



# The Ol' Trout

No. 138

February 2011

## Traffic Survey



At the end of last year, residents may have noted the traffic survey in operation at three locations in Sarratt Lane and Loudwater Lane. The function was to obtain as accurate a picture as

possible of the volume and speeds of traffic along these roads, in response to residents' concern about the safety both to pedestrians and drivers along our lanes. The traffic was monitored, by Hertfordshire Highways, for seven days, 24 hours a day and the results were analysed.

Members of the LRA have met with a representative from Herts Highways and Councillor Chris Hayward to discuss the findings and possible action which may be taken. The survey showed that in two locations traffic did not exceed the 30mph speed restriction. However between Glen Chess and the A404, speeds were in excess of the limit. From these results it was explained to us that the criteria for a VA sign or reduction in speed limit to 20mph could not be met.

Although traffic speed is not excessive, due to the nature of the lanes, it is desirable to attempt to slow traffic and to encourage drivers to be considerate to other road users. It is necessary to change the environment of the lanes to draw road users' attention to the fact that they are approaching a potentially dangerous stretch of road. With this intention, Herts Highways will initiate some measures during spring and summer. They will paint white lines along the side of the carriageway, which has the apparent effect of reducing the width of the road, the 30mph roundels on the road will be repainted and additional ones put in place, "slow" markings on a red background will also be painted onto the road surface.

In order to ascertain whether additional road signs are needed, the vegetation surrounding the existing ones will be cleared. Herts Highways will produce a plan for the location of additional speed and "bend" signage which will be sent to the LRA Committee for consultation. In an effort to improve visibility, and in turn safety, hedges may need to be cut back. A letter will be sent, by Herts Highways, to householders whose

### Loudwater Residents' Association

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774374

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896666

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hedges encroach onto the carriageway asking for their cooperation. Also to be investigated is costing for the provision and maintenance of "rumble strips" at key locations along the lanes.

While some residents will be disappointed that measures such as a reduction in the speed limit and installation of a VA sign cannot be authorised, by introducing the modifications as detailed above, drivers will note the additional road markings and signs, which in turn should prompt them to take greater care along the lanes.

### Heather Kenison Planning Secretary

### Theatre Club

On Saturday 12th February twenty members enjoyed an excellent production of Georges Feydeau's classic farce "A Flea in her Ear" translated by the late John Mortimer for the Old Vic in 1966 with Albert Finney as the lead. On this occasion the cast was led by Tim Hollander in the dual rôles of Poche, the porter and M. Chandebise. His physical dexterity in changing from one character and costume to another within a few seconds was truly spectacular. The text was delivered with enormous speed by the cast in which Hollander was outstanding. Not everyone was so perfect; Lisa Dillon as Mme. Chandebise

and Fiona Glascott as her former school friend, Lucienne, were inclined to be rather shrill. Most of the cast acted their rôles with great distinction, in particular Greg Baldock, the understudy, in his rôle of the latter's husband, Carlos Homendes De Histangua.

After the show we had an interesting and pleasant meal at TAS, a Turkish restaurant, a few minutes' walk from the theatre.

Our next visit is to the Milton Keynes theatre to see the Welsh National Opera's new production of "Die Fledermaus" on Friday, 15th April. Should you wish to join us, please contact Viv Schragger-Powell on 777582 or me on 771810.

### Maurice Escow

#### Welcome

Jag and Herbie Mudhar, Wendover, Bridle Lane  
Mark and Angela Steed, Taorima, Bridle Lane  
Paul and Racheal Morris, April Cottage, Bridle Lane  
Susan and Key Foy, Willow House, Wagon Way  
David Bend and Carmina Cortes-Argote, Neruda, Violet Way  
Richard and Jeanne Graham, Bentley, Violet Way  
Laurence and Laura Turnbull, Farm Cottage, Farm Lane  
R. and Sarah Jones, Handa, Trout Rise  
Joanne Beresford, Flat 2, Loudwater House, Loudwater Drive



## Loudwater Garden Club

"They're changing guard at Buckingham Palace....." Well, undoubtedly they did but the purpose of the Loudwater Garden Club's visit to the Palace in September was to see both the State Apartments - open to all visitors - and the private gardens - available only to groups such as ours.

We received a very warm welcome and briefing at the start of the visit and went on the tour of the State Apartments using individual audio guides. After lunch taken at the terrace café most of us managed a little retail therapy - every picture tells a story, see below!



Then we assembled at the appointed spot and were met by our guide who was not only a lively personality and a mine of information about the palace but also very knowledgeable about the history of the development of the garden and full of information about the various trees and plants in it.

Our Club year ended with one of our most popular events - Gardeners' Question Time. Led once again by RHS Judge Jim Buttress VMH, together with David Beaumont - lately seen in Alan Titchmarsh's series "Secret Gardens" - , Robert Player & Jo Ingrey the panel examined our plant & soil specimens and answered our questions with expertise and not a little humour.



