Council ‘cleans up’ at national awards

The Council has scooped a top national award for cleaner streets and more satisfied residents.

Efforts of the street cleansing division to continually improve its service earned the team the Quality Improvement prize at the recent Keep Britain Tidy Jubilee Awards ceremony.

Colin Chick, corporate director for environment and regeneration, said:

“We had a simple desire to improve our streets, staff morale and the town’s reputation. Over recent years the team has worked hard to ingrain a ‘can do’ attitude, empowering staff to take immediate action to keep Luton’s streets clean for residents.

“We trained staff to get involved in improvements, and developed a positive new philosophy which we called ‘see it, own it, do it’. To ensure that all employees had a clear idea as to what their service was trying to achieve, the vast majority of frontline staff took NVQ level two training in street cleansing.

“The team has seen huge improvements in customer satisfaction surveys, with latest figures showing almost 97 per cent approval rates.”

Phil Barton, chief executive of Keep Britain Tidy, said: “Luton Borough Council implemented an initiative which has resulted in a significant change to service delivery, making it more efficient and more effective. It was fantastic to see a team get more involved, provide solutions and take pride in their achievements.”

Luton’s streets are divided into zones, depending on the volume of traffic using the streets each day and the density of population in the area. The more frequently the road is used, the more often it will be swept. And if an area becomes unacceptably messy, the team will clean it up as soon as possible.

To report street litter call 01582 510333, Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm; except Wed, 10am-6pm.

The award-winning team which works to improve the cleanliness of Luton’s streets

The street cleansing team runs a programme that:

- Continuously cleans the town centre
- Cleans main roads once a week and other roads once a month
- Removes accumulations of rubbish from Council land
- Empties litter bins before they are full
- Helps with your locally-organised clean-ups.

You can help us by:

- Being tidy with your litter and chewing gum
- Using the free Household Waste Recycling Centres (tidy tips)
- Making sure your business has a waste collection contract
- Not leaving your dog’s mess for others
- Not ‘fly-posting’ – it’s untidy and illegal.
Keeping our community safe

Hate crime has no place in our society

Bedfordshire Police and its partners, including Luton Borough Council, supported a national week of action against hate crime, celebrating differences and calling for the community to come together in cohesion and unity.

The We Stand Together campaign aimed to build relationships between communities and show solidarity across the country, following recent global events which have caused tension and fear. Bedfordshire Police, the Council and partners are calling on people to stand together against hatred and intolerance and help build a stronger and safer UK.

Hate crimes are those motivated by prejudice, bigotry or intolerance on the grounds of disability, gender identity, race and ethnicity, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

Chief Inspector Tania Coulson, force lead for hate crime, said: “We continue to work with our partners across the county to highlight the issue and fight hate crime. It is more important than ever that we come together and send a strong unified message to embrace individuality and difference, create solidarity and be proud of the richly diverse communities we are fortunate enough to have in Bedfordshire. We want to reassure people that they should not suffer in silence and that together with our partners we can provide support and tackle this destructive crime. Hate crime has no place in our society”.

Bedfordshire Police stands together with partner organisations, community leaders and groups using the campaign’s hashtag #WeStandTogether to show solidarity and celebrate difference.

Hate crime and incidents, motivated by prejudice, are often not reported and police are urging anyone who is a victim of, or has witnessed, such crime to have the confidence to come forward.

- You can report hate crime online to True Vision (www.report-it.org.uk), call police on 101, text information to 07786 200011 or call Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555111.

Your council tax bill explained

Council tax bills for 2015/16 have recently started arriving through Luton residents’ letterboxes.

Council tax is the way we pay for local services, including safeguarding children, care of the elderly and refuse collection, to mention just a few. Your overall bill involves a contribution towards the cost of local services, although part of this is funded by Central Government.

The amount of council tax you pay for your address is based on the value of the property and its banding level set by the Inland Revenue’s Valuation Office in 1991. Bands A, B and C together account for 84 per cent of Luton’s households. This year’s Band C charge is £1,345.74; of this, £1,105.23 will go to the Council, £161.20 to Bedfordshire Police and £79.31 to Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

This year the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner has set a budget of £104.6m for 2015/16 compared to £101.7m in 2014/15. This figure includes an increase in the ‘police precept’ of 15.8 per cent, which has been used to calculate the part of your council tax which goes to the police. Because this rise is higher than two per cent, it has to be approved in a referendum which will take place on Thursday 7 May.

Robin Porter, corporate director of commercial and transformation services, said: “Residents are reminded that paying your council tax is a legal duty. If you fail to pay, or pay late, you may lose your right to pay by instalments and have to settle the outstanding balance in full immediately. You could also receive a court summons and have to pay costs.

“The referendum makes no difference to this. Should the electorate of Bedfordshire vote ‘no’ on 7 May, the Council will send you a revised bill with reduced instalments as soon as possible. If you would prefer to receive your bill by email rather than post, which also helps reduce the Council’s collection costs, so the Council can spend its money on services that really matter to you instead. Simply visit www.luton.gov.uk/counciltax.

Important: our new bank account

The Council’s banking services are now provided by Lloyds Bank. If you make payments to us by direct debit, then you need take no further action at this stage, as your payments will be automatically diverted into our new bank account.

However, if you pay by standing order, then you need to instruct your bank to make your payments to our account at Lloyds Bank.

Our new bank details are as follows:

Lloyds Bank
60 George Street
Luton
Bedfordshire
LU1 2BQ

Account name: Luton Borough Council – General Account
Sort Code: 30 – 66 – 76
Account number: 17256662

We have written to all our standing order customers to provide details of the Council’s new bank account and to issue revised mandates for customers to sign and return as applicable. All changes must be made by 1 April 2015.

Ways to pay

- Direct debit takes away the worry of having to remember to pay your council tax every month. It also helps reduce collection costs, so the Council can spend its money on services that really matter to you instead. Simply visit www.luton.gov.uk/counciltax.
- Different ways of paying your council tax are explained on the Council’s website, along with information about who qualifies for a discount. If you think you may be eligible to claim council tax support, see www.luton.gov.uk/benefits or call 0300 790 0345 (24 hours).
- If you would prefer to receive your bill by email rather than post, which also helps reduce the Council’s collection costs, so the Council can spend its money on services that really matter to you instead. Simply visit www.luton.gov.uk/counciltax.
- If you are experiencing financial difficulties and struggling to pay your council tax, please contact us immediately for help and advice.

Love to visit parks?

There are in excess of 19 million visits to parks and open space in Luton each year

Keep fit, meet friends or just chill out in your local park today

www.luton.gov.uk/parks

www.luton.gov.uk
Your guide to elections on May 7

On 7 May 2015 Luton electors will have the opportunity to cast their vote in two elections and a referendum:

- Election of Member of Parliament for the Luton North and Luton South constituencies
- Election of councilors to Luton Borough Council – all 48 seats on the authority are up for election across Luton’s 19 wards
- Referendum on the council tax increase for Bedfordshire’s Police and Crime Commissioners

If you think you could make a difference to your local council and would like to be among the candidates, nominations to stand in the local election in Luton are now open.

