

Think Loughton



N° 24 Spring 2004

News from Loughton Town Council

Have your say, get involved

ALL 22 Town Council seats are up for election this summer.

Normally, elections take place in the first week of May, but this year the Government has moved local elections to coincide with the European elections on 10 June.

So the current members will retain their seats until then, and the programme of meetings has been amended (see page 10).

The Town Council annual meeting, at which the chairman is elected and the committee membership agreed, will take place on 23 June.

Being a local councillor can be very rewarding and enables you to make a contribution to your local community.

For anyone with an interest in becoming more involved, there is a strict timetable for prospective candidates. Epping Forest District Council's

electoral services can provide the necessary information.

Do make sure you don't lose the opportunity to vote in June. If you think you might be unable to vote in person on polling day, please contact EFDC electoral services for details about voting by post or proxy (someone who votes on your behalf). The closing date for receiving correctly-completed applications is 5pm on 2 June.

To be able to vote, you need to ensure your name is on the electoral register.

Moved house after 15 October 2003? Nearly 18? Not on the register? You need to fill in a voter registration form, which you must sign yourself.

To be able to vote in the elections on 10 June, the latest date for receiving applications to go on the register is 13 April 2004. If you want a voter



registration form, phone EFDC electoral services, which will add you to the list of new applications. Your details will take between two and six weeks to be added.

They will write to tell you when your application is

allowed. They will also tell the Electoral Registration Officer for your old address so your name can be removed from that register.

■ **Epping Forest DC electoral services can be contacted on 01992 564411**

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

British Red Cross	020 8508 2162
Forest Medical Centre	020 8505 2288
Health Information Service	0800 665544
Holly House (Private)	020 8505 3311
King George	020 8983 8000
Princess Alexandra	01279 444455
Rectory Lane Health Centre (Loughton Hall Clinic)	020 8272 4600
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

Loughton Leisure Centre	01992 564574
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 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	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
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.

To advertise in Think Loughton, call 01787 242085

Editor's notes

Normally in the spring edition of *Think Loughton* there would be an article telling you the amount of the precept which the Town Council has set, and how this translates into your council tax. We had expected to set the precept at the Council meeting on 7 January.

However some long-standing discussions with Epping Forest District Council about responsibility for the management and financing of the Roding Valley Recreation Ground meant that, at that time, the Town Council could not set its budgets with certainty. Setting the precept was

deferred to a special meeting of the council, when it was hoped that the situation would be clearer. At the time of writing that special meeting has still not taken place. Delaying setting the precept is a very serious matter and the councillors do not take such a step lightly, so you can see by this action that the councillors are very anxious to set the precept at the correct level.

The Council has recently discussed a couple of items of major significance. The Standing Orders have been revised and, as I write, are expected to be agreed at the meeting of the Council on 3rd March. Although this might seem like a rather dry topic, it is important as the Standing Orders lay down

the basis on which the council is run, a bit like the Constitution of a charity or a club. In fact the new Standing Orders include a provision whereby members of the public can make a short address to committees of the Council, if they give the required notice, so this might encourage more people to get involved in our business.

The Council has also considered a scheme for paying allowances to councillors. Members have always been able to reclaim costs of travel incurred in certain circumstances, but new legislation has widened the basis on which claims may be made and allows for the payment of a 'parish basic allowance'.

Councils had to decide for

themselves if they would pay councillors' allowances and if so, in what circumstances. This is not without controversy as there are persuasive arguments on both sides and the Town Council considered the matter very carefully in several debates. In the end, the Town Council did agree a scheme for members' allowances, though it is quite a limited scheme.

Full details of both these matters will be posted on the Town Council website on the Strategic Documents page. The web site contains lots of useful information about the council, as well as local organisations and some general and national information.

Louise Fuller
Town Clerk

Architects bid for community centre

AT last, we can report some positive news on the proposed community and youth centre on the site of the former United Reformed Church, Borders Lane.

A shortlist of architects to draw up designs for the building has been drawn up for

interview. They all have experience in projects with some or all of the elements we are looking for, so we are confident that a good practice can be appointed.

The Town Council is promoting this scheme in partnership with Essex County Council. This is a very big step

forward after what seemed like a long time of inactivity when underlying matters were being sorted out – and we are very pleased to see some concrete action.

There is still a long process to complete until the new centre is open, but we feel we are now well on the way to getting there.

Parking occupies the Forum

DECEMBER'S Community Forum started with the presentation of prizes to the winners of this year's Christmas card competition (see page 7).

This was followed by a presentation by Tim Gaskell, of Broadway Malyan, planners, on the Marks and Spencer foods store proposed for the Lambs Garage site in the High Road. If permission is granted, the 10,000sq ft store, which could open by Easter 2005, will have two decked car parks, one with

a lower ground element containing 94 spaces for use during the store's opening hours.

It will be a bold modern three-level brick building, but will only be the height of a two-storey building as the lowest level will be partly underground.

The planners have consulted with the Loughton Residents' Association, local traders, the Town Centre Partnership, the Town Council and district council planning officers.

Afterwards, questions were asked about the loss of evening

parking spaces for theatre-goers and restaurant customers, the building's general design, and the cross-shaped feature planned for the top, and the proposals for traffic access from the High Road to the car park.

During the open forum, Essex Police Insp Piers Quinell and two officers took questions on parking in uncontrolled roads, police involvement in the town enhancement scheme, call handling, police familiarity with local roads, vandalism and traffic congestion.

