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**LOOKING AFTER OUR COMMUNITY DECEMBER 23**

## Merry Xmas and Happy New Year

We would like to wish all our supporters, deliverers, advertisers, readers, article contributors and members a very Merry Christmas and happy New Year. We hope 2024 will be a happy year for us all and that we take time to remember our loved ones, friends, and relatives that we lost during 2023 and beyond.



### Remembrance Day

We would like to thank all those residents that turned up to pay their respects on Remembrance Sunday at the War Memorial outside Harold Wood Library. This event outside the library continues to go from strength to strength each year and we would also like to thank our sponsors Harold Wood Funeral Services and McDonalds Romford along with Vicar Rob Hudson from St Peter's Church and the representatives of our Armed Forces, Police, WI and our local schools for attending the event.

Special thanks, also goes out to John Taylor who kindly provided the PA system on the day and for playing those most popular wartime songs for us all to enjoy. We also like to thank the many other organisations and shops that donated and bought a poppy wreath for laying at the memorial.

### Car Crime (Church Road) Area

We are aware of recent car crime thefts from motor vehicles in roads off Church Road. Please ensure your cars are locked at all times and that any valuables are not left in the car overnight and if possible, get yourself a steering lock.

Also more importantly, if you are a victim then please report the crime to the police so that they can see the increase in statistics in this type of crime as currently the reporting of car crime is under reported and with low statistics it is difficult for the area to get more police officers. It is no use reporting this on facebook or other social media as it won't count. Make sure you get a crime reference number.

Also be more vigilant, particularly if about during the early hours of the morning. Report all break-ins (even if nothing is taken or stolen or are of little value.

Please also consider lobbying your local MP, The Mayor of London and the Police for more resources. Please report crime by phoning 101 or by going on this website- <https://www.met.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us-beta/contact-us/report-crime-incident-suspicion/report-crime/> Of course if it is an emergency situation then dial 999.

### Happy Christmas (& New Year) from St. Peter's Church Men's Lunch

Here's a quick update from the Men's Lunch Team.

We are now fast approaching our Christmas and New Year

lunch events. Doors open for both 11:30am.

Here's the dates for your diary:

TUESDAY, 5TH DECEMBER - 1ST TUES OF THE MONTH

Please join us for a Christmas Special. Enjoy a traditional seasonal lunch followed by carol singing led by (all being well) our good friends: - HAROLD COURT SCHOOL CHOIR.

TUESDAY, 9TH JANUARY 2024

We look forward to a New Year lunch with special guest:-

PETRINA RICHARDSON (St. Peter's Youth & Families Worker).

Booking has now opened for the Christmas lunch and places are likely to be popular, so please don't delay! Email welcome. [desk@stpetersharoldwood.org](mailto:desk@stpetersharoldwood.org) or tel: 01708 342080.

Booking for the New Year lunch will open on 5th December.

We wish all readers of The Bulletin a very joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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



### Havering 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 15th December - Speaker Ellen Owen on "CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS With Cake Tasting

Friday 19th January 2024 - Ann Wilmore presents a Fun Quiz - Can you Name the Antique Object?

### A Wombling Merry Christmas

Thank you to all our Womble Volunteers who litter-pick weekly over two parks and to the volunteers who litter pick their own roads in Harold Wood. Could I please ask residents of Harold Wood that if they see litter outside of their properties to just pick it up and bin it. Let's keep Harold Wood/Hill/Park a clean and tidy place to live.



BUNNY EAGLING - CHIEF WOMBLE

### Parking Scheme Requests

We have a number of scheme requests open with the Council for our ward however earlier in the year they changed the process on how they assess them and now they undertake a triage assessment and make an initial decision on the viability of the request. However this is all dependent on the council having appropriate funding to be able to pay for these and we must war with the current financial climate at the Council, some or none of these may proceed at all. Here are the scheme requests currently waiting for assessment and recommendation from Council officers.

- Request free parking bay along the flank wall of 15 New Hall Drive
- Request for footway parking bays Craven Gardens
- Request to change a Free parking bay into a Residents parking Bay -The



Drive

- Request to extend the double yellow lines – Holt Road
- Request for traffic calming measures/improvements (Nags Head Lane & Hall Lane
- Request to extend the double yellow lines up to properties 79-101 Rosslyn Ave
- Request for Safety Improvements on Warley Road on Brentwood/Havering Border
- Request for Double Yellow lines in Melksham Close (One side of the road)
- Request for resident only parking during a set time (Permit Parking Area) in Hamilton Drive/Douglas Ave – It is likely an informal consultation with residents will have to take place first before advancing any further.

