



Think Loughton

News from Loughton Town Council

Winter 2023/2024 No 103

Play for today

LOUGHTON Town Mayor, Cllr Mick Stubbings, along with Cllr David Wixley, Chairman of the Recreation Committee, officially opened our new children's playground at the Roding Valley Recreation Ground on 1 September 2023. The Town Council is delighted at the positive feedback received from residents and it was great to see this new facility proving so popular with local children.

Following the continuing flooding of the old play area as the river Roding increasingly burst its banks, our Recreation Committee decided to relocate to a more accessible site for users and make the new build more innovative with inclusive apparatus, whilst recycling the old materials. The new playground features 9 central items of play equipment, including the 'viper rope swing' (just outside the fencing) with 50 physically and mentally stimulating play features.

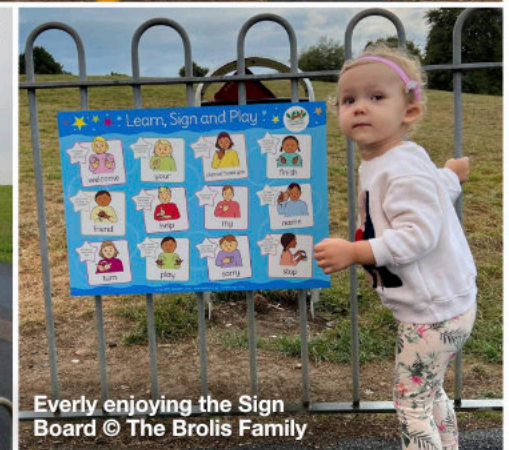
A new BSL sign board is also on display at the park: "Learn, Sign & Play" allowing access for Deaf children whilst raising Deaf Awareness and providing a learning tool for hearing children and their families too. This proposal was brought to the attention of LTC by the Brolis family. Their daughter Everly was just as excited by this board as the new slide! We are looking to install further signs at all our playgrounds around the town, as finances allow.



Town Mayor, Cllr Mick Stubbings, cutting the ribbon



Some of the new play equipment

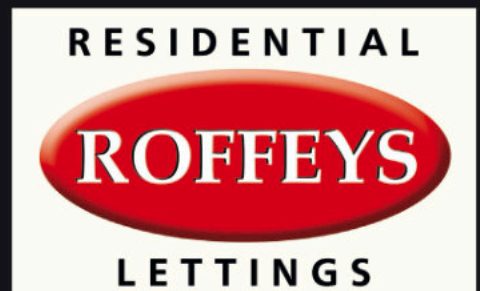


Everly enjoying the Sign Board © The Brolis Family

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Epping Forest District Council	01992 564000
Waste Management Hotline	03457 430 430
Essex County Council (ECC)	03457 430 430
Adult Social Care	0345 603 7630
Child Social Care	0345 603 7627
Debden Library	0333 0132654
Education & Schools	0345 603 2200
Loughton Library	0333 0132677
Registrar: Births, ceremonies & deaths	0345 603 7632
Essex Parking Partnership (enquiries)	01206 282316

ADVICE, HELP & INFORMATION

3Food4u	01992 842642
Action for Family Carers	0300 770 80 90
Affordable Counselling Epping Forest	01992 573402
Citizens Advice	0808 278 7855
Citizens Advice Consumer Service	03454 04 05 06
New City College, Epping Forest	0330 135 9000
Jobcentre Plus (Loughton)	0345 604 3719
NSPCC helpline (freephone)	0808 800 5000
RSPCA cruelty line	0300 1234 999
Samaritans	116 123
SSAFA (Loughton Epping & Harlow)	01206 764114
Trading Standards ECC (business)	0345 603 7626
Victim Support (Essex)	0300 303 0165

COMMUNITY

Accurro	01279 870297
Age UK Essex	01245 346106
Age UK Advice	0800 678 1174

Care & Repair Service	01992 564086
Churches Together	www.loughtonchurches.org.uk
Epping Forest ReUse	01992 578222
ignite (Youth Activities)	020 8508 3643
Loughton Arts Centre	07532 053194
Loughton Voluntary Care Assoc.	020 8508 6114
Restore Community Centre	020 8508 9883
Royal British Legion (Loughton Branch)	020 8508 5044
Royal Voluntary Service	0845 608 0122
Supporting Carers in Essex	0300 770 80 90
Voluntary Action Epping Forest	01992 910701
Volunteering Enquiries	01992 284761

HEALTH & HOSPITALS

ADAS (Alcohol & Drugs Service)	01279 641347
Alzheimer's Society (Epping Forest)	01279 427522
Breathe Easy Harlow & Epping Forest	01992 573387
British Red Cross	020 8508 2162
Forest Medical Centre	020 8535 6888
The Holly Private Hospital	020 8505 3311
King George	020 8983 8000
Loughton Health Centre	020 8502 5000
NHS Direct	111
Princess Alexandra	01279 444455
Rectory Lane Health Centre	020 8272 4600
Spire Roding (Private)	020 8551 1100
St Margaret's	01279 444455
Whipps Cross	020 8539 5522

LOCAL AMENITY REFUSE POINTS

Essex County Council	www.essex.gov.uk/recyclingcentres
Chigwell IG7 5AA	Luxborough Lane
Waltham Abbey EN9 1JU	Brooker Road

POLICE & FIRE (dial 999 for emergencies)

Essex Police (non-emergency)	101
Action Fraud	0300 123 2040
Anti-terrorist hotline	0800 789321

PUBLIC UTILITIES

UK Power Networks emergency	105
National Gas Emergency Service	0800 111 999
Thames Water 24 hour leakline	0800 714 614

