

# Ol' The Trout



## Loudwater Personality - Sir Ivor Broom

Air Marshal Sir Ivor Broom, KCB, CBE, DSO, DFC and 2 Bars, AFC. What a privilege to interview him, what a hero.

Sir Ivor joined the RAF aged 20, in 1940. He flew Tiger Moths. He was involved at Dunkirk. He won his wings in 1941. He piloted Blenheims and Mosquitoes. He became an acting Wing Commander when just 24 years old. He willingly agreed to the lower rank of Flight Lieutenant in 1949 so as later to become Commanding Officer of the 28th squadron – one of the last Spitfire squadrons. (He was a bomber throughout the war, switching to fighters only when the war had ended). He made 103 operational sorties.

He won the DFC at the end of a tour of duty involving low-level attacks against shipping taking supplies to Rommel's armies in North Africa. He was awarded the first bar to his DFC for a low-level mining attack from 50 feet on the Dortmund-Ems Canal, and his second bar for tossing a 4,000lb bomb into the mouth of a railway tunnel during the final German Ardennes offensive. At the end of the war he was awarded the DSO. His navigator throughout his time on Mosquitoes was Tommy Broom (no relative) and the 'Flying Brooms' became an inseparable combination. Sir Ivor became an Air Vice-Marshal in 1970, rising to Air Marshal in 1974. He was knighted in 1975.

Sir Ivor has been married to Jess for just over 60 years, having just celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in North Devon, followed by a surprise party at his beloved Moor Park Golf Club. Sir Ivor and Jess have three children and five grandchildren. "All my grandchildren went to University", he told me proudly.

The Brooms moved to Loudwater in 1972 – to Glen Chess, and then on to Cherry Lawn in Bridle Lane in 1977. "Why Loudwater?" I asked. "Rickmansworth and Chorleywood have a great train service to London" was the reply, "and it is very near my golf club, Moor Park."

Sir Ivor had a handicap of 11 and was Captain of Moor Park in 1977, later becoming President. He was also Chairman of Bridle Lane (Estates) Ltd. He is involved in countless RAF charities, President of the Mosquitoes Association, President of the Pathfinder Force, Life Vice-President of the Royal Air Forces Association. He likes to keep busy! His motto: "Ask me to do something. If you don't ask me, I won't do anything!"

Perhaps having heard that my car driving is somewhat erratic, Sir Ivor stood in the middle of Bridle Lane to help me reverse out of Cherry Lawn. How sensible, and what a perfect, courteous English gentleman he proved to be.



Peter Phillips  
Armitage Close

## The Editor writes...

Is everything in Loudwater just as you want it? Is everything in the garden rosy? Tell us what you like about Loudwater – and what you dislike. I met a lady in a Rickmansworth shop who thought we were an unfriendly lot. The good citizens of Chorleywood, on the other hand, envy us the social life that the LRA committee lays on, and think that our clubs have brought together folk that would never have met otherwise. Would you like to see some new clubs formed? If so, what themes would interest you?

Are the roads to your satisfaction? What about the M25 and Junction 18 in particular? Are too many new houses being built on plots that should only hold one? Are you happy with Three Rivers District Council and the Highways Partnership? Is transport (what transport?) in Loudwater to your satisfaction? Should we try to start a bus service again? Should there be a shop somewhere that sells food necessities? If so, where? Should the Barn at Loudwater Farm become a 'Communal Hall'? It would mean trying to rent it permanently—this would mean spending money. Would you be happy for your subscription to double?

I ask all these questions because I want to hear from you. The LRA committee does its best for the community but we need some feedback. Tell us what you want, and what you don't want. I promise we'll do our best to follow-up all suggestions.

Peter Phillips

## Neighbourhood Watch

Now that the gardening/holiday season is coming to an end, why not use a little spare time photographing your valuables? Include a ruler in the picture to give an idea of size and if possible use a digital camera (no negatives).

