

Half-time

By Hatters for Hatters

ORANGE



Season 2011-12 No5

Cheltenham Edition



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Thursday 1st December

Venue : Manor Theatre

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Cost : £3

Community Open Day

Saturday 3rd December

Venue : Lea Manor High School

Time : 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Free entry

Santa Run

On your marks, get set, ho ho ho!

A 5km sponsored fun run for all the family!

Wardown Park, Luton
Sunday 11th Dec 2011. 11:00am

Kick start the countdown to Christmas by dressing up as Santa and joining hundreds of others for a fun-run in aid of your local adult and children's hospice. This year we will be joined by one of the stars of the local pantomime...

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For more information visit www.keech.org.uk/santarun or call 01582 707940



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If you prefer NOT to receive this information please tick here: By Post ☐ By Phone ☐ By Email ☐

Event information

Would you consider yourself (please tick): A serious runner ☐ Fun-runner ☐ Walker ☐

Where did you hear about the Santa Run?.....

Why have you chosen to take part in the run?.....

Registration (£15 for adults, children under 15 £5)

☐ I enclose a cheque for £..... (made payable to Keech Hospice Care)

☐ Please debit my credit/debit card to the amount of £.....

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Conditions of entry

I have read and agree to the rules and conditions for the Santa Run 2011*. I understand that I take part in this event at my own risk and that Keech Hospice Care will not be liable for any injury or loss that may occur as a result of my participation other than as a result of Keech Hospice Care's negligence. I confirm that I am 16 years of age or over, or that my parent/guardian has signed below if I am not. I agree that medical advice should be sought from a General Practitioner if I am in any doubt as to my physical ability to participate in the event. I am aware that photographs or video taken during the run may be used to publicise this event and the work of the charity generally.

Signature:..... Date:.....

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Please return your form to: Dean Joy, Events Coordinator, Keech Hospice Care, Great Bramingham Lane, Streatley, LU3 3NT. *Extra forms and rules and conditions available online at www.keech.org.uk/santarun

hatters matters

... a word from the editor

WELL this isn't the way things were supposed to go.

Having come so close to promotion last year the Brabin feel-good factor around Kenilworth Road has certainly dropped off.

The fog of mutiny is again hanging in the air – an atmosphere that has become all too common in recent seasons. Can Brabs find a way to turn it around? I certainly hope so, as after three years in the Conference surely we've paid our dues for the misdemeanours of others.

Today's game will at least give us a real gauge of whether we would be able to step it up to the Football



TIME TO HIT THE GOAL TRAIL: Stuart Fleetwood could do with finding some form

League right away.

The common feeling is there is no real difference between most of the clubs in League Two and those riding high in the Blue Square Bet Premier. So this afternoon's game comes as a welcome distraction

from the league.

Cheltenham may be flying in the league right now, especially away from home, but this is the magic of the FA Cup.

And who knows, Man U away in the next round may change the fortunes of the club entirely.



Life at Luton Town is never dull. So why not send us your views on the Hatters by emailing orange@bedsnews.com

The best messages will be featured in this fanzine or the letters pages of the Luton News/Dunstable Gazette

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 today

 today

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With special thanks to Gareth Owen

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I APOLOGISE for writing an article with effectively no Luton Town content, but the deadline day for penning this piece coincided with the tragic death of Gary Speed which rather overshadowed every Hatters-related thought I'd had in mind to pass on to you.

A few years ago I wrote the biography of a man I had known for 30-plus years, the eccentric, flamboyant rock 'n' roll singer and maverick wannabe politician and founder of the Official Monster Raving Loony Party, Screaming Lord Sutch.

A man seldom out of the media limelight, always ready with a laugh and a joke when interviewed, killed himself by hanging.

I'd been with him just two days earlier. I had seen no indication of what was to come.

Of course, I asked myself what, if anything, I could possibly have done to prevent him doing what he did, but had to admit that the real answer was, sadly, 'nothing at all'.

I interviewed scores of people while I was writing the book.

Everyone who had been a friend of Sutch, and thought they knew him well, professed themselves shocked and astonished.

