



Kicking up stink over raw sewage

RODING ward residents often complain about sewage in their roads whenever there is heavy rain.

There is also a constant foul smell emanating from the sewage pumping station at the end of Roding Road.

When the rainfall is heavy, the amount of sewage is high enough to back up the system, so raw sewage flows through the surrounding streets, across the Roding Valley playing fields and playground.

Thames Water Authority is constantly being asked to rectify this problem. Due to their lack of action, residents have formed campaign group Camrod to force Thames Water to take responsibility for this problem.

Camrod held a campaign in the High Road on 15 September and was amazed at the strength of interest and determination shown by Loughton residents. It even secured more than 400 signatures for its petition.

Camrod is pleased Loughton councillors from all political parties are supporting its campaign and have promised to help wherever they can.

Camrod has sought legal advice and has also been in correspondence with Ofwat, the

water services regulatory body. It is also meeting Thames Water to try to resolve this problem.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the campaign fund or help in any other way, should call Camrod chairperson Janice Clow on 0786 6449496.

Town in youth survey

EPPING Forest College and Loughton Town Council are surveying local young people about youth facilities in Loughton.

The surveys are being targeted at pupils aged 13 to 16,

and will hopefully produce a clear picture of the state of Loughton's facilities and what may be required in future.

Any young readers who have not so far been surveyed should complete a questionnaire to ensure their voice is heard.

We will remember them



More names added to memorial roll. Full story on page 3

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

Health Information Service	0800 665544
Holly House (Private)	020 8505 3315
King George	020 8983 8000
Loughton Hall Clinic, Rectory Lane	020 8272 4600
Princess Alexandra	01279 444455
Roding Hospital (Private)	020 8551 1100
St Margaret's & Primary Care Trust	01992 561666
Whipps Cross	020 8539 5522

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
Epping Forest College	020 8508 8311
Family Care Counselling Service	020 8501 2714
Loughton Information Centre	01992 564808
Loughton Job Centre	020 8258 4740
Trading Standards Office	01245 341800
Social Security, Department of (Wentworth House)	020 8532 4200
Samaritans	020 8520 9191
SSAFA, Forces Help	020 8508 8960

TRAVEL & TOURISM

Arriva Herts & Essex	01279 426349
Arriva London North East	020 8595 3088
Essex Traveline	08457 000 333
Gatwick Airport	01293 535353
Heathrow Airport	020 8759 4321
London Regional Transport	020 7222 1234
Luton Airport	01582 405100
National Express (Victoria Coach Station)	0990 808 080
National Railways Enquiry Line	0345 484 950
Stansted Airport	0870 000 0303
Thamesway	01245 353104
Tourist Information Centre	01992 652295

PUBLIC UTILITIES

British Gas	08459 555208
London Electricity	0800 096 9000
Thames Water	08459 200 800

COMMUNITY

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

CINEMAS

ABC (South Woodford)	020 8989 3463
Odeon (Gants Hill)	020 8554 2452
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
Ongar	Mill Lane
Waltham Abbey	Brooker Road

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

YOU can read elsewhere about the very successful Open Day held by the Town Council to show local people around the new premises at Buckingham Court.

We were pleased that so many people made the effort to come and have a look for themselves at the place where councillors meet and the work of the council is carried out.

The first meeting of the Town Council in the new building took place in

October and members were able to transact their business in a pleasant and functional atmosphere.

Readers will recall an article in the last edition of *Think Loughton* which referred to changes which Sainsbury's had made to their planning application for a store by Loughton station.

Sainsbury's considered that these were "key changes". The Town Council considered these amendments at the October Council meeting but felt that virtually none of its original objections had been met.

In fact it appeared that the

revisions would have no beneficial effect on the traffic problems, and that the effect on pedestrians was to make their passage even worse. Loughton Town Council has reiterated its objections to Epping Forest District Council.

At the time of writing, the application is expected to be decided by the District Council in December.

Local people with their ear to the ground will have heard that the former United Reformed Church in Borders Lane is to be sold.

