



LRA's Loughton News

24 November 2023

In this issue, read about a number of local events, including [Remembrance Sunday](#) which took place in November. Also coming soon are [Light Up a Life](#) and [Bright Lights on The Broadway](#).

This time of the year also means many local businesses will decorate their windows for Christmas, and will be judged in [the Town Council's Christmas Window Competition](#).

Also, watch out for [refurbished Central Line](#) trains - some are reported to be ready for service soon.

In the next news email there will be LRA's annual Christmas Quiz, which will also be in your Loughton Life members edition arriving soon in your letterbox.

Thank you for supporting LRA, which is 100% run by volunteers locally. You can always [contact us by email](#) to raise an issue, give your views, or offer help.

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LRA News



Bright Lights on The Broadway

On Wednesday 29 November, starting at 2pm, there will be a Christmas event for children on The Broadway. There will be a pop-up Santa's Grotto in an empty shop unit, the Thomas Willingale Primary School choir will sing, and there will be a children's fairground ride and refreshments. This will be followed by various entertainment by Bricklamps Path.

The Broadway will not be closed for the event. Special arrangements have been made for free parking in the Vere Road car park from 2pm.

If you are a qualified First Aider, could you help out? Also, any volunteers that could support the event are welcome. [Email LRA Cllr Rose Brookes](#) if you can help.

The Financial State of Qualis

The District Council has [reported](#) (p5) that Qualis continued to make positive returns in three of its four companies, albeit below target levels. Qualis Living continued to struggle to achieve its targets, and this would be addressed in the next Qualis Business Plan when the target would be revised to reflect economic conditions. Qualis had also made £2 million of interest payments to the Council for its lending and this directly supported the Council's provision of services. Overall, Qualis reported a quarter 2 loss of £350,718, which was almost £200,000 greater than forecast.

***LRA Comment:** We have always been doubtful about the advisability of the District Council setting up Qualis to take over various Council services for residents and to borrow money to fund developments, partly because this has removed the services concerned from direct scrutiny by LRA Cllrs and partly because of the financial risks involved. (The Council can argue that some of Qualis's problems have been caused by changes in economic conditions and in Government policies. However, experience shows that changes in these factors are to be expected, even if the details are unforeseeable, and that plans need to be sufficiently robust to withstand them.)*

13 – 15A Alderton Hill Another proposed block of flats

The Appeal date has changed and will now be heard on 6-8 and 11-12 December. We'll let you know the outcome.



If this email has been forwarded to you, get it sent directly to your inbox by [supporting LRA for only £5 a year](#).

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.

New Premises Licence - St John the Baptist Church, Church Lane

Notwithstanding several objections from local residents, the District Council has granted a new premises licence for amplified music and alcohol in the field to the rear of the church. The transmission of amplified music both live and recorded

outside the church is limited from 10am to 10pm, the sale of alcohol to 11pm and performances of dance to 11pm for 365 days a year.

LRAPG is disappointed such a potentially generous license has been granted. This is a peaceful amenity space that is surrounded by houses and the Council should have restricted the number of events. 11pm is too late for events for a field surrounded by family homes. The Council does not consult local residents over these applications and the local community only knew about the proposal because LRAPG notified them.

The Avenue Lawn Tennis Club, 18 The Avenue

This application proposes installation of lighting to Tennis Court No. 1.

LRAPG is concerned that using the floodlights in the morning will be detrimental to the amenity of surrounding residents, and have requested the Council should impose a condition that ensures the lights (as per the previous planning permission to restrict their use) can only be used between dusk and 10pm.

Reference [EPF/2003/23](#). The formal consultation period ends 1 December.

Roads, Parking and Travel

Planned Road Closures

- High Road - the road will be closed between Warren Hill and Avenue Gate from 4 to 9 December between 8pm and 5am for maintenance works by Essex Highways. [More](#)
- Oakwood Hill - the road will be closed between the junction of Roding Road to the junction of Chigwell Lane from 4 to 9 December between 8pm and 5am for machine patching by Essex Highways. [More](#)
- Brooklyn Avenue - the road will be closed from 29 November to 7 December between 8pm and 5am for machine patching by Essex Highways. [More](#)



Dates can change so [check here for the latest updates](#), and for other planned roadworks including ones that involve only temporary traffic lights.



