

# THE BULLETIN



Harold Wood, Hill, Park Residents' Association









Cllr Martin Goode 01708 373645



Olfr Darren Wise 01708 342369



### LOOKING AFTER OUR COMMUNITY February 2021

#### **Happy New Year**

Whilst we would like to wish you a happy new year and we unfortunately find ourselves locked down yet again due to the Coronavirus. During the latest lockdown we will be unable to deliver the **Bulletin** to our local residents until restrictions are lifted due to COVID 19. If you can forward this **Bulletin** on to anyone who is self-isolating or within your network as we want to provide the latest news to them in anyway we can. Thank You

#### **Boundary Changes**

The Local Government Boundary commission has proposed changes to electoral wards within Havering. These changes include redrawing boundary maps and increasing the number of councillors from 54 to 55. Further details of the changes can be found at the link below and all comments need to be received by 8th March 2021.

https://www.lgbce.org.uk/allreviews/greater-london/greaterlondon/havering

#### **Bulletin Mailing List**

Join our **Bulletin** Mailing List If you would like to receive an online version of the **Bulletin** direct to your email address, then please go to our website at hwhpra.org.uk and subscribe to this by putting your details in. You will then receive an email asking you to confirm your subscription. Once you do this then you should receive a welcome email.

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#### **Missed Rubbish Collections**

We were only too pleased to help the residents who contacted us regarding non collection of their rubbish sacks over the Christmas period. We managed to resolve these complaints within a couple of days.

#### Zebra Crossing - Kings Park

We have been campaigning for many years to have a zebra crossing installed at the wide junction of the old Hospital site at St Clements Avenue and we have now been informed that work should start very soon and the finance for this project is coming out of the 106 money that the developer has to pay towards infrastructure within our area.

#### **Testing options**

Testing helps find out who has been infected with COVID-19 and to take the right action to prevent further spread of infection.

It is still vitally important to book a test if you have COVID-19 symptoms.

Rapid 30 minute COVID-19 tests are also available for people without symptoms who can't work from home.

Book twice-weekly rapid tests to help keep everyone safe. You can also walk in without booking, but please be prepared to wait.



Click for details of all testing locations and opening hours.

Covid 19 testing | The London Borough Of Havering





#### **Yoga Time**

A Fine Balance yoga studio in Upminster has moved their classes online: livestreaming 24+ yoga and meditation classes every week. Their goal is to help you feel better and access the benefits of exercise from the safety of your home.

A Fine Balance has had to close its physical yoga studio for most of the past year. They have done all they can to keep supporting their community during these challenging times. The livestreamed yoga services can reach and support so many more people - much further than the geographical constraints of the physical studio.

If you are looking to get some balance in your life, why not sign up to one of their many public classes or even get your business involved to support your colleagues. They also offer free sessions to those struggling financially that need wellbeing support. www.afinebalance.me



#### Thank you

I would like to thank Cllr Wise for helping me on a private matter with one of the Council Departments. I was so pleased and delighted to learn that the matter had been satisfactory resolved.

Ms Carol

#### Thank you

A council tenant contacted me as his hot water and central heating had broken down and he was finding it very difficult to get this problem resolved. I was so happy to be able to help him resolve this matter especially during this cold spell and of course the tenant was delighted that I could help him.

Cllr. Brian Eagling

#### **History Corner**

For years I have enjoyed Dennis

Goodwin's reminiscences of past

times in Harold Wood and I thought I'd like to share some of my own Ron and I moved to Briars Walk as newlyweds in 1964 and I'm still here. However, this wasn't my families' first experience of Harold Wood. My father, born 1899, was 12 years old when his father died of Appendicitus and being a Railway employee, The Company stepped in with assistance to the family by immediately employing my Dad and his older brother, and the two middle daughters went to the Railway Orphanage in Derby (an unhappy episode in their lives). The oldest girl was already at work and the 18 month old baby stayed with her Mother. As an aside, my Grandmother found employment as the lunchtime cook for Mr. Inde and Mr. Coope at the Brewery. So, what's the connection with Harold Wood? Well, Dad came to work in the Booking Office then sited off Oak Road and on Platform 1. It was fronted by the station yard with an old timber yard at the entrance. Dad told yarns of his early employment. Harold Wood was a rural area and farmers could hire sacks from the booking office for One (old) penny to transport their grain by rail. When they came back with empty sacks they got their penny back. This was one of Dad's first jobs - you can imagine some of the banter and challenges that 12 year old got from the farmers! The cottages at the bottom of Fitzillian Avenue were built for the Plate Layers who had to attend the often unstable banks (in wet weather) of the line between Harold Wood and Brentwood. They could be called out at any time, day or night to carry out repairs. The big houses in Fitzillian and Athelstan Road were for "for the first class passengers".

