



Think Loughton

News from Loughton Town Council

Summer 2024 No 105

Light of Peace



6 JUNE 1944 saw the Allied invasion of Normandy, the largest seaborne invasion in history, often referred to as D-Day, that ultimately tipped the course of the Second World War in the Allies' favour.

Join us at Hillyfields Open Space, from 9pm on Thursday, 6 June, when we light, at 9.15pm, one of the many beacons across the nation, its flames representing the 'light of peace' that emerged from the dreadful darkness of war, to commemorate the 80th

anniversary of this historic event.

The evening will include a welcome from the Town Mayor, the Tribute will be read by the Cubs from the 41st Epping Forest Scout Group, Revd Chris Davies will lead the Remembrance prayer, and Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Essex Mr Amrik Sandhu DL will light the Beacon, all accompanied by music from this period.

Loughton Town Council looks forward to your company, to pay tribute to those who survived this campaign along with the many that lost their

lives fighting for the freedoms that we enjoy today.

As part of these commemorations the National Federation of Fish Friers are proud to be involved. For over 160 years fish and chips has been a firm favourite of the British public providing nourishment for the nation. This was never more important than during the war years when the ingredients were left unrationed to help feed those involved in the war effort and keep the country and their factories working. A Fish and Chip van will be attending and selling portions of fish and chips.

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Waste Management Hotline	01992 564608
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	07583 111796
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

Accuro	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



AS USUAL, Loughton Town Council community events are approaching thick and fast. Please join us in commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Normandy Landings with the lighting of the Beacon on Hillyfields Open Space at 9.15pm on 6 June 2024 (imminent on this issue publication). We have the support of a number of community groups on the evening and we are anticipating that this will be a poignant and memorable

occasion, worthy of the huge sacrifices made on our behalf.

The annual Jessel Green Fun Day follows soon after on 23 June 2024. The attractions and stalls always prove popular with local residents and attract bumper crowds on the day. Also not to be missed is the next annual Horticultural Show at Murray Hall, Borders Lane on Saturday 7 September 2024. New entrants and exhibits are always welcome. The categories are wide ranging, with something for everyone, including the popular children's entries. So don't hold back but give it a go.

Such was the success of the first Loughton Day in 2023, and by popular demand, we are doing it all again. The date is set for Saturday 21 September 2024 at the Loughton Cricket Club ground, on the corner of Traps Hill and Church Hill. Many of the community groups participating last year have already asked to come back. If you are a community group or local business and interested in participating, please call the office

or contact by email – contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk soonest. There is strong interest already, so the earlier you contact us the better.

Following the installation of a brand new playground at the Roding Valley Recreation Ground during the summer of 2023 we have received very positive feedback from residents and the park appears to be busy every day. We have now turned our attention to redeveloping the Newmans Lane children's playground, along Rectory Lane. We will keep you informed on this new project as we go along.

Inevitably during the difficult economic climate, the 2023/24 financial year has been a challenging one. However I am pleased that we have been able to continue to provide diverse services (for areas that we are responsible for), and to deliver multiple, quality community events during the year. By the time you read this newsletter, the Town Council elections will have been concluded and a new Town

Council will be in place, to serve Loughton residents for the next four years. We thank those councillors who have taken the time to serve their community during their term of office. I hope to provide a proper introduction to the new Town Council and its members in the next edition of 'Think Loughton.'

Lastly a big thank you to the outgoing Town Mayor, Cllr Mick Stubbings who has served the Loughton Community so well over the last Town Council year. He has proved a popular Mayor, covering a large number of community and school visits. Highlights have included, proudly participating in the Remembrance Day Parade and the Town Mayor's Civic Service which raised valuable funding for local food banks. As ever, the Mayor's year has unquestionably been an interesting and rewarding experience.

Enjoy the summer

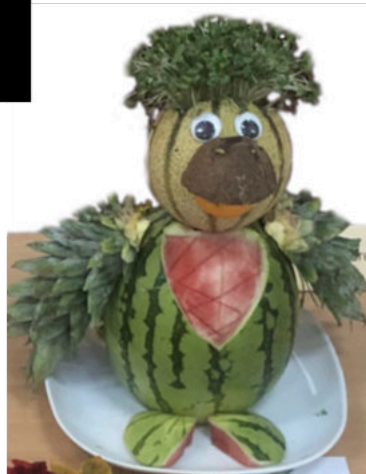
Mark Squire
Town Clerk

Looking good

JOIN US at this year's Loughton Horticultural Show on Saturday 7 September from 2-4pm at The Murray Hall in Borders Lane. If you have a connection to Loughton – live, work or school, we invite you to enter this fun competition displaying your gardening, baking and floristry talents. The Best Allotment awards presentation will follow afterwards.

Children's entries include decorating a plant pot or a cup cake, baking butterfly cakes, making an upcycled bird feeder or showing off pebble art. Adult competitions include floral and produce (fruit and vegetable) displays and cake baking.

We look forward to welcoming back our regular entrants to this family event. For first time entrants check out our



comprehensive beginner's guide, giving you detailed advice on exhibiting your entries and top tips on what the judges will be looking for with your produce. Follow this link for the guide **Horti Show Beginners guide to exhibiting.pdf** (loughton-tc.gov.uk) or contact Debbie Taylor on 020-8508 4200 or contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk for a copy and further information on this competition.



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Loughton Town Council

Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor to be appointed on 15 May 2024 Town Clerk: Mark Squire

Committee membership

*Councillors and Committee membership:
Following the recent council elections, full details
of the new wards and town councillors along with
committee membership are available on the town
council noticeboards around the town and its
website www.loughton-tc.gov.uk Full details will
appear in the next edition (autumn) of Think
Loughton.*

Town Council Meetings

1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, Loughton, IG10 2QZ at 7.30pm
2024

Jun	3	Planning & Licensing
	11	Environment & Heritage
	17	Planning & Licensing
	26	Resources & General Services
Jul	1	Planning & Licensing
	15	Planning & Licensing
	17	Council
	29	Planning & Licensing
Aug	19	Planning & Licensing
Sep	2	Planning & Licensing

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

The views expressed in *Think Loughton* are not necessarily those of Loughton Town Council, and the inclusion of advertisements does not constitute an endorsement by the council of any products or services.

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.

Deadline dates

Edition Copy deadline
Autumn 15 July 2024
Winter 2024/25 23 Sep 2024
Next issue covers Sept to mid-Nov 2024

We do not accept unattributed articles for publication.

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Scott Dryden Design
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Printed by
Micropress Printers Ltd
Fountain Way, Reydon Business Park, Reydon,
Suffolk IP18 6SZ
T 01502 725800 **F** 01502 725855
E rob@micropress.co.uk
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News round-up

■ SAVE THE DAY - LOUGHTON DAY:

Following the success of our inaugural Loughton Day last year, join us on Saturday, 21 September from 11am – 4pm at Loughton Cricket Club in Traps Hill and discover what Loughton's local groups and organisations have to offer you, while enjoying some great entertainment and beverages.

■ **ELECTRIC CHARGING POINT:** An Electric Vehicle charging point has been installed to charge the Loughton Town Council community van. Funding for over 80% of the installation cost was secured from the County Council's Locality Fund by Cllr Chris Pond.

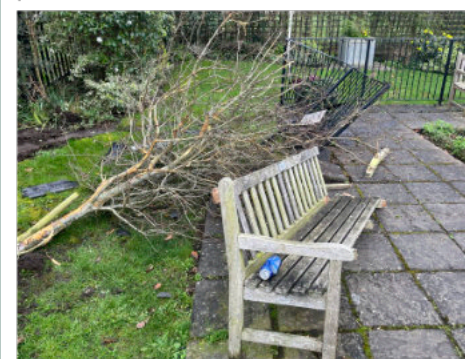
■ **GILLINGHAM PATH:** Name plates have been installed at either end of the alleyway linking the entrance to Loughton Station with Roding Road. As part of the Town Council's ongoing programme of naming hitherto unnamed alleyways throughout the town, "Gillingham Path" has been named after Donald W. Gillingham (1906-1965), the author of "Unto the Fields", who lived nearby. The Council is grateful to Gareth Leslie, Customer Experience Manager (Design, Heritage & Planning) LU Customer Insight, Strategy & Experience, for facilitating the installation and for his help throughout the whole process.



