



# The Ol' Trout

No. 140

September 2011

## The History of Loudwater Lecture on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2007

The name of Loudwater derives most likely from the sound of the River Chess which had waterfalls along the stretch that ran through the area. Another version, sometimes seen in documents, i.e. Louthwater was most probably a misspelling of the name.

### The Mills in Loudwater

There probably was a cloth mill already in existence on the Croxley side of the River Chess in the mid 14<sup>th</sup> Century. Micklefield Hall owned most of the land round the mill at the time. John Cutter was making cloth in the mill in 1676, the cloth being prepared by beating it in the river water. Later the role of the mill changed to papermaking, when John Shipton bought it. He was also the owner of the Solesbridge Mill further up the river Chess. The King brothers then bought the mill and ran it until 1802, a son Thomas (b 1797) ran it from 1818. The mill was at this point enlarged by moving it to both sides of the river. Until that it had only existed on the Croxley side. The mill was originally operated by waterpower only until steam came to more general use.

Herbert Ingram, a publisher of the London Illustrated News, est.1842, bought the mill in 1848 when more steam engines were installed to it. By that time the mill employed 106 men and 37 women thus being an important employer for the local population. Herbert Ingram wanted to live at least part of the year in Loudwater and thus the foundation stone of Glen Chess was laid in 1851, but when Herbert and his son were on a business trip in the USA, the pleasure boat they were in was sunk in the night by another boat and thus the mill changed hands again when it was sold to William McMurray the same year. McMurray donated money for the first Methodist Chapel in Rickmansworth but it unfortunately burned down a couple of years later.

A court case was brought against the mill in 1867 for polluting the river waters. This was very bad news for the c 200 people who at the time were working at the mill. The case was dropped but, in 1885 an inquiry stated that the pollution was getting too much and the mill had to close in 1887 at the death of McMurray. He left £80,000 in his will. The mill was then sold to William McFarlane (The Sporting Life) who had been managing the Croxley side of the mill. The mill became derelict but the stables were still used i.e. for accommodating 40 Italian Prisoners of War during World War II.

### Loudwater Farm

This area of the Chess valley has been inhabited since Roman times. Local school children go on expeditions to search for signs of Roman vineyards on the slopes of the valley.

Early documents about the farm existed already in the 1400s and in the 1550's John Wingfield ran it as a mixed farm growing e.g. hops for making local beer. Richard Eve owned the farm later; - he died in 1693. When his son Richard died in 1708, the farm was bought by the William brothers, after which the farm was run by several tenant farmers starting in 1779. It was sold in 1805 (120 acres of arable land) and several tenant farmers carried on the work.

In the 1920's the land was sold for housing development and the Royal Masonic School bought 60 acres of the farmland.

### Loudwater Residents' Association

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### Loudwater House

A Mr Milton bought 60 acres of the land and built a large mansion called "Beguines" by the river, where he entertained guests lavishly in the early 19<sup>th</sup> C. When he lost his money, Lord Misbourne bought it in the 1820's and, then Mrs (or Ms) Elizabeth Morgan who changed the name to Loudwater House. She died on the 17<sup>th</sup> of Sept.1827. The house was left unoccupied until 1835 when Mr Hayward bought it. He left it before he died in 1856. According to the register in 1868 it belonged to Mr Joseph Arden of Rickmansworth Park who left it in trust to his daughter Julia and her husband John William Birch who was the Governor of the Bank of England. The estate then was treated mainly as an investment property and leased to various families although it belonged to the Birch family as a single entity until 1921 as for instance Viscount Malden who was the Master of the Berkeley Hunt in Chorleywood and whose lease ran out in 1867. The following year the lease was sold to the Samuda family until it expired in 1888. Henry Gordon, later Panmure-Gordon, a stockbroker in the City of London, then took over the lease and entertained guests in the mansion, which he had furnished with artefacts from the Far East. 1894 the house caught fire and the upper floor with bedrooms was destroyed but Rickmansworth Fire Brigade managed to save most of the other parts of the building. Later Mr Panmure-Gordon entertained the firemen at the Victoria Hotel for their efforts in extinguishing the fire so quickly. He kept a large collection of valuable carriages in the purpose built carriage house. He died in 1902 aged 52 and the lease was sold to Mr John Kerr in 1903. He kept a large stable of horses which all had the first part of their

name as Loudwater and which won several prizes over the years. On the expiry of the lease in 1913 John Kerr left the area and it was left unoccupied during World War I.

