



Staples Road School. by Peter House

LOUGHTON LIFE

APRIL 2005

Plans for the Community Centre

Now that the plans have approval, a new community centre can be built on the site of the derelict church in Borders Lane. It is intended to provide good facilities for local use by all and to be a "good neighbour" in the area.

Mindful of local opinion LRA Councillors took account of feedback from the public consultation. They then proposed conditions, which are included in the approved plans to ensure that the centre will not impact unfavourably on the locality or cause nuisance and that disruption is minimised during construction.

- A wall is planned round the sides and rear of the site, which, together with careful design and planting of the garden, will protect the privacy of adjacent properties.
- The community hall and public areas will be sited at the furthest point from nearby houses and "The Spinney".
- Restricted hours of use and of delivery and collection times will ensure no late night or early morning disturbance.
- Automated control systems will keep sound levels low and disperse kitchen odours.
- Trees at the rear of the property will be protected and old diseased trees elsewhere will be replaced.

Facilities for young people will be funded and managed by Essex County Council. It will include a cyber/internet café and other activities such as arts and crafts, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, career advice and health and counselling advice. Youth service staff will be present in the building at all times.

What use would you like to make of the centre? You could start a lunch club or a drama group. How about short mat bowls, keep fit, dancing, or music or a choir?

And if you are thinking of getting married, the centre will be licensed to conduct weddings and the hall and kitchen may be hired for the reception.
Sheila Shillitto

Your County Candidate: Chris Pond for Chelmsford

On 5 May, LRA will be contesting one seat in the County Council election, Loughton Central Division, which is made up of Alderton, Fairmead, St John's and St Mary's Wards. LRA will not be putting up candidates in the new Divisions which cover Broadway, Forest and Roding Wards this year.

While LRA regrets that we cannot contest all three County Divisions, we are very pleased that Chris Pond will stand for election in Loughton Central.

Chris has lived in Loughton for 24 years, and has been a Town Councillor for Loughton (St Johns) since 1996, and his wife Caroline is a District and Town Councillor. His interest in the environment, transport and heritage has been of great value in council work, where he has defended local public transport services, and devised the LTC blue plaque scheme to commemorate local figures. He has played a leading part in securing transfer of two allotment sites for the town, and in the acquisition of the Roding Valley and Willingale Road playing fields. He has been active in the planning of a new cemetery in Debden Lane, and defending the open land between Loughton and Theydon.

Chris is an ideal representative – his work with the Town Council, his membership of a number of local organisations and charities,

plus his interest in local history, gives him a wide knowledge of all parts of Loughton and their problems.

Since the last County Council election in 2001, the Electoral



Commission has reorganised the voting areas for Loughton into three new areas – Loughton Central; Chigwell & Loughton Broadway; and Loughton South (i.e. Forest & Roding Wards) & Buckhurst Hill. We objected to the changes, but our objections were not accepted.

We believe that it is very important for LRA to have at least one County Councillor. Around half of the electors in Chigwell & Loughton Broadway and Loughton South & Buckhurst Hill live outside Loughton. An LRA councillor's primary concern is to look after the interests of Loughton's residents. So this year we will be putting all our efforts into securing the new Loughton Central seat. Next year, however, there will be District Council elections in all Loughton wards, and we will be putting up candidates for as many seats as possible.



Vandalised car in York Hill.

Car Vandals Target Roads near Forest

In recent weeks there has been a spate of Friday night car vandalism in roads adjoining Epping Forest. Staples Road and York Hill have been particularly badly hit and on one night 26 cars were damaged. Residents woke on the Saturday morning to find car windows smashed, wipers bent and bodywork scratched. A car belonging to LRA Vice-Chairman Diane Rhodes was covered in blood – presumably one of the vandals had cut his hand badly – although the car was not damaged.

New Building for College

Epping Forest College are consulting locally on plans to replace their current elderly buildings with a new college building which would be a credit to Loughton. It would also provide a new library for Debden, very near to the current library, with an entrance on the corner of Borders Lane (not through the College building as stated by the BNP, who have put out a misleading leaflet about this aspect of the development).

There are many issues still to sort out, particularly about the amount and type of new housing, the sports field on the other side of Borders Lane and possible improvements to the junction of Borders Lane, Rectory Lane and The Broadway. We will be commenting constructively as the plans develop.