Having seen so many sites in Loughton sold off and lost

to the community, the Town Council has declared its determination to secure this site for community use.

Discussions are in train with various parties to try and achieve this end.

If you have any views on this do drop me a line at the Town Council office.

The festive season draws near and the members and staff of the Town Council take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Louise Fuller
Town Clerk

World wars' fallen are not forgotten

THE Loughton war memorial stands on Kings Green in the York Hill conservation area shaded by a large plane tree.

It is a silent tribute to those members of the three armed forces who fell in the First World War.

Some while ago, the Town

Council learned of a Loughton soldier whose name should have been included on the memorial – Rifleman JP Ciclitira, who died in 1916.

The council decided to remedy the oversight and, at the same time, see if there were any other names that should rightfully be displayed.

This included those from

Loughton who died in the Second World War.

The Town Council has carried out extensive research to establish the missing names, and has also invited members of the public to submit any they feel should be included.

The list is now being finalised. When this is completed, the council will be

in a position to order the plaques for fixing to the war memorial, pictured on the front page.

The task is quite complex and includes the casting of the plaques with the correct details – a procedure requiring great care. It is hoped this can be completed soon so that an official unveiling ceremony can take place.

Thanks are due to all of our readers who contacted the Town Council. It was heartening to see that the fallen from both world wars were remembered.

The Town Council hopes that this feeling of respect and gratitude will be felt by all, now and in the future.

Public turns out in numbers for open day

LOUGHTON Town Council's 6 October open day at its new premises at Buckingham Court was a great success.

Visitors from around Loughton enjoying a look round the building and a chat with councillors and staff.

There were displays of maps and photographs showing areas of Town Council responsibility, examples of the agendas and minutes that are produced for council and committee meetings, and a display

giving details of some of projects currently being progressed.

One of these is to add to the War Memorial the names of those who died in the two world wars, but whose names do not currently appear. Visitors were asked if they knew of any names that should be added (see story above).

There were several suggestions, and these are now being researched and it hoped the

names will have been added by Christmas.

In the office upstairs, visitors were able to see where staff work and view the Town Council's website.



Some of the Town Council team at the open day

Deadline dates

Edition	Copy deadline
March 2002	29 Jan
June 2002	29 Apr

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

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 020 8508 3180
 59 Colson Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 3RL

Cllr Joan Davis 020 8508 3180
 (Council Vice-Chairman and F&GP Committee)
 4 Barrington Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 2AY

Cllr Thomas G Owen
 (Chairman, Planning Committee; EH&L)
 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
 (Planning Committee)
 31 Algers Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4NG

Cllr Roger E Pearce 020 8281 1386
 (F&GP Committee)
 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
 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 Sellaers 020 8502 0782
 (EH&L and Planning Committees)
 76 Roding Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 3EF

Cllr Victoria Wisenfeld 020 8502 1025
 (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 Chairman; 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 020 8508 4344
 (EH&L and Community Committees)
 47 Stonards Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 3EH

Cllr Stephen W Murray 020 8508 7548
 (Vice-Chairman, EH&L; F&GP Committee)
 1 Avondale Court, Loughton, Essex IG10 3BT

Cllr Betty R Siggers 020 8508 2100
 (Planning and Community Committees)
 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 DIVISION

Cllr Colin Finn
 16 Church Close, Loughton, Essex IG10 1LQ

ST MARY'S DIVISION

Cllr David Linnell 020 8508 2932
 20 Eleven Acre Rise, Loughton, Essex IG10 1AN

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

RODING WARD

Cllr Maureen Boatman 020 8508 1890
 24 Roding Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 3ED

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

Cllr Stephen W Murray 020 8508 7548
 1 Avondale Court, Avondale Drive, Loughton,
 Essex IG10 3BT

BROADWAY WARD

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

Cllr M Owen
 15 Lower Park Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4NB

Cllr Paul A Bostock 020 8508 3482
 91 Queens Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1RR

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**

Appeal for clues on contamination

EPPING Forest District Council is appealing for local residents' help to identify sites which may have been affected by industrial contamination.