In the 1920s Loudwater House and the land around it was sold and scheduled for a housing estate in which we all enjoy living today.

### Ritva Hale

### Forthcoming Charitable Events

#### Stewarts Law Moor Park 10k & Junior Fun Runs Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2011

At Merchant Taylors' School

In aid of the Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre – the support and information service at Mount Vernon Cancer Centre  
Further details from: [www.moorpark10k.org.uk](http://www.moorpark10k.org.uk)

### Welcome

Roger & Patt Trigg, 7 Armitage Close  
Daniel & Katherine Knight, Killowen, Bridle Lane  
Andre Roy & Maria Montesdeoca, Hessenford, Bridle Lane  
Mr & Mrs Pendred, Woodside Cottage, Overstream  
Mr & Mrs Langley, 5 Rose Garden Mews  
Lloyd Vivian & Phyl Marrs, Leavesdale, Lodge Drive

## The Ultimate Road Trip



If you'd asked me a year ago whether I was capable of cycling 120 miles a day for 30 days, through deserts, over mountains and across plains, the answer would have been an emphatic "No". I've always ridden a bike

and loved getting out on the road, but that sort of effort would have been beyond me. Now though having completed such a journey - from one side of the United States to the other - all I can say is it's amazing what a bit of training, camaraderie and shared purpose can do.

Yes, I was one of about twenty riders this year who cycled from Costa Mesa, on the Pacific coast just south of Los Angeles, to Amesbury, Massachusetts, on the Atlantic Ocean just north of Boston - a total distance of about 3,500 miles. Our journey, during late April and May, took us through 14 states, from the hot, dry deserts and mountains of California, Arizona and New Mexico, to the vast plains of Oklahoma and Kansas and then on to the cool, rolling farm and woodlands of Illinois, Ohio and New England. Fortunately, we were blessed with good weather and only saw three days of rain out of the 30 that we spent on the road.

When I signed up for the trip at the end of last year I didn't know who my fellow riders were going to be and I thought I might be the only non-American.

As it turned out there were four other 'foreigners' like me - two other Brits, two New Zealanders and a Norwegian - and we joined a diverse group of Americans whose occupations ranged from high-rise steel worker to anaesthetist. Everyone had a common goal, though, and that bound us closely together.

So what was an average day like for us during our adventure? Well, most days went something like this: up at 5.30am, breakfast at 6.00am, on the road 7.00am, first food stop (at around 40 miles) 9.30am, lunch (at around 75 miles) noon, into hotel 3.30pm, then kit wash and shower before food 5.00pm (within 2 hours of getting off the bike for optimum recovery), more food 9.00pm (normally high calorie treats such as milk shakes or ice cream sundaes - to replace the 9000 calories burnt during the day) and then finally bed 10.30pm in preparation for doing the whole thing again the next day. Some evenings were spent lying on the floor with legs vertically up the wall to drain the lactic acid! We had a support team on the road who fed us and helped us to fix our bikes when necessary, but otherwise it was all a matter of keeping those pedals turning.

So was all the effort worth it? Absolutely! It was one of the best things that I've ever done and I was delighted to be able to use the opportunity to raise £4000 for charity - many thanks to my sponsors in Loudwater.

Would I do something like it again? You bet! Europe, Africa, Australia look out!

**Steve Bailey**



## From Outer to Inner

After more than 39 years living in Outer Loudwater (Armitage Close) we have made the move. We are now amongst the elite in Inner Loudwater - in Troutstream Way, in the bungalow that used to belong to the parents of Bob Jolliffe of Rooks Hill, and of the former Lord Mayor of the City of London, Sir Anthony Jolliffe. It has taken us this long to get a pass to the gates of the Troutstream Estate! How I wish my old sparring partner, Peter Lough, still lived at the corner of Troutstream Way and Sarratt Lane. What pleasure it would have given me to drive through the gates by him, waving my fingers!