David Linnell

I took up the matter with Inspector Piers Quinnell of Loughton Police Station. The police were aware of the current problem, but give priority to car crime over car vandalism. Insp Quinnell believed a few individuals were involved, and he was taking action and was following up forensic leads. Despite the recent rash of incidents, he assured me that Loughton crime statistics still compared very well overall with those of Epping, Brentwood and Harlow, and there had not been any particular rise in petty crime.

Cllr Chris Pond

General Market gets thumbs down

Market traders based outside Loughton asked Loughton Town Council to organise a general market in the High Road on those Sundays when LRA's Farmers' Market does not operate, but the Town Council has turned this down. Among other potential difficulties, Epping and Waltham Abbey have charter markets, which means that other similar general markets cannot operate within a 6 2/3rd mile radius, and Epping Town Council have indicated that they would object.

Thanks to Retiring Councillors

The election of the new LRA Committee saw the retirement of two long-serving members, Kay Ellis and Bob Wilmot. Both were early members of LRA and have been on the Committee for 24 years, both have served as District and Town Councillors (Kay was the first LRA District chairman). Apart from their council work, they have both been active in LRA affairs for many years and they will be sorely missed – we wish them both a long and happy 'retirement'.

We also owe a vote of thanks to David Linnell, the retiring LRA County Councillor for what is now Loughton Central. David has been very active in representing Loughton's interests, including public transport and the threat of thousands of new houses. He is only being allowed a partial retirement as we hope to continue using his knowledge and energies in the future.

Think Loughton on Tape

Loughton Town Council's quarterly newsletter "Think Loughton" is now available to blind and partially sighted residents as a tape recording. The Loughton Lions have kindly agreed to record the tapes and distribute them to residents who are on the mailing list for the talking newspaper. If you know someone who lives in the Loughton area and would like to receive a recording on a regular basis please contact Joan Innis at the Loughton Town Council on 020 8508 4984 or e-mail: loughton_tc@compuserve.co.uk.

More Parking for Shoppers

There has been strong lobbying from Loughton Town Centre Partnership (which includes businesses in the High Road), supported by LRA, to persuade EFDC to re-designate High Beech Road car park as short term. These spaces are badly needed for shoppers during the Marks & Spencer building works.

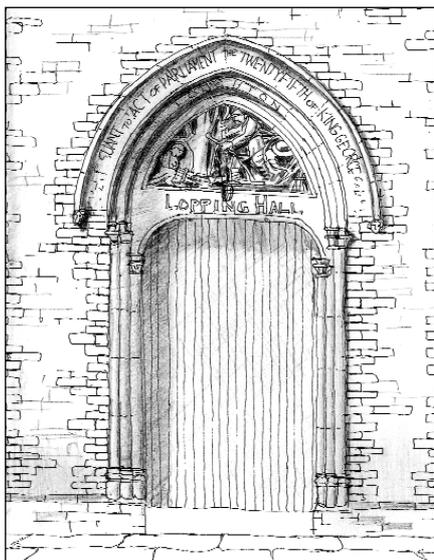
Meet your LRA councillors at
the Farmers Market, Loughton High Road
1st Sunday each month.

Parking Review

Parking restrictions in Loughton are a mess! The central High Road area badly needs changes to the yellow lines. Driving up or down Church Hill has been dangerous because the new parking areas were brought in without the accompanying parking restrictions and a safety audit is still awaited. Residents in other roads all over Loughton are having increasing problems in finding parking spaces, or are finding themselves blocked in at home. What can be done?

LRA Councillors have been working hard to get the District Council to revise the central High Road area and Church Hill parking restrictions, and at last we are seeing the results. A review of the rest of Loughton is on its way, but will have to wait for parking reviews in other towns, such as Epping, to be completed first. In the meantime, please let your ward councillors know about particular problems, if only so that we can build up a picture of what's needed.

David Linnell



Lopping hall original main entrance, Peter House.

Lopping Hall Election

Some of the Lopping Hall Trustees are up for election at the AGM, which will be held at 8.00pm on Wed 13 April 2005 at the Hall. Only electors of the ancient parish of Loughton can vote. LRA members Diane Rhodes, Chris Pond, and Stephen Pewsey are already trustees, and will continue next year. If you would like to have your say on the future of the Hall, and the Trustees' plans for renovation, do come along.



Gertrude Green in Smarts Lane c1950.

The Good Old Days?

