

# A venue that's for everyone

**W**HEN the phrase Town Hall is mentioned, the image that would instantly spring to mind is politics, Council meetings and the Mayor.

But Loughborough Town Hall, owned by Charnwood Borough Council, is far from the archetypal town hall seen across the country.

While it does host Council meetings and is home to the Mayor of Charnwood's parlour, it has so much more to offer people of all ages.

It is a thriving theatre which stages some wonderful drama, family performances, comedy shows and a successful pantomime.

It is a busy restaurant where shoppers can pop in for relaxing refreshments and a chat with friends.

It is a location for weddings, exhibitions, religious festivals, fairs, parties and corporate events with four fantastic rooms that can cater for small meetings of five people to large-scale conferences for 500.

It is an art gallery with some wonderful pieces created by students from Loughborough College of Art and Design adorning the walls.

It is, in fact a major entertainment venue for everyone - and is among the best in the East Midlands.

Loughborough-based amateur dramatics group ESNA performed their version of The Who's Tommy, the Musical, at the Town Hall in April this year.

Linda Moulton, the vice-chairman of the group, said: "Every performance venue is different, some are small and intimate, others are large and daunting.

"Loughborough Town Hall gives the ESNA Players both; large enough to produce an excellent atmosphere but small enough for the audience to feel 'up close and personal' to the



performers.

"Added to this are the superb technical staff and the added advantage of great facilities and real comfort for both the audience and the cast.

"Loughborough Town Hall delivers for ESNA on all fronts."

Nick and Naomi Light celebrated their wedding at the



Town Hall and said: "Our experience of the Town Hall was exceptional.

"They made us feel that our day was special right from the word go. The day went perfectly with everything in place as agreed.

"The staff were delightful along with the delicious food.

Thank you so much for making our day that bit more special!" This month, thousands of people, both young and old, will flock to the Town Hall for the spectacular pantomime Aladdin.

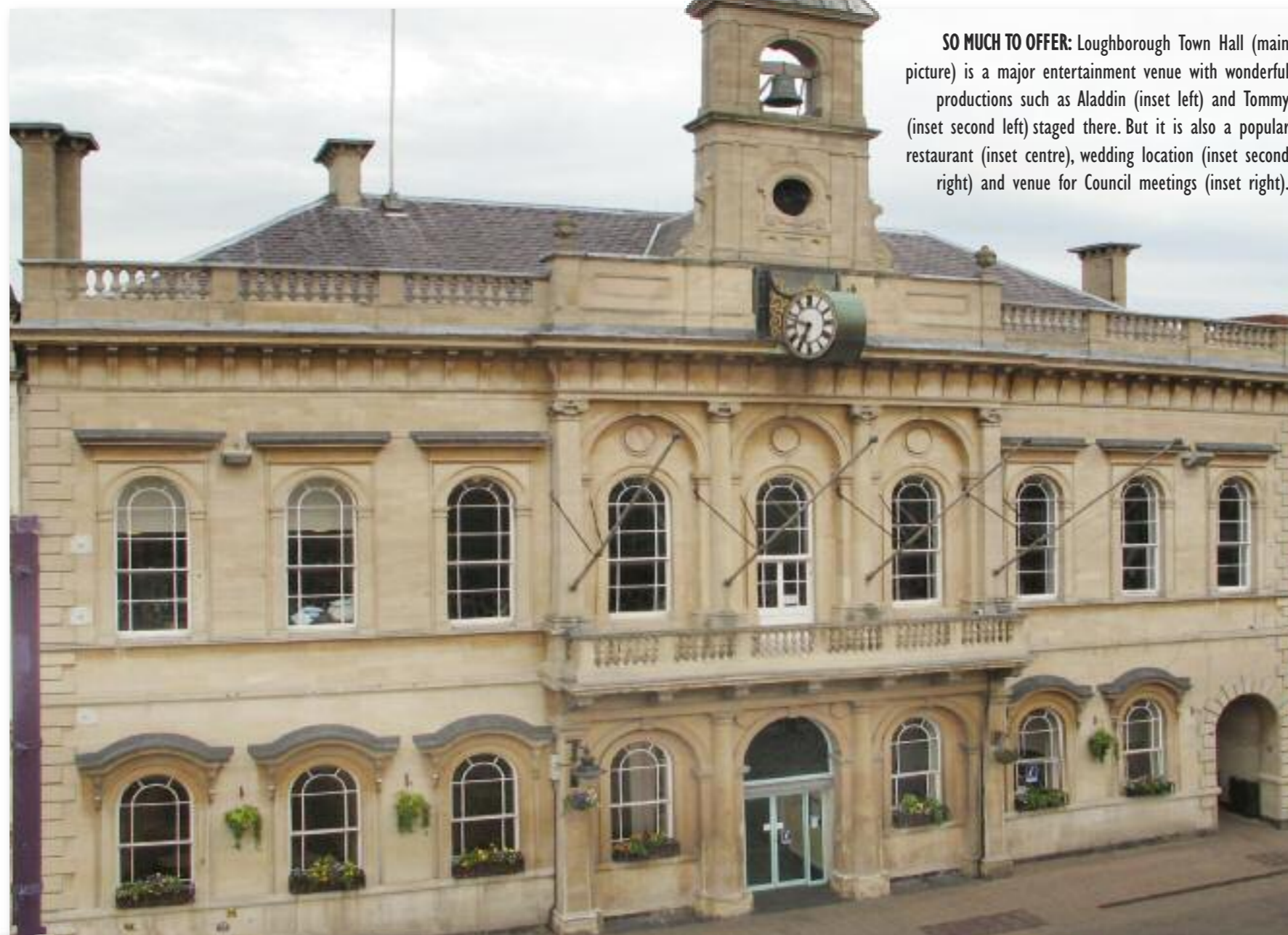
BBC Radio Leicester's irrepressible Martin Ballard, returns to play the hilarious Widow Twankey with

