



The Ol' Trout

THE
LOUDWATER
NEWSLETTER

No. 147

September 2013

Editorial

My theme on birds continues and there is a very good article on Red Kites. Over recent weeks whilst crossing the fields in Sarratt I saw four Red Kites swooping over the recently ploughed fields. There also seem to be many more different birds around in the local fields. If any residents would like to send me an article on observations in Loudwater I would be pleased to include in the next edition. Plus any other local interest articles.

Robert Kenison

Chairman's Words

As summer draws to a close and the nights become noticeably darker I hope all residents have enjoyed the warm days that have marked the last couple of months and been able to appreciate Loudwater looking at its best.

In a continuing effort to deter drivers from speeding in the lanes of Loudwater, this edition reports on activities of the Police in this matter. It is interesting to note that the findings – that many of those speeding were in fact residents- correlates with a similar exercise held earlier in the year in Shire Lane, Chorleywood.

At our AGM in May there was a request that committee members' e-mail addresses were included in the contact details. You will note in the adjacent column that the LRA e-mail address is now listed. If you wish to communicate by this method, your correspondence will be forward to the appropriate committee member for action.

Enclosed is a flyer for our Autumn Race Night. This will be held at our usual venue – The Barn. I do hope that as many residents as possible will support Don Moore and the Events Sub-Committee by attending this event. Previous Race Nights have proved popular and I look forward to another enjoyable evening.

Heather Kenison

Road Traffic

On 22nd March this year the new Hertfordshire Police and Crime Officer, David Lloyd, launched a Community DriveSafe Campaign, the intention of which is designed to give Residents and Businesses the opportunity to take an active part in making their communities safer.

DriveSafe is primarily for road safety education and raising awareness of speeding, with motorists receiving a warning letter, but if issues are not resolved by local people taking action themselves. The Safer Neighbour police team can step in to carry out speed enforcement, which means drivers can be fined or even prosecuted. David Lloyd said "Speeding is a real concern to a lot of people. I've been told by countless residents, in both rural and more built up areas, that they are fed up with seeing reckless motorists driving above the speed limit and in a manner which leaves them feeling unsafe outside their homes. They are particularly concerned about vulnerable people, including their elderly neighbours and young

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children. Motorists driving too fast don't always appreciate the fear, anger and frustration felt by pedestrians and householders. They are failing to respect the residents who live and work in these locations and the law". These are comments with which I and all of us residents should concur with!

Fully police trained residents as volunteers would use Speed Indication Devices (SID's) to monitor the speed of vehicles. The scheme would give local residents a chance to take charge of their local roads and the police would take action against repeat offenders. To qualify for this scheme required a petition signed by ten or more residents with at least six volunteers to actively run it. Just up our street (so as to speak) I thought! Twenty four signatures were obtained of which twelve volunteered to run the scheme – so I wrote to David Lloyd enclosing the petition.

An assessment of Loudwater Lane and Sarratt Lane was performed by the police as to their suitability for SID's. Unfortunately, it was concluded the locations were unsuitable. In addition, the police carried out a number of Speed Awareness exercises in the Loudwater Lane and Sarratt Lane area. Some residents may already be aware of this!

I have received assurances from the Rickmansworth Police Safer Neighbourhood Team and the Special Constabulary that these Speed Awareness exercises are to be continued on a regular basis. This will include the section of Loudwater Lane between Walden Lodge and Bridle Lane. There would appear to have been a positive effect on speed reduction since the police are taking more notice. I can assure you the police are now taking speeding in Loudwater Lane and Sarratt Lane very seriously and I'm in frequent touch with them. The police also accept that traffic volume will increase after the summer and more frequent visits by them will be necessary.

Additional road signage is presently being considered but current indications are that the costs of installing automated speed "Slow Down" signs would be prohibitive. Also, the white lining each side of Loudwater Lane has helped and I have requested that this be kept clean and renewed where worn away, on a regular basis.

Finally, below is a report from Sgt Ryan Hemmings. It was somewhat embarrassing that the majority of vehicles stopped were residents (we also made the Watford Observer Friday, July 12 2013, see below. "Slow down – and that goes for residents too") and it does make me wonder why we bother when it is the residents complaining!! However, Sgt Hemmings told me quite a number of residents stopped, wound down their windows and commented that it's nice to see them here conducting speed patrols. He also had a number of thumbs up whilst drivers were driving past! So all is not completely lost it seems?

Bob Jolliffe

"Slow down and that goes for residents too"

"A police operation to tackle speeding in Loudwater Lane, Loudwater stopped 27 drivers in an hour.

Special Inspector Ron McMurdie and Special Sergeant Andy Kowalski took to the area on Saturday (July 13) with a hand-held laser device after residents complained about the number of cars exceeding the 30mph speed limit along the road. But of the 27 drivers spoken to about their speed, most were themselves Loudwater residents.