Those who had been Sutch's loved ones and lived with him were nowhere near as surprised.

They had suspected, sometimes known, of the demons which haunted him, the black clouds of depression which enveloped him when he was on his own.

They had rightly feared the sad end which finally came to pass.

I didn't know Gary Speed. The only thing we shared was a set of initials.

Yet his death affected me for most of the next day and into the one after.

Coincidentally, that next day I was at the presentation for an award I instigated almost a quarter of a century ago, the William Hill Sports Book Of The Year.

The winner of the award was a book by German writer, Ronald



TRAGEDY: Gary Speed

Reng, 'A Life Too Short'.

A book about the suicide of German national goalkeeper, Robert Enke. It is a magnificent, moving work. But it cannot answer the question 'Why?'

Also, over the same weekend the horseracing world was mourning a stable lad whose suicide was reported in the Racing Post.

A week or so before former top cricketer Peter Roebuck took his own life.

It is not, of course, a tragedy peculiar to sport. Depression affects people in all walks of life.

But are sportspeople and those in the public eye perhaps in some way drawn to the ultimate grand gesture, influenced by the language of sport in which a missed kick, a fluffed serve, a botched putt, are reported as tragedies.

When a dropped point, a bungled substitution can be described as 'suicidal errors'.

These ultimately transient, insignificant errors and mistakes are fundamentally trivial.

The death of a human being by his own hand, that's tragic.

Gary Speed, RIP

Hatters chat

HTO bullies a Luton Town player into answering questions from Hatters fans. Why not follow @LutonNews_LTFC on Twitter for the chance to put your own question to next month's victim

> **Q.** Who's your favourite team (other than Luton)?

> *West Ham. Was fortunate enough to be on the bench against them at Upton Park for Cardiff City as a 19-year-old.*

> **Q.** What were your first impressions when you moved to Luton?

> *I was surprised by the enthusiasm of everyone at the club, everyone was so upbeat and hungry for success.*

> **Q.** Who was your favourite player growing up?

> *Paolo Di Canio. For me he is one of the best foreign imports this country has witnessed.*

> **Q.** What's been the most memorable dressing room prank at Luton?

> *When a player put a doughnut in James Dance's jeans and he sat on it whilst he was putting his socks on!*

> **Q.** What's your favourite joke?

> *I'll keep it clean. What do cats eat for breakfast? Mice Krispies!*

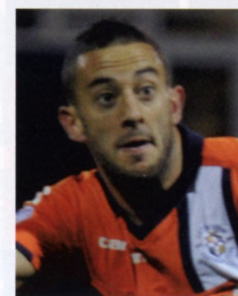
> **Q.** If you weren't a footballer what would you have done?

> *Rugby player. I was pretty good in school and both my brothers played professionally.*

> **Q.** Have you any other goal celebrations planned?

> *I'm still pretty happy with the Elbow Slap but I'm always on the lookout for more stupid or crazy things to do.*

> **Q.** How does BSP compare to League Two?



Stuart Fleetwood

> *There isn't a great deal of difference. With the squad we have at Luton, the step up would not be a big ask.*

> **Q.** If you could have one superpower what would it be?

> *Never miss the target when shooting. If I had that, Luton would be in the Premiership in no*

time!

> **Q.** What are your musical influences?

> *I like my R'n'B and Hip Hop before games but I like a lot of indy and alternative stuff too. Love Ed Sheeran, The Script and Stereophonics.*

> **Q.** What tunes do you listen too before a game?

> *Crowy is in charge of the iPod, he puts on some Garage, Funky House, Hip Hop to get the lads going.*

> **Q.** Is it tough joining a new club when you have to uproot your family on deadline day?

