

LOUGHTON LIFE



Staples Road School drawn by Ron Heath

Newsletter 213

CENTRAL LINE

The speaker at our Spring General Meeting on 7 April was Jeff Ellis, General Manager of the Central Line, and a sizeable audience came to the Lopping Hall to hear current news and future plans for the line.

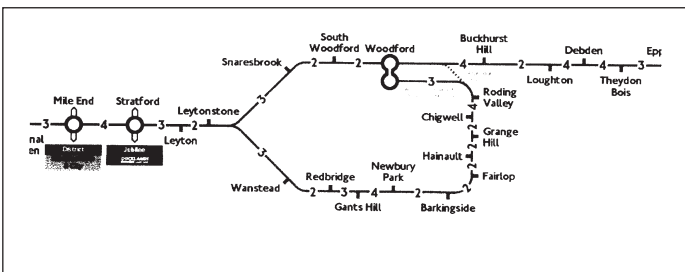
Jeff was accompanied by George Dyer, Group Manager for all stations from Snaresbrook to Epping, who is based at Buckhurst Hill. Both men were strikingly upbeat and genuinely enthusiastic about the prospects for development and improvement of the line – for the first time in 20-30 years there is major investment

introduced on 23 May which increases the number of off-peak trains. It is also planned to make the times of last trains later and to integrate them across the network.

Not surprisingly, the audience had a barrage of questions. Issues raised included:

- Security on trains – CCTV will eventually be installed in all trains, but pressing basic problems with the Central Line are being dealt with first.
- Air conditioning – this is being looked at, but a major problem is getting rid

of the hot air which would be pumped out into the tunnels. Running costs of aircon are enormous and would impact heavily on ticket prices.



in the tube, enabling London Underground to plan long term.

Since November 2003 a new team of 13 qualified rolling stock engineers has been based at Hainault and is implementing an improved preventive maintenance regime – this is already increasing train reliability. A considerable incentive is that the private company which carries out maintenance incurs heavy financial penalties when trains break down.

Further positive news is that there is a rolling programme for modernisation of stations, but the downside is that Loughton Station will not be modernised for another five years. A new timetable is, however, being

- Bridge at Leytonstone station – a feasibility study has already been done and costings are awaited.
- Passenger control of doors – a new system will be installed as trains are modernised.
- Information for passengers – drivers attend an annual training course which includes communication. Auditors travel on trains and note whether adequate information is given – if not the driver has to attend extra training.

If the optimism of Jeff and George is anything to go by, there is light at the end of the tunnel for travellers on the Central Line.

Carol Murray

A LETTER FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Dear Member

On 10 June you will have the opportunity to elect Councillors for the District and Town Councils.

Why should you vote for your LRA candidate?

LRA has a record of over 22 years of independent and committed service for Loughton and ALL its residents. Our councillors are INDEPENDENT – they take no part in coalitions in council chambers, but work for Loughton with all other groups, supporting any ideas which will benefit Loughton, whoever proposes them.

LRA has a consistent record of involvement in community affairs – we do not propose candidates who will be 'passengers', willing to stand but not to work.

LRA gets things done – here are just a few examples:

We have worked consistently to get enhancement and refurbishment of the High Road and Broadway shopping centres. Now the High Road scheme has the go-ahead and plans are being drawn up for regeneration of the Broadway and surrounding area.

We initiated and still promote and support the very popular monthly Farmers Market.

The children's playground by the library was entirely the result of persistence by LRA.

The High Road drinking fountain is back and will soon be working – without LRA this attractive part of our town scene would have been lost.

LRA was instrumental in bringing about the dam and flood reservoir in Staples Road to prevent any repetition of major flooding in Loughton.

Many fine trees in Loughton would have been lost without our continuing campaign for tree preservation orders.

LRA keeps you informed and represents your interests week in, week out – not only just before elections. Please help us to help you by voting for LRA candidates in your Ward on 10 June.

Yours sincerely
Chris Harper

NEXT FARMERS MARKET SUNDAY 6 JUNE

LATEST NEWS FROM THE POLICE

Anti social behaviour, as many of you will know, is still affecting our community and is still one of my main priorities in the area. We are continuing with our operation to target persistent offenders who cause antisocial behaviour. We have now issued 25 acceptable behaviour contracts, which require the individuals not to congregate in large groups, not to congregate in certain areas and not to participate in any form of anti social behaviour.

This, however, is only part of the problem, as the police can only enforce the law and what is really needed is more diversionary activities for young people in the Loughton area. The Community team are working with other agencies to try and encourage various schemes, but there is unfortunately a rising trend to close such facilities,

which only leaves more young people on the streets causing anti social behaviour. The council and youth service will be providing activities in various areas over the summer period, which will be supported by the police and will hopefully steer young people away from crime and into something more positive.