Debden Day

AFTER last year's wild 'Wild West day', the Broadway Town Centre Partnership plans a nautical theme for this year's Debden Day.

So if you 'sail down The Broadway with Peter Pan and the Pirates' on 29 May, you will see children's rides in the school playground and adult rides in the car park at the rear of the arcade.

Many other attractions are being arranged for what promises to be another day of fun. So note the date in your diary and get working on your costume!

Town meeting

THE Annual Town Meeting gives residents the chance to question town councillors.

This year's meeting is on 23 March at 8pm in the Wesley Hall at the Methodist Church, High Road.

Epping Forest District Council officer Roy Keasley will also talk about flyposting, waste disposal, recycling, litter and parking of commercial vehicles.

Council chairman Cllr Roger Pearce and committee chairmen will report on the Town Council's activities and achievements during the year.

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>

Town Clerk: Louise R Fuller
Email: loughton_tc@compuserve.com

DEBDEN GREEN WARD

Cllr Michael D Hogan 020 8926 6914
(Chairman, Planning Committee) 38 Hillyfields,
Loughton, Essex IG10 2PU

Cllr Montague W Juniper JP 020 8508 5930
(Vice-chairman, F&GP; Community Committee)
31 Alderton Way, Loughton, Essex IG10 3EQ

Cllr Michael G Sellears 020 8502 0782
(Vice-Chairman, 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
(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

F&GP= Finance & General Policy

BROADWAY WARD

Cllr Joyce M Barnett
59 Colson Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 3RL

Cllr Joan Davis 020 8508 3180
(EH&L Committee)
4 Barrington Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 2AY

Cllr Thomas G Owen 020 8508 6916
(Council Vice-Chairman; Planning and F&GP
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

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 and Planning Committees)
47 Stonards Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 3EH

Cllr Stephen W Murray 020 8508 7548
(EH&L and F&GP Committees)
1 Avondale Court, Loughton, Essex IG10 3BT

Cllr Betty R Siggers 020 8508 2100
(Planning and Community Committees)
10 Southview Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 3LG

FOREST WARD

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

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

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

ST JOHN'S WARD

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

Cllr Roger E Pearce 020 8281 1386
(Council Chairman; F&GP Committee)
32 Millsmead Way, Loughton, Essex IG10 1LR

Cllr Chris 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
(Vice-Chairman, Planning; EH&L Committee)
50 Baldwins Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 1SF

EHL= Environment, Heritage & Leisure

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

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
2JU

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

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

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

BUCKHURST HILL DIVISION

Cllr Ann Haigh 020 8505 5773
51 Greenhill, Buckhurst Hill, Essex IG9 5SQ

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**

New plaque honour for town's World War II dead

LOUGHTON Town Council is planning to commission a plaque in memory of the town's World War II civilian war dead.

And the council wants to give the public an opportunity to submit names of people they think should be included.

Local sources have already supplied a number of names for consideration. These can be seen in the Town Council

Offices at 1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, or viewed from the news page of the Town Council's website at www.loughton-tc.gov.uk.

The Council is also inviting subscriptions from any local resident or organisation which would like to give something towards the cost of the plaque. Anyone wishing to make a subscription should contact the Town Council. Responses are required by 14 May.

Don't ride over here

THE problem of motor bikes on the Roding Valley recreation ground continues.

This is a gentle reminder to those who ride motorbikes not to use the recreation ground.

