



The Ol' Trout

No. 130

January 2009

Chairman's Word.

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year. When writing this the LRA were busy arranging the Glenn Miller New Year's Eve party which I am sure will be a huge success and enjoyed by many.

It looks as if this will be the last New Year's Eve celebration at Loudwater Barn. We have been informed that the Masonic Trust, who own Loudwater Farm and Barn, are likely to put it on the market. We are now beginning to think the unthinkable in that we may not have use of the Barn after March 2009. Our Cabaret Night on 7th March may well be our last event at this venue. The Committee and others have spent considerable time and effort making this facility into a "community" centre and now it looks as if we will have to find an alternative venue and this is not likely to be within walking distance. However, if you have any suggestions for a venue, please let me know!

After some serious lobbying by Heather Kenison and John Parsons, it seems David Gauke, our MP, has finally got the Highways Agency to agree to erect sound barriers on the slip road at junction 18 when the M25 is widened. Let's hope this does reduce the noise on the estate from the M25.

Response to the questionnaire regarding incidents in Loudwater Lane has not been as good as hoped. It may be that many of the "incidents" actually affect drivers passing through rather than those living in Loudwater. We will still of course be lobbying for the Vehicle Activated Speed sign but if you have any incidents/accidents to report please email me on loudwater@penjames.waitrose.com.

Finally have a very happy and healthy 2009.

Penny Wilkinson

Loudwater Golf Society

Monday 18th May 2009 is confirmed as the date for the next annual meeting, to be held at West Herts Golf Club. The Club is one of Hertfordshire's oldest golf clubs which in recent years has invested heavily and should be a perfect venue for our afternoon and evening activities. The Loudwater Golf Society is open to all Loudwater Residents' Association members and their guests. 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, Robert Fulker, at rfassoc@lineone.net or telephone on 01923 778302.

New Year's Eve



A glittering introduction to 2009 was provided at the Barn: resplendent with wall and ceiling decorations, huge gold and silver table candelabras, gold hats for the gentlemen and silver feather headdresses and gold necklaces for the women. Above the main doors hung huge silver, inflatable 2009 numerals; above the dance floor hung netted silver and gold balloons, ready for their discharge at midnight. A champagne reception complete with varied and delicious canapés was followed by a five-course dinner. An eleven-piece Glenn Miller style band, the 'Art Deco Orchestra' sat at one end of the Barn and played whilst people enjoyed their dinner and the company of their neighbours, friends and guests. When replete they all then danced the night away, celebrating the passing of 2008 with a glass (or two) of champagne.



Fifty eight people attended this magnificent evening with approximately one third comprising guests of residents. Particular thanks must go to Colin and Carole Timms and to

Charles and Jo Homewood for their days of hard work and preparation; additionally Lorna Hawxwell, Tony Hale, Buzz and Gary Coster and Dave and Sue Tippen, plus the army of wonderful people that turned up the following morning to

help with the clearing up

Sue Tippen

PS. Colin Timms's next event is the Cabaret Night, which will be held on Saturday 7th March. This may, but hopefully won't be, the Barn's swan song.

Welcome

Carl & Leanne Hall and family
Ladywood House, 2 Ladywood Close

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, Troutstream Way
773683

Membership Secretary

Theresa Jubber
Hunters, Bridle Lane
772618

Members

Elaine Bailey
Don Moore
Roy Preedy
Roy Sterry
Colin Timms

FORTHCOMING CHARITABLE EVENTS

The Watford Child Contact Centre AGM

23rd April at 6pm at the Beechwood Family Centre, 453 St Albans Road, Watford. The main speaker will be His Honour Judge Rhodes.

The Watford Contact Centre facilitates contact between children and their non-resident parent in a safe and friendly environment. The Registered Charity is looking for more volunteers to help with this very rewarding work. If you like children, care about families, and are willing to give 4 hours one Sunday each month between 10 am and 2pm, please contact Davida Phillips on 01923 778431 or email peterphillips35@tiscali.co.uk.

Race Night.