As usual, it is expected there will be a large number of candidates, not only from the mainstream political parties but also from smaller political groups and independents. Qualifications for standing are that you are aged over 18 years and are living or working or registered in the borough.

Nominations for the parliamentary elections in the Luton North and Luton South constituencies will open on Thursday 2 April.

All nomination papers need to be signed by a proposer and seconder and, for the local elections, must also be supported by the signatures of a further eight electors from the ward in which you wish to stand. For the parliamentary election, nominations must be supported by the signatures of 10 electors in the relevant constituency.

Completed nomination papers should be delivered to Returning Officer Trevor Holden at the Town Hall by no later than 4pm on Thursday 9 April. Appointments are being offered for informal checks. To arrange one, please call Sara Farr on 01582 546025.

Key election dates:

- Friday 3 April: Ballot papers to be sent out
- Midnight on Monday 20 April: Deadline for electors to register to vote
- Monday 20 April: Postal votes to be issued
- 5pm on Tuesday 21 April: Deadline for new postal vote applications
- 5pm on Tuesday 28 April: Deadline for new proxy vote applications
- Thursday 7 May: Polling day from 7am-10pm, followed by counting of the votes for the parliamentary election
- Friday 8 May: Counting of the votes for the local elections
- Monday 11 May: Counting of the votes for the Bedfordshire Police referendum

You and your vote – what you need to know

To be able to vote in the elections, you need to be on the Register of Electors for the town. To find out if you are registered, please call the electoral registration team on 01582 510380. If you are not registered, register online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote or let us know and we will send you a form to complete the accompanying paperwork and post the envelope and its contents back to the Town Hall to reach us by Tuesday 21 April.

If you are registered to vote but cannot get to your polling station on 7 May, all is not lost. You can apply for a postal or proxy vote.

Voting by post means you can vote from home and do not have to go to the polling station. All you have to do is cast your vote on the ballot paper provided, complete the accompanying paperwork and post the envelope and its contents back to the Town Hall by 10pm on Thursday 7 May. The deadline for applications to vote by post is 5pm on Tuesday 21 April.

You can also apply for a proxy vote which enables a nominated person you trust to vote on your behalf.

To apply for postal or proxy votes, go to the Council’s website at www.luton.gov.uk and search ‘elections’, visit www.aboutmyvote.co.uk or call the electoral registration team on 01582 510380 or email electoral_services@luton.gov.uk.

A Council spokesman said: “All residents, and particularly those who may have moved address in recent months, are eligible to vote are asked to call the electoral registration team on 01582 510380 or email electoral_services@luton.gov.uk.

Frequently-asked questions

Who can vote in a UK parliamentary election?

Anyone aged 18 years or over on May 7 who is a UK citizen or a citizen of the Irish Republic and Commonwealth countries and currently living in Britain can vote. Other foreign nationals, members of the House of Lords, serving prisoners and people convicted within the previous five years of illegal election practices are not allowed to vote.

Can students register at more than one address?

Students can register at both their term-time address and at the address they live at outside of term, but can only vote in one area.

Does my vote automatically transfer when I move home?

No. Every time you move home you need to register at your new address, even if you pay council tax. If you have moved home (both buyers and renters) in the last 18 months, there is a good chance you may not be on the electoral register.

I have no fixed address, can I still vote?

Yes. You will need to contact our Electoral Services team on 01582 510380.

How apprenticeships can work for you

Local businesses who offer apprenticeships took part in an exhibition recently as part of National Apprenticeship Week 2015.

Luton Borough Council held the exhibition in The Mall where employers, training providers and apprentices were on hand to talk to young people about the range of apprenticeships jobs in Luton.

Local employers also used the opportunity to promote their businesses. Laura Church, head of business and consumer services said: “This was a great chance for employers to demonstrate that they are forward-thinking organisations who recognise the value of training and apprenticeships.”

Local CCG campaign to save the NHS money

The NHS is facing significant financial challenges both now and in the future. So in line with national guidance to save money and improve efficiency, Luton’s Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is asking local people for their help to reduce the amount of medicines being wasted.

Dr Monica Alabi, local GP and Assistant Chair of the Luton CCG said: “Luton’s CCG is asking patients or their carers to help the NHS to save money by ordering repeat medicines directly from their GP. There are lots of easy ways to reorder such as online or by letter, fax or appointment. So please help us to use our valuable resources effectively.”
We’re ringing the changes

£1.5 million investment in new buses

From routes and times to frequency and service numbers, we are ringing the changes. We’re also introducing 14 new micro hybrid buses with free Wi-Fi, an investment of £1.5 million. These planned changes will make your journey more reliable, more direct and more connected. What’s more, there will now be better links to important places like the hospital and the railway station.

Highlights include:

• Increased frequency on many key routes including Service 27 to Stopsley and Services 28 and 29 to Farley Hill

• Improved evening services as well as more buses running at the weekend

• Better links to key places including Luton railway station and hospital – especially from Luton town centre via new bus Service Z (which uses the Busway to come in and out of the town centre)

• A new Travel Centre in the Interchange at Luton railway station – opening in April

You can find more details at arrivabus.co.uk/LutonDunstable or by following us on Facebook and Twitter or downloading the Arriva Bus App with real time journey information.
New life-saving machines have been installed at five public locations across Luton as part of a partnership initiative aimed at assisting people suffering from cardiac arrest.

Public access defibrillators have been provided at Luton, Luton Airport Parkway and Leagrave stations, and within The Mall and the University of Bedfordshire’s Park Street campus.

A defibrillator works by delivering an electrical current through the chest, with the aim of shocking the heart back into a normal rhythm and allowing it to pump again.

Stored in secured cabinets, and keycode-locked for security, access will be given by the East of England Ambulance service control on receipt of a 999 call. Ambulance crews will also be despatched to the scene.

You do not have to be medically trained to use a defibrillator, as they come fitted with on-screen graphic illustrations and voice commands that guide the user step-by-step through the process.

Intelligent technology also only allows users to shock a heart if a rhythm cannot be detected.

Every year, many people suffer from cardiac arrest, and some will sadly die because they could not be treated quickly enough. Statistics show that if an individual suffers a heart attack, time is of the essence. Having defibrillators that the public can access will undoubtedly improve an individual’s chance of survival in the event of a cardiac arrest.” Bedfordshire’s chief fire officer Paul Fuller added: “In the same way that you don’t need to be a firefighter to use a fire extinguisher, you don’t need to be a paramedic to use a defibrillator. The important thing is that they help to save lives.”

Projects partners included Luton Borough Council together with the Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR), The Mall Luton and University of Bedfordshire, with the units purchased from the Community Heartbeat Trust.

GTR delivered free awareness sessions to staff from across the partner organisations, to help individuals gain confidence in using the device and refresh their basic life support skills.

Delegates attending agreed they would have no hesitation in deploying a defibrillator if required.

The defibrillator in The Mall is located at the Cheapside doors.

The Council contributed £4,500, representing half of the cost.