Gertrude Green (1873-1962) came from an ordinary working class family, living for almost all her life in Smarts Lane, and her memoirs have recently been published by The Loughton and District Historical Society.

Gertrude's reminiscences throw light on the harshness of the life of poor people in Loughton in the late nineteenth and first half of the twentieth century, but also on the neighbourliness and family support they received. The church was a focus for village life and also somewhere to turn to in difficult times. When Gertrude needed convalescence the

church paid for two weeks in Eastbourne. When the family needed medical attention, well before the advent of the NHS, one of the local doctors would treat them and they would be charged according to what they could afford.

Gertrude brought up a large family whilst at the same time working as a laundry maid or seamstress for some of the 'well off' people in the big houses in nearby roads such as Ollards Grove. She gives vivid descriptions of the Shaftesbury Retreat in Staples Road,

where children from the East End were entertained, including the excitement of an elephant being used to get wagons into the field over boggy ground to set up roundabouts and sideshows.

Gertrude raised her large family successfully and lived to be 88, adapting to changes in her circumstances and the world around her. This wonderful record is a tribute to her resilience.

My Life in Loughton by Gertrude Green is available from the Loughton Bookshop in the High Road, price £5.

Joy Gordon

Rubbish Draws a Crowd

On 8 March LRA provided a forum for the District and County Councils to explain council policy on rubbish collection and recycling. It was standing room only at the Lincoln Hall, and the very vocal audience left the speakers in no doubt that feelings are running high.

Nicola Beach, the County's Waste and Recycling Manager, gave some sobering statistics – in 2002/03 Essex recycled 25% of its waste; the government-imposed target for 2004/05 is 30% and the following year is likely to be 36%. If the targets are not met the county will incur heavy fines, which could be up to £10 million per annum, and there will be a prohibitively high charge for the use of landfill sites. All of this would have to come out of our Council Tax, which is a good incentive for all of us to reduce waste and recycle more. One bit of good news is that the County Council confirmed its 'no incineration' policy.

John Gilbert, EFDC's Head of

Environmental Services, outlined various options considered by the District Council for achieving these targets. The chosen option was to issue a standard-sized wheelie bin (180 litres) to most households for non-recyclable rubbish ('residual waste'); LRA is supporting an optional smaller size bin. This would only be emptied fortnightly, with recyclables being collected on the alternate weeks. Households would therefore have to recycle more, since the waste contractor would not take excess 'residual waste' away. Despite loud heckling from some sections of the audience, he was adamant that this was the only way to achieve the recycling targets.

We understand the council plans to introduce wheelie bins and fortnightly collections in October. Both speakers agreed that there were likely to be problems initially, but once people became used to the new system the problems would reduce and the benefits begin to work.

Carol Murray

Around the Town

Roding Street Trees

Residents of Avondale Drive, Southern Drive and adjacent roads are finding that some of the pavement trees are growing too large and their roots are causing damage to garden walls and pavements. According to an EFDC officer, the trees were a "temporary (up to 10 year) planting at the time the houses were built", and that they should have been replaced with "more suitable" verge planting - but this has never been carried out. LRA members in Roding Ward have discussed the problem with EFDC officers and have arranged a site visit.

Station Approach

LRA District Councillor Ken Angold-Stephens is continuing to monitor the cleaning of Station Approach. As we reported in our last issue, it was entirely due to Ken and LRA that agreement was reached between Metronet and EFDC as to who would be responsible for cleaning verges and embankments. All that's needed now is to ensure the cleaning is frequent enough to keep the area looking good - a tall order, but worth persevering with!

Bin success on York Hill

Steve Middleton, a resident of York Hill, with the help of LRA District Councillor Caroline Pond and an officer from EFDC, has managed to get a new litter bin installed on York Hill Green. Maintaining a high quality of life in Loughton depends on small-scale achievements like this, as well as major projects.

Loughton Community Network

The Loughton Community Network is a community information noticeboard produced by the Loughton & District WEA every Friday. It is circulated by email to libraries, churches and volunteer led organisations based in

Loughton and the surrounding area. Membership of the network is free to voluntary groups in Loughton, for more information email Sue on outerlondon@aol.com. Hon. Secretaries are asked to let Sue have programmes of events as soon as possible.

Broadway WC gains reprieve

LRA Town Councillors supported Cllr Joan Davis's suggestion to take over the disabled toilet in The Broadway, which was to have been closed by EFDC, and the Town Council has agreed to fund it for a trial period of six months.

