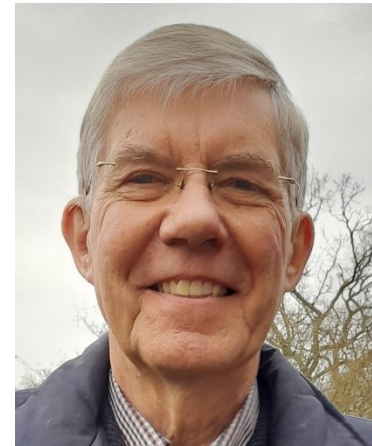


# **Loxwood Parish Community** **Welcomes You**



On behalf of the Parish Council I am pleased to welcome you into the Loxwood Community and to this lovely area of West Sussex. We are fortunate in Loxwood to have an active and thriving community providing facilities, entertainment, activities - both social and sporting, and community support. More recently, as a result of implementing our Loxwood Neighbourhood Plan, we welcome more residents into our Community from the new developments being built around the village.

As a new member of our Community there are many thriving clubs and societies in Loxwood which you will find most approachable and welcoming of new members. We have an excellent village hall, North Hall, located towards the northern end of the village where a large number of activities take place.

The Parish Council holds monthly meetings typically on the first Monday of each month and we welcome all residents to these public meetings which are publicised on the Parish Notice Board opposite the Butchers and on the Parish Council website. We welcome all new residents to attend our meetings, as this could be very helpful in getting to know the parish, and some of its issues. Please always feel free to contact the Parish Council through the Parish Clerk for information or clarification on Parish or District Council matters and our contact details are in the directory enclosed or on our website [www.loxwoodpc.co.uk](http://www.loxwoodpc.co.uk)

Councillor Rick Kelsey, Chair Loxwood Parish Council.



## A Brief History of Loxwood

It is thought that there was a settlement at Loxwood during Anglo-Saxon times and that the name of Loxwood came from the name of the Celtic or Saxon God called 'Lokka' or 'Loxwa'. There are traces of an Anglo-Saxon drove road that connects the village with Wisborough Green and Amberley to the west of the B2133. Before the B2133 was built, this track would have been the main Guildford Road and part of it is still in use today as the bridleway behind Hall House and the Village Shop/Post Office.

Originally the land surrounding Loxwood would have been a heavily wooded Oak forest which was partially cleared for farming. Whilst farming forms an important part of Loxwood's past there have also been industrial connections. During the reign of Elizabeth 1st, John Carre, the Huguenot, had a glassmaking furnace at Loxwood and is buried in the nearby Alfold Church graveyard. As timber was the primary fuel, Loxwood and the surrounding areas would have been a good location for these furnaces and there is evidence of a number of them in the vicinity.

The Wey and Arun canal runs through the village and was built following an Act of Parliament in 1813 backed by the 3rd Earl of Egremont of Petworth House. The canal joined the rivers Wey and Arun making it possible to travel by boat from Littlehampton all the way to London. The canal was intended to carry munitions between London and Portsmouth, but it was completed too late to fulfil this task. However, at its peak in 1839, the canal carried a total of 23,000 tons of commercial goods.

Unfortunately its success was short lived, with railways becoming established as the new form of transport and it officially closed in 1871.

Religion has been an important part of the village's history and Loxwood was originally part of the parish of Wisborough Green.

One of the oldest recorded buildings is the Old Chapel built in 1404. This was built as a 'Chapel of Ease' so the residents of the village didn't have to make the walk to Wisborough Green and back each Sunday to attend church. Church Cottage in Station road may have been the original chapel before becoming the curate's house, when a brick built chapel was built in 1820. This was demolished eighty years later when Loxwood Church was opened in 1901.

It's not possible to discuss the history of Loxwood without mentioning the Society of Dependents (also known as Cokelers). They were a small Christian sect founded by Sir John Sirgood in around 1850. The Dependents built their first chapel in Spy Lane and this is still in use today as a religious meeting place, retaining many of the original fixtures and fittings of the time. They were a very industrious group and ran a number of businesses in the village including the Combination Stores which is now the building housing the local butchers and hairdressers in Guildford Road.

Loxwood is now a vibrant, active and thriving community with a number of businesses and a solid network of support and social organisations.