My own memories of Harold Wood go back to the Sixties – my!! what changes; the shops, the coal yard, the old Matthew's houses, the characters – more yarns, I could go on.... perhaps another time.

Di Hart



# SHORT POEM WRITTEN WHILE CONFINED TO MY BEDROOM

Through bedroom window I do gaze

At what was once a hill of green Where shepherds brought their sheep to graze
But now provides a different scene.

For in the past this isle of England Gave sustenance to all and sundry

By farming land and sheep and cattle

Now gives way to things o' metal.

Unceasing now upon the road Are big cars, small cars, lorries, vans

Which carry still their varied load Wither they need to suit their plans.

Alas, Alas, dear Havering With houses, homes and flats you fill

All greens and woods where birds did sing What have you done to Shepherds Hill?

#### **Tony Galcius**

#### **SCAM ALERT**

We have been notified this week of a scam involving people receiving phone calls from people claiming to be "from the Council".

These scammers target elderly residents and say that their electrical appliances need to be checked. There is no such Havering Council campaign.

These reports follow recent examples of fraudsters trying to convince people to pay for COVID-19 tests or vaccines. There is no charge for either and the NHS will never ask you for bank information before booking a test or a jab.

#### Kings Park

A resident has contacted me with regards to the 2 lighting bollards at the traffic Island/crossing island at the junction of St Clements Ave and Gubbins Lane. The bollards are unsecure and keeps getting knocked over. I have logged this matter with the Council and a works order has been raised.

Cllr Darren Wise



#### FEBRUARY 2021 UPDATE from the Men's Lunch Team at St. Peter's Church, Harold Wood.

Although 2021 has not begun in the happiest of situations, the Men's Lunch Team still wish you a Happy and Safe New Year.

I write this just after another Nationwide lockdown has started, and you don't need me to tell you, that means still no Men's Lunch Events yet! However we continue to trust our good God and thank Him for the medics & scientists who have created - in amazing record time - the vaccines that are giving us hope & encouragement for the return of normality later this year. Please don't hold your breath, but this could mean we might be able to resume lunch events later in 2021(?).

We will continue to keep everyone updated.

St. Peter's staff members are still very much available if you need to contact them -01708 342080 or email: welcome.desk@stpetersharoldwood.org.

For information: During this current National lockdown, St. Peter's continues to livestream a Sunday service at 10:30am on its YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/c/StPetersChurchHaroldWood/videos

Julian Harris, Chris Knowles and all the Men's Lunch Team.

#### A MINE OF INFORMATION

Having a reasonable memory is a two-edged sword. It means I'm frustratingly aware of the things I no longer can do. Life doesn't hold many surprises; I've seen it all before. I've decided there are few new jokes, film plots or anecdotes. I suppose it's more fun if one's memory is shot, then old experiences appear as bright new ideas. The trouble is one can't choose what to remember. I can spend all day trying to recall some name or event, yet I find myself constantly humming tunes I didn't know I knew and didn't even like the first time around. Remembering things is fine, as long as one remembers them accurately. Recently, I spoke to a gentleman standing at his front gate in Oak Rd. He mentioned a piece I'd written in The Bulletin about the German who lived next door when we came in 1953. I told him how interesting Otto Seefels was and how he told me of the time during the war he got a demand from the council to trim a large tree in his front garden with branches that overhung Squirrels Heath Rd as it was deemed a danger to the 247A buses that ran past to Brentwood.

He ignored the letter and eventually the council threatened to do the job and bill Mr. Seefels. He arranged to do the job the following day. In the middle of the night he thought the council were coming for him by the banging on the door. Outside, swinging from the offending branch was an unexploded parachute mine dangling just above the pavement! They were evacuated and a naval bomb squad squatted in Brinsmead Rd while a brave specialist sailor defused the mechanism, whispering the steps he was taking by phone to the team in case it all went wrong. If the parachute hadn't been caught by the tree, the Seefels would have been wiped out, he wouldn't have sold the adjoining land and I would never have come to Harold Wood. I had great difficulty in verifying the story, but today on the internet I came across a mention of the incident. There are few alive that can accurately recall those days, so I make no excuse for repeating the story in print.

Dennis Goodwin

#### **Another Satisfied Resident**

I received a complaint from a resident in Gubbins Lane that his crossover had sunk and was becoming potentially dangerous for both his car and also pedestrians walking by. I did a site visit and saw for myself the problem so I immediately contacted the appropriate department of the Council and this matter was dealt with within a couple of days. The resident and myself were very pleased with the outcome.

