



LRA's Loughton News

11 May 2024

In this issue, [we report on the local elections](#) where residents again elected LRA candidates to the Town and District Councils.

We give [an update on trees](#) that have been planted by the County Council around town, and give more details on [RideLondon-Essex](#) and [road closures on 26 May](#).

Next month is [the Beacon Lighting on Hillyfields](#) to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of Normandy Landings. Also further on in the year is the Jessel Green Community Fun Day on 23 June, the Loughton Horticultural Show on 7 September and Loughton Day on 21 September.

In the Forest you can [track the Longhorn cattle online](#), and why not [take a rest from mowing in May](#) and help our environment at the same time,

Thank you for being part of LRA. You can contact us by emailing contact@loughtonresidents.co.uk to raise an issue, give your views, or offer help.

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Election

Thursday 2 May 2024

Thank You!

May Elections

Residents voted convincingly for LRA candidates for Loughton Town Council. They also voted in 13 LRA candidates for District Council. Results are on the District Council website for the [Town Council](#) and [District Council](#).

An error on ballot papers for the Town Council wards of Loughton Broadway and Loughton Debden was noticed so the results were declared void. The District Council, Electoral Commission and local election officials will decide what to do next.

We thank the people of Loughton and Buckhurst Hill East who voted for LRA candidates. There were 26,738 crosses next to the LRA Logo on Ballot Papers - not bad for a non-political residents association. These voters are concerned people, anxious to defend the amenities of the locality. Since the Boundary Commission's redrawing of wards, LRA is privileged to represent part of Buckhurst Hill adjoining Loughton and east of the railway. Next year, it looks as if we will have to do the same for Buckhurst Hill West.

Thank you again.

High Road Bright at Night Again

Members will recall we have reported before that over half the streetlights in the busiest part of the High Road were "dead", and have been for up to three years.



The lights have now been converted to LED by the County Council and they shine once again, which will be a relief for those forced to walk, cycle or drive in darkness on the High Road pavements at night in the past few years.



County Council Wrong!

The County Council have for years maintained that the concrete ramp off Clifton Road (on the High Road side) was not part of the Highway, and thus not theirs to repair.

Now they have said it was adopted in 1966-69 when the Co-op supermarket, with its rooftop car park, was in full operation. Thanks to Maggie Burley for the tip-off.

LRA Cllr Chris Pond commented that getting the road repaired will still be a major task. This is because concrete roads are not easy to repair. He says he has been able to get one concrete road fully repaired, which was Burney Drive ten years ago, which at the time had 15 11-ton buses traversing it every hour, which cause the concrete slabs to move about 4 inches each time.

Image: Google

Planning and Licensing

[Read more on our website](#) about Planning and Licensing, the role of the LRA Plans Group (LRAPG), how to get more information and how to comment to the Town Council and the District Council, and to the LRA Plans Group – please have your say.

Trees Planted Around Loughton

LRAPG have complained to the District Council about the number of trees being planted around Loughton with no public consultation. It appears no thought has been given to where they are being placed. Whilst LRAPG support additional tree planting, the ones being planted are at the expense of some areas used as play areas and Qualis seem unable to cut the grass around them. The County Council have been planting the trees but the District Council will have to maintain them.



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LRAPG have asked for neighbours to be consulted before

trees are planted and sought assurances the grass will be properly cut around the trees by Qualis. Epping Forest's Ground Maintenance Team have since replied and assure us the quality of grass cutting around the trees will be improved in the next few weeks.



If you are concerned about any local trees not being maintained you can email the District Council at Trees@eppingforestdc.gov.uk



Connaught House, 112-120 High Road

This application is for prior approval for the construction of six new flats on top of the existing building.

LRAPG has objected to this application. Placing a vertical addition on top of the building looks ridiculous and is harmful to the building and the surrounding area. The additional flats will also impact on parking and surrounding streets for

spaces.

Reference [EPF/0739/24](#). The formal consultation period ended 2 May but you can still comment to the Council.

