

# Ol' The Trout



## Introducing Roy Sterry - our new Chairman

I was asked "what do you notice first about Roy Sterry?" Quick as a flash I replied "his wife!" Roy is 56 years old. He and his wife, Christine, make a most handsome couple. They married in 1976 - "I was desperate", exclaimed Christine, with a big smile! They have lived in Mulberry Cottage, Troutstream Way, since 1991. Their son, Jamie, is 19 and studying at Edinburgh University.



Roy retired in 1995. He was Director of Field Operations of United Dominions Trust, a subsidiary of Lloyds TSB. He had become fed up with high finance and power politics, and now wanted to work for himself. So he started up a small business, Stumpbusters, which he still runs today. His hobbies (which, seemingly, take preference over work!) include golf, bridge, the stock market, computers, and 'remembering how it was'. He has been a member of the LRA committee for 3 years, the last one as Vice Chairman. He belongs to every Loudwater Club except the Children's Club and the Garden Club. I asked him "why he puts in so much work into the community?" He replied in his usual matter-of-fact way, "I like meeting people. I like the sense of community. I like getting things done."

Roy was most lavish in his praise for his predecessor, Denise Preedy. "She took over in the most difficult circumstances but became an excellent Chairman. Hers will be a hard act to follow. She was so selfless and entirely natural in her dealings with people."

Roy will be Chairman for 3 years. Amongst his aims are for there "not to be any more houses built in Loudwater; the speed limit in the roads to be reduced to 20 mph, and the roads repaired more regularly". He is committed to the development of the community spirit through the Clubs, and hopes younger people will become more involved. He would like to see a community meeting place in Loudwater, perhaps the barn at Loudwater Farm.

I am biased. Roy and Christine are good friends. However, I really cannot think of anyone in Loudwater more able to follow Denise as Chairman of the LRA. I wish him every success.

Peter Phillips  
Armitage Close

## Chairman's Word

Welcome to the 3rd Ol' Trout: it's my first as Chairman and I'm looking forward to continuing the good work done by Denise Preedy and all of her predecessors. Loudwater is a very different community from the one I moved to in 1991; over one third of all residents regularly participate in the wide

variety of activities, with the Garden Club being the latest successful addition. But Loudwater is also very much the same in looks and amenities to that of 1991, thanks to the tireless efforts of many residents and committee members. If it were not for those who tend the verges and represent members' views when developers try to squeeze more properties into Loudwater, it would be a lot less desirable community to live in. So my aim will be to carry on as before - to preserve and foster the community spirit in Loudwater and I look forward to meeting all of you at some of the functions planned for the future.

Roy Sterry  
Troutstream Way

## The Editor writes...

This is the third issue of The Ol' Trout, and I've decided to have a bit of a moan. Why do so few of you come to our AGM? Despite a record attendance, less than 50 residents turned up. We see many more of you at a Wine Club function! We do serve wine at the AGM, and it is an important meeting for you to attend. The Chairman and the committee need your support and encouragement. Donald Cammell works tremendously hard on our behalf to make sure that displeasing planning applications are turned down by Three Rivers District Council. He is at the Council Offices every week. We're in constant touch with the Highways Partnership about the state of our roads. All the Loudwater functions are organised by the LRA committee. The Chairmen of the various clubs work hard for your further entertainment. We do all these things on a voluntary basis.

It would be nice to know you care and that we are appreciated. Besides paying your £5 subscriptions (on time, please!), do come to our functions, join the clubs, and see you at the 2003 AGM!

Peter Phillips

## Neighbourhood Watch

Hopefully we're all enjoying glorious summer weather! You will have flung open windows to let some much needed fresh air into your home, *but* don't forget all those windows and doors have to be closed at night and the locks put on too.

Going on holiday? You've stopped the milk and papers, but have you informed your neighbours (and also the Commissionaire if you live within the gated estate)? Is there a trusty neighbour who'll let himself in to stow your post from prying criminal eyes? It's an obvious giveaway that your house is unoccupied. Have you arranged for lights to turn on and off via a timer switch? Also, never ever put your home address on luggage labels, just your name—there are thieves lurking at airports too. If you are not going away but just enjoying gardening make sure your tools and garden machinery are locked up, preferably out of sight. The innocent trowel, spade or garden broom can all be used as weapons to gain entry to your property. A few simple precautions can make a huge difference.

