



# The Ol' Trout

THE  
LOUDWATER  
NEWSLETTER

No. 126

January 2008

## Chairman's Word.



I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year. The last couple of months of 2007 confirmed why we are so happy to be living in Loudwater surrounded by people that you can call on to help you out in an emergency! In October, John Parsons and I had been to see the presentation regarding the widening of the M25. It became apparent to us that no consideration had been made to

improve the sound absorption barriers. The residents of Chestnut Avenue and particularly Joyce Bishop were also dismayed and together with our local Councillor Leonard Spencer, they all managed to get our Loudwater Residents' Association

MP David Gauke to present a petition to Parliament. We were given a week to gather as many petitioners as possible (so if we missed you, then sorry!) and my thanks must go the following who knocked on doors and did the roads involved:

Bob Jolliffe for Rooks Hill  
Anthony Gould for Lower Plantation  
Graham Watt and Alan Schofield for Bridle Lane

Rosemary Toy for the east part of Sarratt Lane

Hazel Nest for the west part of Sarratt Lane and Ladywood Close

Diana and Sandy Parker for Loudwater Lane and Chess Lane

Bob Pickering for Glen Chess  
Frances Parsons for Harewood

And of course finally to John Parsons and June Curtis for doing the gated estate and to Heather Kenison for collating and submitting the petition on behalf of the LRA.

What also struck me at this time was

the willingness of the whole of Loudwater to help their fellow neighbours even if they were not unduly affected by the noise. We collected in excess of 350 signatures. So I thank all of you for signing the petition and will keep you advised of developments.

Another example of how we helped those around us was at Halloween. Previous years have seen some examples of anti social behaviour on the gated estate so we decided to "man the gates" this year. Tony Hale got a small team together with the approval of the Estate Board and they even managed to get Lee the security guard to stay on. He came thoughtfully armed with a tin of Quality Street much to the joy of passing children. There didn't appear to be any incidents this year and my thanks go to all that helped that evening to make it enjoyable for all.

Let's hope this community spirit can continue into 2008. We have lots of events planned and if you haven't been to an event or to one of the Clubs, perhaps that can be your New Year's resolution (easier to stick to than giving up chocolate!) You would be made most welcome.

Finally, if you would like to host this year's LRA barbecue in your garden in June/July then please call me. Have a very Happy New Year.

**Penny Wilkinson**

## Loudwater Golf Society

The 15th May 2008 is confirmed as the date for the next annual meeting, to be held at Batchworth Park Golf Club. The Club is maintained to a high standard and should be a perfect venue for our afternoon and evening activities: existing Batchworth Park members will pay a reduced entrance fee for the event. The Loudwater Golf Society is open to all Loudwater Residents' Association members: no annual fees are collected and full details of the event will be circulated to those of you who have played before or, for new members please Email me on [Roy@Sterrv.Go-plus.net](mailto:Roy@Sterrv.Go-plus.net) or telephone on 01923 779599

## Nature Spot



Sparrow hawk -  
Lunch at Appleton,  
Troutstream Way,  
22nd November  
2007 - Menu -  
freshly caught dove  
from Thatch Tower.

Pat Parsons.  
**Ed. Thanks Pat,  
great picture.**

## Welcome

Adam and Joanne Lawrence, Dorney, Trout Rise  
Ian and Ruth Robin, 4 Branksome Lodge,  
Loudwater Lane  
Mr. & Mrs. D. Marks, Trees, Trout Rise  
Pavan and Raina Kalhan and two children,  
Woodstock, Violet Way  
Gary and Kathleen Waller and three children, The  
Old Farmstead, Farm Lane  
Peter Evans, Little Wold, Sarratt Lane.  
Mr. & Mrs. Reid and daughter, Larchmead, Trout  
Rise.  
Bartosz and Geeta Kopachz, Little Thatch, Trout  
Rise

## Loudwater Residents' Association

### Chairman

Penny Wilkinson  
Treetops, Cherry Hill  
896380

### Vice Chairman

Tony Hale  
Karelia, Overstream  
774374

### Treasurer

Nicholas Vaughton  
Kingswood,  
Loudwater Ridge  
896666

### Secretary

Sue Tippen  
Dunara, Chess Lane  
774016

### Planning Secretary

Heather Kenison  
Five Trees,  
Outstream Way  
773683

### Membership Secretary

Theresa Jubber  
Hunters, Bridle Lane  
772618

### Members

Elaine Bailey  
Roy Sterry  
Colin Timms



## LRA New Year's Eve Celebration



As we were leaving the LRA New Year's Eve Party, held in Loudwater Barn, Diana Vaughton summed it all up pithily. "It was the best New Year's Eve party that the LRA has ever held". So, Colin Timms, you

scored twice in 2007. I thought the Sinatra Night was the best Cabaret we had ever put on. Now you have excelled yourself again. Thank you, and please also thank the team of your wife Carole, Tony Hale, Charles and Jo Homewood – and all the rest who put in such hard work to make our evening so memorable. I had never seen the Barn look so magnificent.