SPORT

David Lloyd Chigwell	0345 129 6783
Debden Sports Club	020 8508 9392
Loughton Athletic Club	07958 903842
Loughton Bowling Club	020 8508 3546
Loughton Cricket Club	020 8502 2064
Loughton Football Club	020 8508 4757
Loughton Leisure Centre (& pool)	020 3225 5460
Loughton Rugby Football Club	07939 468222
South Loughton Cricket Club	07941 347812

TRAVEL & TOURISM

Arriva (traveline)	0344 800 4411
First Essex Customer Services	0345 602 0121
Gatwick Airport: Your service centre	01293 555713
Heathrow Airport	0844 335 1801
London Travel Information (TfL & London Overground)	0343 222 1234
Luton Airport	01582 405100
National Express	0871 781 8181
National Rail Enquiries	03457 484950
Southend Airport	01702 538 500
Stansted Airport	0844 335 1803
Tourist Info Centre (Waltham Abbey)	01992 660336
Traveline (public transport information)	0871 200 22 33

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Clerk's Remarks



WORTH WAITING FOR – the inaugural **'Loughton Day'**, finally took place on 16 September 2023 at the Loughton Cricket Ground, by Traps Hill and what a wonderful day we all had. The sun shone (27 degrees) and residents and visitors turned up in large numbers to attend the community event. The cricket field was filled with over 40 community stalls and attractions, with something for everyone. The Scouts cooked up a tasty BBQ, Churches Together provided a

scrumptious 'tea tent' and the Caribbean food stall proved very popular. Once again Loughton Wombles were out in force, keeping the cricket field litter free, and Thames Water provided a drinking station to keep all visitors hydrated. We are appreciative of 'Daniel Robinson', Church Hill for their generous donation and sponsorship of the event. Finally, we are so grateful to Loughton Cricket Club for hosting this Town Council event which proved to be a great success.

The event certainly brought the Loughton community together offering local groups an opportunity to advertise exactly 'what they do' promoting interest and increasing memberships making Loughton a better and more inclusive place to live. Loughton Town Council has received very positive feedback from participants and residents alike. The most frequent question is, can we do it all again next year!

Loughton Town Council is pleased to report that the **new Roding Valley Recreation Ground Childrens Playground** was open to the public in late

August with the official opening by Loughton's Town Mayor, Councillor Mick Stubbings, on 1 September. He was delighted to welcome residents to the new park facilities. It has been an interesting and demanding project, incorporating three distinct stages. **1.** Dismantling the old playground and regrassing the area. **2.** Relocating to a new area next to the Running Track and Tennis courts, involving new foundations and groundwork. **3.** New build with new innovative and inclusive apparatus. The new playground features 9 central items of play equipment, with 50 physically and mentally stimulating play features. Our thanks along the way, go to White Bridge Primary School and The Alderton Junior School, for assisting in the consultation process and choice of play equipment and to Loughton Library for hosting the wider public consultation.

We have already received great feedback on the new playground, which is now 'buzzing' as children enjoy this new facility.

Moving forward, the annual **'Light Up a Life'** service held

in conjunction with St Clare Hospice will take place on Saturday 25 November 2023. This is an occasion to celebrate the lives of family, friends and loved ones and we welcome you all there. The familiar format will be to arrive at the foyer of Loughton Methodist Church at 4.30pm with the procession and service taking place thereafter on Kings Green.

Nominations are once more invited for the 2023 **'Loughton Citizenship' Awards**. Please come forward to promote someone who has made a real difference to people's lives in Loughton. Most people know someone who works tirelessly for the Loughton community and perhaps falls 'under the radar'. Application forms are available from the office. Please see below for further information.

As ever it is very busy, and even more so over the festive period.

Wishing you a Happy Christmas and all the very best for 2024 from all at Loughton Town Council.

Mark Squire
Town Clerk

Citizenship Awards

DO YOU know someone worthy of recognition? Nominations are invited from any Loughton resident, employer, educational institution, group, or society for the 2024 Loughton Citizenship Awards.

Celebrate those special individuals in our town who go the extra mile for their fellow citizens, through long service for a voluntary organisation or local charity, good neighbourliness, running a campaign to improve community facilities or cohesion, or by an act of courage or bravery.

There are three categories: Acts of courage or bravery that have resulted in the prevention of a serious crime or the rescue of individuals from danger. Voluntary Service for people aged 25 or over; and for people under 25 years of age. Each category winner will be presented with a silver bowl, an illuminated scroll, and £250 donated to their favourite local charity. The Town Mayor will present the awards at next year's Annual Town Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 5 March 2024 at 8pm at the Murray Hall, Borders Lane.



Heidi Chow, 2023 Citizenship Award winner with previous Town Mayor Cllr Barbara Cohen

The closing date for nominations is 31 January 2024. For more information contact the Town Council or download a nomination form from the website at www.loughton-tc.gov.uk/Documents_and_Forms_and_Policies_2583.aspx

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Town Mayor: Cllr Michael Stubbings **Deputy Town Mayor:** Cllr Katie Valentine **Town Clerk:** Mark Squire

Councillors

ALDERTON WARD

Cllr Philip Abraham 020 8502 2925
1 Lancaster Drive
Loughton IG10 3NQ
philabraham2000@gmail.com

Cllr Michael Stubbings 07766 480522
70 Greenfields
Loughton IG10 3HF
mick.stubbings@hotmail.com

Cllr Katie Valentine 07477 012213
Loughton Town Council,
1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane,
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cllr.valentine@gmail.com

BROADWAY WARD

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65 Harwater Drive
Loughton IG10 1LP
p.e.beales@googlemail.com

Cllr Kevin Rainbow 07921 662715
19 Audley Gardens
Loughton IG10 2EL
rainbow.kevin14@gmail.com

Cllr Les House 020 8508 3369
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Loughton IG10 3DQ
leshouse18@hotmail.com