Roads, Parking and Travel

Planned Road Closures

- Borders Lane - the road will be closed on 25-26 May for new connection works by Thames Water. [More](#)
- Forest Road - the road will be closed on 12-13 May between 8pm and 5am for replacement of speed humps following earlier resurfacing. [More](#)

Dates can change so [check here for the latest updates](#), and for other planned roadworks



including ones that involve only temporary traffic lights.

RideLondon-Essex

[RideLondon-Essex](#) returns again this year ([see article below](#)) on Sunday 26 May. The route passes near Loughton on the Epping New Road which will be closed to traffic. A change from last year is that the route will now pass through Chigwell and Buckhurst Hill ([map](#)) as the weak bridge over the railway at Broadmead Road in Woodford is closed (all the time) due to safety concerns ([more](#)), so the route is much closer to Loughton ([PDF map](#) of closures south of Loughton).

Expect considerable disruption to roads and traffic around Loughton, so **do not reckon on driving anywhere to or from Loughton that day** as access in and out of Loughton and surrounding areas will be restricted. Some crossing points will be in place for traffic. [More](#) (PDF, p8-9)

- You will be able to use the M11 southbound all day, but not get to the M25 in the morning via the A104 Epping New Road.
- The A104 Epping New Road will be closed from 5am to 12pm midday, and the A121 Buckhurst Hill High Road from Palmerston Road south will be closed from 7:30am to 6pm. These closures will heavily restrict access south of Loughton and to the A104 Epping New Road except for two crossing points on Palmerston Road ([PDF map](#), p2)
- Bus routes 20, 167 and 397 will be suspended or short running the whole afternoon.

The Central Line should not be affected.

Central Line Service Disruption

Transport for London's new timetable has enabled long gaps between trains to be minimised but you may still have to wait longer for a train than before the disruption. Their intention is to run trains every 5-8 minutes. According to the [current \("temporary"\) timetable](#), there are no trains starting at Loughton during the 7am - 9pm peak, so you will continue to be lucky to find a seat on the morning commute.

TfL provide further updates on [their website](#).

Proposed Closure of (Most of) Fairmead Road

The County Council is proposing closing Fairmead Road in Waltham Abbey parish (off Cross Roads in the Forest) to vehicles. The road would be closed just after the Bikers Tea Hut.

[More](#) and [a map](#). Comments and objections can be emailed to the County Council at TrafficRegulation.Order@essexhighways.org by 17 May quoting TRAF/8141.

Road Repairs

In March in our district, the County Council repaired 132 potholes and 52 pavements, cleared no drains and fixed 150 streetlights.

Police, Fire and Crime



Driver Arrested

Officers on routine patrol requested the driver of a vehicle to stop on 23 April. Instead of stopping the vehicle sped off through the Loughton and Buckhurst Hill areas reaching speeds of 90mph through residential roads before colliding with a bush on the Epping New Road.

As a result, the driver was arrested immediately on suspicion of dangerous driving, failing to stop and being a disqualified driver. The man failed a roadside breath test and was further arrested on suspicion of drink driving. Enquiries made with the registered keeper of the car revealed the car had been stolen as a result of a burglary a few hours

earlier and the same man was arrested on suspicion of the theft of the vehicle.

Active Bystander Training – Sexual Harassment

The District Council are partnering with The Hollie Gazzard Trust, to provide active bystander training. The Hollie Gazzard Trust's active bystander workshop aims to equip participants with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to intervene effectively in situations where harm is occurring or likely to occur, thereby contributing to safer and more supportive communities.

Sessions are on 15 May. Booking is required. [More](#)

Beware Fake Calls

A resident reported that they received a routine-sounding phone call from "the VISA security department" about two suspicious transactions on their account, giving details, which he wanted the resident to verify or deny. For security, the caller asked for the resident's full name and date of birth.

The resident, being vigilant, asked how he could know the call was from VISA and the caller gave a convincing-sounding reply.

However, at that point the resident hung up and rang VISA on the number on the back of their credit card; they confirmed that the call was not from them and that there were no suspicious transactions on my account and that the call had been a scam attempt.

