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June 2023

We are not part of the HRA / Labour administration

NEWSFLASH - Array Update

The council has informed us that they have received a compromise offer from the licensee's legal representative accepting nearly all of the conditions laid down by the council licensing committee apart from the closing times sun to thursday. Details of the offer and many other answers to questions can be found here on our website.

www.hwhpra.org.uk/2023/05/12/array-update/

Council's Administration Announce a massive 'U' turn on their increased permit fees for Residential Parking Bays

As reported in our March Bulletin, the Labour/HRA Administration voted in at the Budget Council tax meeting to double the cost for residents parking



permit fees. At the time the Harold Wood Councillors expressed their dismay and disagreement with this increase. In his budget Speech Cllr Goode, stated on our behalf and that of the HW residents quite clearly

that these increases were unacceptable, undeliverable and unachievable. Not one member of the Cabinet or Administration members challenged him or said anything different in relation to the parking permit fees being doubled in price.

Since the budget meeting, there have been numerous emails back and forth between opposition members and the administration with regards to the doubling of the fees as residents had been complaining that they have now been charged double for their Parking permit renewal. The administration are now back-tracking on what they voted for in the budget and are saying that the increases have been applied in error and that they knew nothing about the 100% plus increases for parking permits and

that they should have been at a much lower level of increase even though they voted for the doubling of the cost. However rather than admitting that they made a mistake, they have the audacity to blame the error on council officers which is unacceptable. We knew about the proposed changes in February, as we published this in our March Bulletin so the figures were known by the time of the Budget Meeting on March 1st. The Council have now confirmed to us that the increase in parking permit fees will only increase by £5 for the first permit which is a much lower increase and we have been advised that refunds will be issued in due course to any residents that have renewed. Whilst we welcome the 'U' turn by the administration, this does leave the council in a precarious financial position as it has been stated by the Leader that this is no longer a balanced budget. All Councils are legally required to agree a balanced budget each year otherwise this has to be reported to the Government. We have taken this matter up with the Chief Executive to establish the full facts here as we are uncomfortable with what we have heard on this matter and would like to know the current legal position of the council.

YOUR COUNCILLORS

Liberty of Havering

Liberty of Havering bowling club are holding an open day on Saturday 10th June 11am - 4pm. The club is situated in Harrow Lodge Park Hornchurch - to



the rear of the car park adjacent to the leisure centre. Equipment is provided. We are a friendly sociable club looking to recruit new members - contact Sheila Burton 01708 225489 for more information. Bowling is a sport for all ages & abilities - we look forward to welcoming you.

CONGRATULATIONS

To local lad Oladimeji Shittu, better known as Demje who has just won the 80kg ABA Light Heavyweight Boxing Championship. Demje is a local lad who works in McDonalds and has been boxing for the last 5 years, training at the Five Star Boxing Club in Harold Hill. We send him our heartiest Congratulations.



Charity Sky Dive



Please Support Ron Lockhart, 88 years old and doing a sky dive in aid of the Lennox Children's Cancer Charity on the 5th August 2023 at 12.30 pm at Sibson Airfield in Peterborough. To donate go to Just Giving page on your computer, then go in to search, type in Ron Lockhart then click on to Ronald page.

Patrolling the Streets

For the 2nd month in a row, we were out and about with our local Police Team patrolling the streets in Shepherds Hill and Phillida Rd. This was one of the ward promises made by the local SNT team to have a greater night-time presence in this vicinity.



St. Peter's, Harold Wood: Men's Lunch

Men's Lunch



A short update from the Men's Lunch Team:-

13th JUNE: No Lunch. Probable annual outing – this year 'Greenwich'.

JULY/AUGUST: Summer break.

12th SEPTEMBER: Start of 2023-24 Season.

For more information, please telephone St. Peter's Welcome Desk on 01708 342080, or email: welcome.desk@stpetersharoldwood.org.

WITH BEST WISHES FROM ALL THE MEN'S LUNCH TEAM.

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Harold Wood Primary School PTA presents.....

Summer Fayre

Saturday 1st July
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Free Entry

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YOUR THREE HW COUNCILLORS WILL BE THERE TO HELP OUT

Haverling Antique Collectors Club & speaker

Speaker - Ljiljana Ortolja-Baird - Old Collectable Maps

Date: June 16th

Harold Wood Neighbourhood Centre, Gubbins Lane, Harold Wood.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME - ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP £35, GUESTS £5. FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT CHAIRMAN MRS CHRIS LOVETT 07947 367 258

FORGETTING TO REMEMBER

The media seems obsessed with insisting we all go on holiday, especially to far away exotic places. The thought of passports, visas, injections, mysterious food and dawn taxis to airports, convinces me the whole thing is over-promoted and life would be better sitting at home.