■ **HALL FOR HIRE:** Our ground floor Chamber Room at the Town Council offices at Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane is available for hire. Ideal for meetings, conferences and smaller gatherings. Please contact Judy Graham contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk if you are interested in hiring this venue or indeed our other Murray Hall and Kingsley Hall venues.

■ MEMORIAL GARDEN DAMAGE:

Serious damage resulted following a road traffic accident on 15 March, to a section of the memorial garden in Roding Road. A tree damaged in this collision has been replanted and it is hoped this can be saved. The Town Council will look to restore the garden to its previous condition.



Annual Town Meeting

THE ANNUAL Town Meeting of Loughton Town Council was held on 5 March 2024 at The Murray Hall in Borders Lane. Local community groups, organisations and charities that had been awarded financial assistance by the Council, following their successful grant applications, were invited to attend and showcase their activities to Loughton residents.

This year those applications totalled £35,464.07. Groups awarded were:

Accuro £500, Affordable Counselling Epping Forest £500, Alfie James £200, BASICS Essex £1,120, Christian Drama Resource Centre £500, Epping Forest Foodbank £3,000, Epping Forest Heritage Trust £500, Grant a Smile £250, Loughton Cricket Club £500, Loughton Voluntary Care Association £1,000, Restore Community – GROW Community Garden £2,500, Restore Community – Noah's Ark Toddler Groups £2,500, Restore Community – Oakwood Hill Community Centre £2,500, Roding Valley Parkrun £400, Samaritans Redbridge Branch £700, South Loughton Cricket Club £249.99, Spark – a branch of Worth Unlimited £1,500, St Clare Hospice £600, St Mary's Church Loughton (application a) £244.08, St Mary's Church Loughton (application b) £350, St Michael & All Angels Church – Little Angel Toddlers £400, The Lopping Endowment Corporate Trustee Limited £1,200, 3Food4U £3,000, Voluntary Action Epping Forest £1,000, Youth Employment Strategy £1,750, Citizens



2024 Loughton Town Council
Financial Assistance Beneficiaries

Advice – Epping Forest District £8,500.

A Certificate of Recognition was bestowed to Mr Paul Mellis of Oakwood Pharmacy for exceptional work, above and beyond, for the benefit of Loughton residents under the Citizenship Scheme. No overall award was made in this year's Loughton Building Design

competition. However Certificates of Merit were given to two Loughton properties that have undergone improvements: 5 Staples Road, for the redesign of the front garden; and to 7 High Beech Road for the sympathetic renovations to this property, both projects considered to improve the street scene of the town.

Loughton Station disability access

AS PART of Transport for London's current project to upgrade the Central line, one element is to improve disabled access across its network. Central line trains are being retrofitted with specific

wheelchair spaces in some cars, requiring stations to have mobile boarding ramps (MBRs) installed near where that car stops on the platform to enable disabled access to and from the train. An application is currently before the local planning authority for the installation of an MBR on the westbound platform at Loughton Station. The Town Council's Planning Committee did not object to the proposal.

An MBR already installed on the eastbound platform will remain in situ. This new MBR will improve inclusion facilitating access for mobility impaired customers.

Loughton Town Council have requested the installation of a lift at Loughton Station but is currently awaiting a response from Transport for London.



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Oakwood Hill community consultation

EPHING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL (EFDC) will be holding a community consultation at Oakwood Hill on the morning of Thursday, 20 June. The consultation is part of EFDC's plan to begin a placed based approach

to health inequalities at Oakwood Hill, and the consultation will take the form of a door knocking exercise, asking residents for their views on what EFDC can do as services to help improve the area and your wellbeing.



THE EPHING FOREST YOUTH COUNCIL has gone from strength to strength as it approaches its sixteenth year. The previous cohort of Youth Councillors promoted the Youth Council in all Epping Forest secondary schools. As a result, a record number of 60 candidates stood for election, which was an outstanding turnout. Elections took place throughout March at seven of the schools, with the highest number of nominations being at Roding Valley High School where 17 candidates were put forward for the vote.

There are currently 24 newly elected Youth Councillors, six

members were re-elected. The remaining 18 Youth Councillors have just begun their induction training and aim to become outstanding Youth Councillors for the next two years.

The 2024 – 2026 Youth Council are made up of thirteen girls, and eleven boys, aged 12-17 years, representing eleven schools and one college. There are three independent Youth Councillors.

The future Youth Councillors have pledged to their voters, that they will give them a voice on current, and local issues affecting young people; that they will make a difference and work hard to achieve their goals.



© Loughton Operatic Society

130 years of good voice

EPHING FOREST-based musical theatre group, Loughton Operatic Society, marks a major milestone in its history entering its 130th year performing for the local community.

To celebrate, the society has pulled out all the stops with an exciting programme of shows for 2024. In May, they staged Bob Fosse's hit musical *Sweet Charity*. In November, they will perform, family-favourite, *The Wizard of Oz* at Lopping Hall.

Formed in 1894, during its long history, the society navigated the challenges posed by two World Wars along with the recent Covid outbreak. Their first performance was a two act Gilbert and Sullivan comedy opera, *The Sorcerer*, having since gone on to perform an incredible 168 shows. Adapting to changing tastes of local audiences over the years, performances range from classic Gilbert and Sullivan operettas to Tony Award winning, Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Oklahoma!" and hit Broadway musical "Little Shop of Horrors", performed in May 2023.

Jeanette Abrahams, Society

President, said: "It has been an absolute privilege to be a member of Loughton Operatic Society, which has been a long-standing part of Loughton's heritage. The society has worked hard entertaining the community over the years, becoming an integral part of Epping Forest's Arts and Entertainment scene.

Our members and audiences are like family. Over the last 130 years they have shaped the society into an organization bringing joy to all. We would like to thank them for their invaluable support and hope they will continue to enjoy future performances.

We are always looking to welcome new members, anyone who fancies treading the boards with us during this special year, please do get in touch!"

For more information about Loughton Operatic Society, tickets or to take part, please visit www.LoughtonOperatic.org.uk

Top photo: One of the very first pictures of the society
Bottom: Current society members

Fun for all



LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL invites you to its annual Community Fun Day at Jessel Green on Sunday, 23 June 2024 from 12 noon to 4pm, brought to you alongside its regular partners, Restore Community Church, Red Balloon Foundation, Epping Forest Community Church and Epping Forest District Council. Enjoy a day

of entertainment for all, including all the usual attractions: children's favourite inflatables (height restrictions will apply), funfair rides, food, community and charity stalls. There will be smaller events for younger children and free soft play for the Under 4's.

Our thanks to John Walsh at the Cottage Loaf,

regular sponsor of this event, along with Loughton Self Drive, Daniel Robinson Funeral Directors, Universal Waste Ltd, Haslers and Loughton Gardens & Landscaping for their most generous donations, allowing an all-day wristband to be purchased for just £12, individual tickets for £1, and it will be free for Under 4's.



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Frances F (Daughter-in-law of Client)

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Summer Reading Challenge Volunteering

ARE YOU age 14 or over, and looking for something to do during the summer holidays? Why not become a Summer Reading Challenge Volunteer with Essex Library Service, a national

programme that runs during the school summer holiday, encouraging children of all ages to read six library books. All children taking part receive a certificate and medal upon

completion of the challenge. You will be working with children and their parents or carers, encouraging them to join the challenge and talking to them about the books they have been reading. You will be supported in your role by library staff. For further information follow this link [Summer Reading Challenge Volunteering | News | Essex Library Service](#). Interested volunteers can **Apply online** – closing date 23 June 2024. Please note - volunteers must be 14 and over by 1 September this year.

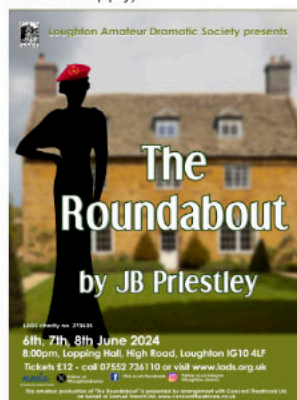


Dates for the diary

■ **6 Jun 9pm Lighting of the Beacon – 80th Anniversary of the Normandy Landings** Hillyfields Open Space. Commemorate this historic event in lighting the beacon (lighting to take place at 9.15pm), while enjoying music from this period and other recitals (see front page).

