



Think Loughton

N° 31

News from Loughton Town Council

Winter 2005/06

Debate on teen shelters plan

PLANS TO install teen shelters on recreation areas in Loughton have raised great interest among local residents. We hope to address some of those issues in this article.

The project is to be funded by a £13,500 grant from Epping Forest District Council to enhance youth outdoor facilities in partnership with local councils.

The installation of teen shelters is seen nationally as an effective way of combating anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood nuisance. They give young people a special place of their own to go, rather than hanging out in public places, such as a local bus stop, car park, station or shop doorway.

Young people attracted to the shelters often come from the 'hard to reach' groups uninterested in more formal

activities, such as organised clubs and sports. The shelters are designed to withstand the rigours of teenage users.

Of course, the shelters are not restricted to young people. They are available to everyone and offer a pleasant place to sit and rest or shelter from a sudden shower.

The Town Council is now consulting on a choice of locations that will both avoid direct nuisance to local residents and allow safe observation from a distance.

A shelter is planned for the Roding Valley Recreation Ground, either between the tennis courts and the children's play area or at the Highwood Lane end away from the estate. Another is planned next to farming land on the Willingale Road playing field, away from the

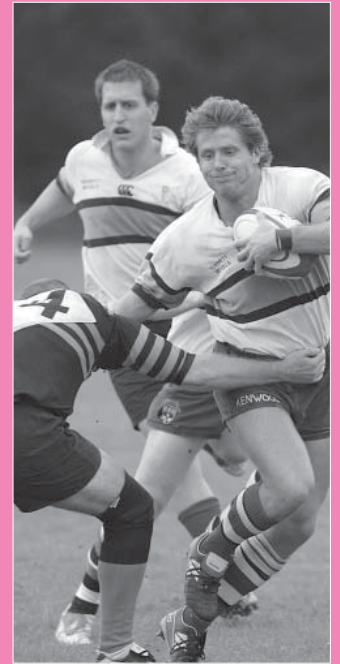
school grounds and houses.

Residents living near the proposed teen shelters are understandably likely to be sceptical about the potential benefits. However, in similar projects across the country, shelters have successfully cut nuisance and improved investment in the local area, with regular litter picking, increased police presence and the involvement of agencies such as youth services.

The Town Council will be liaising with relevant local groups, including Essex Police, the Crime & Disorder Partnership and Essex Youth Services to ensure the project's success.

If you would like to comment, please put your thoughts in writing or email us – see our address on page 4

From strength to strength...



LOUGHTON RUGBY Club has suffered a poor period over the last few years, but now with renewed enthusiasm from a fresh intake of players, things are beginning to look up again. For full story, see page 7

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Epping Sports Centre	01992 564564
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
Loughton Health Centre	020 8508 8117
NHS Direct	0845 4647
Princess Alexandra	01279 444455
Rectory Lane Health Centre	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

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Loughton Rugby Football Club	020 8498 9300
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Roding Valley Tennis Centre	020 8505 4008
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Churches Together in Loughton	020 8508 7892
Royal British Legion	020 8508 5044
Voluntary Action Epping Forest	01992 564178
Women's Royal Voluntary Society	020 8508 9276
Loughton Voluntary Care Assoc.	0208 508 6114

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UCI (Lee Valley)	0871 22 44 007
Virgin (Harlow)	0871 200 2000

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but still robust enough to withstand heavy use. We intend to license the hall for weddings, so it can host both ceremonies and receptions.

Fees and booking conditions are yet to be finalised, but if you are interested in hiring the hall, please drop us a line. We will keep your details and contact you when ready to take bookings.

The freehold transfer of the Willingale Road allotment site has finally been completed. We nearly broke out the champagne to celebrate but stuck to sparkling water instead. We hope the security afforded by the Town Council's ownership of the site reassures plot holders, and encourages new gardeners to join them.

Those interested in the Town Council's finances may know about the ongoing

saga of delays in getting the accounts audited. The auditors are appointed by the Audit Commission, so the council has no say in the matter. It seems unlikely the 2004/05 accounts will be audited in the near future, so they will be published in accordance with the deadline set by statute, but without an audit opinion.

As Christmas nears, don't forget to visit our local shops. The town offers a range of shops and products, from big chain stores to small independent retailers. See if you can find which stores will win our Best Dressed Window Competition.