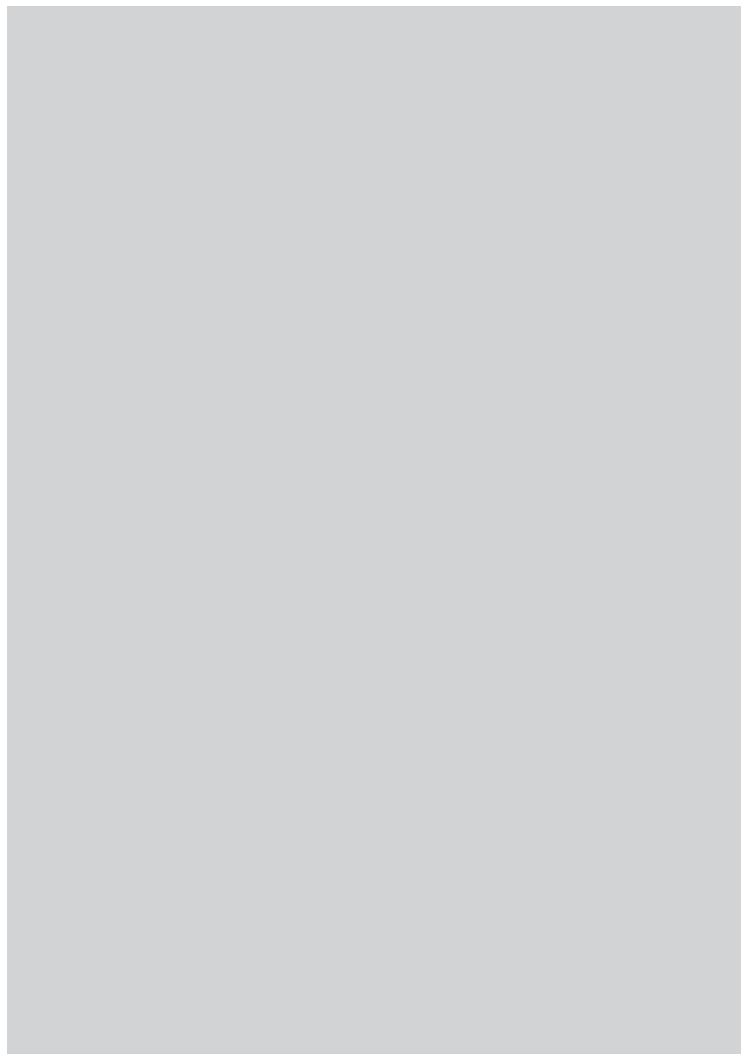
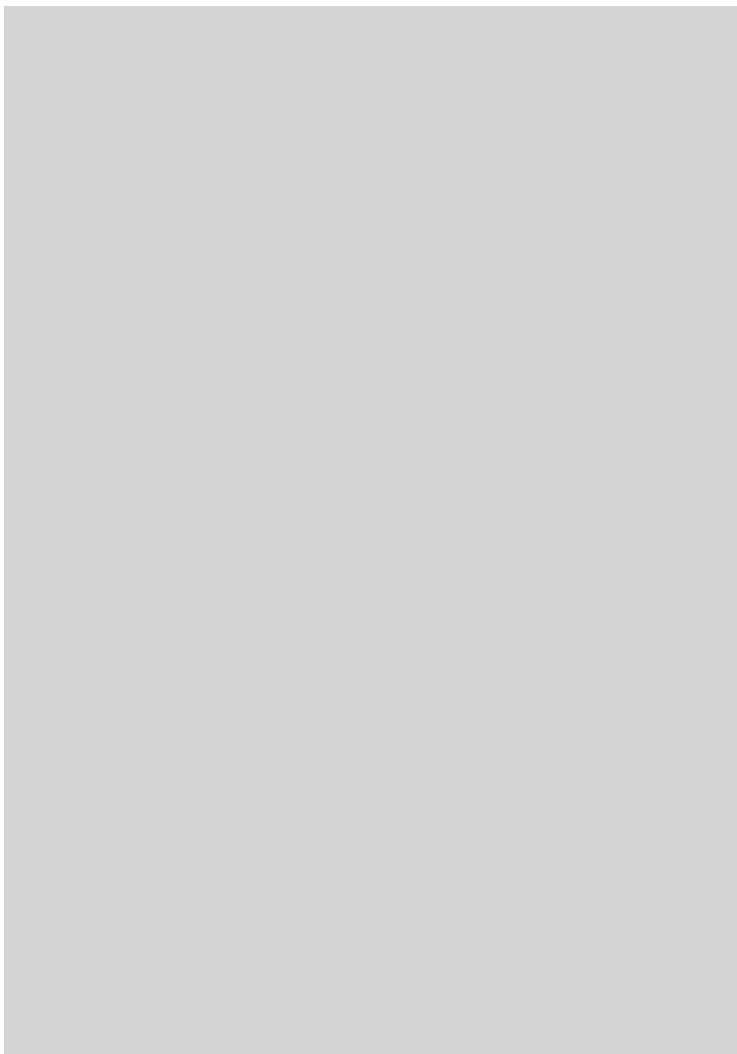
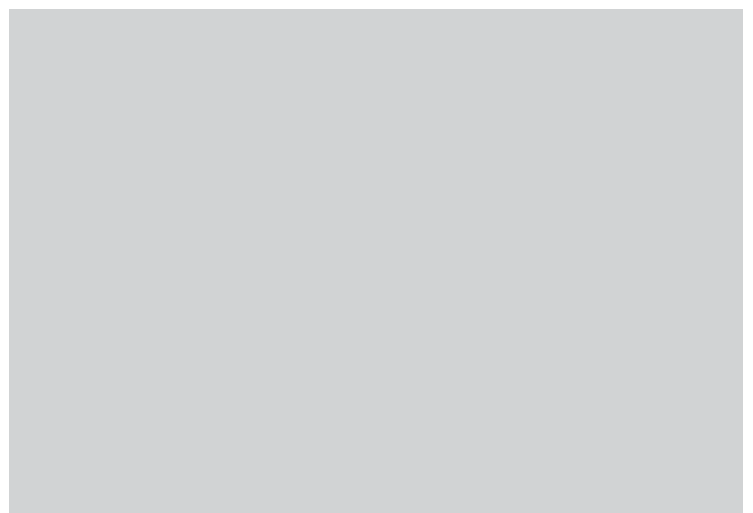
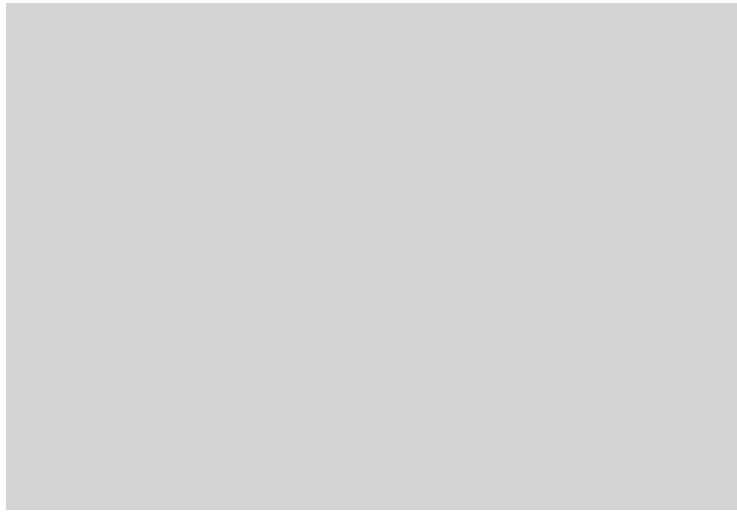
Bikes should not be driven on recreational spaces these grounds are not for rally cross races. Bikes are dangerous and make too much noise these vehicles should not be viewed as toys.

