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THE BULLETIN

Harold Wood, Hill Park Residents' Association

Representing the Interests of Harold Wood Ward.

LOOKING AFTER OUR COMMUNITY

Harold Wood Hill Park RA Residents' Assoc

Est 2009

For up to date info visit our website: **www.hwhpra.org.uk**



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December 2026

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

We would like to wish all our supporters, deliverers, advertisers, readers, and article contributors a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We hope 2027 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 2026 and beyond.

See you all next year!

Merry Christmas to all from the Wombles



Well another year has passed and we are proud that we are helping to keep our beautiful Harold Wood Park clear of rubbish. The Wombles are a fantastic team and I would like to thank them all most sincerely for being there every week come rain or shine. In February it will be our 6 year anniversary and I would like to say a big thank you to all the people who have participated but especially to the team who have been with me for many years now and for the dedication they have shown. Have a wonderful Christmas.

Remembrance Sunday Service on Sunday, 8th November.



What a brilliant turn out by our local Residents to the Remembrance Sunday service which was also attended by the 8th Squirrels Heath scouts and cubs, three local schools, The Police, and Alex Donald Air Specialist (Class 1) 600 City of London RAF Squadron. 30 wreaths were laid by local businesses, schools and local charities. Thank you to our sponsors T. Cribbs & Sons and Romford McDonalds.

We would like to thank the local businesses, schools and local charities for purchasing poppy wreaths. Andrew Wallington Est. Agent, Amber Cars. Artisan Burgers B.K.C Roofing, Cafe Break, Co-op Store, Delaney's Est Agent. Haarts Est. Agent, Hari News, Harold Court Primary School, Harold Wood Primary School, Harold Wood Neighbourhood Centre, Harold Wood Bar Club, Harold Wood Over 60's Club, Harold Wood Residents Association. Ladies and Gents Hairdresser, McDonald's Restaurant, Nisa Stores, Post Office, Redden Court School, Sinden, T. Cribbs & Sons, Funeral Directors, The Chippy, Turkish Barbers.

Cllrs Brian Eagling, Martin Goode, Darren Wise

Harold Wood Library building to reopen



We are delighted to announce the reopening of the Harold Wood Library building, marking the beginning of an exciting new chapter for one of the area's most valued community assets.

The building, which closed in March 2025, will now return to public use through a community-led model developed by the Harold Wood Foundation.

The partnership with the Council will see the building transformed into a vibrant centre for learning, community activity, wellbeing and support services for local residents.

As an Asset of Community Value, Harold Wood Library has long played an important role in supporting education, lifelong learning and community cohesion. Its reopening represents a major achievement for the local community and demonstrates the positive outcomes that can be delivered when voluntary organisations, residents and local government work together.

The Harold Wood Councillors would like to thank Rachel Grimwood and the Harold Wood Foundation for their tenacity and efforts in obtaining the keys to the building and we are only too pleased to have given our support and help form the very beginning of this journey. More news on this to come in 2027 when it will be opened to the public.

Cllrs Brian Eagling, Martin Goode, Darren Wise

Lighting Up Christmas



We were delighted to join so many residents for Harold Wood's Christmas tree lights switch-on. It was a lovely occasion to celebrate together.
Merry Christmas to you all!

Harold Wood Councillors

Havering Antiques Club

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

Guests £6.

18th December - HITCHCOCK's LEYTONSTONE - Gary Lewis

15th January 2027 -BYGONES – HISTORY OF VALENCE HOUSE - Mark Watson

Carols by Candlelight

Come and join us at Harold Park Baptist Church, Ingreway, Harold Park on Sunday the 20th of December at 3:30pm for our traditional Carols by Candlelight Service. We'll be singing a selection of traditional carols and listening to the Christmas Story. Then stop afterwards for a tea or coffee and a mince pie. We will be providing the candles.