The Council’s civil protection officer Tony Green, said: “We all know that if an individual suffers a heart attack, time is of the essence. Having defibrillators that the public can access will undoubtedly improve an individual’s chance of survival in the event of a cardiac arrest.” Bedfordshire’s chief fire officer Paul Fuller added: “In the same way that you don’t need to be a firefighter to use a fire extinguisher, you don’t need to be a paramedic to use a defibrillator. The important thing is that they help to save lives.”

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New drug and alcohol strategy for young people

The issues of drugs, alcohol and young people were at the top of the agenda at an important conference held recently. The Luton Drug and Alcohol Partnership hosted the multi-agency event to identify issues to be included in the latest young person’s drug and alcohol strategy. The partnership, which includes the Council, health services, police and voluntary agencies organised the conference to look at ways in which they can best work together to improve and develop the strategy and provide a high standard of care and service to young people who need help with drug and alcohol problems.

The day involved workshops, speakers and questions as well as an opportunity for all delegates to give their views, ideas and proposals. Contributors also included former and current users of the service who gave valuable feedback.

Gerry Taylor, corporate director of public health, said: “It is extremely important to involve professionals, members, young people and the public to contribute in shaping the upcoming review of Luton’s young people’s drug and alcohol strategy for the next three years.”

The Luton Drug and Alcohol Partnership aims to encourage more people to prevent, reduce and stop their drug and alcohol use.

For more information visit www.lutondap.org.uk

Love Wardown Park?

Wardown Park Suspension Bridge refurbishment works will commence in February 2015 and will take approximately 10 weeks to complete.

The park will remain open during this time and we will endeavour to ensure that any disruption to visitors is kept to a minimum.

www.luton.gov.uk/parks

Volunteers Needed

Could you help us deliver this vital service? If you have a few hours to spare call us for more details - 07738 607 684

www.luton.gov.uk
Keep your postal vote safe


Voting by post is an easy and convenient way of voting if you are unable to get to your polling station on the day of an election. But remember, your postal vote is for you, and nobody else.

- As soon as you get your postal voting papers, put them somewhere safe where nobody else can pick them up
- Complete your ballot paper in secret, on your own
- Don’t let anyone else vote for you
- Put your ballot paper and postal voting statement in the envelopes provided, and seal them personally
- Take your sealed postal vote to a post box yourself, if you can. Alternatively, give it only to someone you know and trust to post it for you.

For more advice and information about voting by post, go to www.luton.gov.uk/elections.

For a form to apply for a postal vote go to www.aboutmyvote.co.uk or contact us via the details below. Completed applications must reach us by 5pm on 21 April.

Electoral Registration Office
Luton Borough Council
Town Hall, George Street
Luton LU1 2BQ

01582 510380
electoral_services@luton.gov.uk
New law cracks down on all drug-drivers ...

A new drug-driving law is now in force, making it easier for the police to detect and prosecute any offending motorists including those taking prescription drugs and over-the-counter medicines.

If you are stopped by the police and they think you are not fit to drive due to the influence of drugs or medicines, you will be arrested and will have to take a blood or urine test at a police station. You could then be charged with a crime if the tests are positive.

If you are convicted of drug driving you will get:
- A minimum one year driving ban
- A fine up to £5,000
- Up to a year in prison
- A criminal record.

Your driving licence will also show you have been convicted for drug-driving. This will remain for 11 years. The penalty for causing death by dangerous driving, you should talk to your doctor,

If you are unsure if you should be prescribed them.

In your body and you have not been driven with certain levels of these drugs can affect your ability to drive

You can drive after taking these drugs if:
- You have been prescribed them and advised how to take them by a healthcare professional
- They do not affect your ability to drive safely.
- You could be prosecuted if you drive with certain levels of these drugs in your body and you have not been prescribed them.
- For more information go to www.gov.uk/drug-driving-law

Prescription and over-the-counter medicines can affect your ability to drive

You could be prosecuted if you

Farewell to dinner lady Pauline

Pauline Cook wiped her last Putteridge Primary dinner table and lined up her last group of pupils recently as she said goodbye after 23 years of service as a midday supervisory assistant at the school, where she has supported thousands of pupils during their lunchtime.

At the end of her final lunch break, two of the school’s prefects, Ellie and Lewis, presented Mrs Cook with a bouquet of flowers.

Pauline said: “It has been really interesting seeing all the changes that have happened in schools over the years. I have enjoyed working with children, teachers and school leaders that I have met along the way.”

Rob Weightman, deputy headteacher said: “Pauline was a valued member of staff who has given 23 years’ excellent service to our school, she will be missed by pupils and staff. All at Putteridge Primary wish Mrs Cook all the best in her retirement.”

Looking for a new social work challenge?

Want to join dynamic and innovative social care teams supporting diverse communities?

Our social work is challenging, full of variety and is very rewarding.

We truly value our staff and will provide you with all the support you need to develop with access to a range of training opportunities.

Newly qualified social workers will receive regular supervision, reduced work load and a personal development plan.

Management opportunities are also available with the chance to work towards a masters degree.

We also offer flexible working arrangements.

Please visit our new dedicated social care recruitment microsite www.socialcarejobsatluton.co.uk for exciting social work vacancies

Pre-booking is advised.

Please contact us to make an appointment on 01582 514351 or email suzanne.islam@machins.co.uk. Sessions will run from 5pm-8pm at the following address:

Victoria Street, Luton, LU1 2BS
T: 01582 514000 E: enquiries@machins.co.uk
www.machins.co.uk @machinslaw

MACHINS SOLUTIONS LLP
www.machins.co.uk
Coming soon
A new purpose-built Travel Centre for Luton

Facilities will include:
- Travel information desk
- Bus, coach and rail ticket desk
- Starbucks cafe
- Personal travel planning area

Located next to the Luton station rail-bus interchange and the newly-pedestrianised Bute Street

For more information visit travelluton.co.uk or busway.net for all busway travel information
Learn to recycle the rapping way

A rapping robot has travelled around Luton’s primary schools to inspire children to ‘reduce, reuse and recycle’.

The Council’s waste team organised a series of recycling theatre shows at primary schools in the town.

The Recycler Show, featuring the rapping robot, provided an action-packed and multi-media performance. The robot sang, moved, lit up and interacted with pupils to teach the lifecycles of everyday objects and how to recycle and reuse them.

The show, which is linked to the national curriculum, aimed to:

- Inspire children and schools to reduce, reuse and recycle
- Make connections between resources, waste and the environment
- Focus on everyday actions you can take at home and at school

Colin Chick, corporate director for environment and regeneration, said: “This was a fun way to teach young children the importance of recycling and reusing and how they can do it themselves and show their families how to do it too.”

Coming soon – a new Travel Centre for Luton

A new purpose-built Travel Centre will open in late spring, giving residents and visitors a fantastic new facility at the Luton station bus – rail interchange.

The new centre will provide a bus/coach/rail ticket desk (to be operated jointly by the Council and Arriva), a Starbucks café, toilets, and a personal travel planning area. There will also be a rest room for bus drivers.

The £500,000 centre has been funded by a grant obtained from the Government’s Local Sustainable Transport Fund.