The Chairman's ailing phormium is coming under close scrutiny from Robert Player.



There's a changing of the guard taking place within the Garden Club as well. Many of the current committee members have been in place for the best part of seven years - way beyond the expectation of any of us when we started - and are standing down. May I take this opportunity to thank Sigi Enbergs, Jane Prickett, Sally Levinson and Gill Fulker for their hard work and very fine support.

2011 sees a change of leadership for the Club and I am pleased to advise that a new committee, with Margaret Jarrett as Chairman, Ulla Hauser as Events Organiser, Barbara Holden as Treasurer and Joan Martin as Secretary will be planning the programme of events for this year.

In order to comply with our constitution, an Extraordinary AGM was held Wednesday 16th February at 8.00pm in the Small Barn of Loudwater Farm in order to ratify these appointments. This was followed by a talk "my passion for snowdrops" by Dr Anne Shaw. Dr Shaw is a medical doctor and a very keen gardener and especially likes the challenge of things which are difficult to grow; she has a large collection of snowdrops and a wonderful orchid collection and also has a great interest in fungi.

I trust that existing members will continue to give their support to the new leadership team and that many more of our fellow Loudwater residents will come along to our events and increase their appreciation of gardens and gardening.

### Sue Stent

#### LRA Diary of Events February to July

<b>February</b>	Friday 25th	Wine Club - Reisling & Grenache, Gary Coster
<b>March</b>	Wednesday 2nd Thursday 3rd Tuesday 8th Saturday 12th Wednesday 16th Friday 25th	Bridge Club LRA Committee Meeting Investment Club LRA Cabaret Night - Abba Girls & Band Bridge Club Wine Club - How much would you spend? Lindsay Oram
<b>April</b>	Wednesday 6th Tuesday 12th Wednesday 13th Thursday 14th Friday 15th	Bridge Club Investment Club Garden Club - Visit to Audley End LRA Committee Meeting Theatre Club - Die Fledermaus. Milton Keynes
<b>May</b>	Wednesday 20th Wednesday 4th Thursday 5th Saturday 7th Tuesday 10th Thursday 12th Wednesday 18th Friday 27th	Bridge Club Bridge Club Coffee Morning Cockayne, Loudwater Lane Fine Dining Club Investment Club LRA AGM All members invited Bridge Club Wine Club - Social evening with food and wine
<b>June</b>	Wednesday 1st Tuesday 14th Wednesday 15th Wednesday 22nd  Thursday 23rd Friday 24th	Bridge Club Investment Club Bridge Club Garden Club - Visit to Cambridge Botanical Gardens LRA Committee Meeting Wine Club - White wines from New Zealand, Tim Syrad
<b>July</b>	Wednesday 6th Saturday 9th  Tuesday 12th Wednesday 20th Saturday 23rd	Bridge Club LRA - Summer Ball in the gardens of Merlins, Sarratt Road Investment Club Bridge Club Wine Club - Visit to Chapel Down Winery in Kent



## My friend Jack Prince

Jack had been my near neighbour for almost exactly 25 years when he died in late August last year. For most of that time he was the formidable looking man I passed as he was marching up the hill, on his way going to Rickmansworth to do his shopping. During the occasional brief conversation he'd described himself as "a bit of a loner". As I discovered later, that wasn't entirely true - he didn't need company - he was just going to decide for himself whose it was to be.

We became much closer when my wife died and he introduced me to the Harrow U3 A, where was a very active member, and he began to tell me more about himself on our way there. Until then I only knew that he'd been involved with the LRA and local government but gradually learned much more about a truly self-made man.

Most of the knowledge I gained came about from the travels we made together when we always seemed to meet up with people he'd worked or done business with! Our last trip was to Yorkshire to see the places of beauty and of his youth - he was very proud of being a Yorkshire man - he used to boast that "they were like the Scots but without their instinctive generosity" but he was never mean and only occasionally careful! We went to Castleford, to the house where he was born that had a toilet at the end of the garden, to the school and small shop. He was very moved and told me about his father whom he revered, and who had been an exceptionally fine pianist. The family had never been able to afford the tuition he needed and longed for. Talking about that brought tears to his eyes

He left school at fourteen with no qualifications but determination and intelligence and started work in a factory, studying engineering at night school to improve himself. In between times he was an ARP dispatch rider and also "vamped" on the piano in a local dance band! That was to lead to his meeting and marrying his wife Joan who died after a long illness in 1991. Jack found he had an aptitude for design and mechanical comprehension and could devise economical and reliable solutions to many problems. They moved south to find opportunities for a better job and eventually worked for De-Havilland in their design office at Hatfield. They then moved to South Africa where they stayed until their eventual return to England and after other posts Jack finally joined Hedlon, who were agents and design consultants for printing and packaging machines. He became Sales and finally Managing Director and the business took him to many countries. These were principally East Germany, mainland Europe and Japan all of which had

companies renowned for making precision machinery. When he retired the leading trade Journal referred to him as "Gentleman Jack" which pleased him greatly.