Parents who buy them should take heed Where does your child ride his mechanical steed? Parks and rec. are meant for fun but remember your child's not the only one

Barriers of metal, wood and logs have been raised to prevent the hogs. We cannot close every access point to these losers we must consider the wheel chair users.

So have a heart and do take care don't ride your bike over there. Keep your bikes on the streets where they belong frightening people is just plain wrong.

Written by Paul Roden, the Town Council's Projects & Properties Officer, who looks after the recreation ground





From left: Katie Brenner, Stephanie Quadranti, Annie Skipper, Cllr Pearce, Nathaniel Greenleaf and Sara Arcopagita



Above: Cllr Pearce with Jackie Pryke and Diane Hill of Debden Library. Right: Cllr Pearce with Joanne Hobbs and Jill Matthews, of Oakwood Flowers



PHOTOS: GUARDIAN NEWSPAPERS

Winners by design

THE 2003 Christmas Card competition saw the largest number of entries ever: 234 in all.

And the difficult task of judging them fell to Town Council Chairman Cllr Roger Pearce and Community Committee Chairman Cllr Suzanne Harper.

It took them quite some time to decide on the winners and, because there were so many to choose from, they decided to

announce runners-up in the categories with the largest number of entries – key stages 1, 2 and 3.

A lovely drawing of the nativity scene by Roding Valley High School pupil Sara Arcopagita, 12 (key stage 3), was judged the overall winning entry, and was made into the Council's official Christmas card.

Other winners were: Stephanie Quadranti, 7 (key

stage 1), Katie Brenner, 10 (key stage 2), Annie Skipper, 15 (key stage 4) and Nathaniel Greenleaf in the adult category.

All the winners received gift tokens at the Council's Community Forum on 4 December.

The runners-up in key stages 1, 2 & 3 were Katie Surtees, Gabriella Jeakins and Sydney Beales respectively.

Judging of the Best Dressed Window competition proved just as difficult. Cllrs Pearce and Harper spent three hours out in the cold viewing all the entries.

Points were awarded on a range of criteria including artistic merit, effort and inventive use of materials. Oakwood Flowers, in Oakwood Parade, won the local/independent category, and Debden Library, Rectory Lane, the multiple/chain category.

When all the points were added up, the results meant that this year there were two highly-commended entries in each category. The highly-commended entries and runners-up were as follows:

- **LOCAL/INDEPENDENT** Runner-up: Geraldine's Hair Fashions, 76 The Broadway.
- Highly Commended:** Smiths, 132 High Road; Forest Casual Wear, 144 High Road.
- **MULTIPLE/CHAIN** Runner-up: Past Times, 235 High Road. **Highly Commended:** Sense, 239a High Road; Oxfam, 206 High Road.

The two winners were each presented with engraved cups, to keep for 11 months, and a framed certificate. A £100 cheque has been sent to their chosen charity, in both cases St Clare Hospice. All others received framed certificates.

All the prizes were presented by Town Council chairman, Cllr Pearce.

Kingsley Hall available for hire

THE Town Council has a hall in Austen Close which is currently available for hire on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

There is also some availability at weekends.

Kingsley Hall is quite small but can accommodate 36 people seated or 60 standing.

It has a fully-equipped kitchen, 36 chairs and some folding tables which are all

available for use. The hire fee is £7.90 per hour (from 1 April).

Any hirers without public liability insurance must be included on the council's own insurance at a cost of 0.83p per hour (from 1 April).

The hall is not suitable for parties (other than those for small children) but is ideal for small group meetings.

Call Joan Innis on 020 8508 4200 for details.

St John's Wives Group

THE Wives group at St John's Church began its Christmas celebrations with a mulled wine and mince pie evening.

They were also well entertained by the Nazeing

Bell Ringers. Meanwhile, the annual dinner dance at Wanstead Golf Club was once more a resounding success, where a raffle raised £360 for the Epping based charity Heal.

