



Action on louts cuts complaints

ESSEX Police has been running 'dispersal areas' at Buckhurst Hill and Loughton tube stations over the last six months to help cut the number of complaints about anti-social behaviour.

And the scheme has worked, cutting the number of calls on nuisance by over 40 per cent.

But this project has now ended and, to mark this, the force organised a joint operation with the British Transport Police over two weekends.

This involved having more than 60 officers at the two tube stations, Debden and Buckhurst Hill, to emphasise the message that although the orders have finished, anti-social behaviour on our streets or in our communities will not be tolerated.

Essex Police is also targeting specific areas with partner agencies in order to change the environment and stop the growing problem of anti-social behaviour.

The first area to be targeted will be the Oakwood Hill estate. In partnership with Epping Forest District Council's housing and environmental services, and local tenant groups, the police will be installing additional CCTV and better lighting on the estate, as well as clearing rubbish and abandoned vehicles.

The police also intend to target the small number of residents who create the majority of the problems on the estate and look to issue acceptable behaviour contracts, anti-social behaviour orders and evictions.

Said Loughton Community Team Inspector Piers Quinnell:

"We hope these measures will see a marked improvement in the local environment area and significantly reduce the number of anti-social behaviour reports.

"We will then look to move this problem-solving approach around the district, targeting other areas with similar problems."

Think of a letter



Former Chairman Cllr Roger Pearce takes a peep at the new Royal Mail museum. See page 6

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 564297 |
| 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 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|

HEALTH & HOSPITALS

| | |
|---|---------------|
| British Red Cross | 020 8508 2162 |
| Forest Medical Centre | 020 8508 4580 |
| Holly House (Private) | 020 8505 3311 |
| King George | 020 8983 8000 |
| NHS Direct | 0845 4647 |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| Loughton Athletic Club | 020 8508 9843 |

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 | 0845 7484950 |
| Stansted Airport | 01279 680500 |
| Thamesway | 01245 353104 |
| Tourist Information Centre | 01992 652295 |
| Public Transport Information – Traveline | 0870 608 2 608 |

Bus timetables are available from Loughton Information Centre, Traps Hill

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 |
| Voluntary Action Epping Forest | 01992 564178 |
| Epping Forest Volunteer Bureau | 01992 564256 |
| Royal British Legion | 020 8508 5044 |
| Women's Royal Voluntary Society | 020 8508 9276 |

CINEMAS

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Odeon (South Woodford) | 0870 505 0007 |
| UCI (Lee Valley) | 0870 603 4567 |
| Virgin (Harlow) | 0870 505 0007 |

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

IN THIS issue of *Think Loughton*, we have endeavoured to include information about local facilities especially with young people in mind.

There are a number of clubs and societies which offer activities for young people, although of course not everyone wants to join in organised activities, and we have included many of their details in this edition.

Work on the design of the new Community & Youth Centre in Borders Lane is still going well. Following a tendering process, we are working with a 'preferred contractor'.

They are looking with our architects at the details of the

building, how it will work, and the costs of different options.

We hope that the building contract will be awarded in early spring. Because of the preparatory work which will already have taken place, the price for the contract should be within the budget available and so should not include any unpleasant surprises.

At the time of writing, planning permission for the project has been applied for but not yet received, so we hope to hear good news about that before long.

Those of you who are interested in the Town Council's finances will be pleased to know that we have finally had our visit from the auditors to look at the accounts for 2002/03 and 2003/04. The auditors still

have to complete their work back at their office, so the final report has not yet arrived. It will be advertised when it is available.

You may recall we have experienced problems in the past with motorcycles using the Roding Valley Recreation Ground. This is a very anti-social practice but not easy to combat.

We have been working with various other bodies to see how we can tackle the issue, and we will be holding a public meeting during the spring to outline some of the ideas which have been proposed and to seek the support of local people.

There is no date set for the meeting at present, but it will be advertised so keep your eyes open and make sure you come along if you have concerns about motorbikes

on open spaces.

As a Quality Council, we were eligible to apply for some special funding made available by the Countryside Agency.

We were very pleased to be awarded £5,000. Competition was very strong, with 109 applications made to the fund and only limited money available.

The money awarded was to update the council's IT and communication equipment. It will be added to council funds already budgeted for these purposes.

One of the purchases is a laptop computer and projector which we hope to be able to use on occasions such as the Annual Town Meeting to make presentations of information etc.

Louise Fuller
Town Clerk

'Sid' monitors speeding cars

FOLLOWING concerns about speeding traffic around Loughton, the Town Council invited Essex Police to send in its traffic management team to check on three locations.

The speed indicator device, known as 'Sid' for short, with its smiley face, were set up in Valley Road, Goldings Hill and

Church Hill during 20 January. Councillors and council staff monitored the exercise during the day.

Motorists appeared to heed the advance warning signs so that the recorded vehicle speeds were not as high as had been predicted – speeds were mainly below or close to the 30mph limit.

However, it was worrying that

such a large number of passing motorists were spotted not wearing seat belts and talking into hand-held mobile phones.

The police will contact these motorists, including one who was driving a school bus.

The Essex Police officers on duty that day are keen to warn drivers that not using a seat belt is likely to have fatal results in the event of a serious accident.

Town meeting

THE Annual Town Meeting takes place at 8pm on Tuesday 26 April in the Wesley Hall, Methodist Church, High Road, Loughton.

The meeting is open to all local residents and you are invited to join the discussions, ask questions and give the council your views on local matters.

