



The Ol' Trout

No. 133

October 2009

Chairman's Word

Loudwater has remained relatively unchanged when compared with many residential areas conceived and mainly built in the pre war period. The first sighting of this unique haven is a major reason why most of us moved and continue living here.

Of course properties purchased have been modernised by new owners but in general terms this has been undertaken in a balanced way with modest disruption to neighbours while the improvements were carried out.



It is thus of concern that this state of affairs seems to be changing with many planning applications on such a scale as to make one question why some people bought the houses in the first place?

The modification work on such projects often taking over a year to complete with significant disruption with contractors vehicles parked on our narrow roads not to mention the associated noise generated. We are however in favour of house owners improving their properties for their own benefit provided alterations are in keeping with the overall balance and beauty of Loudwater. We would however request owners include in the contracts with their builders that contractors and workers vehicles be restricted and kept within the boundaries of the property and specifically exclude them from parking all day on our roads.

Even more alarming the dreaded words 'over development' and 'infill' are entering our vocabulary. Of course the majority of residents in Loudwater are against such applications except understandably those who stand to gain financially. While appreciating the dilemma faced by owners receiving such tempting offers from developers, particularly those in or near retirement, and who, while asset rich, find themselves limited regarding available cash resources, the policy of

the LRA is unequivocal in its opposition to any such planning applications that are not in keeping with the overall harmony that has been created and we all cherish in Loudwater.

Tony Hale

Well Done - Jonah



We must congratulate Jonah Surkes elder son of Tony and Andrea Surkes of Rooks Hill who gave a phenomenal performance in the quick fire round of the national final, thus winning the very first "Times Spelling Bee" competition.

Jonah with his three team mates beat every school in the country and had his photo on the front page of The Times as well appearing on BBC TV.

Thanks to Sandy Parker for sending this report on his young neighbour. Ed.

Coffee Morning

The next LRA coffee morning will be held at my house, Beeches, Trout Rise, on Friday 2nd October from 10am.

All Loudwater residents are welcome - it's very informal - if you would like to come, just turn up on the day.

If you have a new neighbour who you think may be interested, please let them know or better still, bring them with you.

Finally, if anyone is willing to host a coffee morning, please contact me and we can arrange a date convenient to you.

Hope to see lots of you on 2nd October.

Elaine Bailey

01923 771630

Welcome

Zaheen Adamjee and Abintah Zuberi and their two sons Wahid and Raiyan, Appleton, Troutstream Way.

Garden Club



In June the Club discovered a local gem "Hall Barn" in Beaconsfield – an expansive landscaped garden – almost on our doorsteps. A delicious tea with home-made cake was served on the terrace by our welcoming hostess The Hon. Jenefer Farnscombe, whose garden was open under the National Gardens Scheme.



Our much valued Gardeners' Question Time panel were guests of honour at the Club's summer evening, held in Ulla's lovely home. The weather wasn't kind to us but notwithstanding the rain the panel toured round with a few hardly souls. The panel gave us their expert (and sometimes humorous) advice and at "half-time" wine and canapés were served. Then the panel gave us some potted biographies and recommended their Top Gardening Tips. As always they entered into the spirit of the occasion with great wit and wisdom!

In September the club will be having an illustrated talk on the Chelsea Physic Garden (to be held in the small barn of Loudwater Farm) in preparation for a Club visit to Chelsea next spring. This will be followed on 28th October by a plant exchange at the home of the Homewood's – this will be an afternoon event). Our final meeting for 2009 will be a demonstration of seasonal decorations by a professional arranger.

We meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month and for further information about the Club and any events please contact sue_stent@o2.co.uk.

Sue Stent

Apologies from the Editor.

Sorry to Sue Stent and her very active Garden Club, but the following was omitted from her contribution to the last edition. Sue was describing the visit to The Manor at Stevington.....

"Kathy Brown the owner couldn't have been more welcoming and informative. A guided tour by the creator of a garden certainly adds another dimension to the experience, especially when that creator is an excellent chef as well. The rose petal sponge lived up to its billing as did the lemon and lavender sponge – our tea following on from a terrific lunch stop at Frosts Garden centre – perhaps the garden club is going to rival the Fine Diners!

As the 'Ol Trout goes to print we are visiting another garden, Hall Barn in Beaconsfield. From a plantswoman's garden in Bedfordshire to a landscape garden closer to home there is always much to admire and appreciate."

Marathon Golf.