Colin Chick, corporate director of environment and regeneration said: “The new Luton Travel Centre will be a real asset for travellers in the town and it also perfectly complements additional works undertaken to improve access for pedestrians and cyclists between the station area and the town centre. This includes completing the inner ring road, closing Guildford Street to through-traffic and pedestrianising Bute Street with high-quality granite paving.”

Need an MOT? Want a free re-test?

Call Luton Borough Council’s MOT testing station on 01582 546839 or go online at www.luton.gov.uk/mot

As recommended by Martin Lewis at www.moneysavingexpert.com

We are an independent MOT testing station that does not offer repairs, tyres or exhausts, what we offer is peace of mind.

www.luton.gov.uk/mot
The Care Act is coming
Changing care and support for the better

The Government’s Care Act will bring the biggest reforms to the social care system in more than 60 years.

Whether you are a current social care service user, a carer or you are already thinking about your future care needs – it’s important to plan ahead!

Major changes will include:
- A new focus on wellbeing and prevention
- Increased support through information, advice and advocacy
- New national eligibility criteria for care services
- More support for carers
- Introducing a cap on care costs to limit the amount individuals will have to pay for their own care

Find out more: www.luton.gov.uk/CareAct
Email: CareAct@luton.gov.uk
Phone: 01582 54 76 59

www.luton.gov.uk
New homes showcase Luton’s trading success

Building and Technical Services (BTS), a trading arm of Luton Borough Council, has just built four three-bed terraced houses on behalf of Hertsmere Borough Council. The houses in Borehamwood demonstrate that Luton Borough Council’s entrepreneurial trading vision is not only protecting Luton jobs but also delivering tangible benefits to other areas of the UK.

BTS, which has been responsible for repairs and maintenance work in Council properties for a number of years, has recently been honing its skills and expertise to include new-build homes both in Luton and on behalf of other housing providers.

The Borehamwood development is a significant milestone for BTS as these are the first homes built by the company outside of Luton.

Mo Harkin, the Council’s head of housing responsible for BTS, said: “Projects like this demonstrate that Luton Borough Council is innovatively addressing its ongoing government grant reductions by bringing in additional income to ensure we can continue to provide vital services for Luton residents while protecting local jobs.”

Support if you owe the Council money

What happens if you owe the Council money but have genuine financial difficulties? A new Corporate Fair Debt Policy sets out clear guidelines on recovering money owed to the authority. Any debtor with genuine money problems will be treated fairly and with compassion, helped as far as possible and signposted to professional support.

Robin Porter, corporate director of commercial and transformation services, said: “We have always tried to help anyone who contacts us to explain how and why they are experiencing problems paying Council bills. The new Corporate Fair Debt Policy means our approach to providing support to genuine debtors is now the same across the Council.”

He added: “But I would like to make it very clear that we will continue to be tough on anyone simply avoiding or refusing to pay their debts.”

If you are worrying about debt and having problems paying your Council bills, please contact us as soon as you can – the earlier the better. The Council will do everything possible to help you consolidate your debt, find a way through your money problems, and signpost you to external support organisations.

The new policy is available to read on the Council’s website at www.luton.gov.uk. If you have financial problems and you are struggling to pay your Council bills please call: 0300 790 0340.

Are you a parent/carer of a child or young person with special educational needs?

Visit Luton’s Local Offer at directory.luton.gov.uk/send

The Local Offer is an access point for parents/carers of children and young people aged 0-25 years with special educational needs and/or disabilities. It provides:

- information about education, health and social care services for children with special educational needs and disability available in Luton
- details about the new Educational, Health and Care plans (EHC) that replace statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- short breaks and activities
- signposting to other organisations and useful links to websites offering further advice.

For more information visit the Local Offer online or speak to your special educational needs coordinator at your child’s nursery, school or college.
Conference centres

Luton is the perfect place to hold your conference offering a superb range of venues, within easy reach of the town, whatever your requirements. Thirty miles north of London and with excellent road, rail and air links Luton has fast and easy access for your delegates wherever they are travelling from.

The area has a great choice of accommodation and places to eat and drink and its conference venues cater for everyone’s budgets and needs with first class facilities and service.

For more information visit www.luton.gov.uk/leisureandculture

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**Capability House, Wrest Park**
- Silsoe, Bedfordshire, MK45 4HR
- 01525 864350
- meetings@wrestparkenterprise.co.uk
- www.wrestparkenterprise.co.uk

Located in a beautiful parkland setting in the heart of Bedfordshire and ideally situated between Bedford and Luton and the M1 and A1, the Wrest Park Enterprise campus consists of three business centres, Enterprise House, Capability House and Endeavour House.

The conference rooms can each accommodate a range of meetings from eight delegates to a sixty delegate theatre-style conference room. All rooms come equipped with projector and screen, flipchart and pens. Video and audio conferencing are charged separately.

Visitors will find free wi-fi, ample parking and comfortable break out spaces, plus catering as required.

The conference rooms are available Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Our prices are charged by the hour, half day or full day. Call us today for a tour of our facilities.

For further information call 01525 864350.

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**The Centre at the UK Centre for Carnival Arts**
- 3 St Mary’s Road, Luton, LU1 3JA
- 01582 437113 / 01582 437100
- hire@carnivalarts.org.uk
- www.carnivalarts.org.uk
- twitter@carnivalukca

Known as the UK Centre for Carnival Arts, The Centre is the newly branded space for hire at the same location. A £7.4 million state of the art facility providing an exciting space for a range of events including conferences, meetings, exhibitions, seminars, banquets and theatre productions or music events. Our facilities include everything to make your event stand out from the rest.

With a capacity of up to 550, indoor and outdoor spaces, bespoke catering packages, bar services and with impressive lighting, staging and sound options, we are able to accommodate any kind of event.

Putteridge Bury is the ideal venue, whether it’s for a small meeting, formal black tie dinner or corporate team building event we are the perfect place.

We have a dedicated team on hand to ensure your event runs smoothly and professionally.

For further information call 01582 437113

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**Putteridge Bury**
- Hitchin Road, Luton, LU2 8LE
- 01582 489069 / 489065
- conference.centre@beds.ac.uk
- www.putteridgebury@beds.ac.uk

A beautiful manor house excellently situated in picturesque parkland, Putteridge Bury enjoys a delightful rural environment with ample free parking, just six miles from the M1, Luton Airport and Luton town centre.

All our rooms have natural daylight, some of which are enhanced with beautiful oak panelling and chandeliers. A wide variety of rooms are available to suit every need. All equipment including LCD, laptop, screen and flipcharts are free of charge.

Putteridge Bury is the ideal venue, whether it’s for a small meeting, formal black tie dinner or corporate team building event we are the perfect place.

Our friendly and professional team are on hand to ensure your conference event runs smoothly.

Give our conference team a call for a competitively priced quote.

Contact the conference team on 01582 489069/065

---

**Stockwood Discovery Centre**
- 3 St Mary’s Road, Luton, LU1 3JA
- 01582 437113 / 01582 437100
- hire@carnivalarts.org.uk
- www.carnivalarts.org.uk

Set in beautiful grounds, Stockwood Discovery Centre is the perfect place for meetings and events. Wardown Park Museum is situated in the picturesque landscaped park on the outskirts of the town centre perfectly located for regional meetings.

