



County goes on pothole alert

FIVE extra teams of workmen have been drafted into the Epping Forest district in a drive to repair badly-worn roads and potholes.

The move comes after the rain-lashed roads have shown serious signs of decay over the last few months, with local newspapers leading a campaign to get them repaired.

Local residents will be only too aware of the appalling state of Loughton roads, which are maintained by Epping Forest District Council, as Essex County Council's agent.

But the terrible weather has

accelerated the roads' degeneration.

Essex CC has made extra cash available for additional repair work. Epping Forest DC is authorising its road maintenance contractor to draft more workmen into the area to help clear up some of the backlog of repairs.

The five gangs should make a big difference, and you may even have noticed this by the time this magazine reaches you.

Backlog

However, Epping Forest DC says that though the lack of workmen on the ground was

compounding the repairs problem, there is insufficient money to clear the entire maintenance backlog.

Essex CC has indicated it may make an extra £0.5m

available for the highways maintenance budget this year.

Local councillors believe more money is needed and have asked for a meeting to discuss the state of the district's roads.

Stephen's marathon treble

CLLR Stephen Murray completed his third consecutive London Marathon, within three hours.

Stephen expects to raise up to £1,200 for his two local

causes, the Mannock Drive Day Centre and Oakwood Hill Senior Citizens Club.

He said: "I enjoyed taking part, but found it quite hard-going this year."

Relax yourself back to health



Jacqueline, pictured, was introduced to Reiki healing by a friend. Now she's a Reiki master. See page 13

CONTACT NUMBERS

COUNCIL SERVICES

Loughton Town Council	020 8508 4200
Epping Forest District Council	01992 564000
Epping Sports Centre	01992 564564
Waltham Abbey Sports Centre	01992 716194
Waste Management Hotline	01992 564320
Essex County Council	01245 492211
Registrar of Births & Deaths	01992 572788
Registrar of Marriages	01992 572789
Education Office	01245 436231
Loughton Library	020 8502 0181
Debden Library	020 8508 5869
Social Services	020 8508 9311

POLICE & FIRE (dial 999 for emergencies)

Loughton Police Station (non-urgent)	020 8502 3881
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HEALTH & HOSPITALS

St Margaret's	01992 561666
Princess Alexandra	01279 444455
Whipps Cross	020 8539 5522
Health Information Service	0800 665544
King George	020 8983 8000
Holly House (Private)	020 8505 3315
Roding Hospital (Private)	020 8551 1100
Loughton Hall Clinic, Rectory Lane	020 8508 6297

SPORT

David Lloyd Centre	020 8559 8466
Essex School of Swimming	020 8505 9436
Loughton Cricket Club	020 8502 2064
Loughton Rugby Club	020 8504 0065
Roding Valley Cricket Club	020 8506 1001
Roding Valley Tennis Centre	020 8505 4008
South Loughton Cricket Club	020 8530 2200

ADVICE, HELP & INFORMATION

Citizens Advice Bureau	020 8502 0031
Loughton Information Centre	01992 564808
Trading Standards Office	01245 341800
Loughton Job Centre	020 8258 4740
Department of Social Security (Wentworth House)	020 8532 4200
Samaritans	020 8520 9191
SSAFA, Forces Help	020 8508 8960
Epping Forest College	020 8508 8311

TRAVEL & TOURISM

Stansted Airport	01279 680500
Gatwick Airport	01293 535353
Heathrow Airport	020 8759 4321
Luton Airport	01582 405100
London Regional Transport	020 7222 1234
National Railways Enquiry Line	0345 484 950
National Express (Victoria Coach Station)	0990 808 080
Essex Traveline	08457 000 333
Thamesway	01245 353104
Arriva Herts & Essex	01279 426349
Arriva London North East	020 8595 3088
Tourist Information Centre	01992 652295

PUBLIC UTILITIES

British Gas	0645 555208
London Electricity	020 8298 9898
Thames Water	0645 200 800

COMMUNITY

Care & Repair Service	01992 564086
Churches Together in Loughton	020 8508 0811
Epping Forest Volunteer Bureau	01992 564256
Epping Forest CVS	01992 564178
Royal British Legion	020 8508 5044

CINEMAS

Odeon (Gants Hill)	020 8554 2452
ABC (South Woodford)	020 8989 3463
UCI (Lee Valley)	0870 603 4567
Virgin (Harlow)	0870 505 0007

BREAKDOWN SERVICES

AA	0800 887766
RAC	0800 828282

LOCAL AMENITY REFUSE POINTS

Chigwell (closed Bank Holidays)	Luxborough Lane
Waltham Abbey	Brooker Road
Ongar	Mill Lane

For enquiries and opening time details, call Epping Forest District Council.

