



# The Ol' Trout

No. 148

December 2013

## Editorial

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all readers of the Ol' Trout.

In the last Ol' Trout there were articles on speeding in Loudwater Lane and Police checks. The warning was that most of the speeding was by local residents.

In the New Year the Police will be making more checks in Loudwater Lane. Most speeding offences occur within a 3 mile radius of the driver's home. Speeding close to home is due to familiarity and over confidence on the local roads.

The LRA has been lobbying for more "speed check" signs in Loudwater Lane and has offered to fund the installation of these signs. Discussions with local Police are ongoing.

So please drive safely. Do not drink and drive or use your mobile and drive.

**Robert Kenison**

## Chairman's Words

As the year draws to a close, it is good to reflect on what has been achieved in Loudwater during this time.

The Committee has worked hard in its various roles and seems to have made progress in many areas which affect Loudwater on a day-to-day basis. We were joined this year by David Pione, who has taken over compiling the Diary of Events. This is published in the Ol' Trout to ensure that residents are kept up-to-date with the activities of the LRA and the various clubs.

There have been requests from residents at our AGMs for a website. This is seen not only as a way of existing residents obtaining information about Loudwater, but also important for any prospective residents to gain an insight into our community. With considerable help from Buzz Coster, we are pleased to announce the launch of "www.lraonline.org.uk". I would refer you to the article, contained in this edition, providing further information about this development.

Another topic of much interest among residents has been the provision of fibre optic broadband to Loudwater. There have been several dates put forward for the commencement of this service, but they have not been fulfilled. However, we finally seem to have some accurate information. Although the provision may not be as soon as we had hoped, it does seem to be a viable proposition which should happen in the next year. Again, there is an article contained in this publication.

As always, roads have featured highly in the work of the LRA over the last year. The problems with flooding in Loudwater Lane seem to have been overcome by thorough clearing of the drains. This should be maintained on a regular basis to prevent the problem reoccurring. Traffic speed in the lanes continues to be a concern. Several motorists were cautioned in the summer by the Police and the erection of a "Police Speed Check Area" sign will hopefully remind

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residents and others of the need to adhere to the mandatory speed limits.

On a lighter note, Don Moore, has taken over as Events Co-ordinator. He organised a very successful Race Night in the autumn and we look forward to further events that he plans. He reports in this edition about the event.

Finally, I hope residents enjoy the festive season and that 2014 may be a successful year for all

**Heather Kenison**

## LRA Web Site Launch

The LRA Committee are very pleased to announce a new web site designed to help give Loudwater residents better access to important information about our community. It is also hoped that it will add to the spirit of friendliness and cooperation among all of us and facilitate even greater involvement in LRA activities. We wish to express our sincere appreciation to Buzz Coster for generously contributing her time and considerable expertise in designing and implementing the site in such a professional manner. Residents are encouraged to have a look for themselves and access the new site now at "www.lraonline.org.uk".

The site contains summaries of the aims and objectives of the LRA as well as how to become a member. There are sections on Planning, Social Activities and of course on the various clubs which are open to all members. A calendar of events for the whole year is also included which is updated regularly. You can access this calendar at any time to see when and where various club and LRA activities are taking place. There is also a section on the history of the area, links to other sites of interest and how to contact committee members.

We are aware, of course, that the site is just in its infancy and are actively looking for ideas and suggestions to make it even more useful and attractive. In particular we are looking for interesting photographs of our area and suggestions for sharing

information, floating ideas or seeking help. If you do have any thoughts on improvements or additions to the site (or spot the inevitable error), please pass them along to Dave Pione "jdpoine@hotmail.com" who will review and consolidate them before forwarding them over to Buzz.

Finally, the web site is seen as a supplement to the Ol' Trout which will continue as ever as the main vehicle of communication and late breaking news for Loudwater - only available to members of the association. We hope you will check out the new site and that you will find it helpful and useful.

