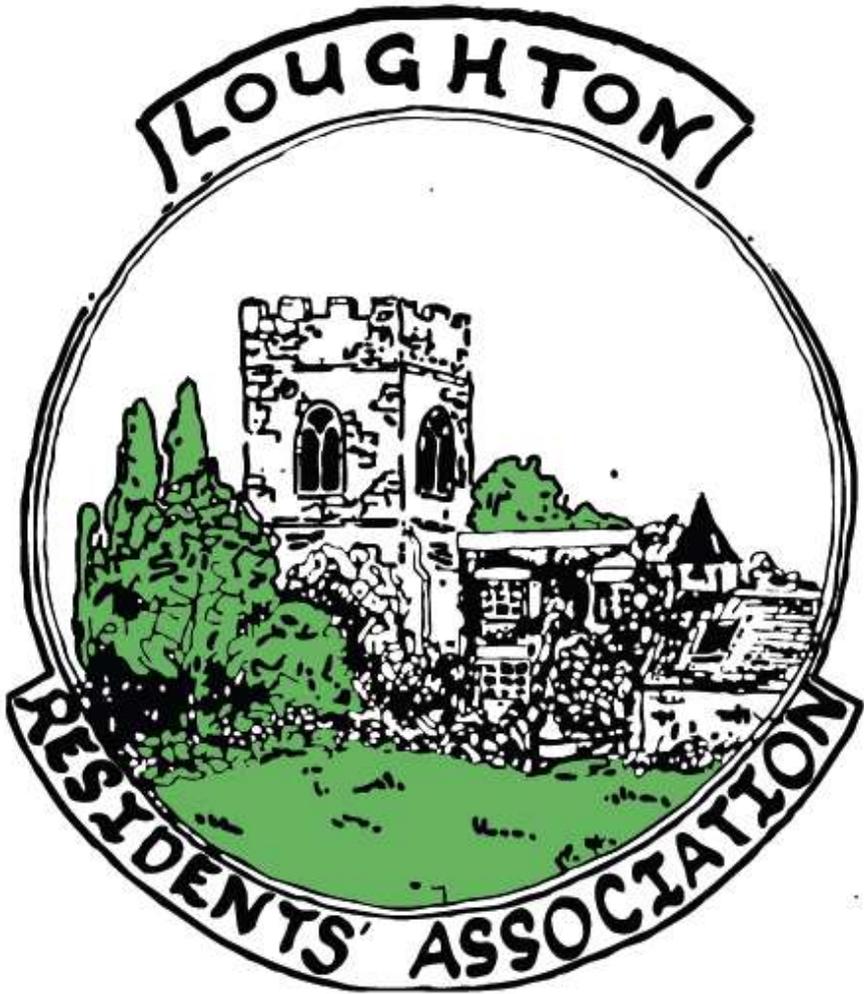


NEWSLETTER



No. 28

2021

www.loughtonmk.org.uk



Loughton Scarecrow Trail

After much deliberation, the organisers of the Loughton Scarecrow Trail have decided to postpone the Scarecrow Trail until June 2022. We appreciate that some people will be disappointed with this but we have to consider the residents of Loughton as well as all of the visitors and we do not want to put anybody at risk.

If you are a former or future Scarecrow Trail exhibitor and wish to be added to our mailing list, please send an email to admin@loughtonscarecrowtrail.co.uk

We wish you all a happy and healthy 2021.



Organised by
Loughton Scout Group



Loughton Scarecrow Trail

Loughton Newsletter

This newsletter has been produced on behalf of Loughton Residents' Association, for distribution to all residents within Loughton, Milton Keynes. Views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the editor or of the Loughton Residents' Association committee.

A huge thank you to all of our contributors and advertisers.

If you have any comments, or wish to submit an article or advert (price on application) for inclusion in next year's newsletter, please contact the LRA committee (see p8 or via the website/facebook).

Please mention the Loughton Newsletter when supporting our advertisers – the revenue from our advertisers helps cover the printing costs for the Newsletter.

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Chair's Report

I would like to say '*thank you*' to all the volunteers who make this 2021 newsletter possible including the LRA committee and all the people who have put their time into writing the articles and delivering the newsletter to you. I would also like to thank our advertisers for their contribution, without their generous support this Newsletter would not be possible.



Each year we have a 'Healthcheck' with the Resident Engagement Team in MK Council. This provides us with funding and access to grants towards the printing cost of this Newsletter and the Seasonal Card sent out in December.

Sadly the COVID pandemic saw the cancellation of the planned 2020 VE day fete and the summer events at our local schools. As you will see the summer events are again not happening this year. Even the very popular Loughton Scarecrow Trail has been delayed to June 2022.

If you can spare a small amount of time it would be great to see you at one of our meetings. It is your enthusiasm that drives the LRA. You can get in touch via the facebook page or the email addresses shown on page 8.



<https://www.facebook.com/LoughtonResidentsAssociation>

The Parish Council and the NAG have articles in the newsletter and we continue to support these local organisations to help keep Loughton a wonderful place to live. This past year has really brought home how lucky we are to have so many green spaces to enjoy.

Rob Wills
Chair

Secretary's Report

It's been an unusual year with lockdowns and restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In spite of that we have continued to meet regularly on line using Zoom. Meetings have been kept short but we have seen a steady attendance.

As the social distancing restrictions lift we hope to see a return to 'in person' meetings in the second half of 2021 once we are all feeling more comfortable that the measures to control the COVID virus are working.

