

# LOUGHTON LIFE



Roding Valley lake drawn by Ron Heath

Newsletter 214

## A GREAT RESULT FOR LRA

LRA fielded its greatest number of candidates in the greatest number of Wards in its history for the District and Town Council elections on 10 June.

23 candidates (7 District and 16 Town) contested almost every vacancy in six Wards, with a bitter-sweet outcome. All of LRA's 16 Town Council candidates were elected, giving LRA all the seats in Forest, Roding, St Johns and St Mary's Wards, seats in Fairmead and Alderton wards, and a majority on the 22 seat Council. At District level, Ken Angold-Stephens was elected for Roding Ward, Caroline Pond (St Johns) and Tony Lee (St Mary's) were re-elected, and Mitch Cohen retained Dorothy Paddon's seat in St Mary's.

Sadly, despite all his hard work over the past two years, Peter House was not re-elected in Forest Ward, and Chris Pond and Rose Brookes came second to the BNP in Fairmead and Alderton, Chris Pond losing by only 13 votes.

We do not have space for a detailed analysis of the voting swings, but it is clear that, overall, local elections at District level suffered from the importation of national political matters into campaigns. Labour's vote slumped, possibly because of Iraq, the BNP were elected largely on an anti-asylum seeker platform – neither issue being within the power of the District Council to change.

None of the new District Councillors for Alderton, Broadway, Fairmead and

Forest Wards have put forward any policies to date, and it will be very interesting to see to what extent (if at all), they can demonstrate it being a change for the better.

With a total of 23 candidates in six Wards, the effort required to mount the election campaign was immense, and LRA is grateful to all those who helped by canvassing, delivering, telling and undertaking the many 'backroom' duties.

## LEN MURRAY

Lionel (Len) Murray (1922-2004) was one of the most distinguished Loughtonians of our generation. A man of Shropshire, he came to Loughton in the mid-1950s, and immediately entered into the life of the town, helping to run the Methodist Church Youth Club even when heavily occupied with his duties at the TUC, of which he was General Secretary from 1973 to 1984. Lionel retired in the mid-1980s, which left him much more time for Loughton activities. Regardless of party politics, we all respected him immensely – for his involvement in the Historical Society, the Friends of Epping Forest, Mannock Drive day care, St Clare's Hospice, NCH and its family centre at Lawton Road, Crisis, and many other activities, for which he gave freely of his time and his prodigious intellect. He was also a very active member of the Methodist Church all his 50 years among us.

Lionel was the nicest of men, the friend of all; one of our most distinguished townspeople. He loved Loughton and its Forest, and could be seen almost every day walking in our streets or in the woods. His funeral service at Loughton Methodist Church on 1 June was attended by nearly 500 people, many of whom were local friends, plus of course some national figures. We will all miss him immensely.

*Chris Pond*

## A MAYOR FOR LOUGHTON

Almost all Town Councils in Essex have a Mayor. Indeed the Local Government Act 1972 provides that the Chairman of a Town Council should be called the Town Mayor, and the title 'Chairman' is generally applied simply to Parish Councils. Loughton Town Council when it was set up in 1996 decided, however, to stick to the title 'Chairman' – with hindsight, perhaps the wrong decision.

Does this actually matter? Yes it does. Having a Town Mayor gives a civic focus to the town, something which has been sadly lacking in Loughton over the years. The Town Council, which has been rather low key up to now, will become

increasingly significant in the life of Loughton, as it takes on more functions from the District Council. It will therefore need to have a higher civic profile.

The change from Chairman to Mayor would be at nil cost. It is merely a change of title and would not involve expensive robes or chains – indeed the present badge of office used by the Chairman of the Town Council would be retained and used by the Mayor. A feeling of civic pride is important for any town, and this simple change, together with the higher profile it would bring to the Town Council, would help to foster pride in Loughton.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2004

The AGM will be held on Tuesday 26 October 2004 in the Wesley Hall of the Methodist Church. The speakers will be Robert Chambers, Chairman of Essex Police Authority, and Inspector Piers Quinnell of Loughton Police Station.

The meeting will also be asked to approve new wording for the LRA Constitution, which will take account of changes to separate consideration of planning applications by LRA as an association, from the work of LRA councillors involved on Planning Committees. There are also some drafting amendments.