We lived for over 39 years in Armitage Close - nearly all of them with Roland and June Baish as our neighbours. We will miss them greatly, just as we will miss the Boehlers. They moved in a year after us and they too became very good and loyal friends. Also, we should like to mention Jack Way. He has been in ill health recently but was - and is - a true gentleman.

Our move went as smoothly as we had hoped but our expectations were not that high! I am in need of a hip replacement operation so was quite useless in doing anything even remotely physical. (I probably would have been useless even without this handicap). So, to help my poor wife, Davida, (Sue Tippen calls her the best wife in Loudwater - she should only know!), friends came to her rescue. I'll mention them, as they say, in no particular order but Davida and I know that we could not have managed without them - Roy and Christine Sterry, Martin and Viv Schragger Powell, Dave Tippen, Don Moore, and the amazingly dextrous and helpful Charles Homey. Also, many thanks to friends like Tony and Ritva Hale, Roy and Denise Preedy, Lorna Hawxwell, Marion Browne, Maureen Wood, Carole Timms, Francine Green and Penny Wilkinson, who all popped in to make us feel welcome. We nearly moved to Village Way in Little Chalfont. We are so glad we didn't. Loudwater folk are great and we feel privileged to be living here.

### Peter and Davida Phillips.

P.S. Davida says "comes the snow we will be relying on the goodwill of our friends again!" You have been warned. Incidentally, one of our grandsons has just passed his examination to be ski-instructor. With enough snow he might be able to give you lessons - on the slope at Firs Lodge!

## Theatre Club

Our visit to see "Wife Begins at Forty" was most pleasant and we had a record attendance (at least since I've been Chairman) of thirty. Our coach was first class and everyone was in great form when we left. The meal was fine and great value for the money - assisted by a contribution from the Club of a bottle of house wine between four at each table.

We had excellent seats and everyone seemed to enjoy the show - it was funny, bawdy and fast moving with some fine individual performances. Although it was good, it wasn't memorable but we all had a happy time.

\* Our next outing is to see the musical "Betty Blue Eyes" at the Novello Theatre on the fifth of November. We had to ask for numbers before we would have wished because the revues were so good and we had the opportunity for the best seats at a bargain price. Unfortunately we had to close at sixteen and return eight tickets and then have requests for another four - understandable but a pity. We'll be working on something for early in the new year.

### Peter Laule

\* *Next outing changed due to Betty Blue Eyes closing. Now rearranged to see Tartuffe at Watford Palace Theatre (see Diary of Events)*



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## Planning Applications

### Decisions on previously reported applications

11/0204	<b>Watersmead, Troutstream Way.</b> Two storey side extension, new garage to replace existing in same location.	Delegated. Withdrawn
11/0445	<b>CLED Roundspring Farm, Bridle Lane.</b> Garden, parking, access, garage and ancillary domestic buildings.	Delegated. Granted
11/0602	<b>Farm Cottage, Farm Way.</b> Single storey extension to increase living room accommodation to existing single storey bungalow.	Delegated. Granted
11/0785	<b>Hazel Cottage, Troutstream Way.</b> 2 storey front, side and rear extension with dormer windows to front elevation and extension to retaining wall and raised paved area to rear.	Delegated. Granted
11/0781	<b>CLPD Trees, Trout Rise.</b> Installation of up to 30sq m of photovoltaic panels to the south west side elevation of the house together with associated electrical works.	Delegated. Permitted
11/0740	<b>High End, Troutstream Way.</b> Two storey and single storey rear extension, raised patio with storage beneath and steps, and installation of rooflights to rear slope.	Delegated. Granted
11/0771	<b>Woodside Cottage, Overstream.</b> 2 storey extension to side and rear and removal of existing garage.	Delegated. Granted
11/0786	<b>Rooks Hill Cottage, Rooks Hill.</b> Proposed extension over existing double garage, two storey extension between dwelling and garage and garage and porch extension.	Delegated. Granted