Time deters thieves. The longer it takes to break into your house or garage, the more unattractive it becomes. Just recently I noticed a house (with alarm) which I know to be empty during the day with the garage doors wide open displaying the car, cycles and gardening equipment. Don't be careless – think thieves.

Lastly, I have 23 co-ordinators dotted throughout Loudwater, which means that anyone wanting to join the scheme will find they have a co-ordinator living nearby. There is one blank spot – Bridle Lane. Are there two or three of you who could spare a few hours a year? It seems a pity that whilst the rest of us know what's going on, you're all in the dark.

June Curtis  
Troutstream Way

## Loudwater Residents Association

### Chairman

Roy Sterry

Mulberry Cottage, T'istream Way  
779599

### Vice Chairman

Denise Preedy

12 Harewood  
770280

### Treasurer

Maurice Escow

Wildwood, L'water Heights  
771810

### Correspondence Secretary

Don Cammell

Marrins, 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

Harvest Supper: 12th Oct  
New Year's Eve:  
31st Dec

## Theatre Club

### Watermill Playhouse

Those who were unable (or unwilling) to sign up for our outing in July missed a real treat. We went to the Watermill Playhouse near Newbury to see *Love in a Maze*, a romantic comedy by Dion Boucicault. Written in 1851 and originally set in the 17th Century, it was transported to the 1920s for this production, (with the addition of some nostalgic songs by Noel Coward!), and was excellent entertainment. Asides to the audience, misunderstandings, and conspiracies abounded, and thanks to a cloudy but dry evening, the final scene took place in the Watermill gardens where a representative maze was the setting. The small converted mill theatre is full of character and, with its adjacent restaurant, it made a delightful venue for our Club.

Hazel Nest  
Sarratt Lane

### Highclere Castle

41 intrepid Theatre Club members set off for Highclere Castle in pouring rain for the Battle Proms open air concert in August. Sheltering under umbrellas was only necessary for 2 five-minute downpours and no-one minded drinking rain-diluted wine or champagne. The orchestra was superb, 'Land of Hope and Glory' brought a tear to at least one pair of eyes and the 1812 overture, rousing in itself, was raised to a new level by the addition of 193 cannons. I warned everyone the ground might shake and it did! Spectacular fireworks synchronised with 3 of the other pieces played were breathtaking.

A unique and very enjoyable experience, which we hope to

repeat next year.

The Watermill and the Battle Proms are hard acts to follow, but hopefully we'll get our act together soon and come up with something good to tempt everyone with for October.

June Curtis

## Wine Club

Our constant search, or should I say thirst, for knowledge led us in June to the largest vineyard in Britain - Denbies. 37 intrepid oenological explorers from the Club had a fabulous time touring this magical place where over 300,000 vines of 18 varieties grow.

In July, over 40 of our members had a tasting of all the types of grape and styles of wine from Alsace. Our erudite and knowledgeable guide through this classic area of France showed us the incredible depth of style to be enjoyed and whilst not every wine was popular, I believe it goes to show what the club is all about. We try to taste and learn what it is we like and dislike on this vast and fascinating subject.

In September we take another coach across to France for the day for a Gourmet Lunch and Tutored Wine Tasting. Of course there will be an opportunity to purchase one or two bottles to bring back and I suspect we shall try to choose the wines for our Christmas Dinner as well.

In October we will be taught about wines from California with its wide varieties and styles of all colours. At the end of November is our annual Christmas Dinner. The social nature of our club has provided us with enduring friendships and I have no doubt next year will be just as successful.

Gary Coster  
Bridle Lane

## Bridge Club

Our bridge sessions continue on the first and third Wednesday of the month at Loudwater Farm at 7.45pm. During the summer we have had anything from 5 to 16 members attending. When there have been just a few of us we drank the prize wine! We had one duplicate evening and we are grateful to Kevin, the organiser.

Improvers' Bridge: If there is enough demand we will open the Club at Loudwater Farm on the fourth Wednesday (Beginning 25 September) to play Rubber Bridge from 8.00 to 10.30 pm. There would be experienced members present to help. Table money £2.00. Great Value! Please ring Maureen Wood (775661) or Liz Crook (776567).