**Dave Pione**



## **Drains, Rains and Parking**

Whilst progress has been made during the year to improve some of the roads around Loudwater, there is still much to be done. The drains on Loudwater Lane were "blasted" clear using a large Vactor machine and this necessitated a road closure. Since then, with the exception of an extremely wet Sunday in October when there was flooding all over Rickmansworth, the drains have coped well. There are plans afoot to clear the drains again in January using a smaller Vactor machine which does not require a road closure. Funding has also been provided to kerb a few of the drains that are set back into the verges, making them easier to maintain. The verges have been collapsing into the drains causing blockages.

The road surface in the dip at Parrot's Dell on Loudwater Lane has been full of potholes and patched very poorly for a number of years. The road is also liable to flooding here and the erosion of the road sides is also very clear to see. Meetings have taken place between Ringway and Herts County Council Highways Department and a works order has been raised to resurface the whole section of Parrot's Dell, clearing the ditches and dealing with the drainage shortfalls as well as attending to some of the other potholes along the lane. A date is still to be advised and I suspect they will now wait for the worst of the winter weather to pass before commencing, but the works will inevitably require a road closure.

Cars have been parking in the slip road on the A404 as you approach Loudwater Lane from the M25 making it very difficult to see oncoming traffic as you exit Loudwater Lane onto the A404. Three Rivers District Council undertook a safety study of the junction and came to the conclusion that double yellow lines should be introduced such that the slip road onto Loudwater Lane is always kept clear. Their introduction is imminent.

Lastly, the roads in Loudwater are narrow, and the cars we drive have generally got bigger, so when residents have parties, or a number of visitors at one time that requires cars to be parked on the estate roads, please advise the guests to be respectful of this and not to block the road, or park opposite neighbours driveways making it difficult for them to get in and out of their homes.

**John Thompson**

## **Fibre Broadband to Loudwater**

Having received many promises over the last few years that fibre broadband would soon be supplied to Loudwater, none of which ever materialised, it was time to make a full investigation of this matter.

I enlisted the help of our local councillor, Chris Hayward, who put me in touch with the Assistant Director-Performance and Procurement at County Hall in Hertford. I met with him and the Project Officer of the Connected Counties Team at the beginning of November in an effort to progress this issue.

Apparently BT had removed the relevant cabinet, LWRIC10, from its programme due to perceived problems with planning, even though TRDC had granted planning permission in 2011. BT have therefore put this cabinet back onto their commercial rollout and assuming the survey is satisfactory it will be upgraded to fibre to the cabinet (FTTC). However the timescale for this is not known as BT's programme in this financial year is full, hence it will be included in the next financial year. Hopefully there should be fibre broadband to Loudwater by autumn 2014.

A new cabinet will be located about 5metres from the existing one and households adjacent to this should be able to purchase services up to 80Mbps. However, speeds reduce over the length of copper thus if you live more than 1.2 miles from a cabinet it may be that no uplift in speed is felt. Some service providers will not provide fibre broadband, but those which do will advertise when the service is available.

Not all households in Loudwater are served by Cabinet 10. It may be that you are connected to a cabinet which is already providing enhanced speeds.

To check, go to "[www.btwholesale.com/includes/adsl/main.html](http://www.btwholesale.com/includes/adsl/main.html)", providing your address or landline number.

The project team at Connected Counties will be keeping a close eye on the survey process for Cabinet 10 to ensure that any issues are addressed promptly. They will keep us informed of progress, and relevant information will be passed to residents.

**Heather Kenison**

## **Calling all Golfers a date for your diary**

I have now made a provisional booking at Batchworth Park for the very popular LRA golf day...the date is Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014 from midday.

Although we were looking to return to Sandy Lodge we have had some comments about the cost so I have looked at alternatives. Batchworth Park have offered us a more competitive deal. Subject to some minor adjustments, the cost will be £60 for golf and dinner. Batchworth members will be charged £30.00 and evening dinner for guests will be £30.

Although this is a golf day it is an opportunity for Loudwater residents and their guests to enjoy a pleasant social event. Non golfers are very welcome to join us for dinner in the evening. It is always very pleasing to see new residents take part and if you know of any new residents who would like to join us please make them aware of the event or let me have their details and I will make contact with them directly.