There were 52 of us this year – twice as many as last year. The attraction was obvious – great entertainment at great value. We were being offered a fancy dress ball reminiscent of the Roaring Twenties, along with a four-course meal, champagne and dancing to the Art Deco Orchestra, a superb, live 9 piece band. We were welcomed with delicious canapés and the very finest sparkling wine. The meal included, if you wished, smoked salmon, fillet steak and crème brûlée – my own personal favourites. We brought our own wine and, in typical Loudwater fashion, we were very generous with ourselves! The Orchestra played light music while we ate and then, at the command of compere Tony Hale, the LRA Vice Chairman, the dancing began. Never have I seen so many couples take the floor and after Auld Lang Syne, the dancing continued till about 1.30am. By that time I decided it was time to ask my chauffeuse (you might know her better as Davida!) to take me home. I knew I would nurse a hangover in the morning but who cared? Not even me! I was particularly pleased to see that there were many couples at the Barn who were there for the first time. I do hope they enjoyed themselves because "new faces" are vital to the LRA. Yes, of course, there were many old faces too – four former LRA Chairmen, and all the usual suspects. It was equally good to see them. Their loyalty is appreciated.

The ladies looked beautiful, the men debonair, no wonder Loudwater is so often mentioned in the National Press as a most desirable area in which to live.

Colin, again, well done. We look forward greatly to the next LRA event, presumably to be held in the Spring.

**Peter Phillips.**

**Carole & Colin Timms enjoying New Year's Eve, 1920's style**



*Ed. Thanks, Peter for such a great review: we won't have long to wait to see what Colin and his team have planned for their next event as it is on Friday 7th. March. It is being billed as a Cabaret Night and I am sure it will be a very popular event, so put the date in your diaries now and we will send you full details soon. To be added to our Email database for early details send an Email to [penjames@waitrose.com](mailto:penjames@waitrose.com)*

## Fine Dining Club

You'll never get all *that* on one fruit, I think to myself when the staff at the Blue Orchid suggest carving "Welcome Loudwater Fine Dining Club" on a watermelon. But a couple of weeks later, when twenty-five Fine Diners arrive for the Thai banquet at the Amersham-on-the-Hill restaurant, there, proudly displayed amidst a sea of purple orchid heads, is a single melon; the wording beautifully carved, and said wording on said melon surrounded by an intricate rose petal design, a prime example of exquisite styling and skill. This bodes well for the evening ahead, I thought.



There's nothing like the promise of warming Thai food in November for helping one to momentarily forget the endless winter nights ahead. Gathering in the Blue Orchid's bar area we took our aperitifs and chatted until it was time to eat. A delightful waitress in traditional Thai costume gave the Fine Diners a single orchid flower to wear whilst they sipped their Pimms, and many sported an exotic bloom alongside a Remembrance Day poppy.

Our Thai banquet was made for sharing; the Royal Platter starters (fish cakes, chicken satay, prawns, spring rolls and prawn toast), arrived on communal serving dishes, and everyone automatically offered their neighbour before helping themselves to food and accompanying sauces. Next there was a choice between the traditional Tom Kra soup, or duck with pancakes, and despite it not being the Thai norm, we had arranged – thanks to Wine Club member Gary Coster – for a "huge" Argentinean red to accompany the meal, (El Malbec de Ricardo Santos 2006), in addition to the flavoursome Chilean white (Cono Sur Gewürztraminer 2006), he had also selected. Dishes of sliced beef, steamed sea bass, grilled prawns and vegetables in soy sauce to follow, all accompanied by fragrant Thai rice. Then fruit. Then tea and coffee. Then home.

Our next event is on Saturday 16th February 2008 at the Milestone Hotel, Kensington. The sharp-eyed amongst you will now be thinking, ah ha! The first time the Fine Dining Club event has been held in London! And yes, well done - you are correct. And as ever, new members are very welcome.

**Viv Schragger-Powell**



## Returning Grazing To Chorleywood Common

In September 2006 Chorleywood Parish Council, Colney Heath Parish Council and St Alban's District Council, who own Bricket Wood and Nomansland Commons, together with the Herts Countryside Management Service, formed the South Herts Commons Grazing Group, to investigate the feasibility of re-introducing grazing to these Commons. Well over 90% of Hertfordshire's acid heathland has been lost over the previous century and the remnant that is left is all on Common Land. The Biodiversity Plan for Hertfordshire states that the re-introduction of grazing to these Commons is the best way to conserve and enhance the remnants of this ancient habitat.