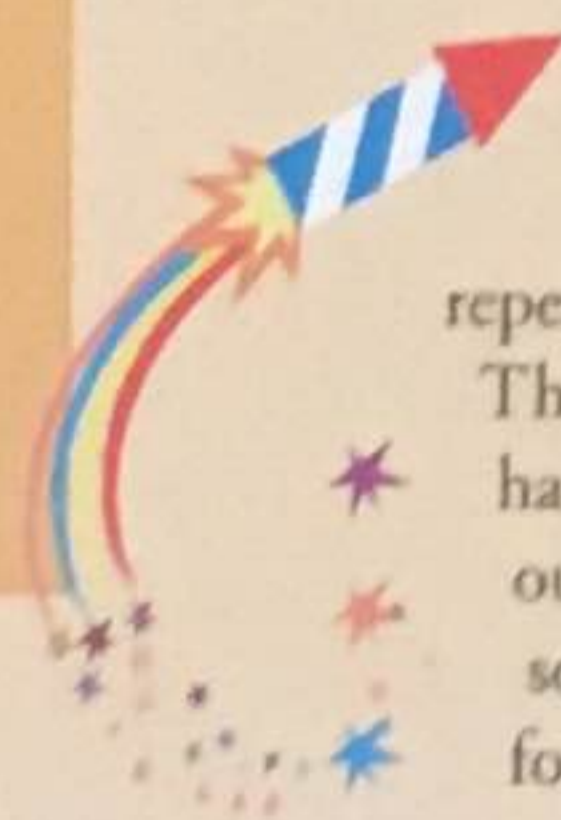
Beginners' Bridge: Classes will be available this autumn under the English Bridge Union Scheme 'Bridge for All', mainly for Loudwater residents. Unit One is 12 weekly 2-hour sessions—call me for details.

Liz Crook  
Chess Hill

## Childrens Club

The Christmas Party will be held on Sunday 15th December. More details will follow. We intend to have regular toddler meetings again - in parents' houses. Tracey Holden will be hosting the first on Tuesday 10th September, 10am-11.45am. We have not yet produced the babysitting and au pair register because of lack of information. Please let me have details as soon as possible of babysitters and, particularly, au pairs. New girls coming from abroad are very keen to meet others with whom they can make friends in Loudwater. Tracey Holden, Jennifer Horwood, Erica Bendall, Ann-Marie Hodges and I are meeting in September to discuss the development of the group's activities. Please contact one of us if you have any ideas you want to put forward, or if you wish to attend.

Ann Garner  
Trout Rise



Children's Club

## Garden Club

This has been a depressing summer for keen gardeners – heavy rainfalls making plants grow far too vigorously only to be flattened by winds and yet more rain.



However, undeterred, the Garden Club is holding another Bring and Buy Sale on Sunday 29th September from 11.00 am to 12.30 pm at Pine Cottage, Rooks Hill. We intend to have plenty of plants, including herbaceous ready for autumn planting – as well as homemade cakes, garden books, bric-a-brac etc. All competitively priced!

Resulting from a visit to the Hampton Court Garden Festival, two speakers have been booked to give talks during the winter. Time and place have still to be confirmed – more information in the next issue.

**Anne Tate  
Rooks Hill**

## Loudwater Lane - What An Improvement!

Was it my last letter in the Ol' Trout, the number of abandoned, waterlogged cars or Don Cammell's tireless work with the Highways Partnership that has resulted in such a dramatic improvement to part of Loudwater Lane? The credit, absolutely, goes to Don for his hard work but on further investigation it seems maybe not all the flooding problems are entirely over.

I rang the Highways Partnership and spoke to a very friendly and helpful engineer called Steve Wooding. He told me that the last work done to this part of the Lane was five years ago but "the old flow did not work". Now the "flow has been reversed" and should work better. However the rainwater still flows into a soak-away and then into the River Chess. This will, apparently, work well when the ground is dry but, if there is heavy rain, the river and therefore the water table, are high and we may then experience some 'standing water' (wading in my case). Steve told me that if the system can be improved in Sarratt Lane, which is higher, it would stop so much water working its way down to the flood point. He and his team are still trying to find out where the gullies go to at Sarratt Lane – currently they seem to work through to Loudwater Farm where they appear to end.

