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November 2023

We are not part of the HRA / Labour administration

Date for your Diary

Remembrance Sunday 12th November 2023

All are welcome to the Memorial outside the library, Station Road. We are gathering at 10.40am and you are welcome to lay a wreath or flowers if you wish. We look forward to seeing you.

'Remembrance' @ St. Peter's Men's Lunch

November is traditionally the month of 'Remembrance'. At St. Peter's, Harold Wood - Men's Lunch, we will also be acknowledging this by including a short Act of Remembrance at the start of our next event:-



Tuesday, 14th November
from 11:30am in St. Peter's Church Hall

Please note we will start slightly earlier than normal –

12.15PM.

After lunch, we welcome the REV'D. RUPERT SHELLEY, a part-time Padre to the Royal Marine Reserve (London). Rupert will be 'in conversation' with Chris Knowles, our ML Team Leader. We look forward to hearing about – amongst other things - what it's like being a military Padre.

To book your lunch place, to cancel (please let us know a.s.a.p.), or to check if you're on the list, please phone St. Peter's Welcome Desk on 01708 342080, or email: welcome.desk@stpetersharoldwood.org.

We look forward to seeing you on the 14th.

JULIAN HARRIS, CHRIS KNOWLES, AND
THE MEN'S LUNCH TEAM.

Dire Straits – Bankruptcy is Looming

We are not talking about the rock group but the dire straits that this Council is facing financially. Many of you will have seen recent stories about the council facing financial difficulties and that the council may

face a section 114 notice which in effect means that the council will face bankruptcy. If this notice is issued this will allow the Government to send in inspectors who will take control of the council and manage day to day spending. Other councils such as Croydon and Birmingham have faced similar situations.

Any intervention will see the council stop spending on non-essential items and ultimately, we may see council buildings and assets etc sold off to pay its debts and unfortunately council tax could significantly increase. This intervention may not come for another 6-12 months and in the interim we will probably see large spending cuts being put in place on council budgets. This could mean traffic schemes not being approved, fortnightly bin collections and improvements to roads and pavements being put on hold.

This is disastrous for Havering if it happens and the HRA and Labour Administration will have a lot to answer for to the electorate.

As you know, Harold Wood Councillors are not part of this administration, and it is sad to see how bad the finances have become since the new administration took over in May 2022. Maybe the Leader of the Council should step aside so that a new approach and ideas can be sought!

Parking Meters

Havering Council is currently replacing all of its Pay and Display machines across the borough.

This will be completed by the end of the year.

New machines will no longer accept coins, however people will have the ability to pay contactless with debit and credit cards, or use nearby PayPoint facilities to continue paying with cash.

Residents will still be eligible for the free 30 minutes parking in on-street parking bays, except in Romford. They can activate this by either calling the number displayed on site or using the RingGo app.

The Council has also reviewed the use of machines in less-used locations and where machines are constantly vandalised.

The amount of income generated from these machines does not cover

the thousands of pounds it costs to cover purchase, maintenance and the running of them and these locations will be pay by phone or Ringo app only - the list of those locations are here - https://www.havering.gov.uk/downloads/file/6276/parking_sites_that_will_be_pay_by_phone_or_app_only_by_the_end_of_2023

People are reminded to always check at the location where they are parking, for further information.

Festive Cream Tea

Haircraft Salon in Oak Road, are holding their Festive Cream Tea on Monday 27th November 2023, between 10.30am and 4.00pm. As usual all proceeds will go to St Francis Hospice.



Christmas Market

Come along to the Christmas market on Sunday 26th November 2023 12-3pm at the Most Holy Redeemer Church Hall, Petersfield Avenue, Harold Hill RM3 9PB. Free Entry

Tech Time

AbilityNet is a charity that has a UK-wide team of Tech Volunteers who provide free IT support to older people and disabled people in the comfort of their own homes.

Every volunteer is disclosure-checked and can help with all sorts of IT (information technology) challenges, from setting up new equipment, fixing technical issues, showing you how to stay connected to family, using online services and much more.

I've been a resident of Harold Wood for just over 3 years and have over a decade's worth of experience working for some of the UK's largest technology companies. I've also recently become an AbilityNet Tech Volunteer so I can help support those who need it with their technology in my local community.

We know the digital world can seem daunting, so our friendly volunteer team are on hand to provide one to one support and advice.

If you need tech help, please get in touch on our free helpline (0800 048 7642) where we can arrange for either myself or one of our other helpful volunteers to support.

CHARLOTTE

Crabby Crab's Journey

A book about loss and death that parents can read and discuss with their Children. For ages 3 to 93.

Written by Samantha Jean-Jacques, who has lived in Harold Wood for over 15 years. Samantha encourages parents to read to their children every day.

