The borough is celebrating a £1.1 million boost to its arts and cultural scene as part of the Arts Council’s Luton Investment Programme.

The funding has been made available to Luton Culture, the Council, University of Bedfordshire and a performance partner with the goals of raising ambition, providing development opportunities and fostering partnership working.

It will be used to enhance the town’s already diverse cultural offer and provide a brighter future for arts and culture lovers within the town.

Cllr Jacqui Burnett, Portfolio Holder for people and places, said: “We are absolutely delighted by the Arts Council’s announcements on the Luton Investment Programme.

“The Council recognises the wider benefits that arts and culture provide to the people of the town, and is glad to be involved in supporting an improved offer that benefits the local community and draws interest from further afield.”

Four main awards were given to the:

- Professional development programme – the University of Bedfordshire has received £374,993 to create TestBeds, a comprehensive training and professional development programme for artists in and around Luton. The scheme will bring together skills workshops and advice surgeries for artists and organisations from a broad range of disciplines. The programme will be available for those taking their first career step as well as those with established reputations.
- Strategic arts and cultural plan – the Council has received £60,300 to develop and deliver a 10-year strategic vision reflecting the town’s vibrant population. The aim is to provide inspirational opportunities and lasting partnerships that match the strategic priorities of both the Luton Investment Programme and Luton Borough Council.
- A new cultural celebration – Palace Theatre Watford has received £350,000 to create Imagine Luton, a celebratory, high-impact cultural festival showcasing the best outdoor and site-specific work. This open and inclusive outdoor festival is based on a previous successful event in Watford and will bring together international and regional artists, including commissions to make new work. It will celebrate Luton as an exciting cultural destination and a vibrant, thriving town.
- Children’s Development and Strategic Arts Plan – the University of Bedfordshire has received £374,993 to create TestBeds, a comprehensive training and professional development programme for artists in and around Luton. The scheme will bring together skills workshops and advice surgeries for artists and organisations from a broad range of disciplines. The programme will be available for those taking their first career step as well as those with established reputations.

Mayors of Luton Cllr Dave Taylor greets HRH the Princess Royal

Luton received the royal treatment when HRH the Princess Royal officially opened Community House, the new information hub in New Bedford Road.

The address is the new home of Citizens Advice Luton and the other organisations based in Community House, the new information hub in New Bedford Road.

The address is the new home of Citizens Advice Luton and the other organisations based in Community House are making it easier and quicker to get advice in the heart of town and all under one roof. People with a number of problems including debt, benefits, housing and employment – among many others – are now able to access the help they need in one place instead of having to go from one agency to another in different locations around the town.”

The move was part of a project called Luton Access which brings together the town’s most trusted and established specialist, independent advice providers to give people the help that they need, when they need it.

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Keeping our community safe

Force launches Operation Sentinel to clamp down on sex trade and antisocial behaviour

Bedfordshire Police has launched a new operation aimed at tackling antisocial behaviour, and the first two weeks have been hailed as a success.

Operation Sentinel began at the start of March and aims to clamp down on the issues that matter to communities by carrying out targeted police patrols.

The first phase of the operation is seeing the team of police and community support officers working to reduce both on and off-street sex trade in Luton.

In the first week 48 vehicles were stopped and advice given to the drivers, and a number of sex workers were spoken to before being moved on. Letters were also sent to people who were witnessed in areas of antisocial behaviour.

A suspected drugs den, and a house operating as a brothel in Grampian Way, Luton, were also closed down.

Chief Inspector Sean Quinn, leading the operation, said: “We are really pleased with how the two weeks have gone and we are determined that we will continue to see such positive results as we move forward.

“We are working with our partner agencies to ensure that the women involved in the sex trade are given the appropriate support and signposting they need in order to leave this way of life.

“We will continue clamping down on those who are attempting to pay for sex and those that exploit vulnerable people.

“As well as the illegal sex trade, we will be targeting problems such as street drinking, drug use and general antisocial behaviour. Op Sentinel is all about tackling the issues that matter to the people we serve – if it matters to the community then it matters to us, so I would encourage people to get in touch with us if they have concerns that need addressing in their local area.”

You can contact the Operation Sentinel team by calling 101 or emailing OpSentinel@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Op Sentinel has support from the Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire police forces, with the advice and assistance of the Bedfordshire Police性工作团队 has launched a new operation aimed at tackling antisocial behaviour, and the first two weeks have been hailed as a success.

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Op Sentinel has support from the Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire police forces, with the advice and assistance of the Bedfordshire Police Sex Work Team.

Editorial welcomes suggestions for content.

www.luton.gov.uk/parks

Lutonline April 2016

The newspaper of Luton Borough Council

Main switchboard 01582 54 60 00

Editorial welcomes suggestions for content.

Advertising 01582 54 64 85

advertising@luton.gov.uk

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www.luton.gov.uk

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Get Active in Parks

85% of regular visitors to Luton’s parks visit on foot.

www.luton.gov.uk/parks

Leader's column

Cllr Hazel Simmons

All children have a right to be safe and protected from all forms of abuse and neglect, yet research suggests a third of people who believe it may be happening do nothing.

The Council and Bedfordshire Police are therefore supporting a national Department for Education campaign which aims to help people report any suspicions they may have.

In 2014/15 more than 400,000 children in England were supported because someone noticed they needed help. However, a number of people do not act on uncertainty or information they may have because they are worried about being wrong.

In the East of England, almost a third of people said they would wait until they were absolutely certain abuse or neglect had taken place before making a report, while 42 per cent of people said they would be put off reporting in case they were wrong.

It’s important for everyone to know that you do not have to be absolutely certain about your suspicions. If you have a feeling that something is not right, you should contact the Council’s children’s social care team who can look into it.

The campaign, called ‘Together we can tackle child abuse’, also highlights signs of abuse and neglect.

These include changes to a child’s appearance, such as unexplained injuries or poor hygiene, noticeable changes to behaviour, including frequent lateness or absence from school, and also the way in which they communicate, such as the use of sexual or aggressive language.

If you are worried that a child or young person is being abused or neglected, please do not keep it to yourself but call the Council’s rapid intervention and assessment team on 01582 547653. During out of office hours you can call 0300 300 8123, or in an emergency dial 999.

Preventing and protecting children from abuse is a top priority for the Council and the police. We also all have a role to play.

April will see two amazing free events for all the family to celebrate in the town centre, kicking off on Thursday 21 April, from 6.30-8.30pm, with celebrations in the Town Hall Square to mark Her Majesty the Queen’s 90th birthday.

Across the UK more than 260 beacons will be lit simultaneously, and we are pleased one of these will be in Luton.

The beacon will be lit at 7.20pm, with a host of entertainment to get residents in the party spirit including a brass band, singalong sessions to classic hits of the Commonwealth, and stilts walkers and balloon modelling.

‘Happy birthday’ will be sung, with Jimmy’s restaurant providing birthday cake for the evening.

On Saturday 23 April, from 11am to 5pm, we will be celebrating St George, the patron saint of England.

Packed with activities suitable for schoolchildren upwards, come and make a St George’s flag biscuit or a sword or princess hat. And if you are feeling a little more active, see how high you can get on the climbing wall or try a spot of zorbing.

More traditional lines include Punch and Judy, circus skills plus morris and maypole dancing.

