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## LOOKING AFTER OUR COMMUNITY

APRIL 22

### 2022/23 Council Tax Budget Update

The Council tax for 2022/23 was set at 2.99% at the budget setting meeting held in March. No other groups offered an alternative budget but Harold Wood Councillors submitted an amendment to reduce Special Responsibility Allowances by £77,000 per year (approx. 15%) across the board. This would generate over £300,000 in the next 4 years. This was the only valid amendment that could be enacted with immediate effect, whereas other amendments could not. This motion was successfully approved, and the additional monies raised will be invested in front line services such as street cleaning. We submitted this motion as a result of the Council Leader recently adding 2 cabinet positions which we were not in agreement with especially as the Council is looking to make redundancies..



**EAGLING, GOODE, AND WISE**

### St Peter's Flower and Craft Festival 2022

We are holding our Community Craft and Flower Festival on Bank Holiday Monday, 2nd May between 10am and 4pm. There will be Free Entry, Flower displays, Plant sales, Craft stalls, Craft taster sessions and Light refreshments. We are supporting Guide Dogs for the Blind as our charity this year. All welcome.

### Propaganda Time

Many of you will see propaganda leaflets being distributed this month and in recent months to try and discredit the work that we have done in the community over the last 4 years. Residents know this is election time as that is when other parties pop up and claim for something they have not been involved with and are critical of others. As your local residents' association, we remain loyal to our residents and we always put Harold Wood, Hill, Park first and foremost on the map. Please don't forget that in the coming weeks.

CLLRS BRIAN EAGLING, MARTIN  
GOODE AND DARREN WISE

### X-FACTOR

With this issue dominated by local elections, the most popular letter of the month is undoubtedly "X"

Mathematically, X is the unknown quantity, so it's important to put ones "X" on the voting form in the box for the candidate who best represents your district.

I suppose I first became aware of X as it stood for a kiss on birthday cards, which I preferred to actual kisses from my aunt, with her wet kisses and her tickly moustache.

At school X usually meant "times" when it came to numbers and later when we did areas, it stood for "BY" as in 4 x 2 meaning 8 square units. This was OK until a neighbour sent me to the wood yard for a length of 4 x 2, which confused me!

Once in the playground, I found a crude drawing of a map of Epping Forest showing an X on the spot under a tree where treasure was hidden, unfortunately, with over 50,000 trees in the forest, X lived up to its title as an unknown quantity.

In the early days of algebra, I got my share of X's when they appeared in my homework, reminding me they still stood for the unknown quantity. After 80 years, I still go on about a teacher who marked an essay of mine with a massive "X" through it. It was an original work about a strutting little character with a silly moustache and an equally silly walk, based on Charlie Chaplin with the twist when it turned out to be Hitler. I was accused of plagiarism, a word I'd never heard of.

X also represents the horizontal axis on graphs and is said to stretch to infinity.

With the female having a pair of X chromosomes and we males merely having one, I suppose once again it shows the importance of the letter X.

Apparently, passport officials marked a big X on the passports of those with an ambiguous gender suggesting another unknown quantity.

Because he didn't know what the rays were when he



discovered them, Rontgen named them X-rays.

For once, X is not an unknown quantity when a strike is marked on the score sheet in 10-pin bowling and it definitely equals 10 in Roman numerals, which is hardly unknown.

To end on a positive note, going back to X representing a big kiss, I'm sure the winning Ratepayer candidates will bestow an X on all those who voted them into office!

DENNIS GOODWIN

### Harold Wood Neighbourhood Centre – Diary Dates

SAT 30TH APRIL - BLUE MANTIS (BAND)

SAT 7TH MAY - JULIE MAY JACKSON  
(SINGER)

SAT 14TH MAY - CHARLOTTE LEONARD  
(VOCALIST)

SAT 21ST MAY - WORDS & MUSIC DUO

SAT 28TH MAY - MIND THE GAP (BAND)

### A Great Community Effort



We were only too pleased to attend the ceremony of the planting of the silver birch tree in memory of Josie Smith who was born and bred in Harold Wood but was tragically taken from her family in a devastating house fire last October.

The money was raised for the tree, plaque and bird feeder tables by Monica Puncheon, who attended the ceremony along with Josie's family and friends. The Councillors worked to get permission for the siting of the tree which has been planted outside of Harold Wood Library and nearly opposite to where Josie lived.

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# FLASHBACK,

## some reminders of the last 4 years



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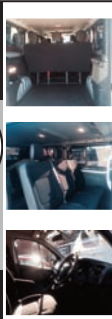
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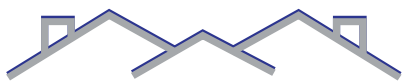
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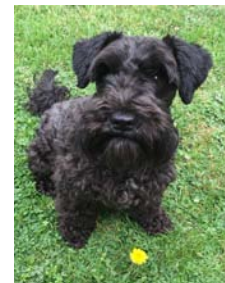
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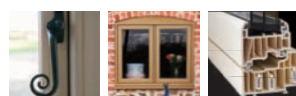
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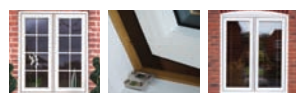


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