Putteridge Bury is the ideal venue, whether it’s for a small meeting, formal black tie dinner or corporate team building event we are the perfect place.

With a capacity of up to 550, indoor and outdoor spaces, bespoke catering packages, bar services and with impressive lighting, staging and sound options, we are able to accommodate any kind of event.

Putteridge Bury is the ideal venue, whether it’s for a small meeting, formal black tie dinner or corporate team building event we are the perfect place.

Our friendly and professional team are on hand to ensure your conference event runs smoothly.

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Contact the conference team on 01582 489069/065

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For more information visit www.luton.gov.uk/leisureandculture
Luton helping to build stronger families

Managing a family can be one of the most rewarding things you can do and it can also be one of the most challenging. However, help is at hand with Luton’s Stronger Families programme, part of the Government’s ‘Troubled Families’ initiative.

This ensures councils work with a range of partner agencies and services to turn around the lives of families in crisis by developing an intensive, coordinated programme of support and challenge.

Phase one of the project, launched in April 2012, worked with Luton families where children were not attending school, young people who were committing crime, families involved in anti-social behaviour and adults out of work.

Luton’s dedicated team of highly experienced staff, with different specialisms, assign a family support worker to help develop an action plan and act as a single point of contact for the family, coordinating all the support, information and advice they require and helping them access appropriate services quickly.

Following the success of the first phase, the Government expanded the Troubled Families programme by allowing local authorities to reach out to families with a broader range of problems. To qualify, families must have dependent children and be experiencing at least two of the following six problems:

- parents and children involved in crime or antisocial behaviour
- children who have not been attending school regularly
- children who need help: “children of all ages, who are identified as in need or are subject to a child protection plan
- adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion or young people at risk of worklessness
- families affected by domestic violence and abuse
- parents and children with a range of health problems.

Previously, families had to be referred to the programme by a professional, however the expanded project now allows family members to self-refer.

Sally Rowe, corporate director for children and learning, said: “Families who are experiencing lots of challenges all at the same time need coordinated, intensive and targeted support. In addition our team have to challenge behaviours and actions so we can get adults off benefits and back into work, reduce the number of children playing truant and significantly reduce youth crime and antisocial behaviour activities in the town.

“As this initiative aims to strengthen families, we renamed our programme ‘stronger families’ to reflect this positive outcome. Since 2012 we have helped to change the lives of 525 families, and following our success Luton was selected to start the expanded programme during the current financial year, supporting families who meet the new criteria.”

If you are a family living in Luton and want to access the programme, or if you are working with a family in Luton who you feel need help, contact the Stronger Families team on: 01582 547585, email: strongerfamiliesteam@luton.gov.uk

Case study: Jackson’s story

Jackson* was living in poor housing conditions, he was left home alone and was physically abused by an older half-sibling. He attended child adolescent mental health services for a while until his mother stopped him because he was making disclosures about the family.

To support Jackson the family worker liaised with family members resulting in his mother allowing him to live with his father who agreed to work with the Stronger Families team.

Jackson had a long history of non-school attendance, so his family worker negotiated with the school and education welfare officer to re-introduce back into school. He was given a reduced timetable, and his key worker took him to school until he felt more comfortable attending by himself. Liaison with the education welfare officer helped monitor his progress and provide support if things started to slip.

Unfortunately the family lost their accommodation and were placed into a hotel. The family worker helped them to access support for food vouchers and small household equipment. She also helped Jackson’s father access benefits and helped him to keep track of all his appointments.

Jackson was allocated a youth worker who provided activities to help him improve his self esteem. Jackson and his father also attended a day trip to enhance their relationship and his father was encouraged to attend training and started to do some voluntary work.

Jackson is now back in school and an appointment has been made for him to return to the child and adolescent mental health team to help him with his emotional problems. His father is now working to support his family.

*name has been changed

www.luton.gov.uk

Join in the fun in one of Luton’s fabulous parks

Choose from:
- Nordic walking
- Social walks
- Boot camp exercise
- Cycling

Venues:
- Wardown Park
- Lothair Recreation Ground
- Stockwood Park
- Lewsey Park

For more details, dates and to book a place, please call the parks team on 01582 546710

www.luton.gov.uk
Buy With Confidence

Looking for a good, honest trader?

See www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk and www.luton.gov.uk/tradingstandards

All businesses in the scheme are checked for customer service and compliance with consumer protection law.

**Home and appliance repairs** – electrical equipment and repairs, servicing, heating, plumbing, appliance testing etc.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Mobile</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RSG Portable Appliance Testing</td>
<td>01582 414097</td>
<td>07883 337923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easyflow Heating and Plumbing Co.</td>
<td>01582 500043</td>
<td>07476 412010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mand Properties LLP</td>
<td>01582 575005</td>
<td>07753 650790</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Box</td>
<td>07566 895718</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun Realm Heating Co Ltd</td>
<td>01582 571925</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midway Building, Plumbing and Heating</td>
<td>01582 492642</td>
<td>07836 729841</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extech Services Limited</td>
<td>01582 482496</td>
<td>07711 308748</td>
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**Home exteriors** – guttering, double glazing, plumbing, garage doors, landscaping, loft conversions etc.

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<tr>
<th>Business Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Countryside Landscapes</td>
<td>01582 667615</td>
<td>07931 315342</td>
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<tr>
<td>M&amp;S Water Services</td>
<td>01582 736317</td>
<td>07956 312451</td>
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<tr>
<td>Window Parts Limited</td>
<td>01582 486566</td>
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<tr>
<td>A1 Garage Doors</td>
<td>01582 495259</td>
<td>07808 899351</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance Free Systems</td>
<td>01582 453558</td>
<td>07908 105699</td>
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<tr>
<td>Icknield Home Improvements Ltd</td>
<td>01582 401617</td>
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**Home interiors** – home improvements, painting and decorating, carpentry, plastering, tiling and flooring, bathroom and kitchen installations, plumbing, plaster boarding etc.

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<tr>
<th>Business Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>GDA Property Services</td>
<td>01582 539686</td>
<td>07780 910580</td>
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<td>Handymen Direct (RCA Bank Ltd)</td>
<td>01582 521115</td>
<td>07815 867729</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Training Ltd</td>
<td>01582 485579</td>
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<tr>
<td>BMC Painting and Decorating</td>
<td>01582 720996</td>
<td>07828 548929</td>
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<tr>
<td>PEL of Luton</td>
<td>01582 755979</td>
<td>07889 979277</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tiran Petit</td>
<td>01582 720500</td>
<td>07762 769347</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secure Image</td>
<td>01582 492194</td>
<td>07886 734048</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tile Fit</td>
<td>01525 793442</td>
<td>07789 968068</td>
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**Home interiors: cleaning** – carpet, upholstery, leather, rug, tile and curtain cleaning.

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<th>Business Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>CleanPro</td>
<td>01582 518467</td>
<td>07834 760699</td>
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**Security and fire safety** – locksmiths, alarms, fire equipment, CCTV systems, door entry systems etc.