Both events have been made possible through funding by London Luton Airport Limited to thank the local community for the support received from the people of the town.

Find out more at www.luton.gov.uk/events
Resident Council tax bills for 2016/17 have 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 £1,374.53; of this, £1,148.88 will go to the Council, £144.76 to Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Residents are reminded that paying council tax by direct debit 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.

If you pay your council tax by instalments, you should pay in accordance with the amounts set out on your bill, beginning in April and continuing until such time as you receive any amended bill.

Cllr Andrew Malcolm, Portfolio Holder for finance, said: “The simplest way to pay your council tax bill is by direct debit, which takes away the worry of having to remember to pay it every month. It also helps the town by reducing collection costs, so the Council can spend its money on services that really matter to you instead.”

To set up payment by direct debit, simply visit www.luton.gov.uk/counciltaxdd

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 reduction, see www.luton.gov.uk/benefits or call 0300 790 0345 (24 hours).

Council tax reduction helps those on a low income, even if they are working, by providing a discount on their council tax liability.

Luton’s council tax reduction scheme has been revised this year for working age claimants. The main change is the maximum amount that can be awarded for working age claimants has reduced from 100 per cent to 75 per cent except for those households where a person is receiving a disability benefit.

If you would prefer to receive your bill by email rather than post, which also helps the Council save money to spend on improving services, see www.luton.gov.uk/ebilling. You can still print off your bill if you need it for proof of residence.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties and struggling to pay your council tax, please contact the Council immediately for help and advice – email revenues@luton.gov.uk or call 0300 790 0340.

Changes to your bin and recycling collection days

Residents are being advised that household waste and recycling bin collection days will be changing for many addresses from Monday 2 May.

To quickly and easily check which day your bins will be collected after this date, visit www.luton.gov.uk/bins.

Luton Council will start delivering letters and calendars to households from 29 March and these will show which bins will be collected each week during 2016/17.

The changes are being made so that the Council can accommodate a four-weekly bin and recycling collection week as it will no longer be collecting on Mondays.

This is to improve the service by making it more convenient for households who previously had Monday collections interrupted by bank holidays several times throughout the year.

The move is also set to save the authority more than £200,000 each year through a 15 per cent reduction in fuel costs, with 26 refuse vehicles being taken off the streets for one day each week.

Glass box collections are also changing, from fortnightly to every four weeks, from the same date. Updated glass collection dates can also be found on the website and on the calendars being delivered.

Glass can still be disposed of at the two Household Waste Recycling Centres in Eaton Green Road and Progress Way, or one of the glass banks located around the town. To find your nearest site, please visit www.luton.gov.uk/recycling.

Cllr Tom Shaw, Portfolio Holder for environment, said: “The quickest and easiest way to check which days your bins will be collected from 2 May is by visiting www.luton.gov.uk/bins. Please also look out for your collection calendar through the door.

“We are delivering calendars to households and running a big awareness campaign, we know that some people might still miss the message that their collection days are changing. Please therefore pass this information on to friends, relatives and neighbours, particularly those who do not have access to the internet.

“Finally I would like to say that we can all easily limit the amount of waste we produce and recycle more in order to reduce the amount of council tax money spent sending waste to landfill. For handy tips and hints on recycling and reducing waste please visit www.luton.gov.uk/recycling.”

Council tax bills in Luton have arrived

Former pupil returns with a key message

A former Icknield High School pupil was in the starring role as a play that has been performed nationwide brought useful information about the important subject of child sexual exploitation (CSE) to pupils in Luton.

Chelsea’s Choice was performed at the school on Friday 11 March when it welcomed back former student Oriana Charles in the leading part.

The play aims to highlight the signs of CSE. Oriana said: “It was an amazing experience. It was lovely to get the chance to go back to a place filled with lots of fun memories and have the chance to perform to the students, especially because not too long ago it would have been me sitting in the audience.

“The play carries such an important message and I am really happy that students across Luton have a chance to see it, and learn how to stay safe when it comes to child exploitation.

“My brother will be heading to Icknield next year, and knowing that the school offers performances like this just shows that Icknield will be looking out for his wellbeing, safety and happiness, just like they did for mine.”

The 40-minute production tells the story of a group of three students who discover the diary of a girl called Chelsea.

Chelsea was a young girl who, having fallen out with her friends and family, was approached by a man called Gary. Gary was older, owned a car, had a flat and treated her like an adult.

Unfortunately Gary was not what he seemed to be and, as Chelsea’s story is played out, the three students and their teacher attempt to understand what happened to Chelsea and how it could have been prevented.

Headteacher Christopher Dean said: “It was wonderful to welcome Oriana back to Icknield and to see her involved in a project of such importance to young people across the whole of the country. We wish her and Chelsea’s Choice every success for the future.”

Get Active in Parks

Lutonline April 2016
Important information about your bin collections

Domestic bin and recycling collection days will be changing for many households from **2 May**

If your collection days are changing you will receive more information through the door. Please also help friends, relatives and neighbours who don’t have access to the internet to see if they are affected.

To quickly and easily check which day your bin will be collected visit [www.luton.gov.uk/bins](http://www.luton.gov.uk/bins)

[www.luton.gov.uk/bins](http://www.luton.gov.uk/bins)
Landlords admit part in illegal housing practices

Luton’s rogue landlord project has seen another successful prosecution in its campaign to ensure tenants in the town are not ripped off and asked to live in squalid and dangerous accommodation.

Following a joint action last year by the Council and Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, 10 Midland Road, Luton, a house of multiple occupation (HMO) was served with a prohibition order for violations of fire safety codes. In the event of a fire, consequences for the inhabitants could have been tragic because of the lack of suitable protection.

The order meant that people were no longer able to rest or sleep on the premises. The Council subsequently had to help find alternative accommodation for 45 people – a process that absorbed considerable effort and resource that could have been used elsewhere.

Mohammed Nadeem, of Birdsfoot Lane, Luton, pleaded guilty to being in control of the HMO which was not licensed as required by the Housing Act and asking to live in squalid and hazardous accommodation.

Every landlord housing different households that share the same facilities under one roof must register for an HMO licence. We will not hesitate to prosecute landlords who show a disregard for the law and their responsibilities towards occupants.

“We would encourage anyone who suspects a property may be an unlicensed HMO to contact us immediately.”

The good news for tenants taken advantage of in situations like these is that they are entitled to claim up to 12 months’ rent from the landlord – something the Council hopes will make landlords think twice and take seriously their legal obligations.

Luton’s rogue landlords project is a joint initiative between the Council, fire service, Citizens Advice Bureau and Luton Law Centre, supported by government funding of nearly £100,000.

Further charges relating to the case have been laid against property management and letting agents and are due to be heard at a later date.

Cllr Tom Shaw, Portfolio Holder for housing, said: “This case underlines the Council’s ongoing commitment to ensuring private tenants in our town have safe, high-quality accommodation.

Our work is to ensure that unscrupulous landlords and their agents are not taking financial advantage of vulnerable tenants or placing their lives in danger.

“Every landlord housing different

Council proposes new Air Quality Management Area

The Council is proposing to declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) after monitoring revealed that concentrations of nitrogen dioxide in the Stuart Street and Dunstable Road areas – affecting parts of Biscot, Dallow and South wards – exceed national objectives.

Each local authority in the UK carries out a review and assessment of air quality in its area, and in Luton monitoring by the Council takes place at 33 locations.

