevelopment of sites involving multiple housing or back garden developments. So does the LRA. Living in Armitage Close I wish we could have prevented the demolition of the Wheel House, which was then replaced by four houses. So, perhaps the two associations should get together on planning matters. I think you will agree that two voices in unison are better than one lonely one. Furthermore, we need to get together to fight the government's plans to build 26,200 homes in the Watford, Three Rivers, Hertsmere and Dacorum areas by 2021. As Councillor Sara Bedford, Chairman of Three Rivers District Council development control committee said "the increase would put pressure on schools, healthcare, roads and the Green Belt. We're running out of room". I whole-heartedly agree. The government's plans are sheer lunacy.

## BRIDGE CLUB

Our first meeting in January began with a short talk by Liz Crook on the etiquette of Club Bridge and I'm sure we all learnt something new or had our memories jogged about things we knew but had forgotten.

We held a very lively AGM at the beginning of March. Maureen Wood stood down from the Committee which now comprises June Baish (Chair), Sheila Fawcner-Corbett (Vice-Chair), Ros Sare (Secretary), Janis Rees (Treasurer) and Liz Crook.

Our Summer party will be held on Wednesday, 18th July, which is a normal Bridge night, and will consist of a buffet with wine at Loudwater Farm.

We now have 34 members and continue to meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. New members are always most welcome.

June Baish.

## TROUTSTREAM INVESTMENT CLUB

First, I should like to thank Anthony Moss for allowing us to use his home, The Water Garden in Lower Plantation, for our monthly meetings. We now meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 8pm, under the chairmanship of Godfrey Crook. Secondly, I should like to thank our Treasurer, Tony Bradford, for doing all our buying and selling, and for producing at the end of each month a wonderfully lucid account of how we are doing. The Club is doing very well. We now have 16 members, have assets of nearly £71,000, and a profit of over £22,000 (or 45.4%) - something of which we are very proud. One member, indeed, has made £2727 since the club was formed.

Lastly, my thanks go to Mary and Trevor Slade, the Club's Joint Secretaries, for producing the minutes, bringing the wine, and for arranging the Club Dinner at the Bedford Arms on Friday, 20th April. (The last is really entirely the work of Mary!)

Members of the Chess Investment Club are also invited.

Peter Phillips.

## GARDEN CLUB



Notwithstanding the unrelenting gloom and rain of a bleak February day, more than twenty of the intrepid members of the Garden Club braved the elements and visited the Tropical Extravaganza exhibition at Kew Gardens.

Progressing through a series of climatic zones, over 30,000 exotic blooms were displayed in the Princess of Wales Conservatory, with lush tropical climbers clothing the pillars, and coloured orchids spilling out of large bowls. The centre of the display was a large fallen tree with epiphytic orchids and bromeliads hanging down to form a curtain of colour. Framing the display there were over 2,000 green, white, red and pink Anthuriums planted along either side of the Conservatory.

After stopping for lunch at one of several cafeterias, members enjoyed special "behind the scenes tours" with volunteer guides. The Crocus lawn and daffodil displays each side of the Broad Walk were in full flower as we walked around the gardens bringing a welcome splash of outdoor colour to a rather grey day.

The January Club meeting was a quiz evening in the home of one of our members, which was much enjoyed by all.

The Club meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month. On 27th March Patricia Liechti makes a welcome return visit to the club to talk about lesser known "Small Gardens to Visit", followed in April by a talk on Herbaceous Borders by RHS speaker David Cheston. Our AGM will be held on 23rd May, followed by a talk on "Behind the Scenes at Kew Gardens" by Jim Keesing, who worked as a biologist at Kew for some 31 years. For further details please do contact me on 712623.

Sue Stent.

## WINE CLUB



We launched this year's events with a tasting of wines from California led by Tim Syrad. Rather than try and tackle the whole of California in one hit, he concentrated on wines from Sonoma County. This area doesn't produce wines for the mass-market, but focuses on more serious wines at the higher end of the spectrum and, inevitably,

the higher price bracket.

Whether or not they were worth the price was a matter for some debate, proving once again that it really is all a matter of taste. "Value for money" is a very personal and subjective concept!

Our February event was a symposium on wine-making led by wine-maker Kevin Powell. This was scheduled as a scientific evening. It is important to get one's definitions right, and a quick visit to the Oxford English Dictionary produced the definition of a symposium as a 'drinking party'. The scientific element of the evening was provided by study of members' behaviour when their glasses had been empty for more than three minutes.

