

NEWSLETTER



No. 32

2025

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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'd like to thank everyone who has been involved in producing this newsletter: the article writers, the volunteers who have helped with the delivery, and the LRA committee. I would also like to thank our advertisers for their support in funding the Newsletter. If you would like to advertise in future then please get in touch.

It is good to see the events planned in Loughton this year. Please go along and support these events. It is a great opportunity to mix with your fellow Loughton residents.

The newsletter includes articles from the various schools, clubs and churches in Loughton which I hope you will find of interest. If you have a topic that you think will be of interest to other residents get in touch with us and we can plan to include your article in the next edition.

Our Christmas card was published in December. Thank you to all involved in getting that produced and delivered. I wonder if we will be lucky again in 2025 to see the Northern Lights over Loughton?



Our 2024 Healthcheck by the Resident Engagement Team in MKCC confirmed our 'bronze' status. This provides us with some funding and access to grants that go towards the printing cost of this Newsletter and the Seasonal Card.



I'd like to finish by thanking my fellow committee members for their help to run the LRA. If you can spare a small amount of time and would like to get involved then it would be great to see you at one of our meetings.

Rob Wills

LRA Chair

Secretary's Report

This year, we've benefited from the flexibility of online meetings via Google Meet and in-person gatherings at All Saints' Church. Attendance at both has been positive. We continue to send out LRA meeting minutes to all email subscribers.

Loughton Residents' Association remains diligent in addressing local issues and resident concerns. Working together with community groups has proven effective.

We send seasonal cards and newsletters to all Loughton residents, featuring beautiful local photos submitted by residents. A big "thank you" to all the volunteers who help with the delivery.

All Loughton residents are welcome to attend our meetings to discuss local topics or concerns. If you'd like to help with cards, newsletters, litter picking, rewilding, or just learn about the area, please join us.

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!

Andrea

LRA Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report

	2024
INCOME	£
Bank interest received	70.50
Advertising Revenue 2024 Newsletter no 31	469.00
MK City Council Community Grants	<u>1,295.03</u>
	1,834.53
 EXPENDITURE	
To print 2024 Newsletter no 31	950.00
AGM and meeting expenses	80.00
To print Christmas card	206.33
Scarecrow trail 2024 rosettes & printing	164.62
Public liability insurance	128.80
Domain name registration	<u>14.39</u>
	1,544.14
 Surplus for the year	290.39
 Balance sheet	
Balance C/fwd at Bank	6,270.75
Surplus on the year	<u>290.39</u>
Balance at Bank at year end	6,561.14

Peter Woodruff
Treasurer
February 2025

Annual General Meeting

Loughton Residents' Association

7:30pm – 8:15pm on Thursday 22th May 2025

All Saints' Church

AGENDA

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

Followed by a speaker: TBC

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 2024/2025:

Chair	- Rob Wills	- chair.lra.mk@gmail.com
Vice Chair	- Beatrice Nibhroin	- vicechair.lra.mk@gmail.com
Secretary	- Andrea Phillips	- secretary.lra.mk@gmail.com
Treasurer	- Peter Woodruff	- treasurer.lra.mk@gmail.com



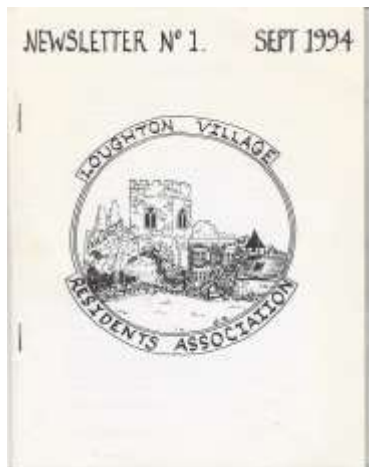
Loughton Residents' Association

It is hard to believe but the Residents' Association is now over 30 years old! It was formed in 1993 and the first newsletter was produced in 1994 to keep everyone updated about the local community. It included information about services, schools, clubs and associations within the Loughton area. Much the same as our newsletter today.

The Association was initially formed over concerns to plans for development in Loughton; and also as a basis for social interaction and publicity for village activities and general improvement of the facilities and environment of Loughton.

One of the founding members Carolyn 'Lyn' Rose was instrumental in the landscaping of Loughton. She took a strong interest in planning issues to ensure new developments benefitted everyone. She planted many bulbs, organised the large planters outside Loughton School and worked with Neil Cawley on the Millennium Meadow. As a Parish Councillor, she also instigated the dog bins around the parish too.

As a thank you for her wonderful contributions to Loughton, a beautiful pink memorial rose has now been planted on Church Walk, just down from All Saints Church, close to Lyn's former home (Beech Cottage) where she won the Open Gardens competition in 2003.





Loughton & Great Holm Parish Council

2024/2025 News

As Chair of Loughton and Great Holm Parish I am delighted to be able to let Loughton residents know about our work serving and supporting the local community.

We have 10 Parish Councillors, six elected and four co-opted, who have taken on this voluntary role to enhance the quality of local life for all our residents and who all work hard to make a difference. You can read all about your parish councillors and more on the Parish website Loughton and Great Holm Parish Council <https://www.loughtonandgreatholm-pc.gov.uk/people/>

The Parish Clerk is a full-time officer, employed by the Parish Council, and we are very well supported by our Parish Clerk, Paula Milford who will be known to many residents and lives in the Parish. We also employ two excellent local residents who deal with maintenance and waste. I am grateful to them for all they do for us.