Likewise, if you are planning a celebratory meal or drink over the festive season, there is a great variety of places to choose from in Loughton. You are sure to find something to

suit your taste and pocket. Shops and restaurants make a huge contribution to the town's vibrancy and economy. These businesses deserve our support.

Some of you will receive this magazine from 21 November, so here's a reminder that the Light Up a Life ceremony, held in conjunction with St Clare Hospice, is on 26 November, meeting at 4.30pm at the Methodist Church in the High Road for a torchlight procession to the tree on Kings Green. Lights on the tree can be sponsored in memory of a loved one – contact the Town Council or the hospice.

We wish you all a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Louise Fuller
Town Clerk

WORK ON our new Community & Youth Centre in Borders Lane continues apace. We look forward to seeing the roof go on and work starting on the interior. We expect the hall to be available for hire from summer 2006.

The hall, which also has a kitchen and bar, can be used for meetings, social events and other purposes. Its décor will be pleasant and welcoming,

New drive on youth crime

OVER THE last year, there has been growing concern about the level of youth nuisance across Loughton. Youth nuisance forms the majority of anti-social behaviour and related crime in the town.

The Broadway, Loughton High Road, Oakwood Hill and Limes Avenue have all been identified as hot-spot areas.

Our intention is to cut youth nuisance through a focused tactical approach, by reducing associated crime and providing public reassurance.

In 2003, we successfully introduced Operation Girton, which was designed to deal with exactly this problem. We will follow the Operation Girton guidelines so that, for example, if an individual is spoken to more than three times, a letter will be sent to his or her parents.

This brings the parents' attention to their child's behaviour and invites them to address the issues raised. They also receive a home visit with a view to signing up to an acceptable behaviour contract.

If the behaviour continues after this intervention, the police and local authority would seek an anti-social behaviour order,

known as an ASBO, through the courts.

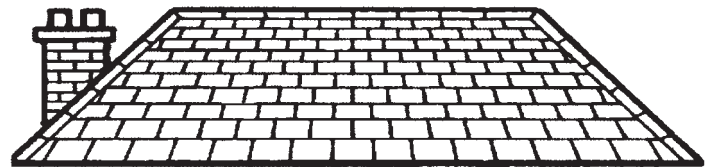
We also aim to use other measures incorporating positive action in dealing with offences. This will include the confiscation of alcohol from under-age drinkers and the use of our powers under section 30 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 on the dispersal of groups.

We plan to apply for an order covering The Broadway, Old Station Road, Station Road, Sainsbury's car park and the High Road, and Debden and Loughton stations in association with British Transport Police.

We are using a new power under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002, which allows us to deal with the seizure of motor vehicles being used in anti-social ways and those being driven or ridden in a careless or dangerous manner. Any offences related to the above measures will involve the use of our Restorative Justice Scheme to deal with offenders.

This operation is to last for six months, starting from November.

Trevor A Newman
Harlow Divisional Problem/ASB
Co-ordinator, Essex Police



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Further copies of *Think Loughton* are available from the Town Council and local libraries. *Think Loughton* can be downloaded from the council website and is also available on tape – please call us to request a copy.

Contacting us

For editorial contributions and diary entries, please call 020 8508 4200.

For advertising enquiries, please call 01787 242085.

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Town Council meetings

All meetings take place at 1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, Loughton, at 7.45pm unless otherwise indicated

November 23 Finance & General Policy
28 Planning

December 7 Finance & General Policy
(budgets)

12 Planning
January 3 Planning
11 Council
16 Planning
25 Community
30 Planning

February 8 Environment, Heritage &
Leisure

13 Planning
22 Finance & General Policy
27 Planning

March 8 Council
13 Planning
22 Community
27 Planning
28 Annual Town Meeting
8pm, Wesley Hall, Loughton
Methodist Church

News round-up

■ **ANNUAL REPORT AWARD:** The Town Council Annual Report, included in the summer *Think Loughton*, won fourth place in the Local Council Review Annual Communications Awards in September. The judges said: "A short (but sharp) annual report and, therefore, valuable. The inclusion of details revealing how often each councillor attended meetings is to be commended."

The council's website missed the shortlist by just one vote. *Think Loughton* was highly commended in the Essex Newsletter of the Year competition.