It has been good to see the friendly community we have in Loughton sharing information and giving away their no longer needed items via the Loughton Community Facebook page. It has been great to see initiatives by residents to tidy up local areas or help people in need. Anyone in Loughton can become a member and share local news, ideas and issues.

The position of Secretary is currently vacant, so if you think you have some time to spare it would be great to have you on board. Please see the notice on page 48 for more details.

LRA meeting dates, and the resulting minutes are advertised on our LRA Facebook page. If you wish to be added to the mailing list, or have any questions, then please contact me on the following email address:
secretary.lra.mk@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Rob
Acting LRA Secretary

Treasurer's Report

2020

INCOME

Advertising Revenue 2020 Newsletter no 27	119.00
MK Council Community Grants	<u>1325.00</u>
	1444.00

EXPENDITURE

To print 2020 newsletter no 27	820.00
AGM & meeting expenses	59.99
Donations to scouts & community projects	265.28
To print Christmas card*	245.00
Delivery of Christmas card	0
Admin, Website and PL Insurance	<u>143.79</u>
	1534.06

loss/ surplus for year	-90.06
------------------------	--------

BALANCE SHEET

Balance C/fwd at Lloyds Bank sheet no 80	4764.01
Loss on the year	-90.06
Balance at year end to go forward	4673.95

It has been our practice to refer to final balance to the end of year bank statement.

Balance at Lloyds Bank Jan 2021 statement was £4918.95 and the difference is the cheque for the Christmas card* which was still being processed.

Barry Anderson
Acting Treasurer
January 2021

Annual General Meeting

Loughton Residents' Association

8:00pm – 8:30pm on Wednesday 19th May 2021

Zoom meeting

AGENDA

1. Review of Minutes of previous AGM
2. Election of Officers
3. Loughton issues
4. Any other business

Do you have views on any topics that would be of general interest to residents of Loughton? Are you interested in issues concerning Loughton and would like to have a voice?

Everyone who supports the Loughton Residents' Association is a volunteer. If you would like to get a bit more involved we would love to see you.

Committee Members 2020/2021:

Chair	- Rob Wills	- chair.lra.mk@gmail.com
Vice Chair	- Roger Wood	- vicechair.lra.mk@gmail.com
Secretary	- vacant	- secretary.lra.mk@gmail.com
Treasurer	- Chris Bailey	- treasurer.lra.mk@gmail.com

Committee: Barry Anderson, Elaine Anderson, Janet Cooper, Rachael Bunting, Andy Sargent, Peter Woodruff, Sam Jeffs, Lisa Harvey-Bain....



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Loughton & Great Holm Parish Council

2020/2021 News

Meetings

The Parish Council has met in person ever since it was constituted as a non-religious statutory body by the reforms in the Local Government Act of 1972, and before that for 100 years or more when it was a part of the church. The requirement that meetings be in person was fundamental and remote meetings or remote attendance at meetings were not permitted.

That abruptly changed in March 2020 when the restrictions on meetings in public in the Coronavirus Act 2020 meant that the Parish Council could no longer meet in person. March 2020's meeting was cancelled at short notice. New Regulations were rushed through Parliament enabling Councils to meet remotely. Since April 2020, the Parish Council has met remotely via zoom and the business of the Parish Council has continued.

I think remote meetings have worked quite well. Attendance from members has increased. It is now rare that we have less than the full number of ten Parish Councillors present, whereas prior to remote meetings this was uncommon. Attendance from residents has also increased. At the October 2020 meeting, for example, we had 10 members of the Council present, plus the Clerk plus 19 residents. Meetings have been orderly and effective. Remote meetings promote the ability of people with caring responsibilities for young or old members of their family to participate. It also makes it easier for local residents to attend as they do not have to go out into a frosty night to some draughty village hall with poor acoustics.

Finance

The Coronavirus pandemic has been a devastating event that will take years to deal with. When we came to set the annual budget for the 2021/2022 Council year, MK Council finance officers informed us the number of households paying Council tax in the Parish has reduced by 7%.

This largely reflects the number of additional households who have lost their sources of income and are now relying on benefits. Doubtless many more on top of those are either on furlough or otherwise desperately trying to make ends meet. UK GDP is down 10% year on year so maybe we are affected less than most. But these are still tough times right now.

The Parish Council faced a difficult decision as given inflation has remained at about 2%, to maintain the Parish Council's tax income in real terms would mean imposing an increase of about 9% on the parish precept on all local council taxpayers. We have also faced a significant fall of income from loss of rent income from the Loughton Pavilion and the Great Holm Community Centre due to restrictions on the ability of our tenants to open and trade. We considered however, this is not the time for any increase, and the Council decided therefore to freeze our part of the local Council tax at a 0% rise for the financial year commencing 1st April 2021 which is effectively a 9% cut in tax income in real terms. The Parish Council will have to utilize its reserves and limit its expenditure to balance its books. Total income for 2021-22 is projected at about £110k and total expenditure at £120k. Full details of the budget are available on the Parish website www.loughtonandgreatholm-pc.gov.uk

The Loughton Pavilion and Great Holm Community Centre

The Parish Council owns the Loughton Pavilion, the majority of which is rented out to the Grump Cook café. I think local residents have appreciated having this new venue and I feel sure that but for the pandemic the café would have prospered. All hospitality businesses have faced a torrid time so we have tried to work in partnership with the café to try to facilitate an environment where they can manage to get through the lockdowns and hopefully return in a COVID secure way once the pandemic is under control. The pre-school which is the main tenant at the Great Holm Community Centre has also faced challenges, and we have tried to be fair and accommodating to enable them to get through the challenges too.

