

# LONG EATON 50 PLUS FORUM

## NEWSLETTER

Winter 2014 ISSUE

Editor Ian Neill

Report on our December 2014 Open Forum Meeting  
held at 10:15 am on December 8<sup>th</sup> at the Long Eaton Town  
Hall .  
Theme Information



Website [www.lead50plus.com](http://www.lead50plus.com)



### CHAIR'S REPORT

I would like to begin this report with an apology on behalf of my management committee for the disappointment of those forum members who attended our December 14 Open Forum. They came hoping to hear a talk by our MP but she did not show up. Jessica was very sorry to have to cancel (due to family circumstances and at the last minute too). She had been looking forward to entertaining us with an inside story account of Life in Parliament. On the plus side, she has offered a Q/A session during our March visit to Parliament so get your questions ready! There was one protest e-mail re the replacement speaker, Maggie Throup, who kindly stepped in at short notice. More of that in the Letters Section!

Many thanks to your generous support of our Christmas Raffle. We raised £73.00 for our funds. Finally make sure you read Ian's notes about our forthcoming trip to London.

### NEXT MEETING

March 9<sup>th</sup> 2015

10:15 TO 12:00 AM  
TOWN HALL LONG EATON

#### Speakers

Vicki Jones Care and Repair England,  
Nottingham  
Kevin Curtis Canaan Trust, Long Eaton

Theme Housing and Care

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[FOOD BANK BOX WILL BE AVAILABLE](#)

Attendance 106 Members and 8 visitors  
Raffle made £73.00 Thanks to Marion who ran it and  
all those who contributed, both financially and prizes.

**THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE NEWSLETTER ARE THOSE OF THE CONTRIBUTORS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE FORUM**

### Speakers:

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Speaker - Maggie Thoup

Maggie informed the meeting that her presentation would give a flavour of Rwanda – both the good and bad sides.

Rwanda is known as the land of 1000 hills and a million smiles.

Many people will be aware of the genocide that took place in 1974 – known as the 100 days genocide. In one church alone 5,000 people who thought they would be safe in a holy place were massacred and large numbers of people were killed after taking refuge in local schools and community halls. The Rwandans have not hidden evidence of the massacres as they do not want to forget what happened and do not want it to happen again.

Maggie got involved when the Rwandans asked for help from people with a variety of skills and knowledge. So she went out there with a variety of business people, doctors, solicitors, lawyers, maintenance workers etc. to look at how they could help boost tourism and exports from the Country. They were not sure what to expect on arrival so decided to do their decision making the 'Blue Peter Way' with pen and paper.

Across the countryside everything clings to the hillsides; the crops, bananas, tea, coffee rice etc. and these are often destroyed due to the amount of rain.

Villages dot the landscape, although the housing is getting better, they still live in huts put together with layers of mud etc. with the whole family living in one room. Every member of the family will take a part in the family duties and the Rwandans still love to sing and dance and hold onto their old traditions.

Most families will barter with food such as swapping a chicken for a variety of vegetables. Bananas are part of the staple diet and these are also used to make banana beer!

Schooling is available but many schools do not have proper facilities including chairs, tables, pens and paper or clean water. Many of the children make their own toys. There are very few secondary schools and these are usually quite a distance from the villages so the children will board. The facilities are very basic and the children have to bring their own bedding, supply their own pens and bring a ream of paper. Some schools are managing to obtain useful items and Maggie had visited a school that had a science lab and a number of donated computers.

When a pen runs out the parents have to decide whether to buy a new pen for their child or bring them home to work in the fields so they can feed the rest of their family – this is a very hard decision for them.

It was because of this that Maggie set up 'Maggie's Pen for Life' – and so far ½ million pens have been sent out to Rwanda.

A number of small businesses have been set up to enable the Rwandan women to produce traditional items such as pottery, bags and blankets – Maggie had assisted in finding ways to get these products exported and they can now be found in shops in the UK.

Maggie thanked everyone for listening to her presentation and took questions.

Some of the questions were:

**What language do they speak?** They have their own language but also speak French and English – English is now to be their 2<sup>nd</sup> language.

**How do they balance school life if the children have to work in the fields?** More children are managing to get to school now so they will work in the fields after school. Rwanda lost a lot of men during the genocide but they are now gaining some re balance.