Saturday 10th October at Loudwater Farm

37 Loudwater race-goers (why so few?) turned up to make their fortune at our Race Night. After the collapse of our economy here was our chance to recover our losses.

Well, Tony Hale won £37 and Robert Kenison won £26. This is more than they would have made on stocks and shares! Also, on another optimistic note, it was good to see so many new faces.

It was somewhat off-putting that the last race was won by "Boring Old Farts". This was quite inappropriate for this hardy gang of race-goers. The list of the most heavily backed horses in the eight races was interesting. "Good Looking". "Hard Work". "No Qualifications". "Legless". "Tied Down". "No Regrets". "Broken Hearted". "Early Riser". Perhaps we need a psychologist to explain why these were the most popular choices of our fellow residents.

A fish and chips supper was enjoyed during the interval, yes, with vinegar, tomato ketchup, even tartare sauce, followed by some lovely ice-cream cornettos. The tote was expertly run, as usual, by James Wilkinson and Roy Preedy. Our worthy Chairman (or is it Chair?), Penny Wilkinson acted with great aplomb as M.C. Thanks also go to Colin and Carole Timms, Tony Hale and Heather Kenison for arranging it all.

Peter Phillips.

Loudwater Troutstream Investment Club

Trevor Slade has replaced Godfrey Crook as Chairman of the Troutstream Investment Club. (Godfrey served the Club as an excellent Chairman for 5 years) At the same time, Diana Vaughton replaces Trevor and Mary Slade as Hon. Secretary while Tony Bradford remains as Hon. Treasurer. These decisions were made at the Club's AGM on 11th November.

With the Stock Market at or near the bottom, (just a prayer from an Investment Club member) surely this is an ideal time to join? Contact Trevor on 01442 831918 Ed.

Wine Club Christmas Dinner 2008 at Chenies Manor



With so many club members, it was inevitable that there would be a certain anticipational buzz going around with regards the choice of new venue for the Wine Club Christmas dinner. But historic Chenies Manor, conveniently located less than two miles from Loudwater, proved to be a worthy and enthusiastically received setting.

On a chilly November night, eighty club members and guests enjoyed a glass or two of sparkling rosé wine as they gathered to greet one another and start proceedings in one of several reception rooms within the main house. Lots of ancient artefacts adorning the place; ceremonial pikes, tapestries depicting medieval scenes and a massive Charles I table right in the centre of the room. Lovely historic atmosphere – not dissimilar to a film location, but that's because the place is so often used as one. Then, through the house, and round to an outbuilding, and dinner served in the oaken-beamed Garden Room. With its high ceiling and wooden rafters and set with familiar Wine Club paraphernalia (all eighty chairs were brought over from The Barn), the place had a sort of "The Barn" feel to it – but with a significant upgrade. The Christmassy food was very good, and of course, (need it be said) the white, red and dessert wine, as expertly chosen by Gary Coster – flowed like Wine Club wine tends to do. There was even a gift of Champagne from our friends over at Rickmansworth Waitrose, following on from our recent tasting there.

Uncertainty surrounding our future use of The Barn at Loudwater Farm was an inevitable topic of conversation, and gazing round at so many Wine Club members enjoying their annual dinner; it was obvious that this club is a pivotal element of the Loudwater social scene. Surely securing a future venue for our club must now be a top priority...

Tony Hale.