In the past few years we have managed to convince local sponsors to provide some prizes and increase numbers as playing and dining guests. If you have any ideas for help on the sponsorship front please let me know.

I am happy to listen to any suggestions or ideas, please get in touch with me and thank you to all who supported the event last year...our aim is get some more LRA people along in 2014.

My contact details are as follows

Email "[percy@jamesestateagents.com](mailto:percy@jamesestateagents.com)"  
Home Tel. 01923710692  
Mobile Tel 07702603703  
Office Tel 01923710500

**Percy McCloskey**

## **Michael Sobell Hospice**

Michael Sobell Hospice will be holding an Indulgence Evening on Wednesday 12th February 2014 from 7-10pm at the London College of Theology, Green Lane, Northwood, HA6 2UW. The evening would make an ideal Valentine's Day present for a loved one. There will be a range of therapies on offer during the evening including reflexology, chiropractor, spine assessments, sports therapy, mini manicures, eyebrow threading, Indian neck massage, footspas, hair advice and breast care advice. There will be refreshments during the evening and lots of pampering gifts to purchase. Parking will be free. For more information contact Helen Woods on 01923 847784

**Sue Tippen**



## Planning Applications

20th August 2013 to 15th November 2013

### Decisions on Previously Reported Applications

13/1250/FUL Single storey side and rear extensions, two storey rear extension, first floor side extension, front extension, roof alterations including dormer window and rooflights to front elevation and the creation of a carriage driveway Killowen Bridle Lane . Delegated. Granted.

13/1371/FUL Garden outbuilding Pine Cottage Cherry Hill. Delegated. Granted.

13/1513/FUL Renewal of planning permission

10/1405/FUL: Two storey side extension with front and rear dormers single storey rear two new front dormers to replace existing and rear dormers to replace existing, Caldbec Troutstream Way . Delegated. Granted.

13/1503/FUL Replacement porch 14 Lower Plantation. Delegated. Granted

13/1326/FUL Two storey rear and side extension Little Thatch Trout Rise Loudwater. Delegated. LRA Objected. Refused. Appellant appeal to Secretary of State.

### Applications Awaiting Decision

12/2376/RSP Part Retrospective: Conversion of existing Grade II Listed barn from agricultural use to use as an events and function venue including internal and external alterations and associated landscaping and parking area whilst retaining the permitted development rights for temporary use for 28 days per year across the Estate. Micklefield Hall. LRA objected. Refused. Appeal to DoE

### New Applications

13/1633/CAC Demolition and replacement of existing house and garage with one detached house and garage and ancillary works, Little Fold Trout Rise. Granted.

13/1582/FUL Demolition and replacement of existing house and garage with one detached house with lower ground floor level, first floor balcony, raised terrace to rear and associated works, Little Fold, Trout Rise. Granted.

13/1606/RSP Part Retrospective: Amendment to planning permission

12/1950/FUL (Two storey rear extension with rear dormer window and Juliette balcony, internal alterations and alterations to raised rear terrace) to include side dormer window, glazed roof lantern to single storey rear extension and alterations to fenestration, Bantry Cottage, Sarratt Lane. Granted.

13/1926/FUL Single storey rear extension with glazed lantern, Cherry Lawn Bridle Lane. Delegated.

13/1919/FUL Erection of a pergola, infill extensions, alterations to fenestration and existing raised terrace, hard and soft landscaping to include re-siting of existing drive, construction of a fountain and grasscrete parking areas Sanam, Troutstream Way. Delegated.