The move is to help remedy those sites where contaminants in the ground may seep into surface and ground waters, and

affect people, agricultural livestock, crops and nature reserves.

There are many land uses which potentially cause contamination, ranging from abattoirs, dye or gas works.

Other contaminants include fuel storage, iron foundries and pesticides or tyre manufacture to zinc works.

A full list may be obtained from Epping Forest DC.

Local residents may be able to identify these types of site, or provide details of the activities that took place on them.

Anyone offering help or who require any further information should call Epping Forest DC Environmental Services Department on 01992 564053.

Paul returns from northern sojourn



PAUL Roden was appointed as a Project Administrator for the Town Council on 6 August.

Paul has recently moved back into the area after living and working in Yorkshire for a number of years.

His private sector business background includes project management and supervision.

Popular activities with fashionable fruit and veg

THE Wives' Club at St John's Church Hall, Loughton, is once again embarking on another year of demonstrations, talks, outings and social events.

Among its very varied

programme, the club will be finding out about the 'most popular indoor activity', the 'seven deadly sins', and what to do with 'fashionable fruit and veg'.

The group's chosen charity this year is Epping

Mammogram Unit, and it meets at the Church Hall on every first and third Monday of the month, excluding bank holidays, at 8.15pm.

It warmly welcomes all visitors and especially new members.

Message in a bottle

DO YOU live alone? Could the police or ambulance service easily find vital details about your medical history or next of kin in an emergency?

Message in a Bottle is a voluntary scheme operated by Essex Neighbourhood Watch and is intended for use by any person who lives alone at home.

The scheme provides the emergency services with vital details of any illness or allergy

that an individual may suffer from, the medication they may be taking and the name of a person to be contacted in the event of them suffering a sudden illness or accident.

These details are stored in a plastic container kept in the person's fridge – this is the last item to suffer damage in a fire.

Stickers

Two special stickers are placed in your house – one on the outside of your fridge and

the other on a wall or panel inside your front door.

Anyone wishing to join this potentially life-saving scheme should contact Loughton Town Council at 1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, Loughton, Essex IG10 2QZ, call 020 8508 4200, or email:

loughton_tc@compuserve.com.

Alternatively, you could call Epping Forest CVS at Homefield House, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping CM16 4BZ.

Counselling service gains cash grant

THE Family Care Counselling Service has offered individual and couple counselling at its offices at the St Mary's Centre, Loughton High Road, since the 1980s.

A registered charity, the service been awarded grant aid funding from Epping Forest District Council.

Clients either self refer or are referred by their healthcare professional. This means that its staff now see more clients who are not able to pay for its services, and so it is grateful for the grant.

Anyone wishing to know more about the service should call Pat Green on 020 8502 2714.

Town honours Victorian writers

LOUGHTON Town Council has recently erected two new blue heritage plaques.

The first is on 70 High Road in honour of Arthur Morrison. He was born in London in 1863 but moved to Salcombe House in Loughton, which was at the back of the High Road site, after 1896.

He wrote a number of books including *To London Town*, which was partly set in Loughton, detective books with

the character Martin Hewitt, and *Child of Jago*. He was also a writer on Japanese art.

Mr Morrison was also in charge of the special constables in Waltham Abbey during the First World War and is believed to have sighted the first Zeppelin raid in

London. He was married to Eliza, and they had a son, Guy, who died aged 28. In 1930, they moved from High Beach, where they had lived since 1914, to Chalfont St Peter, in Buckinghamshire.

Arthur Morrison died there in 1945, but was buried at High

Beach Church, as was the rest of his family.

The second new heritage plaque has been erected on 11 Wallers Hoppett in honour of William Chapman Waller, who died in 1917.