Four Moor Park Golf Club ladies, including Sarah Jolliffe, took part in the Macmillan Longest Day Golf Challenge, playing 4 rounds of 18 holes of golf in one day on 8th June. The first round started as dawn broke at 5am. The day involved walking 12 miles, about 362 shots per person, each round having fresh caddies! Simultaneously, Sandy Lodge, Batchworth Park and Northwood Golf Clubs participated on their home courses.

The Moor Park girls raced around the West course completing their first round in a record 2 hrs and 10 minutes (normally a 3 hr round). A quick cup of coffee and the second round (36 holes) completed by 10.30am! Some refreshment and off again to complete the day in 12 hours – all exhausted but still feeling good! The best result was that the 4 Clubs had each raised money for Macmillan Cancer Support to sponsor the day and the grand total was £17,000. A very good day at the office!!!!

Thanks Sarah and well done from all of us golfers who struggle to do one round in 4 hours. Ed

A new service for children in Loudwater.

The service at Loudwater Farm is part of the Surestart Children's Centre programme. This term we are running a free drop in playtime developing communication skills.

The Surestart Children's Centre for Chorleywood & Loudwater will be based at Chorleywood Library, but we will be running outreach services at such venues as Loudwater Farm and Bullsland Hall. If all goes well we will increase services at Loudwater Farm from January 2010.

For further information contact

Sandra Mooney, Manager

Chorleywood & Loudwater Children's Centre

Lead agency Pre-school Learning Alliance

01923 287305 or 07966 584824

email sandra.mooney@pre-school.org.uk

Gwen Gardner Hopkins

1912 - 2009

If ever you could wish for a better neighbour, you need look no further than Gwen Gardner Hopkins, a resident of Bridle Lane since 1938.

A woman of immense faith, Gwen took the commandment to 'love thy neighbour' literally. Having lived opposite her all my life, my own family was to benefit hugely from this love. She was an intelligent and gifted woman, interested in people and always active, playing tennis regularly until just a few years ago.

Gwen saw many changes in Loudwater and took great interest in the community and its activities. She was always grateful to those who contributed to maintaining the nature of this area in which she and her husband, Desmond, enjoyed so many happy years with their family.

We send our sincere condolences to Jill, Bob and Shirley on the loss of their unique mother.

Buzz Coster

Shirley Garrett

1935 - 2009

It was in the mid 80's that Shirley, her husband Derrick and their daughters, Jo and Jane, moved from Pinner to settle in Overstream, Loudwater. They loved it here, even at a time when our community activities were virtually non-existent. Derrick (a successful journalist) would have so enjoyed the clubs - and would have been an active and enthusiastic participant. Sadly though, he died before that was possible. Shirley, however, was able to become involved. The Theatre Club, the Wine Club and the Fine Dining Club - they were all absolutely up her street. She enjoyed socialising, she relished trips abroad and she loved her food.

What was so special about Shirley though, was the extraordinary cheerfulness and stoicism that she showed in the face of a widespread deterioration in her health and wellbeing. She had a warm, friendly personality and a great sense of fun - which never faltered in spite of all her problems. Among many others, she had a wonderful friend in Barbara Hancock, who accompanied Shirley on most of her trips and outings. Their companionship provided tremendous support for her.

Shirley died on 28th June after a tragic accident from which she was unable to recover. Her cheerfulness in adversity, her humour and her indomitable spirit will be long remembered. It was a real pleasure to have known her and been her friend.

Tony Bradford

Theatre Club

On Saturday the 24th of October we are off to a venue which is a club favourite - the Yvonne Arnaud at Guildford. It's a comfortable and inviting theatre which, whatever the weather, offers us a most attractive package including good seating, a free programme between two persons and a pre-show dinner. If our last trip there is anything to go by the meal will be excellent.

We have chosen Moliere's classic French farce "The Hypochondriac" described by the critics as "anarchic, irreverent and hysterically funny". It was his last play and one of his best.

Our committee will be meeting shortly to plan our next outing, early in the new year, and we'll be very pleased to receive any ideas or suggestions from anyone who can assist us.

Peter Laule

Loudwater Wine Club

Wines from Portugal - September 2009

Lindsay Oram was on top form for this event where she significantly extended our experience of Portuguese wines beyond Port and Madeira. Having only tried three wines from Portugal at LWC events since the club was founded, we were treated to a wide array of wines from the world's eleventh largest wine producer. Portugal specialises in using its own unique grape varieties, most of which are used in blends rather than as single varietals. The warm climate particularly favours red wines. No tasting of wines from Portugal would be complete, however, without a taste of Port. Lindsay brought a 20-year old Tawny, wood-matured and served chilled which had everyone smacking their lips with pleasure. She also brought a vintage Ruby, smooth as silk which slipped down a treat.

