



The Ol' Trout

No. 134

January 2010

Chairman's Word

As I pen this narrative the gentle slopes of Loudwater have turned in to 'Black Ski Runs' following the heaviest snowfall in many years. Many cars had been left parked on the roads as drivers had been unable to make home, while those whose cars were already in their garages were snowed in and thus house bound. Of course it all looks idyllic but for those who had to travel it must have been a most difficult time. That the main roads were drivable was of little benefit if you are unable to get out of your drive or the estate. Even then it was hazardous as on Monday evening the 21st December a simple two mile trip to and from Waitrose took three hours as the total surrounding road network was gridlocked due to a stranded truck by Junction 18 and various other vehicles that had ceased to move. One of the positives was the support between neighbours who were sharing trips and shopping plus keeping in touch with each other as heating systems inevitably were tested to their limit and in some cases beyond and had failed.

The biggest challenge faced however was how to ensure the 16 horses at Trout Rise Farm had sufficient water when the whole system there had frozen? A horse drinks circa 20 gallons of water in 24 hours so we found melting snow was hardly an option as it was far too slow and inefficient with the equipment available. So a massive 'Thank You' to our local Fire Service as four experienced professionals pumped the required volume of water from the river into large containers thus ensuring the safety of the horses. The tenant at the farm Renata Lee, a very enthusiastic and community minded young lady was mightily relieved when the solution was found.

on reflection, 2009 has been a progressive year for the clubs with higher attendances, which of course fosters their aim of encouraging friendship among residents. Many of the clubs have reached or are approaching their tenth anniversary and I would urge those who have yet to attend any one of the clubs to make a New Year resolution to come along

and meet fellow Loudwater dwellers – you never know it could be the start of some beautiful friendships!

(With acknowledgement to Humphrey Bogart's immortal last spoken line to Claude Rains in the classic film 'Casablanca' "Louis, I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship.")

By the time you read this I trust you all had an enjoyable Christmas and may I wish you 'Good Fortune' in 2010.

Tony Hale

Loudwater Golf Society

Monday 17th May 2010 is confirmed as the date for the next annual meeting of the Loudwater Golf Society.

Following last year's very successful event organised by Robert and Gill Fulker, they will be arranging our return to West Herts Golf Club. The Club is one of Hertfordshire's oldest golf clubs and 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 Robert Fulker, at rfassoc@lineone.net or telephone on 01923 778302 .

Editor's rant, or a delayed Happy New Year

As I write this I am getting into the Christmas spirit: it's the 10th December, it's been a fine day and I'm looking forward to a dry game of golf tomorrow, despite one of the wettest few weeks for years. So why the rant? Well, to be honest I feel embarrassed mentioning it now as I've calmed down, as I do every time the nuisance goes away. And to most of you who work and are away from home all day, it will seem trivial- except that they get you on Saturday mornings as well- normally at 8:00 in the morning until at least lunch time. Imagine that happening 6 days a week and you only suffer once a week. Oh how lucky you are to go to work...No retract that, retirement is worth enduring some hardships, but it would be so much better if we could exist without the constant noise of petrol driven leaf blowers. Yes, there I've said it; this retired old g. has nothing better to do than complain about a bit of noise! But what a noise! Revved up engines sounding worse than Silverstone on Grand Prix day. And if you listen carefully there are at least six of them strategically placed throughout Loudwater to sound like the worst orchestral piece you've ever heard. Perhaps they need a conductor so they can rev up, and down in unison! But what is worse is the certain knowledge that the gardeners that are being paid to wander around our gardens blowing leaves into other gardens are young enough and fit enough to rake them up! And it won't take any longer- it will be more eco friendly and it will improve my nervous system. Now I have to admit to owning a petrol leaf blower, but I only use it on the drive and then only for five minutes or so. I never use it on the lawn as it takes longer to move one obstinate leaf than it would to pick it up and put it in a brown wheely bin. It reminds me of that observer of human nature who regularly sends emails round asking why do we, when hoovering, bend down and pick up the bits that the hoover has failed to pick up and then put them down carefully so that it has a better chance of doing its job on the next run?