■ **6 & 7 June 10am-12 noon Adult Art Sessions** Every Thursday and Friday, Lopping Hall, IG10 4LF, for beginners and intermediate level students. Covering a variety of different materials and topics – painting in acrylics, watercolours, drawing in charcoal and pastels and working in mixed media collage. June studies the work of different famous artists, topics for July and August TBC. £18.50 per session. For more information visit: www.rachelmoss-hogg.com or book online www.bookwhen.com/ rachelhoggcreativearts.com (see P13)

■ **Every Sunday until 29 September 2pm – 5.30pm Afternoon tea** enjoy homemade cake, tea/coffee in the tranquil churchyard. Cake slices £2.50, Whole Cake £12, drinks £1. Entertainment some Sundays and an opportunity to ring the carillon. The Church of the Holy Innocents, High Beach, IG10 4BF. Contact Jane Begley on 07572 111387 or janey.begley@outlook.com (Parking Restrictions apply).



■ **6 – 8 Jun 8pm The Roundabout** by J.B. Priestley. Final production of LADS sell-out Centenary Season. A charming 1930's comedy, set around the Kettlewells, a dysfunctional family. Richard is a charming old Etonian whose business ventures are failing. In the course of one day his daughter, whom he hardly knows, returns from Russia, a passionate communist; his ex-wife and mistress both arrive unexpectedly; and his butler has a big win at the races. The day progresses, the characters meet, size each other up, change course and, sometimes, exit in unexpected directions. Loughton Amateur Dramatic Society (LADS), Lopping Hall, High Road, IG10 4LF. Tickets £12. Call the Box Office on 07552 736 110 (answer machine) or visit www.lads.org.uk

■ **11 Jun 2pm Gresty's Ragtimers** Theydon & Abridge Jazz Club, Abridge Village Hall, RM4 1UD. Disabled facilities. Free Parking / Bar / tea & coffee. Non-members – £12, members – £10, membership available. Enquiries: davedyer24@gmail.com or Dave or Sheila Dyer 07903 879209 www.theydonjazzclub.weebly.com

■ **16 Jun 3-4pm Walk in Concert** by David & Nicola Hooke and friends with retiring collection. The Church of the Holy Innocents, IG10 4BF. Contact Jane Begley on 07572 111387 or janey.begley@outlook.com (Parking Restrictions Apply).

■ **20 Jun 7.45pm Essex Handicrafts Association Woodlands Branch** Subject to be confirmed. Meets on the 4th Thursday of each month, Church Hall, Loughton Methodist church. Contact Karen Myles 020 8508 4581 (see p13).

■ **23 Jun 12 noon-4pm Jessel Green Family Fun Day** including inflatables, funfair rides, food, stalls, and more. All-day wristbands £12, individual tickets £1, free for Under 4's. Jessel Green, IG10 2EQ (see P7).

■ **25 Jun 2pm Peter Rudeforth's Savoy Jazz Band** Theydon & Abridge Jazz Club, Abridge Village Hall, RM4 1UD. Disabled facilities. Free Parking / Bar / tea & coffee. Non-members – £12, members – £10, membership available. Enquiries: davedyer24@gmail.com or Dave or Sheila Dyer 07903 879209 www.theydonjazzclub.weebly.com

■ **29 Jun 7.45pm Charity Parish Concert** St Thomas of Canterbury Church, 557 High Road, Woodford Green IG8 0RB. Tickets £15, available in advance from the Parish Office T: 020 8504 1686



■ **7 Jul (throughout the afternoon) Tea and Tales** with Stephen Fellowes and friends. The Church of the Holy Innocents, IG10 4BF Contact Jane Begley on 07572 111387 or janey.begley@outlook.com (Parking Restrictions Apply).

■ **8 Jul Butterfly Walk** Roding Valley Nature Reserve. Discover the many Butterflies, Dragonflies and other invertebrates found on the reserve. (Dress appropriately for the weather) Fee: £2.50. Visit the website for meeting point, times etc. Roding Valley Meadows Nature Reserve | Essex Wildlife Trust (essexwt.org.uk)



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Annual Report 2024

As Mayor of Loughton, my wife (lady Mayoress) and I have taken part in all sorts of occasions/events.

In our official capacity we have visited and spoken to people at schools, where I gave out awards and we were entertained by the children. Other invitations have included the music academy, jazz afternoons, Lopping Hall drama and panto productions, shops in Loughton High Road and The Broadway, Jessel Green Fun Day, Murray Hall Flower/ Vegetables/ Baking Show and Loughton Day.

I also took part in the Remembrance Day Parade, where I met some of the people who had served in the armed forces. We all paraded down Church Hill to the War Memorial on Kings Green. It was a very emotional moment and I was very proud to represent the Council and the residents of Loughton.

Whilst carrying out my duties as Mayor, I still had to fulfil my duties as a Councillor, this meant attending Full Council meetings which as Mayor I chaired, along with meetings of the Resources & General Services Committee and the Recreation Committee.

I have taken part in 3FOOD4U on quite a few occasions, where we met the High Sheriff of Essex, Charles Bishop and his wife (Charlie & Nellie). That was an honour I did not expect.

Each year the Mayor holds a Civic Service, this year I based mine on Charity. The Deputy Lieutenant of Essex, Amrik Singh Sandhu, and his wife, Narinderjit, stood with me at the entrance and welcomed my guests as they came in.

Amongst my guests were Teresa Watts and her mum Jackie, who are both Pearly Queens. They came in their formal dress, which has pearl buttons sewn onto the hat, top and dress. The buttons make up patterns that tell which borough of London they represent. They told everybody what the patterns meant and exactly what they raised money for.

We were also very lucky to have Annabelle Taylor sing 'Food Glorious Food' from 'Oliver'. Everybody commented on how enjoyable it was to listen to her. Thank you Annabelle for giving your time to entertain us.

The afternoon was lovely and ran so smoothly due to the hard work carried out by all the staff from Loughton Town Council, they do all the hard work and make all the arrangements. They have been by my side guiding me all the way.

I have also taken part in religious ceremonies, other than my own beliefs, which I have really enjoyed, and I have always been made very welcome.

Looking back on all I have done, it has been interesting, funny and a BIG learning curve.

I want to thank my fellow Councillors and the staff at LTC for all the HELP and SUPPORT they have given me.

Cllr Mick Stubbings
Town Mayor

Loughton Town Council

1 Buckingham Court,
Rectory Lane,
Loughton
IG10 2QZ

Tel **020 8508 4200**

contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk

Town Clerk **Mark Squire**

Planning & Licensing

Cllr Carol Davies

This year (up to the ATM) we held 19 planning meetings, dealing with 198 Planning applications of those we objected to 121 (including Tree objections or TPO'S Tree Preservation Orders), and had no objection to 86. The number of appeals, that's applications, that go to the Secretary of State, was 25.

This year we have also had 6 new Mobile Mast applications. We take these quite seriously, because although we all like to have good mobile reception, some of these have been requests to put new, even larger masts, in some very prominent positions, or right across the street from existing masts! In these cases, we consider if the masts will be detrimental to both the street scene and the character of the road or will negatively impact the residents nearby, who will be most affected.

Another change this year, which needs to be widely publicised is the May announcement that Epping Forest District Council would no longer be consulting with neighbours on licensing applications. Their reason being that as it was no longer a statutory requirement, they didn't have to!

Also, LTC Planning Committee has become very aware of neighbours not even being notified of some planning applications in neighbouring properties which could impact them.

So if you want to avoid any nasty surprises, I would advise everyone to keep an eye on the Town Council's website, where under planning meetings, you can check out the planning agenda before every meeting. It will list all proposals, so you can inform yourself and comment on or object, if you feel strongly about an application.

We note that EFDC made just one new Tree Preservation Order this year, at 78 Algers Road. However, at the same time we're rather concerned to see that there is a readiness for EFDC to order removal of valuable mature trees, and even veteran trees to avoid, even the slightest possibility of future insurance claims against EFDC. The Committee regards tree removal as an

absolute last resort, bearing in mind that mature oaks, for example, may support and provide habitats and sustenance for more than 2000 species of various moths, birds and other insects etc.

