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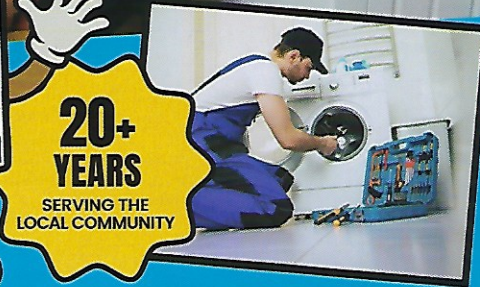
Town Council Update

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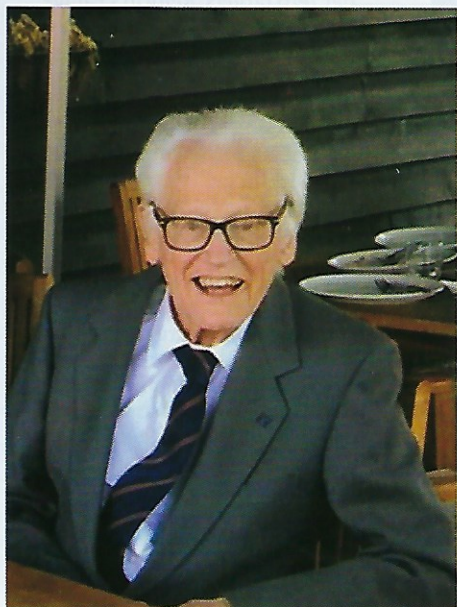
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George (Robin) Thompson (1928–2025)



George (Robin) Thompson

George Horace Brook Thompson, aka Robin, was a pioneering British physicist whose work underpinned the modern internet. Born March 1928, he was educated at Cambridge and Oxford universities, before joining Standard Telecommunication Laboratories (STL) in Harlow.

Robin became a world expert in semiconductor lasers, crucial for optical fibre communications. He was part of the vibrant international race to develop the first practical GaAs laser diodes in the early 1960s – arguably the spark that ignited modern optoelectronics. His work helped transform the fibre optic concept into a reliable, global communications reality – without which we wouldn't have broadband, DVD players, or high speed data centres.

He authored the seminal textbook *Physics of Semiconductor Laser Devices*, held numerous

patents, and in 1992 received the prestigious JJ Thomson Medal for his outstanding contributions to laser physics.

Robin, resident of Sawbridgeworth for over 50 years, is survived by his wife Rosaleen, children and 14 grandchildren.

Town Councillor Spotlight. Meet Nathan Parsad-Wyatt

I've lived in Sawbridgeworth for five years and was first elected during the pandemic. Alongside running my own communications business, I'm one of 12 councillors working hard to ensure our town is well represented, that local services reflect our community's needs, and that the Town Council plays a positive role in strengthening our town.



As Chair of the Planning Committee, I lead on reviewing planning applications and making sure the voices of residents are heard. While final decisions rest with East Herts Council, we scrutinise each application carefully and advocate for outcomes that respect the scale, setting and character of our town. Too often, those decisions are made against the wishes of local people – and that's something we continue to challenge. Beyond planning, I sit on the Finance and Policy Committee, where we take a close look at how the Council spends your money. We work to ensure every pound delivers value, particularly as other tiers of government withdraw from services we rely on. From grants to community groups to maintaining our public spaces, we're focused on making practical, high-impact decisions.

I also serve on the Appointments and Appraisals Committee, which supports and oversees the excellent officers who run the Council day to day. Ensuring good governance, clear priorities and proper support for our staff is essential to delivering consistent services and getting things done.

For me, the most important part of this role is helping to strengthen our sense of community – whether that's supporting local events, improving communications, or simply making it easier for residents to get involved.

If you've got ideas, questions or concerns, please do reach out. I'm always happy to help.

Cllr Nathan Parsad-Wyatt
Nathan.parsad@
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