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<th>Business Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tr>
<td>JCA Security Systems Installations</td>
<td>01582 493283</td>
<td>07785 112580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Locked Up</td>
<td>01582 581367</td>
<td>01582 562754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S J Securities</td>
<td>01582 596248</td>
<td>07884 076075</td>
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**Mobility disability aids** – mobility scooters, disability aids, wheelchairs and power chairs etc.

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<th>Business Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Smart Mobility (Smart Tech Store Ltd)</td>
<td>01582 413718</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carvercare and Mobility</td>
<td>01582 487878</td>
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**MOT testing stations**

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<tr>
<th>Business Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Luton Borough Council Transport Division</td>
<td>01582 546839</td>
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**Motor dealers** – motor dealers and used car sales.

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<tr>
<th>Business Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leagrave Motor Company</td>
<td>01582 848700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stopsley Village Cars Ltd</td>
<td>01582 457257</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Luton Trade Centre</td>
<td>01582 562572</td>
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**Car Storage** – 24 hour CCTV off airport car parking with meet and greet or bus service.

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<tr>
<th>Business Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Car Storage</td>
<td>01582 726189</td>
<td>0800 298 5899</td>
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See www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk and www.luton.gov.uk/tradingstandards

All businesses in the scheme are checked for customer service and compliance with consumer protection law.

“Professional, quick and efficient.”

“Very pleased with the work carried out.”

“The workmen came promptly and completed the work as quickly as possible with minimum disruption.”

“Trustworthy and reliable. Quick and efficient sale. Thank you.”


“Honest, friendly, informative and helpful.”

“It was refreshing to receive such excellent customer service.”

“Very pleased with the work carried out. Recommended them to my neighbour.”

“Brilliant service. Thank you.”

“Very genuine, honest people. Thank you.”

“Very polite and efficient team. Very pleased.”

“The engineers were very pleasant and professional.”

www.luton.gov.uk
New guide for disabled residents

A new access guide is now available, giving disabled residents the information they need to get out and about in Luton.

Luton Borough Council has worked with DisabledGo to produce the guide which aims to provide detailed information about the accessibility of a range of public venues in the town so that people can judge for themselves whether a shop, restaurant or theatre is user-friendly for their own requirements, for example, whether a shop has wheelchair access or a cinema offers a hearing loop.

500 venues have been assessed by a DisabledGo surveyor or a member of the Council’s New Horizons team, who looked at a whole range of accessibility features from parking to toilet facilities. New Horizons provides support services for people with disabilities and brought local expertise to the guide.

Pam Garraway, corporate director for housing and community living said: “Luton is a vibrant, exciting and diverse town and as a Council we are committed to improving accessibility for everyone who lives, works, studies and visits here.”

The guide is available at www.disabledgo.com/organisations/luton-borough-council

Luton schools triumph at Indoor Athletics County Finals

Two Luton school teams excelled in the Year 5/6 Bedfordshire Indoor Athletics County Finals, held recently at Cranfield University.

Pirton Hill Primary School pupils, returning to the competition as defending champions, showed they were a force to be reckoned with, successfully being crowned champions for the second year. St Margaret’s of Scotland Primary, competing for the first time, beat off stiff competition winning third place.

Seven schools from across Bedfordshire competed in a range of disciplines including sprinting, long distance running, long jump, vertical jump, speed bounce, javelin throw, chest push throw and triple jump.

Phil Martin, assistant head, Pirton Hill Primary School, said: “The standard of athletics at the competition was exceptional and both schools were great ambassadors for Luton, showing outstanding skill, behaviour and determination to succeed.

“One of the most impressive aspects of the competition was the support pupils from the two schools showed each other, demonstrating great sportsmanship.”

Interested in taking an allotment?

Renting an allotment offers many benefits to keen gardeners:

- Go green – by growing your own low-cost fruit, vegetables and flowers
- Enjoy the outdoor life – and stay healthy by taking gentle exercise
- Make friends – with similar interests
- Or simply relax and unwind!

Luton Borough Council offers a number of competitively priced allotments at:

- Bradley Road
- Ferndale Road
- Gypsy Lane
- Hart Hill Lane
- Knapps Farm
- Old Marsletts
- Wigmore Valley Park
- Willow Way

To find out more about membership, availability and prices, contact the Council’s parks department on 01582 546705.

For other sites in Luton managed by allotment associations, please contact:

- Lewsey Farm: 07597 811138
- Limbury Mead: 07943 712168
- Riddy Lane, Moat Farm: 07943 712168
- Wigmore Lane: 07531 308920
- Stockington Road: 07531 308920
- Toddington Road: 01582 758659

Joining an allotment association offers the chance to benefit from cheaper prices on a wide range of seeds, compost, peat, fertilisers and many other lines. To find out more, just call one of the numbers above.

www.luton.gov.uk – search ‘allotments’
Women in business

Women play an important role in today’s business world and the glass ceiling is well and truly cracking. Luton is no exception and women have important roles in organisations across the town. Luton Borough Council is one of the organisations that works to promote equalities in Luton, and itself has a number of women in key managerial and senior roles including the corporate director of housing and community living, the director of public health and the corporate director of children and learning. Successful women in our town are proving to be an inspiration to all, regardless of age.

Lynn and Kerry
Sales staff at Slip End Garage

Lynn and Kerry are our two administrators who look after our vehicle sales staff at Slip End Garage. When meeting them you will be forgiven for thinking that they look too young to have between them 40 years of motor trade experience, 28 years of this has been with Slip End Garage.

They are both valued members of our team at Slip End where we pride ourselves in going the extra mile for our customers to make every vehicle purchase a seamless and pleasurable experience. If you are interested in buying a new car why not pop in and meet our friendly staff and they will help you find the right vehicle for you.

Barnfield College

The overriding task is described as ‘taking the lead to outperform in a corporation that constantly measures results from recruitment to employee satisfaction’.

To find out what makes this possible Jane Young, HR Manager at Barnfield College, was asked to explore her view.

Jane said: “The college is going through changes we need to regain our position as the leading vocational college for Luton and beyond.

“The debate could be about business strategies, structures and technology being the driving factors in a successful business. Of course, these are the management tools that are an expectation, alongside brilliant leadership and vision.

“Adding a totally engaged workforce is the key element for our future success. At Barnfield College this is our focus with no exceptions.”

TUI UK & Ireland

Caroline Kitcher, HR Director at TUI UK & Ireland

Caroline Kitcher is HR Director for TUI UK and Ireland, part of the TUI GROUP, the world’s number one integrated leisure tourism business. TUI UK and Ireland’s main brands are Thomson and First Choice, and its head office is based right here in Luton. Employing more than 1250 people in a variety of careers across Marketing, Digital, IT, Finance, Trading, Retail, Aviation and of course HR, it’s a great place to have a career, find out more here www.tuiatravelplc.com/careers.

Caroline has held a variety of roles inside and outside HR in business locally. With Whitbread Plc, she worked across many of their major brands including HR Director for Whitbread Restaurants and David Lloyd Leisure. She has also worked as Head of Organisation Development for Home Retail Group, the parent company of Argos and Homebase. At Guoman and Thistle Hotels, she was Group HR Director.