Want to advertise in this magazine? Contact Elaine Dryden on 01787 237412, by fax on 01787 238388, or by email at: totalmedia@aol.com

Editor's notes

BY THE time you read this, the Town Council should have moved into new offices at Buckingham Court. Additional work is being carried out after we arrive, including installation of a lift to enable people with limited mobility to reach the first floor.

There will be some disruption around the time of the move so if you have tried unsuccessfully to reach us, we apologise and can assure you that service will be resumed as soon as possible.

We are looking forward to having more space for the staff, their papers and equipment; it will improve our service to local residents.

As you will read elsewhere, now we have more space, we

are recruiting a projects administrator to progress outstanding work, so there are exciting times ahead.

At the time of writing, the date for moving all the Town Council's meetings to the new premises had not been set, so if you're planning to attend a meeting or need to call into the office, phone to check the venue – we're keeping the same phone and fax numbers.

We have also taken the

opportunity to properly register our website, so we can now be found at www.loughton-tc.gov.uk. Our site is full of useful information and links to other Loughton sites, so do take a look.

We will be holding an open day so local people can look around the new premises. The date will be announced in the local press.

Louise Fuller
Town Clerk

Council dismisses homes plan rumour

THE Town Council has dismissed rumours that it intends to sell playing fields in north Loughton, including land at Willingale Road, to make way for a housing development.

Speaking at the Town Meeting, Council Chairman Cllr Stephen Murray, and Environment, Heritage & Leisure Committee Chairman Cllr Chris Pond stated that the authority is determined to keep these fields as recreational land, and stressed that the rumours were entirely false.

The Town Council's Annual Town Meeting was held on 24 April, with Cllr Stephen Murray and committee chairmen giving their reports on the Town Council's work over the last year (see page 4).

The event was well attended and questions were taken from the floor. And it was in answer to fears about the Town Council's purchase of land in Willingale Road that the assurance was made.

Negotiations with Essex

County Council have been protracted and residents were worried that the land may be sold on for housing. But councillors said that when the purchase has been completed, the land will be retained for use as playing fields.

Power

On another question, one member of the public asked about the Town Council's Planning Committee and the extent of its power.

The response was that although it did not have the power to grant or refuse planning applications itself, it can bring issues to the attention of Epping Forest District Council's Planning Committee when it considers applications.

The meeting heard that the Planning Committee had teamed up with local residents in opposing two very unpopular planning applications, in Church Hill and York Hill, and had succeeded in stopping these from going ahead.

After the meeting, tea and biscuits were served and

members of the public had a chance to talk to Councillors on an informal basis.

■ Loughton & District Citizens Advice Bureau's newly-appointed chairman Peter Gordon was invited to speak at the meeting. He said the CAB was originally set up in 1939 and often operated sessions in the open street if no premises were available.

It is now a very large organisation with more than 1,000 bureaux throughout the country and 28,000 staff, 98 per cent of whom are unpaid volunteers.

More than six million people are helped each year with receive free, impartial advice on problems ranging from debt to employment, relationships and benefits.

The Loughton CAB is based at St Mary's Parish Centre, but also opens twice a week at Debden Library. In addition, there are plans to run sessions in Chigwell, Woodford and Buckhurst Hill.

The Loughton CAB deals

with up to 10,000 enquiries a year and is always looking for interested local people to train as advisers and attend tribunals to support and represent clients.

Bus helps to lighten the load

TESCO'S Monday bus to Epping now calls at a new bus stop opposite Carlton House, on the High Road.

The bus on Monday arrives at the stop, between Lower Park Road and Algers Road, at 10.25am and the return journey to Loughton arrives back at the same bus stop at around 1pm.

The bus is making this stop so the residents of Carlton House do not have to carry their heavy shopping too far from the station.

Deadline dates

Edition	Copy deadline
September	20 Jul
December	12 Oct

Further copies of *Think Loughton* may be obtained from the Town Council at 1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, or from Debden or Loughton libraries.

Roding Players celebrate their tenth birthday

JULY 14 is a landmark for the Roding Players Orchestra, which marks its 10th anniversary with a gala concert.

Musical director Miles Harwood is composing a piece for the event, at the Methodist Church, High Road, Loughton, and the

programme will contain the players' favourite music from their repertoire. The event starts at 7.30pm. Call 020 8505 4329 for details.