Sergeant Ryan Hemmings from Rickmansworth and Croxley Green Safer Neighbourhood team said "We hope our presence acted as a reminder to drivers to lower their speeds. We will continue to listen to the concerns of our residents and take action"

Watford Observer

Road Traffic Police Feed back

Officers from the Rickmansworth Safer Neighbourhood Team including those of the Special Constabulary have conducted a number of High Visibility "Speed Awareness" exercises in and around the Loudwater Lane area after residents complained of excess speed in their neighbourhood.

Unfortunately the location was seen as unsuitable for the Constabulary's volunteer Drivesafe campaign following a report by the Traffic Management Officer. The roads in this location were deemed too narrow and did not have sufficient pavement or verges for the public to carry out the operation with the Drivesafe equipment.

Sgt Ryan Hemmings from the Rickmansworth Safer Neighbourhood Team was contacted via the Herts Police & Crime Commissioner's office and asked if his team could assist.

A number of Speed Awareness exercises have now been conducted in and around Loudwater Lane aimed at highlighting the speeding issue that the residents face.

Officers from the Special Constabulary stopped 27 vehicles in a single hour during one of the exercises, the majority of those were drivers that lived locally and were surprised at the speed they were driving. A number of local residents made positive comments to Police during the evening.



One of the exercises was carried out during the afternoon by Sgt Ryan Hemmings in person. Approximately 20 vehicles were highlighted as breaking the speed limit. At this time of the day the majority were workmen that were working in the immediate area, with only a small number using the back roads as a cut through to Croxley Green. The highest speed recorded was 39 mph.

Loudwater is a rural location with very narrow roads that is used by residents, workmen and drivers using it as a cut through to Sarratt and Croxley Green. Police would like to remind everyone that speeding is an offence and extremely dangerous, especially around the narrow roads of Loudwater where there are limited paved areas for pedestrians.

Sgt Ryan Hemmings

Theatre Club

Our visit to see "Singin In the Rain" was reckoned by all I spoke to as a great success. Most impressive was the sheer enthusiasm and athleticism of the cast. The scenery, including a real downpour, and a flooded dance floor was masterful - thankfully, but very necessarily, viewers in the front two rows were issued with plastic covers!

It was a pity that only 17 out of our party of 25 chose to dine at the Bedford Arms but our meal was greatly enjoyed by those who did, and the new management did us proud. The Club has always tried to provide the opportunity of a good and reasonably priced meal when we go to a theatre, but it is essentially secondary to our "raison d'etre" and takes a lot of arranging. It's a problem we must to address because we are reluctant to abandon something which can be so enjoyable.

By the time you read this we will have been to Sadlers Wells to see "West Side Story". It has had excellent reviews so we were w... book so early, and I'm confident that we won't be disappointed. After the performance we are returning for our dinner to the Rose & Crown in Chorleywood, who served us very well when we went there last April after seeing "Maurice's Jubilee". Finally we hope to arrange a booking for say mid- to- late November - perhaps for a play with a good helping of laughter which will let us leave with a smile.

Peter Laule

Red Kites; Loudwater Joins the Success Story

In the 15th and 17th Centuries Red Kites were the one of the most common birds of prey in England, but by the end of the 19th Century the entire population had been wiped out. And who was responsible? We were.

Constantly seen over our towns and cities until we stopped throwing all our rubbish into the streets, kites moved out into the countryside, where they were literally slaughtered by farmers and gamekeepers, who thought they killed lambs and game birds. In fact they are scavengers, feeding on dead animals and birds and also worms and insects and killing only small mammals such as mice and... Seriously big birds with a wingspan of over five feet, they were very easy to shoot.

On the brink of extinction in the UK, in 1989 a project was set up to re-introduce them to the Chiltern Hills, an ideal habitat for them. Between 1989 and 1994 ninety three kite chicks from Spain were released in the Chilterns. In 1991 the first pair successfully bred and they have not looked back since.

Despite their size, red kites are graceful fliers and give remarkable aerobatic displays, especially when they are flocking. They like to roost and nest in tall trees on the edge of woodland where they can hunt over open fields. They build nests of twigs and line them with any soft material they can find. Many odd things have been found in kite nests, including ladies' underwear stolen from washing lines - not a new habit apparently. ("When the kite builds, look to lesser linen." - Shakespeare, The Winter's Tale)

The project is monitored by RSPB officers licensed to handle this protected species. Unlike raptors, kite chicks play dead when they sense danger, so can be picked up easily and weighed and tagged. Try that with a buzzard chick, and you'd be minus a thumb!

Breeding has been so successful that not only are kites to be seen now all over the Chilterns but for some time now Chiltern kite chicks

have been regularly sent to start re-introduction projects in other areas all over the country.

In Chorleywood kites have been seen over the Common for several years now and over the last year or so they have been flying over Loudwater.



The only glitch in this remarkable success story is, once again, being caused by us. People are putting out food for them. It is wonderful to have these magnificent birds swooping down over your garden and, naturally, the birds will take what is easiest to get, but kites need to eat *whole dead animals, innards, bones, fur and feathers* to be healthy. They do not get enough of the right vitamins and minerals if fed on kitchen scraps, dog food, butcher's meat, etc. and their chicks do not develop properly. Also, if they are fed, they will all stay in one place and have no incentive to spread to other areas.