Courier Fraud

The police report a rise in reports of courier fraud across the district where fraudsters 'cold call' victims, purporting to be from their bank. They obtain names, telephone numbers and addresses from marketing campaigns or directory inquiries and using these details, make victims believe they are genuine. They may even have a familiar phone number if you have caller ID. They will organise a courier to collect bank cards from the victim, which are then used to withdraw or transfer money.

Supporting Victims of Stalking

Stalking can happen to anyone. It is a pattern of long-term repeated, unwanted, fixated, and obsessive behaviour which is intrusive and causes fear of violence or

serious alarm or distress. Victims can be targeted by an ex-partner, a colleague, a classmate or in rare circumstances, a stranger.

Just because you know, or knew, your stalker doesn't mean that what they are doing is right. Every situation is unique and the police work closely with victims of stalking to ensure they feel supported. [Read more](#) about how the police use early interventions like stalking protection orders to help protect victims.

Spotting and Reporting Deepfake Videos

A deepfake video uses using artificial intelligence to manipulate imagery of someone's face or body digitally. These videos have become increasingly commonplace on social media platforms and are difficult to spot. [Which magazine](#) give some tips to spot a deepfake video:



- Poor lip-syncing - watch the video carefully for whether people's mouths really match what they're saying.
- Details are off in some way - does the hair, lighting and skin tone of the person look believable? Is there any blurring in the video?
- Something doesn't sound right - listen for strange background noises or robotic voices.
- Unnatural expressions - it's hard to mimic natural blinking, and AI often lacks facial emotion and body movements can seem off.
- The video's source or who it's been posted by - if it's not an official account or if it's an account you've never heard of, and you haven't seen
- the video anywhere else, be wary.

To report apps on the Apple App Store, visit Apple's ['Report a problem'](#) website. To report an app on Google Play, go to the details page of the app, tap 'more', flag it as inappropriate, choose a reason and then tap submit. You can report dodgy posts or ads on Facebook by selecting the three dots in the top right corner of the post and pressing 'Report'.



More from the Police

[Read more](#) from the police for our local area including other news and crime statistics. The data is updated to March 2024.

Some items we report on come from the Dispatch Newsletter from Essex Police. You can [subscribe here for free](#) (choose the Epping Forest edition)

Council News

Wombles Next Litter Picks

The Town Council's Wombles were out again on 23 March picking litter on Englands Lane down towards Debden Lane, and also on Hillyfields towards Pyrles Lane. You can [read their newsletter here](#).

They will be out again picking up litter and the things that folks leave behind on 25 May. Can you help keep our town tidy? Contact Debbie at the Town Council by email on contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk or call 020 8508 4200.



Beacon Lighting 6 June

To commemorate the 80th Anniversary of Normandy Landings, there will be a Lighting of the Beacon at the top of Hillyfields on 6 June. The event starts at 9pm with the official lighting at 9:15pm.

This is part of a national event with lighting of beacons around the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories. [More](#)

Local News

Social Spaces Return

Social spaces return for another year to continue the offer of extra support and company throughout the warmer months. There's no need to book, residents can drop in anytime during the times stated for each venue to meet old friends and make new ones, play games and access different services. Some venues have activities, refreshments and WiFi connection. [More](#)



Venues locally are ([opening days and times are here](#)):

- Debden Library
- Epping Forest Campus, New City College
- Loughton Library
- Oakwood Hill Community Centre

- St Mary's Church.

RideLondon-Essex

RideLondon is a bicycle event which returns to Essex and London on Sunday 26 May with riders that are pre-registered riding one of three routes that start in London with two of the routes extending into Essex.

- the Essex 60 route that goes out to Epping and Ongar. [More](#)
- the Essex 100 route that goes out to Great Dunmow and Braintree. [More](#)

The rides will coincide with the [FreeCycle event](#) when central London streets are closed to traffic for a festival of cycling. FreeCycle is open to all at no cost.