There will be reports on the council's activities from all the chairmen. Guest speaker is Town Centre Manager Shona Pollock and, with all the developments going on in our town centres, she will have lots to tell us about, including the latest position on the enhancement schemes, crime reduction, cleanliness, traffic, improvements in the retail mix and community involvement.

Ladies Choir

PLEASE note that the contact phone number for the Loughton Ladies Choir listed in the winter *Think Loughton* was incorrect. Anyone wishing to contact the choir should call 020 8504 9984. We apologise for the error.

Loughton Town Council meetings

| | | | | |
|-----|----|---------------------------------|-----|----------------------|
| Mar | 9 | Community | 11 | Planning |
| | 14 | Planning | 20 | Council |
| | 23 | Environment, Heritage & Leisure | 25 | Planning |
| | 29 | Planning | 26 | Annual Town Meeting* |
| Apr | 6 | Finance & General Policy | May | 9 |
| | | | 11 | Annual Council |

*Annual Town Meeting will be held at Wesley Hall, Loughton Methodist Church, at 8pm.

All other meetings are held at 1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, Loughton, at 7.45pm.

Deadline dates

| EDITION | COPY DEADLINE |
|-------------|---------------|
| Summer 2005 | 25 April |
| Autumn 2005 | 25 July |

The next issue covers June to early September.

Call 020 8508 4200 to add diary entries. Further copies of *Think Loughton* may be obtained from the 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

Town Clerk: Louise R Fuller

Web: <http://www.loughton-tc.gov.uk> Email: loughton_tc@compuserve.com

ALDERTON WARD

Cllr Matt L Daniel 07986 079 498
(EH&L and Planning Committees)
21 Amesbury Road, Epping, Essex CM16 4HZ

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

Cllr Peter S Sheen 020 8502 2149
(Chairman, Planning; Community Committee)
4 Cherston Gardens, Loughton, Essex IG10 3PN

BROADWAY WARD

Cllr Lorne Daniel 07736 452944
(Vice-Chairman, F&GP Committee)
19 Broadstrood, Loughton, Essex IG10 2SB

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

Cllr Rob W Sheen 020 8925 4838
(Community Committee)
216 Willingale Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 2BX

FAIRMEAD WARD

Cllr Christine E Baggarley 020 8508 8231
(F&GP Committee)
21 Hillyfields, Loughton, Essex IG10 2JT

Cllr William T Lattimore 020 8502 1901
(Community Committee)
29 Harvey Gardens, Loughton, Essex IG10 2AD

Cllr Eileen C Murphy 020 8502 5664
(Vice-Chairman, Community; Planning Committee)
44 Deepdene Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 3PP

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

BUCKHURST HILL DIVISION

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

PARLIAMENTARY & EUROPEAN

MP FOR EPPING FOREST

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

MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Christopher Beazley | Andrew Duff |
| Richard Howitt | Robert Sturdy |
| Jeffrey Titford | Geoffrey Van Orden |
| Tom Wise | |

FOREST WARD

Cllr Jack Benjamin 020 8508 4765
(F&GP Committee)
23 Newnham Close, Loughton, Essex IG10 4JG

Cllr Rose E Brookes 020 8502 5981
(Community Committee)
3 Lower Park Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4NB

Cllr Suzanne M Harper 020 8508 4770
(Chairman, Community Committee)
Sydney House, 23 Algiers Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4NG

RODING WARD

Cllr Ken E Angold-Stephens 020 8281 0674
(F&GP Committee)
89 Lower Park Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4NE

Cllr Margaret R M A Chalk 020 8508 2226
(EH&L Committee)
49 Southview Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 3LQ

Cllr Richard J Pennington 020 8508 0807
(EH&L Committee)
51 Stonards Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 3EH

Cllr David J Wixley 020 8418 9284
(Community Committee)
2 Copper Beech Court, Goldings Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 2QH

ST JOHN'S WARD

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

Cllr Stephen Pewsey 020 8508 5582
(EH&L Committee)
59 Wroths Path, Loughton, Essex IG10 1SH

Cllr Dr Chris C Pond 020 8508 2361
(Town Mayor; Vice-Chairman, EH&L; F&GP Committee)
Forest Villa, 7 Staples Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1HP

ST MARY'S WARD

Cllr Brian W Moore 020 8508 7112
(Vice-Chairman, Planning Committee)
6 Forest View Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4DX

Cllr Michael W Wardle 020 8508 2771
(Deputy Town Mayor; F&GP and Planning Committees)
61 The Drive, Loughton, Essex IG10 1HG

Cllr Janet L Woods 020 8508 1764
(Chairman, EH&L; Planning Committee)
1a Woodland Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1HQ

EH&L= Environment, Heritage & Leisure
F&GP= Finance & General Policy

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ALDERTON WARD

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

Cllr Terence C Farr 020 8502 5652
13b The Elms, Lippitts Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 4AW

BROADWAY WARD

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

Cllr Thomas L Richardson 020 8281 0806
111 Forest Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1EF

FAIRMEAD WARD

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

Cllr Patricia H Richardson 020 8281 0806
111 Forest Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1EF

FOREST WARD

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

Cllr James M Hart 020 8502 5430
4 Connaught Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 4DU

RODING WARD

Cllr Kenneth E Angold-Stephens 020 8281 0674
89 Lower Park Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4NE

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

ST JOHN'S WARD

Cllr John A Markham 020 8508 1945
77 Queen's Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1RR

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

ST MARY'S WARD

Cllr Mitchell M Cohen 020 8502 1533
16 Ollards Grove, Loughton, Essex IG10 4DW

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

Forest's 'saviour' is honoured

THE Town Council has erected a blue heritage plaque at St John's churchyard in Church Lane to commemorate Thomas Willingale (1799-1870).