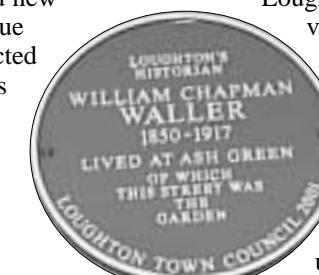
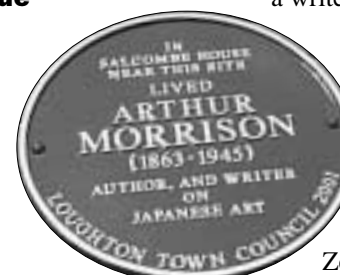
Mr Waller came to live in Loughton with his family in 1874, and lived at Ash Green – Wallers Hoppett was part of the garden. He researched court rolls and

charters linked to the town and Essex, and wrote a history of Loughton from its origins as a village during the time of Edward the Confessor to the Victorian era.

This was made into a book in 1900 and given to the British Museum and Oxford and Cambridge university libraries.

Mr Waller was an active Essex Field Club member, a JP, Loughton Horticultural Society chairman and first honorary librarian at Lopping Hall.

See *Dates for the Diary*, page 8



School crossing patrol

ESSEX County Council has some local vacancies for school crossing patrols.

The rate of pay is £5 per hour and the role is very rewarding.

There are currently three vacant posts in Loughton and, anyone interested in becoming a patrol operator should telephone Essex County

Council School Crossings Manager Keith Welham on 01245 492211, extension 51592, and he will give you information on how to apply. ■ The Town Council has a vacant allotment in Pyrles Lane at a rent of £12.50 per annum. Anybody interested in taking it over, please telephone 020 8508 4200 for further details.

Dates for the diary

■ **8 Dec, 7.30pm:** The Roding Players Orchestra, together with a choir from Staples Road Junior School, will perform seasonal music at its Christmas concert at Loughton Methodist Church, High Road, Loughton. Tickets £4.50, concessions £3.50, children under 11 free (includes refreshments). Details: 020 8505 4329.

■ **8 Dec, 7.30pm:** Epping Phoenix Choir, carol concert. Also finals of the Compose a Christmas Carol for Epping Phoenix Choir competition with audience vote. Tickets: £6.50, concs £5, children £2. Bookings: 01992 560612

■ **13 Dec, 8pm:** Loughton Historical Society – Let's all Go to the Music Hall. Loughton Methodist Church, High Road. Free tea, coffee and mince pies.

■ **10 Jan, 8pm:** Loughton Historical Society – William Waller's Loughton. Loughton Methodist Church.

■ **9 Feb:** Epping Phoenix Choir Choral Festival. Details: 020 923 5025

■ **14 Feb, 8pm:** Loughton Historical Society – Humphry Repton. Loughton Methodist Church.

■ **14 Mar, 8pm:** Loughton Historical Society – Conservation Areas in Waltham Forest. The Methodist Church, Loughton.

■ **Every Sunday, 3.30pm-5.30pm (term time):** Kidz Club for children aged 6-12. Details: 020 8502 0695.

■ **Every Sunday, 7.30-10.30pm:** Dance – ballroom, latin and popular sequence, Victory Hall, Hainault Road, Chigwell. Admission: £3 + refreshments. Details: 020 8508 0313.

■ **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.

■ **First and third Monday, 8pm:** St John's Wives Group, St John's Parish Hall, Church Lane.

■ **Every Monday, 8-10pm:** Epping Phoenix Choir meets at Epping Methodist Church Hall. New members welcome, especially tenors and basses. Details: 020 8923 5025.

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

■ **Every Tuesday, 7-9pm:** Reiki Healing, Kingsley Hall, Kingsley Road, Loughton. Details: 020 8502 3169.

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

■ **Second Tuesday of month, 7.30pm:** Forest Philatelic Society meets, Centenary Hall, Loughton Methodist Church, High Road. Details: 020 8508 1244.

■ **Every Thursday, 12.45pm:** Rotary Club of Loughton meets Roebuck Hotel, North End, Buckhurst Hill. Call: 020 8504 6367.

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

■ **Every Thursday, 4.45pm-7.45pm:** The Valley School of Dancing, Children's Dancing Classes, Kingsley Hall, Kingsley Road, Loughton. Details: 020 8508 7349.