FAIRMEAD WARD

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Cllr Sebastian Fontenelle 07898 906371
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Cllr Will Kauffman 07799 148740
28 The Greens Close
Loughton IG10 1QE
willkauffman@ymail.com

FOREST WARD

Cllr Stella Murphy 020 8508 2794
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Rectory Lane, Loughton, IG10 2QZ
stella.murphy6@icloud.com

Cllr Trevor Downing 020 8508 8877
Loughton Town Council,
1 Buckingham Court,
Rectory Lane, Loughton, IG10 2QZ
downingtj1@gmail.com

Cllr Jon Riley 020 8508 6604
Resident of Forest Ward,
Loughton, IG10 4RB
jonriley135@outlook.com

RODING WARD

Cllr Stephen Murray 020 8508 7548
1 Avondale Court, Avondale Drive
Loughton IG10 3BT
stephen.w.murray@hotmail.com

Cllr Rose Brookes 07391 879412
3 Lower Park Road
Loughton IG10 4NB
vietrose02@aol.com

Cllr David Wixley 020 8418 9284
Copper Beech Court, Goldings Road
Loughton IG10 2QH
david.wixley198@btinternet.com

Cllr Neil MacKinnon 07872 324028
Loughton Town Council,
1 Buckingham Court,
Rectory Lane, Loughton, IG10 2QZ
cllr.neilmackinnon@gmail.com

ST JOHN'S WARD

Cllr Chris Pond 020 8508 2361
Forest Villa, 7 Staples Road
Loughton IG10 1HP
loughton_ponds@hotmail.com

Cllr Caroline Pond 020 8508 2361
Forest Villa, 7 Staples Road
Loughton IG10 1HP
caroline_pond@hotmail.com

Cllr Michael Owen 07467 430145
Loughton Town Council,
1 Buckingham Court,
Rectory Lane, Loughton, IG10 2QZ
michael.x.owen@gmail.com

ST MARY'S WARD

Cllr Barbara Cohen 020 8502 3242
23 Church Lane
Loughton IG10 1PD
bcohen61@hotmail.com

Cllr Judy Jennings 020 8508 4200
Loughton Town Council,
1 Buckingham Court,
Rectory Lane, Loughton, IG10 2QZ
cllrjennings@hotmail.co.uk

Cllr Graham Wiskin 020 8925 2003
Traps Hill
Loughton IG10 1TD
cllr.graham.wiskin@gmail.com

Committee membership

RESOURCES & GENERAL SERVICES

C M Owen
VC S Fontenelle

R Brookes
B Cohen
W Kauffman
S Murray
M Stubbings

ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE

C C C Pond
VC C P Pond

P Beales
B Cohen
S Fontenelle
K Valentine
G Wiskin

C Chairman

PLANNING & LICENSING

C C Davies
VC W Kauffman

P Abraham
S Murphy
K Rainbow
J Riley
G Wiskin

VC Vice Chairman

RECREATION

C D Wixley
VC K Valentine
S Fontenelle
L House
N MacKinnon
S Murray
M Stubbings

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Further copies of *Think Loughton* are available from the Town Council and local libraries. A digital version of *Think Loughton* can be viewed on the council website where a PDF version can be downloaded. It is also available on tape - please call us to request a copy.

Contacting us

For editorial contributions and diary entries, please call 020 8508 4200. For advertising enquiries, please call 01245 790244 / 07942 800865.

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Town Council Meetings

1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane,
Loughton, IG10 2QZ at 7.30pm
2023

Nov 15 Environment & Heritage
20 Planning & Licensing
29 Resources & General Services
Dec 4 Planning & Licensing
12 Council
18 Planning & Licensing

2024

Jan 8 Planning & Licensing
17 Resources & General Services
(Budgets - 7pm) Recreation
(7.45pm)
22 Planning & Licensing
30 Council (Budgets - 7pm)
Environment & Heritage (7.45pm)
Feb 5 Planning & Licensing
7 Resources & General Services
19 Planning & Licensing
21 Council
27 Recreation
Mar 4 Planning & Licensing

For dates of subsequent meetings, check the council's website.

News round-up

■ **WINTER SALT & GRIT:** Volunteers are invited to help clear snow and spread salt/grit on the pavement and road outside their home to keep access routes open. If you live in the hillier parts of town and would like to help, contact Debbie Taylor at the town council on 020 8508 4200. Existing volunteers will be contacted directly to arrange collection of their salt/grit supplies for the coming winter.



■ **HALL HIRE:** Following the return to our offices at Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, IG10 2QZ, the Council Chamber is now available for hire – suitable for small meetings (max 20 people), air conditioned, WiFi, wheelchair accessible, kitchen and toilet facilities, parking available evenings/weekends only. Contact Judy on 020 8508 4200 / contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk for full details of all our halls.

■ 2023 OFFICE CHRISTMAS DATES:

Friday 22 December	Closed 12 noon
Monday 25 December	Closed
Tuesday 26 December	Closed
Wednesday 27 December	10am – 3pm
Thursday 28 December	10am – 3pm
Friday 29 December	10am – 12.45pm
Monday 1 January	Closed

■ **FOREST SIGNAGE:** The interpretation board has now been installed near Loughton Station Forecourt along with the lamppost arrows from Loughton Station to Staples Pond and back to the Station. The Epping Forest Heritage Trust arranged a launch event for 18 October 2023.



Horticultural Show keeps growing

A FINE display was staged at Loughton Town Council's Horticultural Show on Saturday 2 September 2023, at The Murray Hall, Borders Lane, proving yet another great success and welcome community event. Open to Loughton residents interested in gardening, baking and flower arranging, exhibits included Coronation themed floral arrangements, beautiful blooms, an array of assorted flavoured chutneys and jams, home baked Victoria sponge cakes and tables laid full of prize worthy fruit and vegetables!