Thomas Willingale was one of the prime movers in the fight to save Epping Forest. Stanford Rivers-born, he moved to Loughton when a child and was an illiterate labourer who made a living by cutting wood (lopping) in the forest and selling it for fuel.

In 1864, the Lord of the Manor, Maitland, enclosed all

1,300 acres of forest in Loughton and set about parceling it out as building land.

Willingale and his sons broke down the fences and lopped as usual, for which they were prosecuted and the sons imprisoned.

The Commons Society backed Willingale and started a legal action against Maitland, which was never concluded as Thomas died before it was complete. This led to a stay of execution for the open forest, which was eventually saved by the Corporation of London.

Willingale is buried in St John's churchyard. The council and Willingale Family Society agreed on the commemoration 134 years after his death.

■ Environment, Heritage & Leisure Committee chairman Cllr Janet Woods is pictured showing off the plaque.



Acorns juniors

THE Acorns Junior Branch of the Essex Handicraft Association meets on the second Saturday of each month (except August) at Trinity Church, Mannock Drive, Loughton, from 10am to 12 noon.

Their aim is to promote interest in arts and crafts for the seven to 15-year-old age group. Crafts range from embroidery, glass painting, paper mache, quilling, collage and macramé, and many new skills are being introduced every month.

On 9 April, the group is holding an open day from 10am to 3pm, cost £7, when there will be an opportunity to try several different crafts.

There are limited places available so if you are interested, please call 020 8508 7657 or 020 8508 7486 for more information, or join them on one Saturday morning when you will be very welcome.



Royal Mail opens archive to the public

THERE is a hidden gem in Loughton which is about to be revealed to the public from 7 May.

The British Postal Museum & Archive keeps its enormous store of historic objects just a short walk away from Debden tube station.

This is a museum collection of national – and international – importance, and this summer it is being opened up for Loughton residents to explore.

Free open days are taking place on Saturdays 7 May, 11 June, 16 July and 17 September.

The museum store houses objects ranging from the desk of Rowland Hill (founder of the Penny Post), to mobile post office vehicles and an astounding assortment of letter boxes.

Loughton residents are welcome to come on any of the

dates, as the store will be open between 10.30am and 4pm with guided tours, talks and videos of old post office films.

If you are curious or nostalgic about the Royal Mail service, or you would like a peek at how museums manage their collections, call and reserve a free place on 020 7239 2570. (Please book because the store environment requires that we manage numbers).

Group bookings are available – call or email

info@postalheritage.org.uk.

The museum archive is working with special interest groups to highlight different aspects of the collections.

The dates are:

■ **7 May:** there will be a closer look at the complex mechanics of mail sorting.

■ **11 June** will focus on the letter box collection

■ **16 July** will be a more general interest day.

■ **17 September** will make a big splash about the historic post office vehicles.

However, people can enjoy all parts of the store on any of the open days.

The archive was established as an independent organisation to care for the museum and archive collections of Royal Mail.

While the museum is looking for a new permanent home, it is working to allow more people to enjoy this important part of our national heritage by opening up the store.

The British Postal Museum Store, Unit 7, Imprimo Park, Debden Industrial Estate, Lenthall Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 3UD (close to Debden tube station)

For further details, visit www.postalheritage.org.uk

Church services for toddlers

‘TODDLER Church’ is a new 20-minute service for pre-school children, with singing, story and prayers, to be held at 10am every Tuesday during school term-time. Starting on

1 March at Loughton Methodist Church, High Road, the service will be followed by playtime and refreshments.

Contact Cathy Morling on 020 8508 1834.

Card competition captures imagination



THE Town Council's 2004 Christmas Card competition saw the largest number of entries ever - 281 in all.

Judging were Cllrs Chris Pond and Community Committee Chairman Suzanne Harper. The overall winner, whose entry was made into the Town Council's official Christmas card, was adult entrant Nathaniel Greenleaf.

The card depicted four scenes in Loughton, including Kings Green, Lopping Hall and St John's Church.

Other winners in each category were: Albie Cornwall (key stage 1), Lillie Hammond (key stage 2), Ashleigh Watson (key stage 3) and Emma

O'Keefe (key stage 4). The runners-up in key stages 1, 2, 3, 4 and for the adult category were: Molly Emmerson, Amy Barritt, Annette Benbow, Sammi McGurk and Brenda Harris respectively.

All the winners received a £20 gift token and a certificate at the Town Council meeting on 8 December. All runner-ups were awarded certificates.

The Town Mayor and Cllrs Harper and Murphy had a difficult time choosing winners from among the impressive array of entries for the Best Dressed Window competition.

Points were awarded on a range of criteria including artistic merit, effort and inventive use of materials.

Flower Elegance, at 51 The Broadway, won the local/independent category. Past Times, at 235 High Road, won the multiple/chain category and Oxfam, 206 High Road, won the charity category.

The highly commended and runners-up were:

- Local/independent Runner-up: Loughton Nursery, 193 High Road. Highly commended: Geraldine's Hair Fashions, 76 The Broadway.
- Multiple/Chain Runner-up: Debden Library, Rectory Lane.

PICTURES: GUARDIAN GAZETTE NEWSPAPERS



The three 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 charities, which were

Help the Aged, Cancer Research UK and Oxfam.

All others received framed certificates. All prizes were presented by Town Mayor, Cllr Pond.