In September 2023, the latest government figures showed that the number of planning applications submitted to local planning authorities was the lowest since 2015. Also, the figure for the year to March 2023 was 395,227 which is actually 14% down on the previous year. I think Planning Committee members will find that hard to believe as at certain times of year our agenda is chock full, and our meetings can last the best part of two and half hours with back-to-back applications.

Also of note, is the matter of Enforcement – this is when building works etc have proceeded without planning permission or contrary to the agreed application, or when permission has been refused. I can report 2 appeals for Aura have been dismissed by the Inspector of Planning. This has decreed that enforcement action for the removal of the outside structure and air vents should proceed. EFDC had allowed a further 13 weeks for removal, however, as there has been no action taken by the owners, EFDC are now taking the matter to the Magistrate's Court to enact. The justice system, as we know, has a vast 12–18-month backlog and this is having an impact here.

There have been some large developments in Loughton this year. The Lucton's Field, which was the playing field for Lucton Girls' School, is now edging towards completion. As well as housing, it also includes the Wellness Centre, a gym facility and café. The café is dog friendly, which I have sampled with 'Twinkle' our Bichon Frise, so I can recommend that for any dog owners in the Town. As some of you will know this gym is to replace the community gym that stood behind Loughton Hall and was sold off by the College to build a seniors' care home/apartments. So, we should I guess be thankful for that, even though I think it has taken what is it about 35+ years?

Recreation

Cllr David Wixley

The highlight of the year for the Recreation Committee was the building of the new playground on the Roding Valley Recreation Ground, work started on 17 July and was completed for use on 24 August with an official opening on 1 September. This was a happy event with children and teachers from Alderton and White Bridge Primary Schools present in recognition of their contributions during the public consultation phase.

We were also pleased that our playgrounds at Traps Hill, Newmans Lane and Westall Road received Gold awards from the Essex Playing Fields Association and look forward to entering, for the first time, the new playground into next year's EPFA competition.

At the time of writing this report discussions are taking place with Epping Forest District Council regarding the possibility of obtaining funding from the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund. A sum of

£30,000 may be available to spend on upgrading playgrounds.

The EPFA also gave Gold awards to the Roding Valley Recreation Ground and the Willingale Road Playing Field. Credit for achieving these awards is due to the work of LTC staff and contractors Pinnacle and Qualis Property Solutions (formerly EFDC Grounds Maintenance).

A survey of trees that the Council is responsible for, was carried out in late 2023. This revealed that a number of trees will have to be removed for safety reasons. However, there are opportunities to plant new trees.

The Willingale Road Nature Reserve continues to benefit from workdays carried out by volunteers and organized by the Epping Forest CountryCare Team. An overnight moth survey took place at the Reserve on the night of the 3/4 July last year. This was a joint survey between EF CountryCare and the Wren Wildlife & Conservation Group. A total of 26 species of moth and one butterfly were recorded. A detailed report can be found in the Recreation Committee's Agenda for its meeting of 6 September via the LTC website.

The annual Jessel Green Family Fun Day was held on 25 June and again proved to be a very popular and well attended event. We were grateful for the support and sponsorship received from local companies and the Cottage Loaf pub. The event also raised funds for the Guide Dogs charity. And as referred to above, a detailed report can be found in the Recreation Committee's agenda of 6 September. Plans for this year's Fun Day, to be held on 23 June, are underway.

Another event to be held in June will commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day on 6 June with the lighting of a beacon on the Hillyfields Open Space at 9.15 in the evening.

The Committee is also responsible for the Council's two community halls, and I'm pleased to report on improvements made to the heating system at Kingsley Hall and the installation of a defibrillator at the Murray Hall. A number of Councillors and LTC staff attended a training session on the use of the defibrillator.

Finally, I thank officers and my fellow Committee members for their help and contributions throughout the year.



Environment & Heritage

Cllr Chris Pond

Work of the EHL Committee this year followed its usual pattern and also dealt with some unexpected issues, the principal of which was the unexpected removal by ECC, without notice, of seven salt bins round the town, these belonged to LTC, having been installed at our cost in the fifteen years up to 2011, when the rules changed. Detailed and lengthy negotiations followed, the matter was even referred to in ECC Full council, but no restitution had been made at the time of writing.

Another matter was the desire of St John's Church to declare their churchyard statutorily closed. This is likely to result in a saving to the church, but a distinct additional cost to LTC. Discussions are ongoing.

Walking signage from the Station to the Forest was completed.

The Loughton Wombles litter picking teams have been a great success. They have met on a generally monthly basis.

The restoration of food markets was much debated. A proposal from Hughmark Ltd to restart a market in spring 2024 was agreed.

Completion of the alleyway naming project, to encourage walking rather than car use for short in-Loughton journeys, was, with one exception, achieved.

The usual business, such as allotment letting and blue plaque installation, was conducted, and a plaque tour conducted in May in conjunction with Essex Libraries.

As well as organising the Christmas lights for both Loughton High Road and The Broadway, we were able to mark the King's Coronation by adding colourful coronation bunting to both areas as



part of the celebrations.

Jointly, with the Planning & Licensing Committee, we identified a lack of regard for Loughton's heritage areas. This was reported to EFDC, but no action resulted.

Many thanks to all the staff who have supported aspects of the Committee's work this year.

Resources & General Services

Cllr Michael Owen

The Resources and General Services Committee bears the responsibility of overseeing the finances of the Town Council and ensuring that it conducts itself with utmost openness, transparency, and ethical standards. The Committee carries out the day-to-day financial transactions necessary for the smooth running of the Town Council and oversees staff salaries, insurance, bill payments, banking arrangements, admin for the whole Council, personnel and employment matters, staff management, IT and office equipment, Members' expenses, management of Buckingham Court, and maintenance of the Kingsley and Murray Halls. Furthermore, the Committee is responsible for producing the quarterly Town Council magazine, "Think Loughton," managing the Town Noticeboards and Website, and administering the Financial Assistance Scheme, Civic Celebrations, such as the Christmas Card Competition and Citizenship Awards, are also organised by the Committee. Furthermore, it conducts policy reviews, contract reviews, training strategy, internal audits, and annual banking and investment reviews. I am pleased to report that the Council received a clean audit report from the External Auditors.

On an annual basis, the Committee reviews the Council's insurances, Council-wide priorities, and policies, such as the Essex Pension Fund Administration Strategy, Investment Strategy and Policy, Members Remuneration Scheme, Procedure to fill a Casual Vacancy, Laptop Policy, Staff Absence Policy, Data Protection Policy, Code of Conduct and Complaints Procedure, Freedom of Information Publication Scheme, Health and Safety, and Training Strategy. This year, the Town Council continued to face significant challenges due to the fallout from global inflation issues, which hinders our ability to plan for the longer term. Despite these challenges, we have tried to keep the increase in council tax to an absolute minimum, whilst making sure we are prudent and can continue to meet our obligations for the long term. We can also confirm there will be no increase in the Councillors' Parish Allowance and many Councillors continue to not take up this allowance. This year the tax base which will be used to calculate the

2024/25 Band D Council Tax for Loughton Town Council as confirmed by Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) is 13,017.5 (12,667.9 in 23/24). This is the figure that when divided into the precept gives the Band D annual amount per household and sets the annual council tax for a Band D property at £76.35, an increase of approximately £4.96 (£0.09 a week). The council has 3 loans totalling £1.4m due to be completely repaid (amortising profile) between January 2026 and July 2027 which will save c£98k pa in loan and interest repayments once repaid. This along with our prudent approach to finances and operations should leave the council finances in excellent shape going forward allowing the council to battle anymore economic uncertainty that may come our way in the short term and to once again hopefully invest for the future of Loughton.

The Committee plays a crucial role in awarding grants to local groups and organisations, ensuring that these awards benefit the residents of Loughton and have a positive impact on the local community. This year, we are supporting 26 organizations (up from 17 last year), and the complete list is available in the February 2024 minutes from the Resources Committee (Totalling c£27k). The grants committee comprises four members as we have now included the previous cycle's Mayor, who brings better insight into the decision-making process due to their involvement in local organisations during their mayoral tenure. Additionally, there is a separate grant provision of £8,500 to Citizen's Advice Epping Forest.