■ **FORUM POSTPONED:** the Town Council had planned to hold the next meeting of the Community Forum in October with the new Essex Chief Constable and the recently-appointed Harlow Division Chief Superintendent as the guest speakers. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to identify a mutually-convenient date with Chief Constable Roger Baker, so the meeting has been postponed.

■ **GRANT AID:** The Town Council is reminding local groups and clubs that the closing date for receipt of completed grant applications is 31 December. So if your group or club is considering a new project and is short of funds why not contact the Town Council for more details or download a form from the website. The Community Committee will decide which applications to support at its 25 January meeting, with grant payments available from April.

■ **AT YOUR CONVENIENCE:** The public toilets formerly operated by Epping Forest District Council in the Broadway have reopened for users with a Radar key. Running costs will be met by the Town Council for a trial period.

■ **HALL FOR HIRE:** Kingsley Hall, Austen Close, is available for hire. The hall can accommodate 36 people seated or 60 standing, but is not available for parties (other than those for small children) but is ideal for small group meetings. Call Adèle Harriss on 020 8508 4200 for details.

■ **CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES:** The Town Council office will be closed from noon on Friday 23 December, and then for Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 December. Normal hours will operate on Wednesday 28 to Friday 30 December, and the office will be closed again on Monday 2 January.

Send us your e-images

THE TOWN COUNCIL is planning to include a gallery of images of Loughton on its website.

The pictures do not need to be just a view or a landscape; they could be people, an event, an unusual angle on a familiar theme, or anything which was taken in Loughton and captures the spirit of the town.

If you have any electronic photos which you would like to be considered for inclusion, please send them to the town council.

Each image should be accompanied by the name of the photographer, location of the photo and the date it was taken, and any other relevant details to put the picture in context.

If the person submitting the picture is not the photographer, then the originator's permission to use the

photo must be obtained first. Please note that if the image is chosen for the online gallery, any further use of it by web surfers will be outside the Town Council's control and copyright will not be enforced.

If people are easily identifiable in the pictures they should be asked for permission to use the image on-line (this is especially important for pictures of children, when permission of parents/guardians must be obtained).

Although we are initially looking for e-images, we may in the future extend this to include items such as historical photos which can be scanned, so if you have any of these which might be interesting do please let us know.

Please email us at
contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk

Anyone for tennis?

DESPITE SEVERAL repairs, the fencing round the tennis courts on the Roding Valley Recreation Ground was in poor condition.

To rectify this, the town council arranged for new replacement fencing to be fitted, which is now complete.

Roadside seats

THE TOWN COUNCIL has now accepted transfer from Epping Forest District Council of the responsibility for seats in Loughton with the exception of those situated in the High Road, The Broadway and on Arewater Green.

Chess mates

RODING & LOUGHTON Chess Club set up the Epping Forest Junior Chess mates in August 1999 with the object of providing an introduction to chess for youngsters aged of six to 16.

The club meets every Tuesday during term time at 5-7pm, Loughton Bowling Club, Eleven Acre Rise (off Traps Hill). For details, call 020 8504 0770.



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Jazz it up with a trip to the library

DID YOU KNOW that Loughton Library, in Traps Hill, houses the National Jazz Archive on the first floor? And that Essex County Council has been its principal supporter since the archive was launched in 1988?

Founded by the distinguished jazz trumpeter Digby Fairweather, it has grown dramatically and, today, there are some 2,500 books and 25,000 magazines covering around 250 titles, as well as programmes, photographs and general information on jazz.

Magazines include copies of *Melody Maker* from 1926 to 1981, and the archive also holds the Charles Fox collection of memorabilia and the Chris Hayes collection which is mainly cuttings and correspondence accumulated from his 50 years as a writer for *Melody Maker*.

The archive is used by researchers, authors, journalists, students, members of the public who just want to come in and browse – in fact, anyone who is interested in jazz.

It is free to use the archive and, for a reasonable fee, the staff can even

conduct some research for you on request.

The archive is open between 10am and 1pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday but the archivist, David Nathan can organise designated material to be taken into the main library area when the archive closes especially to allow anyone who has travelled a long way to be able to stay until the library closes. David can be contacted on 020 8502 0181 in advance.