The Commons in the Group are mostly managed by cutting with machines and removing the cuttings, an expensive operation as the cuttings are contaminated by dog faeces so there is the added expense of transporting them to a suitable waste site. This management preserves the open areas but does not replicate the great variation of sward found on grazed grassland. Therefore the biodiversity is declining as specialist plants and animals become increasingly rare. The grasslands found on Common Land are ancient habitats that have evolved through centuries of grazing. To conserve and restore the biodiversity of our Commons we need to return to the system that created it.

To advance these proposals, the Grazing Group has begun wide-ranging investigations and consultations with both experts and local residents. "Meet the Cattle Days" have been staged on all the sites to enable people to see the longhorn cattle, look at the various possible fencing options and to talk over their concerns with experts and council members. Fencing will be necessary to keep the cattle away from the formal recreation areas on the Common but we hope to make it as inconspicuous as possible and to have a sufficient number of gates and squeeze gaps to ensure that the public will still have free access to all of the Common. The cattle will be on the Common during the Autumn and Winter months only.



Members of the Grazing Group have recently visited Epping Forest to see how grazing has been re-introduced there. They too are grazing English Longhorns, an ancient breed, hardy, calm (we walked among them and they were in no way bothered) and large enough to make the average dog think twice. They are beef cattle so there is no question of their needing milking, a point which seems to be bothering a lot of our residents. We learnt a lot from the visit.

The council is now investigating the various sources of grant funding available to enable us to set up this project and we shall also be consulting further with our parishioners during 2008 as more information becomes available.

If you need any more information, please feel free to contact me.

**Cllr. Margaret Jarrett**

*Ed. What an interesting development: it is thanks to the Parish Council that we have such a well managed facility on our doorsteps for us all to enjoy.*

### Bridge Club.

12 members met for our second Duplicate evening of the year. These evenings are in addition to the twice monthly Chicago meetings and were greatly enjoyed by those members who attended. Our Christmas meeting which is always well supported was great fun when we drank wine and ate festive nibbles and then played bridge with a few prizes.

Three new members have recently joined the club and more would be most welcome.

**June Baish**

### Congratulations:

To Clive Radley on being awarded an M.B.E. in the Queen's New Year's Honours List. Clive was a middle order batsman who averaged over 48 in his England Cricket Test career which was cut short by injury in 1978. Clive and his wife Linda have lived in Loudwater since 1988 and I'm sure all Loudwater residents will add their congratulations on his award.



## Theatre Club



Twenty-seven members enjoyed the club's most recent outing on Saturday the 17th November for an evening at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre Guildford. It's one of our favourites because of the usually high standard of the productions and its excellent restaurant. The play "Romantic Comedy" was first performed in the late

### 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

*Meets 4th Wednesday of month*

Chairman

Sue Stent (712623)

#### Fine Dining Club

Chairman

Viv Schragger-Powell  
(896198)

70's and since been a worldwide success. This production starred Tom Conti and a young Australian actress Kate Atkinson, in roles which involved them being on-stage for almost the entire performance. The setting is in America, the dialogue full of typically American one-liners - Conti is a master at this and Kate his equal in every respect. The other four members of the cast added to a memorable evening and received a tremendous ovation from the audience in this small (590 seat) friendly theatre.

#### Jack Prince

Our next outing is to see a matinee performance of The Mikado at the Coliseum on 23rd February 2008. Please let Penny Wilkinson know if you require tickets.

**Peter Laule, Chairman**

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thanks to :-**

## Garden Club



If you weren't at the Gardeners' Question Time held in November you will not have heard the answer to the intriguing question "What can gardeners do to avoid fatigue?" The answer, naturally, is very simple, "don't garden". However the panel did take the question a little more seriously and gave a number of ideas as to

how best to reduce wear and tear on the gardener without taking away the pleasure of tending the beloved garden. Questions tackled during this highly enjoyable evening covered the full gamut of gardening queries - and the evening was enhanced, as always, by the provision of expertly flavoured mulled wine and tasty nibbles.

Our January social will be held at Ulla Hauser's home on 23rd January - with more wine and refreshments on offer! On the morning of 13th March we are arranging to take a party to the Royal Horticultural Society's London Flower show the theme of which is "The world of plants".

It will include competition entries of early camellias, daffodils and rhododendrons. If you would like to join this party please contact Sue Stent ([sj.stent@btinternet.com](mailto:sj.stent@btinternet.com)) for further details - admission £5, plus coach fare.

We are joined on 23rd April by the 2007 President of the National Rose Society, Mrs Ann Bird who will be talking on, what else, "Roses for Pleasure".

For further details of any of our events please contact Sue or her other committee members, Jane Prickett, Sigi Enbergs, Sally Levinson and Gill Fulker.

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

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Acting Editor: Roy Sterry (779599)

Email: [roy@sterry.go-plus.net](mailto:roy@sterry.go-plus.net)

Designer: Carole Timms

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**ROBSONS**

ESTATE AGENTS