



The Ol' Trout

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Editorial

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the Ol' Trout.

We receive many different local magazines through our doors, ranging from Optima, Chorleywood/Rickmansworth News, Chorleywood Magazine, and Three Rivers Times. There are some interesting news items but a lot of adverts. However, I am sure most of us do not read them all. I hope you will find this Ol' Trout of interest.

The main topics appear to be dog control, burglaries and telephone scams. With regard to last two points please take extra care.

The Ol' Trout's focus is on the residents and events of Loudwater. One of the biggest concerns appears to be broadband speed, as the speeds are currently very low. There have been several articles in the Ol' Trout, with a further update in this edition.

As some of you are aware I do a bit of running. During this year I have taken to running "Park runs". It is free. Just Google "Park runs" and you will be taken to the web site. I run at Cassiobury Park, great fun for all standards, all ages, with or without pushchairs. Most Saturdays there are about 200 runners, joggers and jog/walkers. For those who would like a bit of exercise over the festivities there will Park runs on Christmas day and New Year's day. See you all there!!!

A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all the Ol' Trout readers.

Robert Kenison

Chairman's Words

As the evenings get darker and we are blowing the leaves out of our gardens, it is time to look back over the last few months.

We had a very successful Quiz Night in September and I'd like to congratulate Roger Bayliss's team for winning and Margaret and Mike Thorpe for hosting it.

In October we hosted our first "New Residents' Evening" where new residents were invited to meet the LRA Committee and club heads over drinks and canapés. It was a great success and we look forward to hosting more in future.

I am also pleased to announce that Shehnaaz Kassamali will be reviving the Theatre Club. This has always been popular but unfortunately had gone into abeyance in recent years. I would appreciate it if you could give her your support in this endeavour.

I would like to thank you for responding to the "Your Committee Needs Your Contact Details" form in the last copy of the Ol' Trout. We received hundreds of replies which means that we will be in a much better position to keep you updated with what is happening in the area. If you still have your form lying around and haven't filled it in, please do return it to Anni in the envelope provided.

Loudwater Residents' Association

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Diary of Events

Alex Buxton

For any queries contact
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Alternatively, you can email Anni your contact details at secretary@lraonline.org.uk.

If you are a Twitter user, we have also launched our Twitter account on @LoudwaterRA. And don't forget you can follow our Facebook page on www.facebook.com/LoudwaterResidents.

Alex Buxton

Fibre Broadband

In the previous edition of the Ol' Trout, I mentioned that some residents had asked about the possibility of a privately funded option for Cabinet 10. BT Openreach indicated that the cost of this may be in the region of £20K, but could be more depending upon the result of a survey. There would be a three month wait until the survey could be conducted, a further wait until contracts were signed and then a further wait of about a year until the cabinet would be fibred and be operational. This would be in Spring 2017 – the date BT have given for the cabinet to be fibred under their commercial programme. The LRA committee discussed this option but given the time scale, cost and administrative factors, decided it would be prudent to proceed with BT's programme.

Part of Loudwater is connected to cabinet 9, a fibred cabinet, but do not receive superfast broadband due to the distance their property is from the cabinet. Connected Counties are working on the Herts Superfast Extension programme which aims to bring superfast broadband to such properties. At present they do not know how this will be done although one suggestion is to reconnect properties to a cabinet nearer their home. Currently, if your home is in Phase 4 of this programme, this upgrade will be available between January 2018 and March 2019. However Connected Counties are planning an acceleration package which would bring forward these dates by 9 months. You can check which phase your home falls into by connecting to:

<http://www.connectedcounties.org/media/1157030/List-of-Herts-Postcodes.pdf>

Some postcodes are a mixture of two phases and at present it is not possible to determine which premises falls into which phase, however this should be possible in the New Year

Heather Kenison

Station Road Bridge Works

Station Road was closed for over a month in November in preparation for the railway bridge replacement over Easter Bank Holiday weekend in 2016.

The early preparation works included water and gas mains relocation as well as additional foundations.

As you will be aware, TFL wished to extend the work until 30th November as engineers found additional essential works were needed. However, in response to the concern raised by Rickmansworth Town Councillors on the effect this extended closure would have on local businesses, TFL decided to reopen the road on 24th November but with a planned further closure in January 2016. This will take place between 16th January and 8th February.

The new bridge sections are being constructed on the building site in Victoria Close. The new sections will then be transported across the road at Easter next year.

There will be road and rail disruption over Easter weekend, 25th to 29th March whilst the construction is being completed.