Dates for the diary

- **1 Mar, 8pm:** St John's Wives Group – Gardening in our Twilight Years – talk by John Burrows.
- **2 Mar, 7.30-9.30pm:** British Red Cross, Lincoln Hall, 125 High Road – 5x2hr basic first aid course. Details: 020 8508 2162.
- **3 Mar, 2.30pm:** The National Trust, Sir James Hawkey Hall, Broomhill Road, Woodford Green: 'A Day in the Life, a Thames Tugboat,' by Richard Thomas. Details: 020 8505 3501.
- **12 Mar, 8pm:** Herts & Essex Architectural Research Society (HEARS) Room M6, Roding Valley High School, Alderton Hill. Talk with slides 'Blind Backs – 19th Century Workers' Housing' by Patrick Crouch – Info: Ann Padfield, 01708 688233
- **14 Mar, 3pm:** Loughton Bereavement Service Tea Party, Trinity Church, Mannock Drive. Info: Kathleen, 020 8508 9408.
- **15 Mar, 8pm:** St John's Wives Group – Cocktails and Canapés.
- **22 Mar, 8pm:** National Trust, Sir James Hawkey Hall, Broomhill Road, Woodford Green – 'Frederick, Lord Leighton 1830-96', by Jane Kelsal. Details: 020 8505 3501.
- **2 Apr, 8pm:** Herts & Essex Architectural Research Society (HEARS) Room M6, Roding Valley High School, Alderton Hill. Talk by Peter Huggins on Waltham Abbey – recent archaeological discoveries. Info: Ann Padfield, 01708 688233.
- **4 Apr, 3pm:** Loughton Bereavement Service Tea Party – Methodist Church Hall, High Road. Info: Kathleen, 020 8508 9408.
- **5 Apr, 8pm:** St John's Wives Group, St John's Parish Hall – AGM.
- **15 Apr, 8pm:** National Trust, Sir James Hawkey Hall, Broomhill Road, Woodford Green – AGM & 'Wanstead House – its Architecture and Landscape', by Peter Lawrence. Details: 020 8505 3501.
- **19 Apr, 8pm:** St John's Wives Group, St John's Parish Hall. Up West – Theatre Outing.
- **9 May, 3pm:** Loughton Bereavement Service Tea Party, Trinity Church, Mannock Drive. Info: Kathleen, 020 8508 9408.
- **17 May, 8pm:** St John's Wives Group, St John's Parish Hall. Granny's Bit Box, talk by Sarah Shehadeh.
- **7 Jun, 8pm:** St John's Wives Group, St John's Parish Hall. An evening with Waitrose.
- **13 Jun, 3pm:** Loughton Bereavement Service Tea Party, Methodist Church, High Road. Info: Kathleen, 020 8508 9408.
- **Every Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday:** Walk with the West Essex Ramblers. New walkers always welcome (sorry no dogs). Contact: Pat or John Juchau, 020 8502 1628.
- **Every Monday, 8-9pm:** Keep Fit/Aerobics – Charis Centre, Buckhurst Hill Baptist Church, Palmerston Road. £3.50. Tel: 020 8508 3346.
- **Every second & fourth Thurs, 8pm:** Debden House Quilters. Call: 020 8508 4873.
- **Alternate Thursdays, 7.15-10.15pm:** Friends of Light & Healing meetings, Kingsley Hall, Austen Close. Everybody welcome. Enquires: 020 8508 3266.
- **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. 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.

■ **First Sunday of month, 9am-2pm:** Farmers' market, Centric Parade, High Road. Details: Suzanne Harper, 020 8508 4770.

■ **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 + 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. 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.

■ **Every second Tuesday, 7.30pm:** Epping Forest and District Stamp Club meets, Wesley Hall, behind Loughton Methodist Church, High Road. Details: 020 8508 1244.

■ **Every Wednesday (term time), 9.30am-11.15am:** Trinity Toddlers, Mannock Drive.

Contact: Isobel Jackson on 020 8508 3317.

■ **Every Wednesday, 10.30-11.30am:** Over 50s Keep Fit. Gentle rhythmic exercise to music.

Have fun, stay young. Debden Park Community Hall, Willingale Road. £2.50. Tel: 020 8508 3346.

■ **Every Wednesday, 9.30-10.30am:** Keep Fit/Aerobics. All abilities welcome. Fun and varied. Debden Park Community Hall, Willingale Road. £3.50. Tel: 020 8508 3346.

■ **Every Thursday, 9.30-10.30am:** Keep Fit/Aerobics (crèche available). Exercise whilst your children are cared for. All abilities welcome. Buckhurst Hill Baptist Church, Palmerston Road. £3.50. Tel: 020 8508 3346.

■ **Every Thursday, 12.45pm:** Rotary Club of Loughton & Buckhurst Hill, Britannia Sports & Social Club, Bank of England, Langston Road. Call: 020 8500 6910.

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

■ **Fourth Thursday, 7.45pm:** Woodlands branch of Essex Handicrafts, Trinity Church, Mannock Drive. Details, Janet Holdaway: 020 8508 7657.

■ **Every Friday, 7.30pm:** Kingsley Spirit-ualist Church, Kingsley Hall, Kingsley Road.

MONTHLY COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES:

First Saturday (Labour):

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

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

Second Saturday (Labour):

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

■ **10.30-11am:** outside the former Mother Hubbard pub, Valley Hill

First Sunday (Loughton Residents' Assoc)

■ **9am-1.30pm:** at the Farmers' Market, Centric Parade, High Road.

Accounting for the Town Council's spending

THE financial year 2002/03 marked a significant change for the council.

Prior to that year, the council was required to draw up a

statement of income and expenditure, and a statement of balances.

The formal end of year accounts consisted of an annual return which was sent to the auditor; this was a fairly simple document.

Although the accounts could hardly be described as sophisticated, they were reasonably straightforward.

The information was readily comprehensible to interested parties such as local residents and could be quite easily related to the provision of local services and town council functions.

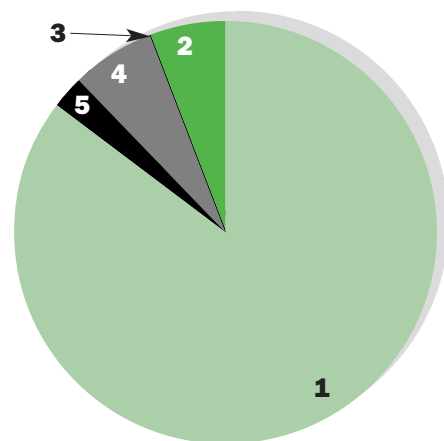
New regulations introduced in 2003 meant that the council was required to produce its accounts in the same format as that of the principal authorities (Epping Forest District Council, Essex County Council).