A copy of the changes can be obtained in advance from the Secretary (see back page).

## LRA GETS THINGS DONE!

A word with an LRA committee member at our Farmers Market stand was all that was needed for swift action to be taken on behalf of concerned residents of the Hanbury Park estate in Roding Road. A problem that had been stalled for two years was solved within a month.

A footpath through the estate was being used by young people who behaved abominably. Youths riding mopeds from late afternoon until very late at night caused noise and danger to pedestrians. Other youths kicked footballs against doors, broke windows and threw eggs at houses and cars. Groups of schoolchildren verbally abused people. In 2002 the residents approached the council about the problems, and it was agreed that the closure of that particular footpath would be the best solution. There was already another shorter, well lit alternative footpath through to Loughton Station and the High Road.

Despite continuous correspondence between the council and residents, and various promises of action, two years passed without any progress being made. LRA was

approached on 2 May and District Councillor Peter House took up the issue. On 31 May the access was temporarily closed and on 2 June the matter came before EFDC's Plans A Committee, where Peter spoke on behalf of the residents. The application to close the footway was supported by all but one of the committee members and the process was initiated to make the closure permanent. *Carol Murray*

## BROADWAY ENHANCEMENT PLANS

An enhancement scheme for Loughton Broadway was approved by the Council in 1999, but, like the recently approved scheme for the High Road, has been delayed because funding was not available. It includes simplified traffic circulation, better use of car parking space, installation of CCTV, and safer and easier pedestrian movement. More extensive planting and seating should soften the view and make the centre feel a more welcoming place to visit, to shop and to meet up with friends.

The District Council now has access to funding for 'regeneration', and is seeking advice on whether that funding can be used to carry out the works – an extended plan, which would include the

more run-down areas surrounding the Broadway, ie Burton Road, Vere Road and the Station Approach, may count as regeneration and so qualify for use of this funding. The Council is now seeking confirmation of this, a move which is welcomed by the Broadway Town Centre Partnership and by LRA councillors. *Dorothy Paddon*

## STAMPS FOR LIFEBOATS

Loughton & Woodford branch of the RNLI can raise funds from the sale of used British commemorative and foreign stamps. These should be sent to Mike Evans, 32 York Hill, Loughton. Please leave a margin around the stamps, as damaged ones cannot be sold.

## FEEDBACK PLEASE!

**We are always looking for ways to improve the content of Loughton Life. It's your Newsletter, so please let us know of ways we can make it even better!**

**Comments can be emailed via the website ([www.loughtonresidents.com](http://www.loughtonresidents.com)), or sent to Carol Murray (details on back page).**



## DEBDEN DAY

Debden was en fete on 29 May for the annual Debden Day. The day started slowly, perhaps due to the grey morning, but by lunchtime it had soon livened up. LRA's stand, with its 'green' theme, had something of interest for all the family. Its attractions included a treasure hunt, playdough, 'tattooing', games and free green balloons for children. There were lots of prizes and fun for everyone.

It was a wonderful day for the community to get together, thanks to the Debden Broadway Partnership. *Diane Rhodes*

## NEWS FROM THE POLICE

As many of you are probably aware, we are still suffering from groups congregating in and around Loughton and Buckhurst Hill Tube stations. I have tried various tactics to try and combat these problems, from covert policing to having meetings with the individuals and their parents, but none of these tactics seem to have been successful. We are now working with the British Transport Police and the local Council in order to introduce a dispersal order for these two areas.

The dispersal order will mean that any persons under 16 can be taken home after 9.00pm, and that any person at all who is causing antisocial behaviour in that area can be asked to leave – failure to do so will result in their arrest. Although this is quite an extreme measure, it is felt that the level of disorder and intimidation being suffered in these areas by the general public warrants such action. Once these plans have been to consultation we will hopefully be looking to introduce the dispersal order in mid to late June.

The other issue which is currently proving a problem for our area is letter box burglaries. This is where people place a stick or something similar through your letter box, in order to hook your car keys and then steal your car. I would ask everyone to be watchful regarding this, and not to leave their car keys on show at any time. Also please report any suspicious persons that you may see, as the community is the eyes and ears of the police, and without it we cannot function to the standard that the public expect and deserve.