As always, Lindsay's talk was sprinkled with references to suitable food matches for her choice of wines with recipe cards supplied to whet our appetites. Anyone who was looking forward to a Blue Peter lesson in making a bedside lamp out of an old Mateus Rosé bottle was sadly disappointed. The rest of us had a great evening.

Future events:

23rd October **Pinot Gris & Pinot Noir** at The Barn, Loudwater Farm (Lena Inger)

27th November **Christmas Dinner** at The Bedford Arms, Chenies

Numbers for this event will be severely restricted so book now! Priority will be given to those who have renewed their membership.

13th December **Annual General Meeting and Christmas Lunch** followed by 'The Quiz!'

Full details of all events past, present and future are on the LWC website loudwaterwineclub.org.uk

Fine Dining Club



Hartwell House, the historic Grade 1-listed country mansion set deep in the heart of the Aylesbury countryside, was the grand setting for the August Fine Dining Club summer luncheon.

The certain uncertainty of the British summer weather had to be accounted for when planning the day, so we hedged our bets by taking our aperitif (a refreshing rosé Crémant de Bourgogne), outside on the lawn, and afterwards, twenty-four Fine Diners headed indoors to the private Doric dining room for a superb three-course lunch. Thus, we were able to experience and enjoy the magnificent country setting on a perfect summer's day, and partake in a delicious meal together.

The menu selection included a choice between a light sweetcorn soup with crispy chorizo sausage, or goat's cheese puff pastry or cured salmon for starters, and the Buckinghamshire classic Aylesbury duck, or shoulder of lamb, or Pollack for mains, with a light orange parfait, or strawberry cheesecake or chocolate tart for dessert. An added bonus was that once tea and coffee with fudge petit fours had been taken, diners were able to explore and enjoy the Capability Brown inspired gardens before we headed back home in the late afternoon.

Hartwell House is one of those places you know about - but it's not until you visit and learn something of the history that you appreciate just how significant it is. Whether you go to enjoy a dinner or a lunch, or just for afternoon tea, I can highly recommend a visit - especially on a summer's day when you can thoroughly enjoy the magnificent gardens.

It was a great pleasure to welcome new Club members Rita and Joshua Galvin who have lived in Trout Rise for many years, and to welcome back Lorna Hawxwell after too long an absence.

Our next event will be in marked contrast to Hartwell in terms of setting and season. This will be an evening meal to be held on Saturday 7th November at the Beetle and Wedge, a charmingly rustic and informal restaurant, with a great reputation, on the banks of the Thames near Moulsoford, Oxfordshire. Flyers will be sent out before October, and as ever, new members are most welcome to join us.

Viv Schragger-Powell

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 Fawkner-Corbett (775695)

Garden Club

Meets 4th Wednesday of month
Chairman
Sue Stent (712623)

Fine Dining Club

Chairman
Viv Schragger-Powell (896198)

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Tony Walker

1927 - 2009

Tony Walker moved into Willow Tern, Overstream, Loudwater in 1961. Born in Rickmansworth he was educated at Watford Grammar School, joining the day war was declared 4th September 1939. After school he served his National Service in the Royal Navy. He spent most of his career at the thriving boatbuilding business at Frogmoor Wharf founded by his father in 1905 and where during their 80 year occupation of the premises they built some 200 narrow boats, butty boats and other craft until the site was sold in 1989 to Tesco. He recorded the history of the Grand Union Canal and the part played by Walkers' in his book "Walkers' of Ricky" published in 1991. He also published in 2000 "Aye, Aye, Sir!" highly acclaimed as a record of the final years of the Navy at Bute and life as a National Serviceman. Tony was a boat builder, timber merchant, author, publisher, historian, raconteur and sailor. An outstanding athlete and rugby player in his younger days, in 1949 he tragically caught the virus Poliomyelitis which left him severely disabled, the crippling effects of which he fought with fortitude and patience to overcome. He was a member of the Farriers Livery Company and a Freeman of the City of London. He died on August 11th aged 81 and our thoughts are with his wife Beryl and children Deborah & Richard and grandchildren James and Matthew.

Tony Hale

Sadly we also learn of the death of Len Wretham, previously of Violet Way who served on the LRA Committee for several years.



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