

If you have heard of “loom bands” you probably have children, grandchildren, or other young relatives around you. Up until recently the whole craze, for that is what it is now, had passed me by. Then two young girls from Aylesford village set to work one evening to make me a loom band bracelet and I promised in return I’d wear it all week in Parliament, completely unaware of the worldwide trend I was now part of.

It hit me how popular the band was when I knocked on a door while out canvassing on Saturday and a gentleman, who I am too polite to age, expressed interest in my bracelet and declared he had loads because his granddaughter made them for him. Later the same day I went to a shop and the assistant commented on my band and told me that a dress made of rubber loops was on sale on ebay for £170,000; the world has gone loom band mad!

Is this craze for multi-coloured bands a passing playground phase or could they be around for a lot longer than a few terms? Who cares? The truth is I love it that young children are doing something creative rather than eyeballing a flickering screen all day. When I was a young’un we didn’t have the technology that infiltrates the lives of youngsters today. We just played marbles, plus cricket, football, pop 123, war and swapped stickers. We had to create our entertainment rather than press a button and wait to be entertained.

Boys and girls have gone loom-mental, giving their tiny brains a few minutes breathing space from electronic equipment. Surely this can’t be anything but a good thing and long may it continue. In the meantime I am treasuring my multi-coloured loom bracelet, wearing it around parliament with the same amount of pride that the two little girls displayed when they gave it to me.