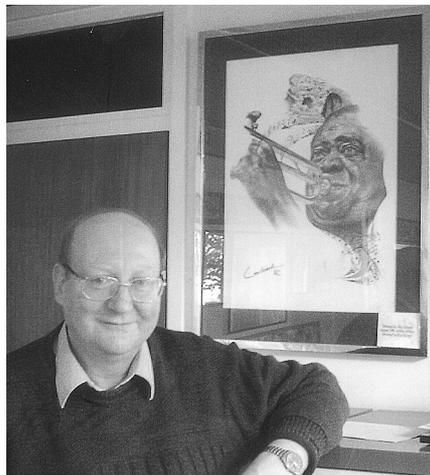
*Inspector Piers Quinnell*

## NATIONAL JAZZ ARCHIVE

One of Loughton's claims to national fame is the National Jazz Archive. This extensive collection of jazz books, magazines, photographs, programmes, cuttings, memorabilia and ephemera was established in November 1988 and has been housed in Loughton Library ever since. Well-known jazz musician and former librarian Digby Fairweather had realised there was a lack of a central resource covering material devoted entirely to jazz. He approached his former boss at Essex Libraries, who offered space in Loughton, and the National Jazz Archive was born.

A collection belonging to the late Chips Chipperfield formed the core of the archive in 1988, but other material soon began rolling in and the archive is now bursting at the seams with fascinating up to date and historical information about British and American jazz. There are many rare items, including a complete set of Melody Maker from 1926 to 1981, as well as over 250 other jazz magazines. The archive subscribes to over 30 current magazines.

Anyone can use the archive, either for research or general interest, and



David Nathan, Jazz Archivist.

archivist David Nathan is happy to share his encyclopaedic knowledge with both jazz lovers and novices.

The archive is supported by Essex County Council, but is also dependent on donations to enable more material to be acquired.

There is an open day every year, which includes an interview with a well-known jazz personality and live music.

The archive is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 10.00am to 1.00pm, email address david.nathan@essexcc.gov.uk. You can access the website by typing in National Jazz Archive. *Carol Murray*

## LORRY BAN

Following the closure of the Langston Road Lorry Park, fears were expressed that lorries would be parked in residential roads. LRA District Councillors have been instrumental in getting the District Council to draw up a list of roads on which lorries will be banned from parking. The formal notice of the Order, which will ban lorries from parking in a large part of Broadway Ward, and parts of Fairmead, Roding, Alderton, St John's and St Mary's Wards, has been published, and any objections will be considered at an EFDC cabinet meeting on 12 July. Details of the order can be seen at the Council offices in Epping.

However, local lorry drivers do need somewhere to park their vehicles, and in order to meet a local need the District Council is looking to provide limited lorry parking, probably in lay-bys along Langston Road. It seems that an earlier suggestion of using Oakwood Hill, which was objected to by LRA, has now been dropped. *John Woods*

## DISPERSAL ORDERS

Inspector Piers Quinnell writes elsewhere in this issue about the use of Dispersal Orders to deal with the problem of gangs of youths around Loughton and Buckhurst Hill stations.

The police were given new powers under the Antisocial Behaviour Act 2003 to tackle behaviour such as intimidation and vandalism, which creates a fear of crime within communities. Dispersal Orders, which must be authorised in writing by an officer of Superintendent rank or higher, are conferred for a designated period of not more than six months and they specify the localities to which an Order relates. They cannot be applied for without evidence of continual antisocial behaviour and must be publicised either in the local paper or by posting a notice in a conspicuous place or places.

These powers are not used for isolated incidents, so if you are having problems in your area it is important that you telephone the police or keep a record of each incident. *Eileen Murphy*

## BLUE OVER RECYCLING BOXES?

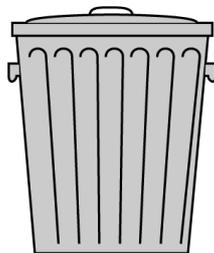
Are you keen to help increase the level of recycling in Loughton? Do you live in a flat and are not included in the blue box scheme?