Planning Applications

Decisions on previously reported applications

08/1273	Greenacres, Troutstream Way. Block paved driveway with minor enlargement of access with replacement posts & wooden gates.	Delegated. Granted
08/1375	Cedar Building, Rose Garden Mews, Troutstream Way. Change of use of store to part estate office & part store with internal alterations & mezzanine floor.	Delegated. Granted
08/1317	Trimbles, Loudwater Drive. Extension to single storey rear garden pavilion, including basement storage.	Delegated. Granted
08/1407	Walden Lodge, Loudwater Lane. Extension to existing gravel driveway & erection of front boundary wall & piers to max. height of 1.2m.	Delegated. Granted
08/1514	Contino, Whisperwood. Amendment to 08/0412 & 08/0413CAC. Single storey front & side ext., 3 storey side & rear ext., new porch, ext. to loft accommodation to incorporate double garage & swimming pool enclosure.	Delegated. Refused
08/1416	Chenies, Bridle Lane. Part retrospective. Blocking up of existing dormer.	Delegated. Granted
08/1606	Cherry Lawn, Bridle Lane. 2 storey front & side ext., single storey front & rear ext., internal alterations.	Delegated. Granted
08/1524	Willows, Loudwater Drive. Single storey rear infill ext. with lantern roof light.	Delegated. Granted
08/1488	Tanglewood, Sarratt Lane. Amendment to 07/2182, single storey front & rear exts., 2 storey side ext. and side dormer ext. to garage.	Delegated. Granted
08/1500	The White House, Trout Rise. Dormer windows & roof light to rear roof slope.	Delegated. Granted
08/1681	Dene Cottage, Overstream. Dem. of existing carport & sheds and erection of single storey & 2 storey side extensions.	Delegated. Granted

Applications Awaiting Decisions.

08/0672	Walnut Burrow, Loudwater Drive. Construction of dwelling underground with associated access, landscaping & parking.	Committee. LRA objected. Refused. Appeal to DoE
08/0673CAC	Walnut Burrow, Loudwater Drive. As above .	Committee. LRA objected. Refused. Appeal to DoE
08/1410	Shiv Villa, Hillpoint. Erection of steel gates, brick piers & close boarded fencing to boundary to max. height of 3m.	Delegated. LRA objected. Refused. Appeal to DoE

New applications until 24th December 2008

08/1675	Ashirwad, Bridle Lane. Part conversion of integral garage into habitable room, single storey front porch, 2 storey front, side & rear extension.	Delegated. Granted
08/1710	Ladywood Cottage, Sarratt Lane. Single storey side garage extension, 2 storey rear extension & 2 storey front extension with increase in roof height.	Delegated. Granted
08/1746AOD	Land between Larchmead & The Farm House, Trout Rise. Resubmission of 08/0294AOD. Erection of detached 2 storey, 5 bed. Dwelling, to include rear solar panels & plant room.	Delegated. Granted
08/1908	Loudwater Farm, Loudwater Lane. Change of use of farmhouse to residential (class c3) with alterations to elevations and new boiler room, to include change of use of outbuildings to provide car parking and guest accommodation.	Committee. Granted
08/1899	The Water Garden, Lower Plantation. Loft conversion with dormer windows to front & rear elevations, raise in roof levels.	Delegated. Withdrawn
08/2117	The Water Garden, Lower Plantation. Resubmission as above.	Delegated
08/1891	4 Hill Point, Loudwater Lane. Hard & soft landscaping including paved driveway, changes to land levels, sliding gates to frontage, erection of timber shed, gazebo, pond, fountain, waterfall & stone furniture.	Delegated. Granted
08/2064	Chenies, Bridle Lane. Part retrospective. 2 storey rear thatched roof extension.	Delegated. LRA objected
08/2092/RSP	Aisling, Troutstream Way. Retrospective: Amendment to 06/0996 & 06/1165. Demolition of existing dwelling & garage & erection of det. dwelling to include 3 roof lights to front & rear.	Delegated
08/2240	Micklefield Hall, Sarratt Lane. Conversion of Grade 11 Listed farm building from agricultural use to a function venue with internal alterations, associated landscaping and parking.	Delegated
08/2241LBC	Micklefield Hall, Sarratt Lane, as above.	Delegated
08/2235CLPD	Greenacre, Troutstream Way. Certificate of Lawful Proposed Development. Installation of solar panels.	Delegated

LBC - Listed Building Consent

CAC - Conservation Area Consent

AOD - Approval of Details

RSP - Retrospective Application

OUT- Outline Planning Permission

CLPD - Certificate of Lawful Proposed Development



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Garden Club



A hardy bunch of travellers went to the wonderful Stowe Landscape Gardens in September. We were given a private tour by a most knowledgeable volunteer from the National Trust and some of the party were able to gain access to see the interior of the magnificent buildings.