GET TO KNOW YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS

LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, Loughton, Essex IG10 2QZ
 Tel: 020 8508 4200 Fax: 020 8508 4400 Web: <http://www.loughton-tc.gov.uk> Email: loughton_tc@compuserve.com

BROADWAY WARD

Cllr Joyce M Barnett
 (Vice-Chairman, EH&L; Community Committee)
 59 Colson Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 3RL

Cllr Joan Davis 020 8508 3180
 4 Barrington Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 2AY

Cllr Thomas G Owen
 (EH&L and Planning Committees)
 15 Lower Park Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4NB

Cllr Marion E Taylor 020 8508 5152
 (Vice-Chairman, Community; Planning Committee)
 52 Lower Park Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4NA

ST JOHN'S WARD

Cllr Kay F Ellis 020 8508 6018
 (F&GP, Community and Planning Committees)
 31 Algers Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4NG

Cllr Roger E Pearce 020 8281 1386
 32 Millsmead Way, Loughton, Essex IG10 1LR

Cllr Christopher C Pond 020 8508 2361
 (Chairman, EH&L Committee)
 Forest Villa, 7 Staples Road, Loughton,
 Essex IG10 1HP

Cllr Robert J Wilmot 020 8508 1987
 (EH&L and Planning Committees)
 50 Baldwins Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 1SF

DEBDEN GREEN WARD

Cllr Michael D Hogan 020 8502 5483
 (Chairman, Planning; F&GP Committee)
 3 Debden House Cottages, Debden Green,
 Loughton, Essex IG10 2NZ

Cllr Montague W Juniper JP 020 8508 5930
 (Chairman, F&GP Committee)
 31 Alderton Way, Loughton, Essex IG10 3EQ

Cllr Michael G Sellaars 020 8502 0782
 (EH&L Committee)
 76 Roding Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 3EF

Cllr Victoria Wisenfeld
 (Community Committee)
 The Garden Cottage, The Warren, Loughton,
 Essex IG10 4RN

ST MARY'S WARD

Cllr Anthony T Lee 020 8508 7649
 (Vice-Chairman, Planning; Community Committee)
 33 Priory Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1AF

Cllr Pamela Meadows 020 8508 4136
 (Chairman, Community Committee)
 98 Roding Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 3EJ

Cllr Michael W Wardle 020 8508 2771
 (Community Committee)
 61 The Drive, Loughton, Essex IG10 1HG

FOREST WARD

Cllr Suzanne M Harper 020 8508 4770
 (Council Vice-Chairman and F&GP Committee)
 23 Algers Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4NG

Cllr Judith P Woodman 020 8502 0785
 (EH&L Committee)
 164 Forest Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1EQ

Cllr Leslie J Harris 020 8508 1333
 (Vice-Chairman, F&GP Committee)
 32 Upper Park, Loughton, Essex IG10 4EQ

RODING WARD

Cllr Edward V Boatman 020 8508 1890
 (F&GP Committee)
 24 Roding Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 3ED

Cllr Larry M Ford
 (EH&L Committee)
 47 Stonards Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 3EH

Cllr Stephen W Murray 020 8508 7548
 (Council Chairman, and F&GP Committee)
 1 Avondale Court, Loughton, Essex IG10 3BT

Cllr Betty R Siggers 020 8508 2100
 (Planning Committee)
 10 South View Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 3LG

EHL= Environment, Heritage & Leisure
 F&GP= Finance & General Policy

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ST MARY'S WARD

Cllr Ron V Heath 020 8508 3458
 46 Ollards Grove, Loughton, Essex IG10 4DW

Cllr Michael W Wardle 020 8508 2771
 61 The Drive, Loughton, Essex IG10 1HG

FOREST WARD

Cllr Ron Gow
 15 Albion Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 4RA

Cllr Leslie J Harris 020 8508 1333
 32 Upper Park, Loughton, Essex IG10 4EQ

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

ST JOHN'S WARD

Cllr Stan R Goodwin 020 8508 2821
 56 River Way, Loughton, Essex IG10 3LH

ST MARY'S WARD

Cllr Christopher A Harper 020 8508 4770
 23 Algers Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4NG

ST JOHN'S WARD

Cllr Brian W Moore 020 8508 7112
 6 Forest View Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4DX

Cllr Roger E Pearce 020 8281 1386
 32 Millsmead Way, Loughton, Essex IG10 1LR

Cllr Dorothy F Paddon 020 8508 2238
 12 Forest View Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4DX

DEBDEN GREEN WARD

Cllr Stephen W Barnes 020 8502 1152
 34 Durnell Way, Loughton, Essex IG10 1TG

Cllr Sue Lipscombe 020 8508 4938
 111 Grosvenor Drive, Loughton, Essex IG10 2LA

Cllr Colin J Huckle 01992 813520
 15 Middle Boy, Abridge, Essex RM4 1DT

PARLIAMENTARY & EUROPEAN

MP FOR EPPING FOREST

Eleanor Laing MP 020 7219 3000
 House of Commons,
 London SW1A 0AA

MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Robert Sturdy **Eryl McNally** **Jeffrey Tittford**
Andrew Duff **Bashir Khanbhai** **Richard Howitt**
Christopher Beazley **Geoffrey Van Orden**

It's your newsletter

THINK Loughton is a community newsletter - 14,000 copies are distributed four times a year to every home and business in Loughton.