> *It is difficult to make a decision with such little time! You have to put your families needs before your own and hope you make the right choice.*

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| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| 9 pts mark wood  | Town 2 Chelt 1 Does the cup have our name on it this year? Well, no, but the third round is certainly beckoning. | Lincoln 0 Town 1 Far from an easy game despite the fact that the Imps have struggled so far this season. | Town 5 Swindon S 1 It's been a popular result this term and, depending on the team, it could be even more. | Tamworth 1 Town 1 Well, you can't win them all. But a late leveller does ensure that we are still in the mix at the top. |
| 11 pts steve sims  | Town 0 Chelt 1 Huffing and puffing but we go out so we can concentrate on messing up the league campaign! | Lincoln 1 Town 1 A tough one, and Town pay for missed chances as Lincoln equalise late on. | Town 6 Swindon S 0 Two leagues between the sides so I fully expect us to win 1-0... or maybe six. | Tamworth 0 Town 2 Town edge ahead in the first half and that settles the nerves as we secure a solid win. |
| 9 pts mike simmonds  | Town 1 Chelt 3 The Robins have been in fantastic form away from home and it continues. | Lincoln 0 Town 0 Hatters suffer another disappointing evening as the Imps hold on for a stalemate. | Town 4 Swindon S 0 Luton play a mixture of youth and experience and easily get the job done. | Tamworth 0 Town 1 Scene of Richard Money's blow-out last year, this time it's a far happier trip to the Lambs. |
| 7 pts steve nolan  | Town 1 Chelt 2 League Two Cheltenham prove just too strong for the Hatters despite a brave fight. | Lincoln 0 Town 1 A late goal sees the Hatters scrape past strugglers Lincoln at Sincil Bank as winter begins. | Town 3 Swindon S 0 Who? Brabs gives the kids a run out and they deliver in this simple Trophy triumph. | Tamworth 1 Town 1 A lacklustre second half display sees Luton lose an away lead for the umpteenth time. |

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Tom's take

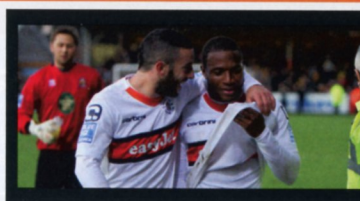


Tom Skinner gives his thoughts on the latest Hatters news

CAMBRIDGE away was a day that involved a lot of frustrating waiting.

Waiting for about 30 minutes as my friend queued to get a burger (they had to round up some cows from Coldham's Common I think), waiting for an hour in traffic to get away from the ground after the game (the best academic brains at Cambridge's colleges would struggle to work out how an attendance of under 5,000 could grind the city to a halt) and then (perhaps worst of all) a further 10 minute wait for a post match pint!

That's without mentioning the exas-



MUCH TO BE HAPPY ABOUT? Fleets and Azza at Cambridge

perating delay it took for substitutions to be made.

Kovacs and Pilks were warriors in defence, but with a tiring midfield, a lack of physical presence to hold on to the ball up top and strikers having run themselves into the ground, we were coming under increasing pressure towards the end.

The equaliser was so inevitable, so predict-

able.

Change was needed, but when Ryan Brunt finally trotted up to the touchline, the ball was simultaneously being hammered into our net.

Cambridge's celebration wasn't a goading one like Fleetwood Town's at the Kenny, yet it did seem slightly over the top for Jez George to run on to the pitch.

Give him a beige

suit and shoes and he could earn a bit on the side for doing David Pleat impressions.

Other teams just seem to find this Conference lark so much easier than us.

Seventh position is simply not good enough and presuming the plan from day one of pre-season was to go up as champions, we are falling a long way short.

Tough game today, but a chance to get in the third round draw.

I won't shed any tears if we avoid Man City - after the game against Fleetwood Town I've had enough of watching classless, diving mercenaries...

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LU6 1JF 16 1012 Promos Luton 001

What a beauty!

VITAL STATISTICS

Full name: Nakisha Esnard

Age: 24

Occupation: Musician

Attached? Yes

Been a supporter since: I
knew what a football was
(age 7)

Best looking Hatter:

James Dance (yum)

Most valuable player:

Keith Keane, he's really
versatile

Ideal night out: Being any-
where with my mates

Favourite TV shows: Mas-
terchef, Misfits, Phoneshop

If you'd like to put yourself, or a mate,
forward for this feature then don't be shy
send an email to orange@bedsnews.com

Nakisha



If Half-time Orange's Steve Nolan was in charge of the team, this is what he'd do.