So that's my rant for 2009, and I haven't even started on the Government yet! But seriously, a Happy New Year to all my readers- and I hope that is still plural

Roy Sterry, Acting Editor - and that's another thing...why isn't there someone in Loudwater who will take this job on??????

A late PS - thanks to the snow, the blowers have stopped!

Loudwater Residents' Association

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
Julia Hall
Roy Preedy
Roy Sterry
Colin Timms

Wine Club Dinner at the Bedford Arms Hotel Chenies on 27th November 2009



Last year we held our Christmas Dinner at Chenies Manor and this year we retained our links with the Dukes of Bedford by just moving 200 metres to the Bedford Arms.

While numbers were limited the 56 members attending were greeted with a glass or two of a very palatable sparkling wine prior to enjoying a well prepared and served dinner by the talented and helpful Bedford Arms staff.

The wines chosen by Gary Coster as you would expect perfectly complimented the food and when you add that special ingredient of good fellowship the combination ensured it was a most successful and convivial evening. Such was the unanimous praise of the members we have already rebooked for next year on Friday 26th November 2010, so please make a note in your diary.

Loudwater Wine Club Lunch & Quiz following AGM on 13th December 2009

41 members attended the AGM at which the Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary & Coordinator gave their review of 2009. The club was shown as being financially sound with 94 members and an average attendance at events of 49 members. This was followed by a Lunch prepared by Lorna and rounded off with a quiz set by Christine Sterry and Stella Garner – a very civilized way to spend a Sunday afternoon!

10 events were held and full details of these are on our website www.loudwaterwineclub.org.uk together with the planned schedule for 2010. Listed you will find every wine tasted since the start of the club in July 2000, surely a good reason for you to visit the site and perhaps the incentive for those of you who enjoy their wine to join and meet other like minded residents.

We normally meet on the fourth Friday of each month, and here's an outline of what we've got planned for the next few months.

2010 (These dates and topics are provisional, subject to publication of the final programme)

22nd January – Comparing Chile and South African

26th February – Charcuterie and wine with Michelle Cherutti-Kowal

26th March – Margaret River, Australia with Tim Syrad

23rd April – Still in the planning stage...

28th May – No meeting

25th June – Chilled Red Wine

24th July (Saturday) – Mediterranean Banquet to celebrate our Tenth Anniversary

27th August – No meeting

24th September – Wining and Dining at Da Remo's, Denham

22nd October – Vin de Pays and AC Wines from France

26th November – Christmas Dinner at the Bedford Arms Hotel, Chenies

12th December (Sunday) – AGM followed by Lunch and a Quiz.

Gary Coster, Tony Hale, Lorna Hawxwell & Martin Powell (plus our Webmaster Buzz Coster)

Loudwater Wine Club Committee

LRA Harvest Supper

Very good food in very good company in very good surroundings. That is what 50 or so Loudwater residents enjoyed at the Loudwater Farm Barn on the 10th October. The impresario, as usual, was Colin Timms and, as usual, he and his team of helpers did not let us down. A welcoming glass of pink sparkling wine, all the way from New Zealand, was followed by a simply delicious tomato-based soup (can we have the recipe, please?), and then a choice of chicken in tarragon sauce, salmon with a pesto crust or vegetable lasagne. The puddings were chocolate fudge cake and/or fruit salad. Yummy! The food was prepared by the ladies of Loudwater, with the help of one Loudwater lad. The canapés were made by Ritva Hale, Elaine Bailey and Carole Timms, the soup by Theresa Jubber, the chicken dish was the brainchild of Christine Sterry and Lorna Hawxwell, and the salmon dish that of Jo Homewood and Carole Timms. What about the lasagne you may ask. Well, that's where our solitary man came in – Don Moore. I chose the chicken in tarragon and, wow, the wine content in the sauce was great! And whilst mentioning wine, our table had it in abundance. There were twenty bottles to be shared between ten of us! Usually the LRA has coupled the Harvest Supper with a Quiz organised by Gary and Buzz Coster. On this occasion Colin decided to hire a comedian and make it a Harvest Supper Comedy Night. (Colin had been greatly successful with singers at other events, where we heard wonderful impersonations of Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, Tom Jones and Neil Diamond). Unfortunately, the original comedian Colin chose had to drop out in the last minute because of the death of his mother. His replacement was, well, simply not particularly funny. To be fair, we are not an easy audience. Some thought his material was too staid, others too blue, others too corny and old. But how do you please an audience where the ages probably range between eighty five and the twenty five? Maybe we should go back to the Quiz next year, or a magician, or a juggler. Comedians? Perhaps not! However, well done to Colin and his team. My wife, Davida, and I had a really good time, as did the other eight on our table, and as did, I feel sure, almost all of us. Thank you.