Nitrogen dioxide is a gas considered to be harmful to health and is found in the emissions produced by cars and other road vehicles.

Air quality can be improved by reducing traffic volumes and congestion, and by using greener methods of travel such as public transport, switching to a greener vehicle such as electric or hybrid, using bicycles, walking more, driving in a more energy-efficient way, and ensuring that vehicles are maintained to minimise and reduce emissions.

Cllr Jacqueline Burnett, Portfolio Holder for people and place, said: “An AQMA is declared where air quality is found to be above the objective levels set in the regulations.

“Once declared, we have to decide what actions will be suitable to improve the air quality, and ultimately bring it down to concentrations below the objective level. Our team will be working with highways, public health and other internal and external bodies.”

Important information about glass box collections

From 2 May glass boxes will be emptied every four weeks

Glass can also be disposed of at the two Household Waste Recycling Centres in Eaton Green Road and Progress Way, or one of the glass banks located around the town. To find your nearest site visit the website.

www.luton.gov.uk/bins

www.luton.gov.uk

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Views canvassed on secondary school plan

The Council has been seeking residents’ views on plans to develop a new co-educational secondary school located in Gipsy Lane.

Since 2007 the number of school places in Luton’s primary schools has grown significantly. Across the town, just over 4,500 primary school places have been created – and there is now a greater demand for secondary school places.

Currently it is forecast that the number of secondary aged pupils in Luton is set to grow by 25 per cent between now and 2020, and this will require an additional 2,100 places.

Population growth has been particularly prominent in the south and central areas of the borough.

The Chiltern Learning Trust has applied to develop a new secondary co-educational free school, opening in September 2018. The Council is supportive of this bid and has identified a suitable site known as ‘The Brache’, located in Gipsy Lane.

Luton Borough Council will be making the planning application for a change of use of the site for secondary school education, and has been seeking as many views as possible before the application is made.

Several information events have been organised and, for those reading Lutonline before the consultation closes, comments can be made until Friday 25 March online at www.luton.gov.uk/currentconsultations.

Cllr Mahmood Hussain, Portfolio Holder for children’s services, said: “Luton Borough Council is very proud of the high standards and achievements of the young people in our schools. By investing further in facilities, we aim to continue to give current and future students access to the educational opportunities they deserve.

“It is important that as part of this process we hear the views of the local community.”

Museum closed for transformation

Wardown Park Museum has now been closed while it undergoes an exciting redevelopment.

When it reopens under the new name of Wardown House, Museum and Gallery towards the end of October, visitors will notice new digital technology designed to improve the interactive experience.

The redevelopment plans, made possible due to the generous support and £1.8 million awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and a working partnership with Luton Borough Council, are on display at Luton Central Library over the closure period.

HAVE YOUR SAY

GP surgery and Walk-in Centre consultations

Are you a patient of one of these surgeries? Do you use the walk-in centre? Don’t miss the chance to have your say on future services.

Consultations running until:

Friday 6 May
- Moakes Medical Centre
- Whipperley Medical Centre
- Sundon Park Health Centre

Saturday 4 June
- Town Centre GP Surgery
- Walk-in Centre

There are a number of ways you can share your feedback:

- Fill in the survey online at http://consult.luton.gov.uk/portal/lccg
- Visit one of our drop-in sessions, the dates and times will be publicised in the four GP surgeries
- Request a paper copy of the survey from one of the four surgeries or by calling 01582 532095 or email communications@lutonccg.nhs.uk

Any concerns or comments?

Contact our communications team on 01582 532095 (9am-4pm, Monday - Friday) or email communications@lutonccg.nhs.uk
Make sure you are registered to vote in 2016

Luton electors will shortly have the opportunity to cast their vote in the election for Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner on Thursday 5 May and the EU referendum on Thursday 23 June.

Nominations to stand in the PCC election are open, and it is expected that there will be candidates not only from the mainstream political parties but also from smaller political groups and independents.

Qualifications for standing are that you are a British, eligible Commonwealth or EU member state citizen, aged over 18 years and are living or working or registered in Bedfordshire.

All nomination papers need to be signed by a proposer and seconder and supported by the signatures of 98 further electors in Bedfordshire plus a £3,000 deposit.

Completed nomination papers should be delivered to Police Area Returning Officer Trevor Holden at Luton Borough Council, Town Hall, by no later than 4pm on Thursday 7 April.

The PCC election is the chance to influence how Bedfordshire Police is run for the next four years.

A Council spokesman said: “Due to Bedfordshire falling into three council areas we will be working closely with Central Bedfordshire ad Bedford Borough councils to make sure the voting process runs smoothly.

“There will be plenty of information and guidance available at polling stations, including postal voting packs, to help voters fill in their ballot papers correctly.”

Appointments are being offered for informal checks. To arrange one, please call Lesley Roe on 01582 546063.

For further information or a nomination pack, please call the Council’s electoral services team on 01582 546088 or 546038, or go to the Council’s website at www.luton.gov.uk and search ‘PCC elections’.

What you need to know for the PCC election

To be able to vote, you need to be on the Register of Electors for the town. To find out if you are registered in Luton, please call the Council’s 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 that you need to complete and return to us no later than midnight on Monday 18 April. You can also download a registration form at this web address.

Electoral Registration requires us to verify your identity and this may not happen in time if you leave your application to register until 19 April.

If you are registered to vote but cannot get to your polling station on the day of an election or referendum, 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 or referendum. But remember, your postal vote is for you, and nobody else.

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 to reach us by 10pm on voting day. The deadline for new applications to vote by post is 5pm on Tuesday 19 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.

New applications to vote by proxy must be received by 5pm on Tuesday 26 April. The deadline for changes to existing proxy votes is 5pm on Tuesday 19 April.

Polling cards displaying important information, including the date of the election, where your polling station is and the hours of the poll, will be delivered to home addresses across the borough from 1 April for all residents who have registered to vote.

Although electors do not need to take these polling cards with them to be able to vote, it does help speed up the process on the day.

Any residents who do not receive their polling card by 8 April and believe they are eligible to vote are asked to call the electoral registration team on 01582 510380 or email electoral_services@luton.gov.uk.

To apply for postal or proxy votes, go to www.aboutmyvote.co.uk or call the electoral registration team on 01582 510380. You can also apply for a proxy vote which enables a nominated person you trust to vote on your behalf.

There will be plenty of information and guidance available at polling stations, including postal voting packs, to help voters fill in their ballot papers correctly.”

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 or referendum. But remember, your postal vote is for you, and nobody else.

Complete your ballot paper in secret, on your own

For more advice and information about voting by post, go to www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

Luton electoral services:

📞 01582 510380
✉️ electoral_services@luton.gov.uk

www.aboutmyvote.co.uk
Candles of hope on Commonwealth Day

Community leaders, school children and representatives of Luton in Harmony and the Council commerorated Commonwealth Day recently.

Held each year, the event on 14 March offers an opportunity to promote shared values of peace, democracy and equality, and to celebrate the association's rich diversity.

The Commonwealth flag was raised across the nation at 10am, and in Luton the ceremony saw the lighting of four candles by pupils from Pirton Hill Primary School, which were then extinguished before a two-minute silence to symbolise the feeling of darkness that came over Europe at the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, a little more than 100 years ago.

War poems were recited and guests invited to sign the Luton in Harmony pledge.