#### Cllr. Brian Eagling

**Havering Antique & Collectors Club** look forward to meeting all our members again as soon as Government regulations permit. We hope you are all keeping well and being offered your vaccinations. If any members know of a Speaker on the circuit re: Antiques / Vintage the Chairman, Mrs Chris Lovett Mob.07947 367258 would be pleased to hear from you."

#### The New Plaza – Harold Wood Station

Work has now restarted to complete the New Plaza at Harold Wood Station in the car Park so when you are out for a walk why don't you go and have a look as we were delighted that TFL have had money from the Government to finish this project. This has been an eyesore in our area for many years so we are now looking forward to its completion

#### Cllr Brian Eagling **Dog Walkers**

Please be reminded that when walking your dog along residential streets or in the parks. Please ensure you clear up properly after your dog and place any dog mess in an appropriate bag and dispose of it correctly. There are specific Dog litter bin's available in the parks. However, if your dog fouls the pavement or grass verges in a residential street, then please bag it and take it home with you to dispose of it. Please refrain from using any private residential's bin to dispose of it, or leave the bag on the grass verge

Cllr. Martin Goode



#### Graffiti

We have reported to the Council, concerns regarding the unsightly amount of Graffiti that has appeared along the area of the A12 Colchester Road, Harold Wood, mainly by the bus stop and along the public walkway, on the walls and fences. Havering's Street Care department, have been advised and asked to arrange for all of this graffiti to be washed off and cleaned up.



Cllr. Martin Goode

#### Long COVID

If you have suffered from COVID and are suffering from lack of smell and taste which is one of the symptoms of Long Covid, I would be keen to understand the impact of this locally in our ward. I am still suffering having had COVID over xmas and I am experiencing these symptoms as well. Please send an email to <a href="mailto:haroldwood@hwhpra.org.uk">haroldwood@hwhpra.org.uk</a> as I think there should be more guidance and support from the Government on this.

Cllr Darren Wise

#### **BEWARE of Thieves**

There has recently been an increase of burglaries, where intruders have been breaking into parked vehicles very late at night through to the early hours of the morning (normally between midnight to 3am) Please make sure that your car is locked, and please do not leave valuable items on show. Also consider investing in a Steering lock which will help to prevent vehicles from being stolen.

#### **Sincere Thanks**

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the NHS staff at Victoria Hospital, Romford, for the way in which they have organised the Vaccine Programme. They are doing a wonderful job under difficult circumstances.

#### **Harold Wood resident**

Mrs Marjorie Law

#### **Bulletin Advertisements**

The companies that are advertised in our **Bulletin** are so important to us and without their continued support, it would be impossible for us to continue issuing the **Bulletin**. Therefore, please ensure that you mention that you saw their advert in the Harold Wood **Bulletin**, when contacting them for either an enquiry or to use their services.

#### Why not advertise your business in our Bulletin.

We deliver the **Bulletin** to over 6,300 residential homes every month, as well as providing a copy on our website.

For full details of our distribution and advertising rates please contact Martin on 07747 841493 or email us at <a href="mailto:haroldwood@hwhpra.org.uk">haroldwood@hwhpra.org.uk</a>

### The Havering Together crowdfunding programme returns!

# Deadline to pitch your project to the Innovation Fund for the Spring round: 25th March 2021

2020 might not have been what we had hoped for, but if the pandemic has highlighted anything, it's the power of communities coming together to achieve amazing things in the face of adversity. Havering Together is returning this Spring for a second round to help our communities bounce back, reconnect and thrive. Pledges of **up to £5,000** are available from the council for projects that show innovation, imagination and lots of support from the local community. If you have an idea for a project that needs funds to get started, we want to hear from you!

#### **REGISTER FOR WORKSHOP MIDDAY ON 11 FEBRUARY**

#### **CLICK HERE TO TELL US ABOUT YOUR PROJECT**

Share your project idea with us today (even if it is just a seedling of an idea) so we can starting giving you the guidance you need to create a successful crowdfunding campaign and get you ready for the pitch deadline on 25th March.

Whether this is your first time creating a project or you're a seasoned community organiser, our online workshop on 11 February at midday will be an opportunity to learn everything you need to know in order to create and run a successful crowdfunding campaign.

From gardening to gaming, Havering Council is keen to see all kinds of community projects - those that support good physical and mental health, celebrate the arts and help the environment.

Get in touch - we love hearing from you! <a href="mailto:support@spacehive.com">support@spacehive.com</a>

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