READING Twitter reactions after last Saturday's last-gasp win at lowly Newport anyone would have thought we'd just won the league.

A win's a win and all, but by all accounts the performance wasn't up to scratch and I can't help but feel but for some good work from James Dance, the 'work experience' lad Brunt and scorer Danny Crow, a few Tweeters might have been calling for bossman Brabin's head rather than waxing lyrical about an 'epic' win.

It's a funny old game as they say – but as long as that result (and hopefully a win against Telford – I write before that game) kickstarts a better run then I'll stop my whinging.

It seems that Brabin is attempting to break the world record for the biggest football

squad ever assembled so it's quite tough to narrow it down to a starting XI! Howells returns to left-back with new boy Taylor cup-tied, and Keano back to play on the right of the defence. Kovacs was excellent at Newport and would sit alongside George Pilkington in the middle.

I'm confused by the reluctance to give Watkins more than five minutes and Lawless hasn't been at his best since coming back. Dance has really come into his own lately and is on the right.

Azza has really looked the part after a slow start and seems to be proving those who doubted the value of his signing (myself included) wrong, so he'd start and, although Crow's late goal would have boosted his confidence, Fleetwood has shown flashes of the player he looked in his first couple of games.

Steve's line-up for today



SUBS: Tyler, Lawless, Brunt, Osano, Crow



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Specialising in exceptional value high quality products, the variety store with a difference has Christmas covered, with gifts for him or her, unique children's toys, funky contemporary decorations, seasonal cards and wrapping paper. Goodies available in store now include giant heart shaped baubles, for £2 each, horse shaped tree decorations for just £1, gift stockings, £2 each, stylish rotating photo frames for £5, along with funky reindeer ears and a quirky Christmas tree shaped hat, £2 each.

A must for browsers on a budget, this Danish originated Scandi-chic retail chain store specialises in homewares, toys, accessories, toiletries and stationery. Tiger's mission is to provide customers with stylish products in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. The enterprising retailer believe in keeping price points simple, so everything in store carries a £1 - £30 ticket, with the majority of the merchandise in the £2 to £4 price bracket. What's more, shoppers are sure to find something unique in store. Ninety percent of Tiger's merchandise is own branded, and the retailer constantly updates their stock, bringing in new, similar lines as popular products sell out.

So why not pop in to Tiger this Christmas, and check out what they have to offer?

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From the Kenny End



With Pety Staniforth

IT'S funny what the FA Cup draw can bring you.

When the first round cup draw came up, I wondered who we'd get. I must admit, I've not felt the same about the FA Cup since we had our problems with the FA themselves.

It's hard to get enthusiastic over their cup, when you know how much they hate us. But the draw threw me personally, a very amusing set of circumstances.

It afforded me the opportunity to have something I'd not had for years, which

was our Luton versus my best friend's favourite team, Northampton.

Leading up to the game you'd not really have realised, as the expected banter was at a muted level.

I guess, deep down, both of us were quite gutted that one of our teams would have to go out of the cup.

On the day of the game, things had picked up, and we were back to our usual selves. But there was no way I'd have ever lived it down, bearing in mind a few of my wrestlers

that I book on my shows are Northamptonshire based, and how loudly I preach the gospel of our Hatters.

So you'll imagine, I was nervous. My usual pre-match hug ritual right before kick off, with Happy Harry, eased that somewhat – and Adam Watkins' superb winning goal made everything a whole lot better.

But the icing on the cake for me was the ITV television highlights, where myself, my girlfriend Abby, and my children were seen very

clearly celebrating!

It's just another reason I love my front row seats behind the goal, which I wouldn't swap for any other seat in the ground.

So, today, as you read this, we're playing against Cheltenham in round two of the FA Cup. Here's hoping for another great win, and to pull the kind of draw in the third round that we want... Watford or MK Dons?

That'll do me just fine!

Take it easy,
Pety

A Diverse view



Steve Moore at Diverse FM has his say on all things Hatters

MARK Roberts, Mark Creighton, Ismail Yakubu, Richard Brodie...