Come bowling

LOUGHTON Bowls Club is on the look-out for new members, with the new playing season soon to begin.

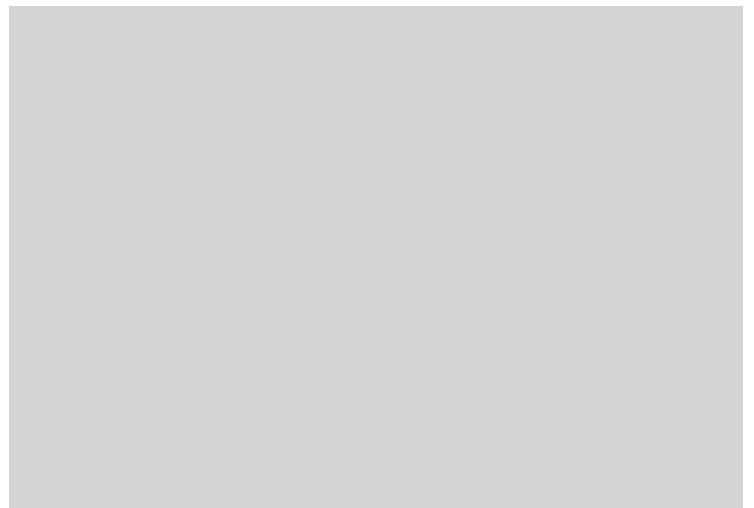
The season for bowls extends from late April to the end of September and, apart from the matches themselves, members can enjoy various social events held throughout the year.

Applications for membership from beginners and experienced players are welcome.

Bridge: Vacancies also exist for membership of the Club Bridge Section, which meets in the Clubhouse on Monday and Thursday afternoons.

Chess: Roding & Loughton Chess Club meets in the Clubhouse on Tuesday evenings. It also runs a junior section (Epping Forest Junior Chessmates).

For details of all the activities, please call 020 8502 0237.



Dates for the diary

■ **7 Mar, 8.15pm:** St John's Wives Group, St John's Parish Hall. theatre trip.

■ **17 Mar, 8pm:** The National Trust, Sir James Hawkey Hall: 'The River Stort,' an illustrated talk by Richard Thomas. Call: 020 8505 3501.

■ **19 Mar, 8.15pm:** St John's Wives Group, St John's Parish Hall. Polish up your brain cells (Quiz Night).

■ **21 Mar, 8.15pm:** St John's Wives Group, St John's Parish Hall. A Child's War (Mike Brown)

■ **4 Apr, 8.15pm:** St John's Wives Group, St John's Parish Hall. Annual General Meeting.

■ **18 Apr, 8.15pm:** St John's Wives Group, St John's Parish Hall. Cocktails and canapés – book and plant stall.

■ **20 Apr, 8pm:** The National Trust, Sir James Hawkey Hall, Broomhill Road, Woodford Green: AGM & 'Essex at Sea – People and Places in Maritime History' an illustrated talk by Peter Lawrence. Call: 020 8505 3501.

■ **10 May, 5-9pm & 11 May, 9.30am to 4pm:** The National Trust Woodford Green Centre May Fair, Sir James Hawkey Hall. Books, Bric-a-Brac, competitions, garden plants, gifts, home bake, National Trust Shop, raffle, tombola, toys, videos/CDs/tapes, catering. Raising funds for the enhancement of Dunwich Heath Coastal Centre & Beach.

■ **16 May, 8.15pm:** St John's Wives Group, St John's Parish Hall. Copped Hall Revisited – outing.

■ **6 Jun, 8.15pm:** St John's Wives Group, St John's Parish Hall. The Chocolate Lady – outing (Julie Sherry).

■ **Every Sat, Sun, Wed and Thurs:** Walk with the West Essex Ramblers. New walkers always welcome (sorry no dogs). Call 020 8502 1628.

■ **Every Mon, 8-9pm:** Keep Fit/Aerobics –

Charis Centre, Buckhurst Hill Baptist Church, Palmerston Road. £3.50. Tel: 020 8508 3346.

■ **Every Mon, 7.45pm:** Cardio Pump – fun fitness classes, fat burning and toning. Roding Valley High School, Alderton Hill, Loughton. All abilities welcome. Cost £4. Just turn up. Enquiries: Trish, Tel: 07990 924219.

■ **Every Tues, 8-9pm:** Jumping Jens. St Michael's Church, Roding Road, Loughton. "Sit up" and take notice, an aerobics class for all levels, get fit and toned! £3. Contact: Jennifer Humm, 07866 127522.

■ **Every Tues, Thurs + Fri at 10am-11.45am and every Tues at 12.45-2.30pm:** Messy Play Parent & Toddler Group, Debden Park Arts & Community Centre, Willingale Road. £3 per session. Tel: 07931 500802.

■ **Every Wed, 8-9pm:** Jumping Jen's "Sit up" and take notice, a new aerobics class for all levels, get fit and toned! Debden Park Community Hall, Willingale Road, £3. Details: 07866 127522.

■ **Every Wed, 10.30-11.30am:** Over 50s Keep Fit. Gentle exercise to music. Have fun, stay young. Debden Park Community Hall, Willingale Road. £3. Tel: 020 8508 3346.

■ **First Wed of month, 8pm:** The Royal Naval Association, Branch Business Meeting followed by open evening, Royal British Legion Club, 118 Church Hill, Loughton.

■ **First Wed of month, 2.15pm:** Loughton Women's Institute meets at Lincoln Hall (Red Cross Hall), High Road, Loughton. Call 020 8508 4514 or 020 8508 1400.