On December 18, 2023, Cllr Murray visited the Office and conducted a financial check on purchase orders and receipts for the Financial Year 2022/23. I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to our Town Clerk, Mark Squire, who continues to do excellent work, our Deputy Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Kim Lumb, our Community Manager/ Assistant Town Clerk, Pippa Bryce, and all our hard-working officers. Lastly, I thank all the members of the Resources Committee for their commitment and dedication to the welfare of the residents of Loughton by scrutinising the Town's finances carefully and conscientiously.

Attendance at meetings during the municipal year 2023/24

Committee/ Councillor	Council 7 meetings	Planning & Licensing 24 meetings	Recreation 5 meetings	Environment & Heritage 5 meetings	Resources & General Services 6 meetings
P Abraham	6	20*			
P Beales ¹				*	
R Brookes	6		3		5*
B Cohen	6	5		3*	5*
C Davies	6	22*		2	1
T Downing	3			1	
S Fontenelle	7	3	3*	4*	4
L House	4		5*		
J Jennings ²	1				
W Kauffman	5	18*		1	3*
N MacKinnon	4		3*		1
S Murphy	3	20*			
S Murray	6		5*		5*
M Owen	4				6*
C C Pond	7			5*	
C P Pond	6	2		4*	
K Rainbow	7	23*			
J Riley	7	21*		3	1
M Stubbings	7	2	5*		6*
K Valentine	7		5*	5*	
G Wiskin	6	20*		4*	
D Wixley	6	3	5*	5	4

* a member of that committee
¹LOA granted for Cllr Beales at Council Meeting on 2/10/23 until end of Municipal Year
²Cllr Jennings Resigned from Council 23/11/2023

Members' Allowances 2023/24

The Parish Basic Allowance for 2023/24 was £120 pa			
Councillor	Parish Basic Allowance	Travel & Subsistence	Total
	£	£	£
R Brookes	120.00		120.00
B Cohen	120.00		120.00
C Davies	120.00		120.00
T Downing	120.00		120.00
S Fontenelle	120.00		120.00
L House	120.00		120.00
N MacKinnon	120.00		120.00
S Murphy	120.00		120.00
C C Pond	120.00		120.00
C P Pond	120.00		120.00
M Stubbings	120.00		120.00
G Wiskin	120.00		120.00
D Wixley	120.00	83.46	120.00

Cllrs P Abraham, P Beales, W Kauffman, S Murray, M Owen, K Rainbow, J Riley, and K Valentine have renounced their right to claim the allowance.

Financial Report

£	2022/23**	2023/24**
Band D precept figure per household	65.16	71.39
Income		
Precept	829,663	904,300
Interest	11,481	23,222
Operating income	152,900	208,697
Total receipts	994,044	1,136,219
Resources & General Services	269,571	177,200
Environment & Heritage	201,015	229,472
Recreation	630,279	705,398
Planning & Licensing	34,170	50,000
Total payments	1,135,035	1,162,070
Balance c/forward	632,766	491,775
Add receipts	994,044	1,136,219
Less payments	1,135,035	1,162,070
Balance c/forward	491,775	465,924
Total net assets represented by:		
General fund	267,530	280,024
Earmarked reserves	224,245	185,900
Overall balances	491,775	465,924

**Unapproved & unaudited. For a detailed copy of the accounts please contact the council.

Councillors list, by ward, during the year 2023/24

Alderton Ward
Cllr Philip Abraham
Cllr Michael Stubbings
Cllr Katie Valentine

Broadway Ward
Cllr Philip Beales
Cllr Les House
Cllr Kevin Rainbow

Fairmead Ward
Cllr Carol Davies
Cllr Sebastian Fontenelle
Cllr Will Kauffman

Forest Ward
Cllr Trevor Downing
Cllr Stella Murphy
Cllr Jon Riley

Roding Ward
Cllr Rose Brookes
Cllr Neil MacKinnon
Cllr Stephen Murray
Cllr David Wixley

St John's Ward
Cllr Michael Owen
Cllr Caroline Pond
Cllr Chris Pond

St Mary's Ward
Cllr Barbara Cohen
*Cllr J Jennings
Cllr G Wiskin

*Cllr Jennings Resigned from Council 23/11/2023

Contact details for the councillors may be viewed at www.loughton-tc.gov.uk

■ **9 Jul 2pm** Graham Hughes Sunshine 5 Theydon & Abridge Jazz Club, Abridge Village Hall, RM4 1UD. Disabled facilities. Free Parking / Bar / tea & coffee. Non-members - £12, members - £10, membership available. Enquiries: davedyer24@gmail.com or Dave or Sheila Dyer 07903 879209 www.theydonjazzclub.weebly.com

■ **9 Jul 8pm** Diaghilev and the Ballets Russes, how Diaghilev took Europe by storm. Lecture by Dr Rosamund Bartlett, noted scholar of Russian Art, Music and Literature, celebrating the one hundred years since the death of Leon Bakst. The Arts Society, Bancroft's Prep School, 611 High Road, Woodford Green, IG8 0RF. All new members welcome. Donation Requested. Enquiries: Mary Affleck 07767 662762 marycaffleck@gmail.com

■ **13 Jul 7pm** The Roding Players Orchestra Summer Concert St Mary's Church, 201 High Road, IG10 1BB. Tickets: £10, £9 concessions, under 11s free - available on the door (cash or card), includes refreshments. Contact: Shirley Fuller - shirley.fuller55@gmail.com 07713 113384 http://www.rodingplayers.co.uk

■ **13 Jul 7.30pm** Epping Forest Singers Summer Concert, an evening of uplifting music including folk, classical and pop, St John's Church, Church Lane, IG10 1PD. Tickets: £15, under 16's free, includes refreshments. Tickets available on the door. Contact: Sue Hitching 07941 696303 www.eppingforestingers.com

■ **18 Jul 7.45pm** Essex Handicrafts Association Woodlands Branch Subject to be confirmed. Meets on the 4th Thursday of each month, Church Hall, Loughton Methodist church. Contact Karen Myles 020 8508 4581 (see p13).

■ **21 Jul 3-4pm** Walk in Concert with retiring collection. The Church of the Holy Innocents, IG10 4BF Contact Jane Begley on 07572 111387 or jany. begley@outlook.com (Parking Restrictions Apply).

■ **Jul 2pm** Exall's Shooting Stars Theydon & Abridge Jazz Club, Abridge Village Hall, RM4 1UD. Disabled facilities. Free Parking / Bar / tea & coffee. Non-members - £12, members - £10, membership available. Enquiries: davedyer24@gmail.com or Dave or Sheila Dyer 07903 879209 www.theydonjazzclub.weebly.com

■ **29 Jul** Butterfly and Bug Hunt Roding Valley Nature Reserve. £2.50 per child (parents free - all children must be accompanied by an adult). (Dress appropriately for the weather) Visit website for meeting point, times etc. Roding Valley Meadows Nature Reserve | Essex Wildlife Trust (essexwt.org.uk)

■ **6 Aug 2pm** Gresty's Ragtimers Theydon & Abridge Jazz Club, Abridge Village Hall, RM4 1UD. Disabled facilities. Free Parking / Bar / tea & coffee. Non-members - £12, members - £10, membership available. Enquiries: davedyer24@gmail.com or Dave or Sheila Dyer 07903 879209 www.theydonjazzclub.weebly.com

■ **12 Aug** Pond Dipping Join us at Chigwell Meadows to discover who calls our pond their home! How many creatures can you find and name? All equipment provided, including pond dipping nets, trays, and ID sheets. Suitable for children aged 3+. (Dress appropriately for the weather) £2.50 per child (parents free - all children must be accompanied by an adult). Visit website for meeting point, times etc. Roding Valley Meadows Nature Reserve | Essex Wildlife Trust (essexwt.org.uk)

■ **17 Aug** Abseil For Accuro - Arcelor Mittal Orbit at the Olympic Park Abseil from the UK's tallest sculpture, an adrenaline-fuelled way to see London at 262 feet above the city, taking in breathtaking 20-mile vistas across London. Minimum age 14+. Visit the Accuro website for more information: https://arcelormittalorbit.com/whats-on/abseiling/

■ **18 Aug 3pm** Walk in Concert by David and Nicola Hooke and friends with retiring collection. The Church of the Holy Innocents, IG10 4BF. Contact Jane Begley on 07572 111387 or jany. begley@outlook.com (Parking Restrictions Apply).