BOOK IS AVAILABLE ON AMAZON

Out and About

During our ward walkabout we identified a number of issues which we have rectified. These being:

- Replacing a Gully drain back to its correct position, as this matter was potentially very dangerous.
- Cutting back the branches of an overhanging Willow tree which was making it very difficult for pedestrians to pass
- We also noticed a Utility cover that had been damaged very badly and we got this coned off very quickly and repaired by the utility company
- We care about our community.

YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Haverling Antiques Club

Harold Wood Neighbourhood Centre, Gubbins Lane,
Chairman Mrs Chris Lovett 079 4736 7258

Annual Membership £40 –
Guests £6 - 7.30 for 7.45

Friday 17th November - Speaker Geoff Bowden on "THE LIFE & MUSIC OF LIONEL BART" 'Reviewing his situation'

Friday 15th December - Speaker Ellen Owen on "CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

With Cake Tasting

Refuse Wheelie Bins

We sometimes get asked whether we can get wheelie bins rather than a sack collection for when our refuse gets collected. We have been told that there are currently no plans to introduce wheelie bins but it is an option they may have to consider. Haverling's new collection contract with Urbaser includes the option to introduce wheelie bins during the contract duration, with the vehicles having the capability to be retrofitted with bin lifts.

If wheelie bins were to be introduced then this is a substantial investment for Haverling to make, estimated at around

£2m for one wheelie bin per kerbside property and increased if wheelie bins were to also be introduced for recyclable materials. The containers would need to be maintained when damage or theft occurs which would incur further costs and administration, as well as the purchase and installation of bin lifts for the collection vehicles, and reprofiling collection rounds to account for additional time taken to empty and return bins. Consideration also needs to be given to properties that cannot facilitate a wheeled bin or number of wheeled bins/containers, such as terraced properties and those with smaller front gardens.

Finally

After reporting this overgrown section to the Council a few months ago and having chased them on numerous occasions, it was great to see this area finally cut back much to the delight of the resident whom raised this with Cllr Wise.

In addition, a resident also contacted us to get the bushes cut back in Kersey Gardens and on this occasion the council was quick off the mark.

As you know we are always reporting issues to the council and sometimes they act fast and at other times they drag their feet but we always try to constantly chase them up.

Womble News

In general we have not found so much litter over Harold Wood Park recently which is great but we are really dismayed over the amount of dogs' poo not being picked up and binned by dog owners. We do meet lovely dog owners and their dogs and we know the majority would not let this happen but for the ones who think it's okay to let their dogs mess anywhere and not be bothered to clear it up SHAME ON YOU. It is all on the football pitches and where the children play.

A SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER

It can only be my generation that is aware of the implication of Sunday September 3rd. I know of plenty of well-known dates but not tied to a day of the week; in 1939 the connection was evident.

Herr Hitler, as he was then politely known, had a go at Poland. The Western Allies responded with a stiffly worded note that it wasn't on and we would be doing something about it. We declared war on this particular Sunday. My Dad, as a reservist, had reported to the Army on Friday 1st Sept. I assumed he'd gone off to Poland to stop the nastiness

So, on the Sunday, Mum and I decided to have dinner with Gran who lived a couple of miles away, thus saving the expense of buying

a roast. I was full of anticipation of something exciting in the air whereas Mum was strangely quiet. She'd been just this age when World War 1 started and I too was in the week of my 13th birthday this time. She knew that it wasn't going to be a picnic, I was quite excited.

The banshee wail of an air raid siren split the peace of a Sunday. An air raid warden appeared and insisted we got off the street, mainly by a constant blowing of his whistle. We hurried home, with not a Heinkel or Junkers in sight, much to my dismay.



The radio suddenly became the depressing voice of authority. We had no meals in the house. Nobody I knew

had a fridge, one shopped every day and everything was shut as if the world was coming to an end, which it was, in a way.

Equally, nobody we knew had a 'phone, so we couldn't tell anyone we'd survived our first bombing! Mum and I sat, awaiting the bombardment, The Anderson air raid shelter hadn't been erected. Luckily nothing happened and, had we known it, not a lot would initially, but quite a storm was coming up in the coming year, enough to supply this magazine with material for quite a time.

DENNIS GOODWIN

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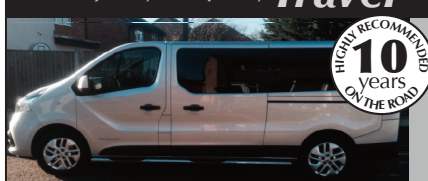


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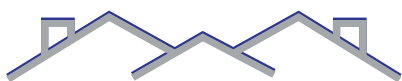
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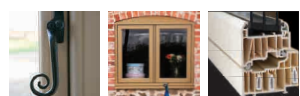
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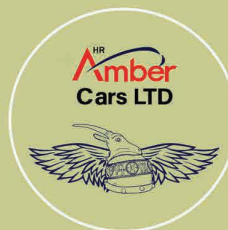
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