### New Applications until 18<sup>th</sup> August 2011

11/0881	<b>Trout Rise Farm, Troutstream Way.</b> Demolition of existing storage unit and rebuilding to provide residential unit. Reinstatement of existing residential unit as a barn.	Delegated
11/0900	<b>RSP Ashwood and Oakwood, Lower Plantation.</b> New entrance gates and brick piers.	Delegated. Granted
11/0902	<b>DIS Dene Cottage, Overstream.</b> Discharge of conditions 2,5,6 pursuant to planning permission 10/0753.	Delegated
11/0994	<b>Willows End, Bridle Lane.</b> Single & 2 storey rear extension.	Delegated. Granted
11/1018	<b>Micklefield Hall.</b> Amendment to planning decision 08/240 to include changes to internal layout, external wall treatment, landscaping & external works.	Delegated. Granted
11/1019	<b>LBC Micklefield Hall.</b> As above.	Granted
11/1203	<b>Holly Trees, Trout Rise.</b> Renewal of 08/1072: Amendment to planning permission 07/1077 for substantial demolition of existing dwelling and rebuild, including single storey front, two storey front, side and rear extensions and internal alterations. Detached garage to include single storey rear extension with terrace above, fenestration changes to front elevation.	Delegated. Granted
11/1231	<b>Compton Cottage, Sarratt Lane.</b> Installation of 2 dormer windows to the rear elevation to a previously approved 5 bedroom dwelling: 10/2356.	Delegated. Granted
11/1310	<b>Glen Cottage, Trout Rise.</b> 1st floor side extension.	Delegated
11/1336	<b>RSP Coachmans House, Troutstream Way.</b> Single storey rear extensions.	Delegated. Granted
11/1342	<b>DIS 3 Ladywood Close.</b> Discharge of conditions 7, 8 and 9 pursuant to planning permission 10/2484.	Delegated
11/1538	<b>CAC Woodstock, Violet Way.</b> Part demolition of existing dwelling.	Delegated
11/1537	<b>Woodstock, Violet Way.</b> Part demolition and erection of open porch to front elevation, two storey and single storey extensions across rear elevations and internal alterations.	Delegated
11/1564	<b>Loudwater Farm, Loudwater Lane.</b> Renewal 08/1908. Change of use of farmhouse (class C2) to residential (class C3) with alterations to elevations and new boiler room to include changes of use of outbuildings to provide car parking and guest accommodation.	Delegated
11/1567	<b>Dacres, Troutstream Way.</b> Single storey rear extension with balcony above.	Delegated
11/1539	<b>RSP Woodside Cottage, Overstream</b> Oak framed gazebo (5mx3mx3.2m in height)	Delegated

CAC Conservation Area Consent  
RSP Retrospective planning Application  
CLPD Certificate of Lawfulness Proposed Development

CLED Certificate of lawfulness Existing Development  
DIS Discharge of Condition

## Loudwater Golf Society 2011

The seventh annual meeting of the Golf Society was held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May at West Herts Golf Club for the third year running, in perfect weather. This was Bill Hope's first year as organiser and getting the weather right is a great start. Also, with Percy McCloskey as joint organiser, they had 29 entrants, a record number, raring to be photographed at the first tee by the LRA Chairman, Tony Hale. I was put off my game by Tony, who, when he compared the pictures, remarked that I had put on weight since last year.

The course was beautiful, the wind was swirling and local knowledge would help enormously, or so I thought. By the end of the round I was beginning to think my 32 points was quite good until I met Chris Trigg in the car park who mentioned there were two players in his group with 36 points, and both of them were Moor Park members!

After a very good dinner attended by players and their guests, 48 of us in all - another record, Bill Hope welcomed everyone and thanked Tony Hale for attending on behalf of the LRA Committee. Tony thanked Bill and Percy for organising such a successful event and spoke of the numerous club activities and events organised by the LRA. Bill and Percy then announced the winners and presented prizes. Richard Vercesi, playing in his first LRA Golf Society tournament, and on his wedding anniversary, brave chap, won the LRA Golf Society Cup with 36 points: Chris Trigg, a previous runner up, equalled the points, but lost on count back. 3rd was Alex de Gabrielle.

The Team competition was won by Bill Hope, Alex de Gabrielle, Simon Calfe and James Calfe with a betterball score of 91. David Gregory and James Calfe won the Par 3 Competition and Richard John won the Nearest the pin on the 9<sup>th</sup> and yours truly won the Nearest the pin in two on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

James Estate Agents (aka Percy McCloskey) sponsored the Team Prize of M&S vouchers. Paul Gillespie of Gibbs Gillespie who print The Ol' Trout, generously sponsored the wine.