Once again Mont-au-Source was the venue for the Gardeners' Question Time - the Loudwater Garden Club's perennial favourite end of year event. Our distinguished panel answered a broad spectrum of

questions from a packed audience. As always, seasonal refreshments were served, and we would like to thank Ulla for opening her home to us again. The 2009 programme will kick off with a New Year social and quiz evening on 28th January at 8.00pm. Thereafter we are planning a programme of visits to the RHS Exhibitions in Westminster featuring the London Plant & Design Show (February) and the London Greener Gardening Show (March).

Following a talk by the Garden Manager, there will be a visit to Ashridge College to see the garden restoration project and to Stevington to visit the garden belonging to another previous speaker, Kathy Brown. The Gardens of the Rose in St. Albans is another planned venue for the summer. Whenever we make these trips we arrange for door-to-door coach travel to maximise our enjoyment and minimise the hassle.

As with all the other clubs which use the facilities at Loudwater Farm barn there is a degree of uncertainty as to our continued use of this meeting place. More news of events will be publicised in the 'Ol Trout or please call Sue Stent (712623) for more information.

Gypsies and Travellers

An independent panel of inspectors published a report, on 18th December 2008, which endorsed the East of England Regional Assembly's (EERA) plan that all local authorities should provide additional pitches for gypsies and travellers. They have recommended that TRDC should provide an additional fifteen pitches. The current authorised allocation is 11 pitches; therefore by 2011 the total provision will be 26. All local authorities, with the exception of Watford and Stevenage, are now required to plan for at least fifteen additional pitches by 2011, irrespective of local need.

As yet TRDC have not identified the location of proposed pitches. This is planned for the spring 2009 and will be followed by a twelve week period of full consultation. Apart from information in the local press, TRDC is planning to notify every household in the District about this important issue. The LRA will be making appropriate representations when the locations of the proposed sites are known, but would also encourage residents to respond during the consultation phase. The final policy will be published in summer 2009.

For those residents who are interested in reading more on this subject, the full report by the planning inspectors can be found at:

www.goeast.gov.uk/goeast/planning/regional_planning/687221/

Alternatively an information pack is available at: www.eera.gov.uk/News/public-information-packs.

Loudwater Lane

Residents may have read an article in the "Chorleywood Voice", that a development of 10 homes was proposed for Loudwater Lane. This proposal is a result of a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, which has been developed by consultants on behalf of TRDC. Based on this assessment TRDC made a request for sites to be nominated on which homes could be built. Those proposed were assessed against various criteria. The owners/agents of Branksome Lodge in Loudwater Lane have put forward their site. As yet there is no decision on the type of housing to be built, but it is likely that a proportion will be affordable homes.

TRDC will go out to public consultation on the proposed sites in the New Year. They plan to include information in the TRDC Times, which is circulated to all homes in the District, and in the local press. The LRA will comment on this proposal during the consultation period. Any residents who wish to discuss the subject with TRDC should contact the Development Planning Department.

Heather Kenison

Thanks, Heather for these updates: with all the work on Planning, Motorway noise reduction, Travellers and now another 10 houses in Loudwater Lane, I hope you managed a nice break over the Christmas holidays. Ed