**How was the genocide worked out?** The Rwandan Genocide was a genocidal mass slaughter of Tutsi (15%) and moderate Hutu in Rwanda by members of the Hutu majority (85%).

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During the approximate 100-day period from April 7, 1994 to mid-July, an estimated 500,000–1,000,000 Rwandans were killed constituting as much as 20% of the country's total population and 70% of the Tutsi then living in Rwanda. The genocide was planned by members of the core political elite known as the akazu, many of whom occupied positions at top levels of the national government. Perpetrators came from the ranks of the Rwandan army, the National Police (gendarmerie), government-backed militias including the Interahamwe and Impuzamugambi, and the Hutu civilian population.

A large number of the Hutus were captured and brought to justice by their own communities.

### Why do they use pens and not pencils?

Although that would seem logical they would need pencil sharpeners as well and pencils seem to be used up quicker.

The children write with very small writing to ensure they do not use their paper/books up to quickly.

**Do they need other items such as glasses?** They need everything and a number of charities are now working hard to ensure that essential items are getting out there.

**What about false teeth?** Maggie was unsure, but did say that a large number of children and older people have good teeth and this could be down to their diet.

### Do you send paper out there with your pens?

No it is too heavy and I have to link in with other shipments to ensure that my pens reach the children.

**What is their life span?** Apart from the numbers who catch malaria, it is quite good. However, a large number of deaths occur in road accidents. There is no proper healthcare system and if someone is injured the family cannot afford to pay for healthcare and they will be shunned.

## RESULTS FROM THE QUESTIONNAIRE

### TYPES OF EVENT YOU PREFER

Future of Long Eaton	33%
Care in later life	30%
Home and personal security	29%
Transport	28%
Holidays/Insurance for older people	26%
Health And Diet	24%

### SUGGESTED TOPICS

Most popular

Council #highways Department:-

Pavements

Traffic control

Hobbies (Wide Topic)

Finance / Help with Bargains

Local History

British Legion

### TRIPS

Most popular

Liverpool 4 ( We have been there but will consider next year)

Anywhere is nice 3

Southport 3 ( July)

Whitby 3 ( Summer next year)

Lincoln Xmas Market 3

Birmingham Xmas market 2

Sringfield Lincs 2

Oxford 2 (We have been there recently)

National Memorial (Stafford) 2

Cotswolds 2

Jodrell Bank 2



### ***More Letters to the Editor.***

The editor has been asked by Roy Smith to print his letter to the Long Eaton Chronicle

Dear Trent Barton..

First of all, belated “Congratulations” on the introduction of two “Zoom” Bus services from Old Sawley and New Sawley to Derby which our members have been asking us to campaign for several months - even years

However, can you give us an explanation as to why both of these bus routes incorporate stopping at Trent Street (ASDA) and the Green (Wilko) Long Eaton, en route to Derby, but misses the above bus-stops on the return journey?

Surely, once shopping is completed in Long Eaton and Laden down with heavy bags, it shouldn't be necessary to have to walk past these bus-stops to either the town hall or Market Street bus-stops for the return journey!

Some of our members live in Breaston, Draycott and Borrowash and the situation for them is even worse - they have to alight the “Zoom” busses from Derby at Long Eaton Town Hall if they wish to shop at ASDA, Wilko, Tesco and other shops near Long Eaton Green.

We are of the opinion that the m “My 15” bus service between Old Sawley and Ilkeston should also be rerouted via Trent Street (ASDA) and the Green (Wilko) for the same reason.

We have noticed that recently the “Zoom” bus service from Derby to New Sawley has been rerouted via Wharfdale Estate, despite the fact that Dunn-Line also operates a bus service (No 29) From Trent Street (ASDA) and the Wharfdale Estate, so you can make these changes if you want to!

### ***Letters to the Editor***

I have to protest at the invitation to Jessica Lee to speak at the December 50+ forum. We were assured that this was categorically 'not political'; if this is the case, why was she then replaced by the new Conservative candidate, Maggie Throup, when Jessica was unable to attend due to 'family matters'? Maggie treated us to a presentation about her no doubt admirable work in Rwanda (which happened years ago – her 'Pen4Life' project was reported back in 2010). All very innocent and 'non-political' until you remember that there will be a general election within six months, and therefore ANY favourable exposure is to be welcomed by the incoming candidate, and it was a very convenient way of introducing her to the local electorate by the back door. If this is not political, can you please explain why you will not invite other local political personalities to talk about their leisure activities, in the interests of balance? Or have you reviewed that decision since I suggested it at the last forum?