Loneliness

Prior to the pandemic, we had identified loneliness amongst the older population of the Parish as a potential problem and had organized, hosted and sponsored monthly social meetings to try to combat this. It cannot be nice to be living alone and to have no visitors and no-one to talk to and at least everyone in this situation had one invite a month to a social gathering where they could come and meet and chat to people. Sadly, the pandemic has obviously prevented such meetings. I hope when the pandemic is over, we can re-double efforts to try and reach out to people who are suffering chronic loneliness.

Landscaping

The responsibility for maintaining the landscaping in the MK Council owned public realm within the Parish remains with MK Council. They employ Landscaping Officers to oversee the grass cutting, tree and shrub cutting, but the work is mainly contracted externally to SERCO. The Parish Council work in partnership with MK Council and SERCO in contributing funding for landscaping improvements. In 2021/22 the Parish funding pot is £13,200. We carry out a landscaping review walk with SERCO about twice a year in Loughton and in Great Holm where we try to identify improvements in the local landscaping. If any residents have ideas or suggestions for further landscaping improvements, we would of course be interested to consider these.

Play areas and parks

MK Council recently refurbished their play area in Loughton at Ashpole Furlong on an equestrian theme. This play area had become dilapidated and had not been significantly refurbished for almost 40 years. This is the third major renovation undertaken in recent years, after the Pirate park in Loughton and the Wind in the Willows park in Great Holm.

The pandemic has also impacted use of local parks, which have been busier than ever due to people working from home and unable to travel. We have had to increase the dog bin collections from once a week to

sometimes four times a week to prevent bins becoming over full. We are grateful for responsible dog owners who use bins and bags to keep our parks hygienic. We have contributed funding to the new trim trail equipment around Lodge Lake, which should be open soon.

Please see the business plan for 2021-22 on the website for details of the further projects the Parish Council intends to pursue, and remember to 'like' the Parish Facebook page and 'follow' our twitter.

And finally

Finally, on a personal note, my term of office as Chair of the Parish Council ends in May 2021. I have now served as Chair for 10 consecutive years and consider that is enough from one person and do not intend to seek re-election as Chair. My term in office as a Councillor does not expire until 2024 so I will continue as a member.

It has been a privilege to serve as Chair since May 2011 to date and I am grateful for the support of local residents and the four Parish Clerks who have served during my term in office. It is a genius idea to get local residents together to work for free to improve the local area. I encourage all local residents (especially those in under-represented groups) to get involved as together we can work to make our area a truly great place to live.

Peter Todd, Chair

Loughton and Great Holm Parish Council

16th February 2021



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Loughton Manor First School

'Building a lifelong love of learning in a safe and happy school'

Loughton Manor First School has seen some big changes over the last year, but despite everything we're so proud that it continues to be a school where children love their learning, develop good friendships and achieve well. Throughout everything we do, we embed our ethos by creating a thirst for learning through the exciting range of experiences we offer our children. We serve children aged from three in our Nursery class, up to the age of seven in Year 2. The stages of learning are called the Foundation Stage (3 to 5 yrs) and Key Stage 1 (5 to 7 yrs). After this, our children move on to junior school.



We continue to have a talented and hardworking team of children, staff, governors, parent helpers and other volunteers, all striving to serve our Loughton community well with commitment and energy. Consequently, our children tell us they enjoy their learning, and show lots of enthusiasm and excitement, as well as making super progress. We the staff get great support and appreciation from parents, who tell us how much their children love to come to school – and once again we received far more admission applications than we could accommodate when parents came to choose their child's first school this year.

Whilst many things have remained the same, this past year has been anything but 'normal'. In March we entered our first National Lockdown and with that came our first school closure. This was a situation we all found ourselves in and one which we never could have imagined or been ready for. School welcomed a small group of children whose parents were key workers whilst the majority of children were taught remotely using Home

Learning materials. This was a steep learning curve for children, parents and staff alike. It was during this time that we also said goodbye to Jane Quinn, who retired after 18 years working as a teacher at Loughton Manor.



In the Summer Term we welcomed more children back to school and although our end of school celebrations were different to usual, we were so pleased to be able to welcome our Year Two pupils back for a Leavers' Celebration, and to wish them success and happiness in their next schools. It was at this time that we also said goodbye to Margaret French, who retired after 23

years. Margaret worked at the school from before it opened, initially as the caretaker, before working as an admin assistant.

The Summer Term also saw one of the biggest changes to life at Loughton Manor First School with the retirement of Elizabeth Bancroft. Lizzie had led the school from when it opened in 1997 and has been a teacher in Milton Keynes for 44 years in total, having started her career at the age of 21. She has had an enormous impact upon so many young people during her career, and also upon the staff who worked for her, with her passion and commitment to teacher training and ongoing professional development for all. She will be greatly missed, although we haven't let her go completely – she has continued to teach singing during the autumn term to our Foundation Stage children, which is her true passion.

In September we opened school to all children and started to work within our new normal, which consisted of staggered arrival and departure times and seven fixed bubbles. As a new head teacher, many of the jobs I was expecting went out of the window. We were unable to invite prospective parents for our usual school show rounds and therefore created our first virtual tour of the school which can be found on our website: www.loughtonmanorfirstschool.co.uk.