Central Line Improvement Programme

We understand from [news reports](#) that the first refurbished trains from Transport for London's (TfL) Central Line Improvement Programme will start to enter service from late November, although TfL has not officially announced this.

It will reportedly take until 2029 for all 85 trains on the line to be refurbished, and TfL have said that the refurbishment should extend the life of the trains by 15-20 years. [Here is a](#)

[commentary](#) on the work done and what to expect.

Modifications will provide wheelchair space (which is much needed) but will also reduce seating capacity in affected carriages. Visual displays will also be provided and new AC traction motors. It will be interesting to see if the armrests (which were all broken off in the first month of the stock's life) are replaced, and if we see an end to the gaffer tape added for waterproofing.

Extending the life of the present 1992 stock may be a false economy and can be seen as a stop-gap measure. They are already 30 years old and likely to be obsolete in a decade's time. With a less restricted government investment policy in TfL, they would be due for replacement now, not in 15 years' time!

TfL has [a programme to replace Piccadilly Line trains](#) from 2025. That programme was [originally planned](#) to also replace Central Line trains (eventually) which would have also improved capacity in the 2030s, however given the drop in passenger numbers during the Covid pandemic and the subsequent tight financial position TfL finds itself in, we may be waiting a long time to see new trains arriving at our tube stations.

Please Keep the Roads Clear for the Gritters

A few C-class roads like Pyrles Lane, Forest Rd, and Englands Lane, which are not bus routes but are narrow and overparked, are still on the salting routes (most were removed in the mid-90s.) LRA Cllr Chris Pond has received complaints they have not been salted in the past. A lengthy correspondence with Highways has followed, particularly on Englands Lane.

The County Council say that because of the narrowness of the street, and the amount of parking (sometimes inconsiderate), gritter vehicles would be in danger of getting stuck if they attempted to access the street.

Please try to park where the width won't be obstructed, as the drivers of the gritters will simply not enter the road.

[More on the salting routes](#), [a map](#), and [track the gritters here](#).

Police, Fire and Crime



Extra Patrols in Debden

The police have recently had increased patrols in Debden, including The Broadway and Vere Road plus parts of Barrington Road and Burton Road.

Epping Community Policing and Town Centre teams and District Council community safety officers have been speaking with residents and retailers to hear their concerns and provide reassurance. [More](#)

Policing teams hold events at New City College and local schools so students know their local officers, and can tell them of any concerns. The Council's youth outreach service also holds weekly sessions.

Nitrous Oxide is Now Illegal

It is now a criminal offence to possess nitrous oxide, also known as 'laughing gas', without a legitimate reason.

The change in the law states it is illegal to possess nitrous oxide for the purpose of getting high, and is now classified as a Class C drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Licences will not be required to carry nitrous oxide, but individual users will need to demonstrate they are lawfully in possession of nitrous oxide and not intending to consume it for psychoactive effects. [More](#)

Funding for Essex Police and Essex Fire and Rescue Service - Have Your Say

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) is asking residents for their views on investing in both Essex Police and Essex County Fire and Rescue Service through the council tax precept. The precept is the amount paid as part of our council tax for local policing and fire and rescue services.

Approximately 60% of police funding comes from Central Government. Police and Crime Commissioners are responsible for raising the remaining funds via the police precept to maintain police resources to keep our communities safe.

[More and Have Your Say](#)

Essex Police Annual Report

The police have issued their annual report covering the 12 months to March 2023. [More](#) and [the report](#) (PDF).

Essex Fire and Rescue Service Annual Report

The service have issued their annual report covering the 12 months to March 2023. [More](#) and [the report](#) (PDF).

Beat the Scammers

Sometimes short weblinks, such as those starting with "tinyurl.com", are there to avoid the need to type in a very long name. However, in other cases scammers will use such links, that look innocent, to link to a fraudster's website.