Moving away from anti social behaviour, we are currently running a number of road checks around the area. These are not speed checks – instead we are using the automatic number plate reader to target stolen and known vehicles used in crime, in order to try and reduce the numbers of burglaries and vehicle crimes being committed in the area. This is working extremely well and will be a permanent fixture of our policing style.

Inspector Piers Quinnell



SKATEBOARDERS OF THE WORLD UNITE !

Young Joe Gelb, 13, has certainly been uniting the skateboarders around Loughton by getting 80 signatures on a petition to the local authority to provide a skateboarding facility.

At the moment Joe and his friend Sam have to travel all the way to Ladbrooke Grove to practise their skills and get rid of some of that surplus energy the average teenager is renowned for.

LRA has been keen to promote such a facility for many years. We have been very aware that there are few outlets for young people to spend their leisure time building their interests and enthusiasms. If they play a team sport, can afford such things as football coaching or are interested in taking advantage of the new pool and sports centre, at least they have something nearby, but we need many more activities for young people. A skateboard park would help to fill the gap and thanks to the initiative and determination of Joe and his supporters, LRA councillors can justify their support for the project and be delighted that it really looks as though this time it will actually be built.

The drive for a skateboard facility in Loughton has a long history, dating back to a 151-signature petition received by EFDC in 1996. Various sites have been considered, but for various reasons could not be proceeded with.

Finally, the area in Borders Lane, opposite Epping Forest College has been approved and funding promised once the legal niceties have been sorted out with regard to access. It should be an ideal position as the site is large enough for local residents not to be disturbed. Let's hope that Joe, Sam and their friends will be able to look forward to many exciting days skateboarding. They have set an example for other young people to get involved in making things happen.

Joy Gordon

HAVE YOU SEEN THE STUD MUFFINS?

The Stud Muffins are a band of musicians consisting of two drums, piano, rhythm guitar and two singers. The unusual thing is that this is no group of teenagers practising in the garage. Rather, the members are all over 56 years old!

Stud Muffins was born out of a surprise retirement present to Ted Martin, who was given a set of drums by his partner Kate Tracey and friends.

After some lessons, Ted got together with Loughton Athletic Club colleague John Hart, who was learning the bass guitar. The duo started to practise and was joined by Audrey Wilson, a pianist who pointed them in the right direction.

The other members are Ian Hollyer on rhythm guitar, Philip Prashner on the djembe (a West African drum), and Megan Markham and Kate Tracey as singers.

The Stud Muffins specialise in playing favourites from the past, such as

'Ain't Misbehaving' and 'Sunny Side of the Street'. The group aims to get the optimum audience participation, and hand out song sheets so there are no excuses!

Their first gig was for Loughton Stroke Club at the Union Church, which went down very well. That was two years ago and they have been playing for the public regularly ever since. They mostly play for the elderly in nursing homes and in church venues.

Last year the band was awarded a Lottery grant that enabled them to buy some sound equipment, such as an amplifier and speaker systems. This means they have become more professional and the singers can be heard better.

They will next be playing for the Blind Society, Woodford, and Age Concern. If you would like to book the Stud Muffins, please call Ted Martin on 020 8508 9843.

Sam Barber



WHY DO WE NEED A TOWN COUNCIL?

This is a question posed from time to time by both members and non-members across our town of Loughton. Although I can understand the question being raised, particularly at this sensitive time of ever rising council tax demands, I must admit to my own personal disappointment, that after eight years of hard work by our pioneering Town Councillors, we should still be so misunderstood!

Back in the early 1990s you told the government that you wanted the Parish of Loughton to have its own Local Council. For once the Government listened - and in 1996 the Loughton Parish (now Town) Council was born.

OK, it may have appeared that we had a slow start, but we were starting completely from scratch, with no officers, no offices and no administrative procedures to deal with the ever increasing work being passed over from the District Council (Allotments, Cemetery, Playing Fields, Open Spaces, Grass Cutting, etc). However, once the foundations were secured, we rapidly gained pace.

A Town Council must be the Champion of the Town. We have to be consulted on ALL planning applications and, let's be honest, Loughton has an extremely large number of these. Our comments on your behalf have made a difference and we hope will continue to do so. We also regularly lobby other bodies in your name.

We are proud of our achievements over the past eight years, some examples of which I will describe below:

We have purchased Willingale Road Playing Fields, upgraded all the children's playgrounds, enhanced sports equipment in the Roding Valley Recreation Ground, cleaned and added names to the War Memorial, restored Pump Hill's pump and the High Road drinking fountain. We have improved the standard of care and refurbished the chapel at the current cemetery, made plans to create another burial ground at Lady Whittaker's Mead and have planted the Rectory Lane Millennium

Remembrance Grove. Our Blue Plaque scheme has endorsed the part played in the history of our country by Loughton's former residents. We regularly communicate with all residents in the town through our award winning newsletter, "Think Loughton" and Website (www.loughton-tc.gov.uk).