Finance

The Parish Council has kept the precept for the coming year at the same level as last year. Regular financial audits have been carried out and budgets carefully managed to ensure the funds are spent efficiently and that reserves are adequate. My thanks to Councillor Marenza Alteri-Douglas and the Finance committee for leading on this area.

Our two buildings also produce revenue as well as providing a community café in one and a pre-school and private hires in the other. We continue to have one of the lowest precept rates in Milton Keynes whilst being committed to:

- providing a range of community engagement activities such as tree planting and social events
- local services such as the provision of the dog waste bins and allotments

- working with our partners to enhance our local environment for example by reviewing all Planning applications.

We have also awarded grants to organisations or projects where residents benefit. Details are set out in our Council Plan on our website

<https://www.loughtonandgreatholm-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/Business-Plan-2025-2026.pdf> but the highlights are described below.

Key achievements and initiatives

• Community engagement and events

We hold coffee mornings every second and last Friday morning at our building in Loughton which is rented by “The Grumpy Cook” café. These have proved popular and regular Games mornings have also been provided.

We reached out to our residents who are over 60 by providing a coach trip to Great Yarmouth last June. This year a similar trip is planned to Kew Gardens in May.

We hosted events at both of our Supported Housing schemes in Cavendish House (Simply Sax band) and Petworth House which we plan to repeat.

The Parish Clerk and I attended our three schools in the Parish to speak to groups of children and present a lamp in remembrance of D Day. A wreath was laid in Loughton on Remembrance Sunday. Our regular outdoor summer activities in August for children have been well received and continue to grow.

Last Christmas we repeated our Community social event which was attended by 150 children and their families. There was live music and live animals along with the usual favourites of face painting, eating mince pies and meeting your neighbours. Holmwood School joined volunteers and councillors in several local litter picks.

Residents are always welcome to attend any Council meetings. Many do come along and speak about issues and concerns. In the last year this has included planning and licensing applications, allotments, school traffic,

potholes, the football pitch and footpaths. Details of all our meetings are on our website and the Parish notice boards.

• **Improvement of green spaces**

The Parish Council has continued to lead on many environmental and biodiversity projects, including tree planting, installing swift nesting boxes and planting wild flower seeds, often with the involvement of our partners, residents and local schools.



Councillor Judith Heinemann has initiated many of these Parish projects and our thanks go to her for all her hard work which brings so much benefit and enjoyment to us all. We have had trees around the allotments trimmed to improve access to sunlight on the plots.

A rose was planted in memory of Carolyn Rose, previously a Parish Councillor, to mark her significant past contribution to our beautiful Parish.

Maintaining the landscaping in our Parish is mainly the responsibility of either the Parks Trust or Milton Keynes City Council. There has been a change of provider for this service for Milton Keynes City Council and at present it is not possible for the Parish to fund any extra work as we have done in previous years. We are not content with the standard of landscaping overall in the Parish so we are currently exploring with Milton Keynes City Council, with the help of our Milton Keynes City councillors, how we can achieve a better standard.

• **Infrastructure improvements**

We have had posts put into the edge of the pavement outside Loughton Manor School to stop cars reversing over the footpath. We have had too many “near misses” over the years and others had joined us in getting Milton Keynes city Council to make a range of improvements to the infrastructure around the school.

The maintenance contract for the football field has been changed and there are 6 youth teams playing there regularly.

We have 27 dog bins around the Parish and have enlarged two this year. The cost of this service is now £12500 per year. It falls to the Parish Council to fund it all as we receive no contribution from either The Parks Trust or Milton Keynes City Council on whose land the bins are placed.

We have installed a bench to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II.

We have received a significant grant towards the cost of replacing the astra football pitch in Great Holm with a multipurpose games area (MUGA). We have got planning permission and are seeking further grants to make it a reality this year.



An art project, on an underpass near Lodge Lake, which is a frequent target of graffiti tags, is underway as I write. It will be coated with anti-graffiti paint and we will use the project to highlight the problem and the huge cost to Milton Keynes City Council to remove them.



We plan to resurface a section of the car park outside Loughton Pavilion and to replace the toilets in the building. We produced a newsletter for residents and another is planned this year. Access to the website will be improved.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Parish Councillors, can I say a big thank you to our amazing clerk Paula Milford and her team and to you the residents who engage with us in so many ways. We will strive to make even more progress in the coming year.



Councillor Zoe Nolan

Chair Loughton and Great Holm Parish Council



Loughton Manor First School

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

Loughton Manor First School serves 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 years) and Key Stage One (5 to 7 years). After this, our children move on to junior school. We instil our ethos into everything we do by fostering a thirst for learning in our children through the wide array of exciting experiences we provide.

We are fortunate to have dedicated staff and governors who are deeply committed to the wellbeing of our children, as well as supportive families who work alongside us to create a nurturing environment. We continue to try to support our families in need, and this year, using a grant received from a parent, we were able to provide 18 families with a supermarket gift card as well as some treats which were donated by staff and parents.

Our dedicated Friends Committee continues to raise funds to support us while organising fun and memorable activities for our children. From exciting discos and "Break the Rules!" days to our much-loved Christmas Shop, these events require tremendous commitment and preparation. However, seeing the joy they bring to the children makes all the effort worthwhile.

Our largest annual event, the May Fair, will take place on Saturday, 10th May. This event is open to the entire community, and we warmly welcome

everyone to join the fun. Once again, the talented MK Brass will provide wonderful music, adding a special touch to this family-friendly celebration.



The money raised by our Friends of Loughton Manor has been used to fund Christmas parties and subsidise annual school visits, ensuring every child can enjoy these special experiences.