Our ever-supportive and hard-working Friends committee leapt into action to raise some much needed funds. They organised a Pumpkin Trail around Loughton in addition to baking and selling cakes and treats, and Halloween Craft Packs. Whilst raising lots of money, the Pumpkin Trail was a fantastic activity which involved daily family exercise whilst adhering to social distancing rules. As we approached Christmas, Friends developed Christmas craft packs and pre-order Christmas goodies, which were equally popular. If you would like to find out more about the events our

Friends Association organises and what they spend the money on, please look at their website on: www.friendsofloughtonmanor.co.uk



We were determined to keep things as 'normal' as we could for the children, and when we reached our Christmas festivities, our usual activities became about 'how' we were going to make them happen, not 'if'. With some exceptions, like our beloved annual family carol concert at Christ the Cornerstone Church, we were able to adapt them, to enable them to still happen. So, we had two nativities which were rehearsed with social distancing in place and then edited together to create videos. Our Christmas Shop, which is always well-loved by the children, still happened and although our amazing team of parent volunteers worked hard as always to shop for and wrap the gifts, we were unable to have them in school to run the event. Instead, we organised our staffing to ensure that the children were still able to choose their own pre-wrapped surprise gifts for their families. We still managed the children's Christmas parties in our bubbles and our favourite entertainer, Colonel Custard, paid us not his usual two visits, but seven, to support our bubbles. Father Christmas even sent his reindeer, Donner and Dancer, to pay us a visit accompanied by a beautiful barn owl named Percy.



Over Christmas we were extremely saddened to hear that our beloved Vicky Stainsby had passed away. Vicky was very much a part of Loughton Manor First School and part of the Loughton Community. She was a beautiful person inside and out and a wonderful friend and colleague to all of us. Vicky had worked at Loughton Manor for many years and left us a few years ago to pursue her real passion of flower arranging, at which she was exceptionally talented. Vicky will be deeply missed by everyone who knew her.

The New Year brought with it some new challenges, with yet another Lockdown being announced. In true Loughton Manor style, staff rallied round, and came back to work earlier than planned to adapt planning into

Home Learning Packs. We welcomed the children of our key workers back into school and continued on our journey of teaching small groups of children face to face, and the majority of pupils remotely, with online lessons, weekly Zoom meetings and weekly telephone calls.



At the start of January, our families and staff donated chocolates, biscuits, soups, drinks, hand creams and lip balms and I am happy to say that we presented five crates of treats and some cards made by the children, to MK Hospital to show the staff how grateful we are for their continued hard work during this particularly challenging time.

So, we find ourselves heading towards half-term with a return date yet to be announced. I find myself leading a team of whom I am extremely proud, and who continue to always work hard to put the needs of our children first, whatever the circumstances.

If you would like to find out more about our school, please do visit our website on the address above, or if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at school on 01908 241472.

Best wishes,

Daniela Thompson, Interim Headteacher



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The Power of Horses

Local charity Ride High helps to transform the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable children in our community, by using horses.

Time spent riding and caring for the horses provides the children with a challenge and something to look forward to each week. As they learn new skills their confidence increases and they learn to manage negative feelings and anxieties, to feel calmer, more resilient and happier. Where other more interventions like counselling don't always work – horses really do have the power to change a child's life – forever.



2020 was a very challenging year for the charity but they managed to support their members throughout the pandemic – when physical visits weren't possible the charity sent weekly activity packs in the post to give the children something positive to focus on. When the children couldn't visit the horses, the charity took the horses to them through Facebook Live sessions, where they'd be shown their favourite horses.

Recent high numbers of coronavirus cases in MK prevented Ride High from reopening straight after Christmas, but we're pleased to report that their members are now back in the saddle every week.

The pandemic has placed even more demand on Ride High's services in our community, so they need our support more than ever. There are lots of ways you can get involved - from volunteering and fundraising to making a donation or attending an event. Visit: www.ridehigh.org.



Thames Valley Police – Loughton update

Loughton Park Police Team

PCSO Chrissie Capstick, PCSO Poppy Groves and PC Steve Prestige – Loughton Park Neighbourhood Team:

Chrissie, Poppy and Steve are members of the Loughton Park Neighbourhood Team. As a team they attend incidents; patrol the neighbourhoods; tackle ASB in the area; offer crime prevention advice; work with schools and partner agencies and safeguard vulnerable individuals in our communities.

January 2021 report: *The area as a whole is low in crime although there are spikes from time to time with regard to car crime – particularly catalytic converters at the moment. They are working with the public to offer advice on how to protect vehicles from becoming a target and emphasise the importance of reporting any suspicious activity seen to the police.*

Contacting the Police:

If your call is an **EMERGENCY dial 999**.

If you want advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood Police team, please call us on the Police **NON-Emergency number 101** (or 01865 841148) or by email at: MKNorthCluster@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

If you have information about crime or Anti-Social Behaviour in your area, but do not want to speak to the Police, please call **Crimestoppers Charity on 0800 555111**.

Information about your neighbourhood team is available on the TVP website at: www.thamesvalley.police.uk .

If you wish to receive free local crime alerts, crime prevention advice and road closure alerts, either join your local Neighbourhood watch scheme at www.ourwatch.org.uk or go to www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk and sign up.



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Loughton School

In the Year 2020...