For most homes in the district, recycling is easy – the blue box scheme collects a mixture of materials and the garden waste project takes compostable matter. If you live in a flat, however, it can be frustrating – you have to take your rubbish to a recycling point, while others, sometimes in the same road, have a doorstep collection. But don't despair – if you are still living in Loughton in 2010, you should by then be on a par with everybody else. By that date, local authorities will have to provide every household in England with a separate collection of at least two types of recyclable materials.

John Gilbert, EFDC's Head of Environmental Services, commented: 'We were best in Essex for recycling in 2002/03 at 21.4%. For this year we will be delighted if we approach 30% and our target for 2005/06 is 36%. This will be very challenging indeed. We of course already collect at least two materials from more than 90% of our households. We are committed to

looking at how we might involve flats and the more isolated properties in existing schemes.'

So, flat dwellers, don't despair. And for those of you who have a doorstep collection, do use those blue boxes to recycle as much as possible, and don't forget to put a weight on your papers to stop them blowing away! *Sam Barber*



For more information about the Household Waste Management Act and council performance on recycling, visit [www.foe.org.uk](http://www.foe.org.uk)

## HOPE RE RESIDENTS' PARKING SCHEMES

Residents of roads near to the High Road are increasingly concerned about the length of time it is taking to deal with the severe parking problems in their roads. On 3 June LRA's Ken Faulkner and Peter House met with EFDC Head of Environmental Services, John Gilbert, to discuss parking plans and progress to date.

Mr Gilbert confirmed that Forest Road, Clifton Road, High Beech Road, Smarts Lane and Meadow Road have top priority for residents' parking permit schemes, though needless to say everything hinges on finance. Mr Gilbert will establish what is left in the budget and will then be able to give a timescale for the schemes. As soon as this information is available, Ken and Peter will be contacting residents. *Carol Murray*

## TOWN CENTRE MANAGER FOR LOUGHTON

One of LRA's long-standing aims has been to have a Town Centre Manager for Loughton, but this only came to fruition when funding for a three-year contract became available as part of an agreement with Sainsburys.

The District Council has now appointed the Town Centre Manager, Shona Pollock, who takes up her post in late June. Shona will work in the three town centres of Loughton High Road, Loughton Broadway and Queens Road Buckhurst Hill. She will collaborate with Town Centre Partnerships, the Parish and Town councils, retailers, service providers and residents, to develop plans to tackle problems facing the centres and to strengthen their commercial and community resources. The job will span a range of activities, including working with the police to tackle vandalism, advising on facilities for disabled people, assisting with Christmas festivities, helping to market the centres and seeking funding or new business investment from further afield.

This is another step along the road of improving our town for residents, shoppers and businesses.

*Dorothy Paddon*

## NEWS FROM THE COUNCILS

**167 Bus Route** – Town Cllr Chris Pond has been working to prevent the 167 bus route north of Loughton station being axed. He has had the support of the entire Town Council.

**Hydrotherapy pool** – a local resident and his wife, who were regular users of the old hydrotherapy pool, complained that they were unable to use the one at the new Leisure Centre, since it no longer has chrome bars around the edge to hold on to. He observed that a number of older users were having great difficulty gripping the very narrow tile ledge to support themselves. Former LRA councillor Dorothy Paddon is pursuing this with EFDC Leisure Services.

**Loughton Hall** – the future of this listed building is still in question. Discussions are soon to take place between EFDC, Loughton Town Council and Epping Forest College to see whether a package can be put together to restore it to community use. LRA's Chris Pond is LTC's representative on the group – we'll keep you posted.

**Derelict phone kiosk** – this eyesore in the High Road has been a source of concern for a long time. It was discovered that the box is now owned by a company called Interphone Public Networks Ltd, and LRA's Peter House has been in contact with their Operations Manager, Mr Alan Dunn. Mr Dunn given an assurance that the kiosk has been inspected and will be refurbished as soon as possible. Peter will continue to pursue this, but additional pressure on Mr Dunn from the public would also help. His address is Interphone Public Networks, The White House, Litchfield Street, Tamworth, Staffs, B79 7QF. Tel 01827 287851.

**Car park noise nuisance** – residents whose houses back onto Sainsburys have been concerned by increasing noise at night, from youngsters in the car park racing their motor scooters and cars and demonstrating their in-car sound systems. Peter House took this up with Sainsburys and the police on behalf of the residents, and action is being taken (see Inspector Quinnell's article elsewhere in this issue).