The Town Council is extremely grateful to the Judges and Volunteers who gave their time and expertise to make the show such a success. Assessment took place following strict judging conditions and the winner of the 'Best in Show' went to Francis Sheridan, with his amazing Funniest Cress Head.

Our thanks to Cook Loughton who donated cakes with all profits raised from donations going to GROW Community Garden.

Photo: Francis Sheridan's winning entry: Best in Show - Funniest cress head



Financial Assistance Grant Funding

APPLICATIONS are now invited from local groups, organisations and charities for Loughton Town Council's 2024/25 scheme. Completed forms must be received by 31 December 2023, with grants to successful applicants being made during the period (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025).

During this current financial year, we have helped 20 applicants totalling over £35,400 to improve or maintain their services to the local community.

If you are part of a local organisation delivering excellent work for the people of Loughton and require extra financial support during our 2024-25 financial year, please download an application form from our website: www.loughton-tc.gov.uk (under site map, documents & forms & policies).

Alternatively, please contact the Council Offices for more information, email: contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk / phone: 020 8508 4200.

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Loughton Day

OUR INAUGURAL Loughton Day finally came to fruition on 16 September and proved to be a resounding success!

While the sun shone, large numbers of residents and visitors attended this Loughton event, with numerous community groups, local organisations, charities, and businesses filling the Loughton Cricket Club field. There was something for everyone, including some rather delicious food and refreshments.

The Town Mayor's chosen charity, The Guide Dogs, who had its own stall, was supported on the day by Town Councillors running a tombola raising much needed funds.

The whole concept and ethos of the event was successfully achieved; bringing the Loughton community together, with local

groups informing residents what was available to them, enabling organisations to increase their memberships and making Loughton a better, more inclusive place to live.

Loughton Wombles kept the cricket field litter free, and Thames Water provided a drinking station, much needed on such a hot day! We are extremely grateful to them both, along with Daniel Robinson, Church Hill, for their generous donation and sponsorship of the event.

Finally, our sincere gratitude to Loughton Cricket Club for hosting this successful Town Council event, which received very positive feedback from participants and residents alike, with a request to make this a regular part of the Town Council's events calendar.



TM with Bajanize Caribbean Food Stall holder



TM & Members of the Upstage Theatre Co



Children's entertainers: Strawberry Sue & Silly Sally



Voluntary Care volunteers with TM, Cllr Mick Stubbings



TM & Members of Loughton Cricket Club

Jazz Hub

LAUNCHED IN October, at Loughton Library, Traps Hill, the National Jazz Archive (NJA), the UK-wide jazz heritage charity, opened the first of its Jazz Hubs.

The brainchild of NJA Chair and CEO, Mark Kass, to create a small, local "grassroots" live music venue, exhibit and gallery space alongside a vintage jazz record and book shop and dedicated research workstations, making

the Archive more accessible to all those interested in exploring the art, culture, and heritage of jazz in the UK, while raising funds for the charity.

"Supported by Essex County Council and our team of dedicated jazz-loving volunteers, we're all incredibly excited to be launching Jazz Hub – Loughton," says Kass. "This is a fantastic opportunity to deliver on the NJA's commitment to being jazz's "story room" and not just a storeroom for jazz memorabilia.

We've grown exponentially in the last few months and are rapidly running out of space

for our collections, we're now seeing greater demand across the UK for more access to the fascinating heritage of jazz."

The NJA is self-funded through charitable operations, alongside fundraising through generous donations, philanthropic support, and corporate sponsorships.

Jazz Hub Loughton's opening coincided with Black History Month, in October, culminating with a NJA fundraising gig featuring Tomorrow's Warrior' Gary Crosby Sextet performing "Mingus Moves".

For more information: mark.kass@nationaljazzarchive.org Tel: 07930 334277 / www.nationaljazzarchive.org.uk

Best Allotment Awards

NOW IN its 13th year, judging took place for the Town Mayor's Best Allotment in Loughton, including plots from the Loughton Potato Ground, Roding Road and Willingale Road allotments. Over 200 plots were inspected from which the final judging was made on 12 July 2023 by Ray How and Robin Warner, representatives of the National Allotment Society.

This year's overall winner was The Sheridan Family from the Roding Road allotments who were presented with the Horticultural Association Challenge Cup by the Town Mayor, Cllr Mick Stubbings, along with a £25 gift voucher and a certificate, at the end of our Horticultural Show on 2 September 2023. They also received a certificate for the Site Winner.

The Town Mayor's Overall Best Newcomer award was made to Tracy Smythe from Roding Road Allotments who received a shield and a certificate. Best Newcomer on the Loughton Potato Ground was Joshua Boucher and Best Newcomer on Willingale Road Allotments was awarded to Sarah Barson.

Contact Debbie Taylor on 020 8508 4200 at the Town Council for information about vacancies on local allotment sites.



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■ **15 Nov 2.30pm Historic Houses**
Association a talk by Dr Ben Cowell for the Woodford & District National Trust, All Saints Church Hall, Woodford Green. Enquiries: speller643@btinternet.com / 07774 164407 NT Members and all visitors welcome.

■ **18 Nov 3pm Concert by Opera**
Octaves of classical and popular music. Tickets £15 each to include light buffet and glass of wine/cold drink from Margaret Wackett 07949 961184. The Church of the Holy Innocents, Church Lane, High Beach, IG10 4BF.