Station staff car park problems

LRA Chairman Peter House was contacted by a resident of Algers Road regarding problems with late night noise, vandalism and other antisocial behaviour in the London Underground staff car park. This has been affecting houses which back onto the car park. Peter is liaising with Metronet and the local police in order to get something done about it.

Write to your MP or MEP?

A new website (www.writetothem.com) will identify your local district and county councillor, MP or MEP, and provides a very brief template for you to fill in with a query or comment. It also provides advice on the areas of responsibility of each representative.

Correction

In our February issue, we accidentally combined two presentations of prizes to the winners of Christmas Card competitions, Clinton Cards founder Don Lewin presented prizes to the Broadway Town Centre Partnership competition, while Town Mayor Chris Pond made presentations to the winners of the Town Council competition - our apologies to both.

Paid your Subscription?

LRA relies on members' subscriptions to publish Loughton Life, promote public meetings, print leaflets and produce displays for the Farmers Market, but all these and our other activities take time. If subscriptions are not renewed when due, some of this valuable time has to be spent in collecting subscriptions, and LRA is made less effective. Please help us to help you and Loughton by renewing your £4 subscription by post or by standing order - and saving LRA volunteers the time and effort of knocking on hundreds of doors. If you want to know if you have paid, contact the Membership Secretary on membership@loughtonresidents.com or 8502 0552.

LOUGHTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION	
CHAIRMAN Peter House 10 Connaught Avenue IG10 4DP	8532 1275
VICE CHAIRMAN Diane Rhodes 9 Ashley Grove IG10 1HS	8508 3284
HON SECRETARY Carol Murray 20 Queens Road IG10 1RS	8508 4892
TREASURER Tony Paddon 12 Forest View Road IG10 4DX	8508 2238
PRESS OFFICER Michael Benbow 28 Brook Road IG10 1BP	8508 4457
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Juliet Pollard 14 The Hawthorns IG10 3QT	8502 0552
EDITOR John Woods 1A Woodland Road IG10 1HG	8508 1764
COMMITTEE James Dean Chris Harper Les Harris Ron Heath Kevin Latchford Sheila Shillitto Bela Yorke	8281 7932 8508 4770 8508 1333 8508 3458 8502 4568 8508 2900 8508 4729
LRA COUNCILLORS County Councillor St Mary's David Linnell 20 Eleven Acre Rise IG10 1AN	8508 2932
District and Town Councillors	
ALDERTON WARD Caroline Pond (T) 7 Staples Road IG10 1HP	8508 2361
FAIRMEAD WARD Bill Lattimore (T) 29 Harvey Gardens IG10 2AD	8502 1901
FOREST WARD Jack Benjamin (T) 23 Newnham Close IG10 4JG Rose Brookes (T) 3 Lower Park Road IG10 4NB Ken Faulkner (D) 'Briar Patch' Park Hill IG10 4ES Suzanne Harper (T) 23 Algers Road IG10 4NG	8508 4765 8502 5981 8508 1215 8508 4770
RODING WARD Ken Angold-Stephens (D/T) 89 Lower Park Road IG10 4NE Margaret Chalk (T) 49 Southview Road IG10 3LQ Richard Pennington (T) 51 Stonards Hill IG10 3EH David Wixley (T) 2 Copper Beech Court IG10 2QH	8281 0674 8508 2226 8508 0807 8418 9284
ST JOHN'S WARD John Markham (D) 77 Queens Road IG10 1RR Roger Pearce (T) 32 Millsmead Way IG10 1LR Caroline Pond (D) 7 Staples Road IG10 1HP Chris Pond (T) 7 Staples Road IG10 1HP Stephen Pewsey (T) 59 Wroths Path IG10 1SH	8508 1945 8281 1386 8508 2361 8508 2361 8508 5582
ST MARY'S WARD Mitch Cohen (D) 16 Ollards Grove IG10 4DW Tony Lee (D) 33 Priory Road IG10 1AF Brian Moore (T) 6 Forest View Road IG10 4DX Mike Wardle (T) 61 The Drive IG10 1HG Janet Woods (T) 1a Woodland Road IG10 1HQ	8502 1533 8508 7649 8508 7112 8508 2771 8508 1764
<i>Issue 220</i> © Loughton Residents Association 2005 Published by Loughton Residents Association, 1a Woodland Road, Loughton, IG10 1HG Printed by Oakfield Press, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 6PW	