Retirement gave him time to enjoy his love of Jazz, the theatre, his interest in science, travel and, most importantly his family - His son Nigel, his daughter-in-law Gabrielle (Gay) and his grandchildren Julia, Leonie and Dominic. He was so proud of them and always talked about their individual talents and achievements. When he fell and broke his hip, life changed dramatically. The operation was never entirely successful and Jack had to rely on the help of others for perhaps the first time in his life - that was hard for him and it sometimes showed but he persevered to the end. He was my friend, I admired him and I think I'm a wiser and better man for knowing him.

**Peter Laule**

## What's the Wine Club been up to lately?



It's been some time since I've put finger to keyboard to write about the goings-on at the Wine Club and we've certainly had a busy time of late.

December saw us get together for our AGM, an event that lasts as short a time as possible in our haste to get on with the socialising, eating and, of course, drinking.

The Club had enjoyed a good year with a varied programme of events. However it was sobering to note that the current financial climate had started to have an effect on the general budget and the Committee was finding it difficult to arrange events on an increasingly tight shoestring. The impending increase in the rate of VAT caused a moment of gloom before the Chairman announced the meeting over and brandished a corkscrew in the direction of the nearest bottle.

The afternoon's entertainment came in the form of a quiz at which we spectacularly under-performed as a club. It did occur to us that this might have been due to the excellent food and wine we had been enjoying.



We leapt out of the starting blocks in the new year with a tutored tasting of wines from Southern Italy, Sardinia and Sicily. Our tutor was Michelle Cherutti-Kowal who is renowned in the club for her careful selections of wines that really show off her topic. There wasn't one wine we wouldn't happily drink again. From a light, white quaffer through to a huge red

wine made from Aglianico at the end, this was a fantastic way to start the new year.

Michelle's descriptions of the region made us long for the chance to visit the area, if only the exchange rate with the Euro was more favourable. The barn was awash with nostalgic memories of previous trips to Europe.

As always, our Event Co-ordinator, Gary, has had great fun putting together the programme for this year, balancing his anorak-tendencies with social events. You can find out more about what's coming up on [www.loudwaterwineclub.org.uk](http://www.loudwaterwineclub.org.uk). If you think it sounds like fun, why not come along and give it a go? You will be most welcome.

**Buzz Coster**





## Coffee Morning



Every few months we hold an informal coffee morning, hosted by a generous volunteer. Our next one will be on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May from 10am at Vesna Cramer's house, Cockayne, Loudwater Lane.

Cockayne is on the lane heading towards Croxley Green, on the left hand side, just as the road does a 90 degree right turn and before

the big dip. If anyone would like further directions, please contact me.

As always, all residents are welcome, particularly if you are new to Loudwater – it's a great opportunity to meet your neighbours.

### Loudwater's answer to Paula Radcliffe



Vesna Cramer is a remarkable woman – having never run at all until January this year, she has undertaken to run the London Marathon in April and can now frequently

be seen out pounding the lanes of Loudwater. She is running in aid of the Make a Wish Foundation – you can follow the agonies and ecstasies of her punishing training schedule at [www.justgiving.com/Vesna-Cramer](http://www.justgiving.com/Vesna-Cramer). We look forward to hearing about her experiences at the coffee morning.

Hope to see you there!

### Elaine Bailey

01923 771630 [eands.bailey@btinternet.com](mailto:eands.bailey@btinternet.com)

## Fine Dining in February



This was our third visit to The Old Plow at Speen, where welcoming glasses of mulled wine got the evening off to a convivial start.

The Plow – an ancient 17<sup>th</sup> Century brick and timber building which nestles in the Chiltern Hills - has been offering hospitality for more years than anyone cares to remember, and current owners Malcolm and Olivia Cowan have been in residence now for some twenty two years.

Chef Malcolm offered us pretty much free reign to pre-choose from his entire winter menu, so once seated comfortably at one long table at the back of the restaurant; our group's food choices proved to be and varied and wide. The Plow prides itself on their seafood, and my salt and pepper chilli tiger prawns with scallops were a well-chosen starter. Mains covered all fish/meat/poultry bases, and between the twelve of us we seemed to be sampling every variation the dessert menu could provide.

At first I was a tad disappointed that we were so small in number – we've never been as few as just twelve in the entire history of the club - but the intimate party atmosphere really worked, and a couple of members said that it was the best Fine Dining event they'd been to. With less people to accommodate our choices of venue suddenly become much wider, so something to consider for the future.

## 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

Margaret Jarrett (774225)

### Fine Dining Club

Chairman

Viv Schrager-Powell (896198)

### Events Committee

Chairman

Colin Timms (776681)

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Collator/Designer: Carole Timms (776681)

Please e-mail your articles to [loudwaterresidents-association@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:loudwaterresidents-association@yahoo.co.uk)

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