■ **18 Nov 7.30pm WSO 60th Anniversary Concert:** Woodford Symphony Orchestra celebrates in the Great Hall, Roding Valley School, Alderton Hill, Loughton. Programme to include World Première of 'Epping Forest Divertimento' by Joe Watling; Bizet L'Arlesienne Suite; David Silkoff Pianist (Finzi Eclogue); Michael Lessiter Baritone. Tickets £10, under 16s free. Further details from: www.WSOOrchestra.org.uk or telephone 020 8924 9370 (see P13)

■ **21 Nov 2pm Rico's Hot 4 (Enrico Tomasso)** Theydon & Abridge Jazz Club, Abridge Village Hall, 39 Ongar Road, RM4 1UD. Disabled facilities. Free Parking / Bar / tea & coffee. Open to non-members – membership available (early bird membership renewal £8, instead of £12). To join for the rest of this year reduced to £2.50 per person. Event prices £10 per person – members, £12 non-members. Enquiries: davedyer24@gmail.com or Dave or Sheila Dyer 07903 879209 www.theydonjazzclub.weebly.com

■ **23 Nov 7.45pm Essex Handicrafts Association Woodlands Branch** (Subject to be confirmed). Meets on the 4th Thursday of each month in the church hall at Loughton Methodist church. Contact Karen Myles 020 8508 4581 (see p13).

■ **25 Nov 4.30pm Light up a Life Kings Green**, in partnership with St Clare Hospice, gathering in the foyer of Loughton Methodist Church. Ceremony to remember loved ones (see p15)

■ **25 Nov 7pm Concert by Fru Chilvers and the Songbirds** Tickets £15 each to include Christmas Cake, Yule Log, Mince pies and mulled wine from Mrs Wackett on 07949 961184. The Church of the Holy Innocents, High Beach. Vicar: Revd Jane Yeadon – 07960 6044176 www.HighBeachChurch.org.uk

■ **1 Dec 8pm An Actor's Life for Me** Lecture by Tyler Butterworth. The Arts Society, Bancroft's Prep School Hall, Whitehall Road, Woodford Green, IG8 0RF. All new members welcome, donation requested. Enquiries: Mary Affleck 07767 662762 marycaffleck@gmail.com

■ **2 Dec 2pm Concert by The Woodford Singers** Tickets £15 to include Christmas Cake, Yule Log, Mince pies and mulled wine from Mrs Wackett on 07949 961184. The Church of the Holy Innocents, High Beach. Vicar: Revd Jane Yeadon – 07960 6044176 www.HighBeachChurch.org.uk

■ **5 Dec 2pm The Alan Gresty Ragtimers** Theydon & Abridge Jazz Club, Abridge Village Hall, 39 Ongar Road, RM4 1UD. Disabled facilities. Free Parking / Bar / tea & coffee. Open to non-members – membership available (early bird membership renewal £8, instead of £12). To join for the rest of this year reduced to £2.50 per person. Event prices £10 per person – members £12 non-members. Enquiries: davedyer24@gmail.com or Dave or Sheila Dyer 07903 879209 www.theydonjazzclub.weebly.com

■ **9 Dec 11am to 1pm Wreath making** in Church £30 per person – all materials included to enable you to take home a lovely Advent Wreath to hang on your door. Light refreshments will also be served. Limited to 20 people – tickets from Mrs Potter on 07814 540307. The Church of the Holy Innocents, High Beach. Vicar: Revd Jane Yeadon – 07960 6044176 www.HighBeachChurch.org.uk



■ **9 Dec 7pm The Roding Players Orchestra Christmas Concert & Oakdale Primary School Choir St Mary's Church**, 201 High Road, IG10 1BB. Tickets (available on the door): £10, £9 concessions, under 11s free, inc. refreshments. THIS IS A TICKETED CONCERT – Contact details for tickets: Susan Austin – 07871 427943. All other queries contact - Shirley Fuller shirley.fuller55@gmail.com 07713 113384 www.rodingplayers.co.uk

■ **10 Dec 11.30am to 12.30pm Messy Church on a Christmas theme.** Lots of craft for youngsters to take home. Free event but donations welcome. The Church of the Holy Innocents, High Beach. Vicar: Revd Jane Yeadon – 07960 6044176 www.HighBeachChurch.org.uk

■ **10 Dec 3pm Christmas in the Forest** with traditional carols, wassails, and storytelling – further details from Jane Begley 07572 111387. The Church of the Holy Innocents, High Beach. Vicar: Revd Jane Yeadon – 07960 6044176 www.HighBeachChurch.org.uk

■ **12 Dec 10.30am The Christmas Garden** a talk by Nick Dobson for the Woodford and District National Trust, the Memorial Hall, St Mary's Church, South Woodford. Enquiries: speller643@btinternet.com / 07774 164407 NT Members and all visitors welcome.



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■ **13 Dec 7pm** Informal carol service by candlelight with retiring collection. Seasonal refreshments will be served. The Church of the Holy Innocents, High Beach. Vicar: Revd Jane Yeadon – 07960 6044176 www.HighBeachChurch.org.uk

■ **19 Dec 2pm** Exalls Shooting Stars Theydon & Abridge Jazz Club, Abridge Village Hall, 39 Ongar Road, RM4 1UD. Disabled facilities. Free Parking / Bar / tea & coffee. Open to non-members – membership available (early bird membership renewal £8, instead of £12). To join for the rest of this year reduced to £2.50 per person. Event prices £10 per person – members £12 non-members. Enquiries: davedyer24@gmail.com or Dave or Sheila Dyer 07903 879209 www.theydonjazzclub.weebly.com

■ **20 Dec 8pm to 8.45pm** Carol singing at The Owl Public House The Church of the Holy Innocents, High Beach. Vicar: Revd Jane Yeadon – 07960 6044176 www.HighBeachChurch.org.uk

■ **24 Dec 4 & 5.30pm** Christingle Services with a collection for The Children's Society. The Church of the Holy Innocents, High Beach. Vicar: Revd Jane Yeadon – 07960 6044176 www.HighBeachChurch.org.uk

■ **10 Jan 2.30pm** Tales from the Bar a talk by Judge William Kennedy for the Woodford & District National Trust, All Saints Church Hall, Woodford Green. Enquiries: speller643@btinternet.com / 07774 164407 NT Members and all visitors welcome.



