

AUTUMN 2023

Harrow People

The London Borough of Harrow magazine



Harrow's Heroes
We celebrate our winners

Moving on up
Rebuilt estate welcomes first tenants



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Harrow People is published four times a year by London Borough of Harrow. It is distributed to every home in Harrow. Comments, products and services published do not necessarily carry the council's endorsement.



“Our heroes are a credit to Harrow and offer us real inspiration”

Welcome to another packed edition of Harrow People. As well as bringing you important council news, this magazine is all about our community. If you were ever in doubt about what a lively, generous and supportive place this is, just look within these pages.

They include a write up of this year's Harrow's Heroes community awards, at which we celebrated our selfless volunteers who make Harrow a better place. It's always a fantastic occasion and my favourite council event of the year. Congratulations to all our winners and nominees. Our heroes are a credit to Harrow and offer us real inspiration. Our cover stars are this year's overall winners, Harrow Recreation Ground Users Association.

Also inside, you'll find a community growing project that's supporting mental health, an unloved waterway about to be transformed by volunteers, and a community lottery that's channelling cash to local groups and charities.

I'm also very pleased to bring you updates on our 'flagship actions' – important commitments that will

make the biggest difference to Harrow.

They include the installation of more than two hundred electric vehicle charging points and repairs to our broken pavements. And we're about to start a programme of repainting road markings across the borough too.

I'm also delighted to see the first phase of Grange Farm's regeneration completed. Long-term tenants from the estate have now moved into their beautiful new homes – we speak to two of them inside.

We are making progress and recognise we still have a lot of work to do.

To keep up to date with the latest in our borough, sign up for our weekly e-newsletter, MyHarrow News - see page 22 for more.

Cllr Paul Osborn
Leader of the Council,
London Borough of Harrow



Funding for more car charging points

We are delivering another flagship action to help residents who have or are thinking about electric vehicles. Plans to increase electric charging points across the borough were approved this summer.

Following £520,840 funding from the government, 225 electric charging points will be installed on lamp columns, predominantly on residential roads to allow owners of hybrid/electric cars to charge their vehicles. This is in addition to 30 residential and commercial charging points that already exist within the borough.

It's good for the environment and plays a key role in improving our air quality. We're now going to procure a provider to carry out the installation.



Don't delay - get your winter jabs

We are well into cold and flu season again – and with the additional risk of Covid circulating, it's vital that our most at risk residents get vaccinated.

If you are eligible for a free flu or Covid booster vaccine, you do not need to wait for an invitation from your GP. The vaccines are free for certain groups including the over-65s, pregnant women and people with certain conditions like diabetes or those with a weakened immune system. Check if you are eligible at [nhs.co.uk](https://www.nhs.uk) - you can book online or find a walk-in clinic, or ask at your pharmacy.

Vaccines offer the best protection against flu and Covid for you and those you come into contact with. They are safe and can reduce your chance of getting seriously unwell.

Always get your vaccine and health information from trusted sources like the NHS or World Health Organisation.



Town Centre revamp plans revealed

Come and see our ambitious plans to revamp Harrow's town centre in November.

We've got £7.1million in Government funding to transform the walking route from the station to the town centre, improving the look of the public space.

We'll also be sharing our revamped kiosk designs for St Ann's Road and how we plan to revamp part of the Greenhill Way car park for short-term commercial workspace.

Keep an eye on our social media and MyHarrow for dates and more, or go to www.talk.harrow.gov.uk

School applications deadline looming

It might seem like the kids have only just gone back to school, but for some of you it's already time to start looking for the next one.

If your child is in Year 6 you have until 31 October to apply for a place in secondary school.

Making sure you meet the deadline in plenty of time can spare you a lot of heartache – search 'Harrow Secondary School Guide' online now and find out everything you need to apply.

Architecture Awards invites nominations

Harrow Heritage Trust is delighted to confirm the launch of its 16th Architectural and Design Awards.

The Trust's Chairman Cllr Marilyn Ashton said: "We hope to encourage and promote good design in the borough and look forward to seeing entries that celebrate innovative, high quality buildings."

Any project completed after 2018 can be considered - new build, conversion or restoration.

Get your nomination in before 1 January 2024. See page 11 for more information.

Final Remembrance parade at Civic site

This year's Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade will take on a special significance as the last event to take place at the Civic Centre site.

The parade, the second largest in London, will move to a new site next year due to the future redevelopment of the Civic Centre.

