



Search on for pollution source

TWO brooks on Roding Valley Recreation Ground – where Greensted Road meets Bradwell Road and off Avondale Drive – are constantly being polluted.

Field walkers have noticed foaming white cloudy discolouration and its unpleasant odour.

Since late summer last year, the Environment Agency and Thames Water have worked extensively to investigate the surrounding underground pipework, isolating sections of drainage, surface water and discharge pipes to trace the sources of offence.

Findings have highlighted many mis-connections from household washing and dishwashing machines where waste water eventually flows directly into the brook.

In October, pollution

worsened and intensive investigations were reinstated.

This has now led to Thames Water employing a contractor, because of the widespread nature of the problem, to carry out door-to-door surveys in an effort to trace all the wrongly-connected pipes.

This work is due to start this spring.

The process of eliminating differing sections and types of water pipes is a slow process, but is necessary if the origin of the pollution is to be traced.

Households should check to see if any roof pipes or gullies

have any drainage from washing machines, dishwashers or even toilet waste directed into them. If so, these should be directed to the foul sewer.

Epping Forest DC Environmental Health can advise on connections and clearing blockages.



We've got your card marked...

THE Town Council enjoyed its best response yet to the Christmas competitions.

There were more than 130 entries to its Christmas card competition, with the Town Council award for the best-dressed shop window also faring well.

For full story, see page 7.

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

Forest Medical Centre	020 8505 2288
Health Information Service	0800 665544
Holly House (Private)	020 8505 3311
King George	020 8983 8000
Loughton Hall Clinic, Rectory Lane	020 8272 4600
Princess Alexandra	01279 444455
Roding (Private)	020 8551 1100
St Margaret's & Primary Care Trust	01992 561666
Silverthorn Centre, Chingford	020 8529 3706
Wanstead	020 8532 2711
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
Loughton Bowling Club	020 8508 3546

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 8502 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 8553 9900
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	08457 484950
Stansted Airport	01279 680500
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
Loughton Voluntary Care	020 8508 6114
Royal British Legion	020 8508 5044

CINEMAS

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
Ongar	Mill Lane
Waltham Abbey	Brooker Road
For enquiries and opening time details, call Epping Forest District Council.	

Editor's notes

WITH the busy time of Christmas behind us, we now look forward to the longer days of spring.

Unfortunately, it has been an extremely wet winter and the rain has taken its toll of the Roding Valley Recreation Ground and the football pitches, which have been under water on several occasions.

As the Recreation Ground is part of the River Roding's flood plain, this is only to be expected on occasions, but it

has become more frequent in recent years.

We are continuing to work on plans for a new cemetery at Lady Whitaker's Mead, following our consultation on the proposal in earlier editions of the newsletter and the local paper.

This will be a long process as there is much research work to be done and plans to be drawn up, but we hope to come up with a scheme to help satisfy the demand for burial space in Loughton.

Plans for a new playground on Felstead Road have been realised and the contractors are due on site as I write so,

by the time you read this, everything should be in place.

The playground is mainly intended for younger children, with a few items for slightly older ones, including a 'fun run' which has some more challenging elements and looks like it will be great fun to use.

Before we decided on the playground's design, we met with local children to ask them what sort of things they enjoyed in a playground.

We have designed the playground with their suggestions in mind so we hope they will be happy with the result.

Don't forget to come to the Annual Town Meeting on 25th March. Unlike formal Council meetings, you are welcome to join in the meeting and contribute your thoughts.

We hope to have a speaker from Essex County Council Youth Service who can talk about the proposed youth centre in Borders Lane, which will be a joint project with the Town Council's Community Centre.

However, at the moment, the details of the speaker have not been confirmed.

Louise Fuller
Town Clerk

You guarantee safe custody

ESSEX Police Authority is looking for members of the public to join its Custody Visiting Scheme.

Custody visiting gives appointed members of the public opportunities to turn up at local police stations unannounced to observe and report on the treatment of detainees and the conditions in which they are held.

Overall, the scheme's visitors seek to reflect the ethnic make-up of the local community and provide a suitable balance in terms of age and gender.

The scheme helps protect detainees and the police, and provides reassurance to the wider community.

Custody visitors are appointed on a voluntary basis but all reasonable expenses incurred on custody visiting matters are reimbursed.

If you are interested in taking part, are aged over 18 and have no direct involvement in the criminal justice system – for instance, as a magistrate, serving police officer or special constable – then please contact us below for some further

details and an application form.

Alternatively, further details and a contact form can be obtained from the police authority's website at www.essex.police.uk/authority.