■ **10 Jan 8pm** How to Get Down from a Yak. The vital importance of yak wool to the history and survival of nomadic culture. Lecture by Chris Aslan. He has enjoyed an exciting life working and travelling with nomads and is now an academic and author. The Arts Society, Bancroft's Prep School Hall, Whitehall Road, Woodford Green, IG8 0RF. All new members welcome, donation requested. Enquiries: Mary Affleck 07767 662762 marycaffleck@gmail.com

■ **11 – 13 Jan 8pm / Sat 14 Jan 7pm** Iconic - A Pop and Rock Legends Variety Show celebrating the greatest artists from the second half of the 20th Century. Theydon Bois Village Hall, Coppice Row, CM16 7ER. Tickets £13 Available online www.ticketsource.co.uk/ theydonboisdramasociety or by phone: 01992 919038 <http://theydondrama.org>

■ **12 - 13 Jan 8pm** A Murder Is Announced by Agatha Christie, adapted by Leslie Darbon. A vintage Christie whodunnit. A murder is announced in a local paper taking place exactly as predicted. Join Miss Marple, Inspector Craddock and the residents of Chipping Cleghorn to unravel the mystery, which will keep you guessing to the end. Loughton Amateur Dramatic Society (LADS) Centenary Season, at Lopping Hall, High Road, Loughton IG10 4LF. Tickets £12. Call the box office on 07552 736 110 (answer machine) or visit www.lads.org.uk



■ **13 Feb 8pm** Can Art Change the World – Empowering People. The role of street art in encapsulating protest from the Arab Spring to Belfast. Lecture by Doug Gillen. A film maker documenting street art in London and elsewhere. The Arts Society, Bancroft's Prep School Hall, Whitehall Road, Woodford Green, IG8 0RF. All new members welcome, donation requested. Enquiries: Mary Affleck 07767 662762 marycaffleck@gmail.com

■ **25 Jan 7.45pm** Essex Handicrafts Association Woodlands Branch (subject to be confirmed). Meets on the 4th Thursday of each month in the church hall at Loughton Methodist church contact Karen Myles 020 8508 4581 (see p13).

■ **13 Feb 10.30am** The Seasonal Customs of Essex a talk by Mark Lewis for the Woodford and District National Trust, the Memorial Hall, South Woodford. Enquiries: speller643@btinternet.com / 07774 164407 NT Members and all visitors welcome.

■ **22 Feb 7.45pm** Essex Handicrafts Association Woodlands Branch (subject to be confirmed). Meets on the 4th Thursday of each month in the church hall at Loughton Methodist church contact Karen Myles 020 8508 4581 (see p13).

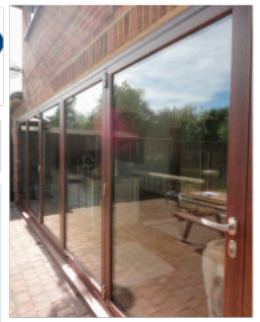
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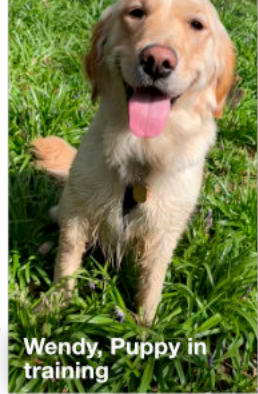
56 The Broadway, Debben, Loughton IG10 3ST Tel: 020 8281 1832

Puppy love Loughton Building Design Award 2024

GUIDE DOGS is looking for dog lovers to provide a safe, loving home for their guide dogs-in-training to relax and unwind following a long day of learning. Volunteer fosterers take a dog home for 3 to 6 months, dropping dogs off for 'school' in the mornings and picking them up in the evenings.

Lesley and Nick Gilbert have fostered dogs over the years, and are now on foster number 40, Wendy, a Golden Retriever. Lesley says: "We saw a newspaper article seeking volunteer boarders. After training we were accepted!

We thoroughly recommend fostering. Playing with the dog, seeing them settle, mature and be happy whilst with us is a joy, as well as hearing about their training. Oh, and the cuddles of course!"



Wendy, Puppy in training

Fostering is an ideal way full-time workers can experience the joy of having a dog. The dog is in training during the workday with all expenses paid for by Guide Dogs, so you experience the joy and companionship without the financial, long-term commitment.

"Our volunteer fosterers are a vital part of the lives of our trainee guide dogs," says Meghann Gibson, Canine Operations Manager at Redbridge. "Our dogs go to 'school' Monday to Friday, learning skills that will eventually help them change the life of someone with a visual impairment. Having a safe home to go to allows them to relax after a long day of learning, making such a difference to their health and wellbeing".

Volunteers will ideally live within a 30-minute commute of the Redbridge office in Woodford Green and be able to drop the dog off in the mornings between 7 - 9am and pick them up between 4 - 6pm in the evenings.

For more info visit <https://guidedogs.org.uk/localfosterers> or call local Volunteering Coordinator Phoebe on 07795 106874.

HAS A NEW development, commercial or residential, or a refurbished property caught your eye which deserves to be celebrated? Nominations are invited for this annual prize from residents, architects, developers, building contractors and owners for their favourite building projects completed last year.

As we continually seek to protect and enhance our town, Loughton Town Council offers this award providing public recognition to those individual examples of good design and construction and/or sympathetic restoration. The closing date for nominations will be Wednesday 31 January 2024.

Last year's winner was 49 Church Lane. The judges remarking:

"A great deal of time and effort has been taken with this, a recently restored 1920s 'Wrenaissance' house. A fine job has been done with the detailing, everything is right, it all looks in keeping and makes a worthy addition to the varied streetscapes of Church Lane."