Bayeux Tapestry

The Bayeux Tapestry is much in the news recently and I am reminded of when a copy came to Havering. It was in the 1980s when a Hospice Meeting was being held and Heather a Friend of St Frances Hospice arrived with what looked like a roll of wallpaper. Very excited she explained it was a copy of the Bayeux tapestry and if we could find a place to display it, we would be able to use it as a Fund raiser for the Hospice.

What happened next? I really don't remember and Heather has sadly died so I am unable to ask her. If it is still in existence now would be a good time to resurrect the fundraising idea but where is it?

There were many Hospice Friends so does anyone remember and have knowledge of it? If so it would be great to hear from you, please contact me paulineobee@onetel.com.

Dennis Goodwin RIP

I would like to thank all of Dad's friends, neighbours and readers of this magazine, who came along to celebrate his life in St Andrew's Church on Tues 27th October.

It was amazing to see around 70 people at the funeral of someone who was 100 years old ! Even the weather was kind to us, with the morning rain clouds blowing away and leaving a beautiful warm sunny day. It was comforting to hear the kind words and memories shared by some of you afterwards, and to read what was written in the many condolence cards that we received.

Thank you again

Teresa and family



Once again we find ourselves on the 'doorstep' of Christmas! Here at ST. PETER'S CHURCH 'MEN'S LUNCH' our festive planning is complete.Our men's lunch was a little earlier this month and likely to be before you receive the bulletin so we would like to wish you all a merry xmas and happy new year.

Our January Men's lunch is on Tuesday, 12th January. This will be our New Year lunch, and we hope to welcome – BRADLEY WILKIE - as our after-lunch guest speaker.

Please book your place (or cancel) a.s.a.p. by phoning St. Peter's Welcome Desk on 01708 342080, or email: welcomedesk@stpetersharoldwood.org. Compliments of the Season from: Julian Harris, Chris Knowles, and all the Men's Lunch Team.

A12 Subway underpass



Due to the very heavy rain In October, the underpass was flooded yet again, only this time making it impossible for residents to walk through. This has been reported to TFL who are responsible for this particular subway and also to the GLA member to ensure that TFL investigate the recurring flooding here though this does also happen to the subways in Romford at times.

TFL has been down to clear the underpass but let's see how long it lasts and what happens when there is another downpour!.

Harold Wood Councillors.

Squirrels Heath Accident Reduction Programme

Councillors met with officers to discuss the current status of this programme and the Council has confirmed:

• That they will look to progress the scheme on Squirrels Heath Road, between the A127 junction and Gubbins Lane, which originally comprised of two pedestrian crossings and speed cushions.

• They will now include the introduction of a 20mph speed limit and will arrange for the scheme to be formally advertised as soon as possible

• Officers will obtain statutory plans for the footway outside the Harold Wood Neighbourhood Centre to identify the location of utilities and underground apparatus and a bollard scheme will be designed to provide additional protection at the junction in response to recent incidents.

• The Council are also considering the potential introduction of a 20mph speed limit in Rosslyn Avenue, as well as across the Redden Court Road, Beltinge Road, and Coombe Road area and there will be a further update on the feasibility and potential progression of this scheme in the coming weeks.

Council Winter Gritting

The Council is ready for winter:

• Winter standby runs from 1 November to 31 March, extended if needed.

• Officers are on standby 24/7, monitoring local forecasts and arranging gritting. *

• Main roads are usually gritted overnight when ice or frost is forecast—even without snow.

• During snow, pavement gritting prioritises town centres, transport hubs, community centres, schools and shops.

• The plan prioritises routes and areas of greatest need and risk.

• Around 2,000 tonnes of salt are in stock, with more ordered as needed.

• All roadside salt bins will be checked and refilled.

• Gritting machines are serviced, maintained and ready.

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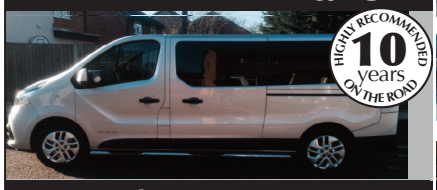





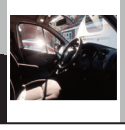

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