If you know of someone who might be suitable or interested, please draw this to their attention.

Contact: The Clerk to the Essex Police Authority, Room C328A, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex XCM1 1LX. Tel: 01245 430355/ 430340. Fax: 01245 280180. Email: john.macaulay@essexcc.gov.uk.

Annual Town meeting

THE Town Council's Annual Town Meeting will be held in Wesley Hall at the Methodist Church, Loughton High Road, on Tuesday 25 March at 8pm.

Details of the speaker are to be announced nearer the time on council noticeboards and in the local press.

Town Council Chairman, Cllr Joan Davis, and the committee chairmen will report on the Town Council's achievements during the year.

This is your chance to ask questions and make suggestions, so make a note in your diary.

Refreshments will be served at the end of the evening, and you will have a chance to chat to other residents as well as town councillors and officers.

Restored fountain stays dry

LOUGHTON'S Drinking Fountain, in the High Road, has been restored, although it has yet to be connected to a water supply.

Epping Forest DC had put money aside for environmental improvements and asked the Town Council to nominate projects for funding.

The two councils had already

discussed the fountain's reinstatement and decided to include it in the environmental improvements budget.

However, there were considerable problems finding a replacement plinth.

And, at the time of going to press, difficulties in obtaining a water supply and disposing of waste water have not been addressed, largely due to health

and safety issues still to be resolved.

According to local historians, the fountain was originally erected in 1870, but was knocked down by a bus in thick fog in 1934. It was rebuilt and survived the second world war.

However, in the mid-1990s, it was deemed to be in need of repair and the district council removed it.

Deadline dates

Edition	Copy deadline
June	28 April

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

Please note that we will not accept unattributed articles for publication.

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 Chairman and F&GP Committee)
 4 Barrington Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 2AY

Cllr Thomas G Owen 020 8508 6916
 (Chairman, Planning Committee; EH&L)
 15 Lower Park Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4NB

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

ST JOHN'S WARD

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

Cllr Roger E Pearce 020 8281 1386
 (Council Vice-chairman, 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
 (Planning Committee) 3 Debden House Cottages,
 Debden Green, Loughton, Essex IG10 2NZ

Cllr Montague W Juniper JP 020 8508 5930
 (Vice-chairman, F&GP; Community 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 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
 (Community Committee)
 33 Priory Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1AF

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

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

FOREST WARD

Cllr Suzanne M Harper 020 8508 4770
 (F&GP and Community Committees)
 23 Algers Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4NG

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

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

RODING WARD

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

Cllr Larry M Ford 020 8508 4344
 (EH&L Committee)
 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 Sagers 020 8508 2100
 (Planning and Community Committees)
 10 Southview Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 3LG

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

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ST MARY'S WARD

Cllr Anthony T Lee 020 8508 7649
 33 Priory Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1AF

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

FOREST WARD

Cllr Kenneth N Faulkner 020 8508 1215
 Briar Patch, Park Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 4ES

Cllr Peter J House 020 8532 1275
 10 Connaught Avenue, Loughton, Essex IG10 4DP

ST JOHN'S WARD

Cllr John A Markham 020 8508 2534
 77 Queen's Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1RR

Cllr Caroline P Pond 020 8508 2361
 Forest Villa, 7 Staples Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1HP

RODING WARD

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

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

ALDERTON WARD

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

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

BROADWAY WARD

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

Cllr Margaret Owen 020 8508 6916
 15 Lower Park Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4NB

FAIRMEAD WARD

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

Cllr Albert G Farren 01992 716955
 25 Paternoster Close Waltham Abbey, Essex EN9

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

ST JOHN'S DIVISION

Cllr Colin Finn 020 8508 5319
 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

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**

Parking is such sweet sorrow

NOVEMBER'S Community Forum heard Cllr Robert Glozier talk about the decriminalisation of parking across the district.

The Theydon Bois councillor and Epping Forest DC portfolio holder for Highways said since the district council took over responsibility from the police for parking enforcement in October, those parking illegally

now commit a civil offence and not a criminal one, although the actual parking restrictions remain the same.

After his talk, he answered questions from the floor on parking outside schools, pavement parking, taxi ranks, the parking of lorries and car park security.

During the 'open forum', Essex police Insp Andy Loveridge spoke about his plans

to recruit community support officers, increase the visibility of police officers on the street and for a pension day initiative outside post offices in order to reduce the fear of crime.

Insp Loveridge answered questions about the disruption caused by Halloween celebrations, the large groups of youngsters congregating on the streets and bogus callers to the elderly.