The rules for doing the accounts like this are very strictly laid down and the council has no discretion. For instance, assets have to be described under certain headings which might not match the council's assessment of them.

We feel that though the new regulations are intended to ensure the real costs of running the Town Council are properly reflected, the new way of

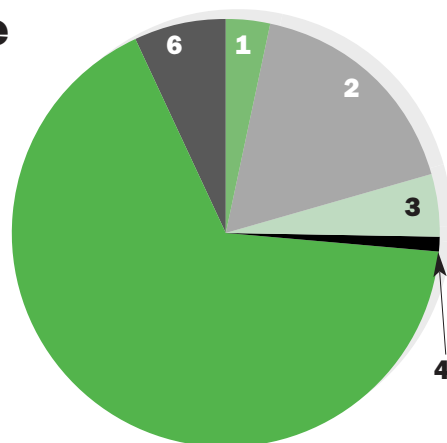
Income

1. Precept	£482,500
2. Interest	£31,765
3. Finance & General Policy	£188
4. Environment, Heritage & Leisure	£35,905
5. Community	£14,809



Expenditure

1. Finance & General Policy	£47,518
2. Environment, Heritage & Leisure	£229,865
3. Community	£62,714
4. Planning	£16,000
5. Capital	£886,967
6. Loan interest and repayments	£92,756



presenting the accounts does not always improve the transparency of the finances nor make them easier to understand.

After all, in the end, we only have a certain amount of actual cash which can be spent or money received in the council, regardless of any underlying calculations for depreciation, the cost of the use of assets, notional rates of interest etc.

A copy of the council's final end of year accounts can be seen in the council offices or on our website (www.loughton-tc.gov.uk).

Copies have also been placed on our noticeboards in the Loughton and Debden libraries, and can be purchased from the council.

At present the accounts are unaudited. The council does not choose its own auditors; this is

decided by the Audit Commission.

The Commission did not make a decision on the auditors until towards the end of 2003. As yet, the auditors have not made arrangements to carry out the audit. This delay, while frustrating, is beyond the council's control.

The pie charts above show the income and expenditure for 2002/03 before the figures are adjusted to conform to the requirements of the new regulations.

At the end of the year, the council had total reserves of £841,989; this was split between general reserves (£553,143) and earmarked reserves (£288,846).

Earmarked reserves are held to use for specified projects in the future.

Deadline dates

EDITION	COPY DEADLINE
Summer	26 April
Autumn	26 July

Next issue covers June to mid-September.

Call 020 8508 4200 to add diary entries. Further copies of Think Loughton may be obtained from Loughton Town Council at 1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, or from Debden or Loughton libraries.