■ **Third Wed of month, 8pm:** The Royal Naval Association social Evening, music, dancing, raffle, buffet, Royal British Legion Club.

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

■ **Alternate Thurs, 7.15-10.15pm:** Friends of Light & Healing meetings, Kingsley Hall, Austen Close. Everybody welcome. Tel: 020 8508 3266.

■ **Every Fri 4.30-6pm (term time):** Kidz Club, Epping Forest Community Church. Contact: Phil Joiner, 020 8502 0695.

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

■ **Second Sun of month, 3pm:** Loughton Bereavement Service group meeting with refreshments, Methodist Church, High Road. Contact Kathleen: 020 8508 9408.

■ **Every Sun, 7.30-10.30pm:** Dance – ballroom, Latin and popular sequence, Victory Hall, Hainault Road, Chigwell. Admission: £3.50. Details: 020 8508 0313.

■ **Every Sun, 10.30am:** Sunday school & family church service, Epping Forest Community Church, Contact: Phil Joiner, Church Leader, on 020 8502 0695.

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

■ **Every Mon, 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 Mon, 8.15pm:** St John's Wives Group, St John's Parish Hall, Church Lane.

■ **Every Mon, 8-10pm:** Epping Phoenix Choir meets at Epping Methodist Church Hall. New members welcome. Details: 020 8508 3539.

■ **Every Mon, 9.30pm:** Loughton Mountaineering Club, Victoria Tavern, Smarts Lane, Loughton. Call Jeff Harris, 020 8508 2888.

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

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

■ **Every Wed (term time), 9.30am-11.15am:** Trinity Toddlers, Mannock Drive. Contact: Isobel Jackson on 020 8508 3317.

■ **Every Wed, 10.30-11.30am:** Over 50s Keep Fit. Gentle exercise to music. Have fun, stay young. Debden Park Community Hall, Willingale Road. £2.50. Tel: 020 8508 3346.

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

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

■ **Second Thurs of month, 8pm:** Loughton Historical Society, Methodist Church, High Road. Guest visitors welcome (£1.50 entry).

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

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

MONTHLY COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES:

First Saturday (Labour):

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

First Sunday (Loughton Residents' Assoc):

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

By appointment (Conservative):

If you have any concerns, call Matt or Lorne Daniel to schedule an appointment.

Historical fact and fiction

ORAL history is a useful supplement to more formal historical studies because it tackles subjects which are otherwise neglected, and originates from the voices and memories of ordinary people.

There is no general history of our neighbouring town of Buckhurst Hill, which anciently was in Chigwell parish, but which developed rapidly – much more rapidly than Loughton after the coming of the railway in 1856.

So this 190-page volume of memories is a most useful addition to local literature and contains lots of amusing anecdotes and interesting colour.

The problem with *Voices* is its editing. Oral history is very valuable, but people's memories are unfortunately rather fallible, particularly in relation to exactly when a certain event occurred.

This can be countered by editing. *Voices* cannot be thought accurate – for instance, the Methodist church is said to

Loughton Town Mayor Cllr Chris Pond reviews two new local history records

have closed in the 1960s, when it actually lasted until 1980. And nobody seems to have realised the church and the Wesleyan chapel were one and the same.

The account of the formation of the Chigwell Urban District Council is wrong and Winston Churchill is said to have retired as the Buckhurst Hill MP in 1946 when, in fact, he continued to 1955.

The genesis of Epping Forest District Council is mixed up with Chigwell UDC's successful efforts to keep out of the Greater London Council a decade before.

And whereas it might technically be possible to take a paddle steamer up the Lea to Clapton, I suspect this is simply

a mis-transcription of 'Clacton'.

All this the editor should have picked up and footnoted, while keeping the integrity of the story as told by the teller.

Nevertheless, it was a valuable exercise by Buckhurst Hill Parish Council to get this little volume together, because it documents quite a bit which would otherwise remain unrecorded. So go out and read a copy of *Voices*, but don't rely on it as absolutely accurate history!

In similar vein is another valuable oral history, *Echoes of Epping Forest*. In this, the editor has corrected more factual errors (though a few remain: the worthy citizens of Chingford would be surprised that the Doric cinema was on the corner of Beresford Road!) and the book is generally more reliable.

However, it is rather episodic, and one curious factor is that it has relatively little of Loughton interest, apart from two rather low key accounts of visits to the Shaftesbury Retreat.

There are, however, some interesting things in it, such as

John Besent's account of how the motorway routes came to be negotiated.

Mr Besent, who should know, having been Superintendent for many years, is also absolutely right when he says: "Other places pale into insignificance besides Loughton Camp".

Echoes of Epping Forest is another title that will find a worthy place on a shelf of local books. It can be bought from local book shops or the Epping Forest Information Centre.

Cllr Chris Pond

Voices – an oral history of Buckhurst Hill in the 20th Century.

Editor: R Worthington
Available from Buckhurst Hill Information Centre, George Court, Queens Road. Tel: 020 8498 9933. Price: £12.50 (£14.50 if posted). Cheques only, payable to R Worthington. (ISBN 0 906454 09 3).

***Echoes of Epping Forest*, (ISBN 085 203 084 3, priced at £3.95) published by the Corporation of London as conservators of the Forest.**

Fence like the Musketeers

FOR over 30 years, fencing evening classes have been held at Loughton Sports Centre.

With the passing away of coach John Wood and the departure of some members to university, the club fell into a decline and, for the past four years, the number of participants has only been four or five.