June Curtis  
Troutstream Way



## Loudwater Residents Association

### Chairman

Roy Sterry

Mulberry Cottage, T'stream Way  
779599

### Vice Chairman

Denise Preedy

12 Harewood  
770280

### Treasurer

Maurice Escow

Wildwood, L'water Heights  
771810

### Correspondence Secretary

Don Cammell

Martins, Ladywood Close  
776126

### Members

June Curtis

Troutstream Way

Sheila Fawkner-Corbett

Loudwater House

Tony Hale

Overstream

John Hawxwell

Bridle Lane

Michael Nest

Sarratt Lane

Anthony Moss

Lower Plantation

Mary-Jane Peet

Loudwater Lane

Peter Phillips

Armitage Close

Sue Tippen

Chess Lane

Penny Wilkinson

Cherry Hill

# Club Scene

**Chess Investment Club**  
Meets 5pm, 2nd Wednesday  
of month  
Chairman  
Anthony Moss (774907)

**Troutstream Investment Club**  
Meets 8pm, 2nd Wednesday  
of month  
Chairman  
Godfrey Crook (776567)

**Theatre Club**  
Bookings  
June Curtis (721583)

**Wine Club**  
Meets 8pm, 4th Friday of  
month  
Chairman  
Tony Hale (774374)

**Bridge Club**  
Meets 7.30-10.30 pm, 1st  
and 3rd Wednesdays of  
month  
Chairman  
Liz Crook (776567)

**Garden Club**  
Chairman  
Anne Tate (773863)

**Children's Club**  
Co-ordinator  
Ann Garner (770633)

## Diary

Goodwood: 2nd Aug  
Harvest Supper: 12th Oct  
New Year's Eve: 31st Dec

## Harvest Quiz supper

By popular demand, we are holding another Harvest Supper, including a quiz, in the barn at Loudwater Farm. Put the date in your diary now - Saturday 12th October. There'll be more information in the next OI Trout, and you'll be receiving a flyer about it too.

## Theatre Club

Following the successful trip to the West End to see *The Play What I Wrote*, forthcoming outings include a trip to see *Love in a Maze* at The Watermill at Newbury in July and Highclere Castle in August. Both of these venues are new to the Theatre Club and we hope will be a great success. The Watermill is a small theatre on the banks of the river Lambourn and, weather permitting, part of the action takes place in the beautiful gardens. Highclere Castle is playing host to a *Battle Proms Concert*, which includes Napoleonic cavalry & infantry displays on horseback and on foot. A 21 gun salute to the Queen will mark the start of the concert with 193 live cannons, muskets and half an hour of fireworks. Not for the faint hearted, this one!

June Curtis

## Wine Club

Thirty pioneers braved an expedition to Burgundy in April for 5 days of intensive tasting of this region. A reserve supply of 2,000 bottles was purchased by the party (the savings paid for the trip according to Henry Brown) and transported back. Thanks to John Trigwell of Tanglewood Wine Tours and our own inexhaustible Mike Wood for organising such an enjoyable and informative venture.

Our second 'May Luncheon' held at Loudwater Farm was a happy occasion with some 55 members benefiting from some splendid Italian cuisine provided by Julia's Catering of Berkhamsted (the members' high opinions were such that Julia will look after our food needs at our

New Year's Eve Party also to be held at the Farm - make a note in your diary now

- guests of LRA Members welcome). Seven superb North Italian wines chosen by Wine Educator John Ducker complemented the food. At the end of June we undertook an excursion to Denbies Wine Estate near Guildford, a master class into the art of wine making, coupled with lunch and a trip on the 'Vineyard Express'.



On July 26th we welcome Sandy Leckie who will guide us through the intricacies of wines from Alsace; Sandy is familiar with our region having lived here in his early days and attended Merchant Taylor's.