## 8th Squirrels Heath Scout Group

8th Squirrels Heath Scout Group are holding their annual Christmas Fayre on Saturday 2nd December. Come along to Kingsland Hall (opposite the entrance to Harold Wood Station Car Park) between 10am and 1pm for some festive games, sweet treats, crafts, and even the chance to meet Father Christmas.



Admission is 50p, with children going free. Any questions to [enquiries@8thsquirrelsheath.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@8thsquirrelsheath.org.uk)

## Rip-Off Havering!

The Council has launched its budget consultation and some of the proposals are going to hit us all in the pocket!

We urge Harold Wood residents to please respond to the consultation to give your views on! Some of the key proposals include:

- **50% increase in the cost of hiring football pitches in our parks.**
- **Car Park charging to be introduced in Parks and charged at the same amount as council car parks and on street parking**
- **Parking charges to increase by 40% with 1 hr going from £2.10 to £3**
- **Removal of the 50% discount if PCN appeal is unsuccessful**
- **Increasing the number of controlled parking zones as well as increasing the cost of residents parking permits**
- **Reducing the level of street lighting from midnight to 5am by turning down the brightness.**
- **Increase garden waste and bulky waste collection costs by 20%**
- **Fortnightly refuse collections for black bag waste and recycling.**
- **Closure of some smaller libraries**
- **Cancel Xmas spending on trees and lights in the borough.**

Details of the public consultation where you can give your views can be found here - <https://consultation.havering.gov.uk/corporate/budget24/>

## Autism Hub

The council has announced that they are

no longer going to support the Autism Hub in Romford and it is likely they will have no alternative other than to close its doors. Since opening in October 2015, the Autism Hub has provided support, guidance and respite for the Havering autistic community. It is the location of a huge number of services, including a Peer Group for young adults on the spectrum, an outreach service for hard-to-reach adults in the community and the Autism Steering Group, which feeds into the Council's Autism Strategy. The most recent version of the Havering Autism Strategy refers to the Autism Hub throughout and was launched from the Hub in April this year. In addition, the Hub includes a Sensory Room, where autistic people can seek shelter if overwhelmed by the sensory experience of the shopping centre, and has provided a valuable service for Havering adults to get help with applications for Personal Independence Payments. More importantly, it has provided a valuable safe space for the Havering autistic community, who are welcomed without question by Hub staff and volunteers. We have requested the relevant scrutiny committee to examine the council's decision and whether any alternative solutions were considered. There is an online petition on the closure of the Autism hub which is being circulated and can be signed here -

<https://chng.it/DRD9RSBcDh>

PLEASE SIGN THIS AND SHARE

## THE WAY WE WERE

I keep thinking I'm beginning to adjust to being bereaved after these few sad confusing months, but 74 years of marriage fixes a pattern in one's routine.

Both of us reaching our nineties meant it wasn't a noisy home, but I can't get used to the almost absolute silence when I come home to the empty house. At 97, I no longer want music or the radio playing, I can't start a book and we never did have TV on in daytime. There is the opposite effect when I'm in a crowded room, everything seems noisier and I'm just as uncomfortable! I'm gradually getting back into connecting with people and even though most coffee morning groups are mixed, there is a predominance of women and, dare I say, therefore somewhat noisier. Going home from such a gathering seems to amplify the silence, as it were. On the other hand, it's been the ladies who have reached out to offer condolences, for which I've been grateful.

There's no formula for coping with bereavement so I can only talk of my experiences.

I didn't want company, however well meaning. After six months, I'm beginning to circulate again, though coming back to an empty house means I've no one to share the events with. Writing this column seems to open a few doors again and next month I'm supposed to go to a quiz, which I'm preparing myself for.

The pleasure of daily sunshine has helped as I can enjoy a daily walk round the park. Quite often I feel like extending my walk but the feeling wears off after a while and I sneak home, even though the house is just as empty as when I left it. Not only



have I never been alone before, I've never been 97 before and that too takes some accepting.

My loving, caring daughter pointed out my good fortune in being fit, with no underlying illnesses, being able to get out and mix with such nice people as my generation. So, I guess I'll carry on carrying on about things and putting it all down on paper.

DENNIS GOODWIN



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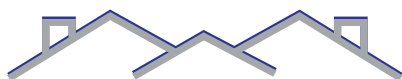


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