However, with the release of the Bond film, *Live Another Day*, and the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, interest in fencing has revived. The membership has grown to nearly 30 and ranges in age from eight to 70-plus.

A search for a qualified

coach took nearly a year, but we now consider ourselves lucky to have obtained the services of county coach Laurent Harper.

Laurent has coached the British junior team and is currently coaching the British under-12s champion. He has twice been the British men's foil champion, a silver medallist at the Commonwealth Games, and is the fencing professional at Harrow School.

Last June, we formally inaugurated Loughton Fencing Club, and are



affiliated to the British Fencing Association. We welcome all to come and learn the various types of sword.

Fencing provides a good social atmosphere, exercise, improves reaction times, and can be practised in

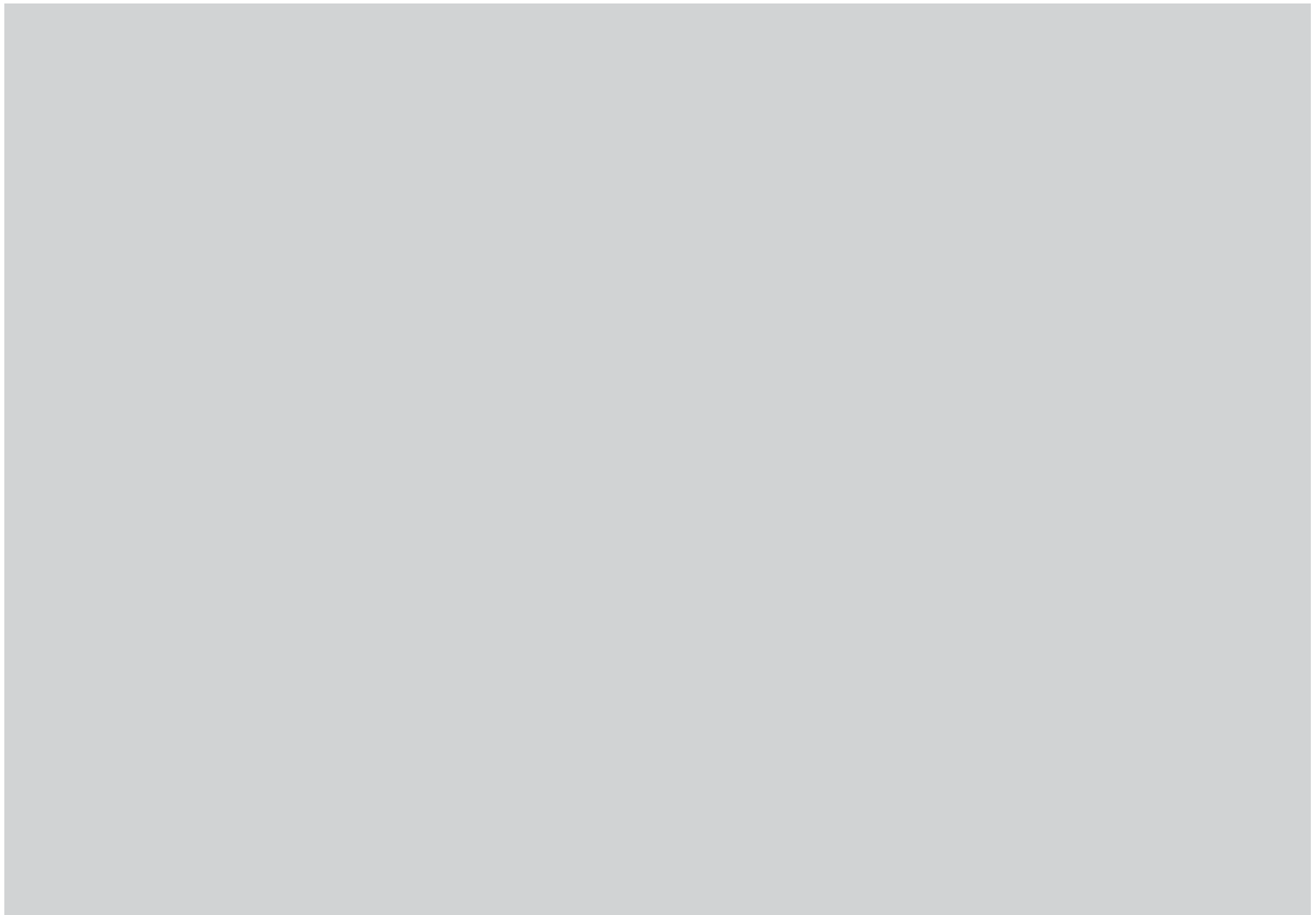
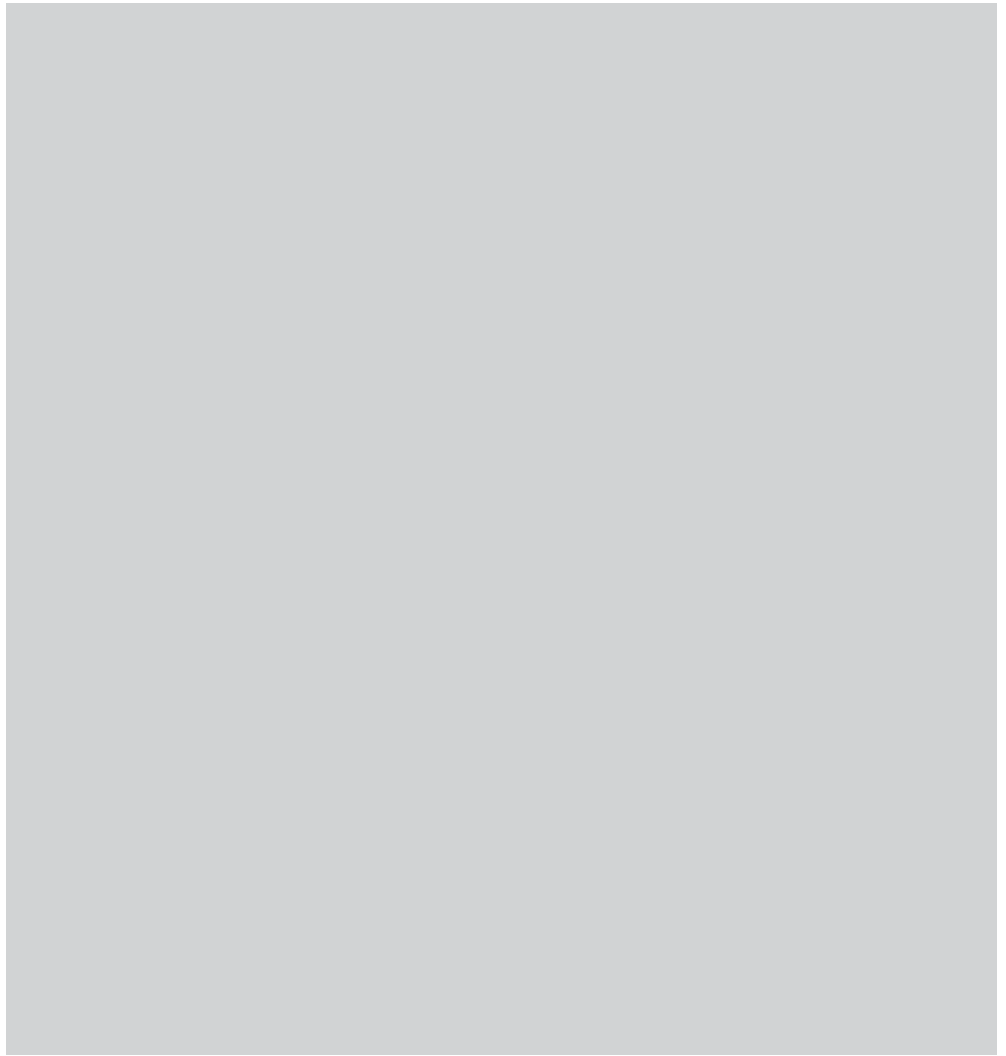
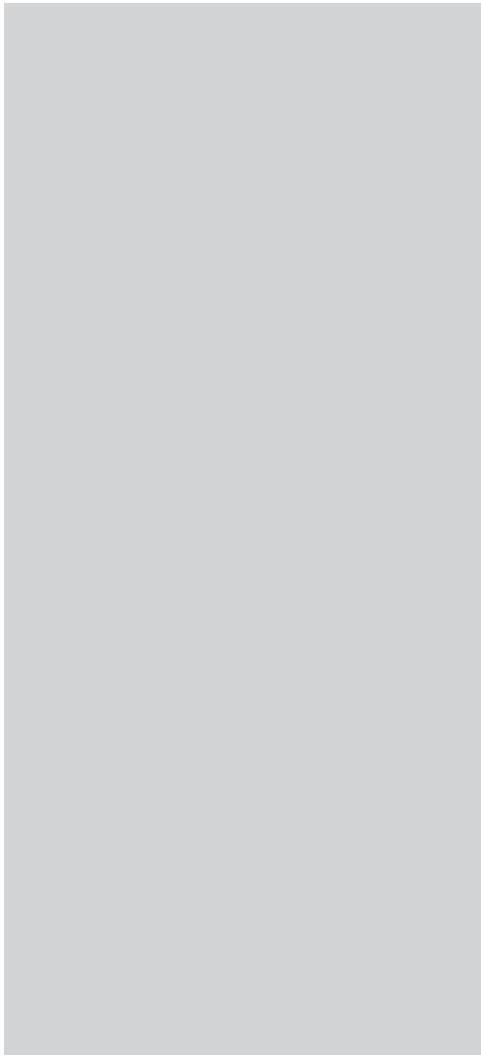
either a friendly or competitive manner. There are many competitions for any age or skill stage.