There are also annual Celebrity interviews, usually held in November and recent interviewees included Humphrey Lyttelton, Dame Cleo Laine, George Melly and Jack Parnell.

We look forward to seeing you soon, please peruse our website www.nationaljazzarchive.co.uk for further information or visit us at Loughton Library, Traps Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 3AE.

■ **MUSIC AT LOUGHTON METHODIST** Church aims to provide a platform for young musicians at the beginning of their professional careers and to provide a

venue for music-lovers in the Loughton area to enjoy live classical music without having to journey into London. The 2006 season includes:

■ **14 January:** Welcome return of Emma Williams (flute) and Richard Shaw (piano).

■ **18 March:** Loughton Youth Music Festival. Guest of Honour: Duchess of Kent. This is the third year of this festival which is gaining momentum each year. Local sixth form music school students will play their A-level set performance pieces.

An evening of music of the highest standard, and the only event of its kind to bring together the very best of our local young musicians at this stage in their careers.

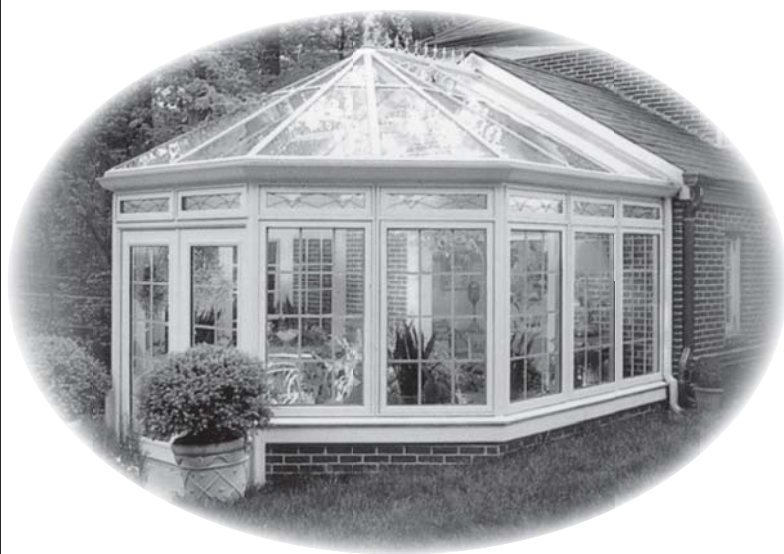
The evening is non-competitive, but one to enjoy and support our local talent. All concerts start at 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm). Tickets are £7 per concert (under 16s free).

Season tickets are available for £35. Bookings: 020 8504 8447.

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Rugby club celebrates 50 years of scrumming

LOUGHTON RUGBY Football Club, which has been based off Hornbeam Road, Buckhurst Hill, since 1970, reaches its 50 year milestone this season. Originally, Loughton Old Boys RFC was started by staff and mainly ex-pupils of Brook Secondary School in Roding Road – alas the school is no more.

The club was initially an offshoot of the Youth Centre based in the school and owed much to the enthusiasm of two members of staff at the time – Gordon (Steve) Stephens and Vivian Gwynne – who gave great encouragement to the mostly 16 to 17 year olds who initially made up the side, some of whom had played for their county at schoolboy level.

The first club match was played against a Chingford RFC XV on Saturday 24th September 1955, which was lost 19 to 11 and set the trend for several years. Steady progress was made over the years and gradually as the players gained maturity, matters improved.

In 1969 Loughton RFC was amalgamated with the Riverdale Cricket Club and we obtained the use of the ground in Hornbeam Road, on a long lease from the then Chigwell UDC. This move allowed the club to expand its playing and social activities considerably, due to the building of a Clubhouse with bar.

Eventually, this led to the club's most successful period. In 1980, we went



on our first foreign tour to Holland. As the side grew in stature, we made the Final 16 – for two years running – in the Pilkington Shield, which was a nationwide competition for junior clubs.

Several players continued at representative level for County, Eastern Counties and three players even made it to the England National Association of Boys Clubs side, with David Lodge captaining the side in his final year.

It has been a constant source of surprise, and pride, to three founder members (who until quite recently were still actively involved) that after 50 years the club is still going strong.

The founding members are Malcolm Wallace, who was club president for many years and is again 50th

Anniversary President for this season, Mike Wardle, current Loughton Town Mayor – who was Hon Secretary for 27 years, and Cedric Salter, who became a regional Assessor for the London Society of Rugby Referees.