Loudwater Wine Club AGM - 14th December 2008

We wuz robbed! But more of that later. Nearly 40 members attended the AGM this year, which was conducted with his customary aplomb by Chairman, Tony Hale. He had to work harder than usual. The Club Coordinator, Gary Coster was ill and Club Secretary, Lorna Hawxwell, was busy in the kitchen. Everything (of course) went exactly to plan and Tony was re-elected Chairman. The Treasurer, Martin Powell, announced a profit. Some of the extra money will go towards buying Premium Bonds. Nicholas Vaughton, another absentee due to illness, was unanimously voted in again as Auditor. After the formal meeting, which I gather was the fastest yet, taking less than 25 minutes, food and wine was served. (What else would you expect from this stylish club)? Lorna did the cooking, a lovely courgette and fennel soup, a choice of cottage pie or chicken in white wine, summer-berry cheesecake, fruit salad and seasonal mince pies. The wines, chosen by the committee were, as always, exceptional. Now to my "we wuz robbed!" There was the annual quiz, this time conducted very professionally by Mike and Margaret Thorpe. Our table answered correctly 18 of the 20 questions. Yet we didn't win, losing out to two tables with 15 marks. Why? Not because I was given a handicap for being the cleverest but because we had more members on our table than did the other three tables. We couldn't help being popular! Did I mope and whinge? Naturally! We wouldn't have won even had we got all the answers correct. Mr. Chairman, I demand a re-assessment of the marking. (Only joking - you did present our table with a bottle of superb champagne. Thank you).

Peter Phillips.

Fine Dining at Waddesdon's Five Arrows....

It's so gratifying to see a lovely old building being put to good use, for everyone to enjoy, long after its original purpose has been fulfilled. The Grade II listed building which is home to the Five Arrows Hotel and Restaurant was specifically erected on the site of an old coaching inn to house the architects, craftsmen and various artisans working on the constitution of what was to become Waddesdon Manor, way back in 1887. You might say it's the grandest builder's Portakabin ever. But now it is home to a charming little hotel and restaurant, appropriately named after the family emblem of Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, depicting five arrows pointing upwards, tied with a ribbon.

On a filthy November night, twenty-three Fine Diners gathered to enjoy a meal in what turned out to be a very cosy private dining room indeed. Clearly our idea of what seats twenty-three in comfort and the restaurant's, differs somewhat, but our enjoyment of the evening wasn't diminished, because everyone certainly seemed to be enjoying themselves. The food was modern European and featured local produce such as Waddesdon pigeon (doubtless from a long line of successful banking pigeons), Aylesbury duck, and locally produced pork. My starter of Mille-feuille of crab was particularly tasty, and those who chose the same dish agreed.

By way of sensitivity to the prevailing economic gloom, our next Fine Dining event is very attractively priced,

and is being held at the Bedford Arms Hotel, Chenies, on Saturday 7th February 2009. For those who have not been there for some time, I can report that the food has improved greatly of late, and has been favourably sampled by some of your fellow club members. As ever, new club members are most welcome to come and see what we're all about.

Viv Schragger-Powell

Banged up in Bangkok.



Our Editor and former LRA Chairman, Roy Sterry, decided that he and his wife, Christine, should treat themselves to a trip to Bangkok and some of the Thai Islands in November. After all, she was celebrating a rather special birthday. They decided to take their son Jamie with them, and his girl-friend, Emily. It all started so well. They flew to Bangkok, went on to Krabi, then to Phuket, and back to Bangkok to relax before their rather long flight home. But hello! The PAD Yellow shirts ("People's Alliance for Democracy") had other ideas. They took over both airports in Bangkok to make sure that no flights could enter the City or, in the Sterry's case, depart from there. Because Jamie and Emily had earlier return tickets they were able to escape on a military plane. Roy and Christine were stuck in, don't laugh, their 5 star luxury hotel. Don't laugh because they had to pay for it with their own money and, probably more importantly, Christine was desperate to get back because her mum was ill with heart problems. Luckily she was able to email a gang of friends to look after Pat, her mum, which made it easier for her but it wasn't the ideal solution by any means.