Bill Hope donated a £100 voucher for dinner for 4 at a new restaurant in Gerrards Cross (DI Paolo) which was raffled and the proceeds were donated to The Peace Hospice in Watford.

The 2 ladies, Brenda Hope and Gill Fulker each received a box of chocolates and each lady attending the dinner was presented with a rose.

Percy McCloskey thanked everyone for attending and confirmed that he and Bill Hope will remain as organisers for next year. What a great success: congratulations to Bill and Percy, we now look forward to hearing where and when next year's event will be held.

## Roy Sterry



Richard Vercesi receiving the LRA Golf Society Cup from Bill Hope and Percy McCloskey

## Garden Club

On Wednesday June 22<sup>nd</sup> Garden Club members headed for Cambridge. The forecast was distinctly iffy (intermittent heavy showers), so we took our brollies.



This was to be a two-centre trip, beginning with a morning spent in the University Botanic Gardens - a very different experience from our usual garden visits. Instead of plants massed for design and colour, the planting here grouped species and varieties according to their native climate zones and environments and specimens varied from the positively minute to some impressively spectacular trees.

We enjoyed about an hour and a half happily exploring the more temperate zones in the open gardens, until the promised very heavy shower sent us all diving for the beautiful Victorian glasshouses. Here, while the rain sluiced down outside, we could experience more extreme environments, from tropical rainforest to arid desert or cool mountainside.

We got back on the bus and were heading out of Cambridge when the sun burst through and, by the time we arrived at Anglesey Abbey, everywhere had dried off. Lunch in the café, and we then spent the afternoon roaming round the extensive gardens in brilliant sunshine. The gardens consist of a large landscaped park with beautiful trees and wildflower meadows, plus more formal gardens, which included a beautiful rose garden in full bloom and a large, square walled garden with a central lawn flanked by four gorgeous herbaceous borders just at their very best - delphiniums to die for!

It was a lovely trip and we all thoroughly enjoyed it.



## Margaret Jarrett

### LRA Diary of Events

September	Wednesday 7th	Bridge Club
	Thursday 8th	LRA Committee
	Tuesday 13th	Investment Club
	Wednesday 21st	Bridge Club
	Friday 23rd	Wine Club. Fine Wines from the Rhone, Sandy Leckie
October	Wednesday 28th	Garden Club
	Wednesday 5th	Bridge Club
	Saturday 8th	Harvest Supper & Quiz Night
	Tuesday 11th	Investment Club
	Wednesday 19th	Bridge Club
November	Thursday 20th	LRA Committee
	Friday 28th	Wine Club. New wine areas
	Wednesday 2nd	Bridge Club
	Saturday 5th	Theatre Club. Tartuffe, Watford Palace Theatre
	Tuesday 8th	Investment Club
	Wednesday 16th	Bridge Club
	Wednesday 23rd	Garden Club. Gardeners Question Time
December	Thursday 24th	LRA Committee
	Friday 25th	Wine Club. Christmas Dinner, Bedford Arms
	Wednesday 7th	Bridge Club
	Sunday 11th	Wine Club AGM
	Tuesday 13th	Investment Club
Wednesday 21st	Bridge Club	



It would have been nice to talk about a magical musical evening under the stars - but true to form, the heavens opened and it poured with rain! Some stars did appear though, glittering as ever. They were on stage, inside a magnificent

marquee in Charles and Jo Homewood's garden - and they provided us with an enchanted evening of opera and song. The performers were our very own *Mezzo Soprano*, the lovely Emma Carrington, and her colleagues: Nicholas Ransley (*Tenor*); Kirstin Sharpin (*Soprano*) and Riccardo Simonetti (*Baritone*) - accompanied throughout by talented pianist, Kelvin Lim. After around 95 residents and friends had gathered for a chit-chat over welcoming Champagne and canapés - huddled together (what better way to get to know your neighbour?) under a canopy to shelter from the elements - we all headed for our allocated seats at ten attractively set tables, and the entertainment began.