This was a fascinating evening with the chance to try wines which, on the face of it, should have been the same, yet were completely different because of the climate in which the grapes had been grown.

We plan to celebrate England's success in the Cricket World Cup with a tasting of English wines in March - join the Wine Club for eternal optimism! Then it's off to Champagne for a few days in April. It's a tough life - read all about it on: [www.loudwaterwineclub.org.uk](http://www.loudwaterwineclub.org.uk)

Buzz Coster

## THEATRE CLUB

Our 'Evening with Dickens' was both an unusual and absorbing outing. We all enjoyed ourselves in a unique setting - the house in Doughty Street where Dickens wrote *Oliver Twist* and the *Pickwick Papers*. We comprised the whole audience and were seated in his library/study, where, after early drinks, we had a delicious hot buffet including copious wines. We were treated to an absorbing, and highly professional performance by an actor convincingly dressed for the part. Everyone then had the time to tour the house, which is also a museum full of fascinating objects.

On the 14th April we are nearer to home, at the Palace Theatre, Watford, for George Bernard Shaw's 'Heartbreak House', and on 15th July we're off to the London Coliseum. There the ENO is staging 'Kismet'. All in all, it is a very varied programme. If you are not a member why not join us? You'll be made most welcome and enjoy very good company.

Peter Laule

The Theatre Club sends its condolences to Lis Freeman on the death of her husband, Jack. Both were regulars on our outings and Jack will be greatly missed.

## FINE DINING AT THE VANILLA POD

Why oh why can't we have a restaurant like Marlow's Vanilla Pod, locally? It's just the sort of charming, well-run place we need, serving accomplished food at non-stratosphere prices, and with its low-beamed ceiling and unobtrusive décor, it's cosy, welcoming and not irritatingly trendy.

A larger-than-usual party of twenty-eight Fine Diners descended on this fine eatery for the club's first event of the year, and as is so often the case with our events, the management had the good sense to give the place over to us entirely.

This delightful establishment, which has been receiving glowing reviews for several years, now owes its impressive reputation to the culinary skills of Aberdeen-born Michael MacDonald, the chef and proprietor. Cooking for his family as a necessity as a wee boy, Michael went on to hone his craft at various top London restaurants, and despite his name suggesting that he hails from Bonnie Scotland, his cuisine is firmly rooted in the contemporary European tradition.

On offer for us was a five-course meal with a variety of choices for the three main dishes. Those opting for the venison as a main course seem to have been particularly blessed because I later heard it said, "this was the best venison I ever had." I opted for the poached monkfish with capers, celeriac and saffron, and found it to be one of the most tasty fish dishes I've had in a fair while.

It was particularly satisfying to welcome new club members Diana and Nicholas Vaughton, Francine and Clive Green, and Maggie and Peter Booth, because we really do like to attract new members to our events.

For our next evening we're paying The French Horn at Sonning a return visit on Saturday 12th May. This was a very popular venue when we first visited it in 2005, and since places are limited, might I suggest you give the flyer, when it arrives at the end of March, your urgent love and attention.

Viv Schragger-Powell

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

Due to a technical hitch, my last NW piece was omitted from the 'Ol' Trout'. I briefly said that we had a very good year with just 3 minor incidents and I also thanked all the road co-ordinators for their efforts as, without them, NW would not exist.

To date we have had one minor incident involving a garden shed break-in. The police are constantly informing me of 'theft from motor vehicles' as people are still leaving articles in their cars. If you leave something on show – expect it to go. This also applies to a coat on the back seat, as the thief will assume it is hiding something. Still on the car subject, DO NOT leave your car keys downstairs at night. If left on a hook by the front door, or a hall table, a fishing rod or bamboo cane with a hook is all that's needed for the thieves to make off with the car.

We now have two Police Community Support Officers. I have met them both and they are totally committed, endeavouring to visit Loudwater every day. One of them has suggested I make a mention of smoke alarms, not exactly the usual NW topic, but it is about care in the community. Do you have smoke alarms fitted? If not, why not? They are inexpensive to buy and easy to fit and they could save your life and the lives of your family. Go on, buy one for each floor today.

June Curtis  
Area Co-ordinator.

# Club Scene

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

**Troutstream Investment Club**  
*Meets 8pm, 2nd Tuesday 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 3rd Wednesday of month*  
Chairman  
June Baish (775808)

**Garden Club**  
Chairman  
Sue Stent (712623)

**Fine Dining Club**  
Chairman  
Viv Schragger-Powell (896198)

# ROBSONS

ESTATE AGENTS