Cllr Dave Taylor, Mayor of Luton, said: “I am pleased that we were able to demonstrate our commitment to the values and spirit of the Commonwealth, and to host the single commemorative act to remember those who sacrificed their lives.”

Force thanks Luton’s champions

Bedfordshire Police honoured people who have supported its community cohesion team over the past year at an event at the Chiltern Hotel in Luton.

Fifteen members of the community were awarded trophies for reasons ranging from creating the force’s float at Luton Carnival to providing mediation during demonstrations or delivering cultural awareness training to new constables.

Ashfaque Chowdhury was named Community Ambassador 2015 for work which included supporting hate crime initiatives. Also recognised was Maureen Drummond, pictured, from the Council’s social justice team.

Inspector Hob Hoque said: “We aim to engage with all community groups across Bedfordshire, and our 15 community champions are vital in enabling us to do this.”

Follow the community cohesion team on Twitter @bedscohesion

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- Individual Waiting Rooms - Allows Privacy Comfort
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- Mercury-Free Fillings available - New Pain Relief For Sore, sensitive gums
- Air-conditioned surgeries
- Qualified Dental Nurses registered with G.D.C.

Nervous patients a speciality............

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- Free Dental Health Examination (Obligation Free!)
- Same Day Emergency Service
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01582 416 029

www.lutondentalhealthcentre.co.uk
Recycling for schools to boost environment

A new competition is giving top recycling households in Luton the opportunity to help local schools win £2,000 for their own environmental project.

During March and April households that recycle correctly – including paper and card, plastic bottles, can and tins, textiles and clothes – are receiving a reward tag on their bins.

Most local infant, junior and primary schools are taking part, and householders who receive a tag will be able to nominate a school of their choice to win one of three prizes.

Only bins which include the recycling items listed receive the reward tag. Recycling bins must not have any waste in them, including food, oil, nappies or glass.

Warden Hill Junior School is one of the schools taking part.

Headteacher Mark Welch said: “We are really pleased to be involved with this new scheme to promote recycling in our town. The children have been looking forward to being involved and have been encouraging all their family and friends to recycle.”

Cllr Tom Shaw, Portfolio Holder for environment, said: “Recycling is a top priority in Luton and we want to recognise those who do it correctly and encourage everyone to join in. This competition is raising awareness of the importance of recycling and highlighting to children how recycling today will benefit them and their environment in the future.

“So please hand in your tag! They can be passed on to friends, family or neighbours to nominate a school if you prefer.”

The winners in each category will be the schools with the most tags (as a percentage of total number of pupils). For example, in a school of 500 pupils, if 150 tags are returned that is 30 per cent, and in a school of 150 if 80 tags are returned that is 53.3 per cent.

For more information, terms and conditions and a full list of participating schools visit www.luton.gov.uk/recycling

Free early learning for 2 year olds

Good for your child
Children learn through play. Having a free early learning and childcare place in an exciting, enjoyable and secure environment could give your two year old the best possible start in life.

Good for you
Gives you the opportunity to work, undertake training, access further education or gain advice and support through your local children’s centre.

Call the Family Information Service on 01582 54 88 88 or email fis@luton.gov.uk for more details.

Strangers Way: views sought

The Council would like to know residents' views on a proposal to redesignate land at Strangers Way, next to the Leagrave Centre.

In 1999 the former Leagrave Junior School closed and merged with Leagrave Infants. The playing fields are no longer needed by the infants’ school and have not been used since the merger.

Due to the housing crisis there is a need for additional homes in Luton and the Council is proposing that the location be used for new residential homes. This would maximize the site’s value and meet the authority’s obligations under the Local Government Act 1972.

Proceeds of the sale would additionally be used to fund improvements and enhance facilities at local schools.

Cllr Sian Timoney, Portfolio Holder for transformation said: “With ever increasing demand for housing in Luton, the sale of this currently unused piece of land will allow developers to build much-needed homes for the town.

“Money from the sale of this land will help us to continue to invest in the town's excellent schools and help give our young people the best possible education to prepare them for the future.”

Let us know what you think by completing the survey at www.luton.gov.uk/currentconsultations by Thursday 21 April.

If you would like to speak to someone, or want to request a paper copy of the feedback form, please email Len.Welson@Luton.gov.uk or call him on 01582 546571.
Town says a firm ‘no’ to violence against women

Violence against women happens more than you think – and Luton has pledged not to stand for it.

The White Ribbon campaign is a global movement aimed at raising awareness to put an end to the problem, and Luton has now become the first White Ribbon town in Bedfordshire.

This status was successfully achieved after the Council outlined everything that has been done over the last year to address the issue across all ages, groups and communities.

Twelve months ago Luton Borough Council, led by Cllr Naseem Ayub, Executive Member with responsibility for domestic abuse, made a commitment to work to end all violence, not just against women but everyone.

The soLUTIOns community safety partnership and Luton Town Football Club took part in the national 16 Days of Action campaign in November, holding a number of activities and events to raise awareness of abuse and domestic violence.

“We want to engage with everyone to get our message across loud and clear that any violence towards women or any member of the community is just not acceptable”, Cllr Ayub said. “We are working to alter attitudes and how people think about violence.

“We work with schools and young people on educational programmes to ensure intervention and prevention from an early age. We have a number of youth ambassadors who strongly speak out on the issue to their peer groups.”

Mayor of Luton Cllr Dave Taylor and members of local organisations who have signed the pledge were presented with certificates as ambassadors at a special event this month to thank them for their commitment and support.

Guests of honour included Ikram Butt, the first White Ribbon ambassador in the UK, and the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire, the Countess of Erroll.

Cllr Ayub added: “I was delighted to welcome our guests and present so many people with certificates to recognise the important work that they and their organisations are doing to help end violence and abuse in Luton, especially towards women.

“Every year millions of women experience rape, domestic violence, forced marriages, female genital mutilation, honour crimes, sexual exploitation and trafficking. We are proud that Luton is committed to ending this.”

“Across the country, men, women and organisations are signing up to the White Ribbon campaign and pledging to condemn violence and abuse.”

For more information about the White Ribbon campaign visit www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk

Chief’s marathon for LAMP

Training is well under way for Council chief executive Trevor Holden as he prepares to run the Virgin Money London Marathon on 24 April on behalf of Luton homeless charity LAMP.

It is 23 years since the keen runner last ran a marathon, and he is hoping to raise a significant sum.

“I was flattered and highly motivated when asked to represent LAMP,” said Mr Holden. “Having such a strong local charity here in the town makes a real difference to many people’s lives.

“Running in this fabulous event in London for the first time is a fantastic opportunity not only for me but also to raise the profile of the absolutely superb work that LAMP does in Luton.”

LAMP is a local Christian charity that has worked in Luton for over 20 years, supporting young vulnerable and disadvantaged people aged from 16 to 25 years who find themselves homeless through no fault of their own.

It has earned a reputation for delivering high-quality support, advice and care for young people who are facing genuine problems and, while much of its work is funded from contracts with Luton Council and grants from London Luton Airport Ltd, LAMP still needs to raise more than £100,000 each year to support up to 200 of the most vulnerable young people in the town.

LAMP chief executive John Archer said: “Our work is focused on providing young people with a safe living environment and then putting together a support plan including career guidance, life skills training and financial management. Like all small charities we need the help of the local community and the effort Trevor is putting in will be a great help in achieving our target for 2016.”