Peter Phillips.

You're right Peter, he wasn't cheap either which is even more annoying. Colin

In Peter's review there is the name of a song, and the name of the singer who made it famous. To win a bottle of wine name the song and the singer. The first correct answer I receive by email or post wins a bottle of wine, specially chosen by the Loudwater Wine Club. Ed.

The Killing of Armitage Close



We moved into Armitage Close (we were the first residents) in March 1972. Gradually our new neighbours arrived. There were only five houses but there must have been something in the water because

within a year numbers 2, 3, 4 and 5 (us) gave birth to baby boys. These children grew up together in a peaceful, quiet and safe Close, able to ride their tricycles, later bicycles, without us mothers having to worry about traffic. Now nearly 38 years later, our children are bringing over their children to see us at weekends and school holiday time, with their tricycles and bicycles. We neighbours were all good friends and the three of us living here still are. How sad that this Close is now threatened by destruction from greedy developers.

Davida Phillips.

Fine Dining at the Beetle and Wedge Boathouse

Breezily reassuring us that he knew exactly where he was going, but in a manner that made me suspect otherwise, our coach driver treated us to a bit of a magical mystery tour before finally arriving at our dining destination. "I'm sure it's the second time we've passed that sign to Wantage," sighed one hungry Fine Diner.

Built on the site of a long-defunct ferry crossing point, The Beetle and Wedge Boathouse is a traditional, old-beamed eatery, specialising in rotisserie fare. In the summer it's a picturesque riverside setting, but on a November night it's warm and cosy inside. Jerome K Jerome used to live here and was apparently inspired to write *Three Men in a Boat*.

Proceedings commenced with a glass or two of finest English sparkling wine before twenty seven Fine Diners settled down to enjoy a three course meal. My crispy duck ginger risotto cake with plumb sauce was tangy and delicious, my classic sea bass with béarnaise sauce also very tasty, and my vanilla crème brûlée wonderfully creamy, but in such a large a portion that for an instant I wondered if it was meant to serve two people. The staff were friendly and generally delightful, which always adds something to an event.

Mary-Jane Atkinson has stepped down from her position on the Committee and so the rest of the Committee would like to take this opportunity of thanking her for her contribution to the Club and look forward to seeing her soon at a Fine Dining event.

Our next event is an evening meal at Sopwell House, St Albans, on Friday 12th February. Flyers will be sent out during the first week of January.

Viv Schragger-Powell

Marathon Charity Golf

Little did the Moor Park Birdies know when they entered the 72 hole Macmillan Challenge that out of 315 teams who entered the Challenge they would be invited to join 3 other teams for the finals at Boavista Golf Resort near Lagos, Portugal because they were the top money raisers. The teams were flown to Portugal courtesy of Today's Golfer and Golf World publications and Boavista Golf Resort, hosted the event. Moorpark birdies, the only ladies team in the final, were to compete against Nomads 1 and 2 and Croydon Super Kings.

It was a glorious day and the Moor Park Birdies came a gallant 4th!!!! However, it was the taking part that was important and Boavista Golf Resort were terrific hosts - what a golf course!! Not for the faint-hearted! The bottom line was that it was a real privilege to be there and in the company of 12 like minded gentlemen who had gone all out for MacMillan. The two day trip to Portugal was a completely unexpected and delightful surprise and we all thanked MacMillan for the great work they do. Supporting the 72 hole longest day golf Challenge was a pleasure and delight.

Sarah Jolliffe

Theatre Club

Molière's *The Hypochondriac (Le Malade imaginaire)*.

Enema at the Gates

Those of you who have recently seen on television a film about the Battle of Stalingrad entitled "Enemy at the Gates" should not confuse this with the above immortal line from a recently translated version of *Le Malade imaginaire*, Molière's last play, in which he played the role of Argan on the night that he died at the age of 51 in 1673.