Ugly players that do nothing but man-handle, frustrate, foul, and create ugly football that kills any game as a spectacle. That is what they have in common.

Know what else they have in common? They have all beaten Luton and won promotion.

Number of ex-Luton players to win promotion out of the Conference in the same period?

None, zero, clean sheet... cue Family

Fortunes' NA-NA sound.

I have come to the conclusion that there has to be some kind of correlation here, there is no coincidence.

Example, I do not remember us scoring with a set-piece header since Beckwith and Antwi were at centre-half.

Put quite simply, we are not dirty and physical enough to win these battles and create chances from the set-pieces we have and make no mistake we usually have a shed-load of corners.

Sure, I would rather watch quality passing football triumph over that style in the way we always have at the Town, but the quality of players you need in order for that triumph to occur at this level are simply not going to drop down to this level.

Example, Kisson, possibly the most skilful player in the league, leaves Southport who got relegated with him.

Without him, they are now third... THIRD!

There is a problem we have.... Luton

managers are scared to follow this pattern because they know there is a large section of this crowd brought up on the likes of Preece and Hill that will not accept it.

Every manager makes a big play of making sure we know that the beautiful passing style will stay.

Just once, I want someone to channel the late Oakland Raiders NFL overload Al Davis, admit style does not matter, and say "JUST WIN BABY!"

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From beyond these shores

Roger Wash goes globetrotting to feature players born across the world who found their way to Hatters



Raddy Antic. Yugoslavia:

When Raddy Antic joined the Hatters in the summer of 1980, the first of manager David Pleat's forays into the foreign transfer market, he instantly brought to Kenilworth Road an accumulated international experience unmatched by any of his colleagues.

Antic had played in his native Yugoslavia for Partizan Belgrade, in Turkey for Fenerbahce and in Spain for Zaragoza, picking up five Yugoslav caps along the way.

A sweeper in the truest sense of the word, Antic had exceptional technical skills and passing ability as well as a powerful shot.

Unfortunately, Pleat rarely played a sweeper system so Antic had to fight for his place in midfield where the Hatters had an abundance of riches at the time.

He therefore spent most of his time

at Kenilworth Road on the bench, where his experience and versatility could be used most effectively as substitute.

It was on one of these substitute appearances that he earned permanent hero status with Luton fans.

In May 1983, the Town travelled to Manchester City for a relegation dogfight.

Luton needed to win to stay up while City only required one point.

With only five minutes left the game remained scoreless but then up popped recently introduced sub Antic to volley home what proved to be the only goal.

Antic retired from playing 12 months later but will always be remembered as the man who made it possible for David Pleat to set off on his famous jig across the Maine Road pitch!

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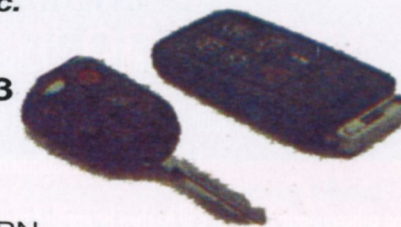
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THE LUTON WAR MEMORIAL FUND

The Luton War Memorial Fund is a charity established to offer financial assistance to ex-servicemen and women, their widows/widowers and dependants who are resident in the Luton area.

Funds are available to any person in need who falls into that category.

Information and application forms are available from:- Ann Loeffler, Democratic Services, Chief Executive's Department, Town Hall, Luton, Beds, LU1 2BQ. Tel: 01582 546033 Email: ann.loeffler@luton.gov.uk

The War Memorial Fund is also financing, for a 3 month trial period, a free bus service from certain local areas to (and return from) the Leagrave and Limbury Royal British Legion Club in Marsh Road, Luton, twice per month on Friday evenings.

This service is limited to club members (both ex-service and non-ex-service) and their partners and official guests, and is intended to facilitate visits to the club and socialising when other means of transport are not available. The service allows a period of 3 hours in the Club if the return service is to be used. Changes may be made to the initial bus schedules in the light of experience and feed-back from members.