We have involved our residents in our decision making, by holding regular forums and allowing the public to address all our meetings. Our annual Christmas Card and Best-Dressed Window competitions are well supported and our Millennium Mugs will have reminded all our children that we are there for them.

We arranged for Welcome to Loughton signs at every road entrance to the town and the erection of appropriate lampposts in our conservation areas. We built our own bus shelter (to supplement those provided by EFDC), organised self-help grit bins and provided names for alleyways. We have made regular grants

to local organisations, including financial support to both the Broadway and High Road Christmas Lights, including those on our own tree on Kings Green, which provides the focus for the St. Clare's 'Light up a Life' ceremony.

Yes, we are the owners of property. On our creation in 1996, unlike other large local councils we had nothing. We have bought our own offices - we have bought them freehold and they are increasing in value.

Yes, we have bought the site of the former United Reformed Church - you told us you wanted something done for young people, and this joint project with the County Council is now on the way towards achieving the goal you set us.

I know that all our Town Councillors are proud to have been members of Loughton's award-winning Town Council during its formative years. I hope I have reassured you that the Town Council has a very important role to play and that it will in the future continue to prove a very real benefit to the residents of Loughton.

*Roger Pearce, Chairman,
Loughton Town Council, 2003/4*

SCHOOL GREEN

School Green, on the corner of York Hill and Staples

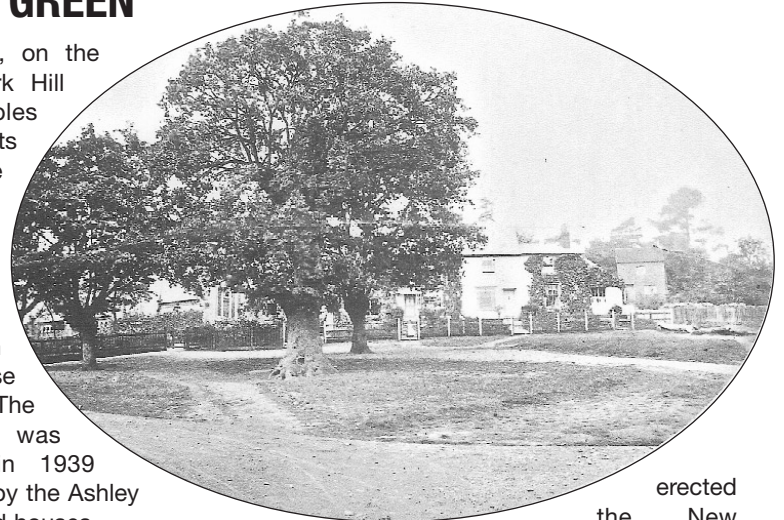
Road, takes its name from the

original National School, which stood on the edge of the green and was in use

until 1911. The school was demolished in 1939 and replaced by the Ashley Grove flats and houses.

This view of the green is taken from a book of 40 photographs of the area, almost certainly published in the 1870s, which bears the splendid title: *Epping Forest Illustrated. A book of photographic views of the most picturesque localities and buildings of note in Epping Forest and the adjacent area.* The National School is just visible behind the trees at the left hand side. The green still looks very similar today, except for the absence of the school and the fact that the oak trees now have much thicker girths.

A description below the photograph conjures up an impression of the school: 'At the entrance of the road leading to Epping, and resting on forest ground, is



erected the New National School; a rather large building of red brick, in the new style of architecture generally adopted for institutions of that sort. It has a good appearance and looks very comfortable.'

There are two further views of Loughton in the book - King's Green, including the old King's Head Inn and village cage (lock-up), and St John's Church (incorrectly captioned St Nicholas!)

The photographer/publisher was G Rousseau of Walthamstow, described in an 1870 directory as a photographer and in 1877 as a Professor of French!

*Richard Morris
Epping Forest Verderer*

POSTAL VOTING FORM

For your convenience, a postal voting form is enclosed with this newsletter. If you are going to be away on 10 June, or will be unable to get to the polling station, you can vote by post, but the deadline for returning the forms to EFDC is 2 June.

NEWS FROM THE COUNCILS

Leisure Centre management – EFDC has received expressions of interest from organisations wishing to manage the council's leisure centres, and invitations to quote will have gone out by the time you read this. LRA Cllr Peter House is very much involved in this process and we'll be keeping you up to date with progress.

Derelict phone box – Peter House is still trying to get EFDC to take away the unsightly phone box in the High Road. Various excuses have been made by certain council officers as to why this can't be done, but Peter is determined to ensure that this eyesore is removed.

Noise nuisance at Sainsburys – groups of youngsters are causing a disturbance by racing up and down Sainsburys car park and the station car park late at night on motor scooters, doing handbrake turns in cars and playing in-car stereo systems at full blast. Peter House has met with the manager of Sainsburys, police officers and a representative of London Underground to plan how to deal with this problem.