In the meantime, they chased around British Airways, the British Embassy, and a whole host of travel agents to find ways to get out of Bangkok - with little success. Then, eureka! Christine managed to get a cancellation on the Orient Express which was leaving Bangkok for Singapore, with a "guarantee" of a flight from Singapore back to Heathrow. It was a three-day long train journey, inordinately expensive, but it was the only way to get home. Christine just had to see her mum. They had set out on the 12th November, were due back on the 27th November and finally returned on the 5th December! No wonder Godfrey Crook said prayers for them at the Wine Club Annual Christmas dinner! I suppose one could be cynical and say that the Sterrys were "incarcerated" in a 5 star hotel and then returned home via the best train service in the world. **BUT**, Christine desperately needed to get home for her mum's sake, and it has still not been settled who is paying for the extra days at the Bangkok hotel, nor the train journey, costing thousands. So far, the insurance companies do not want to know, nor do the travel agents, nor do the airlines. Roy and Christine have a big fight ahead. Let us all wish them "good luck".

Peter Phillips.

Theatre Club Carmen - An Alternate View



The recently deceased Clive Barnes, the English born principle theatre and ballet critic in New York for four decades stated that his much feared reviews brought more patrons into the theatres than sycophantic notices, although reviled by producers and directors.

Club Scene

Troutstream Investment Club

Meets 8pm, 2nd Tuesday of month

Chairman

Trevor Slade (01442 831918)

Theatre Club

Chairman

Peter Laule (778114)

Wine Club

Meets 8pm, 4th Friday of month

Chairman

Tony Hale (774374)

Bridge Club

Meets 7.30pm, 1st and 3rd Wednesday of month

Chairman

Sheila Fawcner-Corbett (775695)

Garden Club

Meets 4th Wednesday of month

Chairman

Sue Stent (712623)

Fine Dining Club

Chairman

Viv Schragger-Powell

This notice is written with the same object, but not to the same literary standard. More than sixty years ago my second visit to Covent Garden was to see Carmen. During the intervening years it has been a lifetime's ambition to see a truly satisfying performance of Bizet's masterpiece, possibly the greatest Opera ever written. Needless to say this performance by Glyndebourne Touring Opera at Milton Keynes, allegedly based on the production that I saw at Glyndebourne in 2002, itself a failure due to the miscasting of Carmen herself, was yet another disappointment.

The overture and prelude to Act 4 were played at breakneck speed by an undermanned orchestra, a travesty of what one should have heard. Additionally, the preludes to the intervening Acts

were poorly performed by the principal woodwind soloists. Micaela, the best of the protagonists sang her first act duet with Don Jose and her Act 3 aria with distinction. The same could not be said of Carmen, who made a poor artistic impression. Apart from routine singing, her attempts at dancing and playing the castanets, which she threw away in frustration in the Act 2 seduction scene were risible. Don Jose was sung reasonably well, his best moment was made in the Flower Song. Escamillo, was the least memorable of the four soloists.

It is kindest to throw a veil over the production. The opening Act was far too compressed for its setting on

this stage. The second Act lacked authentic atmosphere, but the third Act had a believable setting on a misty mountain pass. The final Act made no attempt to utilise the stage not giving any impression of a bullring. In particular, the parade of the cuadrilla being particularly ineffective. I still await the pleasure of attending a satisfactory performance and like the composer, expect to remain disconsolate forever. Prior to the performance, 21 members enjoyed another excellent meal at Paris House Restaurant in Woburn.

Maurice Escow.

Maurice's "an alternate view" is less than flattering but it's his honest, considered opinion. I bow to no man in my admiration for his expertise and knowledge of opera. That said I thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience as, I think almost all of us did - certainly all those I talked to. At his suggestion we took the scenic route to the restaurant, admiring the deer in the park, had an excellent meal and a very happy party went home after the performance

Peter Laule

Neighbourhood Watch

June Curtis, our Area NW Coordinator, tells me "Because things are so quiet, I am at a loss for words for the Ol' Trout this time". What great news that is! With the new OWL system operated by the local police we now receive Emails directly from them about incidents in Rickmansworth and Chorleywood that can warn us to be on our guard in case they become a threat to Loudwater. If you want to be added to the NW OWL system, email June Curtis at pia265.t21@btinternet.com

The Ol' Trout is the newsletter of the Loudwater Residents' Association. It is published quarterly. Acting Editor: Roy Sterry (779599) Email: roy@sterry.go-plus.net Designer: Carole Timms
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