Well it certainly was a year like no other, that's for sure.

With Covid-19 putting a halt to normal everyday living and school life, our staff and children were absolutely incredible throughout.

During the first lockdown we created remote learning that was safe and easy to access for all our children and supported them further by providing equipment for home use.

For the children of keyworkers and those who are vulnerable, we offered lessons in school from a dedicated team of staff.

The government provided vouchers for the children who would normally receive free school meals and in addition, we also delivered food boxes to families.

Following the generous donations of the Loughton School Family, we created a food bank of non-perishable food cupboard items that we offered to parents, who came to collect these when needed.

When all children returned to school, we adopted a staggered drop-off and collection, so as to reduce crowds outside at any one time.

School life was and still is, very different, but we are extremely proud of just how well everyone has adapted.

Covid-19 changed things:

We became more caring and kinder towards each other

We learnt to social distance and zoom and *bubble* had a completely different meaning altogether

Our children enjoyed monthly Tea Parties with senior staff and governors

We created a Family Read Challenge to encourage families to read together and share their love of books

School houses were formed so that our children can earn/win points for their house, which were named after famous figures: Shakespeare; Pankhurst; Valentine and Attenborough



Covid-19 didn't cancel Christmas

Our children decorated their classroom windows with all kinds of Christmas themes, for everyone to enjoy inside and out

Christmas jumpers and all things festive were donned for our Christmas Lunch day and there were even sightings of the man in red!

As usual, our Christmas Giving Tree was in place to welcome any donations. Staff delivered sackfuls of gifts to family centres across Milton Keynes so that Christmas could come to all.



Loughton School - Governor Vacancy

Loughton School is a large 4-form entry junior school with 480 pupils aged 7-11 in years 3-6. The School is an Academy and has a Governing Board made up of Staff, Parents and Co-opted Governors.

The Governors are looking to appoint a Governor with a Community interest to a vacancy that has arisen.

The key roles of Governors are to:

- Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and pupils
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and ensuring money is well spent
- Promote high standards of educational achievement and success
- Champion children of all abilities and across all backgrounds
- Be able to offer around six hours of your time each term.

Being a governor can be very rewarding and will provide you with the opportunity to work as part of a team and gain new skills.

Don't worry if you have no experience as full training and support is available from Milton Keynes Council and your colleagues on the Governing Board.

Candidates who have qualifications and/or significant practical experience in HR, Law and business are particularly welcomed. An informal chat/interview process with the Chair of Governors and clerk will apply and a DBS check.

To apply please email:

Janet Cooper, Clerk to the Governing Body cooperj@loughton.school



Loughton Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch is about people getting together with their neighbours to take action to cut crime.

Neighbourhood Watch schemes are community initiatives owned and run by their members. They work by developing a close relationship between community members and the local police.

Neighbourhood Watch schemes can:

- cut crime and the opportunities for crime
- help and reassure those who live in the area
- encourage neighbourliness and closer communities

Thames Valley Police are very committed to Neighbourhood Watch Schemes as with residents, the local Police Community Support Officers and police working together; the opportunities for crime to occur can be greatly reduced.

There is crime prevention advice available, please visit:
<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/advice>

to help reduce your chances of becoming a victim of burglary.

If you and your neighbours are interested in setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme or would like to renew an existing scheme please contact the Watch Liaison Officer:

MKCommunityWatchCoOrdinator@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Currently there is only one Police Verified scheme in Loughton called "Loughton Village". This scheme covers part of Bradwell Road, The Green, Clover Close, Meadway, Whitworth Lane & Snaith Crescent.

If you wish to join this scheme then go to the NW website www.ourwatch.org.uk and follow the prompts. Then apply to join the scheme.



Loughton Scout Group

Nearly 1 year of online sessions...

We thought that it would be nice to give a bit of a round-up of what we have been able to achieve since Lockdown started. We have been very lucky that the group is still thriving and growing, which is all down to the great work done by a fantastic group of leaders as well as the group exec behind the scenes.

Some facts and figures; since the initial lockdown on 23 March 2020, we have:

- Started online sessions the day after face to face sessions stopped
- Increased our membership and added 3 Young Leaders to our group
- Had 2 leaders complete their training for their Wood Beads
- Invested numerous Beavers, Cubs and Scouts online
- Awarded 1,606 Badges, 18 Chief Scout Bronze Awards (including the first one for the new section at Whitehouse), 6 Chief Scout Silver Awards and 3 Chief Scout Gold Awards
- Attended 5 virtual camps – Winter camp for the Scouts including 2 members getting invested on air, Group Space camp for Beavers and Cubs, District Superhero camp for all sections, County Pirate camp for Beavers, County Desert Island camp for Cubs, and there are a few more in the planning. All camps were very well attended, with around 80 young people attend the latest camp
- Christmas card delivery to our partner care home

- Face to face sessions included upkeep of our community planters, Loughton Rock Snake, litter picking, yoga, photography challenge, archery, and our infamous chip shop hikes
- Sessions continued over the summer period with the popular cook with Akela series
- Whole section activities such as the 30 days of Lego challenge, the toilet roll challenge, Summer bag of fun, Where's Akela local photo game and our AGM family quiz
- Completed a variety of escape rooms and whodunit challenges, including Who Killed Our District Commissioner and Who Killed Our New Leader!
- Participated in County virtual camps, Bucks Scout radio shows, book club and interviews
- Participated in District events; Facebook activities, camps, MK at home award, doorstep Remembrance day and St Georges day events, and Remembrance memorial at the Quarries
- Joined national events; Camp at Home, Parliament week & Hike to the Moon
- Personal challenges from our young people including getting a book published and raising money for charity with a big hair cut
- And our very own dancing chicken has made many appearances!