If you would like more information about how the Friends of Loughton Manor support our school or details on how their funds are used, please visit their website: www.friendsofloughtonmanor.co.uk



In September we were delighted to report the results of its first Ofsted report for 14 years, and the many commendations it contains under its overall Good rating.

Loughton Manor First School's Ofsted Inspection took place in July 2024, one of the last to be conducted under the one-word overall judgement system. This was the school's first inspection since 2010, and we were delighted to report that we achieved a strong overall rating of Good.

The Ofsted process has been high profile in the media in recent years, and from 1 September, gradings moved away from the one-word overall judgement. Because of the inspection's timing, Loughton Manor's report still sits under the previous one-word system, but there are five categories that sit under that which contribute to the grade. The school achieved Outstanding in the Personal Development and Early Years Provision categories and Good in the remaining three.

“Pupils thrive in this energetic school”, “the school is ambitious for all pupils”, and “pupils’ personal development is exceptionally well considered” were some of the leading comments in the report. Inspectors also noted that “it is deeply rooted in its community” and that “the school is diligent in identifying any areas where pupils or families need extra support”.

We are so very proud of our results, and feel that the report is a great reflection of everything we work very hard to achieve in our school. Although we had an extremely intense few days of inspection, our overall experience of Ofsted was a positive one. The inspectors regularly checked in on the mental health and wellbeing of staff and children, and they really seemed to want to hear the best things about our school.

In December, we hosted our beloved Family Christmas Carol Concert at the stunning Christ the Cornerstone Church. It's a privilege to hold our



annual celebration in such a beautiful setting, and we're thrilled that the event was, as always, warmly received and well attended by our families. A special thank you goes to MK Brass for their invaluable support, providing musical accompaniment to the children's delightful singing and adding a magical touch to the evening.

In December, we bid a fond farewell to Rukhsana Hussain, a long-standing member of staff at Loughton Manor First School. Over her many years with us, Rukhsana worked with hundreds of children. While we will miss her deeply, we wish her a wonderful and well-deserved retirement.

We also said goodbye to Claire Dimmock, Jenny Garwood, and Natasha Edwards as they embarked on new roles in other schools. We are grateful

for their contributions and dedication during their time with us and wish them every success in their future endeavours.

During last half term we had our annual Expressive Arts Week in which we focussed on the painting, '*A Regatta on the Grand Canal*' by Canaletto. The children explored the painting in depth, and a wide range of art was created by the children, through various mediums and techniques.



If you are interested in seeing what our school has to offer, or would like to find out more about our school, please do visit our website:

<https://www.loughtonmanorschool.co.uk/>

If you have any further questions, please contact me at school on 01908 241472.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read 'Daniela Thompson'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniela Thompson
Headteacher

Friends of Loughton Manor First School

INVITES YOU TO OUR

May Fayre

SATURDAY
10TH MAY 2025
12:00PM TO 3:00PM

LOUGHTON MANOR FIRST SCHOOL

ENTRY

£1 PER ADULT
CHILDREN FREE

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Games and prizes
Raffles
Facepainting
Tombola
Barbeque
Cakes
MK Brass Band



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exp UK
Personal Estate Agent





Jump on your bike and ride for Ride High



Ride High is a local charity based on Redland Drive that uses horses to effect positive change in vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people in Milton Keynes and the surrounding areas. 120 children attend Ride High every week and with the number of children suffering from mental health challenges in the local area continuing to rise, support from the local community is more important than ever before.

On 29th June Ride High is hosting their first Ride MK Cycling Festival, starting and finishing at Furzton Lake. The charity is asking you to jump in your saddle and take on one of their carefully planned routes designed to be accessible to a range of ages and abilities, encouraging the community to come together, get outdoors and fundraise.

Choose from either 100-Mile or 50-mile Road Routes, 20-Mile Red Route or 1.6-mile Ready Set Go route specifically for children. All participants will receive a medal for their achievement and a festival will be held for both cyclists and spectators to celebrate the day.

If you would like to sign up please visit www.ridehigh.org/ridemk

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Milton Keynes Annual Anti-Social Behaviour Forum.

Milton Keynes City Council would like to invite all residents of Milton Keynes to our Annual ASB Forum.

Would you like to know what the council is doing to address Anti-social Behaviour in your neighbourhood?

Places are limited, please book your space using the details below.
call: 07557 318980

email: residentengagement@milton-keynes.gov.uk

**Tuesday 6 May 2025, Civic Offices Central Milton Keynes MK9 3EJ
19:00 – 21:30**

Web page: www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/housing/antisocial-behaviour-asb

Please submit any questions in advance, thank you



Loughton School

A Year of Adventure, Growth, and Unforgettable Moments!

At Loughton School, we pride ourselves on creating a close-knit community where both children and their parents/carers feel truly valued and supported. Our mission is simple: to be the very best at educating the whole child with an exceptional educational experience that prepares them not just for their next steps in education but also for success in life.

We believe every child is unique, with their own set of needs and backgrounds and work hard to ensure they feel a sense of belonging in our Loughton School family. To ensure everyone thrives, we've introduced a variety of tailored programs, including phonics mornings, sensory circuits, TT Rockstar sessions, as well as an extensive extra-curricular club and instrumental offering, creating a supportive environment for growth and learning.

As always, we've gone all out again this academic year to enrich the classroom experience with thrilling trips and hands-on activities that bring learning to life! Our children have already explored the wonders of the National Space Centre, delved into history at Bletchley Park and Bradwell Abbey, built teamwork skills with Let's Leap outdoor adventurous activity sessions, re-enacted a Roman battle and interacted with fascinating creatures through Zoolab. And there's still more to come—Year 3 are going to The Tower of London.