Mr Holden and LAMP are welcoming sponsorship which can be donated at: http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/www.lamp.community

ME TIME LEADERS – building a stronger workforce in Luton, just for you!

The funding is for WOMEN to gain new qualifications or add to existing. There are a number of FREE FEMALE only courses available, we would love to see you there.

ME TIME LEADERS

Health & Nutrition Coffee Morning – Fri 8 April
@ River Bank Primary School 10.45 – 1pm

Learn to Lead & Organise Rounder’s Activities – Sat 9 April
@ Denbigh High School 10–1pm

Learn to be a Volunteer Walk Leader – Wed 20 April
@ Stockwood Park 12–5pm

To book a FREE place or find out more contact michelle@teambedsandluton.co.uk or call 01582 813765.

Have a healthier workforce with the...

WORKPLACE CHALLENGE

1 IN 4 ADULTS ARE INACTIVE!

Sign up to our Luton workplace challenge fitness programme for free and:

Challenge your colleagues
Have fun & feel great
Enter your team into local fun competitions

NEXT EVENT: Dodgeball Competition – 22nd April 2016

INTERESTED? Please email Jo@teambedsandluton.co.uk to find out how we can support you to get your workplace moving!

Lutonline April 2016

www.lutonline.co.uk
ST GEORGE’S FESTIVAL

Sat 23 – Sun 24 April
10am – 6pm

Witness the ultimate showdown as gallant St George takes on his arch nemesis in England’s most legendary battle.

Silsoe, Bedfordshire, MK45 4HR
Be clear on cancer and check before you flush

People in Luton, particularly those aged over 50 years, are being encouraged to keep an eye out for key cancer symptoms as a national campaign enters a new phase.

Blood in the pee is a key symptom of over half of bladder cancers and almost a fifth of kidney cancers, so being aware is crucial.

The Council’s public health team is therefore encouraging people to regularly check before they flush, and if they see blood to contact their GP. The chances are that it’s nothing serious but both cancers are more treatable the earlier they are detected.

Cllr Aslam Khan, Portfolio Holder for public health, said: “It’s very important that people understand that spotting blood in urine can be an early indicator for both bladder and kidney cancer. “Whilst you may be worried or embarrassed, it’s important to know that if you spot blood you should contact your GP and make an appointment, it could be something much less serious but it’s important to be sure.”

Further information is available on local GP and the NHS Choices websites.

Someries earns quality mark

Someries Infant and Nursery School in Luton has been awarded the International Values-based Trust’s quality mark.

During its three-year journey towards becoming a values-based education provider, pupils and teachers chose 12 values including respect, patience, cooperation and friendship to underpin life at the school. Pupils at Someries learn about the values, including why they are important not just during school hours but at home and in the community too. As well as developing important, positive life skills, the values are also helping to develop relationships between staff and children.

Pupils in Year 3/4 at Hillborough Junior School were crowned indoor athletic champions at the Sainsbury’s Bedfordshire Winter School Games recently.

After qualifying as regional runners-up, the young athletes were determined to do well on the county stage on 4 March and delivered some outstanding performances in the running, jumping and throwing events.

More than 1,000 competitors from across Bedfordshire took part and enjoyed an official opening ceremony including an inspiring talk from guest speaker and world champion gymnast Elliot Browne.

Charles Betts, PE coordinator at Hillborough Junior School, said: “After a long but victorious day I would like to offer huge congratulations to all the young athletes who participated. Our pupils arrived with a steely look in their eyes and it was wonderful to watch all their hard work pay off, everyone at Hillborough is very proud of their achievement.”

Pupils’ athletics triumph

www.luton.gov.uk/events

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Luton Borough Council's Recycling Reward Scheme 2016

WIN A £2,000 PRIZE FOR A LOCAL SCHOOL

During March and April households that recycle correctly will get a reward tag on their household recycling bins which contain the following items:

⭐ PAPER AND CARD  ⭐ PLASTIC BOTTLES  ⭐ CANS AND TINS  ⭐ TEXTILES AND CLOTHES

If you receive a tag you can nominate a participating infant, junior or primary school in Luton to win one of three prizes of £2,000 to use for an environmental project.

For full details and terms and conditions visit www.luton.gov.uk/recycling

www.luton.gov.uk/recycling
Have your say: Walk-in Centre and GP surgeries

Luton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS England are seeking views from patients regarding the future services of four practices and the Walk-in Centre.

Services at the Moakes and Whipperley Medical Centres, Sundon Park Health Centre and the Town Centre GP Surgery – as well as the Walk-in Centre based in the same building as the Town Centre Surgery – are provided on fixed-term contracts due to expire between January and March 2017.

The NHS organisations are reviewing each contract to ensure patient needs continue to be met, and are encouraging patients and stakeholders to give their views through consultations which started on 7 March.

Patients registered at the Moakes and Whipperley Medical Centres and Sundon Park Health Centre are being asked to consider three proposed options: a like-for-like service; changing the contract to reflect the national GP contract; or closing the practice and being supported to find another local GP. These surveys are open until Friday 6 May, with patients and stakeholders expected to be informed of the outcome in June.

Options at the Town Centre GP Surgery include: a like-for-like service; changing the contract to reflect the national GP contract; and replacing the walk-in centre with two new urgent primary care hubs for patients who are assessed as needing an urgent face-to-face appointment. This survey is open until 4 June, with patients and stakeholders due to be informed of the outcome in July.

Patients and members of the public can complete an online survey at http://consult.luton.gov.uk/portal/lccg. Paper copies are also available at each of the four practices or can be requested by calling Luton CCG on 01582 532095 or emailing communications@lutonccg.nhs.uk. Drop-in sessions are also being planned to answer any questions or queries patients may have.

Carol Hill, chief officer of Luton CCG, said: “We are taking this opportunity to review the services these GP practices offer to ensure there is sufficient capacity to meet demand now and in the future, and to identify how they could be improved and transformed to meet the changing needs of patients.

“We would like to reassure patients no decision has been made regarding the future of the four practices. And none will be made without the registered patients of each practice having the chance to be involved.”

“We are keen to hear from as many patients as possible,” said Dominic Cox, locality director for NHS England in Luton. “By giving us their views, they will be helping the CCG and ourselves to develop primary care medical services in Luton to meet their needs.”

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‘Horror’ comes to Icknield

Young horror writer and Carnegie nominee William Hussey was welcomed on a visit to Icknield High School recently.

The author spent the day working with almost 900 students, telling ghost stories, sharing creative tips and capturing the imagination with an interactive drama which drew comparisons between 17th century witch trials and the modern issue of bullying.

The aim was to encourage a new generation of authors and get them excited about reading and writing.

English teacher Mrs Fry said: “The children hung on every word, and the visit generated a huge amount of interest from the students with all of William’s books flying off the library shelves.”

William said: “The pupils were a real credit to the school. Every student I spoke to was able to tell me what book they were currently reading which was great.

My advice to young writers is to read as much as you can.”

The school hopes to invite William back in the future.

Peace of mind for Luton landlords

Would you like guaranteed rent for 52 weeks of the year?

Are you looking for a hassle-free property management service?