Domino’s Pizza

Irina Busca, Marketing Manager for Domino’s Pizza

When she received the Dean’s Prize for Marketing, Irina Busca was described as having ‘a head for business and a heart for the world’. This explains why she is so much more than your average marketing manager. Irina started at the Dunstable Domino’s Pizza branch in 2009 and joined the management team in 2012 while acquiring a first class BA in Advertising and Marketing Communications from the University of Bedfordshire, followed by a Masters degree. One of the highlights of her career was organising the grand opening of the Domino’s 2000th EMEA store. As the marketing manager of a portfolio of local Domino’s stores, Irina has not only achieved fantastic results with her team, but has also invested her heart and soul in community work and continues to raise thousands of pounds for local charities.

Contact details: irina@akmpizza.co.uk

(photograph above) Irina (right) with franchisee Arshad Yasin (left) and representatives from Rays of Sunshine (centre) at the Keech Hospice Care in Luton
Helping to bring the town’s empty homes back into use

Owners of long-term empty properties have been urged to get in touch with the Council. A dedicated empty homes officer works closely with homeowners and local residents to tackle the issue in a bid to increase the local housing supply. The officer is available to advise owners of the support available to help them bring their properties back into use and generate income through rent or by selling.

The authority is aware of more than 200 properties in Luton which have been empty for six months or longer.

Pam Garraway, corporate director of housing and community living, said: “We have a desperate shortage of housing in Luton, particularly for affordable family accommodation, so it is incredibly frustrating that we have more than 200 empty properties rotting away and serving no purpose. “Not only that, they are also a financial burden for owners and attract crime, arson, vandalism, squatting and antisocial behaviour, and reduce the value of surrounding properties. “We can work with owners who may be struggling to sell or let out their property and help them bring their property back to the market for financial return.”

We also want to hear from residents who live next door to or know of an empty property as this will allow us to make contact with the owner to start the process of getting it back into use. Anyone who owns an empty home, or thinks a house is not being lived in, should contact the empty homes officer on 01582 546370 or empty.homes@luton.gov.uk

For more information or to enter visit www.activeluton.co.uk or www.herculesevents.com

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Luton Borough Council has launched a consultation on its Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, to inform the assessment of local risks and direct resources for improvement works, both in the short and long term.

We all have a role in addressing the local flood risk and improving the water environment in the future. We want to hear your views on how we can achieve this together.

To view the consultation documents and provide your comments please visit our consultation portal at http://consult.luton.gov.uk/portal/lbc

To learn more about the Council’s responsibilities around flooding, see www.luton.gov.uk/floodriskmanagement

Festival of Sport coming to Luton

Residents of all ages and fitness levels are being encouraged to take part in Luton’s first ever Hercules Festival of Sport.

Organised by Active Luton, the festival is taking place at Inspire: Luton Sports Village on Sunday 24 May with a wide range of events including:

- tri-star kids aquathlon (300m swim and 2.5km run)
- 10km and 5km run races
- 1.5km kids and family fun run
- 100km and 100-mile cycle events.

The festival will make full use of the state-of-the-art facilities at Inspire, including the Olympic-sized swimming pool and the countryside and playing fields surrounding the sports village.

David Enright, Hercules event director, said: “The Festival of Sport in Luton will provide a day-long feast of sport and fun for the town. There are events to suit all the family and entertainment for spectators.”

Helen Barnett, chief executive of Active Luton, said: “Whether you are new to physical activity, or looking to improve on previous performances, there is something suitable for everyone. The feeling of elation when you cross the finish line will be amazing. “It would be marvellous to get first-timers and families signing up, whatever their ages and fitness levels.”

“Any empty and neglected property before and after renovation

For more information visit www.activeluton.co.uk and search ‘empty homes’.

www.luton.gov.uk
The All New
RIDE FREE

MOTORCYCLE SHOW

12TH APRIL 2015
FROM 10:00 - 16:00

SPECIAL GUESTS
DAVE HAILWOOD
& LOIS PRYCE

BRING THE FAMILY ALONG!
THERE WILL BE CHILDREN’S ENTERTAINMENT & REFRESHMENTS.

AT PRIORY HOUSE
MONKS WALK
CHICKSANDS
SHEFFORD
BEDFORDSHIRE
SG17 5XY

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER
facebook/motorcyclingmatters
twitter.com/Motorcycle_M
#ridefree15.

www.luton.gov.uk
A new look for the town centre

The area between the railway station and the town centre has been transformed by a new pedestrian improvement scheme.

Using high-quality materials such as granite paving, oak street furniture and planters, an environment has been created that can be enjoyed and shared by local people, businesses and commuters.

Colin Chick, corporate director of environment and regeneration said: “The improvements have made a real difference. This area, including Bute Street and Guildford Street, is now an attractive thoroughfare and place to rest.”

The pedestrian improvement scheme is part of the larger Town Centre Transport Scheme which was substantially funded by the Department for Transport.

Councillor advice surgeries

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Liberal Democrats – please contact the numbers below

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Conservatives – please contact the numbers below

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<td>Bramingham</td>
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<td>Icknield</td>
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Stockwood Country FAIR
Easter Sunday & Monday
5 – 6 April 2015

11am – 4.30pm

- Birds of Prey
- Animal petting farm
- Giant Inflatables
- Craft & Gift Market
- Have-A-Go Archery
- Live Stage Shows

Admission: Adult: £4, Child: £3
Under 5s: Free, Concessions/Culture Card: £3

All proceeds go to your local charity
Luton Culture. Charity No. 1122964
Some activities will incur extra charges,
activities may be subject to change.
Holiday Activity: The Odd Egg Colouring and Crafting
Wednesday 1 April, 11-11:45am
Luton Central Library

There is something big, green and snappy in Duck’s egg. Add a scale to a life-sized baby ‘duck’ at Luton Central Library to mark the start of weekly craft activities for children in all Luton Libraries.
For children aged three+ years and their families
Free, donations welcome

Family Fun Time: The Odd Egg
Saturday 4 April: 11-11.45am , Luton Central Library
Saturday 4 April: 2.15-3pm, Stopsley Library
Tuesday 7 April: 11-11:45am, Bury Park Library
Thursday 9 April: 11-11.45am, Lewsey Library
Saturday 11 April: 11-11:45am, Leagrave Library
Saturday 11 April: 2.15-3pm, Marsh Farm Library

When Duck finds an egg of his own, he is delighted. Find out the big surprise in Emily Gravett’s book, then help to make a life-sized ‘duck’. Snap!
For children aged three+ years and their families
Free, donations welcome

Stockwood Country Fair
Sunday 5 April & Monday 6 April
11am-4.30pm
Stockwood Discovery Centre

Come along and join us for a taste of the countryside at Stockwood Discovery Centre.
- Birds of prey
- Animal petting farm
- Giant inflatables
- Craft & gift market
- Have-a-go archery
- Live demonstrations
Adults £4, concessions and culture card holders £3, children £3, under fives free

Arts and Craft Play Station
Friday 10 April, 11am-4pm
Stockwood Discovery Centre

Shake a tail feather! Make your own spring-inspired headdress using recycled materials.
£2.50, please book