One way to find out where such links actually lead is to copy and paste them into a URL redirect checker (such as [wherergoes.com](#)), which shows it's final destination, without exposing you to the actual website.

More from the Police

[Read more](#) from the police for our local area including other news and crime statistics. The data is updated to September 2023.



Essex Police Weekly Dispatch News Email

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



2023 Christmas Window Competition

The Town Council invites all Loughton's businesses to decorate their shop windows in a Christmas-themed design for automatic entry to this special Christmas competition. The Council hope this will encourage more residents to shop locally over the Christmas shopping period.

Window decorations must be completed for when the judging commences on 1 December. [More](#)

Loughton Building Design Awards 2024

Nominations are being accepted for the annual awards scheme. The aim is to celebrate good design and give public recognition to recent local building projects in Loughton that make a positive contribution to the local environment. The Town Council continually seek to protect and enhance our town and reward those individual examples of good design and construction and/or sympathetic restoration. [More](#) and [Nomination Form](#).



New Blue Heritage Plaque - Charles Frederick Clark

The Town Council has installed its 49th blue heritage plaque at 8 Connaught Avenue to acknowledge Charles Frederick Clark, Industrialist and Philanthropist.

Charles Frederick Clark was born in 1876, in Knaresborough, North Yorkshire. In 1911 he moved to Leyton, opening his Caribonum factory in 1918 where he derived his fortune from the manufacture of carbon paper and typewriter ribbons; he was known as the "carbon paper king".

Clark later moved to Loughton. One of his residences was 8 Connaught Avenue. He also had built for him, by the distinguished architects Wallis Gilbert and Partners, 'Limber' in Church Lane, and 'Ripley Grange' in Debden Lane which he regarded as "the crowning success of his life".

The house was set in 18 acres of spectacular gardens which Clark opened up to the public for free. As the number of visitors grew, he had seven thatched summer houses built. During the Second World War, Clark had the grounds ploughed up in order to grow vast quantities of vegetables that were sent to the Voluntary Hospitals and other charitable institutions free of charge. [More](#)

LRA was pleased to be contacted by Clark's grandson, Pelham, living at Holt. It is hoped if an inauguration ceremony can be arranged he will be present.

Applications for Grants for Local Organisations

If you are part of a local organisation that is delivering excellent work for local people in Loughton and require some additional funds, the Town Council is taking applications for financial assistance. In the current financial year, the Council has helped 20 applicants with a total of over £35,400 to improve or maintain their services to the local community. [More](#) and [Application Form](#). Applications close 31 December.



Epping Forest Christmas Giving Campaign

The Epping Forest Christmas Giving Campaign aims to ensure that no child living in the district goes without receiving a Christmas present. Gifts will be provided for identified children, living in care, temporary accommodation and in personal circumstances or conditions that might deny them the kindness that other children experience this time of year.

[More and how to donate.](#)

What's On in Epping Forest?

The District Council has published details of all activities, events, exhibitions and workshops from the Community Development and Wellbeing team. [More](#) (PDF)



Warm Places over Winter

Warm places started last year providing a free, safe, warm and comfortable space for those who need it throughout winter. Warm places are again opening up across the district, with some venues offering refreshments, activities such as board games and free WiFi. [More](#)

Venues locally are (opening days and times vary):

- Debden Library
- Loughton Library
- Epping Forest Campus, New City College
- St Mary's Church.

Social Housing Landlords Complaint Handling Code - Have Your Say

The aim of the Complaint Handling Code is to resolve complaints quickly and for organisations to learn from where things have gone wrong for individuals to make service improvements for the benefit of all. It also acts as a guide for anyone that wants to complain because it sets out what they should expect from the complaints process. The Housing Ombudsman is now keen to hear from residents on updates to the code.

[More and Have Your Say.](#)

The County Council 2024/25 Budget - Have Your Say

As the County Council shapes their financial plans for 2024/25 and beyond, they want to hear from local people about their views and values. [More about their financial plans](#) and [Have Your Say](#).