Luton Lets is the town’s newest lettings agency

No fees, no arrears, no hassle

We are part of Luton Borough Council which means we can offer landlords the additional reassurance of:

- Guaranteed rent all year round even when there are no tenants living there
- A trustworthy property management service
- Full repairs and maintenance services
- No management fees
- No hidden costs

For more information visit www.luton.gov.uk/lutonlets
Alternatively you can email lutonlets@luton.gov.uk or call 01582 546436 for an informal chat.

www.luton.gov.uk
Following a consultation in February, which received feedback from nearly 400 local people, it was decided that Luton’s new service will be called the Luton Sexual Health Service. 

The service now has a dedicated website (www.lutonsexualhealth.org.uk) and a dedicated phone number, 01582 497070. 

From April 1 2016 Luton & Dunstable Hospital will be providing a confidential and comprehensive sexual health service for Luton residents of all ages. A new purpose-designed facility in Luton town centre is currently being refurbished and will be opening in summer 2016. The hub will provide sexual health services and will be open 6 days a week; opening times will vary to accommodate the need of local residents.

The new service will begin from April 1 2016 and until the new town centre hub is open, the Luton Sexual Health Service will be based at the Luton & Dunstable Hospital, Luton NHS Walk-in Centre, Bramingham Park Medical Centre, Wigmore Lane Health Centre and Blenheim Medical Centre.

Services available from the Luton Sexual Health Service include:

- sexual health advice
- testing for sexually transmitted infections (STI)
- assessment of symptoms, treatment for STIs and other genital conditions
- a full range of contraceptive options, including condoms
- a ‘Screen & Go’ service during walk in clinics, for those who have no symptoms or concerns
- a team of dedicated specialist doctors, nurses, health advisors and health mentors if you have symptoms, require contraception or have other needs including any sexual health or relationship concerns you may have
- test results communicated to you via phone or text message.

For further information or to book an appointment over the phone please call: Luton Sexual Health Service on 01582 497070 or visit www.lutonsexualhealth.org.uk.

The timetable below will begin on April 1 2016.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Times</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Group</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>0900-1200</td>
<td>Luton Sexual Health @ L&amp;D Hospital</td>
<td>Walk in</td>
<td>All ages</td>
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<td></td>
<td>0900-1200</td>
<td>Luton Sexual Health @ L&amp;D Hospital</td>
<td>Screen &amp; Go</td>
<td>All ages</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1330-1600</td>
<td>Luton Sexual Health @ L&amp;D Hospital</td>
<td>Booked appointments</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1630-1900</td>
<td>Luton Sexual Health @ L&amp;D Hospital</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1400-1800</td>
<td>Luton Sexual Health @ Town Centre Walk-in Clinic</td>
<td>Walk in</td>
<td>Young persons (&lt;25)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>0900-1200</td>
<td>Luton Sexual Health @ L&amp;D Hospital</td>
<td>Walk in</td>
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<td></td>
<td>0900-1200</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1330-1630</td>
<td>Luton Sexual Health @ L&amp;D Hospital</td>
<td>Booked appointments</td>
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<td>1330-1730</td>
<td>Luton Sexual Health @ Blenheim Medical Centre</td>
<td>Booked appointments</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1400-1800</td>
<td>Luton Sexual Health @ Bramingham Park Medical Centre</td>
<td>Booked appointments</td>
<td>Young persons (&lt;25)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Luton Sexual Health @ L&amp;D Hospital</td>
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<td>1400-1800</td>
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</tbody>
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www.luton.gov.uk
Children and Families

Family Fun Time: What an egg-citing time!
Saturday 2 April, 11-11.45am
Luton Central Library
Saturday 2 April, 2.15 -3pm
Stopsley Library

Let’s have an egg-citing time: find out what’s hatching in your local library and join in some egg-cellent holiday activities.
Ages three+ years
Free, donations welcome

Family Fun Time: April’s Fools — reading is funny day
Saturday 9 April, 11-11.45am
Leagrave Library
Saturday 9 April, 2.15-3pm
Marsh Farm Library

It really is family fun time at the Library — come along to share funny stories, your favourite jokes and learn some new ones to tickle you with laughter.
Ages three+ years
Free, donations welcome

Family Fun Time: Into the Wild
Saturday 16 April, 11-11.45am
Luton Central Library
Saturday 16 April, 2.15-3pm
Stopsley Library

Join us at your local library to explore Rudyard Kipling’s animal stories and other tales of the animal kingdom.
Ages three+ years
Free, donations welcome

Family Fun Time: St George’s Day
Saturday 23 April, 11-11.45am
Leagrave Library
Saturday 23 April, 2.15-3pm
Marsh Farm Library

Celebrate St George’s Day with tales of dragons and of course George! Join in with the story, crafts and other activities.
Ages three+ years and their families
Free, donations welcome

Let's All Dance presents:
The Princess and the Frog
Friday 29 April, 10.30am & 1.30pm
Saturday 30 April, 11.30am
Luton Library Theatre

Once upon a time there was a beautiful princess. She loved playing with her golden ball but one day she dropped it in the pond. When a very friendly and very bouncy frog offers to retrieve it in exchange for her friendship, she is far from keen.
But in the end the princess must agree to be his friend just to get her ball back. Slowly their friendship grows and the princess is rewarded in true fairytale style.
This beautiful original ballet by Let’s All Dance combines all the ingredients to charm audiences young and old. An original score, gorgeous costumes and crystal-clear storytelling draw you into the magical world of classical ballet, and make it accessible to all. A lovely production and a heart-warming tale with the theme of friendship at its core.
Suitable for two to nine-year-olds
Running time: 30 minutes + photo opportunity
£8 / £24 families

The Library Games
Every Monday, 4-5pm
Luton Central Library
Every Thursday, 4-5pm
Leagrave Library

From Top Trumps to Table Quidditch, join us for The Library Games. Compete in games old and new, of skill and chance.
Perfect for children aged 10+ years
Free, donations welcome

The Library Games LEGO®
Every Tuesday, 4-5pm
Lewsey Library

Everything is awesome with LEGO®. Join us for The Library Games LEGO® every Tuesday for lots of creative LEGO® fun.
Free, donations welcome

Exhibitions
Podules
24 March – 22 May
Stockwood Discovery Centre

In his large-scale pieces, Niedojadlo invites us to use a range of senses beyond our sight alone. The works are constructed from a variety of recycled materials, including foam, rubber and carpet and incorporate subtle effects of lighting, sound and smell. These gigantic sculptures are often, although not exclusively, inspired by natural and biological forms. Uniquely, visitors are encouraged to enter the sculptures, to fully immerse themselves within these distinct ‘other worlds’ and experience the sights, sounds and smells within. Niedojadlo describes his work as ‘art to be viewed on your back — and not just with eyes and brain — but experienced with your whole body’.
Free, donations welcome

The Hat Factory
Thursday 7 April, 7.30pm
The Hat Factory

Persephone centres around three teenage girls, Percy, Tash and Lina, who live in High Town. They are best friends and growing up together, supporting each other and having fun. Percy lives with her overprotective mum, who runs the local cafe, Tash lives with her dad — her mum has run off to seek her fortune in Vegas — and Lina lives with her sister who, consumed by her wild social life, takes very little notice of her. When the dashing Will and his son Harry unexpectedly return to High Town after a 15-year absence, the girls’ world is thrown into disarray.
This project uses a combination of film, live performance and beautiful music to create a unique storytelling method that will immerse the audience in a sensory experience that will leave you wanting more.
£8 / £6 concessions
Ages 12+ years