The Library Games: Launch
Monday 13 April: 4-5pm, Luton Central Library
Thursday 16 April: 4-5pm, Leagrave Library

Enter The Library Games! Compete in games, old and new, of skill and chance.
Perfect for children aged ten+ years
Free, donations welcome

Family Fun Time: George and the Dragon
Saturday 18 April: 11-11.45am, Luton Central Library
Saturday 18 April: 2.15-3pm, Stopsley Library
Saturday 25 April: 11-11.45am, Leagrave Library
Saturday 25 April: 2.15-3pm, Marsh Farm Library

Who saves the Princess from the Dragon in Chris Wormell’s book? George, of course – the mouse, that is!
For children aged three+ years and their families
Free, donations welcome

Beautiful Beds
Continues until 26 April
Wardown Park Museum: Threads of Life Gallery

An exhibition of bed coverings – from delicate butterflies to long lengths of narrow lace, this display shows the skills of Bedfordshire lacemakers from 100 years ago.
Free

LISTEN!
Continues until 19 April
Wardown Park Museum

Immerse yourself in an accessible, interactive exhibition of much-loved, sound-making objects, curated and created by Graeme Leak. Gently-ringing chimes, lightly-amplified dripping water, environmental drones, retro tape loops and the sound of your own footsteps combine in LISTEN! — making a space where the noise of the world can be left behind for some moments of contemplation and wonder.
Free

Lost Landscapes
28 March – 19 July
Stockwood Discovery Centre

This photographic exhibition explores the evolution of landscapes; those that have been lost, changed or been rediscovered, and questions what may happen to our landscapes in the future.
Free

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Family Fun Time: The Odd Egg
Saturday 4 April: 11-11.45am , Luton Central Library
Saturday 4 April: 2.15-3pm, Stopsley Library
Tuesday 7 April: 11-11:45am, Bury Park Library
Thursday 9 April: 11-11.45am, Lewsey Library
Saturday 11 April: 11-11:45am, Leagrave Library
Saturday 11 April: 2.15-3pm, Marsh Farm Library

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Other venues: Libraries — Bury Park, Leagrave, Lewsey, Marsh Farm, Stopsley.
Community centres — Bury Park, Bushmead, Chaul End, Farley, Futures, Hockwell Ring, Lewsey, Limbury, Park Town, Raynham Way, Saints. For full details please visit our website.
Groups and Societies

The Comedy Bar
Friday 17 April, 8pm
The Hat Factory

Join our Resident MC Jake Pickford for an evening of open-mic comedy from the nation’s up-and-coming talent as they hone their skills for your entertainment and delight! See the stars of the future before they release their ghost-written biographies and grin at you from every DVD aisle in the land in the months before Christmas. £5 in exchange for two hours of chuckles – it’s the bargain of the year!
This open-mic comedy club is held every third Friday of the month.
For ages 16+ years
£5 (free for performers)

The Basement Gaming Club
Every Friday, 7pm
The Hat Factory

Join us for a fantasy games night, to be held every Friday on the second floor of The Hat Factory: a variety of gaming tables including Magic the Gathering, Games Workshop, 40k, Bloodbowl, and more. There will be tournaments and leagues with prizes, so come along, have fun and happy gaming. Bring your own refreshments.
If you would like to book a gaming table, please contact ian.jarrett@lutonculture.com.
For ages 18+ years
£1

Luton Poetry Society
Last Saturday of the month, 2-4pm
Luton Central Library

Meetings usually take place on the last Saturday of each month at Luton Central Library (third floor). March’s theme is ‘Happy Birthday, William Shakespeare.’ £3, free for Poetry Society members (£20 annual membership)

Music

Luton Youth Jazz Orchestra
Friday 17 April, 7.30-9.15pm
Luton Library Theatre

Luton Youth Jazz Orchestra (LYJO) is one of the Luton Music Service’s flagship ensembles. It plays music from Gershwin through to Gordon Goodwin.
Ages ten+ years
£7, £5 concessions

Luton Libraries Six Book Challenge
Continues until 29 June 2015
All Luton Libraries

Join the Challenge. Win a Kindle HD 6
• Pick six reads; this could be books, poems, magazines, newspapers, digital games or websites
• Register your interest for free at your nearest library to receive a Challenge Diary
• Record your experiences in the diary
• Complete the challenge and submit your diary at any of our libraries by Monday 29 June 2015
• Receive your certificate and you will be automatically entered into the draw to win a Kindle HD 6
For more information visit your nearest library or email us on libraryinfo@lutonculture.com or visit www.sixbookchallenge.org.uk

Free
Coming Soon

UK SUBS
Friday 1 May, 8-11.30pm
The Hat Factory

Widely recognised as one of the most consistent and visibly successful punk bands ever - maintaining and pioneering the true spirit of punk rock.
For ages 16+ years
£10 in advance, £12.50 on the door

LDN Wrestling
Saturday 2 May, 7pm
Luton Library Theatre

The stars of LDN Wrestling are coming for a night of action-packed drama!
Don't miss out, with top names including popular British heavyweight champion Alan Lee Travis, Pirate Paul Malen, the Masked Man of Mystery, the Dark Lord and many more.
Post-show, you will also get the chance to meet the stars and maybe even grab yourself a souvenir or two.
See the highest-quality, fastest-paced, non-stop wrestling action ever seen on these shores. You will not want to miss this fantastic family night out.
£15, £12 concessions, £45 families

Crying Out Loud on behalf of Circus Evolution presents
Bromance
Thursday 7 May, 7.30pm
The Hat Factory

Meet the acrobats from the all-male Barely Methodical Troupe. Young, fit and skilled, they handily come in three sizes: small (Beren D'Amico), medium (Charlie Wheeller) and large (Louis Gift).
The lads won a Total Theatre Award at this year's Edinburgh Festival with their outstanding debut show Bromance, and it's easy to see why.
Filled with humour, heart and impressive circus skills, it celebrates all things blokey through a series of risk-taking feats of balance, corkscrewing acrobatics and funny sketches.
Bromance is a thrilling show, with a crowd-pleasing finale! On for only one night, this hot new circus ensemble is unmissable.
For ages eight+ years
£10, £8 concessions

Steam Fair
Sunday 17 May, 10am-4pm
Stockwood Discovery Centre

A chance to enjoy this year's magnificent working steam engine and stationary engines in all their glory. In addition to the visiting engines, two of the museum's own historic engines, lovingly restored and cared for by volunteers, will be on display.
Free. Donations welcome

Hockwell Library Access Point
Luton library members can now borrow books, use wifi and iPads at the new Library Access Point at Hockwell Community Centre.
There is a small selection of books for adults and children. Homework help and children's activities will also soon be introduced. Farley and Chaul End Community Centre Library Access Points will be opening soon.

BOX OFFICE: 01582 878100 www.lutonculture.com
Our programme includes a whole range of exciting activities including fun in the pool, Roller Skating, Boxing, Athletics, Street Dance and our ever popular 1 day and 4 day camps.

The camps include a variety of activities including Diving, Multi-Sports, Athletics and Easter Adventure at Dell Farm.

For full details please visit: www.activeluton.co.uk/kidz-around/holiday-fun