Local News

Remembrance Sunday

A sombre and moving Remembrance Service was held on Sunday 12 November at the war memorial on Kings Green.

Hundreds of local residents joined the annual parade, leaving the Royal British Legion Headquarters (Loughton Branch) on Church Hill. The procession, which was a wonderful sight, included representatives from The Royal British Legion, Churches Together in Loughton, the Air Cadets, Scouts, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows together with ex-service men and councillors. [More](#)

Image: Town Council



Light Up a Life

The annual Light up a Life service takes place on Saturday 25 November. Meet at the Methodist Church from 4:30pm for the torch lit procession to Kings Green at 4:45pm followed by the switching on of the lights.

The Town Council, in partnership with St Clare Hospice, invites local residents to come together with their friends and family to remember and celebrate the life of someone close and dedicate a symbolic light in their memory.

There will be an opportunity to sing some favourite carols and, following the short service, hot drinks and mince pies will be served back at the Methodist Church. The events are open to

everyone; you don't have to have experienced hospice care. [More](#)

Health and Wellbeing

Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust Virtual Hospital

A virtual hospital service has launched in west Essex for adults over the age of 18 years, allowing patients with specific conditions to be cared for at their usual place of residence, including care homes. A mixture of face-to-face care and remote monitoring is provided by a team including consultants, advanced clinical

practitioners, nurses, therapists and pharmacists, supported by other specialist teams and social care, depending on individual needs.

[More](#) and details on [how a virtual hospital operates](#).

Epping Forest

Proposed Deer Exclosure Plots

With the sizeable number of deer in the Forest, it has been recognised there is a damaging impact through grazing and browsing on the ecology of the Forest particularly the regeneration of tree and understorey species. Some level of browsing by deer and other animals can be beneficial to habitat regeneration and maintenance, however a high level of browsing can negatively impacts habitats. There is no control point or benchmark by which to gauge the rate of regrowth without impact from the present deer population.

It has been proposed that 30 deer exclosure plots, each of 4x4 metres be established within the Forest and Buffer Lands. (They are referred to as 'exclosures' rather than 'enclosures' because their purpose is to exclude deer and to a lesser extent other animals rather than to enclose them.) These would prevent deer from grazing or browsing within each exclosure enabling the study of the impact of deer grazing or browsing on representative habitats. Monitored over a period of a few years, in combination with deer counts and regular vegetation damage assessments, the plots will provide an indication of the impact of deer grazing/browsing on the Forest understorey. [More](#)

Essex in Print

An exhibition at the Visitor Centre in Chingford brings together prints by local artists. Prints are for sale and the exhibition runs to 3 December, Tuesday to Sundays, 10am to 4pm. [More](#)

Forest Focus - October 2023

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



And More

Vulnerable and Worried about Power Cuts?

Power cuts can happen occasionally for a variety of reasons, including severe weather. UK Power Networks' job is to maintain a safe and reliable supply of electricity in London, the south east and east of England. This means they keep the lights on in your area, regardless of who you pay your electricity bills to. [More help and advice on power cuts](#).

During power cuts, extra support is provided by being on the Priority Services Register, which is available to those in vulnerable circumstances including for

medical reasons, those of pensionable age, or if you have children aged under five in the household. This extra support includes a priority phone number to call, and tailored support if needed such as home visits, hot meals, advice and keeping your friends and relatives updated. [More](#)

If you are already on the Priority Services Register but your details have changed, [update your details here](#).

Thank you for supporting LRA. Our next Loughton News email is due to be issued Friday 15 December, 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



For the latest news and items of interest:



You don't need to be registered for either

1. If you find any links not working or anything else is wrong let us know at loughtonnews@LoughtonResidents.co.uk. Links to on other websites are beyond our control and may not work over time.
2. LRA gives no warranty about, and will take no responsibility for, items or services offered – purchasers/users should make their own enquiries, and will be acting at their own risk.

We can be contacted at contact@LoughtonResidents.co.uk

To update your membership details, email membership@LoughtonResidents.co.uk

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