■ **20 Aug 2pm** TJ's Jazz & Blues Theydon & Abridge Jazz Club, Abridge Village Hall, RM4 1UD. Disabled facilities. Free Parking / Bar / tea & coffee. Non-members - £12, members - £10, membership available. Enquiries: davedyer24@gmail.com or Dave or Sheila Dyer 07903 879209 www.theydonjazzclub.weebly.com

■ **3 Sep 2pm** Graham Hughes Sunshine 5 Theydon & Abridge Jazz Club, Abridge Village Hall, RM4 1UD. Disabled facilities. Free Parking / Bar / tea & coffee. Non-members - £12, members - £10, membership available. Enquiries: davedyer24@gmail.com or Dave or Sheila Dyer 07903 879209 www.theydonjazzclub.weebly.com

■ **7 Sept 2-4 pm** Loughton Horticultural Show 2024 & Best Allotment Awards The Murray Hall, Borders Lane, IG10 3SB. Doors open to exhibitors at 9am. Classes for all ages. Prize giving at 4pm, (followed by Best Allotment Awards presentation). Refreshments available. Free Admission (see P3).

Disclaimer: Loughton Town Council takes no responsibility for events organised by external organisations/ individuals that are listed above. Please always check details and availability with the relevant organiser.

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www.riderhouseloughton.co.uk

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Sally Hunter MBACP Therapist

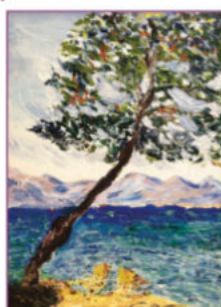
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E: counsellingwithsally@outlook.com



Who does what

Within local government, there are three levels of local council, all with different responsibilities. Essex County Council is the top tier, followed by Epping Forest District Council and then Loughton Town Council. Since its inception in 1996, the Town Council has assumed responsibility for a number of areas from Epping Forest District Council, as well as implementing its own schemes.

Details of the various Council's responsibilities are displayed below.

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL County Hall, Chelmsford 0345 7430430 contact@essex.gov.uk www.essex.gov.uk	EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL Civic Offices, High Street, Epping 01992 564000 contactus@eppingforestdc.gov.uk www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk	LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL 1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, Loughton, IG10 2QZ 020 8508 4200 contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk www.loughton-tc.gov.uk
<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most schools • Early years and childcare • Adult learning • Travel to school • Apprenticeships • Post-16 options • Youth service • School governors <p>Activities, Arts and Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage services • Cultural development • Public art • Essex music services • Essex country parks • Encouraging tourism • Visit Essex • Essex Activities <p>Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic / spacial planning • Mineral and waste planning • Transport planning <p>Economic Development and Enterprise</p> <p>Health and Social Care</p> <p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public transport (except TFL & commercial services) • Highways and footpaths • Street lighting • Traffic management • Bus passes / Blue badges <p>NB: On street car parking enforcement currently NEPP – www.parkingpartnership.org</p> <p>Libraries & Archives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essex Record Office • National Jazz Archive <p>Births, Deaths & Ceremonies</p> <p>Business and Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DBS checks • Business advice & support <p>Environment and Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic planning • Flooding • Emergency planning 	<p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letting and re-letting council accommodation • Management and maintenance of housing stock, policy and co-ordination • Homelessness • Sheltered accommodation • Housing Benefits <p>Crime and Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Planning • CCTV <p>Planning and building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local plans • Planning applications • Building control • Historic buildings and conservation areas • Tree Preservation Orders <p>Economic Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business support and advice <p>Elections and Electoral Registration</p> <p>Environmental Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling and waste collections • Street cleansing including footpaths • Engineering, drainage and water • Clean air and pollution control • Environmental Health (includes food safety and advice) • Health and safety • Public conveniences • Street naming and numbering • Trees and landscaping • Off-street parking enforcement <p>Recreation and Art</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks and open spaces • Swimming pools • Sports centres & facilities • Support for the arts and culture • Museums • Encouraging tourism <p>Council Tax and Uniform Business Rate collection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local council tax support <p>Licences including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premises and Alcohol • Street trading • Street collections 	<p>Allotments</p> <p>Loughton Cemetery</p> <p>Open Spaces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roding Valley Recreation Ground including football pitches and tennis courts • Kings Green and Standard Green • Hillyfields and Millennium Remembrance Grove • The Lindens • Willingale Road Playing Field • Lady Whitaker's Mead • Land adjacent to Willingale Road allotments • Loughton Cricket Club Ground • Memorial Rose Garden <p>Planning and Licensing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commenting on local and strategic plans • Commenting on planning and licensing applications and Tree Preservation Order applications • Building design awards <p>Kingsley Hall and Murray Hall (Community Centres)</p> <p>Playgrounds and outdoor gyms</p> <p>Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue plaque scheme <p>Street Furniture (Litter Bins, Bus Shelters and Seats)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highway seats outside town centres • Alleyway name plates • Salt/grit bins (some) • Drinking Fountain (High Road) • Flower baskets • Christmas lights <p>War Memorials</p> <p>Small grants to local organisations</p> <p>Emergency Planning</p> <p>Community Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community events • "Think Loughton" newsletter • Local noticeboards • Christmas card and Christmas window competitions

Town Mayor's Civic Service 2024



© Everything Epping Forest

TOWN MAYOR, Cllr Mick Stubbings, organised this year's Civic Service held on Sunday 11 February at the Loughton Methodist Church. His chosen theme was 'Charity and Giving', and the ceremony was conducted by Reverend Sue Creighton. The poem, "A Simple Act of Charity", was read by Epping Forest Youth Councillors, Krish Gohil and Ahiyan Shah Kabir, reflecting this

theme. Talks were given by Pesh Kapasiawala on the work of 3Food4U; and Loughton resident, Teresa Watts the Pearly Queen of Hackney, spoke about the history and charity work she undertakes in this role. Young Loughton resident, Annabelle Taylor, closed the event with a wonderful solo performance of the song 'Food, Glorious Food' from the musical 'Oliver'.

Among the guests at the service were Deputy Lieutenant of Essex, Amrik Singh Sandhu, Epping Town Mayor, Cllr Christine Burgess and Waltham Abbey Town Mayor, Cllr Shane Yerrell. A large quantity of food and toiletry donations were gratefully received in support of Loughton foodbanks, some of the charitable organisations Town Mayor, Cllr Mick Stubbings supported during his tenure.

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Regular activities

 Amendments to: debra.paris@loughton-tc.gov.uk

ALLOTMENTS

Loughton Potato Ground, Baldwins Hill.
www.loughtonpotatoground.com
 Roding Road Allotment & Leisure Gardens Association, Roding Road.
www.rodingroadallotments.co.uk/
 Willingale Road Allotments, Loughton
 Town Council 020 8508 4200

ANIMAL TRAINING

Epping Green Dog Agility Club Epping Cricket Club, Epping. Thurs Evenings 6.30-8.30pm. Jodie Lucas 07804 630394

ARTS & CRAFTS

Art Classes, Thurs & Fri 10am-12 noon, Lopping Hall, IG10 4LF
 Adult art sessions, beginners & intermediate level students. Incl. painting in acrylics, watercolours, drawing in charcoal, pastels & working in mixed media collage. £18.50 per session. For more info visit: www.rachelmoss-hogg.com

The Arts Society West Essex

Expert illustrated talks covering all aspects of the Arts. First Weds of each month (except August). Theydon Bois Village Hall, CM16 7ER. 10.15am coffee - meeting 10.45am. Annual subscription £45 / visitors £7 per session. Enquiries: secretarytheartsocietyWE@gmail.com or 07980 476710

Chigwell Floral Art Group A social afternoon for flower lovers. St Winifred's Church Hall, 115 Manor Rd, Chigwell, IG7 5PS. 2-4pm, 3rd Thurs (except Aug & Dec). Doors open 1.30pm. Visitors £8 Contact: Christine Sawdon 07743 138629 <http://nafas.org.uk/nafas-areas/L&O>

Art Classes LifeWorks Centre, Loughton Methodist Church, 260 High Rd. £12. Tues & Thurs. 07944 589998 www.ruthdronsfield.co.uk

Essex Handicrafts Association, Woodlands Branch, The Studio, Loughton Methodist Church, 260 High Rd. 4th Thurs, 7.45pm. Karen Myles, branch secretary, 020 8508 4581

Loughton Arts Centre, Lopping Hall, 189 High Road, IG10 4LF. Mon-Sat 10am-4pm. Local artists & photographers work. 07532 053194 <http://www.loughtonarts.org/>
 The Arts Bar, Lopping Hall. 2nd Fri from 7pm. For creative people to meet, view the latest exhibition at Loughton Arts Centre & meet the artist (as above).