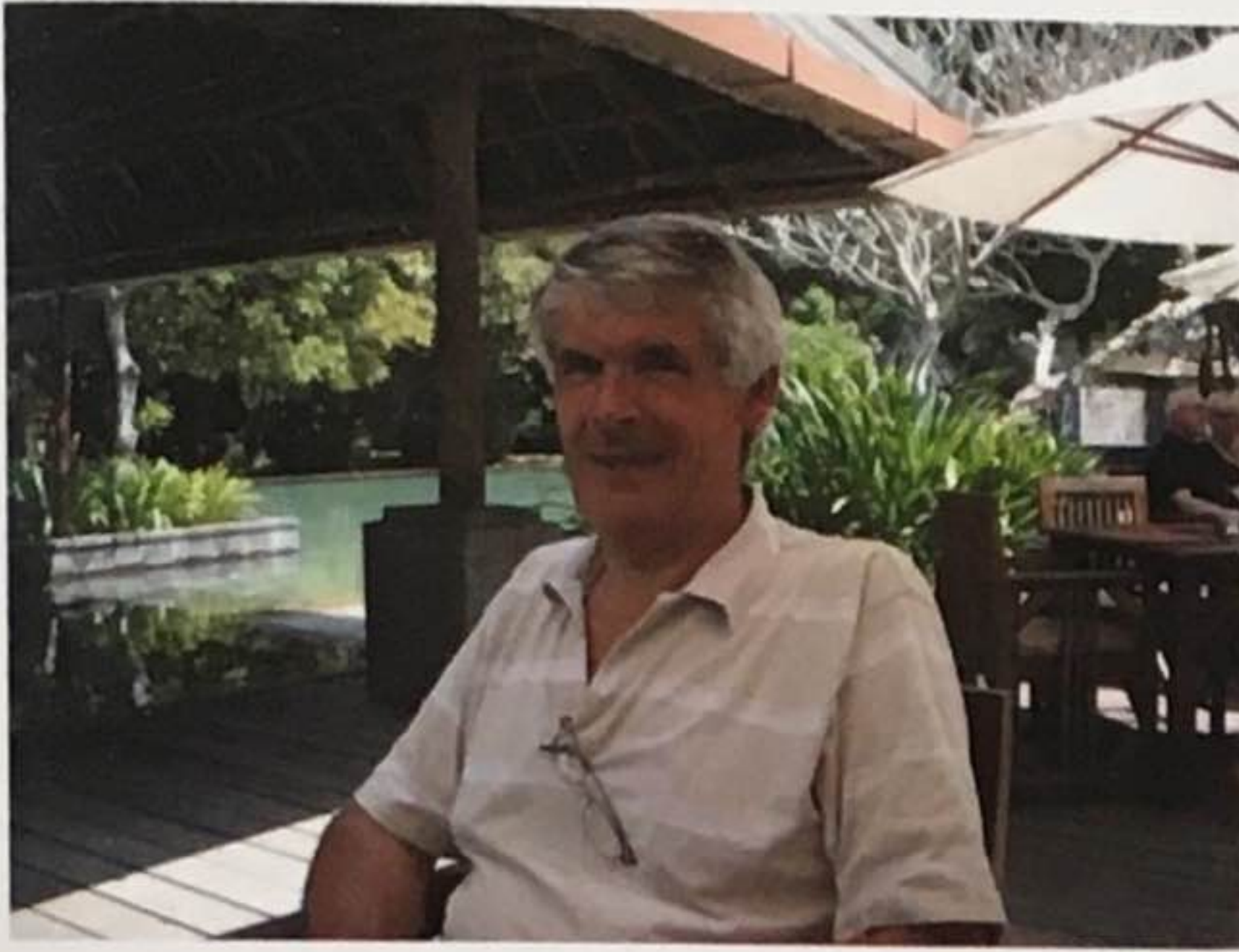
13/1842/FUL Demolition of The Old Pole Barn and its replacement with a new building The Old Pole Barn Micklefield Hall Sarratt Road

CAC Conservation Area Consent  
RSP Retrospective planning Application  
CLPD Certificate of Lawfulness Proposed Development  
CLEL Certificate of Lawfulness Existing Development  
DIS Discharge of Conditions  
NMA Non Material Alterations



## In Memory of Roy Sterry

Roy Sterry died of a brain tumour on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2013. He was only 67 years old. There are 16,000 people diagnosed with a brain tumour each year, only 4 in 10 survive more than 1 year, and only 15% survive for 5 years. Yet only 1% of cancer research spending is on brain tumours.