Some highlights from our online sessions Guest speakers (including billy our favourite puppet), performance poetry, singing, dancing, Kahoot quizzes, first aid, den building, poo night, well-being, local knowledge, keep fit, games, scavenger hunts, knots, new skills, team work, bring your pets, virtual museums, taskmaster challenges, peg furniture, junk modelling, Lego building, paper planes, origami, hologram making, bug brush robots and many more.

For further information about the Loughton Scout Groups please contact:
Shelly Matthews – shelly.matthews@mkscouts.org



Volunteer at Loughton Scout Group

Scouting volunteers have adventure, training, fun and friendship



Over 90% of Scout volunteers say that their skills and experiences have also been useful in their work or personal life.

If you think you have what it takes to help then please contact:

Shelly Matthews: shelly.matthews@mkscouts.org

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Milton Keynes Council – Resident Engagement Team



The Resident Engagement Team provides opportunities for council tenants, leaseholders and residents associations in Milton Keynes to get involved, make a difference and influence MKC housing services.

We will soon be developing more involvement opportunities, such as scrutiny panels and focus groups. If you would like to register your interest or find out more about getting involved, please contact us on 01908 253148 or residentengagement@milton-keynes.gov.uk

One of the best ways that residents can get involved is by joining their local Residents Association. The team is in regular contact with Loughton Residents Association alongside many others across MK, offering support, funding and training opportunities to help them achieve their aims.

We hope to speak to you soon!



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Loughton and Great Holm Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG)

Members of the NAG group have been meeting regularly by zoom meetings, but unfortunately due to the virus/lockdown, we have not been able to do many events in 2020. We are looking forward to arranging some in 2021.

We did arrange some litter pick events over the year and the last one was in Loughton before lockdown. The sun shone and the wind blew. It was really nice that so many people turned up to help. They were surprised how much litter and rubbish was collected in the two hours (over 30 bags,



trolley, etc.) We would like to thank all who turned up and made it possible.



Andrew one of our members who works for the Parks Trust was nominated and won 'The Green Flag Award for Volunteer of the 2020 year'. He is always about cleaning our areas and now has a trolley to help from the NAG, so please say hello if you see him. He is in one of the photos with the trolley of rubbish.

We have welcomed some new 'Local Litter Wardens' recently in Loughton which we have equipped, some doing their DoE volunteering work.

Our new member Janet organized an 'Advent Windows' event at the very last minute after many requests. Great Holm was lit up over December for the second year. We would like to do the same for Loughton and if anyone is interested to help organize it, please get in touch.



We are looking at more projects and would welcome your ideas and support.

Our thanks go to all who support the Loughton & Great Holm Neighbourhood Action Group, especially the Parish Council who supply funding and advice.

We hope to have a new website, but contact can be made through Philip, our Parish Clerk or one of our members, thank you for reading our article.

Jan Lamsdon

Chair of L&GH NAG

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Loughton Lodge District Girlguiding

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Are you passionate about volunteering with young people and helping girls to reach their potential? Do you want to learn new skills, make friends and give something back to your local community? Would you like to be part of the UK's leading charity for girls and young women?

Even during to Covid Pandemic, units are continuing to meet virtually, where possible, and meeting for socially distanced outdoor meetings when rules allow. Could you help an existing unit, enabling us to work together so that more girls can experience the fun, friendship and adventure of being a Rainbow (aged 5 to 7 years), Brownie (aged 7 to 10 years), Guide (aged 10 to 14 years) or Ranger (14 to 18 years).

Girlguiding offers a range of flexible volunteering opportunities (as a leader or making use of your hidden skills in the background) to enable girls and young women to grow in confidence in a safe, girl-only space.

For further information:

Call 0800 1 69 59 01 or visit www.girlguiding.org.uk

For further information about volunteering locally:

Call 07807 021204 or email girlguidingmk.info@yahoo.co.uk

Facebook: Girlguiding Milton Keynes



Photograph taken before the Covid Pandemic

Green Flag volunteer of the year 2020



One of our long standing volunteers Andrew White has won a national award, Green Flag Volunteer of the Year. Green Flag Awards, are awarded to outstanding parks and open spaces and Milton Keynes Parks Trust Linear Parks won the Green Flag this year for 4th year running. Parks who have been awarded a Green Flag can then nominate a volunteer who has been volunteering at a winning Green Flag Award site in the UK and has displayed huge commitment and impact in their local park.

Andrew has been volunteering since 2011 with The Parks Trust and in that time has volunteered in so many different ways from being out in all weathers on a practical task, to supporting our events to being out practically everyday in his local park, Lodge Lake litter picking and helping to keep the place clean and tidy for visitors and wildlife alike.

The judges were most impressed with the number of hours Andrew devotes to his volunteering and the fact that Andrew never stops! He always has a keen eye spotting litter and trolleys dumped in the brook. He will always do his best to remove all the unsightly rubbish and often borrows a longer length litter picker when the opportunity arises. His concern for his local environment is strong and he is always keeping The Trust's ranger team updated with his picks and finds. Andrew genuinely deserves all the recognition of his hard work and commitment to his volunteering to achieve all he does is truly inspiring.