Loughton calling amateur radio enthusiasts

LOUGHTON & Epping Forest Amateur Radio Society has recently completed its first foundation licence course with a 100 per cent success rate.

The society meets on

alternate Fridays (see Dates for the Diary, pages 8 & 9) and offers a warm welcome to anyone interested in amateur radio.

Another foundation licence

course is planned. Anyone interested should contact Marc Litchman on 020-8502 1645 or email him at g0toc@hotmail.com. Alternatively visit www.lefars.org.uk.

Light up a life for Christmas

FRIDAY 29 November saw the Kings Green Christmas lights switched on, making the tree the focus for Light Up a Life in conjunction with St Clare Hospice.

The service was led by Wes Sutton, from the Vineyard Church, and Town Council vice-chairman Cllr Roger Pearce, and gave a short talk about how the Town Council came to have responsibility for the tree.

St Clare Hospice trustee Dr Jane Ruffer also spoke about the hospice's work with patients with life-limiting illnesses and how dependent it is on the help and donations of supporters.

Members of Davenant Foundation School's Community choir sang carols and after the ceremony refreshments were provided for all by the Methodist Church.

Farmers' market goes down a treat

HOT mulled wine and mince pies were served by Peter House and Ken Faulkner at the Farmers' Market in Centric Parade in December.

The market was busy and the atmosphere festive, despite some heavy rain.

There was a good range of stalls run by farmers and local producers, as well as several specialist stalls selling wild boar, organic breads, cheese, home

made cakes, free range eggs and hand made stationery.

Music was supplied by the Roding Players Orchestra and carols were sung by St Mary's Church Choir. Loughton Residents' Association collected £84.02, which was donated to St Clare Hospice.

The Farmer's Market was organised by Loughton Residents' Association and Hughmark International.

As this and previous markets have been so successful, ten more are planned



for this year, on the first Sunday each month from March until December.

Bumper crop of entries for Christmas competitions

2002 was a bumper year for the competition to design a Christmas card, with 136 entries in all!

The judges, Cllrs Joan Davis and Marion Taylor, had the difficult task of choosing the winning entry from each category.

They chose as the overall winning entry a card designed by 10-year-old Laura Bishop, who had entered in the Key

Stage 2 category. The other winners were: Katie Surtees (Key Stage 1), Charlotte Lilly (Key Stage 3), Sophie Pennington (Key Stage 4) and Nathaniel Greenleaf (Adult category).

All winners were presented with a £20 gift voucher by Town Council chairman, Cllr Joan Davis, at the Community Forum on 21 November.

Entries were displayed at Loughton and Debden libraries in the run-up to Christmas, and Laura's card became the Town Council's official Christmas card for 2002.

Meanwhile, more shops entered this winter's Best Dressed Windows competition than ever before and, as a result, the judging was correspondingly difficult.

A panel of judges – Town Council chairman Cllr Joan Davis, and the Community Committee's chair and vice-chair, Cllrs Marion Taylor and Pam Meadows – spent several hours admiring the entries and awarding points on a range of criteria.

Based on their marks, the winners, runners-up and highly commended entries were:



■ **Local/Independent category:**
Winner: Bird & Fairley Ltd, 269 High Road (pictured, left top)
Charity: Fight for Sight
Runner-up: Photomachine, 281 High Road
Highly commended: Smiths, 132 High Road

■ **Multiple/Chain category:**
Winner: Sense, 239a High Road (left bottom) **Charity:** Sense

Runner-up: Speedway, 237 High Road
Highly commended: Save The Children, 20 The Broadway.

All of the winners were awarded a framed certificate to keep. The winners in each category were also given an engraved cup to keep for 11 months and a cheque for £100 sent to the charity of their choice.



PICTURES: GUARDIAN NEWSPAPERS



Dates for the diary

■ **17 Feb, 8pm:** St John's Wives Group, Caught in the Act, a talk by Brenda Smith, St John's Parish Hall, Church Lane.

■ **7 Mar, 7.45pm:** Loughton & Epping Forest Amateur Radio Society, The Old Rectory, All Saints' Church, Chigwell Row, RSGB Deputy Regional Manager. Meet the Radio Society of Great Britain's representative for Essex.

■ **14-16 Mar, 7.45pm:** Walking in the forest, introductory course (residential), Debden House, Debden Green. Tel: 020 8508 3008

■ **21 Mar, 7.45pm:** Loughton & Epping Forest Amateur Radio Society, VHF (Very High Frequency). See 7 Mar for venue. Night On The Air. Come along and chat with UK and European radio amateurs.