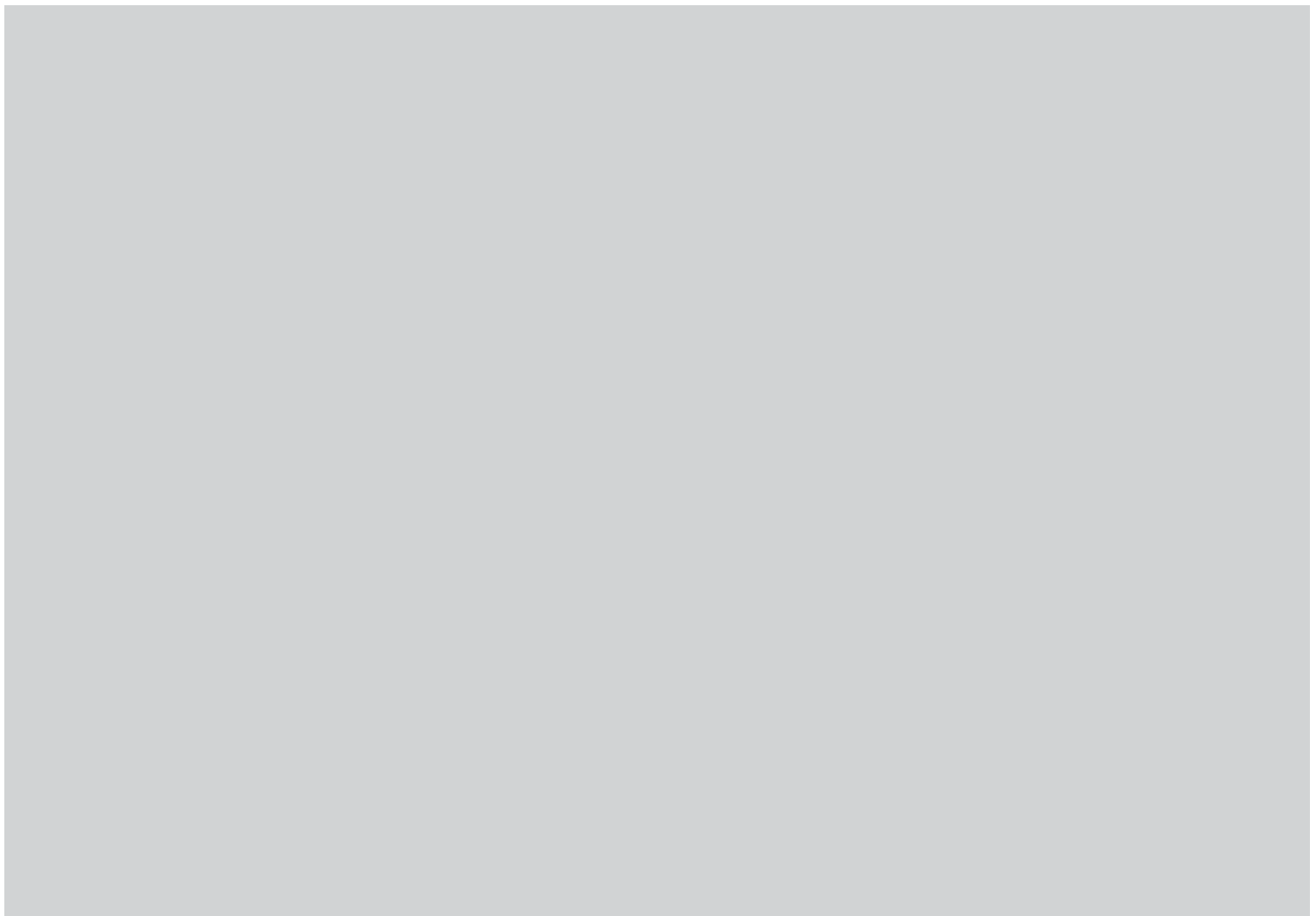
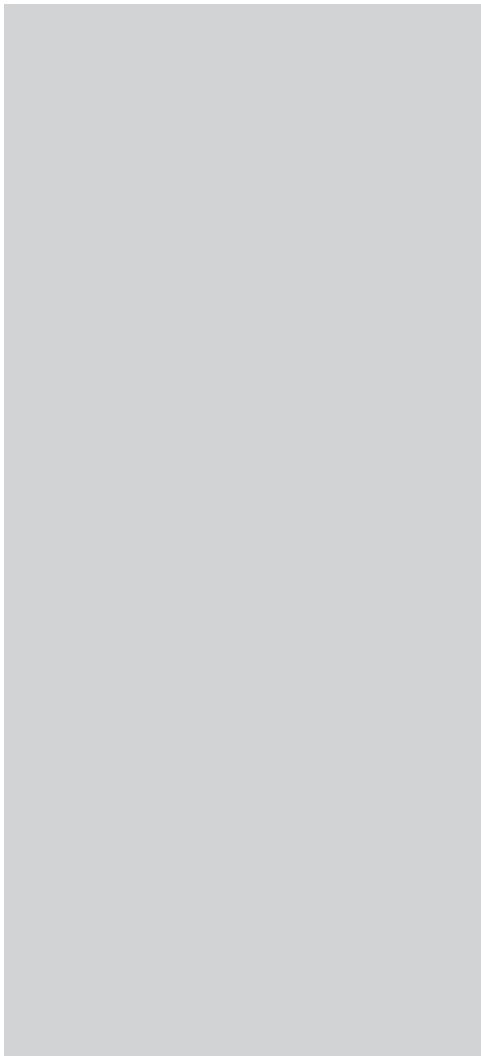
Please note that we will not accept unattributed articles for publication.

LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Mar	3	Council
	8	Planning
	17	Community
	22	Planning
	23	Annual Town Meeting#
	31	Environment, Heritage & Leisure
Apr	5	Planning
	14	Finance & General Policy
	19	Planning
May	4	Planning
	17	Planning
	19	Council
Jun	1	Planning
	23	Annual Council

at Wesley Hall, Loughton Methodist Church at 8pm. All other meetings at 1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, Loughton, at 7.30pm.

LOUGHTON SPORTS CENTRE



Town Council bids Wendy farewell

WENDY Gilbert, the Assistant Town Clerk, left the council in November to go to a new job in Waltham Forest. We wish her well for the future.

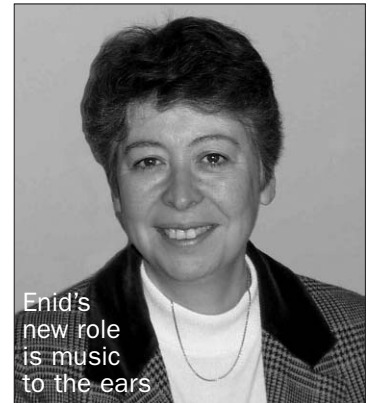
With the increasing range and complexity of the Town Council's functions, it was decided that the post should be replaced by a Deputy Town Clerk.

The job was widely advertised and attracted a lot of interest. Following an intensive day of interviews, the successful candidate was Enid Walsh, pictured, and we are pleased to welcome her as our new Deputy Town Clerk.

Enid has been the Parish Clerk of Ongar Parish Council for four years, so she is well versed in local council matters. She will not be able to join

Loughton Town Council on a full time basis immediately owing to her commitments with Ongar, but she is looking forward to her new role here.

In fact, she is no stranger to the area as she is also a professional musician, and has been giving flute lessons at Davenant School for many years.



Enid's new role is music to the ears

**FOSKETT MARR
GADSBY & HEAD**

**DIRECT TRADE
WINDOWS & DOORS**

London's 'most beautiful village'

PETER Woodhouse came to Loughton from West London in 1926 aged 8. He stayed until around 1980.

Now he has written a book in which he describes the Loughton of his childhood, its shops, society and character.

The Woodhouses lived in a new detached house in the Avenue, and Peter describes the task, familiar to all buyers of new houses, of reclaiming the garden from rubble, and altering the house to the family requirements.