Jo Jervis, Parks Trust Community Ranger said of Andrew;

“Andrew has shown outstanding commitment to patrolling Lodge Lake and the Loughton Valley. He's out and about in all weathers collecting litter and shows pride in his area. This greatly helps the Community Ranger Team as his patrolling has reduced the amount of time the rangers need to spend in the area and has helped maintain the parks so that they are safe and clean for all park users to enjoy.”

Loughton Controlled Parking Zone News

The 2020 newsletter reported Milton Keynes Council are changing the way they monitor unauthorised vehicle parking in the Controlled Parking Zone, with the introduction of two ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) enforcement cars, which the Council anticipate will lead to an increase in compliance due to more vehicles being checked. The cars are white Nissan Leaf electric vehicles with the ANPR equipment mounted on the roof, per the picture to the left. The coronavirus pandemic has delayed their introduction, however testing of the new system has now started. At this time the new start date for the introduction is unknown.



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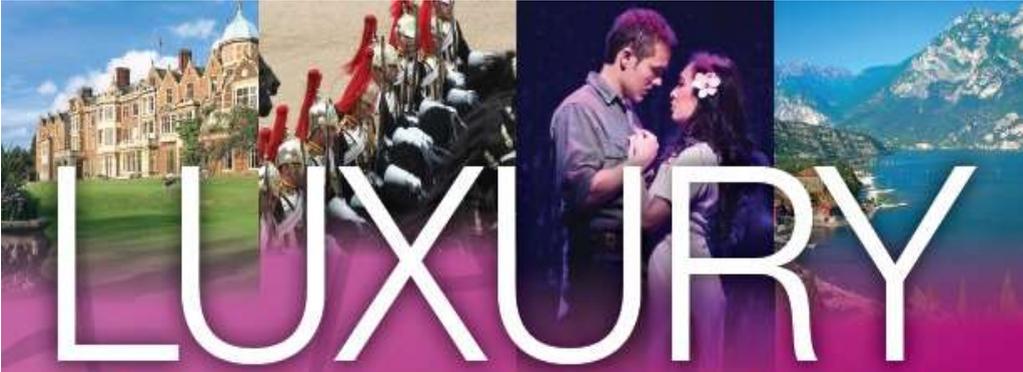
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If you'd like to be kept up to date with current events please contact Janet at Travel Treats to join our mailing list.

T: 01908 676 742 F: 01908 200 439 E: janet@traveltreats.co.uk
Travel Treats, 8 Little Meadow, Loughton, Milton Keynes, MK5 8EH.

Residents of Loughton - Get Involved!

Do you have any views on local topics that would be of interest to the residents of Loughton?

Are you interested to find out what is happening in your local area?

If the answer is yes, then here are some ways you can get involved!

Meetings

Come along to the LRA meetings – all Loughton Residents are welcome. We meet every few months at All Saints Church and discuss all the current local issues & events.

Facebook

For updates on meeting times & more, please go to our LRA Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/LoughtonResidentsAssociation

or the Loughton Community (Milton Keynes) Facebook page:

www. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2175383349439749/>

Minutes

If you wish to receive the meeting minutes, or be added to our mailing list, please get in touch via the Secretary email address.

Contact Details:

Chair	Rob Wills	chair.lra.mk@gmail.com
Vice Chair	Roger Wood	vicechair.lra.mk@gmail.com
Treasurer	Chris Bailey	treasurer.lra.mk@gmail.com
Secretary	<i>Vacant</i>	secretary.lra.mk@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you!



Denbigh School community steps up to help in the fight against Covid

There is no doubt that this has been a challenging year for the Denbigh School community, one in which we have had to adapt the way we teach and learn almost overnight. But whilst it is easy to dwell on the negatives, we are proud of the way our school community has pulled together, helped others, learnt new ways of working and found reserves of strength and resilience.



In the early days of the pandemic when PPE was scarce, we stepped up and donated 330 safety goggles. The D&T Faculty used its expertise to design and produce 1000 visors and 30 sets of scrubs, masks and headbands. One of our students (pictured left) was involved in making meals for keyworkers.

During the pandemic we have tried to keep as many of our activities going as we can, adapting them to make them as safe as possible. For example, because our GCSE and A Level Drama students cannot visit a theatre, we brought them together in school, in a socially distanced way, to watch a production of 'Frankenstein'.

Our prestigious STEM lecture programme is still taking place this year, delivered on-line by leading academics and STEM Ambassadors, and made available for all students in MK and members of the local community via the Denbigh website – www.denbigh.net.

Our A Level Maths students have competed against their peers across the country in the UKMT National Senior Maths Challenge with much success. 200 students from Years 7 to 10 entered the 100 Word 'Trapped' competition run by the 'Young Writers' Organisation, with 150 of them being successful and having the chance to have their work published. With the support of the Denbigh Association and the Books Trust Booksbuzz scheme, we gave all our Year 7 students a book of their choice to take home before Christmas.

Year 10 students took part in a work experience programme both virtually and face-to-face and made a lasting impression on the organisations they worked with. We continued with our fundraising efforts with our Christmas jumper day raising £1,182 for Harry's Rainbow and Willen Hospice.

As a member of the Denbigh Alliance Trust we were delighted to see Watling Academy successfully open in September with its first cohort of 180 students. As fellow schools in the Trust we work closely together. An example of this is the Trust led project, in partnership with Milton Keynes Council, to provide new P.E changing rooms at Denbigh which will be used initially by Watling students until their school field is ready to use. They will also provide additional capacity for Denbigh students.