Part of the cost of producing the newsletter is covered by advertising revenue. The Town Council pays the remainder plus the cost of distribution by the Royal Mail.

The newsletter is intended as a channel for communication between you, the community, and the Town Council. It is a way of letting you know what we are doing and hope to do in the future, but it is mainly intended as a way for you to tell the people of Loughton and the Town Council what you do or what local issues concern you.

We want to hear from local groups about their forthcoming events, what service they

provide, when and where they meet - anything which may be of interest to other residents.

Use the newsletter to publicise your events, rally support for a cause or just let us know your thoughts about Loughton, past or present. Perhaps, you have a story to tell.

Views

If you have any views on the newsletter, any ideas on how it could be improved, features you would like included or any comments, we will endeavour to incorporate them.

Photographs always add interest to an article, so include one when you can and we will ensure it is returned to you.

We also have a Dates For The Diary section in which to advertise your forthcoming events. Just send your articles

or diary dates in good time for publication (the deadline dates are always printed in the newsletter) typed, on disc or handwritten, addressed to The Editor, Think Loughton,

Loughton Town Council, 1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, Loughton, Essex IG10 2QZ and we'll do the rest. Alternatively, email it to us at: loughton_tc@compuserve.com

Welcome on board for admin assistant Joan

JOAN Innis was appointed as a full time admin assistant on 19 March after many years as parish secretary at St Mary's Parish Centre in Loughton.

on local church committees, councils and societies.



Joan, pictured, has been involved in the community as a school parent governor and

responsibilities will cover all aspects of the Town Council's work, but especially Environment, Heritage & Leisure, Loughton Cemetery, and Roding Valley Recreation ground.

Reflections on a successful year

With the 2000/01 financial year over, the Town Council issues its annual report on progress so far.

Here, we start with Chairman Cllr Stephen Murray's assessment of the year

THE Town Council is now in its fifth year, and is beginning to establish itself as part of the Loughton community.

Events and initiatives are gaining more support and the Town Council continues to act as a local voice on issues that are not directly within its remit or powers, such as transport, education, housing and postal services.

A key decision taken during this last year has been the purchase of new premises at Buckingham Court.

The Town Council has struggled for five years in what was always going to be a temporary home – one office and a corridor for four members of staff.

The decision to buy was taken after much thought and lengthy debate, and was made around the following criteria:

- Central location
- Accessibility
- Ownership
- Meeting room
- Car parking
- Enough space for current and future need

The decision, though not universally popular, is essential to the Town Council's development and will allow it to work with the community on future projects.

It is hoped the move will have been completed by June, and there will be a combined

open day and Community Forum held there in the summer.

We are to appoint a Project Administrator on a three-year contract, to concentrate on previously agreed projects which affect the Roding Valley, Millennium Remembrance Grove and Felstead Road play areas, among others.

Members are sure the Town Council does offer value for money – how the parish rate is spent is carefully considered and Loughton's rate compares favourably with neighbouring parishes:

Band 'D' property (2001/02)	
Loughton	£28.80
Buckhurst Hill	£31.00
Epping	£51.39
Waltham Abbey	£68.40
North Weald	£33.38

Annual Report by the Chairman of the Community Committee, Cllr Pamela Meadows

CLLR Meadows reports that many of the Community Committee's projects are ongoing.

Both last year's Christmas Best Dressed Window and Christmas Card competitions were a great success and it is hoped these events will become more popular as years go by.

Due to the low attendance at the Community Forums, the Community Committee is reducing the number of

meetings to two a year instead of three as a trial, and to hold one of the meetings in the afternoon.

The committee comments on consultation papers, and last year received two significant reports, from Epping Forest District Council, on social housing – the reports were entitled "Council Housing – Review of

Committee meeting, District Council Young Persons' Officer Rashid Ali gave a talk about the way forward for a Youth Council. The committee has also looked at the possibility of appointing a town manager.

Annual Report of Cllr Chris Pond, Chairman of Environment, Heritage and Leisure Committee

CLLR Pond reported that agreement has been reached on the management of the Roding Road allotments, though the agreement itself is still to be signed. A scheme for improving Loughton Brook at Roding Road has been put forward and awaits detailed consideration.