Thursday Art Group, Loughton Baptist Church, 92 High Rd. Thurs, 1.30pm £3 (incl tea & biscuits) 020 8502 1379 / theornes5@hotmail.co.uk

Woodford & District Floral Arrangement Group, Churchill Room, Wanstead Library, Spratt Hall Rd, E11. 3rd Mons, 6.45 for 7.30pm. Visitors £9. <http://nafas.org.uk/nafas-areas/>

COUNSELLING

Affordable Counselling Epping Forest Waltham Abbey Tues/Thurs 9.30am-12.30. Epping Thurs/Thurs 4pm-7pm. Chigwell Tues 10.30am-1.30pm. 07583 111796 (answer phone) affordablecounselling@gmail.com

Samaritans. Free, confidential emotional support for the distressed & despairing available 24/7. 020 8553 9900 / 116 123 / jo@samaritans.org / txt 07725 909090
 Spark Counselling and Mentoring for young people. Loughton Youth Centre, Borders Lane, Loughton 020 8508 6743 Spark@worthunlimited.co.uk
 Free service - donations accepted

EDUCATION

Bridge Lessons various courses available in a relaxed atmosphere in Loughton. Days and times are flexible. Contact Hazel on 07788 711288 for further information - Fees TBC.

Music Lessons, Loughton Music Academy, High Rd. 020 8502 2992 www.loughtonmusicacademy.co.uk

FOOD

3Food4U Loughton Community Surplus Hub runs every Tues 11.30am-1pm at The Loughton Club, 8 Station Road IG10 4NX. Contact us at Website: www.3food4u.org Email: info.3food4u@gmail.com Tel: 01992 842642

Loughton Foodbank Weds, 10am-12 noon, St Mary's Church, 201 High Rd & Sats, 10.30am-12 noon, St John's on the Broadway, 66 The Broadway, IG10 3ST, 07402 032313 <https://eppingforest.foodbank.org.uk>

GENERAL INTEREST

Bell ringing, St John the Baptist Church, Church Lane. Tues, 8-9pm (in tower). No experience necessary. Yvonne Finch 07748 970754

Book Groups Loughton Library, Traps Hill 4th Mons, 1.30pm 0333 0132677
 Calligraphy for beginners (adults) 07956 544262

Epping Forest Conservation Volunteers, The Warren, Epping New Rd most Suns. Kevin Mason 8529 9273 efcv2@yahoo.co.uk www.efcv.co.uk

Epping Forest Countryside, EFDC's Countryside team. Volunteering projects in district's nature reserves. Thurs 10am-4pm 01992 788203 www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/index.php/out-and-about/countryside
 Epping Forest & District Stamp Club, Roding Valley High School, Alderton Hill, 2nd Tues (most months) 8pm. 01992 654001

Epping Forest Singers A friendly non-auditioned choir singing a mixed repertoire. Rehearsals: Thursdays 7.30-9.30pm (term time only) at The Ridgeway Church, Chingford E4 6PU. Further details: www.eppingforestsingings.com

Essex Wildlife Trust - Roding Valley Meadows. Volunteer work parties undertaking practical reserve management, Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 10am-3pm. Contact: roding@essexwt.org.uk / 020 8500 3094

Forest Creative Writers, Loughton Methodist Church, 260 High Road, Loughton, Thurs (term-time) 1-3pm. Christine Ives 020 8508 3173

Forest Musical Theatre Company, Tues & Weds (rehearsals). Email rachel@forestmusical.co.uk or visit www.forestmusical.co.uk

Friends of Light & Healing, Kingsley Hall, Kingsley Rd. An evening of clairvoyance. Alternate Thurs, 7.30 for 8pm. 07743 376468

Green Heart Mindfulness Meditation Group meet at Roding Valley Recreation Ground on an ad hoc basis - please contact Susan Latchford for details: mobile 07514 078728 or by email at susan.boshanka@gmail.com

Hornby Railway Collectors Association, St John's Church Scout Hall, Church Lane. 2nd Thurs, 5-10pm alternate months. David Southgate 020 8508 7530

Loughton Amateur Dramatic Society, Lopping Hall, High Rd. Martin Howarth 020 8508 8644 www.lads.org.uk See Dates for the diary.

Loughton Astronomical Society, Scout Hall, Theydon Bois. LAS Astrokryds (6-14 yrs). Thurs 8-10pm. Brian Morton 01992 815804 www.las-astro.org.uk

Loughton Bowling Club Bridge Section, Eleven Acre Rise. Thurs pm. 020 8502 0237

Loughton Bridge Club, Grange Farm - Mon & Weds 7.20pm lindajenkins34@hotmail.com www.bridgewebs.com

Loughton Camera Club, Lopping Hall, High Rd. Weds, 8-10pm. 07873 534 604 www.loughtoncameraclub.org.uk/
 Loughton Camera Club/Welcomes.html

Loughton Chess Club, Loughton Bowling Club, Eleven Acre Rise. Weds, 7.30pm. 020 8508 8407 <http://www.loughtonchess.co.uk/>

Loughton & District Historical Society, Loughton Methodist Church, 260 High Rd. £4 non-mems. 2nd Thurs, 8pm www.loughtonhistoricalsociety.org

Loughton & Epping Forest Amateur Radio Society, All Saints Hse, Romford Rd, Chigwell Row, IG7 4QD. Alt. Fri 7.45pm T: 07850 120180 E: info@lefars.org.uk W: www.lefars.org.uk

RSPB North East London Local Group Talks held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 8pm (except July and August). St Mary's Church, 207 High Road, South Woodford E18 2PA. www.rspb.org.uk/groups/northeastlondon

HEALTH

ADAS (W Essex Alcohol & Drugs Service - by appt) Rectory Lane Health Centre 01279 641347 / admin@adasuk.org.uk www.adasuk.org

Breathe Easy (British Lung Foundation), Tony Carr 01992 573387

Cycling For Health Wednesday morning rides run by Jarvis Goodyear at Epping Forest MTB. For all information and Direct Booking click on this link <http://www.eppingforestmtb.co.uk/cycling-for-health/>

For more info contact email Jarvis direct on C4H@eppingforestmtb.co.uk

Lifewalks a voluntary run walk scheme under the supervision of the Lee Valley Park Authority. For More Info Contact: Lyndsey North Community Health & Wellbeing Officer Lee Valley Regional Park Authority M: 07909 000 309

E: LNorth@leevalleypark.org.uk W: visiteealevalley.org.uk

Memory Café Rotary Club of Roding, Loughton Club, 8 Station Rd, IG10 4NX. 1st Fri 10am-12pm. Fran 07903 274398

Open Door Friendship Group for adults with mental ill health. Fridays 3.30/5.30pm St Michael and All Angels Church Hall, Roding Rd, IG10 3EJ opendoorfriendship@gmail.com + Weds 2pm Yoga sessions at the Methodist Church, High Rd, IG10 1RB £5 members (£10 non-members)

ProActive (W Essex Prostate Cancer men's self-help group) St Margaret's Hospital, The Plain Epping CM16 6TN. Fri monthly 10.30am-2.30pm. Anthony Dillimore 07973 345094 www.proactive.me.uk

LEISURE ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN / YOUNG PEOPLE

2324 (Chigwell) Squadron, Air Training Corps, Buckhurst Hill. Mons & Thurs evenings (13-17 yrs). 020 8505 3353 www.2324squadron.org.uk

7th Epping Forest Scout Group, St Edmund's Church, Traps Hill. Tues: Scouts boys/girls (10½-14½ yrs) 7.30-9pm. Thurs: Beavers boys/girls (6-8 yrs) 5-6pm & Cubs boys/girls (8-10½) 6.30-7.30pm. Keith Davis 07553 376181

12th Loughton Brownie Pack St John's Church, Church Lane, IG10 1PD. Mondays (term time) 6 to 7.30pm: girls 7 to 10.5yrs. Info: 12thloughton.brownies@gmail.com

16th Epping Forest Scout Group Trinity Church Hall, Mannock Drive. Friday's during term time. Beavers (6-8 yrs) 5-6.15pm, Cubs (8-10 yrs) 6.15-7.45pm & Scouts (10-14 yrs) 7.45-9.30pm. Linda Brede 020 8508 4867 / lulu.brede@gmail.com

30th Loughton Scout Group, St John's Church, Church Lane. Beavers (6-8 yrs), Cubs (8-10 yrs) & Scouts (10-14 yrs) Paul Snowden GSL 020 8508 4336 / info@30thloughton.co.uk

41st Epping Forest Scout Group, Lopping Hall, 189 High Rd. Mons 5.45-9pm Thurs & Fri, 6-9pm Beavers, Cubs, Scouts & Explorers girls/boys (6-18) 020 8923 2378 / ags4141@gmail.com

Baby Sensory Stay and Play Loughton Library, Traps Hill, IG10 1HD. Every Tues - 2pm to 3pm. Every Thurs - 10am to 11am. Baby sensory storytime session.