### ***Editor's Response***

The committee debated the issue of inviting Jessica and as the subject was not political, “Behind the scenes at Westminster” the committee decided to go ahead. On the day Jessica had to cancel, the chair was left with the difficult decision of cancelling the meeting and sending the 100 people that came home or accepting the offer for Maggie Throup to give a talk on her experiences.

At no time did Maggie or the chair mention that she was a candidate for Westminster. With your email it has become political, which the committee was trying its best to avoid and you have given Maggie the publicity she did not ask for. .

### CHARITY ADS.

#### **PARKLANDS STROKE CLUB**

##### **HAVE YOU OR SOMEBODY YOU KNOW HAD A STROKE**

Why not come along to Parklands Stroke club.  
We meet every second Friday, starting on the 7<sup>th</sup>  
of November, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM  
Where? At Petersham Hall

Contact:- Pat on 0115 972 2389

#### **LONG EATON AND DISTRICT INVALID CLUB**

Meets every second Tuesday of the month at  
Sawley Memorial Hall.

Come along and join us  
We run 3 coach trips per year  
Pick up points are too numerous to mention but  
there will be one near you,



Derbyshire Alert is a free two - way community messaging service that allows Derbyshire Constabulary to send messages

about local crimes, good news, community events and crime prevention. You can receive alerts via email, text or a voice message.  
Information required Name, Address, email or telephone number

Send the information to:-  
Bethany Fletcher, Corporate Communications,  
Community Engagement Team, Derbyshire  
Constabulary headquarters, Butterley Hall, Ripley  
DE5 3RS

#### **LONG EATON INDIAN ASSOCIATION**

Meets every Monday (except bank holidays) from  
12:00 until 3:00 PM  
United Reformed Church, the Green, Long Eaton  
Chair based exercise and social  
£4.00 per month  
All welcome

#### **LONG EATON ALL MEDIA AND ARTS GROUP**

Meets every Thursday evening from 7.00 PM  
until 9:00 PM at Petersham Hall  
Contact  
All Welcome

#### **PETERSHAM HALL**

The fully refurbished hall is now running the  
following clubs or meetings

SureStart Monday Morning  
Flower Arranging Monday Evening  
TVH Tuesday Club Tuesday Afternoon  
Bingo Tuesday Evening  
Social Line Dancing Wednesday Afternoon  
Serious Line Dancing Wednesday Evening  
Social Thursday afternoon  
Art Club Thursday Evening  
Stroke Cub Friday Afternoon  
Private Function Friday Evening  
For more information on these events  
[www.phca1969.org.uk](http://www.phca1969.org.uk)  
or phone Ian on 0115 972 6057

The Association is also arranging for a Tinsel &  
Turkey holiday starting 25<sup>TH</sup> October 5 days at  
the Four Oaks Hotel in Llandudno.

No singles are available but there are Twin and  
Doubles Available at £211.00 per head



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### FUTURE TRAVEL PLANS

As a result of the survey as to where people wanted to go the Committee decided on Castle Howard for the March meeting and Southport for the June Meeting.

The Castle Howard trip is proposed for the 16<sup>TH</sup> April and the tentative date for Southport is the 9<sup>TH</sup> July.

### FUTURE TRAVEL PLANS SOUTHPORT

Southport is on the West coast North of Liverpool in Lancashire. It is a very flat area with the Promenade being about a mile long.

What is there besides the usual shopping

There is the King's Gardens is a 17 acre garden located in the centre of Southport Town Centre, on the Promenade. The gardens are a hype of activity all year round and are a busy tourist attraction on the Southport seafront.

In 2012, the gardens were awarded £5.5 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Sefton Council as Park of the 'Parks for People Programme.' This prestigious scheme is the largest single investment in parks by the Heritage Lottery Fund in the North West. Over the past 5 years Sefton Council has been working closely with the community and visitors to develop this predominantly community led scheme.