The club has suffered a poor period over the last few years, but now with renewed enthusiasm from a fresh intake of players, things are looking up.

Anyone interested in playing for the club – all standards are welcome – should call Richard Stock on 077962 67648 or call 020 8498 9300 on a Wednesday evening. Long may the club prosper.

Cllr Mike Wardle

It's a source of pride that after 50 years the club is still going strong

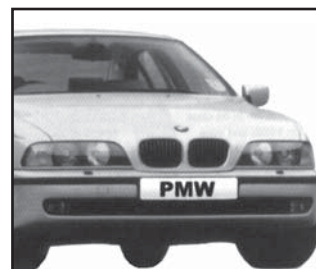
Hospice shop opens on The Broadway

ST CLARE HOSPICE'S specially-trained team works closely with medical professionals in the community to ensure patients receive the best care both in the hospice and at home free of charge.

St Clare Hospice is opening a new shop at 72 The Broadway and requires volunteers to provide customer service as well as sort and price donated stock.

Good quality stock donations are also wanted including clothes, bric-a-brac, books and furniture. Please note that St Clare Hospice cannot sell electrical items and furniture must comply with current fire regulations.

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8

Think Loughton, Winter 2005/06

Dates for

■ **23 Nov, 2.30pm:** National Trust, Sir James Hawkey Hall: 'The Role of a Police Wildlife Liaison Officer', an illustrated talk by Barry Kaufmann-Wright. Call 020 8505 3501.

■ **8 Dec, 8pm:** National Trust, venue as above: 'The Story of Tyntesfield', a talk by Pamela Wright. Call 020 8505 3501.

■ **9 Dec, 7.30pm:** Epping Church Choirs Association, 'Christmas Reflections', seasonal music and light readings, St John's Church, Epping. Admission free, programme £2.

■ **19 Dec, 8.15pm:** St John's Wives Group, St John's Parish Hall. *Oh Come All Ye Faithful* - and enjoy mulled wine and entertainment.

■ **16 Jan, 8.15pm:** St John's Wives Group, venue as above. Pot Luck Supper and Bring & Buy.

■ **19 Jan, 2.30pm:** National Trust, venue as above: 'Essex Alms Houses', an illustrated talk by Anne Padfield. Call: 020 8505 3501.

■ **26 Jan, 7.45pm:** Essex Handicrafts, Woodlands branch, Trinity Church, Mannock Drive. Blackwork.

■ **28 Jan, 7.30pm:** Epping Church Choirs Association, *Elijah* - Mendelssohn, St Johns Church Epping. Admission free, programme £2, retiring collection.

■ **6 Feb, 8pm:** National Trust, venue as above: New England and Eastern Canada in the Fall, an illustrated talk by John Weston. Call 020 8505 3501.

■ **6 Feb, 8.15pm:** St John's Wives Group, venue as above. *Good Vibrations* - Memories of the 60s - Audio & Visual Show - (Ian Noble).

■ **20 Feb, 8.15pm:** St John's Wives Group, venue as above. Inheritance

Tax, Informative talk by Marcus Kallou.

■ **23 Feb, 7.45pm:** Essex Handicrafts Woodlands branch, venue as above. Twisted log cabin patchwork.

■ **28 Feb, 2.30pm:** National Trust, venue as above. Curiosities and Customs in the City, a talk by Paul Taylor. Call 020 8505 3501.

■ **6 Mar, 8.15pm:** St John's Wives Group, venue as above. 30 Years as a BBC reporter, Brian Curtois.

■ **16 March, 8pm:** National Trust, venue as above, 'A Year at Kew', an illustrated talk by Peter Brandham. Call 020 8505 3501.

■ **20 Mar, 8.15pm:** St John's Wives Group, venue as above. Tales of 16th Century Smuggling in Essex - (Daniel Johnson).

■ **23 Mar, 7.45pm:** Essex Handicrafts, Woodlands branch, venue as above. Embroidery, it's a stitch up.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

■ **Second Sun of month, 3pm:** Loughton Bereavement Service group meeting, Methodist Church, High Road. 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

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■ **Every Sun, 10.30am:** Sunday school + family church service, Epping Forest Community Church, Phil Joiner: 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 around half an hour.