**Zoolab visitors included Bullseye
Giant African Land Snail**



**Year 4 Roman vs Celts re-
enactment**

We've also hosted engaging workshops like music, dance, Indian cooking, pizza making, Viking warrior re-enactments, trips to the central Milton Keynes library and even two author visits and a Music Festival. Many of these events also invited parents to join in the fun and learn alongside their children.

Sports at Loughton have been amazing! From basketball to football, our students have stayed active and competed in local events. We're proud to have won the **2024 Milton Keynes Sports Awards** for "*Development School of the Year*" and earned the **School Games Mark Gold Award** for 2023/24!



Our Sports team and students receiving the Development school of the year Award.



Year 5 at the National Space Centre

But it's not all about learning – we've had a wonderful time giving back to our community too! Our fundraising events, including cake sales and the fun "*break the Rules*" day, have helped support our local food bank and other important causes. At Christmas, our Santas Grotto and annual "*Giving Tree*" overflowed with generous donations, bringing joy to families in need. It's been truly heartwarming to see our school come together to make a difference in the lives of others.

Finally, we can't thank our parents and carers enough for their incredible support. Whether attending information sessions on the curriculum, SATs, or SRE, your involvement has made a huge impact. Together, we're building a strong partnership that helps our children thrive every step of the way.

Here's to another incredible year at Loughton School – full of growth, learning, and unforgettable memories that will last a lifetime!





Loughton School – School Governor

Could you volunteer and become a School Governor?

Supporting your local school as a governor can make a real difference to children, School Governors come from all sections of the community and from all walks of life. They play a key role working alongside the school's senior leadership team to set strategic direction, monitor school performance and ensure appropriate accounting for the schools' finances. Loughton School is particularly looking for people with experience in Finance and also Health and Safety. Training and support is available.

To apply or request more information please email Karen –
farrellk@loughton.school

Would you like to contribute to the Newsletter?

Articles

Would you like to write an article about a topic that would be of interest to other residents of Loughton? Please get in touch with Rob to register your interest: chair.lra.mk@gmail.com

Advertising

Are you a local business and would like to put an advertisement in the newsletter next year? Please get in touch with Peter to register your interest: treasurer.lra.mk@gmail.com

Nurtureville
Nursery



We have spaces available.

Please call Clair on 01908 397400 to find out more.



Parents are more than welcome to come and look
around our beautiful nursery.

A 'home from home' environment for your child.

28 Bradwell Rd, Loughton, Milton Keynes, MK5 8AJ

Christmas Card Photos

Thank you to everyone who has submitted a picture for use on the Christmas card. There are some great pictures so we thought we would share some of them. Keep sending them to us as we need one every year:
secretary.lra.mk@gmail.com



Flooding in Loughton

Have you ever wondered why buildings insurance for your house in Loughton can be so high? There is one simple answer the area is prone to flooding, or at least it was. There have been one or two areas of flooding in recent times but not on the scale and regularity there once was. The last recorded serious flood in Loughton was in 1973 and it appears that insurance companies may still use this data when assessing flood risk.

The source of Loughton Brook is from three brooks that rise to the west of Milton Keynes the major one being Mursley, Whaddon and Shenley Common being the other two. They converged in an area that is now Furzton Lake before passing under the Watling Street and on to Loughton.

Loughton endured many floods over the years as the bank of the brook was breached. One of the areas most affected was The Green, seen below in the 1937 floods.



The other area being Leys Road, so this resulted in the village being split in two during these floods. The floods would also encroach on Bradwell Road as far as The Meadoway and Doomsday Cottage (Village House) in the other direction.



Leys Road

With more roads and houses being planned as Milton Keynes expanded the consequential run off water would need to go somewhere. Milton Keynes Development Corporation had considered this and planned for balancing lakes. Furzton Lake, Teardrop Lakes, and Lodge Lake are the three main balancing lakes designed, excavated and built to prevent the floods that were once common place in Loughton.

The Teardrop Lakes were the first to be excavated followed closely by Lodge Lake. Furzton Lake came a little later as construction on the estates in the west of Milton Keynes commenced.

The photo below is a snap shot in time showing the construction of the flood defenses, Teardrop Lakes in the background and the Child's Way H6 bridge over the brook.

The three local children are Diana, Stephen and Neil Wells. The photo is dated 1976 and is part of Trevor Wells collection of photos. It is ironic that 1976, the year they started building the balancing lakes on the Loughton Brook was one of the hottest and driest on record.



Go forward 15 years to 1991 all of the balancing lakes have been completed along with the bridge over Child's Way.



Flooding today is mostly limited to the designated flood plains and the odd flash flood occurs as nothing can be fully guaranteed, travel disruption is usually limited to leisure routes. So the next time you see the Stepping Stones underwater have a thought for those who endured the floods of the past.

Dave Harris

Playful Pottery



Come in and paint a unique piece of pottery in our relaxing ceramic studio.

This fun activity is suitable for all ages and abilities.

Simply contact us to reserve a table.

Prices range from £3 - £35

10% Discount for seniors

We look forward to seeing you!

36 Benbow Court Shenley Church End

Telephone: 01908 083707

Facebook: Playful Pottery Ltd

Website: www.playfulpottery.co.uk

Email: valerie@playfulpottery.co.uk



***Bring in this advertisement
for a 10% discount***





Thames Valley Police – Loughton Park

Loughton Park Police Team

PCSO Paul Allan, PCSO Travis Phillips and PC Zoe Randolph – Loughton Park Neighbourhood Team.