There has been no movement in the transfer of land in the Roding Valley. Negotiations have proceeded for the purchase from Essex County Council of land at the north of the parish, which will increase the total playing field area under Town Council control. Great importance is attached to keeping this land for this purpose.

Football on the Roding Valley Recreation ground has been

continued on page 10

Green light for living memorial

Some while ago, the Royal British Legion's Loughton Branch put forward a millennium project for the Town Council's consideration. The plan was for "a forest of remembrance" created in a high and significant location within Loughton, so as to be a memorial to those local people who gave their lives in the two world wars.

The Legion suggested that individuals and organisations could subscribe to plant trees, in memory of a loved one or just from a desire to be part of a positive initiative.

The Town Council with assistance from the idea, and that the open space at the Roding Valley, Millennium Remembrance Grove will be a living memorial to those who gave their lives in the two world wars.

Small groups of trees will represent the centuries where conflict has taken place during the last century. The present open character of the site will be maintained and views to the crest of the hill retained.

Trees will be chosen for suitability for the conditions, good flowering, fruiting or autumn colour characteristics.

An avenue of flowering cherries will follow the footpath from Pystes Lane to Hillyfields.

Volunteers will assist with tree planting so that the Millennium Remembrance Grove will be a living asset. Planting will start in autumn 2000.

In line with the Legion's original idea, subscribers invited from groups and individuals who sponsor a tree will be invited to plant them. As a record there will be a Book of Remembrance, which will list the names of sponsors where applicable, the tree memory log.

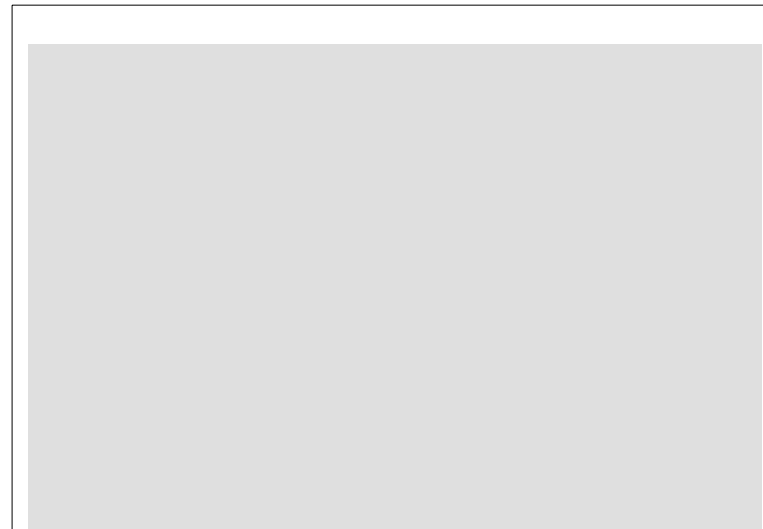
As part of the scheme, the Town Council will coordinate the project and has made funds available.

How we revealed the Millennium Remembrance Grove last spring

Allocation Scheme" and "Affordable Housing Manual".

Meanwhile the Millennium Remembrance Grove is one of the committee's projects for the future, and it is hoped work will begin on this in the autumn.

At one Community



Dates for the diary

■ **14 Jul, 7.30pm:** Epping Phoenix Choir, St John's Church, High Street, Epping. "Opera Gala", conductor Philip Norman. Tickets: £6.50, concs £5, children £2, available at the door or by booking on 020 8508 7702.

Details from: www.pnms.co.uk/epc

■ **14 Jul, 7.30pm:** Roding Players Orchestra 10th Anniversary Gala Concert, Methodist Church, High Road, Loughton. Admission: £4.50, concs £3.50, children under 11 free. Details: 020 8505 4329.

■ **First Sunday of month at 3.30pm:** Church Service, St Michael's Church, Roding Road, Loughton. Friendly, informal service, welcomes those who have learning difficulties and their friends. Includes a number of modern Christian songs, a talk and a few prayers. Lasts about half an hour and is followed by tea. All welcome.

■ **Every Monday, 7.15-9.15pm:** Roding Players Orchestra rehearses at Roding Valley High School, Alderton Hill, Loughton. New players welcome. No audition. Call Miles Harwood on 020 8505 4329 for details.

■ **Every Monday, 8-10pm:** Epping Phoenix Choir meets at Epping Methodist Church Hall. New members welcome, especially tenors and basses. Details: 020 8989 1551. Web: www.pnms.co.uk/epc

■ **Every Monday, 9.30pm:** Loughton Mountaineering Club, Victoria Tavern, Smarts Lane, Loughton. All hill walkers and climbers welcome. Call Jeff Harris 020 8508 2888.