■ **First Sun of month, 9am-2pm:** Farmers' market, Centric Parade, High Road. 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. Miles Harwood: 020 8505 4329.

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

■ **Every Mon, 9.30pm:** Loughton Mountaineering Club, Victoria Tavern, Smarts Lane, Loughton. 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 & District Stamp Club meets, Music Room 1, Roding Valley High School. Details: 020 8508 1244.

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

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

■ **Second Thurs of month, 8pm:**

Loughton Historical Society, Methodist Church, High Road, Loughton. Guest visitors welcome on payment of £1.50.

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

■ **Every Fri, 7.30pm:** Kingsley Spiritualist Church, Kingsley Hall, Kingsley Road.

■ **Every Tues (term time), 10am:** Toddler Church, 0-5 years old plus fellowship, Loughton Methodist Church, High Road. Cathy Morling: 020 8508 1834

■ **Second Mon of month, 2pm:** Civil Service Retirement Fellowship, The Retreat, St Edmund's Church Hall, Traps Hill. Details: 020 8508 2459.

■ **Every Wed, 7.30-9.30pm:** Fencing Club at Loughton Sports Centre, Rectory Lane (entrance by side of Health Centre). Age: from about eight to adult. First two evenings are free. Contact: Aubrey Crick, 01992 522462 or email: Aubrey_crick@ntlworld.com.

■ **Every Thurs + Fri, 6-9pm:** 41st Epping Forest Scout Group for girls + boys aged 6-15. Loughton Union Church. For details of cubs, scouts and beavers, call: 020 8923 2378.

MONTHLY COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES:

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

■ **First Sun (Loughton Residents' Assoc) 9am-2pm:** at the Farmers' Market, Centric Parade, High Road.

■ **By appointment (Conservative):** If you have any concerns, call Matt or Lorne Daniel for an appointment.

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Council honours past masters

MORE THAN 50 members of the Willingale family and their friends were joined by Loughton Town Mayor Cllr Mike Wardle and Cllr Chris Pond to unveil a heritage plaque at St John's churchyard to commemorate Thomas Willingale (1799-1870).

As mentioned in the spring *Think Loughton*, Thomas Willingale was one of the prime movers in the fight to save Epping Forest. Chris Pond, of Loughton Historical Society, gave a short talk on the historical significance of Thomas Willingale to Loughton and the forest.

Mike Wardle defined the plaque's location given that Willingale is buried in St John's churchyard, Church Lane, and Ken Hoy, Friends of Epping Forest, outlined the current position regarding the forest.

The plaque was unveiled by Danielle Willingale, who was the youngest member of the Willingale family present.

The event was organised by Keith Willingale, a west country vintner, who is Chairman of the Willingale Family Society.

Mr Willingale had produced a special limited edition of his own prize winning wine for the occasion which he named 'Epping Lopper'.

Former Chairman Chigwell Urban District Council and Epping Forest District Council Ian Beattie, made an impassioned appeal for us all to be very vigilant to preserve the forest and its 'buffer land' in the face of any proposed building in the south east of England.

LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL has recently erected three blue heritage plaques to commemorate the following people on the properties listed below:

ARCHITECT James Cubitt (1836-1912)



From left to right: Keith Willingale, Ken Hoy, Danielle Willingale, Town Mayor Mike Wardle and Cllr Chris Pond

has been honoured with a plaque at 311 High Road, the former site of Monghyr Cottage, 2 Traps Hill.

James Cubitt was renowned for his chapel designs. His best known buildings were Emanuel Church in Cambridge, Union Chapel, Islington, and the Welsh Church in Charing Cross Road.

In Loughton, he designed Southbank, Sunnybank, additions to Ash Green for W C Waller, as well as Staples Road schools and Loughton School (now demolished). He was an associate and relative of the Vivians (Loughton Union Church pastor), and he had a wide nonconformist clientele.

James Cubitt lived at Brook Villas and Cotsall Eaton Villas, all in the High Road, now demolished, and Monghyr Cottage, 2 Traps Hill, where he died. Born in Suffolk, he was a long-term Loughton resident circa 1880 to 1912.

He was buried in an unmarked grave in Loughton Cemetery.

The Town Council has also unveiled a plaque in honour of medical psychologist Millais Culpin (1874-1952) at Meads, 77 Church Hill.