Baby & Toddler Group St Edmund's Parish Hall, Traps Hill. Thurs 9.30-11.30am (term time) stedmundsplaygroup@gmail.com

Baby and Toddler Rhymetime Loughton Library, Traps Hill, IG10 1HD. Every Tues - 10am to 10.30am. Join in with stories and rhymes

Boperoos Fun music and movement classes for young ones. Sundays 1yrs: 9 - 9.45am; 2-3yrs: 10 - 10.45am; 4-5yrs: 11 - 11.45am. Prices - Trial: £9; 5 sessions £42.75; 10 sessions £81. Loughton Music Academy, 257a High Rd, IG10 1AD. E: info@boperoos.com T: 07305 227814 W: www.boperoos.com

Girlguiding in Loughton Rainbows Brownies & Guides (girls aged 5 - 17yrs). Leadership opportunities available for girls & women over 14yrs. More information and to register <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/>

Little Angels Baby & Toddler Group, St Michael's Church, Roding Rd. Weds 10-11am (term-time) 020 8418 7944. Attendance requires booking via our website - www.stmichaelsloughton.com

Little Oak's Child & Family Wellbeing Service, 020 8508 0932, please see our Facebook page for programme details

Loughton Youth Centre 106 Borders Lane IG10 3SB. ECC Youth Services in partnership 07557 168088 / louisia.stirling@essex.gov.uk Accuro: young people with learning difficulties Tues 6-9pm. Tel: 01279 870297. Email: enquiries@accuro.org.uk Action for Family

Carers: Young Carers Youth Club Weds 4.30-6.30pm - 2 clubs per month, dates advised on a monthly basis. For further information contact chris.vince@affc.org.uk

Spark Youth Club - Mon/Thurs 3.30-5.30pm term time Age 11-16, 020 8508 6743 Spark@worthunlimited.co.uk

Noah's Ark Toddler Group (under 5s) Oakwood Hill Community Hall, IG10 3NB 10-11.30am Mon (term time) + Trinity Church, Mannock Drive, IG10 2JD.

10-11.30am Tues and Thurs (term time). £1.50 per family. 020 8508 9883

The Loughton Pantomime UpStage Theatre Company Mon 6-7pm 7-15yrs (Junior Chorus). Mon 7-10pm over 16s (Adult Cast) @ Lopping Hall, Loughton, IG10 4LF www.upstage.org.uk

hello@upstage.org.uk
 Reindeer Explorer Scouts, St Edmund's Church, Traps Hill. Girls/boys (13½-18 yrs). Fri. Dave Martin 07889 189261

Toddler Church, Loughton Methodist Church, 260 High Rd. (0-5). Tues (term time), 10am. 020 8502 3071 administrator@loughtonmethodist.org.uk

Toddler Toy Time, Loughton Library, Traps Hill, IG10 1HD. Every Weds - 10am to 11am. Soft play equipment. Toys and the sensory wall.

MUSIC
 60's music appreciation social group Loughton Club, 8 Station Rd. Last Tues 2-4.30pm 020 8508 8365 / 07761 792691

Epping Forest Guitar Group Mondays (term time) 7.15-9.15pm Lopping Hall. New members welcome - acoustic and classical guitar players. For more info contact info@tonycalvomusic.com

Loughton Folk Club, 8 Station Rd. Live acoustic music. Thurs, 8pm. loughtonfolkclub@googlegmail.com

Loughton Ladies Choir Meets every Thurs 2.15-3.45pm St John's Church Hall, Church Lane IG10 1PD. New Members welcome - sopranos/altos Peter Jones - 07769 973405

Loughton Operatic Society, Lopping Hall, High Rd, 020 8505 2033. loughtonoperaticsociety@hotmail.com www.loughtonoperatic.org.uk Rehearsals Tues & Thurs

National Jazz Archive, Loughton Library, Traps Hill Mon-Weds, Fri, 10am-1pm 020 8502 4701 www.nationaljazzarchive.org.uk

Roding Players Orchestra rehearses on Monday evenings from 7pm-9pm at Roding Valley High School. New members always welcome. Contact Miles Harwood on 07715 239101 or milesharwood@aol.com www.rodingplayers.co.uk

South West Essex Choir, Loughton Methodist Church, 260 High Rd. Tues, 7.45-10pm. 01992 812606 www.southwestessexchoir.org.uk/

13 ▶ **Stand & Deliver Acoustic Open Mic Club**, Royal British Legion, 118 Church Hill, 2nd Tues 8pm. Roy Tyzack roy.tyzack@btinternet.com
Theydun & Abridge Jazz Club (TAJC) Abridge Village Hall, 39 Ongar Rd, RM4 1UD. 07903 879209 / 01945 588325. www.theydonjazzclub.weebly.com Every other Tues 2-4.30pm £10 members, (£12 non-members).

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. Hall for hire. Call Paul Elliott 07555 334612

The Buffaloes, Loughton Club, 8 Station Rd. A charitable brotherhood - members (18+). Tues & Thurs, 8.30pm. midjawsford@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 Probosc 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 & FITNESS

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. Contact: www.avenuetennisclub.com for full club details (juniors and adults)
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

Epping Forest HF Walking Group regular Sunday walks in the local area. www.effhg.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 (yth 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/

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.loughtonwado-kai.co.uk

Maria D's Dance Factory Dance yourself Fit. Tues evenings 8pm - 9pm, The Murray Hall, 106 Borders Lane, IG10 3SB. Admission £7 (pay as you go) Call Maria on 07833 454090

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

Old Loughtonians Hockey Club All ages, beginners to elite welcome, www.oldloughtons.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.west Essexramblers.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

Zumba with Ashley Mondays @ 8pm / Fridays @ 9.30am. The Murray Hall, 106 Borders Lane, IG10 3SB. Classes £6 (pay on the day - no need to book). Message Ashley on 07580 098978 http://ajulien.zumba.com facebook.com/zumbawithashley

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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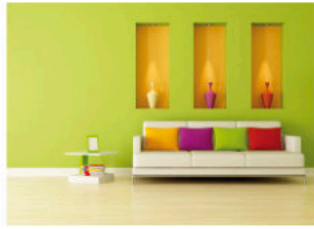
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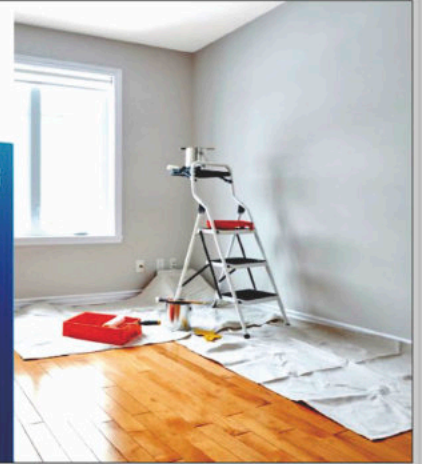
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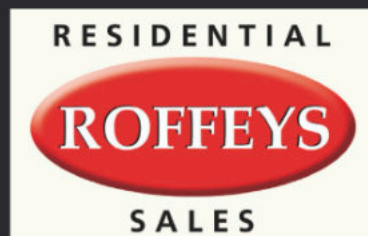
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