performances being shown until Sunday, January 11th.

Aladdin is produced by Wish Theatre, responsible for last year's smash hit Sleeping Beauty, and it is a truly magical adventure!

Cllr Peter Lewis, Charnwood Borough Council's Cabinet member for Leisure, believes

**SO MUCH TO OFFER:** Loughborough Town Hall (main picture) is a major entertainment venue with wonderful productions such as Aladdin (inset left) and Tommy (inset second left) staged there. But it is also a popular restaurant (inset centre), wedding location (inset second right) and venue for Council meetings (inset right).



## Did you know?

- The building was opened in 1855. It was primarily used for entertainment and as a corn exchange but it also housed a magistrates court, a library and reading room.
- The clock was donated by George Farnham in 1879.
- A fire caused by an electrical fault during reconstruction work almost destroyed the building in 1972.
- Last year 376,000 people came in through the front doors
- The venue hosts 228 main stage performances each year, of which 60 are the annual pantomime.
- The venue also hosts Diwali, Navatri and the Chinese New Year ceremonies.
- 65,500 people attended performances in 2007-08 while 8,900 school children came to see the pantomime.
- Last year, the venue served over 35,000 cups of tea from the cafe.

Our Town Hall is obviously more than just a theatre - it offers entertainment for all in the broadest sense of that word

- Cllr Peter Lewis, Charnwood Borough Council's Cabinet member for Leisure

would seem totally derogatory - of the highest performing standards which fill the auditorium.

"We have national companies and performers that you would pay five times as much to see at the West End or Edinburgh Festival. And our panto is simply the tops year after year!"

"For the people of Loughborough and Charnwood this is now one of our most popular venues. Long may it remain so - with your support."

To find out more about what Loughborough Town Hall has to offer, and book tickets for Aladdin, log on to [www.loughboroughtownhall.co.uk](http://www.loughboroughtownhall.co.uk) or call (01509) 231 914.