Dangerous bollards – a partially-sighted resident, who has had potentially serious accidents through colliding with bollards he was unable to see properly, has suggested that the tops of bollards should be painted white to enable visually impaired people to see them properly. Cllr Peter House contacted EFDC's Highways Department with this sensible suggestion and received an extremely negative and unhelpful reply from Highways Officer Roy Keasley. Peter is continuing to pursue the matter.

Youth & Community Centre – Town Councillor Suzanne Harper reports that a firm of architects has been chosen for the proposed Centre in Borders Lane. There will now be a series of meetings between Loughton Town Council (LTC) and the architects to progress the project.

School Green – there has been a divergence of views among local residents as to how often School Green should be cut. Epping Forest Conservators are responsible for the Green, although LTC carries out the cutting. The Conservators have instructed that the grass is to be mown only three times a year, to maintain biodiversity on the green. LTC agreed to this approach, but reserved the right to ask for a fourth cut if weather conditions led to more grass growth than usual.

Roding Valley Recreation Ground – Cllr Roger Pearce reports that agreement appears imminent (at last!) on the lease transferring responsibility from EFDC to LTC.

Willingale Road Allotments – having agreed in principle to the transfer of the allotments to LTC, EFDC are still placing difficulties in the way of completing the handover of responsibility. We'll keep you informed of progress.



An impression of how the new M&S store will look

LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Chairman	
Chris Harper	23 Algers Road IG10 4NG 020 8508 4770
Vice Chairman	
Diane Rhodes	9 Ashley Grove IG10 1HS 020 8508 3284
Hon Secretary	
Carol Murray	20 Queens Road IG10 1RS 020 8508 4892
Treasurer	
Tony Paddon	12 Forest View Road IG10 4DX 020 8508 2238
Press Officer	
Michael Benbow	28 Brook Road IG10 1BP 020 8508 4457
Membership Secretary	
Juliet Pollard	14 The Hawthorns IG10 3QT 020 8502 0552
Committee	
Ken Angold-Stephens	89 Lower Park Road, IG10 4NE 020 8281 0674
Jack Benjamin	23 Newnham Close IG10 4JG 020 8508 4765
Rose Brookes	3 Lower Park Road IG10 4NB 020 8502 5981
Mitch Cohen	16 Ollards Grove, Loughton IG10 4DW 020 8502 1533
James Dean	69 Colebrook Lane IG10 2HN 020 8281 7932
Ron Heath	46 Ollards Grove IG10 4DW 020 8508 3458
Jan Kinrade,	28 Hillyfields, IG10 2JS 020 8532 0488
Brian Moore	6 Forest View Road IG10 4DX 020 8508 7112
Sheila Shillitto	11 Eleven Acre Rise IG10 1AN 020 8508 2900
Janet Woods	1a Woodland Road, IG10 1HQ 020 020 8508 1764
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)

County Councillor St Mary's Division

David Linnell 20 Eleven Acre Rise IG10 1AN
020 8508 2932

Roding Ward

Larry Ford (T) 47 Stonards Hill IG10 3EH
020 8508 4344

St John's Ward

Kay Ellis (T) 31 Algers Road IG10 4NG
020 8508 6018

John Markham (D) 77 Queen's 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

Bob Wilmot (T) 50 Baldwins Hill IG10 1SF
020 8508 1987

St Mary's Ward

Tony Lee (D&T) 33 Priory Road IG10 1AF
020 8508 7649

Pam Meadows (T) 98 Roding Road IG10 3EJ
020 8508 4136

Dorothy Paddon (D) 12 Forest View Road IG10 4DX
020 8508 2238

Mike Wardle (T) 61 The Drive IG10 1HG
020 8508 2771

Forest Ward

Ken Faulkner (D) 'Briar Patch', Park Hill IG10 4ES
020 8508 1215

Suzanne Harper (T) 23 Algers Road IG10 4NG
020 8508 4770

Les Harris (T) 32 Upper Park IG10 4EQ
020 8508 1333

Peter House (D) 10 Connaught Avenue IG10 4DP
020 8532 1275

Judith Woodman (T) 164 Forest Road IG10 1EG
020 8502 0785

May 2004

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HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR SUBSCRIPTION FOR THE CURRENT YEAR?

Subs were due on 1 January

Please send to Juliet Pollard, Membership Secretary.

14 The Hawthorns, Loughton, IG10 3QT

Please enrol/renew my household as a member of LRA

I enclose £4 for membership until December 2004

I enclose a donation in support of LRA's work

Please send a receipt, I enclose a stamped addressed envelope

Name:

Address:

.....

Telephone:

E Mail:

All membership information is held by LRA for its own records and is not made available to any other body.