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 pub, Valley Hill

Copy date for next issue: 29 Jan 2002. Next issue covers mid-March to June

LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

2001

November	21	Wednesday	Finance & General Policy
	26	Monday	Planning
December	5	Wednesday	Finance & General Policy
	10	Monday	Planning
January	7	Monday	Planning
	9	Wednesday	Full Council
	23	Wednesday	Community
	28	Monday	Planning
February	6	Wednesday	Environment, Heritage & Leisure
	11	Monday	Planning
	20	Wednesday	Finance & General Policy
	25	Monday	Planning
March	6	Wednesday	Full Council
	11	Monday	Planning
	20	Wednesday	Community
	25	Monday	Planning

See noticeboards, local press and the next issue of Think Loughton for details of meetings after 25 March.

All meetings held at the Town Council offices at 1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, at 7.30pm. 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

Orion's on the march

WINTER sees the sun sinking to its lowest point in the sky, and we reach the winter solstice on 21 December.

The summer constellations have now been replaced by the winter groups and, in the east, Orion emerges from the haze. By late evening in December, Orion – with its contrasting bright stars, red Betelgeuse and blue Rigel – stands high in the south.

Winter's showpiece is the Great Orion nebula M42 in the 'sword', which hangs beneath the distinctive 'belt' of three stars, a marvellous sight.

Planets

The orange-coloured Mars, prominent in the south all

summer long, is still visible but is receding from its closest approach to the Earth.

Throughout this quarter, Venus rises too near to the Sun to be easily visible.

The gas giants Jupiter and Saturn are becoming more prominent. Jupiter will be at its



best visibility for 12 years – it is visible in the east by mid-evening in December.

Saturn is also well placed, rising a couple of hours before Jupiter. Binoculars will show the four 'Galilean' moons of Jupiter, and that the planet Saturn has rings.

Meteor showers

The Geminids meteor shower reaches its maximum on 14 December, and the Quadrantids on 4 January. Both of these showers have given some moderate displays in the past.

Iridium Flares

The Iridium satellites are small telecommunications satellites in a low Earth orbit. They are part of a world-wide system of mobile communications and, when complete, there will be a total of 66 satellites at an altitude of around 780km.

Each satellite has three main mission antennas, which are flat, highly-reflective surfaces that can reflect the Sun's rays to an observer on the ground when

the geometry is correct. For predicted timings of visible 'flares', go to:

www.heavens-above.com

Loughton Astronomical Society

Anyone interested in astronomy and wants to find out more, the society meets weekly on Thursday nights at the Theydon Bois Scout Hut at 8pm. New members are welcome. For those with internet access, its website is:

ds.dial.pipex.com/allan.bell/las_home.htm

Useful websites

Jodrell Bank:

www.jb.man.ac.uk/public/nightsky.html

The Sky at Night:

www.bbc.co.uk/skyatnight/observing.shtml

The next time that you're outside on a clear dark night, look up at the sky – there's always something to see.

In the next issue, I'll look at our spring skies. Let's hope for clear skies and good viewing.

Keep it in the family

“YOUR great grandfather once owned half of Essex and gambled the lot away.”

These words, spoken to me in the early 1950s by my granny, must have been the seed that prompted me, some 30 years later, to do some research.

My late father, who could not have known the truth, perpetuated the myth of lost

fortune. I started genealogy, the proper title for the pursuit, in 1981 and, inside two years, had learned that the previously-mentioned ancestor lived most of his life in south London and was a multi-skilled manual worker for most of that time.

I am sure most of you reading this must at some time have thought along the lines of “who am I?” and this mini-series

could help you find out.

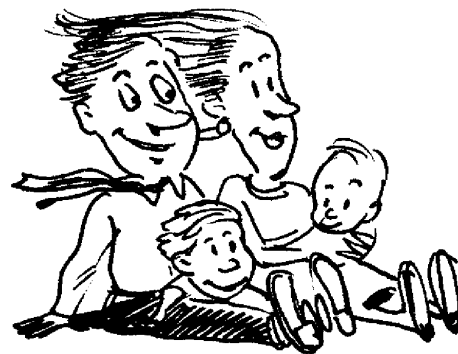
But there is a caveat: this hobby is time-consuming and sometimes frustrating, can be initially expensive, and become intense to the point of obsession. Conversely, it is most personal and vainly gratifying.