Electricity did not arrive for

some years, so lighting was by gas and heating by open fires.

The book includes a quotation from an election address by Cllr Dr Berthon Pendred for the Loughton Urban district Council elections in 1926. It had just devised its Loughton

Town Planning scheme, which envisaged all open space other than the Forest covered with housing or industry.

"Let London's most beautiful village become London's model suburb," he argued. That never happened, certainly in the way he envisaged, but Peter Woodhouse's book is a charming and valuable contribution to our history in that time of change. It also includes sections on the subjects of two Town Council blue plaques, Jose Collins and Richard Stannard VC.

The 58-page book, with many illustrations and facsimiles of contemporary advertisements, can be had price £5 from the Book Shop 150 High Rd, or



(CWO) from the LDHS, Forest Villa, Staples Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1HP.

■ When the book went to press, those pictured here in the old Loughton station – replaced in 1940 – were unknown. But since then, an LDHS member has identified them as John and Doris Warbis, and Mrs Solman. The date is August or September 1930, and a day return to London cost 1s5d.

Where lost loved ones' lives shine on

THIS winter's Light up a Life ceremony, organised with St Clare Hospice, was held at the end of November.

Once again it was a successful and moving event. The lights on the tree serve as a very visible reminder of loved ones at a special time of year and people appreciate the opportunity to participate in an act of remembrance.

Davenant Choir headed a torchlit procession from the Methodist Church to the tree on King's Green, and then led everyone in singing some favourite carols.

Addresses were given by Cllr Roger Pearce, Chairman of the Town Council, Reverend Alan Comfort, vicar of St Mary's



Church, and John Scott, a trustee of St Clare. Local police looked after our safety as we negotiated the roads.

Afterwards everyone was invited back to the Methodist Church for some welcome refreshments.

Once again the weather was kind to us – having rained heavily for most of the day, it stopped shortly before the ceremony and we were able to stand in the open air without the need for umbrellas.

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.

Loughton & District CAB

THE CAB OPERATES AT

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

■ Buckhurst Hill Information Centre: Tuesday mornings.

■ Chigwell Health Care Clinic, Limes Avenue: Monday and Friday mornings.

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

Viewpoint

New manager, same client commitment

A NEW Year for Loughton and District Citizens Advice Bureau brings with it the arrival of a new manger, Sue Britton.

This follows the departure of Alison McBrayne, to whom we would like to wish every success for the future.

We are sorry to bring you the news that Loughton CAB, along with our neighbouring Bureaux, Waltham Abbey and Epping, are faced with the prospect of maintaining our vital services to our communities with diminishing resources and cuts in funding from Epping Forest District Council.

As you are all well aware, for many years we have provided advice and information from our offices in St Mary's Parish Centre in the High Road.

CAB advice is free, impartial, confidential and independent, and survey results indicate high levels of client satisfaction.

Positive outcomes for individuals and families are frequently achieved through our intervention, especially in the areas of welfare benefits, debts, housing and employment.

With your help and support, we can continue to provide an invaluable and cost effective service – and if you would like to contribute to the work we do,

we will be pleased to hear from you.

There are many ways you can help. You may prefer to make a donation, or you could apply to join our happy band of volunteers, or become a Friend and support fundraising events, or simply write a letter of support to your councillor or local newspaper.

Despite this period of 'troubled waters' we are confident of a bright future and look forward to another successful year for Loughton & District CAB.

**Sue Britton, Manager
Loughton & District CAB**

THE Young at Heart club grew out of the Luncheon Clubs which were manned by the local WRVS before the swimming pool was closed for rebuilding.

As the district council did not provide any alternative venue at the time, the club was grateful to Father O'Shea, the then pastor of St Edmund's Church, for offering accommodation for an amalgamated afternoon meeting facility.

The club offers a mixture of

The club to help you stay young at heart

bingo, quizzes, dancing and speakers, something for all tastes.

In the summer, outings are organised and any excuse found for a party.

There is a warm friendly

atmosphere enhanced by the fact that the club is now back in its original quarters at the Loughton Leisure centre where the staff have made members very welcome.

There is a £10 fee to join and

tea and biscuits cost 50p. Equipment is sponsored by a grant from Epping Forest District Council and many charities, including St Clare Hospice, the Whitechapel Mission, Royal British Legion, Essex Air Ambulance, Cambodia Wells are supported.

Speakers are drawn from a wide circle and local individuals are encouraged to come along with their expertise to inform local residents.

As numbers have dwindled in the past months there are some vacancies and new members are always welcomed.

The Young at Heart Club meets at 1.15-3.45pm every Thursday at the Octagon, Loughton Leisure Centre, Traps Hill.

Members give stamp of approval

AT a special meeting, the members of Forest Philatelic Society recently voted to change the name of their club to Epping Forest & District Stamp Club.

The club, which is over 60 years old, meets on the second Tuesday in every month throughout the year at 7.45pm

in the Wesley Hall behind the Methodist Church in Loughton High Road.

The monthly programme includes displays from visiting clubs and collectors, auctions, competitions and courses.

Members of the club have the opportunity not only to increase their knowledge of stamps but also to acquire

material for their collections at very reasonable prices.

Visitors are always welcome at meetings.

Anyone interested in stamp collecting and who lives in the Epping Forest or surrounding districts, should contact the honorary secretary M Browning on 020 8508 1244 for further information.