Other dates for your diaries:

September 28th: Day trip to France including a Gourmet Lunch

October 25th: 'Californian Fine Wines' a tasting with John Trigwell at the Farm.

Tony Hale  
Overstream

## Garden Club

Despite showery, blustery weather (infuriating after weeks of sunshine!) the Bring and Buy Event made a

very satisfactory £112. There were some excellent bargains and the plants and homemade cakes on offer disappeared very quickly. Many thanks to all who helped or came and bought, particularly to Elizabeth Glanville for kindly providing the venue. The visit to Audley End in April was most interesting, with a specially arranged tour, with a very knowledgeable ranger, around the spectacular grounds, including the unique Audley End oak.



Visits to Waddesdon Manor and Wisley are proposed for August and September. We now have over thirty members and, as always, we are delighted to hear from those with similar interests.

Anne Tate  
Rooks Hill

## Children's Club

We will be going to print with the membership list very soon so, if you haven't already done so, please get your forms back to me as soon as possible. If you've lost your form, please call me!

The children greatly enjoyed the Golden Jubilee Street Party and I'd particularly like to thank Jennifer Horwood, Anne-Marie Hodges and Tony Bendall for their help in setting everything up. Also, thanks to the team of au-pairs who helped run things so smoothly, painting faces, applying tattoos, running the Zippy Dipper and generally keeping the kids happy - it was a great day!

Loudwater



Children's Club

Ann Garner  
Trout Rise

## Bridge Club

Special thanks in this issue to Eric and Mabel Tindall of Overstream for allowing us to play Duplicate Bridge at their home at the end of May. 4 tables, 16 players, and a very enjoyable evening had by one and



all! Our deepest condolences go to our member Jean Longman on the death of her husband, Dennis, who was also a member.

Liz Crook  
Chess Hill

## Investment Clubs

Both Clubs are happy to enrol new members as the Partnership Act allows each club to have 20 members in all.

Godfrey Crook  
Chess Hill

## Obituary - Dennis Longman

Amersham Crematorium was crowded on Friday 3rd May, with a strong representation from Loudwater. The appreciation was given by an ex-colleague who spoke in a way that Dennis would have enjoyed.

We learnt of his skills as an international tax expert for

Texaco and his ways of disarming critics from abroad. Many of the Bridge Club members present knew, of course, of his enjoyment of bridge. But his interests also included genealogy, stamps, and theological matters, and he was always a wonderful host.

We also know of his pride in his family and his support for Jean in her activities. It is very sad for both of them that they missed their Golden Wedding anniversary by a very few weeks. However, while we mourn for Dennis and think of Jean and their family, we are relieved that he was spared further suffering. His smile, anecdotes and enthusiasms will be greatly missed.

**Roger Fawkner-Corbett**  
Loudwater House

## Local Characters - Grace Nicholls

Undoubtedly, the most pleasant task I have had as Editor of *The Ol' Trout* was to interview Grace Nicholls of Branksome Lodge. 87 years old this month, Grace is a most wonderful character, still beautiful, highly intelligent, and enormously energetic. She moved to Loudwater in 1953 – Coronation Year – with her beloved husband "Nicky", and, by coincidence, went to live in Mulberry Cottage, now the home of LRA Chairman, Roy Sterry and his family. Indeed, she planted the Mulberry tree after which the house is named. She moved to Branksome Lodge in 1980 but Nicky died 10 years later. Luckily, she has three children living reasonably nearby, and what with 4 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren too, she is rarely lonely.

I was with Grace for nearly two hours and throughout the time she entertained me with great stories of her thankfully long life. She married Nicky in 1936, having met him when only 15 years old. "We were madly in love because he was so kind, understanding and sexy." She has had proposals of marriage since Nicky died but, sadly, she did not fancy any of her suitors!