■ **22 Mar:** Introduction to Chinese brush painting, one day course, Debden House, Debden Green. Details: 020 8508 3008

■ **24 Mar, 8pm:** The National Trust, illustrated talk by Pam Wright, Looking at Art - The Hidden Stories, Sir James Hawkey Hall, Broomhill Road, Woodford Green.

■ **4 Apr, 7.45pm:** Loughton & Epping Forest Amateur Radio Society, Annual General Meeting. See 7 Mar for venue.

■ **7 Apr, 8pm:** St John's Wives Group, cocktails and canapés with bring and buy, St John's Parish Hall, Church Lane.

■ **9 Apr, 8pm:** The National Trust, AGM followed by illustrated talk by Peter Lawrence, Our English Architectural Heritage in the Caribbean. See 24 Mar for venue.

■ **11-13 Apr:** Introduction to jazz, residential course, Debden House, Debden Green.

Details: 020 8508 3008.

■ **28 Apr:** St John's Wives Group, theatre outing.

■ **13-14 May:** The National Trust, May Fair. See 24 Mar for venue.

■ **19 May, 8pm:** St John's Wives Group, Essex Curios, talk by Mr C Davis, St John's Parish Hall, Church Lane.

■ **31 May, 2.50-4.50pm:** Loughton & Epping Workers' Educational Association, Any Questions. Tickets £2.50/£3 on the door. Details: 01992 560119.

■ **2 Jun, 8pm:** St John's Wives Group, Looking Lovely, demonstration by Emma Black, St John's Parish Hall, Church Lane.

■ **16 Jun:** St John's Wives Group, Memories of Childhood, an outing to the House on the Hill Toy Museum.

■ **Every second & fourth Thurs, 8pm:** Debden House Quilters, details: 020 8508 4873.

■ **Alternate Fridays, 7.45pm:** Loughton & Epping Forest Amateur Radio Society meets at The Old Rectory, All Saints' Church, Chigwell Row. Details: 020 8502 1645.

■ **Every Sunday, 3.30-5.30pm (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 people with learning difficulties and

their friends. Lasts about half an hour.

■ **Every Monday, 7.15-9.15pm:** Roding Valley 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 8508 3539.

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

■ **Second Thursday of month, 8pm:** Loughton Historical Society, Methodist Church, High Road, Loughton. Guest visitors welcome on payment of £1.50.

■ **Every Friday 7.30pm:** Kingsley Spiritualist

Church, Kingsley Hall, Kingsley Road

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 former Mother Hubbard pub, Valley Hill

LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

2003

Mar	12	Council
	17	Planning
	25	Annual Town Meeting#
	26	Community
	31	Planning
Apr	9	Environment, Heritage & Leisure
	14	Planning
	28	Planning
	30	Finance & General Policy
May	12	Planning
	14	Council
	21	Annual Council

To be held at Wesley Hall, Loughton Methodist Church, at 8pm. All other meetings will be held at 1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, Loughton, at 7.30pm. Please call Town Council for the dates after 21 May.

Copy date for next issue: 28 April. Next issue covers June to early September. Call 020 8508 4200 to add entries.

Vouchers scheme gives disabled new mobility

THE Essex Disabled People's Association has launched a travel voucher scheme.

Supported by the Community Fund, it is designed to enable people on low incomes with a severe mobility problem and without the use of a car to travel as and when they want to.

Travel vouchers are used instead of money to pay for a journey, either in part or in its entirety.

The vouchers are paid to wheelchair-accessible transport providers who have agreed to

participate in the scheme – there are more than 80 in Essex.

The scheme operates throughout the county of Essex, including Southend and Thurrock.

Anyone wishing to obtain a voucher must apply to the Essex Disabled People's Association, 90 Broomfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1SS. Alternatively, they can call 01245 253400.

The association aims to process applications within 4 weeks.

Applicants will be sent a

membership card, a list of service providers and travel vouchers by recorded delivery once their request has been approved.

The current allocation is £25 per month, sent out half yearly.

Applicants who answer yes to all the following questions could qualify for travel vouchers.

To qualify, applicants must be:

- Over 18 years of age
- Resident in Essex, Southend or Thurrock

■ A wheelchair or scooter user for your outdoor mobility OR registered deaf-blind

■ Without the use of a car at home

■ In receipt of any one of the following benefits: Income Support, Income Based Job-seekers Allowance, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit, Council Tax Reduction for Disability, Working Families Tax Credit or the Disabled Persons Working Tax Credit.