We visited the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford on 24th October for a performance by the English Touring Theatre led by Clive Francis, who was tremendous in the leading role of Argan, a wealthy man in good health but convinced he is seriously ill. Surrounded by quacks and charlatans he is oblivious to the unhappiness of his daughter and the deceit of his wife. However, his most efficacious cure will not appear in a bottle or a bedpan, but in his sharp-tongued servant, who has a cunning plan to reveal the truth and open her master's eyes.

Roger McGough, a well-known English performance poet had translated Molière's prose into very amusing verse, spoken with great clarity by an accomplished supporting cast. It is indeed incredible that seventeen years have passed since a play by Molière was performed at the National Theatre, a sad commentary on the state of the professional stage.

Before the performance we ate in the theatre restaurant.

I should like to thank Eunice Hill in particular for our chance to see this play (in my opinion the best I have seen for several years). Not only was it chosen by her, it was also organized with her customary flair for attention to detail. We are also pleased to welcome Vivienne Schragger-Powell to strengthen our committee and complement Eunice in the organization of visits.

Next year our two first visits are to see *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* at the Novello Theatre on 20th February, a matinee performance, and *Il Seraglio* to be given by Welsh National Opera at Milton Keynes on 1st April. Should you wish to accompany us please telephone Peter Laule (778114) or myself (771810).

Maurice Escow

Garden Club



In September a volunteer from the Chelsea Physic Garden gave a most interesting talk to the club about the origins and development of the Chelsea Physic Garden. The Club will be organising a trip to the Garden in late spring to see for ourselves the comprehensive and botanically important garden, aided by the expertise of a private guide.

The Garden Club concluded the year with a 'full house' back at home base; i.e. Chess Hall in Loudwater Farm, where festive refreshments were served and a demonstration of ideas for seasonal decorations was presented.

Our New Year Social and Quiz will be held on 24 January at 8.00pm at the home of Sally Levinson, Silverdene, Sarratt Lane. As always there will be some delicious refreshments and a not-too-taxing quiz - if you are new to the Club or to the area it is a great way to meet your neighbours and fellow residents.

Our plans for 2010 include trips to RHS sponsored shows and spectacular gardens, such as Beth Chatto's seen below, in addition to talks by gardening experts and visits to local garden centres for special events.

You don't have to be a gardening expert to join the Garden Club! A love of gardens is all that is required. For further information please contact me at sue_stent@o2.co.uk.

Bridge Club

After several months of rather fewer members attending we recently have had five tables. Though the members (or lack of them) do not prevent a very pleasant evening, three full tables practically covers the cost of the room.

We have been allotted much better storage space for our equipment and we are grateful we do not have to find an alternative venue in the immediate future.

Our summer party was very successful and once again we enjoyed a lovely evening so that we could sit in the garden at Loudwater Farm. Our Christmas party was attended by 20 members and a great "fun bridge" evening was had by all.

Our AGM will take place in March and as usual the Committee would like at least one new member. It is not very onerous, two or three meeting a year - and short ones at that!

As always we are delighted to welcome any new members - we play Chicago on the first and third Wednesdays and as we are a social club we do not require you to bring a partner.

Sheila Fawkner-Corbett

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

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Community Matters

As reported in our last issue, the Surestart Children's Centre for Loudwater and Chorleywood is now operating at Loudwater Farm and Bullsland Farm. We have received these details from the Sandra Mooney, their Manager.

Babbling Brook

A free drop in stay and play group for accompanied children, not suitable for children under 1 year.

Join us for fun play & learning together at the picturesque Loudwater Farm Loudwater Lane, Loudwater WD3 4HG

Every Thursday afternoon from 1:30 pm - 3pm. Starts January 7th 2010

Tel: **01923 287 305** or **07966 584 824**

email: Chorleywood@pre-school.org.uk

www.hertschildrenscentres.org.uk/clcc

Baby Clinic

From Tuesday 5th January 2010 the Health Visitors Baby Clinic Service will be available every

1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at Bullsland Hall, Bullsland Lane, Chorleywood WD3 5BH

9:30 am to 11 am

Health Visitors contact no. **01923 775065**.

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 Schrage-Powell (896198)



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