Robert Kenison

Theatre Club

After a short break, the Loudwater theatre club will start up again in January 2016.

We will be sending out information with regards to renewing memberships and our first trip of the year by the end of January. We hope to have two matinee trips and one evening trip every calendar year.

We look forward to meeting all our members and welcome suggestions of what shows you would like to see.

Shehnaaz Kassamali and Abintah Adamjee

Wine Club

Seasons Greetings from Loudwater Wine Club Committee. As I write, we are looking forward to our Christmas Party at Moor Park Mansion with 46 members attending. We have a busy year ahead of us with events planned for almost every month, kicking off with a tasting of French wines on Friday 29th January. On Friday 26th February we have our AGM followed by fine wines and a beef bourguignon supper. March will be a social evening at a local restaurant.

We have many other events in the pipeline including a 4 day visit to Champagne on 6th June.

Our events are informal and an opportunity to meet fellow residents of Loudwater. If you would like to join our merry group please contact Carole Timms carolecolin@yahoo.co.uk or call 01923 776681.

Tony Hale, Pat Eckersall, Jo Homewood, Colin & Carole Timms

New Members' Evening

The Loudwater Residents' Association Committee hosted a 'New Members' Evening in October, at which the Committee and Club Leaders met new residents and introduced them to the activities available to all members of the LRA.

It was a very pleasant and successful evening and it is hoped that those who came will want to join the future social events in the community.

We plan to repeat this event, as more new residents move into the area.

June Gili Ross

Wine Club Outing to Wine Society Headquarters

On one of the hottest days of the year we boarded the coach at Loudwater Farm for our visit to the Wine Society Headquarters at Stevenage only to find that the driver was unable to turn the floor heating off! Not the most auspicious of starts to the day. However, the journey was soon forgotten as clearly looking as if we needed a drink we were invited to help ourselves to whatever we would like to taste from the chiller cabinets! With the noise levels soon rising and being referred to as a "lively group" it was soon time for the official reception to begin!

After one or two glasses of The Society's Cremant de Loire we were off for our guided trip of the wine warehouses.



Just loads of wine

The Wine Society is set up as a mutual society, the aim being to supply quality wine at the best possible prices and profit was not and is not a primary concern. Warehouse 1 was extended in 1970 to provide more space for its bonded stock. All wine in this warehouse is owned by the Members. There are over 230,000 cases stored here owned by nearly 19,000 Members and kept under ideal storage conditions of 13 degrees. The average Wine Society member is not your typical UK consumer. The average UK adult purchases 37 bottles p.a. and a typical Wine Society member purchases 68 bottles p.a. Over half the stock is French wines, with Italy 2nd and Chile 3rd. In 1983 the Wine Society decided to buy the land at Stevenage and were able therefore to build Warehouse 2 in 1989. Warehouse 3 was built in 2001 at a cost of £2.5m with an increase of 4.2m bottles storage. This is used to store the fastest moving traffic as well as excess from Members Reserves. Until 1998 all bonded stock and duty-paid had to be stored separately. Customs and Excise can now track stock movements via computer systems.

The Society can therefore hold more bonded stock and duty is paid from the moment before it leaves the warehouse. On an average day 4,500 bottles are picked with December 17th last year being a record when 30,490 were picked. Warehouse 4 was built in 2004 and uses the latest eco-building technology and cost £5m. At 20 meters it is the 2nd tallest warehouse in the UK with the flattest warehouse floor in Europe. This warehouse has almost doubled capacity to 7.5 million bottles! We were all stunned and rendered almost speechless

(probably a first for the Loudwater members) by the sheer volume and height of the storage! We passed through the despatch area which was full of conveyor belts going round and round with boxes of wine being processed for deliveries by their own vans or with a carrier. Plans for warehouses 5 and 6 are already in hand.

Having worked up an appetite for lunch we found our way to the Members dining room where we were treated to a feast of tomato and mozzarella salad, slow roast belly of pork on a vegetable cassoulet, a selection of cheeses and grapes and baked Alaska all washed down with Semeli Mantinia Nasiakos 2014, Etna Bianco Fondo Filara, Nicosia 2014 La Rioja Alta Vina Ardanza Reserva, Rioja 2005 Chateau Ferriere 2004 Margaux and the Society's Exhibition Sauternes 2009.



The best part of the tour!