So please keep the success story going. Enjoy watching them, but do not feed them.

Margaret Jarrett
Chilterns Conservation Board

Loudwater Resident

Some may say moving from central London to a snowy Loudwater, last November whilst 8 months pregnant, with my husband and one year old was a crazy move, well maybe it was but we feel it's one of the best decisions we ever made.

Following a visit to friends who live at Dene Cottage - we met them whilst on safari in South Africa - we fell in love with the Loudwater estate, its beautiful greenery, interesting architecture and easy commute to London so decided this was where we wanted to settle down and bring up our family.

Once we had successfully relocated, little Oscar safely arrived, Christmas had come and gone and we had survived the heavy snow we felt a little more settled but wanted to get to know a few more people in the area.



Our immediate neighbours had already been extremely welcoming and my attendance at the LRA AGM meeting in May gave me a real

sense of community though I still hadn't met any young mums. So via the LRA I orchestrated a coffee morning to see if any mothers wanted to meet up. I have since met a number of lovely women who have given me the low down on the area and offered some great family-friendly tips.

I am happy to host another coffee morning should anyone want to meet up....

Lisa Marheineke
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Muirside, Overstream,

Loudwater Garden Club

Following Kathy Brown's excellent talk at our AGM in February, Club members have been on two trips. The first was in April to Ascott House near Tring, a delightful Rothschild property run by the National Trust whose extensive gardens are more formal than the gardens we often visit, with Victorian-style flower beds and beautifully clipped topiary.

The second visit was to the RHS garden at Hyde Hall in Essex, beautiful flower beds and gorgeous roses in a lovely open setting. We seem to be lucky with the weather and had beautiful sunshine for both trips.

We have had to cancel our August trip as many of our members could not manage the altered date but, as so many of them want to make this visit, we have moved the trip and will now be going to Wrest Park on September 25th. Nearly all the places are taken so, if anyone is still planning to come, please let me know as soon as possible.

Margaret Jarrett

Yoga on the Door Step

Your readers may recall receiving an email in June about the establishment of a Yoga Club in Loudwater. Anyone interested was invited to contact Tarun Mittal, a recent resident who was offering Yoga instruction on Sunday mornings at his home.

To be offered Yoga instruction at a time when I would usually be doing nothing of consequence, to be taught by a hospital doctor and qualified Yoga teacher, in Loudwater, was too tempting an invitation to ignore. Tarun does not wish to be paid for the sessions but welcomes any voluntary donation to the Children's charity he supports in his home town in India.

As a long-time fitness enthusiast I have run, jumped, thrown various balls in all directions as well as sampling more sedate pursuits like the Alexander Technique and Pilates. However I had never tried Yoga, believing it too 'spiritual' for me, and needing a supple body well above my capacity. How wrong I was.

I have attended three sessions so far and I am already feeling the benefit.

In a calm environment, and with gentle encouragement from Tarun I am learning how better to relax and breathe at the same time as challenging my increasingly stiff and unwilling joints. There is a range of experience amongst those who attend but it is probably fair to say that things are kept fairly simple at present. By popular request Tarun concludes each session with a most beautiful Hindu prayer which is a perfect end to the hour long sessions.

Numbers are limited but there is room for a few more participants so if you are interested why not contact Tarun at mittaltk@msn.com (or call 712128/ 07946554466 in the evening) and come and join us.

Val Kleanthous
Bridle Lane

LRA Diary of Events

Month	Day & Date	Event
September	Wednesday 4th	Bridge Club
	Thursday 5th	LRA Committee Meeting
	Tuesday 10 th	Troutstream Investment Club Meeting
	Saturday 14th	Theatre Club - Matinee, " West Side Story" at Sadlers Wells
	Wednesday 18th	Bridge Club
October	Wednesday 25th	Garden Club trip to Wrest Park
	Friday 27th	Wine Club Tasting with a new tutor
	Wednesday 2nd	Bridge Club
	Tuesday 8 th	Troutstream Investment Club Meeting
	Wednesday 14th	Bridge Club
November	Thursday 17 th	LRA Committee Meeting
	Saturday 19th	LRA Autumn Event – Autumn Handicap Race Night at the Barn
	Friday 25th	Wine Club – Vertical Tasting with Gary Coster
	Wednesday 6th	Bridge Club
	Tuesday 12 th	Troutstream Investment Club Meeting
December	Wednesday 20th	Bridge Club
	Thursday 21st	LRA Committee Meeting
	Wednesday 27th	Garden Club – Gardeners Question Time
	Saturday 30 th	Wine Club Christmas Dinner at Moor Park
	Wednesday 4th	Bridge Club
December	Tuesday 10 th	Troutstream Investment Club Meeting
	Wednesday 18th	Bridge Club



Charity Event; Moor Park 10k and Junior Fun Runs



All funds raised for the Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre.

This year's event which will take place on Sunday 29th September at Merchant Taylors' School.

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We look forward to hearing from you soon

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