Grace is a Yorkshire lass, not coming to London until 1929, aged 14. When 16 years old she started a modelling career and then became a housewife. During the war, she ran an Open House in Pinner for Australian, New Zealand and Canadian airmen, which became known as 'Nicholls Hostel'. More recently, she has appeared in TV's *Your Shout*, arguing the case for Euthanasia, and now she is seen daily in Loudwater, picking up litter. She fell in love with Loudwater instantly but, besides worrying about the influx of new houses, she thinks we could be a much tidier lot than we are! Every day except Sunday she leaves Branksome Lodge very early in the morning, armed with her "grabber and litter bag" and walks all the way along Loudwater Lane to Croyley Green, tidying up, then from Branksome Lodge along Loudwater Lane to Chorleywood Road, doing the same thing. She started doing this in 1978 because "I like to be tidy". She added, "people are so



kind, they even stop their cars to thank me".

Asked for her recipe for long life, she told me it was "pure, hard, physical work". That's why even now she still tends the front and back gardens of Branksome Lodge. She has another piece of advice too. "Before going to bed, say to your partner, 'I love you'. Nicky and I always did. We were very happy."

Grace is a gem. If I weren't already happily married, I too would have proposed to her. When I left her flat and walked back to Armitage Close, I felt elated. I had met somebody who had showed me that life can be beautiful.

**Peter Phillips**

## Jubilee Street Party

Despite having lived in Loudwater all my life, I had somehow never managed to make it to the annual Garden Party. No particular reason why not, just a busy diary – you know what it's like. But, this year, Jubilee and all that, I decided to go and see what everyone got up to and found a bustling party of 250 people down at Loudwater Farm, a jazz band playing, lots of activities for the children, wine flowing and the most sumptuous spread of food imaginable. Long trestle tables stretched across the grass surrounded by plenty of covered gazebos in case of rain (fortunately only needed for a brief period), bunting festooned across every available surface and there was a plentiful supply of flags for waving during the community singing led by my ol' man, Gary. It was clear that a great deal of care and thought had gone into every detail of the day and I feel so grateful that, even as our lives get ever busier, there are still people in Loudwater who are prepared to put in so much effort for the rest of us, to give us all such a good time. Huge, huge thanks and congratulations to Denise Preedy and her team (Ann Garner, Mary-Jane Peet and Sheila Fawkner-Corbett) for everything they did so that we could celebrate the Golden Jubilee in style. Thanks also to June Curtis for her invaluable assistance with the tickets and to everyone else who helped with the preparations, the cooking and all the other tasks.

The volume of chatter was testimony to the social nature of the day with a chance to chat to friends, make new ones and generally absorb the atmosphere that comes from living in a community like Loudwater – our neighbours are really a very nice bunch. We toasted the Queen with a rousing rendition of the National Anthem and then returned to the more serious business of enjoying ourselves as the wine continued to flow and the games commenced, led by Roy Preedy – egg and spoon, three-legged, wheelbarrow – for children of all ages! I'll be at next year's summer event, whatever it is, and I look forward to seeing you there too!

**Buzz Coster**  
Bridle Lane





## Fancy a Pint?

You'd think that, at the very least, Michael Norris, Landlord of the Red Lion Public House in Chenies, would buy me a pint for nominating his pub as my favourite in our area. Some hope! A smile of acknowledgement is as much as I can possibly expect! However, although he may appear a misery, he does, to the best of my knowledge, run as good a pub as there is in the Loudwater neighbourhood. He doesn't smile too often. There's no cheery welcome. But his beer is excellent, his wine selection well above average for a pub, and he stocks Villiger cigars, my favourite non-Havanas.

Michael and his wife, Heather, have been running the pub for 15 years. He is adamant that the Red Lion is a pub that serves food, not a restaurant that serves alcohol. They are open 7 days a week, lunchtime and evenings. His bar staff remains loyal, despite Michael's occasional tantrums.

For the last 12 years the Red Lion has been commended in the Good Pub Guide, the Good Beer Guide, the Which Guide, and the AA Guide. And the praise has been deserved.