Visit http://www.loughton-tc.gov.uk/Documents_and_Forms_and_Policies_2583.aspx to download a form or contact the town council for more information: Debra Paris 020 8508 4200 / contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk



2023 WINNER – 49 Church Lane

3FOOD4U.org Social Cafe



OUR NEXT FREE Social Cafe with chair yoga and live entertainment is on Thursday, 14 December, 2-4pm at Loughton Club, IG10 4NX, then monthly every 2nd Thursday.

Activity based with singing, word games, puzzles, bingo and more, with free light refreshments. Open to anyone looking to socialise, sessions are dementia friendly for people with varying degrees of memory issues and those who love and care for them. No booking required.

Our Community Surplus Hub runs every Tuesday 11.30-1pm at The Loughton Club, treating and supporting people humanely with dignity and respect.

Contact us for further information: Tel: 01992 842642 Email: info.3food4u@gmail.com
www.3food4u.org

100 years treading the boards

ON 6 JANUARY 2024 Loughton Amateur Dramatic Society (LADS) celebrates its 100th birthday. Originally formed as a "village society", it's ambition to stage plays of "genuine dramatic worth" LADS has created 380 productions to date, covering a variety of genres. Lopping Hall has always been LADS home. Even in troubled times, LADS remained true to the adage 'The Show Must Go On', continuing to perform during World War II, and creating 6 online YouTube shows during Covid lockdowns.

Regularly nominated for Best Play in the London Regional Awards, winning twice in the last 10 years, LADS has consistently been praised for the creativity of its set design and build. On the Sunday before each production members come together to construct the set. Everyone gets involved, from building the walls, pasting, and painting, to tea-making!

LADS is holding a grand Centenary Celebration at Lopping Hall in April, with members past and present raising a glass or two to this incredible landmark. Four great plays are being performed during this special Season. In October it was the Alan Ayckbourn



family drama, "Time of My Life". January sees the society's first Agatha Christie, "A Murder Is Announced", followed by Arthur Miller's classic "Death of A Salesman" in March. The Season

ends in June with a J.B. Priestly comedy "The Roundabout".

LADS Chair, Cathy Naylor said, "We are so proud of our achievement. But we're always looking for new members to be

involved: Front of House, Backstage, Costumes, Props, or even, Acting." If you want to be part of our next 100 years, please email lads.chairman@gmail.com or phone 07968 486 484.



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13 ▶ **Woodford Symphony Orchestra** welcomes new string players. Rehearsals Thurs, 7.45-9.45pm, Roding Valley High School, 020 8924 9370 www.wsorchestra.org.uk

SOCIAL

Bowls Social Bowls for beginners at Loughton Bowls Club, Eleven Acre Rise. From May-Sept. Fri, 5pm. Free parking. Call Chris 020 8508 1661

The Buffaloes, Loughton Club, 8 Station Rd. A charitable brotherhood - members (18+). Tues & Thurs, 8.30pm. midjavorsfold@yahoo.co.uk www.loughtonclub.blogspot.com

Café Hope St Mary's Church, 201 High Rd. Mon-Fri 9.15am-2.45pm 020 8508 3643

Friday Market, St Michael's Church, Roding Rd. Fri, 10-11.15am

Loughton Probuss Club, Gilwell Park, Chingford. 4th Tues (lunch). Secretary Derek Allen 020 8504 3074 www.probusloughton.org.uk/

Rotary Club of Loughton, Buckhurst Hill & Chigwell The Blue Boar, Market Place, Abridge, RM4 1UA. 1st Fri 6.15pm www.loughtonrotary.org.uk

Royal British Legion Loughton Branch, 118 Church Hill. Mons & Thurs, 8pm (bingo); Tues & Thurs, 1-4pm line dancing; 2nd & 4th Weds quiz night; last Sun 1-4pm (jazz @ the RBL) 020 8508 5044 www.loughtonrblclub.co.uk

Wesley Café, Loughton Methodist Church, 260 High Rd Mon-Thurs 10am-3pm; Fri 10am-2pm; Sat 10am-1pm Closed Sun. 020 8502 3071

SPORT

All-ability Trampoline Club (disabled people to 19 yrs), Debden Park High School, Willingale Rd. Weds 6.45-7.45pm. Loughton Flyers Trampoline Club & EFDC. Fabrizio Ferrari 01992 564567 / fferrari@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Amici Badminton Club, Roding Valley High School Sports Hall, Alderton Hill. Mons, 8-10pm. Age 30+. Chris 07713 004996

Avenue Lawn Tennis Club, 18 The Avenue, Friendly family club. Membership: juniors 020 8502 3793 & adults 020 8508 4803

Clubbercise Murray Hall, 106 Borders Lane. Easy dance workout routines Weds 7.15-9.15pm Lisa 07877 010158

Colebrook Royals FC, Grange Farm Pavilion, Grange Farm Lane, Chigwell IG7 6DP. Sats & Suns 07951 820444 www.colebrookroyals.co.uk

Connaught Tennis, Squash and Bowls Club Beginners & Improvers Social Lawn Bowls. First 5 sessions free. Make friends, have fun and bowl! Every Tuesday 5pm to 7pm. Connaught Club, Chingford. Call Nicola on 020 8529 2341

EFDC Fitness (all abilities). All classes £5 - first session free. Loughton Bowls Club, Eleven Acre Rise.