This is why Stella Garner decided she wanted to help a small but vital charity - Brain Tumour Research. "Roy was a loved and respected neighbour and one of the most genuine people I have ever met", she said. So Stella decided to take a stall at the Vintage Fair at the Royal Masonic School in November, and to start collecting clothes and selling raffle tickets for this important charity. Her aim was to collect £1000. The response was great. Many donated items, many attended the show, and many bought raffle tickets. Stella sends grateful thanks all those who participated. At the time of writing, she hasn't quite made her target but she's very confident that she will.

I think what Stella has done is wonderful. Roy was a great guy, my very best friend in Loudwater. Indeed, he was Mr. Loudwater. He was Chairman of the Loudwater Residents' Association and later, because nobody else wanted to do the jobs, Planning Secretary and Editor of the Ol' Trout. He cared - which may be an old-fashioned virtue these days, but, to me, a really important one. Of course I am biased.

Christine Sterry has coped brilliantly since Roy's death. She has taken on the mantle of Roy in trying to help everyone who needs support. As we near the anniversary of Roy's death I assure her that our thoughts are with her and their son Jamie, and I'll make this promise. Roy will never be forgotten by us, his many friends.

**Peter Phillips.**

## Race Night 19<sup>th</sup> October

Eight horse races, one Compere, an estate car full of fish and chips and one lonely sausage! The Barn, full of Loudwater residents and their guests were the ingredients of our autumn event for this year.

Tony Hale- Loudwater's most experienced "Meet and Greeter" was on hand to dispense Prosecco upon arrival, then around 8 pm we sat down to the main event. Everybody had their race card with up to 8 horses per race, bets were placed to the "Loudwater Tote" managed efficiently by Roy Preedy.

Form was studied, going was investigated by some, and others just guessed or went for the names of horses that appealed to them.

After four races most attendees were as hungry as the equestrians on the big projection screen. At this point we had a break from the frantic activity going on, and enjoyed our fish and chips, and ice cream

Refuelled and refreshed by our super, we entered the final furlong of the evening. Bets were placed, systems thought up, as the queue at the tote became longer with each race to the final one around 10.30 pm

Whilst this was not the most ambitious of LRA events, the feedback received was that everybody enjoyed himself or herself, and so we may well use the same organization again for another event.

My thanks to Charles and Jo Homewood, Lorna Hawxwell, Tony Hale and everybody else in helping make a success of this event.

**Don Moore**

## Theatre Club

I had anticipated something special for our visit to see "West Side Story" at Sadlers Wells but the reality was outstanding with remarkable dancing, brilliant timing and great acting. It was, in essence, a tragic modern opera that was utterly absorbing. Twenty-three of our party returned to the Rose & Crown for our after show meal which, by all I talked to, was the perfect ending to a memorable day. For me, marred only by being "conned" by Tony Hale into inviting everybody to sing "Happy Birthday" to a lady who was a perfect stranger to us all and just happened to be sitting at the one table not occupied by us!

I was saddened by the unexpected resignation of two members of our committee, which put some strain on our operations, but Trevor Slade and Hazel Nest both rallied round and we coped surprisingly well. It put my rather limited computer skills onto a very steep learning curve, but we managed. We are delighted to welcome Carole Timms who has volunteered to join the Committee and whose considerable skills will be invaluable.

As forecast in September's "Ol' Trout" we have arranged for something "rather different" in December. It won't be comedy but should bring a smile to our faces. We have twenty-four band A tickets in the dress circle at the Watford Coliseum, which has excellent acoustics. The BBC Concert Orchestra, with the New London Choir, present a "Christmas Concert" featuring some of our favourite composers with their much loved music. We've reserved tables for us all to enjoy a pre-show meal in the Forum Restaurant. It was so frustrating to have to turn away members who wanted to come, but didn't or couldn't reply before the cut-off date. All we can do is to put them in touch with anyone who can't use their tickets.