The Red Lion became a hostelry at the end of the 19th Century. Until the 1960s you could get bed and breakfast there. Now it specialises only in food and drink. Some of the food is somewhat eccentric. Ever thought of having bacon with your Lion Bar? Neither have I! But I do recommend the Lamb Pie, written up as "internationally acclaimed and worldly renowned, aesthetically and palatably pleasing, not knowingly genetically modified, the famous original Chenies Pie"! It is a middle-class pub. There is no juke-box (thank goodness), nor are there fruit machines. It is not a good place to have a secret rendezvous - too many of your neighbours are around. And I wouldn't try to chat up a client there either. You don't know what insult Michael is going to come up with. But I like it very much. I even joined the Old Chenies Golf Society because the Red Lion is its HQ. Try it (the pub, I mean). Mention my name to Michael. He'll either say he's never heard of me or throw you out. Either way, it's fun and the beer, wine and especially the food are worth the couple of miles drive from Loudwater.

Peter Phillips

*If you have a favourite restaurant or pub you'd like to write about, please feel free to put pen to paper, or even finger to keyboard, and share your 'find' with your neighbours. Contributions to The Ol' Trout are always gratefully received. Ed.*

## Editor's Postbag

I should like to thank all my Loudwater friends for their get-well wishes during my recent illness. They were much appreciated. I am now feeling much better and I am looking forward to taking up my duties again as LRA Treasurer!

Yours ever,

Maurice Escow  
Loudwater Heights

## Congratulations...

...to John Hawxwell of Bridle Lane on being re-elected as Three Rivers District Councillor for Rickmansworth. We hope to print an article by him in our next issue on what being a Councillor entails.

## Planning Applications

### Decisions on previously reported applications

- 00317/319/01 Rookery Wood House, L. Lane (DoE Appeal withdrawn)
- 01644/01 Micklefield Farm, Sarratt Lane: Erection of 30m Comms tower-LRA objected (Refused)
- 00028/02 Aisling, Troutstream Way: Two storey side ext. with dormers (Granted)
- 00053/02 11 Ladywood Close: Two storey side ext. & cons. to rear (Granted)
- 00076/02 Broadeaves, Trout Rise: Front/side ext.LRA objected (Refused)
- 00092/02 Bridle Path Cottage, L. Lane: Demolish & erect replacement dwelling (Granted)
- 00126/02 Chessholme, Troutstream Way: Two storey rear ext. (Granted)
- 00144/02 17 Lower Plantation: Two storey side ext. (Granted)
- 00107/161/02 Wildwood, L. Heights: Side ext. over existing garage (Granted)
- 00183/02 The Spinney, Bridle Lane: Side & front ext. & new garage (Granted)
- 00214/02 Sherwood, L. Lane: Two storey side & single storey rear ext. (Granted)
- 00247/02 Thatches, L. Lane: Addition of basement to extension (Granted)

### New applications since last Newsletter to 4th June 2002

- 00281/285/02 White Webs, Cherry Hill: Two storey side ext. & erect. of double det. garage (Granted)
- 00286/02 Mayfield, L. Heights: First floor side & rear ext.-LRA objected (Granted)
- 00350/02 Rookery Nook, Violet Way: Single storey det. garage with storeroom (Granted)
- 00364/02 Durley House, T. Way: Two storey side ext. with rear conservatory (Granted)
- 00414/02 Walden Lodge, Loudwater Lane: Conservatory to rear (Granted)
- 00521/02 Oak End, Wagon Way: Dem. garage & erect single storey side ext. (Delegated dec.)
- 00541/02 Pond House, Bridle Lane: Single storey side ext. & roof alterations (Delegated dec.)
- 00563/02 Caldbec, Troutstream Way: Two storey side & single storey rear exts. (Delegated dec.)
- 00616/02 Wrentop, Bridle Lane: Rear conservatory & single porch ext. (Delegated dec.)
- Note 1 Micklefield Farm Development Plans: negotiations continue
- Note 2 00901/02 Greenway, Loudwater Lane: Garage wrongly located- LRA objected

The Ol' Trout is the newsletter of the Loudwater Residents Association. It is published quarterly. Letters and articles (ideally no more than 250 words) are welcomed although the Editors reserve the right to shorten contributions as necessary.  
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Copy for the next issue should be sent to Peter Phillips by 1st September 2002