Health and Wellbeing

Covid Vaccinations

The NHS is offering Covid vaccinations to those who:

- are 75 years or over (you need to be 75 years old by 30 June 2024)
- are 6 months to 74 years old and have a weakened immune system
- live in a care home for older adults

If you're eligible, you can:

- [book online](#)
- go to a walk in [COVID-19 vaccination site](#)
- [book on the NHS App](#)
- talk to a local NHS service, such as a GP surgery
- talk to your care home

Epping Forest

Conservation Volunteer Days

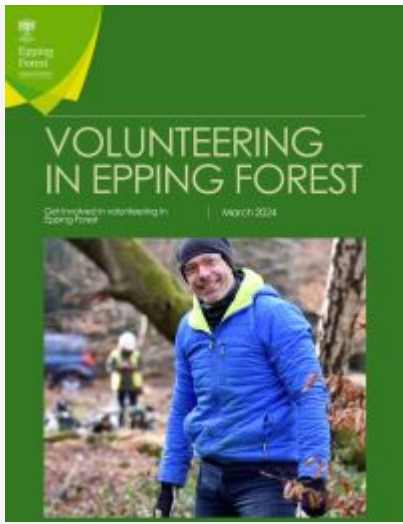
The Epping Forest Heritage Trust invites anyone who is interested in nature, love the outdoors, and want to improve your health and well-being, to join them for a day in the Forest to carry out practical habitat management work and help improve the biodiversity of Epping Forest.



They welcome people from all backgrounds and walks of life. The sessions will be led by our Conservation Officer with full approval and support from the City of London Corporation. Tools and training will be provided.

[There are a further two days in May and June.](#) Booking required.

Getting Involved in the Forest



A new [guide to volunteering in Epping Forest](#) (PDF) is now available which helps guide those interested in volunteering towards a path where they can help take care of Epping Forest. This includes many of the existing volunteer groups and the upcoming events they run.

Locate the Cattle

For centuries free roaming cattle have been a feature of the Forest. The free-ranging cattle are turned out to graze in the summer months at various grassland sites in the Forest. The sites include Chingford Plain, Fairmead and the pollarded glades of Bury Wood. Small numbers of cattle are used to 'spot graze' other areas of grassland and heathland for a few weeks at a time. These groups are enclosed by temporary electric fencing for their safety, so they do not roam onto the busy roads of the Forest. [More](#)



[You can now see where the cattle currently are here.](#) (You'll need to allow the app to access your location).



Disposal of Waste - Beware

If you are getting someone to dispose of your waste, ensure that you use a licenced waste carrier. You are required to take reasonable steps to check that people removing waste from your premises are authorised to do so.

Reasonable steps to take are:

- Ask the waste carrier to provide you with their full address and telephone number.
- Ask to see their Waste Carrier Licence issued by the Environment Agency.
- Obtain a receipt for the work.
- If in doubt, contact the Environment Agency on 0370 850 6506.

Rogue traders may charge you then fly-tip your waste in the Forest (or elsewhere). If your waste is found fly-tipped in Epping Forest, you could be fined or prosecuted.

[Search the public record of Waste Carriers here.](#)

Forest Focus - April 2024

Some items here come from Forest Focus. The edition for [April](#) has lots more interesting articles. You can [subscribe here for free.](#)



And More

Become a Hedgehog Spotter – in Your Own Home

To produce robust population estimates of hedgehogs as part of the campaign to protect them, the [People's Trust For Endangered Species](#) and the [Hedgehog Preservation Society](#) need your help to identify animals in video images. [More](#)

[Register a MammalWeb account here](#) then select the [NHMP project](#).

No Mow May

Flower-rich meadows are vital for important pollinators such as bees and butterflies, however many have been lost over recent decades. There are more than two million gardens in the UK. If all of them were left to nature in May, it could all add up to an amazing patchwork of tiny meadows – and you will end up with a buzzing, colourful wildlife haven on your doorstep, brimming with life.

No Mow May helps with this by allowing daisies and clover to flower, and encourages pollinators to visit your new meadow. Pollinators are vital, as they allow plants to fertilise, develop seeds, and produce fruits.

Simply give your mower a rest and leave your lawn to grow wild for the month of May. As well as giving you a break, it's great for wildlife too. [More](#) and a [video](#)

Thank you for supporting LRA. Our next Loughton News email is due to be issued Friday 7 June, although that date could change.

Get more from LRA and keep up with what's happening between issues of Loughton News

For all our Tweets, past issues of Loughton News and Loughton Life, and more



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