Group, duet and solo performances of familiar and much loved operatic pieces filled the first half of the programme. Works by Puccini, Verdi, Mozart, Bizet and Dvorák, were all featured. The highlights, for me, were Emma and

Kirstin's rendition of Delibes' haunting *Flower Duet* from *Lakmé* (British Airways' theme tune - therefore close to my heart!) and Emma singing that lovely aria by Saint-Saëns, *Mon Coeur S'ouvre à ta Voix* (*Softly Awakes my Heart*) - a beautiful performance that left



the audience visibly moved. There followed a 90 minutes intermission when dinner was served, bottles were opened and conversations began in earnest. The second half of the programme continued in a somewhat lighter vein. We were treated to wonderful songs from some of the greats of musical theatre including Franz Lehár, Rogers & Hammerstein, Lerner & Loewe and Leonard Bernstein. It ended with an amusing version of Offenbach's *Gendarmes' Duet* sung by Nicholas and Riccardo. Thanks must go Charles & Jo, members of the LRA committee, and everyone else involved, for the huge effort that went into the organisation of this excellent event. Everything ran smoothly, the setting was delightful and the marquee looked great. A highly successful occasion - this was a fine example of the social life of the Loudwater community at its very best.

### Tony Bradford

#### From Social to Sauvignon

One of the key aims when the various Loudwater clubs were formed was to foster friendships through shared interests.

From time to time, the Wine Club feels obliged to check that it's meeting this aim and the May event seemed like a good opportunity. With a sumptuous fork buffet provided by Heriot Catering and wines carefully selected for their garrulous properties, the Committee organised a purely social evening.

If there was ever a question as to whether or not friendships had been formed, the volume of chatter throughout the evening was certainly proof that they had and good food, good wine and good company made for a perfect evening.

In June we got a bit more serious, inviting the popular tutor, Tim Syrad, to talk to us about white wines from New Zealand.

We started with Sauvignon Blanc for which New Zealand winemakers are world-renowned. Tim guided us through wines from several regions to demonstrate the diversity of this grape proving it's not all grass and gooseberries from Marlborough.

Pinot Gris was the other variety chosen for our scrutiny, again sampling wines from different areas. It's always a challenge to get a real feel of what a

country has to offer from just three wines but Tim's enthusiasm certainly left us with a desire to try more.

When the idea of a Wine Club was first mooted, residents were adamant that they didn't want to be sold to. Thus it was with some trepidation that the Committee approached the new manager of Majestic Wine Warehouse in Ruislip and invited him to come to the club, present some of the latest additions to the stock list and tell us a little about the company.

There was no need to worry as Radek Czarkowski showed a wide range of wines, many of which he recommended as suitable

the company, the training of staff and a day in the life of a typical store. Apparently, the day starts with someone putting the kettle on for coffee! However, the Mayfair branch isn't 'typical' - they probably start the day with Champagne!

As we ventured through the wines, Radek told us what it takes to become a buyer for Majestic. Everyone starts on the shop floor and it takes some time to become experienced enough to buy major wines such as Bordeaux. If you're lucky to be selected, you might get a chance to buy mineral water and see how you get on!

Having tried white wines from New Zealand the previous month, members were able to try a Pinot Noir from the North Island and were surprised by the quality. We've taken to scoring our wines and this definitely came out at the top for the evening's wines.

The programme for the rest of this year includes the traditional (fine wines from the Rhône), the modern (new wine regions in South Africa) and, of course, the purely social with a return to the Bedford Arms for our annual Christmas dinner.

If you've got a passing interest in wine, you'd be most welcome.

You can find out more on the club's website:

[www.loudwaterwineclub.org.uk](http://www.loudwaterwineclub.org.uk)

Cheers!

**Buzz Coster**



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### Club Scene

#### Troutstream Investment Club

Meets 8pm, 2nd Tuesday of month

Chairman

Trevor Slade (01442 831918)

#### Theatre Club

Chairman

Peter Laule (778114)

#### Wine Club

Meets 8pm, 4th Friday of month

Chairman

Tony Hale (774374)

#### Bridge Club

Meets 7.30pm, 1st and 3rd Wednesday of month

Chairman

Janis Rees (710095)

#### Garden Club

Meets 4th Wednesday of month

Chairman

Margaret Jarrett (774225)