■ **First Tuesday in the month, 8pm:** Royal British Legion Branch and Club meetings, 118 Church Hill, Loughton.

■ **Wednesday evenings (not weekly), 7.30-9.30pm:** Sahaja Yoga, Life Eternal Trust, Kingsley Hall, Kingsley Road. Session dates from 020 8508 0056.

■ **Second Tuesday of month from 7.30pm:** The Forest Philatelic Society meets in the Centenary Hall, Loughton Methodist Church, High Road. Call Margaret Browning on 020 8508 1244 for details.

■ **Every Thursday, 7.30-10pm:** Modern Sequence Dancing at St John's Church Centre, High Road, Buckhurst Hill. Newcomers welcome. Details: 020 8508 7201.

■ **Every Friday, 10-11.30am:** Ladies Keep Fit, Theydon Village Hall. Details: 01279 723700.

■ **Alternate Fridays, 1.45-3pm:** Toddler Time, St John's Parish Hall, Church Lane, Loughton. Mums, dads, carers with children up to school age – all welcome. Contact Carol on 020 8502 4739 for more details.

■ **Second Saturday in month, 10am-12 noon:** Acorns Junior Group of the Essex Handicrafts Association, Trinity Church, Mannock Drive, Loughton.

LABOUR COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES:

First Saturday in each month:

■ **9.15-10.15am:** Oakwood Stores, Longcroft Rise

■ **from 10.30am:** The Broadway shopping parade (under the walk-through)

Second Saturday in each month:

■ **9.30-10am:** outside Londis, Valley Hill

■ **10.30-11am:** outside the Mother Hubbard

Copy date for next issue: 20 July 2001. Dates in next issue will cover mid-Sept to early Dec

LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

2001			
June	4	Monday	Planning
	6	Wednesday	Environment, Heritage & Leisure
	18	Monday	Planning
July	27	Wednesday	Finance & General Policy
	2	Monday	Planning
	11	Wednesday	Full Council
	16	Monday	Planning
August	25	Wednesday	Community
	30	Monday	Planning
	20	Monday	Planning
September	3	Monday	Planning
	12	Wednesday	Environment, Heritage & Leisure
	17	Monday	Planning
	19	Wednesday	Finance & General Policy

See noticeboards, local press and the next issue of Think Loughton for details of meetings after 19 September 2001

All meetings will be held at the Town Council offices at 1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, at 7.30pm unless shown otherwise. However, you are advised to phone 020 8508 4200 to check venue for meetings from June.

Copies of the agenda and minutes of meetings are held in local libraries and can also be seen at the Town Council offices. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meetings.

Copies of the agenda and minutes of meetings are held in the library, and can also be seen at the Town Council offices.

Reflections on a successful year

continued from page 7
virtually non-existent this season, owing to the very wet weather and very high water-table on the flood plain. All the clubs received refunds.

It is hoped that a meeting can be held with Epping Forest DC and the Environment Agency to ameliorate the threat of flood to Loughton town centre.

Three heritage plaques have been erected or approved: to Pte Godley VC, Arthur Morrison and William Chapman Waller.

It has been agreed to put a missing World War I name and World War II names on the War Memorial.

A budget of around £16,000 was provided by Epping Forest DC for environmental improvements in Loughton. Since the works have to be carried out by the district council, there has been a problem getting its staff to act.

The main projects include reinstating the drinking fountain, hanging baskets in the

town centres and the erection of antique-style lamp-posts in conservation areas.

All these plans have met problems. There is a great deal of admiration for many district council officers, but the "can-do" culture has not yet reached them all. We will continue to press for action.

The bulk of the EHL Committee's spending is on grounds maintenance. Considerable improvements have been achieved in the Cemetery, partly because the Town Council now has its own employee there. On the Roding Valley recreation ground, and elsewhere, the Town Council relies entirely on contractors.

We have put pressure on London Underground to clean up the area around Loughton and Debden stations but, regrettably, little has been achieved. Efforts will continue.

Representations were made to London Buses operators and Essex County Council via the Passenger Transport Advisory

Committee on the unreliable state and poor routing of numerous local bus routes.

The appointment of a Town Council Project Administrator should provide the basis for us to see a number of schemes come to fruition.

In the long term, we believe that locally-managed community services are better and more responsive. A number of Town Councils administer local services on an agency basis from county and district councils, and such a development would be welcomed here.

In 1998, as Town Council Chairman, I reported that many town council functions which, in every other part of the country, town and parish councils carry out as a matter of course, had not been handed on from Epping Forest DC.

This is still partly the case and it is hoped to see a full transfer of duties this year.