There is the Model Railway village

This Southport attraction is ideal for kids who love trains, many spend all day watching their favourite locomotive as it meanders around the 1.5 acres of beautiful miniature landscape. Parents can sit and relax in peace and tranquillity, whilst keeping a close eye on their children in this sheltered and highly secure environment.

### The Model Railway Village Southport



### The King's Garden Southport



### Southport Pier

The 1,000 metre long Pier is the second longest in the country, if that sounds like too much like hard work, why not hop on to the pier tram which will take you straight to the end where you can grab a cup of tea in the pier pavilion, soak up the views and enjoy the stunning coastline.

And if there isn't enough history in the pier itself, in the pier pavilion you can view a small exhibition on Southport's history as well as playing traditional penny slot machines including pre decimal one armed bandits.

And if you are looking for more tradition, Silcocks Funland at the pier entrance has plenty of amusements including the famous 'Golden Gallopers' carousel on the pier forecourt.

### NEXT TRIP

### TRAVEL CLUB NEWS

#### WESTMINSTER

Date 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015

Price £ 15.00

Fully subscribed

Pick up points:-

Petersham Hall

ASDA Bus stop

Long Eaton Railway Station

West Park Leisure Centre

#### ITINERARY FOR VISIT

9:00 Pick up at Petersham hall  
9:20 Pick up at West Park  
9:30 Depart Long Eaton  
11:40 London Gateway services  
12:00 depart London Gateway services  
1:00 Arrive Houses of Parliament  
1:30 Do tour  
2:30 Meet Jessica Lee  
3:30 - 6:00 free time  
6:00 Depart London

AS THE SCHEDULE IS TIGHT CAN I SUGGEST YOU BRING A PACKED LUNCH

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone :- 0115 972 6057

Email [trips@ianconsult.co.uk](mailto:trips@ianconsult.co.uk)

Post: 50 Plus

10 Pennine Close

Long Eaton

NG10 4JT

### APRIL TRIP

#### CASTLE HOWARD

DATE 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

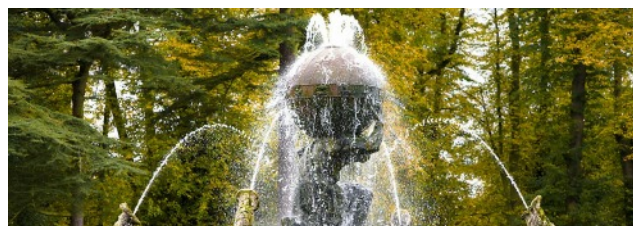
PRICE £ 10

THERE IS A CHARGE TO GO IN TO THE GROUNDS AND HOUSE

House and grounds £13.00

Grounds only £9.00

I have tried to get a group discount but at the time of going to press have not had a reply so I suggest you pay on arrival and you can make your choice. If I do get a response I will let you know at the Forum meeting



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### LAP IT UP SESSIONS

Get help using your laptop with the help of our friendly forum advisers. All free to members.

The sessions are all at Parklands connections between Stanhope Street and Leopold Street starting at 10:00 AM Refreshments are provided. Sessions end at 12:00

Next Sessions are:-March 27<sup>TH</sup>, April 24<sup>TH</sup>

Also do not forget our Astronomy sessions

,

Continuing: March 4<sup>th</sup>,

All sessions start at 7.45 PM at Observatory Building, Long Eaton School, Thoresby Road starting at 7.45 PM .. all welcome!

For Details Contact Pete Wearn at :-

petewearn@hotmail.com

### ANNOUNCEMENT

**IN SEPTEMBER WE ARE 10 YEARS OLD TO MARK THE EVENT AFTER THE OPEN FORUM MEETING WE WILL BE HAVING A FINGER BUFFET IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM BEHIND THE THE COUNCIL CHAMBER WHERE WE MEET.**

**TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE AT THE MEETING ON THE 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

**DATE SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>**

**PRICE WILL BE £ 1.00**

**IT WILL INCLUDE A FREE YES FREE RAFFLE**

### **FREE COMPUTING FOR THE ABSOLUTE BEGINNER**

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0115 9 300 199**

### **Your Views**

In future editions we propose to have a letters page so send you views to 50plus@ianconsult.co.uk or LEAD 50plus C/O 10 Pennine Close Long Eaton NG10 4JT