Dates for the service are Friday 21 October, 11 and 25 November, 9 and 23 December 2011

Planned bus routes and timings are shown on notice boards in the Club.

INTERESTED BUT NOT YET A MEMBER?

Did you know you do NOT have to be an ex-member of the Armed Forces to join the Royal British Legion and the Leagrave and Limbury Club?

All persons over 18 years of age are eligible to join - for an application form just call in at the Club any day Monday to Sunday between noon and 11 pm or email your address to rbl.secretary@btconnect.com or write to us requesting a form at RBL Club, 114 Marsh Road, Leagrave, Luton LU3 2NL.

OPEN EVENINGS - TRY IT FOR YOURSELF

FRIDAYS OCT 21st, NOV 11th and 25th, DEC 9th and 23rd

On these days only, any adult (18 and over) MEMBER OR NOT, can visit the club during the day, or for the evening to try out the facilities and entertainment. Just turn up and you will be made welcome!

If you subsequently join you will be then be entitled to use the free bus service - which will continue in 2012 if the trial is successful.

from the allotments

...with 'orrible 'ornet Don Monty



AH, the FA Cup. The stuff of legends and dreams.

The memories trip off the tongue. Ronnie Radford (if you don't know who he is ask your dad). Keith Houchen of Sutton United. The Crazy Gang beating the Culture Club (copyright Motty).

And then there was 1984 - the most famous FA Cup year of all (well for some of us).

The year the Glory Horns made it to their natural second home, Wembley, and the cup final.

But it could have gone so wrong so



early. Half an hour gone in the third round and we were 2-0 down.

And not just 2-0 down, but losing at the Kenilworth Road.

You probably thought you were already on the road to Wembley. So did we. But Taylor's army fought back to 2-2 and it was a replay three days later at the Vic.

Yes, three days

REVENGE:
In 1985
Wayne
Turner's
goal knocked
Watford out

later - it wasn't that tricky to arrange a replay back then was it?

We enjoyed a classic under the famous floodlights.

This time we were two goals up, at 3-1, only for a Hatters team of Mal Donaghy and Paul Walsh and co to drag it back to 3-3.

Then up stepped mighty Mo, Mo Johnston, and headed home for 4-3.

We were through. I won't bore you with the rest of the epic run but to the final we marched.

And there, we were robbed. By a certain Mr Gray of Everton. Mr Andy Gray of TV commentary fame and infamy. We still haven't forgiven him for that foul on our keeper (well done Andy - Ed).

Still, that means we still have something to aim for. An FA Cup win. And then we may finally, possibly, stop you going on about the Littlewoods Cup. But somehow I doubt it.



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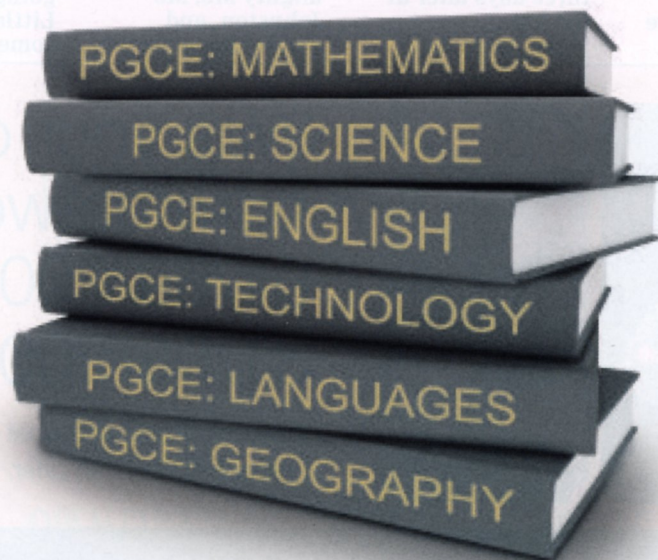


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Cost : £3

Luton Youth Jazz Orchestra

Thursday 1st December

Venue : Manor Theatre

Time : 7 p.m.

Cost : £3

Community Open Day

Saturday 3rd December


Venue : Lea Manor High School

Time : 11 a.m. - 2 p.m

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