### PETER WOODHOUSE

In the February issue we reviewed Peter Woodhouse's delightful memoir *Life in Loughton 1926-1946*. We were saddened to hear of Peter's death on 17 June, and offer our condolences to his family.

### LOUGHTON & DISTRICT CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING

**Thursday 22 July at 8.00pm in St Mary's Parish Centre**

Jenny Filby and Paul Cook will give an illustrated talk on the Roding Valley Meadows  
Everybody welcome

### LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

<b>Chairman</b>	
Chris Harper	23 Algers Road IG10 4NG 020 8508 4770
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	
Diane Rhodes	9 Ashley Grove IG10 1HS 020 8508 3284
<b>Hon Secretary</b>	
Carol Murray	20 Queens Road IG10 1RS 020 8508 4892
<b>Treasurer</b>	
Tony Paddon	12 Forest View Road IG10 4DX 020 8508 2238
<b>Press Officer</b>	
Michael Benbow	28 Brook Road IG10 1BP 020 8508 4457
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	
Juliet Pollard	14 The Hawthorns IG10 3QT 020 8502 0552
<b>Committee</b>	
James Dean	69 Colebrook Lane IG10 2HN 020 8281 7932
Kay Ellis	31 Algers Road IG10 4NG 020 8508 6018
Larry Ford	47 Stonards Hill IG10 3EH 020 8508 4344
Les Harris	32 Upper Park IG10 4EQ 020 8508 1333
Ron Heath	46 Ollards Grove IG10 4DW 020 8508 3458
Dorothy Paddon	12 Forest View Road IG10 4DX 020 8508 2238
Sheila Shillitto	11 Eleven Acre Rise IG10 1AN 020 8508 2900
Bob Wilmot	50 Baldwins Hill IG10 1SF 020 8508 1987
John Woods	1a Woodland Road IG10 1HQ 020 8508 1764
Bela Yorke	8 The Greens Close IG10 1QE 020 8508 4729

### LRA COUNCILLORS (County, District & Town)

<b>County Councillor St Mary's Division</b>	
David Linnell	20 Eleven Acre Rise IG10 1AN 020 8508 2932
<b>Alderton Ward</b>	
Caroline Pond (T)	7 Staples Road IG10 1HP 020 8508 2361
<b>Fairmead Ward</b>	
Bill Lattimore (T)	29 Harvey Gardens IG10 2AD 020 8502 1901
Eileen Murphy (T)	44 Deepdene Road IG10 3PP 020 8502 5664
<b>Forest Ward</b>	
Jack Benjamin (T)	23 Newnham Close IG10 4JG 020 8508 4765
Rose Brookes (T)	3 Lower Park Road IG10 4NB 020 8502 5981
Ken Faulkner (D)	'Briar Patch' Park Hill IG10 4ES 020 8508 1215
Suzanne Harper (T)	23 Algers Road IG10 4NG 020 8508 4770
<b>Roding Ward</b>	
Ken Angold-Stephens (D&T)	89 Lower Park Road IG10 4NE 020 8281 0674
Margaret Chalk (T)	49 Southview Road IG10 3LQ 020 8508 2226
Richard Pennington (T)	51 Stonards Hill IG10 3EH 020 8508 0807
David Wixley (T)	2 Copper Beech Court IG10 2QH
<b>St John's Ward</b>	
John Markham (D)	77 Queens Road IG10 1RR 020 8508 1945
Roger Pearce (T)	32 Millsmead Way IG10 1LR 020 8281 1386
Caroline Pond (D)	7 Staples Road IG10 1HP 020 8508 2361
Chris Pond (T)	7 Staples Road IG10 1HP 020 8508 2361
Stephen Pewsey (T)	59 Wroths Path IG10 1SH 020 8508 5582
<b>St Mary's Ward</b>	
Mitch Cohen (D)	16 Ollards Grove IG10 4DW 020 8502 5665
Tony Lee (D)	33 Priory Road IG10 1AF 020 8508 7649
Brian Moore (T)	6 Forest View Road IG10 4DX 020 8508 7112
Mike Wardle (T)	61 The Drive IG10 1HG 020 8508 2771
Janet Woods (T)	1a Woodland Road IG10 1HQ 020 8508 1764

June/July 2004

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