Strength & Balance - Mon 10-11am

Beginners Yoga - Tues 10-11am (dementia friendly, free of charge for carers) - Loughton Cricket Club, The Uplands

Pilates - Weds 9.30-10.30am

Keep Fit - Fri 10-11am

Enquiries: csreception@eppingforestdc.gov.uk / 01992 564561

Epping Forest HF Walking Group regular Sunday walks in the local area. www.efhfg.org.uk

Epping Forest Sportability Club (EFSC) Multi-sports club for young people with mild-moderate physical & learning difficulties. Oak View School, Whitehills Rd. Sats 10am-1pm (term time) efsc@hotmail.co.uk www.efsportability.com

Flexercise with Caroline Loughton Methodist Church, Wesley Hall, 260 High Rd Tues & Thurs, 10.30-11.30am £7 (First class free) 07714 467784

Katy Little School of Dance, Loughton. Ballet, tap, jazz, examinations & shows. 4 yrs to adults 07712 106941 / www.katylittleschoolofdance.co.uk

Loughton Cricket Club The Uplands, Loughton, IG10 1NQ. Mid April through to September. Children (5yrs) to adults. For info: Contact Cliff Greenhill Chairman 020 8502 2064

cliff.greenhill@btinternet.com

www.loughtoncc.hitscricket.com

Loughton Fencing Club Weds, term-time, Debden Park High School, Willingale Rd. All abilities, equipment supplied free. Jnrs 7-8.30pm, snrs 7.30-9pm. First session free. info@loughtonfencingclub.co.uk

Loughton Football Club, Avondale Close. 8-18 yrs + senior team. Suns (youth teams), Sats (snrs) & weekday evenings (training). Keith Campen 020 8508 4757 www.loughtonfc.com/contact-us

Loughton Karate Club, Lopping Hall. All ages & all levels. Suns 5-6pm + weekday evenings. Stephen O' Brien 07758 341584. ALSO **Women's Self-Defence Class** - see website <http://loughtonkarateclub.co.uk/>

Mountaineering Club, Victoria Tavern, Smarts Lane. Hill walkers & climbers welcome. Mons 8.30pm. www.loughtonmc.org

Lopping Hall community hall in Loughton IG10. Events and shows, rooms to let, dance and keep fit classes, Art Centre. For more info: loppinghallmanager@gmail.com www.loppinghall.org.uk / 020 8508 1660

Loughton Rugby Club, Hornbeam Road, Buckhurst Hill, IG9 6JT. Training Wednesdays 7.30pm. Matches Saturdays. Contact: Michael Walker 07939 468222

Loughton Wado-Kai Karate Club, Roding Valley High School Drama Hut, Alderton Hill. All ages. Weds 7pm. 07971 672542 www.loughtonwadoikai.co.uk

Old Loughtonians Hockey Club All ages, beginners to elite welcome. www.oldloughts.co.uk 020 8504 4010, OLHC@oldloughtonians.co.uk

Pilates classes Epping Forest Community Church, Grosvenor Drive, IG10 2LG, Weds 8pm, Thurs 10am, £5. Suitable for all. www.ginafitnesspilates.co.uk

Roding Valley Angling Club. New members welcome. Darren 07818 392020 / roding.valley.angling.club@gmail.com

Total Football Academy - Ages 6-14 at Roding Valley school in Loughton. Wednesdays 6-7pm Contact Tony on 07962 371177

Total Football Mania - 6 a side leagues and vets league Roding Valley school & Debden Park school in Loughton www.totalfootballmania.com Contact Tony on 07962 371177

Walk - West Essex Ramblers (sorry no dogs). Weekends, Wed & Thurs. 020 8554 1665 / 07434 902394 www.westessexramblers.org.uk

Wing Tjun Kung Fu Roding Valley High School, Alderton Hill. All ages and abilities £8. Sundays (times vary betw 11.15am-3.15pm for each age group) 07977 132111 www.omni-martialarts.co.uk

TALKS

Arts Society Woodford Green, Bancroft's Preparatory School Hall, Whitehall Rd, Woodford Green. Member of NADFAS. 2nd Tues, 7.15 for 8pm. 020 8599 6281

Mothers' Union, St John's Church in Lady Chapel, Church Lane. 3rd Thurs, 10.30am for coffee & speaker. Ivy Southgate 020 8508 7530

National Trust, £3 non-members. Refreshments & NT info. 020 8508 9541 See Dates for the diary

St John's Wives' Group, St. John's Parish Hall, Church Lane, Loughton, 1st & 3rd Mons 2pm (excluding August). Anne Pratt 020 8508 3539

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Christingle Service | 4pm, 24 Dec
Christmas Eve Carols | 5:30pm, 24 Dec

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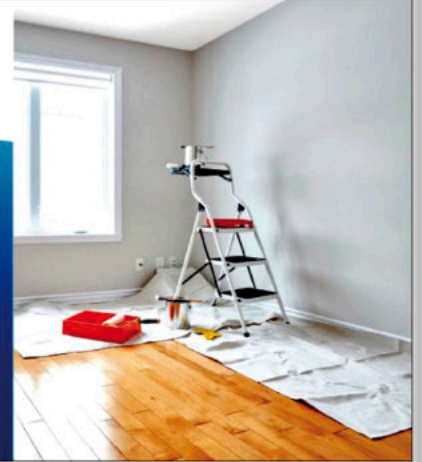


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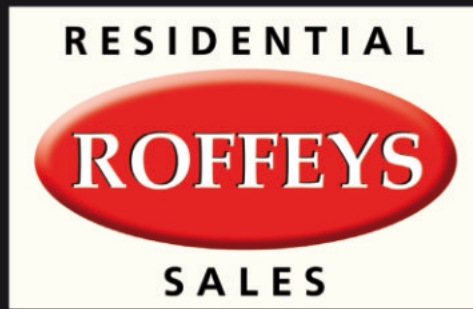
Saturday 25 November 2023

Meet at Loughton Methodist Church from 4.30pm

for the torch lit procession to Kings Green at 4.45pm followed by the switching on of the lights



Hot drinks and mince pies will be served afterwards back in the foyer of the Methodist Church



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