We must start at the end. The oldest living relatives must be sought and asked some relevant questions. Shining a light in the eyes does not work.

Reactions to personal questions about the family can be mixed. One of three responses will be forthcoming:

- As much truth as can be recalled
- Myth, rumour and gossip interspersed, possibly, with fact (myth/age of relative ratio applies proportionally)
- What do you want to know that for? (usually indicates a skeleton or two!)

Should you have inherited the



family Bible from the 1800s or can access it, consider yourself most fortunate.

There is usually a section inserted for the registration of family events by pater familias.

All information given has to be retained, either on a paper filing system or electronic database. The author has been computer literate for only 18 months and does not know how he coped before.

If you wish to pre-empt the next edition of *Think Loughton*, Loughton library has a good selection of pertinent books. If not, I suggest you gather about you certificates of birth, marriage and death relevant to you and yours.

Phil Kingham

It may be winter, but it's not all quiet on the garden front...



DOES your garden look as pleasant in winter as in summer? There is no reason why it should not.

Take a long look around and decide where you can put evergreen shrubs, there are plenty that will give the colour you need.

The following are my

suggestions to bring your garden to life through these dreary days.

Eleagnus Maculata, Acuba japonica, Choisya Sun Blest are all yellow. The following are red – Photinia, Pieris Forest Flame, Persicaria.

The latter is my favourite with its rich red berries in summer (not for eating).

Coupled with evergreen perennials your garden will never have a dull day.

As for that nasty looking corner, it can be changed. Add two inches of sand and cover with gravel. Surround with pebbles.

This also works well if you have a tree where nothing will grow.

A few containers strategically placed and your garden will be transformed. A pocket handkerchief of a garden can look just as lovely.

Add two or three dwarf conifers as full stops among the plants and it will look charming.

Community groups: get applying for grants now

LOUGHTON Town Council operates a scheme for making grants to local organisations.

A budget for grants is set each year and, though not unlimited, it is able to provide useful assistance to local groups in their activities and projects.

Decisions on grant applications are made by the Town Council's Finance & General Policy Committee.

Anyone applying for grants must complete the Town Council's Financial Assistance application form.

All the required information to support the bid must be included when applying.

There is no maximum figure set and grants are not restricted

to purpose. Instead, the criteria for consideration are:

- Purpose for which the grant is required
- How the grant will benefit the residents of Loughton
- Interrogation of the applying organisation's accounts
- History of applications and grants given to applying organisations

The annual deadline for applications is 31 December. Ninety per cent of the grants budget will normally be allocated to applications that have been received by this deadline.

The remainder is retained for emergency applications received during the year.

For an application form, please contact the Town Council at 1 Buckingham Court,

Rectory Lane, Loughton, Essex IG10 2QZ, or call 020 8508 4200.

We're here to help

WHEN I was asked to write a series of articles about Loughton Citizen's Advice Bureau, it was difficult to know where to start!

Working in a CAB is extremely varied. One minute we are talking to a member of the public who wants to know if she can get any help with paying her council tax, the next we will be discussing the problems of a second-hand car.

During 2000/01, we dealt with nearly 9,000 enquiries at our Loughton and Debden Library branches.

Twenty-three per cent of these were to do with social security, so that seems a good place to start to give a few

details of the type of queries we meet.

The benefit system is very complex, and there are new rules being introduced every month. It is no wonder that the ordinary man or woman in the street gets confused and

Contacting us

LOUGHTON & District Citizens Advice Bureau operates at St Mary's Parish Centre, High Road, Loughton, Monday – Friday and at Debden Library twice weekly.

Advice and further details of opening hours are available on 020 8502 0031.

appreciates someone to turn to.