The new kerbing (albeit I have nearly hit a part of this, that juts out, several times) to stop erosion of the bank, tarmac and generally smarter appearance are hugely welcome. Although it may be too early to remove the wellington boots from your car, Steve is confident we will notice a great improvement provided the gullies are kept clear of debris. If debris builds up Steve Wooding invites people to ring him on 01923 777411 and he will arrange to have it removed.

**Sue Tippen  
Chess Lane**

## Obituaries

### Hywel Francis

We note, with great regret, the passing of Hywel Francis, who was the Honorary Secretary of the Loudwater Company for six years during the 1980s. At that time the Secretary administered and managed the Estate on a daily basis – with all its emergencies and frustrations; an almost full-time yet voluntary job carried out with conscientious enthusiasm, for which we remember him with affection.

Hywel's love of Loudwater was also expressed, with great sensitivity in his watercolours, a reminder of his dedication to our very special part of the Chess Valley. To Dorothy and her family, we offer our deepest sympathy in their sad loss.

**Derrick Speight  
Trout Rise**

### Richard Edmonds

Sadly, we record the death of Richard Edmonds at the age of 77. For almost half a century Dick Edmonds presided over the biggest privately owned business in Watford – Clements. Although he handed over the main family home at Micklefield Hall to Jamie Rankin and his daughter Anna, he and his wife Sarah continued to live on the estate in the converted garden house, pursuing his main hobby, fishing, until a few weeks before his death. The LRA extend their deepest condolences to Sarah, their three children, four grandchildren, and to all the Edmonds family.

### John Reid

We were sorry to learn of the death of John Reid of Glen Chess in August. John served on the Committee of The Loudwater Residents' Association for many years and was Treasurer from 1990 to 1994. John was well known for his charity work in the area. Our condolences go to his family.

## A Day at the Races

Friday 2nd August saw another maiden event for the LRA. Prompted by the recent spate of financial scandals in America, a stock market plummeting like a lead balloon and the ever-present threat of an economic slow down, several enlightened residents of Loudwater concluded that they would dispense with financial advisers and city analysts. No, with the money world in turmoil there was only one remaining sure way to consolidate assets and fasten seat belts for the forthcoming roller coaster – a day at the races.

The night before the big day saw frantic activity as residents scanned copies of the Racing Post for financial advice, ready to talk knowledgeably the following day about all things equine.

At Goodwood, to sharpen the monetary acumen and instil a heightened state of mental agility, residents were treated to a fine three-course lunch with wine and coffee. A marvellous way to start the day in the company of good friends



## Welcome

Mr and Mrs S H Patel  
of Cob Cottage,  
Trout Rise,  
Mr and Mrs Galloway  
of Bantry Cottage,  
Sarratt Lane  
and  
Mr and Mrs G Tardi  
and Family of  
Chess Place,  
Troutstream Way

# Social Scene

## Harvest Quiz Supper

Saturday, 12th October is the date to note in your diary for the Harvest Quiz Supper. Time: 7pm. Venue: The Barn, Loudwater Farm. If you joined us last year you will know it is a great evening. If not, then now is your chance to experience an evening of good food, lots of fine wine, and, to top it all off, an entertaining quiz.

The price is £25 a head, which includes the three-course supper, wine and quiz. Make up a table of eight, or come by yourself, and make some new friends. Either way, we look forward to seeing you there.

Denise Preedy  
Harewood

## New Year's Eve 2002

The LRA New Year's Eve Party will be an event you will not want to miss! Put it in your diary NOW! Being a highly intelligent lot, you know the date! Start time will be about 8.00 pm. Carriages at 1 am. (Order your Boughton taxis today or, better still, walk!) Venue is the Barn at Loudwater Farm. Décor by the Garden Club. Wine by the Wine Club. Food by leading caterers, unless we have formed our own Gourmet Club by then! Music – of course! The Company – brilliant!