Annual Report by Cllr Monty Juniper, Chairman of the Finance & General Policy Committee

THIS committee's task is to consider and recommend to the Town Council spending requirements of all its committees in order to set a budget.

It is also our duty to consider and recommend general policy, such as the purchase of property and staffing arrangements and, above all, to ensure best value.

The Town Council has bought new premises and will be increasing staff numbers to provide a better service.

Our precept for 2001/02 is £364,000 and, despite the purchase of the property and substantial land in Willingale Road, the Town Council is still able to charge a lower Band D tax than most of the larger parish and town councils within the Epping Forest district – £28.80 (the highest Band D in the district is £68.40).

The Town Clerk and her staff have once again been given an excellent report from the District Auditor for 1999/2000.

A budget is set aside each year for grants. For this financial year, grants have already been allocated to Loughton Citizen's Advice Bureau, the Lopping Hall Endowment Fund, Loughton Cricket Club, Kidz Club and the Broadway Partnership for its Debden Day on 26 May.

There is still a little money left if any local organisation wishes to apply.

Applications forms are available from the Town Council offices.

Annual Report by Cllr Tony Lee, Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee

SINCE the last Annual Town Meeting in March 2000, we have considered 464 planning applications at our fortnightly meetings.

These applications have ranged from blocks of flats, to two-storey extensions and porches, to Tree Preservation Orders. Committee members have also represented the Town Council at several planning inquiries.

The Planning Committee is still concerned about retrospective planning applications, as is EFDC, and although not illegal, applications can still be refused. In these cases, the district council has to issue an enforcement notice, which takes up the Planning Department's valuable time.

We were pleased with the outcome of an appeal against the refusal of planning permission for a development of flats in Church Hill. Our objections, and those of local residents and the district council, were upheld and the appeal was dismissed.

Also of concern is the proliferation of mobile phone masts in the area.

Mobile phone companies used to be allowed to erect masts of 15 metres or lower almost anywhere without permission. However, permission now has to be sought, and this gives the Planning Committee a chance to comment.



Christmas card competition winners: Cllr Murray, back left, with Dorothy Thomas, Melissa Lee, Annie Skipper, Billie Moore and Chelsie Rider

Plaque for Town's Victorian historian

ONE of the Town Council's latest blue heritage plaques is to be erected at Ash Green in memory of historian William Chapman Waller (1850-1917), who came to live in Loughton with his family in 1874.

William Waller was an antiquarian and historian who liked searching through old

court rolls and charters relevant to Loughton and Essex.

He wrote the definitive history of Loughton, from its beginnings as a village at the time of Edward The Confessor and Domesday, through Tudor and Elizabethan times, to Waller's own Victorian era.

His book *Loughton in Essex* first appeared as instalments in the Loughton Parish Magazine

but, in 1900, they were bound into an attractive book which was given to the British Museum and the Oxford and Cambridge University libraries.

He showed a keen interest in Epping Forest, which had been saved from illegal enclosure by the Epping Forest Act 1878, when the Corporation of London became its conservators.

He was an active member of

the Essex Field Club, which in the 1880s and 90s had much to say about the conservators' management of the forest.

Invaluable

He also wrote an itinerary of Loughton between 1905 and 1912, in which he comments on its buildings and people, an invaluable social record from the turn of the century.

William Waller was active in the local community. He was a JP at Epping, president of the Loughton Mutual Labor-Aid Society and chairman of the Loughton Horticultural Society.

When Lopping Hall opened in 1884, Waller was its first honorary librarian.

Epping Forest Verderer Richard Morris has written a biography of William Waller, containing many old photos and drawings of Loughton and the forest, some of which had not been published before. The book is published by Loughton & District Historical Society. Copies may be obtained from local bookshops, priced £7.50.

Guides in plea for helpers

THE local Guide movement is appealing for new recruits to act as volunteer leaders.

The Loughton South Guide district consists of four units, one Rainbow unit, six Brownie packs and four Guide Companies. In all, it provides Guiding for about 200 girls.

It is due to our volunteers' commitment that the girls have such a wonderful time.

Recruiting leaders is an ongoing problem. If we are to keep all our units running, so the girls continue to benefit from all that Guiding offers in a safe environment, we need more leaders.

Women aged between 18 and 60 years, with or without experience in the Guides and Brownies, are welcome.

Being a leader is a challenge,

but the best thing is seeing a very shy, quiet seven-year-old girl leave your Brownie pack at 10 with confidence, and ready to have a go at anything.

You will be shaping the lives of the girls, helping them to have the best time in Guiding.

We train volunteers, who gain skills in teamwork, leadership and communication. Many women find that having Guiding on their CV is an advantage when applying for jobs or university placements.