They currently patrol 15 estates across the north of Milton Keynes - from Milton Keynes Bowl, to Loughton Park and estates in-between, including Whitehouse Park and Fairfields.

The team attend incidents that include, but not limited to, patrolling the neighbourhoods; tackling anti-social behaviour in the area; offer crime prevention advice; work with the local schools, work with partner agencies and safeguard vulnerable individuals in the communities.

Overall the crime in the area is fairly low. Top reported crimes are theft from motor vehicles, anti-social behaviour, public order and vehicle crime. Priority has been drug dealing and related issues and the Team will continue to conduct regular patrols and liaise with relevant parties and instigate crime reduction solutions.

Contacting the Police:

If you witness any anti-social behaviour or suspicious activity that is not an emergency, please call 101 or report it via the Thames Valley Police web site.

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 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.



Loughton Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch is the largest volunteer-led crime prevention charity in the country, working in communities to support them in being safer, more resilient places to live.

It is about people getting together with their neighbours to take action to reduce crime within their community and are 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

How to join a Watch scheme:-

Go to <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/> to find out what groups are active in your area and to register to join. They also provide resources, projects and networks that support volunteers and communities to work together to prevent crime, raise awareness around safety initiatives and community resilience, and connect neighbourhoods.

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. <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/wsi/watch-schemes-initiatives/neighbourhood-watch/>

To receive regular crime updates and information on ongoing incidents and crime prevention relevant to your area visit [Neighbourhood Watch on Thames Valley Alert](#) to register.

There is also crime prevention advice available – <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/advice> to help reduce your chances of becoming a victim of burglary

To access Neighbourhood Watch resources, visit [Neighbourhood Watch on Thames Valley Alert](#) to register.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Top 5 reasons to join

1

Get local **Police Alerts** via email. **Alerts** are official, accurate and timely, and include updates about criminal activities in your area. You can **reply** directly back to the author of an **Alert**. **Alerts** can also include crime prevention tips and valuable advice to protect you, your family and your belongings. Note: **Alerts** are not mis-information sometimes generated by social media.

2

Join a **Neighbourhood Watch scheme** near you. Use the website's postcode search **Find my local scheme**. If nothing near you, apply to start one up and we can help.

Registered **schemes** have access to **FREE** **Neighbourhood Watch** stickers, leaflets, crime prevention information and hi-viz street-signs. They help act as a deterrent to crime and anti-social behaviour.

3

Being neighbourly is a good way to look out for each other. **Scheme** members can feel more secure and safe, for a better quality of life. These factors play an important part in building safer communities.

4

Schemes and members build direct links with their local **Police** team and help identify local crime and anti-social behaviour. Having confidence and reporting direct to the **Police** is encouraged.

5

Insurance companies and suppliers of locks and crime prevention equipment welcome membership of **Neighbourhood Watch**. **Discounts** may apply.



JOIN

ourwatch.org.uk

Make this a better place to live. Together



Loughton Scouts

Scouts is the UK's biggest mixed youth organisation. It changes lives by offering 6 to 25 year-olds fun and challenging activities, unique experiences, everyday adventure and the chance to help others so that they make a positive impact in communities. We are a thriving group based in Loughton.

The age groups are as follows:-

6-8 years	Beaver Scouts
8-10.5 years	Cub Scouts
10.5-14 years	Scouts
14-18 years	Explorer Scouts
18-25 years	Network Scouts

2024 highlights have included our Beaver Scouts have had a sleepover at Safari MK and Legoland and building a swing from poles four times as tall. Our Cubs have been on several camps and even more chip chop hikes (always a favourite). Our Scouts' highlight was the Fortress 24 camp, where they built tents from tarpaulins and poles, and had to keep a raw egg safe from predatory teams over a whole weekend.

The Scout Movement is not just for our young people; ADULTS can join Scouts, become a Leader or volunteer in any of the sections and enjoy all aspects of Scouting. *Please see our following advert.*

The Scout Association helps volunteers get the most out of their experiences at Scouts by providing opportunities for adventure, training, fun and friendship.

For further information about Scouting in Milton Keynes and joining the waiting list for places, please visit www.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

We develop #skillsforlife

If you think you have what it takes to help then please contact
loughton@mkscouts.org

Loughton Lodge District Girlguiding



Girlguiding
Milton Keynes division



For ages 4 to 7

Rainbows welcomes all girls to come together to laugh, learn and have fun in a creative, safe space. It's a wonderful world of adventure, week after week, just for her.



Brownies is full of firsts: she can explore her creative side, get out into the great outdoors, learn how to look after herself, others and the world we live in.



For ages 7 to 10



For ages 10 to 14

Guides is a fun-filled space, she'll have one big adventure with friends, learn how to be herself, explore the things she loves and do stuff she's never done before!



Rangers is an open and relaxed space, where you can regularly meet up, go on trips at home and abroad, to help make a difference to the things you care about.



For ages 14 to 18

Find a group near you girlguiding.org.uk

Registered charity number: 1026890



Heron's Lodge May Fete

17/05/25

12:00-16:00

Ice Cream

Craft Stalls

Free Entry!