Tony Hale  
Overstream

Tickets for both events available from Maurice Escow (address on front page).

and fellow economists.

Excitement rose to a fever pitch as the markets opened with the 2.15 Seabeach Handicap heralding the start of frenzied trading. Such was the skill and in depth racing knowledge on display that success was mixed. While some whipped out their mobiles to open that much coveted Liechtenstein bank account, others were left to count their winnings in pence and have their spirits lifted by the hearty afternoon tea that followed.

A great day out. And on the coach on the way home only two questions remained: how soon would be the next Loudwater race day and would a cut in interest rates overheat the housing market?

Mary-Jane Peet  
Loudwater Lane

## How I became a Local District Councillor



One day whilst enjoying the spring sunshine and blossom in Bridle Lane I was asked by Sir Ivor Broom if I was interested in becoming a Councillor. We all have so much respect for Sir Ivor that one could hardly say no, but I reckoned my chances of succeeding in the election were close to zero. I was to be a Conservative Candidate for Croxley Green – a seat held for many years by Liberal Democrats.

The selection meeting was interesting, "Have you ever been bankrupt? Have you ever been in prison?" seemed strange questions for an ex-military man used to working in the most securely vetted areas of Government. Having answered "No" to both questions I was duly selected then dropped some 36 hours later – perhaps they were looking for someone with a more interesting past! So that was that, honour satisfied with Sir Ivor, and I could carry on sweeping up the cherry blossom petals. It was not to be – one cup of coffee later I was invited to stand for Rickmansworth. I spent two months of evenings on doorsteps and that changed my view. I met so many people; both in Loudwater and Rickmansworth who needed a voice, mostly to protect against over-development. So I became a councillor for Rickmansworth, and found myself passionately defending many causes, often against the odds, my issues being 'Parking in Rickmansworth' and 'Development in Loudwater'.

So what is it like to be a councillor – there are many meetings, some overly long for their content. There are many dedicated people (including the Three Rivers staff) who work tirelessly for our area. Above all it is the local people who are most rewarding, they often need simply to be put in touch with the person who can help – a series of phone calls fixes most problems, and it is wonderfully immediate. That is one of the rewards of being a councillor – that smile, the genuine thanks.

John Hawxwell  
Bridle Lane

## Planning Applications

### Decisions on previously reported applications

- 00521/02 Oak End, Wagon way: Dem. garage & erect single storey side ext. (Granted.)
- 00541/02 Pond House, Bridle Lane: Single storey side ext. & roof alterations (Granted.)
- 00563/02 Caldbec, Troutstream Way: Two storey side & single storey rear exts. (Granted)
- 00616/02 Wrentop, Bridle Lane: Rear conservatory & single porch ext. (Granted)

### New applications since July Ol'Trout 10th August 2002

- 00770/02 Highfields, Troutstream Way: Sliding swimming pool cover & det. shed (Delegated dec.)
- 00795/02 3 Rose Gardens, Troutstream Way: First floor rear ext. (Delegated dec.)
- 00829/02 Land at Tall Trees & The Willows, Loudwater Drive: Erection of det. dwelling (Committee dec.)
- 00830/02 Land at Tall Trees & The Willows, Loudwater Drive: Erection of det. bungalow (Committee dec.)
- 00854/02 White Violets, Troutstream Way: Single storey side ext., part basement & rear cons. (Delegated dec.)
- 00911/02 Plots 5&6 L. Plantation: Var. of cond. of Pl. Perm. 8/719/79 Ext of time to submit reserved matters (Delegated dec.)
- 00941/02 Loudwater Garage, T. Way: Conv. of 2 garages into C' tee room & offices (Delegated dec.)
- Note 1 Micklefield Farm Development Plans: negotiations continue
- Note 2 00901/02 Greenway, Loudwater Lane: Garage wrongly located- TRDC have approved under delegated powers

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  
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