Millais Culpin was a medical doctor, who became a psychiatrist. He lived at Slyder's Gate, Church Hill (owned by the Wallers), just after his marriage in 1913, and then bought Meads, 77 Church Hill.

Culpin was attached to the London Hospital. He was an associate of Loughton residents Major Greenwood and Sir Leonard and Austin Bradford Hill.

Culpin was a leading psychiatrist, and an early proponent of occupational health and well-being. His study of telegraphists' cramp in 1927 foreshadowed modern research on repetitive strain injury.

THE LIFE AND WORK OF

palaeontologist and geologist Samuel Hazzledine Warren (1873-1958) has been commemorated with a plaque at 49 Forest View Road.

He was an antiquary and archaeologist, a "prehistorian of international repute" (*The Times*). He lived at Sherwood, 49 Forest View Road, an arts and crafts/vernacular style house built in about 1905.

After his wife's death in 1937, he had a smaller house built in the garden. Sherwood was

effectively operated as a geological museum open to students from all over the world.

We must be very vigilant to preserve the forest and its 'buffer land'

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The only qualifications you require are a social conscience and a desire to help people recover from the effect of a crime. We welcome volunteers of all ages and ethnic origins, who are passionate about making a difference.

Victim Support is the national charity which helps victims of crime. Trained volunteers provide free, confidential

support and information following crimes ranging from burglary, assault and domestic violence to rape and murder.

People react to crime in many ways and although most victims don't suffer long-term harm, both adults and children can be seriously affected and need time to recover.

Volunteers will receive sound training to help people who need:

- Someone to talk to
- Information on police and court procedures
- Reassurance and emotional support
- Support when attending courts

- Help with compensation and insurance
- Crime prevention information

Victim Support recognises the value volunteers bring to our service by giving freely and generously of a most precious commodity – their time. This contribution is priceless.

You will receive professional training, ongoing support and supervision and all out-of-pocket expenses. You will work as part of a close-knit local team and can work the hours that suit you.

For details, call Irene Jones or Jackie Apps on 01279 641074, or email us on enquiriesharlow@vse.org.uk.

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First aid courses

THE EPPING FOREST Centre of the British Red Cross has now arranged the next series of first aid courses. A 28-hour standard course will be held over 12 Monday evenings beginning on 9 January 2006.

This course, which costs £75.20, will cover emergency life saving techniques as well as giving you the knowledge necessary to cope with everyday accidents and emergencies. This is a highly practical course with lots of opportunities to practise your new skills. Training materials and manual are included in the cost.

If you prefer a shorter course covering basic lifesaving skills and some common accident situations, a one-day course will be held on Saturday 11 February 2006. This course costs £30.55 and also includes training materials.

Both courses will be held at the Loughton Centre, Lincoln Hall, 125 High Road, Loughton. For more details and to register, please ring the centre on 020 8508 2162 between 10.30am and 12.30pm on weekdays (except Tuesday).

Healthy living

TELEVISION AND MAGAZINES are currently full of articles promoting healthy living, encouraging people to eat more vegetables and fruit in their diet.

Working an allotment plot can be the ideal way of producing your own fruit and vegetables, while providing plenty of fresh air and exercise. Now could be the ideal time to start.

The Town Council has vacancies at its site in Pylles Lane with annual rents from £1.40 per rod.

For more information on these or other allotment sites in the town, call 020 8508 4200 for details.

Free websites for voluntary groups

CREATE YOUR OWN website at essexinfo.net. Here is an opportunity for community and voluntary groups to have their own websites.

It's free, simple to use, non commercial and flexible to develop. No special web skills or web software are needed. Help is provided through online help sheets and from the essexinfo.net team. You will also be added to the Local Information for Essex (LIFE) database.

essexinfo.net is supported by the Essex Online Partnership, which comprises Essex borough and district councils, Essex County Council, Essex Police, Essex Fire and Rescue Service and Essex Strategic Health Authority.

Advice and training for community organisations is available from Essex Libraries on 01245 438430.

For details, visit www.essexinfo.net, contact the essexinfo.net team on 01245 436559 or email support@essexinfo.net.

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CONTACT COMMUNITY LEGAL Service Direct via its website www.clsdirect.org.uk for free quality legal help and information.