Activities

Tombola

Refreshments

Face Painting



facebook.com/heronslodgeguidecentre

Heron's Lodge Guide Centre
Bradwell Road, Milton Keynes
MK8 9AA



Girlguiding

Heron's Lodge Guide Centre
Milton Keynes

Heron's Lodge Guide Centre is an operating name of the Guide Association
Milton Keynes Division, Registered Charity Number 1026890

Improving Biodiversity in Loughton

January 2025 was the warmest on record. In September 2024 Butterfly Conservation declared a Butterfly Emergency. Insects declined by 70% in recent decades. No insects no birds.

So what have we been doing in Loughton to help nature recover and to address climate change on a local level?

- On 12 December 2024, Kurshida Mirza, our High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire, together with Roger Jefcoate, the late Queen's black poplar specialist, planted two very rare black poplars near the Stepping Stones in Loughton Valley Park with the support of the Parks Trust, MKCC, MK Community Trees and our Parish Council.
- In January 2025 we planted 2 Oak trees in the biodiversity trial verge in Leys Road.
- MKCC planted 44 quite mature trees in the verges around Loughton
- The Parish Council sponsored 30 swift boxes to be installed on residents' properties around the parish.
- Our Parish Council biodiversity trial continued into its second year, this time including the wide verge in Lincelade Grove near the North Bridge. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped clear up the cuttings following the September cut. It was a huge job - it is essential to remove the cuttings for the wild flowers to flourish. I am lobbying MKCC to adopt cut and collect. Some residents would also be much happier without the 'mess'!
- Since 2023 The Parks Trust have not sprayed around the base of the trees within the Loughton Valley Park, this will continue through 2025. At the end of 2023 wildflower seeding was carried out around some of the base of these trees to increase the biodiversity in the park - the resultant yellow rattle looked splendid in 2024!
- Following a meeting with Nick Bowles, from Butterfly Conservation, and myself in May 2024, the Parks Trust agreed to leave some grass areas uncut during the summer between Loughton Green and Lodge Lake. This led to more wildflowers and more insect life which hopefully helped feed the local bats and birds! The Parks Trust is continuing this local project in 2025.



- In April 2024 Loughton School Council students planted wildflowers in the Millenium Meadow behind Bradwell Road in April 2024, with Parish Council support.
- André Cilliers, from MK Veterinary Group, has planted 180 Camassia, 200 wild leek, 10 winter aconites and sown a lot of wildflower seeds including yellow rattle in the Leys Road meadow and 150 crocuses in Church Walk at his own expense. He is also tending a strip of wildflowers in Church Walk.

So, what are we doing next?

- I will continue to campaign to stop the spraying by MKCC contractors and The Parks Trust of Roundup (glyphosate) on soft landscaping, on soil, under hedges, around signs. I am happy to report that MKCC is reviewing its Pesticide Policy and the Parks Trust is engaging with me and my fellow Pesticide Free Milton Keynes campaigners. (Our petition to stop the use of pesticides in Milton Keynes now has nearly 26,000 signatures).
- The Parish Council has approved in principle a project - in collaboration with the allotment holders - to improve the wildlife habitats in the Greenhill Close Park and to make the space more welcoming to local residents and families.
- Contrary to the MKCC Sustainability Strategy, February 2024, many wildlife habitats and spring flowering shrubs and trees in Loughton have been cut down by their landscape contractor this winter so we have a lot of work to do to change embedded horticultural practices!
- The Parish Council has approved a Bee Project - 500 packets of wildflower seeds, costing £260, are heading the way of our local schools and community groups this Spring.
- André has created a project on iNaturalist to record biodiversity and wildlife at the Leys Road meadows. It can be found at: www.inaturalist.org/projects/loughton-meadow-biodiversity-2025.

Please record your sightings so that we have the data to show the area is helping nature to recover locally. Please also email me if you would like to help out improving biodiversity in this area. André and I would welcome some help.

And please support NO MOW MAY and keep in mind that Nature isn't neat!

We can and we should make a difference!

Judith Heinemann

Biodiversity Campaigner and Parish Councillor Loughton and Great Holm

judith.heinemann@loughtonandgreatholm-pc.gov.uk

UnityMK

Supporting Those Facing Homelessness in Milton Keynes

UnityMK, formerly known as **Winter Night Shelter MK**, is a year-round charity dedicated to supporting individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness in **Milton Keynes** and the surrounding areas.

Our **Welfare Team** works closely with a wide range of agencies and support services to provide tailored assistance in the following areas: practical support with things like food, clothing, access to showers and laundry facilities, access to emergency and longer-term accommodation, well-being and mental health support, administrative assistance, and community engagement.

We welcome approximately 200 people into our welfare centre at Unity Park Station each week, providing essential resources and guidance. Our team also manages around 100 individual cases every month, ensuring that those in need receive the dedicated support they deserve.



Lifesaving Winter Night Shelters- Including Loughton Baptist Church

From late November through to the end of March, our winter night shelters operate at various venues across Milton Keynes, offering emergency accommodation for those experiencing rough sleeping. **Loughton Baptist Church** is one of these venues and generously provides space for 15 overnight beds every Monday evening.



When guests arrive at Loughton, they are warmly welcomed by a team of trained volunteers who provide:

- A safe and supportive environment
- A delicious, freshly cooked evening meal
- Opportunities to relax, socialise, and play games
- A vital, warm bed for the night

The following morning, guests receive hot drinks and breakfast before returning to Unity Park Station, where further support is available. So far this season, the night shelter service has supported 28 people. Of those, 10 have been helped into longer-term accommodation, and others are expected to have confirmation of move-on dates soon.



This vital service is made possible by the generosity and dedication of **Loughton Baptist Church, Loughton and Great Holm Parish Council, and our incredible team of volunteers.** Their commitment helps bring hope, dignity, and practical assistance to those who need it most.