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LRA Facebook Page

We try to put announcements and meeting details on our Facebook site so please keep visiting and give us a 'Like'.



<https://www.facebook.com/LoughtonResidentsAssociation>



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We warmly invite you to join our Services and Activities.

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Please connect through our website,

<https://www.loughtonbaptistchurch.org/sundays>

Children's and Youth Activities available on zoom.

Please contact the Church office for more details.

Do you need to improve your **English skills?**

English Classes -Thursdays 8pm on Zoom.

Please contact the Church office for more details.



Everyone Has Questions?

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Dates of our next course are on our website: www.alpha.org

Please contact us for more details.

Website: www.loughtonbaptistchurch.org

Church office: 079011 32846 Email: office@loughtonbaptistchurch.org



Facebook – facebook.com/loughtonbaptist



Instagram - [@loughtonbaptistchurch](https://www.instagram.com/loughtonbaptistchurch)

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.



'Vaccines use our bodies natural defences to help us resist infection; we are lucky to have access to them through our wonderful NHS, as so many in the world do not. I encourage you to protect yourself and your loved ones'

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Consultant in neonatal medicine and
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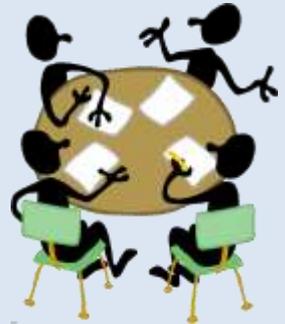
The LRA needs a Secretary

Can you spare a little time?

The LRA needs a Secretary to ensure we have a fully staffed committee and to help keep things running smoothly.

Typical duties of the Secretary are around our meetings and include:

- Prepare meeting agenda
- Send out the agenda
- Write up meeting minutes
- Send out the minutes
- Update the LRA Facebook page
- Respond to miscellaneous requests



The activity is not time consuming as we typically only meet every 6 to 8 weeks.

If you think you might be interested please get in touch with Roger or Rob and we will try to answer any questions you may have:

Chair	Rob Wills	chair.lra.mk@gmail.com
Vice Chair	Roger Wood	vicechair.lra.mk@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you!

Shenleys and Loughton Women's Institute

As for many clubs, our WI has been unable to meet up as usual because of the pandemic over the last 12 months. Fortunately we did manage to get together a couple of times in the summer mid-lockdowns to enjoy afternoon tea in the sunshine.

We normally meet once a month every second Tuesday in the afternoon to enjoy chatting to each other with tea and cakes. We usually also have an invited speaker to add interest to our meeting.

At the moment we are hoping to have zoom meetings until the pandemic is over and we can get back to normal. If anyone would be interested in joining us please contact our Secretary Mary on 01908 503244 or me on 01908 526242.

Barbara Goodman
President

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**Tuesdays at: Oak Tree Centre
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All Saints' Church, Loughton

What a year this has been. With the best will in the world, we've all struggled this last year and while we're hoping things will ease, no-one is putting any date on it.

The world under COVID-19 and its variants has been difficult for many and while at first we all had some extra time, it didn't take long for isolation to be felt, followed by fear, followed by frustration. At All Saints' and all through the Watling Valley we took the decision that we'd not open our buildings for public worship. For many, this has felt wrong. For just as many, it was the sensible thing to do in order to respect each other and to keep safe. Wherever you fall on this scale, we all hope that we're in a position to be safe enough to meet in our buildings in due course.

One of the things I've learned during this pandemic is how often we use shorthand words to mean that which is so much more complicated. People were saying that the church is closed, but we've continued to meet on Zoom and also offered on-line services here for all our members and for those who might just turn up. We've also had regular Saturday coffee mornings on Zoom, which has been a lot of fun, even if we're drinking our own coffee and eating our own biscuits! I realized that it was not the church that is closed, but only the building. So, we have had to learn again that as important as our buildings are, and they are, yet what makes us the church is the dedicated group of people who care for each other and offer to care for those about them.

While activity at All Saints' is limited, you'll still hear the clock bell and when it's safe, our bell-ringers will be back and all our usual activities will resume. Just what this will look like, we're really not sure just yet. We expect to continue our quiet service of worship using the traditional language of the *Book of Common Prayer* at 8:00am. We also plan to continue our informal service for people of all ages which will be held at 10am, but all this will have to wait till we are sure people are not being put at risk by sharing in worship together. We still offer regular Sunday worship and Messy Church on our

YouTube channel (search for Watling Valley Partnership) which you can access anytime and here you will also find our Night Prayer every Sunday at 8pm.

Even though we are not in our buildings, be sure of our continuing prayers for all the people of Loughton and the Watling Valley, no matter your circumstances. If you'd like to join us for coffee (from home), or find out more about our regular and continuing activities even during lockdown, please check the Watling Valley Partnership website www.watlingvalley.org.uk. If you'd like to speak to a minister or know more about All Saints' please contact me by email on barry.lotz@watlingvalley.org.uk or by phone on 01908 33 6885. You can also find out about all our activities by phoning Liz Morris in our Partnership office (Monday to Friday 9:30 to 11am) on 01908 50 4452. You can also follow us on twitter @WatlingValley and you can follow us on Facebook to see what's happening.

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