You can find a solicitor or legal adviser in your area, link to the right place on the best advice sites in the UK, see if you are eligible for legal aid or view legal information leaflets.

Information is available in English, Welsh, Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi, Turkish and Urdu.

Community Legal Service Direct also offers advice through a national helpline, 0845 345 4 345, that gives specialist advice on benefits and tax credits, debt, education, employment and housing as well as a series of 31 information leaflets.



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Working for a safer community

ESSEX CRIMEBEAT supports young people getting involved with crime reduction activities, in a bid to create safer communities.

It is the charity of the Shrievalty Association, the Association of High Sheriffs of England and Wales.

The High Sheriff of Essex Jennifer Tolhurst is firmly behind the scheme and wants to help young people make their own communities safer, so that Essex Crimebeat, and the engagement of young people, is synonymous with reducing crime and maintaining community safety.

Each local Crimebeat scheme encourages groups of young people to develop their ideas on crime reduction and turn them into successful projects.

A large number of young people have become involved in these projects and they in turn pass on benefits of their work to their peers and the wider community, solving problems that matter

to them in their communities through Crimebeat initiatives.

The Crimebeat scheme has made numerous grants to help groups of young people apply their own ideas about tackling crime and anti-social behaviour. These young people, aged between eight and 25 years of age have inspired and delighted their communities through innovative projects and have promoted safer, more tolerant neighbourhoods.

If you are aged between eight and 25, why don't you get together to decide what needs to be done to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in your area, your way!

We'll even give you up to £750 towards it.

The next deadline for applications is 1 December 2005, but call 01245 356018 for further information and to obtain an application pack, as additional deadlines will be set for 2006.

Local service helps 'combat isolation'

AGE CONCERN Essex Home Support Service is a non-profit making organisation which provides paid workers to carry out general housework and shopping services for people over 60 who have difficulty in doing these tasks themselves.

There is a charge for this service, but it is kept as affordable as possible.

Workers go to the same clients each week, which enables both to get to know each other.

Clients look forward to their worker coming, and there is no doubt that the service helps them to remain independent, maintain a pride in their home, prevent falls and combat isolation.

The service has been running for a number of years across Essex, and has now been extended to the Epping Forest area. If anyone would like to know more about either receiving the service or working for us, please telephone 020 8504 7357.

The office is currently open from Monday to Friday between 9am and 1pm. Alternatively, leave a message on the answerphone outside those hours.

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If you need to chase a benefit claim, sort out your money problems, make a complaint about goods or services, or if you feel you have been treated unfairly at work, our trained advisers can help at all stages of the issue.

A recent MORI survey showed that CABs helped to raise the income of over

one-third of their clients, either by regular amounts or one-off payments, and this money is often spent locally.

"If I hadn't got help from Loughton CAB, I would not have found out that I could claim benefits and ask for them to be backdated," said one of our clients. "The extra money we got made such a difference to my family – I could afford to buy some fresh food instead of tins and packets," said another.

Loughton CAB is an independent registered charity reliant on grants and donations as well as the dedication and commitment of all our volunteers.

It has been estimated that the total value of time provided by CAB volunteers is worth around £70m each year, with more than 3,000 new volunteers being trained, which increases their employability and develops their skills, with some going on to find paid work.

Many people who have never even come to see us here at St Mary's Parish Centre are helped, because we can spot trends in problems and campaign to bring about changes.

Due to a successful CAB campaign, evidence presented to the government resulted in an amendment to the Housing Act 2004.

This will help stop landlords who unfairly refuse to return deposit monies to tenants, which is estimated to affect as many as 1.5m people each year. If you have a problem which you think might be shared by others, please let us know so that we can work together to make things better.

Loughton CAB Manager Sue Britton said: "If we are to carry on making a difference for people in our local communities, we need your support.

"We continue to struggle to maintain adequate funding levels, not only for our core activities and costs, but also towards development of new projects, enhanced outreach services and home visits to the elderly and disabled.

"If you would like to discuss how you can help us, please contact me."

Sue Britton
Loughton CAB Manager

CAB-opening times

■ **St Mary's Parish Centre, Loughton High Road: Mondays to Fridays. Evening and solicitors appointment sessions are held on alternate Wednesdays 6.30-7.30pm.**

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

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

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