If you want to get involved, please visit our website <https://www.unitymk.org/volunteerroles> for more information about all our available volunteer roles and to register your interest.



Denbigh named Secondary School of the Year at MK Education Awards

We were delighted to be named 'Secondary School of the Year' at the MK Education Awards for demonstrating innovation, imagination and developing our students in ways that go beyond the league tables. On a fantastic night of celebration, we also won the 'IT Champion' and 'Maths Team of the Year' Awards.

The success continued in the summer when our students recorded the strongest GSCE results in the history of the School, making us the top performing school in Milton Keynes for both progress and attainment at GSCE.

The summer term saw our talented Creative Arts students and staff put on a hugely successful production of 'Labels & Limelight'. The Production, which was written by Mrs Brunings, one of our Creative Art teachers, had the central message that through tolerance, respect and empathy, we can create a world where everyone has the chance to shine in the limelight.

A team of Year 9 students (pictured here) won the inaugural Nifty RC Challenge, a competition organised by Niftylift which challenged students from across Milton Keynes to build and code a remote-controlled scale model. Our Team worked for three months on their model and performed superbly to take the title.



We hosted a Human Rights and Responsibilities Conference for students across Milton Keynes where speakers talked about the importance of Human Rights and the danger of them being disregarded and abused when genocides take place. Denbigh's Sixth Form Holocaust Ambassadors spoke at the Conference about their experience of being Ambassadors for the Holocaust Education Trust, including their visit to Auschwitz.

We welcomed our new Headteacher, Mr Anthony Steed in September when he took over from Dr Andrea Frame who retired after leading the School superbly since 2020. We also have a new Chair of Governors with parent governor, Dominic Wood taking over from Akhtar Jan after her two years as Chair.

It was a record-breaking night at our Christmas Bazaar raising £6,000 for our House Charity, Samuel's Charity and the Denbigh Association. The Street was packed with students, families and members of the local community. The Bazaar is our largest and most popular fund-raising event of the year, and it is led by the students themselves who put hours into creating festive stalls with games and prizes for all.

Our Sixth Formers organised Street parties to celebrate Eid and Diwali which enabled students, parents, staff and Governors to celebrate these wonderful festivals together as a school community.



DENBIGH SCHOOL
Aspire, Innovate, Achieve, Belong

Lettings

@Denbigh

DENBIGH SCHOOL **MILTON KEYNES MK5 6EX**

**Bookings
from £22
per hour**

As a community school we are dedicated to supporting our local community and offer high quality facilities available for hire throughout the year. Whether you are looking for a regular meeting room, a dance or theatre venue, a facility to host an activity or club, or a versatile space for charity and community events, we have a variety of options to suit your needs.

FACILITIES

- Theatre Space
- Activity Studio
- Drama Studio
- Meeting Rooms
- Classrooms



CONTACT US

lettings@denbigh.net

www.denbigh.net/about/lettings

Denbigh School
Burchard Crescent
Shenley Church End, MK5 6EX

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 a meeting, all Loughton Residents are welcome. We meet at All Saints Church (or by Zoom in the winter) and discuss all the current local issues & events. Agenda or minutes are available from the Secretary.

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:

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

Contact Details:

Chair	Rob Wills	chair.lra.mk@gmail.com
Vice Chair	Beatrice Nibhroin	vicechair.lra.mk@gmail.com
Treasurer	Peter Woodruff	treasurer.lra.mk@gmail.com
Secretary	Andrea Phillips	secretary.lra.mk@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you!



We would love you to join in with our Sunday worship at 10.30am!

Whether you're exploring faith for the first time, returning to church, looking for a place you can call home or just visiting, you're so welcome!
You can watch live on our website and over on our YouTube channel if you can't join us in person.

www.loughtonbaptistchurch.org

Got big questions about life, hope & meaning? Come and try ALPHA!
Next Course starting in the Autumn!

ALPHA is an amazing space to explore some of life's biggest questions & the basics of Christian faith. Our ALPHA course takes place over 10 sessions. Each week there will be great food, an episode of the ALPHA film series & open discussion. You can say anything you like, or nothing at all.
Everyone's welcome – no matter your background or beliefs.
It's completely free & there's no pressure to come again.

Come along to our English Classes on Thursday evenings at 7pm
to improve your speaking and listening skills.

Come along to our Over 50's Rendezvous which meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Join us for an afternoon filled with worship, fun and refreshments. It's a great place to meet people, make friends and find community.
Whether you are curious, would like to get more connected or just have a question – we would love to hear from you!

Email us: office@loughtonbaptistchurch.org

Call us: 07901 132 846

Find us: Bradwell Road, Loughton, MK5 8AJ

Jesus said, **"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."**

John 8:12

LOUGHTON MEMORIAL HALL

Bradwell Road, MK5 8AJ



HALL FOR HIRE

**GREAT FOR CHILDREN'S PARTIES,
CLUBS, GROUPS & MEETINGS**

**ONE OFF, WEEKLY OR MONTHLY
BOOKINGS AVAILABLE**

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www.vincesautos.co.uk

We meet every 2nd Monday of the month except for the August break at 2.30pm at the Loughton Memorial Hall, Bradwell Road, Loughton, MK5 8AJ.

We have fun, education (via invited speakers and web based training), entertainment (quizzes, raffles, crafts), friendly chat and tea and cake.

Try it! The first meeting is free.