Volunteering may be challenging, but it's great fun too, so why not give it a go? Call District Commissioner Sandra Munns on 020 8508 9123 for details.

■ Rainbow Guides are the youngest section of the Guide Association, working with girls aged between five and seven.

We meet on Mondays from 4 to 5.30pm at St Mary's Parish

Centre, High Road, Loughton
For details, please call
Suzanne Harper on 020 8508
4770.



Joseph's farewell

THIS photograph, sent in by Dan Warriner of the Loughton & District Historical Society, shows the funeral of bus driver and former Englands Lane resident Joseph Longhurst, on 8 August 1936.

The procession is seen in Church Hill, outside the old Loughton Bus Garage, which later became a Co-op bakery and a DIY store after that.

London Transport honoured Joseph with a black-draped B-style bus, seen following the Hearse.

The little boy accompanying the Hearse was Stanley Robinson, also of Englands Lane.

There's still room at the hall

KINGSLEY Hall is a small Town Council-owned community hall in Kingsley Road which is hired out to various local groups.

The Town Council's meetings are currently held at Kingsley Hall on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

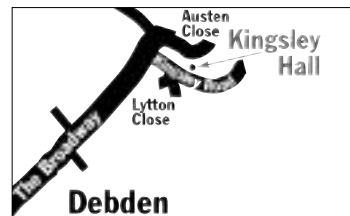
However, from the end of June, when the Town Council

has settled into its new offices at 1 Buckingham Court, in Rectory Lane, meetings will be transferred there.

As a result, there is space available for hire at the hall. While a group is interested in hiring the hall on Wednesday evenings, Monday evenings are still free.

Anybody interested in

hiring the hall should call the Town Council on 020 8508 4200.



Relax yourself to health

Jacqueline Cullen looks at the healing effects of Reiki therapy

COMPLEMENTARY therapies are very popular – but one of the least well known is Reiki natural healing.

I was introduced to it by a friend. I had no expectations and was taken by surprise – it was such a powerful experience and left me full of energy. I felt like I was flying.

Gradually I became aware of heat within my hands which, I was told, meant I was able to train as a practitioner. I went on to become a Reiki Master and have since trained others.

People who experience Reiki are amazed at how calming it is. Most say the calmness stays with them the following day,



Jacqueline at work: the therapy's effects can be felt for days

and sometimes longer. It leaves me feeling renewed and ready to start again.

Reiki is a Japanese word meaning cosmic or universal life force. The theory goes that using gentle touch, this force can help balance the body's energy and aid healing.

Reiki soothes pain and supports the body's natural ability to heal itself, be it physical, mental, emotional or spiritual. It is said to be able to:

- Energise when tired and calm when agitated
- Reduce high blood pressure, relieve asthma, migraines and stress
- Relieve pain and accelerate the healing of wounds, injuries and infections
- Help prevent development of disease
- Help release emotional wounds and show new possibilities, giving support in making changes

Acute injuries can be helped to heal quickly, but chronic illness takes longer.

Reiki is still seen as a fairly new form of healing, but increasingly there are practitioners working with doctors, in hospitals and prisons, where it has been seen to be highly beneficial alongside other forms of treatment.

However, research to assess the validity and effectiveness of Reiki healing is still on-going, and so it is too early to make firm claims about exactly how well it works.

It should be noted, though, that Reiki does not actually set out to cure a condition, but instead is used to assist recovery.

■ To find out more about Reiki healing and relaxation, or enquire about classes in Loughton, call Jacqueline on 020 8502 3169.

Viewpoint

Please take your litter home

WHY are we such litter louts? Never have we seen such degenerated areas: Station Approach in Loughton, the land along the brook in Roding Road, and others.

Who's to blame? Schools? No, it's not just children who drop litter – you see missiles being thrown out of car windows, the dregs of a quick meal.

No, the blame lies with the parents. Gone are the days

when families sit together for a proper meal. What a pity: the family that eats together, stays together. Everywhere we see people eating burgers, pizzas, or drinking cans. Why do we need to constantly eat?

It is time to go back to the old traditions of three meals a day. But if we persist with this fad, we must condition ourselves to taking our litter home.

Cllr P Meadows

Are we turning Loughton into a concrete jungle?

A RODING ward resident has expressed her sadness that so many front gardens are being replaced with concrete and bricks – our pretty front gardens are slowly disappearing.

What were once green and pleasant roads are becoming concrete jungles. Our correspondent realises residents

may have difficulty parking their cars, but feels that roads are the place for cars, not front gardens.

Do you agree? Would you prefer gardens to remain gardens? Give us your views – write in to us at:

1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, Loughton, Essex IG10 2QZ