Lunch over, we made our way to our waiting replacement coach with air-conditioning working perfectly and reflected on what had been a superb outing. It was, in my opinion, one of the best wine club outings we have had in recent years and reminiscent of the early visits to France. Had the journey home been longer I think we would all have fallen asleep! Well done Colin and your team – a completely different, well organised, fact filled and thoroughly enjoyable day out that will be difficult to follow!

Diana Vaughton

Quiz Night September

Our annual Quiz Night was a great success and we were very pleased with how popular it was.

We were lucky to have Margaret and Mike Thorpe host it and they did a fantastic job. The categories were varied with subjects including History, Geography, Science, General Knowledge, Food, Sport and TV and Film.

We had a short break in the middle to enjoy our meal of fish and chips. Everyone had a great time and I think we all learned something as well! For example:

- Wellington is the capital of New Zealand, not Auckland.
- TARDIS stands for Time and Relative *Dimension* in Space, not Time and Relative *Distance* in Space.
- Sam Smith and Sam Bailey are very different people.
- "4col" in text speak means For Crying Out Loud.

Congratulations to Table 1, Roger Bayliss's team, for winning. They were duly awarded their prizes of sparkling wine!



Many thanks to June Gili-Ross for organising the event. Everyone enjoyed themselves and we are looking forward to next year's Quiz Night.

Alex Buxton

Golf Society

The Event ..Monday 9th May 2016

The provisional date for our annual meeting is now Monday 9th May 2016 and I am holding a booking at Sandy Lodge Golf for this date.

In my last article in The Old Trout I invited comments from interested parties but only had one...so I can only assume that people are reasonably happy with the format.

I have spoken with a number of regulars and some have kindly made enquiries at other local clubs. However taking account of the cost and a number of other factors I have decided that we will return to Sandy Lodge for the event.

The format will be along the same lines as last year with a start time around 1.00pm with dinner to follow in the evening around 7.30pm with wives partners or non-golfers welcome to join us for dinner.

Sandy Lodge members will again pay their fair way and this helps us keep the cost down for all the other guests.

Your comments and ideas are welcome. I will be emailing all of last year's participants with more details of the event in the spring.

Have a great Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your support.

Kind Regards

My contact details are as follows
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Percy McCloskey

Poem for Christmas

The Christmas Tree

At first it won't fit through the door
So you resort to blade and saw
And then you have to find a pot -
It takes a size you haven't got.

You raise it, but it's still too tall
It scrapes the ceiling, then the wall
You give a timely "TIMBER!" call
As it begins its downward fall.

"We'll have to take some off the top"
You say, as you begin to lop
"Oh no!" they cry, their faces wary
You add: "We'll get a fatter fairy."

You hide the wires from careless trippers
And hope they come down in their slippers
For by the next day there'll be more
Sharp needles on your vacuumed floor.

But what a joy it's going to be
On Christmas morning when you see
Gathered round that special tree
The faces of your family.

June Gili-Ross

LRA Events for 2016

We are now in the process of arranging events for 2016, the first of which is an ABBA NIGHT, to be held at Moor Park Golf Club on April 15th 2016. Time to have a little fun, so after the meal, we can dance and sing to a four-piece Abba tribute band.

For this event, we will trial a system whereby LRA members may book their places first and if we still have spaces left, we will let you know so that you can invite guests if you wish.

After that, we hope the following events will be: The Summer Fete, a Quiz Night, a Hallowe'en party and a Christmas concert/singalong. More information and dates will be sent out in the New Year and will appear on the LRA website.

Do come along to as many events as you can – support your community and meet up with friends and neighbours.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

June Gili-Ross

A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



Diary of Events

Month	Day & Date	Event
Jan	Wed 6th	Bridge Club
	Tue 12th	Troutstream Investment Club
	Wed 20th	Bridge Club
	Fri 29th	Wine Club French Wines
Feb	Wed 3rd	Bridge Club
	Tue 9th	Troutstream Investment Club
	Wed 17th	Bridge Club
	Fri 26th	Wine Club AGM, plus supper and wines
Mar	Wed 2nd	Bridge Club
	Tue 8th	Troutstream Investment Club
	Wed 16th	Bridge Club
Apr	Wed 6th	Bridge Club
	Tue 12th	Troutstream Investment Club
	Fri 15th	Abba Night
	Wed 20th	Bridge Club



Club Contacts

Club	Contact	Phone	Email
Bridge	Janis Rees	710095	janisrees@btopenworld.com
Gardening	Margaret Jarrett	774225	mum.jarrett@virgin.net
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