Luton Central Library
St George’s Square, Luton LU1 2NG
01582 547418

Stockwood Discovery Centre
London Road, Luton LU1 4LX
01582 548600

Wardown Park Museum
Old Bedford Road, Luton LU2 7HA
01582 546722

The Hat Factory
65-67 Bute Street, Luton LU1 2EY
01582 878100

Luton Library Theatre is located within Luton Central Library

Theatre, Dance & Comedy

The Comedy Bar PRO Night
Friday 1 April, 8pm
The Hat Factory

Joining headline act Stephanie Laing for an evening of open-mic comedy are Lateef Lovejoy, Josh Dillon and Katie Lane.
Ages 16+ years
£10
Next Generation Youth Theatre presents:
In Doing Nothing I Found Me
Friday 8 & Saturday 9 April, 7.30pm
The Hat Factory

A story of discovery. A journey through everything to find something or nothing. Either way, it’s a journey we will all face head-on. Luton’s NGYT bring us a brand new piece of theatre looking at the pressures on young people on every side, from social media to school exams, and the expectation just to know who you are and what you want for the rest of your life. A great celebration of local young talent.

Ages 11+ years
£10 / £8 concessions

Dane Baptiste: Reasonable Doubts
Wednesday 13 April, 8pm
Luton Library Theatre

The last 18 months have been non-stop for the Independent's face to watch in 2015, Dane Baptiste. After the incredible success of his debut show Citizen Dane, which saw him nominated for Best Newcomer at both the Foster's Comedy Awards at 2014's Edinburgh Fringe Festival and again in 2015's Chortle Awards, he has completed two sold-out runs at The Soho Theatre (with additional dates added due to phenomenal demand), written and starred in his own sitcom for the BBC and performed at the Melbourne Comedy Festival. He has also established himself as a TV regular with performances on So What? (BBC 3), Virtually Famous (E4), Celebrity Squares (ITV 1), Seann Walsh's Late Night Comedy Spectacular (BBC 3) and Live at The Comedy Store (Comedy Central), as well achieving total sell-out runs at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2014 and 2015. Ages 16+ years
£12 / £10 concessions

Fishamble: The New Play Company presents:
Swing
Thursday 14 April, 7.30pm
The Hat Factory

An international hit, fresh from New York, Paris and Edinburgh.
A comedy about dancing, music and love, not settling and feeling like an eejit, being brave and having doubts, trying your best and trying new things, thinking outside the box and seeing things clearly, and living as well as you can and giving it a lash. With rock and roll music, it will make you want to dance.

Two people, May and Joe, meet over a period of one year at swing dance classes and slowly fall in love. She has a long-term boyfriend but the passion may have evaporated over the years. He is a divorcée who is catching a second breath of life. ‘Winning ... charming ... you want to join them on the floor.’ CRITICS’ PICK★★★★★
New York Times
'A dazzling display of theatrical talent ... remarkable ... moving.' Irish Echo
Running time: 60 mins
£10 / £8 concessions
Ages 12+ years

Legal Immigrant – Funmbi Omotayo
Friday 29 April, 8pm
The Hat Factory

It’s 1990, and 10-year-old Funmbi leaves London for Lagos. In his new home of Nigeria the local kids find his British accent hilarious. He misses his friends back home, watching football and all the latest gossip on Kylie and Jason from Neighbours. Delivered in his trademark calm and charismatic style, Funmbi takes us through the next six years until he moves back to Hackney and becomes a fish out of water all over again.
Winner of the Amused Moose Laugh off, the Leicester Square New Act of The Year and Best Newcomer at The Black Entertainment Comedy Awards.

£10 / £8 concessions

Library Access Points now open

Over the past 12 months three new Library Access Points have opened up in some of the town’s community centres – at Chaul End, Farley and Hockwell. Each venue has a selection of books for both adults and children as well as free wi-fi access. Free use of iPads will shortly be available at all access points. As a library member you can borrow and return books using the self-service machines, check our online catalogue using the iPads, as well as search the internet.

The access points are open whenever the community centre is open – check www.lutonculture.com for opening times.

If you would like to help with a range of activities for both adults and children at a Library Access Point please contact our volunteer co-ordinator for more information.

Telephone the volunteer co-ordinator on 01582 546585 or email karlina.craigbarton@lutonculture.com

Knit and Natter Group
Every Tuesday, 10am-12pm
Lewsey Library

Join this friendly group every Tuesday at Lewsey Library.
Come and share your experience or get some great hints and tips and meet new people. Tea and biscuits provided.
The group is always looking for donations of wool, knitting needles etc, so if you have anything you no longer need please drop it off at the library.
Free, donations welcome

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. For full details please visit our website.
Music

Jazz and Swing Music
Every Friday, from 5pm
Connors Café Bar at The Hat Factory
Luton’s new, stylish and contemporary restaurant and bar is now open every Friday evening. With live jazz and swing music and a full evening menu available until 9pm. Two-for-one on cocktails all night, live acts start at 8.30pm.
Free entry

Watercolour Art Classes
Every Friday, 10am
Chaul End Community Centre
Come along and join in watercolour art classes every Friday. For more information contact Chaul End Community Centre on 01582 557155 or emailing chaulend@lutonculture.com
£3 per session

Creative Colouring
Every Tuesday, 2pm
Leagrave Library
Reduce stress and create beautiful designs. No artistic talent needed.
Free, donations welcome

Talks, Workshops and Other Events

An Evening of Motown in aid of Keech Hospice
Saturday 23 April, 7pm
The Hat Factory
Join us for an evening of Motown to support the local charity Keech Hospice. The evening will consist of live performances from emerging talent within Luton town alongside a raffle featuring prizes from local companies. All proceeds will be donated to Keech Hospice Care.
£8.50 / £4 students and under 18s

Afternoon of Discovery
Friday 15 April, 2-3.30pm
Stockwood Discovery Centre
Join us for afternoon tea and a short talk on the history of Luton Airport.
Booking is essential.
£7 / £5 concessions

Designer Makers Fair
Saturday 9 April, 11am-3pm
The Hat Factory
Come and see what merchandise is on offer at our Designer Makers Fair.
Free entry
If you have something different and want to showcase and sell, then why not book a stall?
Free entry

Lutonia Festival

Transmission
Saturday 2 April, 11am-5pm
Luton Central Library
A sound and music collage drifting through a musical landscape of orchestral, ambient and folk music, recorded poetry readings and the sounds of Luton. A collage in the form of a continuous stream of sound and music, experience ‘Transmission’ as it being directly connected to a unique radio broadcast.
Free, donations welcome

Hook Line and Singer by Cerys Matthews
Saturday 2 April, 12-1pm
Luton Library Theatre
All ages
£12 / £8 concessions

Luton 2016: Ireland 1916, The Poet's Rebellion
Saturday 2 April, 1.30-5.30pm
The Hat Factory
Presented by Culture in Conflict
The Easter Rising of 1916, an armed rebellion in Ireland during Easter Week, paved the way towards independence and nationhood. It is of significance to all Irish people, especially those in larger Irish communities such as Luton. The event will reflect the Ireland 2016 Centenary programme’s five overlapping themes: remembering, reconciling, presenting, imagining and celebrating, and will include visual and performing arts, literature and music.
All ages
£10 / £8 day pass (for Irish events only) / free entry to the exhibition