The association is a registered charity number 212039.

Wives group gets into the swing

MEMBERS of the St John's Wives Group and their guests enjoyed a wonderful evening at the annual dinner dance held at Wanstead Golf Club.

The raffle, in aid of the Haven House Foundation, raised £300.

The committee welcomes newcomers to its lively and entertaining programme for 2003 (see Dates for the Diary, pages 8 & 9).

Volunteering is 'not just for Christmas'

AS MANAGER of Epping Forest Volunteer Bureau, I write on behalf of the many local groups registered with us who benefited from the help of volunteers last year.

Thank you to all who gave their time and talents to support their local community.

You may have comforted victims of crime, led horses ridden by disabled children, cared for a neglected pet,

written letters on behalf of a vulnerable person, planted trees as part of an environmental project, or helped out in a charity shop – the list of types of voluntary work is endless.

Whatever you have done this year, it has had a very positive impact on others. Most charities and voluntary groups would not exist without volunteers.

Consequently, many much-needed services which may seem to 'happen by themselves'

would not be provided without voluntary support.

It is often those people who work tirelessly without attention who fulfil many local needs. These needs remain and so does the need for volunteers.

If you have time to spare and would like to find out how rewarding volunteering can be, call Epping Forest Volunteer Bureau on 01992 564254. The bureau is open 10am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

Sports injury enquiries

THINKING of taking up a new sport? Or just about to join the leisure centre in Traps Hill?

Sport and exercise is important to everyone. It helps to prevent a whole number of medical conditions, it reduces stress and improves mood, is thoroughly enjoyable and can lead to the formation of many new friendships. But it can also cause injuries.

Poor technique and 'over-doing it' in a new leisure

activity can lead to problems. Continuing to train through injury or leaving it to get better on its own is not advisable.

It is always best to get professional treatment earlier rather than later as this prevents long-term problems and gets you back to your sport as quickly as possible.

Anyone looking for professional advice from a chartered physiotherapist, call local physiotherapist Daniel Smith on 020 8508 9100.

Viewpoint

Help when you're not as safe as houses

AN Englishman's home is his castle! – it all sounds very straightforward but, in reality, the law isn't often that simple, and Citizens Advice Bureaux deal with many clients who have enquiries about their housing situation.

All our clients are different. Some are worried that they will be evicted if they are only a few days late paying their rent, while others let huge mortgage arrears develop and seem oblivious to the risks of losing their home.

Our advisers will explain the legal position and the action the client needs to take to protect their rights.

Sometimes we can tell them about social security benefits which can help.

Some of our most distressing cases involve clients who are about to become homeless.

The council only has an obligation to provide temporary housing to certain households, and there are very few options available for those who fall through this net.

Sometimes housing difficulties can be part of a wider problem, particularly when couples are splitting up. CAB advisers can give basic advice about property rights along with preliminary advice on divorce procedures and access to children.

The local CABs have a good relationship with Epping Forest District Council's housing services department and we have regular meetings when we discuss the way their policies work.

At the moment, the council are having to review the way their housing list operates, and the possibility of transferring ownership of all their stock to an outside organisation.

If any tenants are worried about what this will mean to them, we will be happy to talk it through with them.

There is always a lot at stake with housing problems, and it can be a very satisfying area of

work for CAB advisers, whether we just set someone's mind at rest, or if we have to enter into detailed negotiations to help clients put things right.

Alison McBrayne
Manager



citizens
advice
bureau

Loughton & District CAB

■ St Mary's Parish Centre, Loughton
High Road: Mondays to Fridays

■ Outreach service, Buckhurst Hill
Information Centre: twice monthly

■ Debden Library: twice weekly

■ Telephone advice on 020 8502 0031

Contacting us

WE welcome contributions to *Think Loughton*, but do not guarantee their inclusion and reserve the right to edit them.

The views expressed are not necessarily those of Loughton Town Council.



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Roding ward



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St John's ward
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General Policy
committees



Larry Ford
Roding ward
Environment, Heritage
& Leisure committee



Suzanne Harper
Forest ward
Finance & General
Policy and Community
committees



Leslie Harris
Forest ward
Chairman, Finance &
General Policy
Committee



Montague Juniper
Debden Green ward
Vice-chairman, Finance &
General Policy, and
Community committee

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Joan Davis
Broadway ward
Town Council Chairman
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Policy committee



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Roding ward
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Please note: at the time of going to press, pictures of Cllrs Mike Hogan and Joyce Barnett were not available