The club's starting age depends upon the child's physical development but, generally, eight is suitable.

At the other end of the scale, fencing can be enjoyed to a later age than other active sports. Because the movements are in a straight line, with an upright posture and no twisting, backs and damaged knees are not badly affected. And with a little skill, widely different ages can compete equally.

Anyone interested in trying this sport should meet us in the Loughton Sports Centre, Loughton Hall, Rectory Lane (the entrance is then by the side of Loughton Health Centre), between 7.30 and 9.30pm on Wednesdays, where you will be made welcome. All you will need at first is a pair of sports shoes or plimsolls. The first two evenings are free.

For details, call Aubrey Crick on 01992 522462.



Book your place...

LOUGHTON Library offers a wide range of services to children, young people and families.

Joining is free and easy. There are no forms to fill in – just turn up. Once a member, you have access to all the 70+ libraries in Essex.

As well as a wide range of books, libraries also offer videos, DVDs, audio books, CD-ROMs and computers.

There are tickets for children (ages 0-11) and young adults (ages 12-15) which allow the ordering of books for free.

The library delivers a wide range of other services:

■ **Baby and Toddler Times:** Informal sessions for babies and toddlers, parents and carers every Tuesday 2.20-2.50pm (except school holidays).

■ **Big summer read:** Look out for more details nearer summer.

■ **Bookstart:** A pack is delivered via health visitors at the 7-9 month development check.

■ **Bookcrawl:** Starting in the spring, this aims to encourage library use by the under fives.

■ **Parents collection:** All the books on any subject to do with parenting gathered in one place.

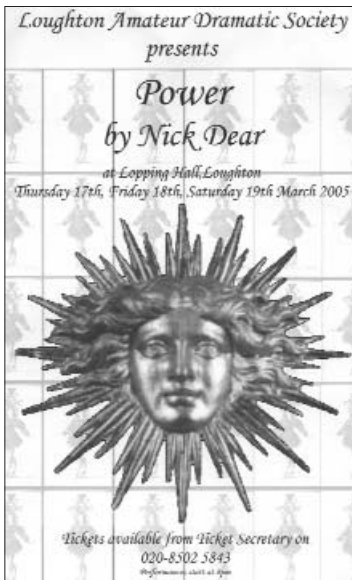
■ **Homework support:** All libraries help with finding resources (either in books or online). We also have quiet private rooms for study.

■ **Young adults area:** Young Adults have access to all library stock with parents' consent. At Loughton we have a dedicated area with computer, study table and relaxed seating.

■ **Ask Chris:** A website of book reviews, details about reading groups and events in Essex.

www.essexcc.gov.uk/askchris.

For details, call Loughton Library on 020 8502 0181 or visit www.essexcc.gov.uk/libraries.



Feel the Power

LOUGHTON Amateur Dramatic Society is proud to have the opportunity to be one of the first amateur dramatic societies to stage *Power*, by Nick Dear.

The Royal National Theatre first presented *Power* at the Cottesloe Theatre in July 2003 to great acclaim.

The play takes the audience into the glittering intrigues of the court of Louis XIV in 1661.

Louis is aged 22 and the play begins with the death of

Cardinal Mazarin when Louis takes over the reins of power.

It charts the growing domination of the young king and the waning career of Nicolas Fouquet, the amusing and generous Superintendent of Finance.

Set at a time and in a kingdom where virtue is unfashionable, and excess has become an elaborate art form, this adult play is written with sharply pointed wit and will be thrilling to watch.

There is also a richly comic vein in the play. This mostly comes from Louis' passion for his brother's wife, Henriette (daughter of the Charles I of England and sister of Charles II).

In an attempt to cover up the affair, Louis' mother, Queen Anne, insists that a young serving maid is introduced to Louis to act as decoy ... naturally, the King finds it impossible to resist her charms.

Power is being staged at Lopping Hall, Loughton, on Thursday 17, Friday 18 and Saturday 19 March at 8pm.

Tickets are available to book from LADS' ticket secretary on 020 8502 5843.

LADS is always ready to welcome new members, so if you are interested in theatre and would like to become involved in a society that produces four plays a year and has 80 years worth of experience, please either phone Jean Cooper on 020-8505 6988 or email LADS at info@lads.org.uk.

Visit LADS website for up-to-date information: www.lads.org.uk.

Kingsley Hall and pitches for hire

THE Town Council has a hall for hire in Austen Close.

The hall – Kingsley Hall in Austen Close – is quite small but can accommodate 36 people seated or up to 60 standing.

It is not available for parties (other than those for small children) but is ideal

for small group meetings.

The Town Council also has football pitches for hire on the Roding Valley Recreation Ground and the Willingale Road Playing Field.

For details of how to book either Kingsley Hall or the football pitches, please call Joan Innis on 020 8508 4200.

Appeal for a treasurer

AIM is a mental health charity providing drop in and support services in the Epping Forest district.

It is in need of a treasurer to help it with future development and expansion. If you have a strong financial background or past experience and have a few

hours to spare for a good cause, Aim would love to hear from you!

Aim is also planning a celebrity auction gala event with 'Delboy' and 'Trestacy' on 8 October featuring some fantastic celebrity memorabilia for auction!

For details, call the charity on 01992 576307.

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.

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

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

Viewpoint

Come and join us

LOUGHTON CAB Manager Sue Britton is inviting local residents with time on their hands to become a volunteer adviser with the bureau.

You don't need any experience or qualifications, just a positive commitment to volunteering.

We offer high quality, comprehensive training which is essential to prepare new advisers for their role and enables you to provide our clients with an excellent service, which is confidential and free, so that both volunteers and clients benefit.

As an adviser, you can also help to bring about real change for people through our social policy work – we campaign

locally and nationally for improvements in services and in the law.

As a result of a successful joint campaign with Shelter to get measures to protect private tenants' deposits included in the new Housing Bill, thousands of private tenants will no longer risk losing hundreds of pounds of their deposit money because rogue landlords keep it!

You can develop new skills, gain experience, build up confidence in your abilities, and work as part of a team.

It can fit round other responsibilities, become a springboard for your future, and you'll get 100 per cent support, as well as expenses paid.

You might have taken early retirement, found that the

children have 'flown the nest', been made redundant, thinking about rediscovering workplace skills after having children, unemployed and claiming benefits, or just need the motivation to get out of the house and be with other people!

There are many diverse reasons for wanting to become a volunteer, and every one of them is valid. Your first step is to contact us at the bureau – you can either call in, write to Sue, or phone on 020 8502 0031. We will then arrange to see you for an informal chat about what's involved and to answer any questions. You can even apply online at www.adviceguide.org.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you.