Admittedly I've done it all years ago but even then we never ran around smiling as we spent our hard-earned money. Incidentally, I only smiled then as I was able to take advantage of a family members perk that enabled us to go anywhere for 20% the scheduled fare!



By now, being in my mid-nineties it's all a bit vague. To make conversation recently, someone asked me if I'd been to Montreal. I was a bit nonplussed, as the subject hadn't come up, till I realised I was wearing a garish jacket that promoted that city across the front. My brother, who'd worked at Air France, had off-loaded it onto me.

I assured the questioner I'd not visited Montreal, but said I'd been to Vancouver, but they weren't impressed. In fact, I can't recall all the famous places my wife and I saw. It's all a bit sad really when you think of all the effort involved!

A disagreeable feature of making 96 is one begins to forget things, though one can't choose what to forget. I was recently talking with my brother who lives in Jo'burg and I couldn't think if I'd been to South Africa. There's another reason for not dashing around the globe, one forgets where one has been and not been! On the other hand, I can't make a case for sitting at home, though at 96, life is mostly sitting at home, with the occasional excitement of say, a trip to Tesco's.

Back in January, after a week of getting used to being alone, I ventured out, but the weather drove me back indoors. Eventually it brightened and I met people again and don't regret it. The trouble is, my body wants to get out and be active and my brain tells me I'm too old for all this fresh air and I need the armchair. I certainly don't wish for any exciting holidays, I'll get back to my armchair as I need thinking time to write these memorable essays!

DENNIS GOODWIN

Ward Inspection

As part of our regular walk about around the ward, we identify many road defects especially potholes. There are many and we continue to report these and chase the council up where necessary. Over the last couple of months we have reported over 60 serious defects to the council. Some of these defects have been repaired, but the quality of the repairs meant that we were having to chase the Council continuously to revisit and carry out the repairs again. We still have many awaiting repair.

Recently we went out with a council officer, to show him how bad certain potholes have become and also the poor repairs that have been actioned.

We will continue to chase the Council for more speedy action and quality of repairs.

See link: www.hwhpra.org.uk/2023/05/12/pothole-reporting/

YOUR COUNCILLORS

Labour dictating to HRA on ULEZ

Following a freedom of information request obtained by another councillor, it has become apparent that Labour wanted a softer approach when challenging the Mayor of London over ULEZ. The email correspondence obtained showed that the Labour leader wanted a nuanced approach to the councils messaging so that they could build closer relationships with the Mayor of London and whilst they agree that a delay of the ULEZ scheme was in the best interests they did not state that they were opposed to the scheme. This

begs a question as to how independent are the HRA if Labour are wagging their finger each time these type of issues arise. Residents cannot afford to change vehicles or pay the £12.50 daily charge and this administration should support our residents and not put more financial stress on them when we are in a cost of living crisis.

Coronation Weekend Celebrations

Many residents of Harold Wood, celebrated over the May bank holiday weekend, enjoying the festivities to mark the special historical occasion of the Coronation of our New King Charles III and his wife Camilla who was crowned Queen.

Many residents celebrated by holding Street parties to express their thanks and well wishes for this very special occasion. A big special thank you goes out to all the local residents and volunteers, who together helped organise and arrange all the many necessary preparations and requirements in order for all the family to enjoy and take part, in these wonderful events. Well done.

The residents of Harold Wood certainly have within them a great community spirit, and this spirit was certainly demonstrated to the full. We are all so proud to be part of this community. We are sure that everyone really enjoyed their special weekend of rememberable celebrations. Thank you

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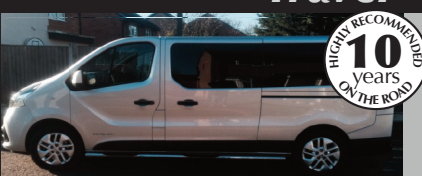


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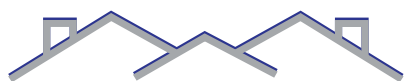
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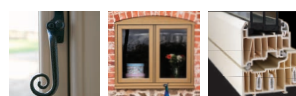
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