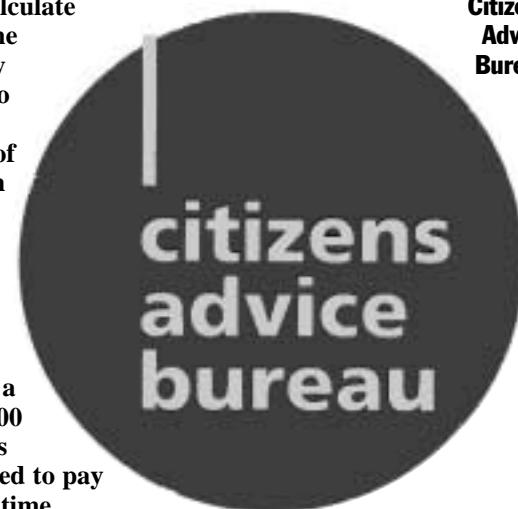
At the CAB, our advisers can help people check they have filled their forms in properly. We calculate whether someone qualifies for any benefit and, if so how much.

And in cases of disputes, we can advise on how to make a formal appeal to the Benefits Agency.

In one recent case, we helped a client obtain £700 that the Benefits Agency had failed to pay her at the right time.

We find that many people, particularly the elderly, do not receive all the money they are entitled to, and it can be very satisfying to know that someone has a few more pounds in their pocket each week as a result of our efforts.

**Alison McBrayne
Manager, Loughton
Citizens
Advice
Bureau**



Where have the volunteers gone?

THIS is the International Year of the Volunteer. There has been local publicity to mark this arranged by Epping Forest Council for Voluntary Service (CVS).

However, in Loughton, hardly a week goes by without some local organisation making appeals for help – not for money, but for regular helpers.

The Red Cross, the Guides, Loughton Voluntary Care and Loughton Stroke Club are just a few recent examples.

Various groups, such as the Loughton Horticultural Society,

have had to close, or are at best limping along for lack of regular committed volunteers.

No one could deny that all these organisations are worthy and desirable, so what is happening to our town? Are we no longer a caring community? Was Margaret Thatcher right when she said that there was no such thing as society?

At combined meetings of members of statutory bodies with volunteers, the participants can be differentiated at a glance.

The younger ones are paid professionals and those with

grey hair are the volunteers.

This should and need not be the case. More people are retiring early and have time on their hands.

So what are they doing? Are they couch potatoes slumped in front of televisions and computers, putting on weight and heading for coronaries? Are they having more and more holidays, polluting the atmosphere with the exhaust fumes of their cars?

Are they shopping incessantly? Perhaps they are doing nothing much except getting bored with life.

What they are all missing is the joy of achieving something worthwhile – the sense of knowing their time was well spent and the pleasure of making new and enduring friendships.

“If I can help somebody as I pass along, then my living will not be in vain” – the words of a corny old song, but with a strong element of truth in it.

While it is usually possible to find ‘once-off’ help for an activity, there is a great lack of regular commitment. People need people.

If all the voluntary groups fold for lack of personnel, there will soon be an outcry from those lacking their good offices. Now is the time for all good men and women to come to the aid of the community.

Anyone who would like to become involved in voluntary work should contact Epping Forest CVS on 01992 564178, or email epping.cvs@virgin.net.



More hands make light work: local organisations are appealing for volunteers

Every little helps ... Sainsbury's

LOUGHTON resident LC Street has written to say how much the new H1 bus service to Harlow is appreciated by local people.

However, it would be even better if the timetable were extended to cover evening visiting hours.

C Street also says the new Sainsbury's store in Old Station Road is “another long awaited service we need in Loughton”.

Also on the Sainsbury's plan,

another resident Mr Coles said some local people from the “Buckhurst Hill end of Loughton” do not have cars and cannot drive to Safeways and, therefore, welcome Sainsbury's as they will be able to walk there.

He says: “This also means that the anticipated increase in traffic may not occur as some residents who habitually drive to Safeway will be able to leave their cars at home and walk to Sainsbury's.”