Luton 1916: The Irish Rebellion
Saturday 2 April, 2.30 & 7.30pm
Luton Library Theatre
Phoenix Players present
Musical Moments
Friday 15 April, 7.30pm
Saturday 16 April, 2.30 & 7.30pm
Luton Library Theatre
An array of songs from: Sound Of Music, Annie, Hairspray, Guys and Dolls, Legally Blonde, West Side Story and many more.
£10 / £8 concessions

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£7 / £5 concessions

Meetings usually take place on the last Saturday of each month at Luton Central Library, third floor. This month’s theme is ‘Happy birthday William Shakespeare’. £4, free for members (£2.50 annually)

Tome Readers
Third Wednesday of every month, 5.30pm
Luton Central Library
Come along and chat about our monthly book choice with other enthusiastic readers over a cuppa.
Free, donations welcome

Watercolour Art Classes
Every Friday, 10am
Chaul End Community Centre
Come along and join in watercolour art classes every Friday. For more information contact Chaul End Community Centre on 01582 557155 or emailing chaulend@lutonculture.com
£3 per session

Creative Colouring
Every Tuesday, 2pm
Leagrave Library
Reduce stress and create beautiful designs. No artistic talent needed.
Free, donations welcome

Hooked on Books
Every Thursday, 1.15pm
Lewsey Library
Join us to discuss a book over a cuppa.
Free, donations welcome

Luton Writers’ Club
Every other Thursday from 14 April, 5.30pm
Luton Central Library
Open to those interested in writing.
Free, donations welcome

Luton Poetry Society
Last Saturday of the month, 2-4pm
Luton Central Library
Free, donations welcome
Open to those interested in writing.
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Every other Thursday from 14 April, 5.30pm
Luton Writers’ Club
Free, donations welcome
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All ages
£10 / £8 day pass (for Irish events only) / free entry to the exhibition

Luton Library Theatre is located within Luton Central Library
Coming Soon

Omid Djalili: Live 2016
Friday 13 & Saturday 14 May, 8pm
Luton Library Theatre

Omid Djalili is an award-winning stand-up and an acclaimed actor. Intelligent, sometimes provocative, always entertaining, his stand-up is an energetic and captivating comedy masterclass.

‘One of the most joyfully smart, stimulating and entertaining comedians this country has.’ The Telegraph

‘Belly laughs with a subtle blend of mainstream gags and subversive twinkle.’ The Sunday Times

‘Confident, engaging, thoughtful show ... did someone say National Treasure?’ Metro

With support from Boothby Graffoe.
Ages 16+ years
£22

What Would Spock Do?
Friday 27 May, 8pm
Luton Library Theatre

An uplifting new comedy about love, Star Trek, and learning to accept who you are — no matter how much of a loser it makes you. This acclaimed show embarks on its debut UK tour following a sell-out premiere at the Edinburgh Fringe.

Gary Thompson used to be a massive Trekkie, but now his friends just think of him as ‘one of the lads’. All this is set to change when a new girl appears at work, sporting a Spock haircut and a Star Trek badge. Should Gary confess his now-secret love of all things Enterprise? Or will his fear of once again being a social outcast get the better of him?

A year after the world paid tribute to the life and career of Leonard Nimoy, this new show asks the most important question of all: what would Spock do?

‘A geek’s dream come true! Effective, amusing and affecting.’ The Times

‘A bittersweet story. Highly engaging.’ Edinburgh Evening News
Ages 14+
£10 / £8 concessions

Mona Arshi
Saturday 2 April, 4pm
Luton Library Theatre

Winner of the Forward Poetry Prize 2015, Mona, born to Punjabi-Sikh parents in Hounslow, is accompanied by bass player Vidal Montgomery, reciting her poetry and that of her favourite inspirational writers. She also talks about what it takes to get your poetry published and the journey from bedroom table to winning the most prestigious poetry prize in Britain.

£10, £8 concessions

I’m Going to Read Aloud
Saturday 2 April, 6pm
Luton Library Theatre

Distinguished guests choose their favourite poetry to read aloud. Hosted by Colin Salmon, featuring Dan Mulhall, Cerys Matthews and Mona Arshi.

£10, £8 concessions

Dr John Cooper Clarke
Saturday 2 April, 8pm
Luton Library Theatre

His latest show, touring across the UK and the USA this year, is a mix of classic verse, extraordinary new material, hilarious ponderings on modern life, good honest gags, riffs and chat — a chance to witness a living legend at the top of this game but making his debut Luton performance. Dr John Cooper Clarke has a plethora of new poems and monologues which he performs solo, alongside his best-known works such as Beasley Street and Evidently Chickentown. Support is provided by Salena Godden.

Ages 16+ years

£22

Middle Child Theatre presents:
Weekend Rockstars
Saturday 21 May, 8pm
The Hat Factory

When gig meets theatre. Terry is having a bad week. He has lost his job, his girlfriend is off to uni and he has killed his dealer’s cat — but he will still be going out on Saturday night. What happens when our rocks start to fail us? What do we do when our stars don’t guide us where we thought they would? Then it’s time to become Rockstars.

Ages 16 +
£12 / £10 concessions

An African Reader Guide
Saturday 2 April, 2pm
Luton Library Theatre

Author and lecturer Geoff Ryman introduces this session and moderates the discussion, accompanied by Somali-British author Nadifa Mohamed and Africa Editor at the BBC World Service Mary Harper.

The wealth of literature pouring out of the continent of Africa is as a diverse and wonderful as the golden age of Romanticism in 19th century Europe. Okri, Achebe, Adichie, Biko, but where do we go from there? Book and Kitchen, who run a successful African reading group in west London, introduce us to the ‘must reads’. £9 / £5 under 18s

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. For full details please visit our website.

BOX OFFICE:
01582 878100
www.lutonculture.com
Learn to Swim
A great way to introduce very young children to the pool. Accompanied by a parent or carer, our lessons will provide quality time for adults and children, help build confidence and create a fun water experience.

Lesson Times:
Fridays - 13:15, 13:45, 14:15 & 14:45

To book or for further information:
• email info@activeluton.co.uk
• or call 01582 393 230

Adult and Child Swimming Lessons

Dive into Gym
3-5 years & 5-11 years

Exploring jumps, twists, rolls and landings – a great base to progress on to diving – in our fab ‘dry dive’ area with sprung gymnastics floor, dry diving boards, trampolines and a foam landing pit.

Mondays (5-11 years)
16:00 - 17:00

Thursdays (3-5 years)*
16:00 - 17:00

Wednesdays (3-5 years)*
10:45 - 11:45 & 13:30 - 14:30

Fridays (3-5 years)*
10:45 - 11:45

*Parents are advised to sit in and observe the sessions if their child is in the 3-5 years class

Friday Night Party Nights
The Marquee, Stockwood Park
Marquee hire

WHATEVER YOUR REASON TO CELEBRATE, DO IT WITH STYLE!

• Private bar, including a shots bar
• Catering services available
• Party planner to help you create an unforgettable experience
• Capacity 100 to 200 people

For more information or to book your Friday Night Party, please call the Events and Catering Manager on 01582 488856 or email info@activeluton.co.uk

Available Fridays Between 6th May and 28th November 2016

www.luton.gov.uk