Our final fixture for the Club's year is a real comedy. The Theatre Royal Haymarket is staging "One Man Two Guvnors" and the run ends on the 1st of March. Our party of twenty-seven are going to a matinee, on the 26th of February to a show that's had "rave" reviews and most have said they are interested in dining later. The choices of restaurant and menus have yet to be made.

The Club is still thriving, adequately resourced, and blessed with a great and appreciative membership.

**Peter Laule**

## Wine Club Christmas Dinner

This year's event was held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November in the magnificent setting of Moor Park Golf Club's Thornhill Room which was set up using tables with candelabras with ivory candles and Christmas decorations.

Being a 'Black Tie' occasion the men looked dashing but were again outshone by the ladies in their sparkling evening gowns.

On arrival members were offered a glass of sparkling Prosecco, Peach Bellini or orange juice together with a selection of excellent canapés comprising tempura prawns, mini crispy duck spring rolls, foie gras and toasted brioche, smoked salmon and cream cheese tartlets, all served in the main Reception Hall resplendent with the



traditional Christmas tree putting the final seasonal touch to the occasion.

Gary Coster had selected the wines; a Rioja Blanco Marques de Cáceres and a Merlot Cabernet Claret, no complaints were lodged!

Members had pre-selected their menu but as an 'aide memoir' Buzz Coster had designed, in an antique style, individual place name settings including their personal selections – considered by all a real touch of class. Among the choices was traditional Roast Turkey or Roast Beef, followed by Profiteroles, Christmas Pudding or a Cheese Plate, accompanied by Orange Muscat and Flora Dessert Wine and then Coffee and Mince Pies.



In all a most convivial occasion enjoyed by the members and a very civilised way of preparing for the festive season.

The only sad note was that some of our members were unable to attend – they missed a memorable evening!

My thanks also to Committee Members Lorna Hawxwell, Jim Harvey and Martin Powell as well as Gary & Buzz for their contributions in the planning and organization ensuring everything was 'all right on the night'!

**Tony Hale**

| Month           | Day & Date               | Event   |
|-----------------|--------------------------|---|
| <b>December</b> | Wednesday 4th            | Bridge Club   |
|                 | Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> | Troutstream Investment Club Meeting                                       |
|                 | Tuesday 10th             | Theatre Club Christmas Concert<br>Watford Colosseum BBC Concert Orchestra |
|                 | Wednesday 18th           | Bridge Club   |
| <b>January</b>  | Tuesday 14th             | Troutstream Investment Club Meeting                                       |
|                 | Wednesday 15th           | Bridge Club   |
|                 | Thursday 16th            | LRA Committee Meeting St Cyrus  |
|                 | Friday 24rd              | Wine Club   |
| <b>February</b> | Wednesday 5th            | Bridge Club   |
|                 | Tuesday 11th             | Troutstream Investment Club Meeting                                       |
|                 | Wednesday 19th           | <b>Bridge Club</b>  |
|                 | Thursday 20 Feb          | LRA Committee Meeting - Karelia   |
|                 | Wednesday 26th           | Theatre Club Matinee  |
|                 | Friday 28th              | Wine Club   |
| <b>March</b>    | Wednesday 5th            | Bridge Club   |
|                 | Tuesday 11th             | Troutstream Investment Club Meeting                                       |
|                 | Wednesday 19th           | Bridge Club   |
|                 | Friday 28st              | Wine Club   |
| <b>April</b>    | Wednesday 2nd            | Bridge Club   |
|                 | Tuesday 8th              | Troutstream Investment Club Meeting                                       |
|                 | Thursday 10 April        | LRA Committee Meeting – Five Trees  |
|                 | Wednesday 16th           | Bridge Club   |
| <b>May</b>      | Wednesday 7th            | Bridge Club   |
|                 | Tuesday 13th             | Troutstream Investment Club Meeting                                       |
|                 | Thursday 15th            | Annual General Meeting  |
|                 | Wednesday 21st           | Bridge Club   |



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