Contact our lovely secretary for details and further information on:

Telephone: 07731 876 102

About the WI: For over 100 year, the WI movement has been instrumental in achieving positive change for women and for society, campaigning on as range of issues from modern slavery to climate change, mental health, and violence against women.

Our vision is to offer support and opportunity to every woman who wants it, giving women as voice to make an even bigger impact and continue toing a force for change in our world.

Lose Weight



Men Welcome

£5.95
Weekly

Cash or cheque payments only

Half price
Membership £5

Contact Ann on: 01908 505943 or 07714 037832

Tuesdays at: Oak Tree Centre
Wallinger Drive
Shenley Brook End

3.30pm, 5.30pm and 7.15pm

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All Saints' Church

presents

Heart and Music



the talented Milton Keynes singing group

(Musical Director: Malcolm Crane)

'Everything's Coming Up Roses'

*A varied programme of songs including show tunes,
pop, original compositions ... and more!*

at All Saints' Church, Loughton, MK5 8AS

7.30 pm, Saturday 12 July 2025

Tickets: £11.00 in advance; £13.00 on the evening

Includes light refreshments in the interval

(Prices are for adults. Children are free. Card payment available.)

Contact allsaintsevents@watlingvalley.org.uk

*Funds raised will help to maintain this
beautiful 13th century Church*

All Saints' Church, Loughton

Our world is an ever changing one and it is full of meetings and partings, and we are, in the Watling Valley Ecumenical Partnership, going through a period of change. As some of you will know, Barry Lotz, who has been the lead minister for All Saints' for many years, will be away on sabbatical from April until June and then will be retiring in July.

Barry and Celeste are much loved within Loughton and have been faithful in their service and companionship to All Saints' and we are going to miss them enormously.

There will of course be opportunities to wish them well and say thank you for their devoted service in July, so please do keep your eyes open for information on the Watling Valley Partnership website (details below).

Of course, Barry's retirement means the introduction of a new lead minister and this where I come in. My name is Kath Long and I started as lead minister at All Saints' on the 2nd of February. I love All Saints', the community here are very warm and I am already feeling very welcome. I am looking forward to getting to know you and being part of community life here in Loughton.

But just as things change, there are some things that remain reassuringly steadfast. The people of Loughton have faithfully prayed and worshipped at All Saints' for over 800 years and that faithful worship continues on. We still hold our regular 8am Book of Common Prayer Communion Service each week, and our 10am Morning Service, which, on the second and fourth Sundays of the month is Communion. We also have a regular service of Night Prayer online every Sunday at 8pm which is on our YouTube channel

(Watling Valley Partnership) and on our website. Anyone can join this act of worship at 8pm or a time that works better for you. But always know that in our worship, we always pray for all of you in our community.

The church continues to welcome people, young and old, from all walks of life, and you are all most welcome here. Our church bells continue to ring, thanks to our excellent team of ringers, with the encouragement and enthusiasm of Gary our Tower Captain. If you would like to find out more or would be interested in joining our ringers, do get in touch.

We have many activities at All Saints' and across the Watling Valley, to which you are all most welcome. Information about our activities can be found on our website and our Facebook page and you can receive a copy of the Watling Valley Weekly which will keep you updated by contacting our office. If you would like to enquire about a wedding or a baptism, again do please contact our office (contact details at end of the letter) and if you would like to speak to a minister, one of our wardens or have a general enquiry, our details are below.

With every blessing, Kath Long.

Minister: Kath Long kath.long@watlingvalley.org.uk

Wardens: David Thom david.id.thom@gmail.com and John Rowcroft-James john@wvwp.org

Office: office@watlingvalley.org.uk 01908 504452 (open Monday-Friday, 9.30am-11am)

Website: <https://www.watlingvalley.org.uk/>

Hugh Parke Charity

Loughton has a long and rich history and as part of this, in 2014, we remembered the 500th anniversary of his passing. He was appointed Rector by the Lord of the Manor of Loughton in 1485.

Hugh Parke was clearly a devout and compassionate man, as on his death he left his estate for the benefit of All Saints' Church and for the relief of poverty in this area. Extraordinarily, this private charitable Trust is still alive and well today and helping to maintain the Church and relieve poverty in the local area half a millennium later. Page's "History of the County of Buckingham" (1927) records the establishment of the Trust by Deed in 1609 containing 2 pieces of land of just over 8 acres. Then in 1882 the Charity of Commissioners officially arranged a scheme for the Charity.

The land left by Revd. Parke was acquired by the MK Development Corporation for what is now Winterhill. The proceeds were invested by the Trustees and the yield from the investments is distributed annually.

There are 7 Trustees: The Minister, 2 Churchwardens, 2 Parish Councillors and 2 other co-opted congregation members.

Charitable distributions are no longer in coal but in cash. Recent beneficiaries include individual residents, local schools and other organisations within Loughton and Great Holm. Also, Willen Hospice, bearing in mind the care of those living in the parish.

The grave of Hugh Parke lies in the chancel of All Saints' Church and is marked by a half-length brass portrait of a priest in mass vestments with a Latin inscription which translates to "Here lies Hugh Parke, formerly Rector of this Church, Master of Arte and Bachelor of Sacred Theology."

The Parish website now contains the contact details of the Trust and further information.

In 2018 the trustees were asked to become responsible for another local charity; the Holt Coal Charity. Its origins are much more recent but its guiding principles are very similar.

More about that in next year's Loughton Residents' newsletter!

Roger Blackburn.

All Saints' Trustee & Clerk



brunch club all day, every day

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açaí bowls, topped toasts and more

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📍 47 High Street, **Stony Stratford, MK11 1AA**

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