Thousands of residents and dignitaries line the route ending with a service and wreath-laying at the war memorial at the Civic Centre.

The granite memorial will also be carefully moved to a new home on the pedestrian area of St Ann's Road, near Havelock Place, ensuring it remains accessible and maintains its prominence. The move is being overseen by an expert stonemason and is due to be complete in time for Remembrance Sunday next year.

This year's service and parade paying respects to our fallen Armed Services personnel, will be on Sunday 12 November.



Paving the way – continuing our programme of repairs

You've seen work take place to bring our worst roads up to scratch. Now we've moved on to repairing our pavements and paths to make them safer, like this one on The Ridgeway.

We're taking away broken slabs, worn-out surfaces and mending defects that create hazards. We've committed £10million to resurfacing roads and pavements this year – it's another of our Flagship Actions to restore pride in Harrow.

We're working through a backlog of repairs and have identified 47 pavements for urgent action. So if your footway isn't among those in progress, in the next couple of months we'll

be looking at next year's plans and which roads and footways we'll be prioritising across our 280 miles of highway.

We'll share information on next year's plans when they become available.

If your footway is on the priority list for repairs you'll get a letter to explain what's happening and what to do if access to your drive is affected. It may mean there are temporary traffic lights for a short time – we apologise for any inconvenience.

You can check all roadworks in the borough, including gas, electrics and water works, at www.harrow.gov.uk/roadworks



More tennis courts shown some love

Harrow's tennis courts served up a summer of community sport use since June's official reopening; more than 1,400 court bookings, 530 free community sessions booked, and nearly 100 coaching lessons by end of August.

A sunny September boosted numbers further. Work has now started on bringing Harrow Recreation Ground's four courts up to scratch, adding to the 32 courts across the borough's 13 parks which can currently be booked.

Use www.lta.org.uk/book or there's a QR code at each site for on-the-spot bookings.

New voter ID rules in force for all elections

Preparations are under way for elections next May for the Greater London Assembly and London Mayor.

Rules that came into effect in the UK this year mean photo ID is now required to vote in all elections.

Valid forms of ID include passport or driving licence. A full list of acceptable ID can be found at www.electoralcommission.org.uk. Check you have the right ID before you go to your polling station.

If you don't have any photo ID, apply at gov.uk by searching 'Voter Authority Certificate' online.

Make sure you are registered to vote. It takes 5 minutes at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

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Home on the Grange

“I can't wait to come home here”

It's moving-in time at Grange Farm and the estate is buzzing with activity, as long-term tenants settle into their fantastic new homes. We caught up with Rachelle and daughter Dani, who are among the first to benefit from an ambitious council project to regenerate the South Harrow estate.

They gave us a tour of their new 3-bedroom home, which is beautiful, bright and spacious, and finished to a very high standard.

There is one of 89 properties completed in phase 1 of this long-term programme. The development, a mix of townhouses and flats, is an attractive addition to the neighbourhood. And there's already a nice community feel here, as long-time neighbours explore the attractive shared



central courtyard, play equipment and gardens.

68 of these new properties are for Grange Farm council tenants. The remaining 21

are now available for shared ownership, helping local people to own their home for the first time.

Dani, a talented art student who we first spoke to in 2021, has lived on the estate her whole life. For her the move means no longer having to share a room with little sister, Blessing - and she admitted to getting a little emotional when first viewing the new property. Dani said her new home feels secure and "really well thought out".

For Rachelle, who's lived on Grange Farm for 27 years, her new home will be a place to rest and recuperate after working long shifts at Northwick Park Hospital's Stroke Unit - "I can't wait to come home here," she said.

When complete, Grange Farm will provide more than 500 high quality homes built around green space and community facilities



Dani and Rachelle pick up the key to their new home on the new Grange Farm Estate

Plan for the future

What kind of borough do we want to live in? How can we make the most of opportunities for growth and the need for housing, while looking after the environment and Harrow's special character?

These are big questions, and to answer them we need a new plan for the future. This plan, known as Harrow's Local Plan, will show developers what kind of buildings we want to see in our borough and where.

We've already made a start on this, with our guidance on tall buildings – adopted earlier in the year, following a public consultation.

This sets out that Harrow wants to keep its predominantly low-rise suburban character, with more height permitted in the town centre and Wealdstone.

The council has also approved a Local Area of Special Character policy, which can be used to offer more protection to areas in our borough with distinctive high-quality architectural or environmental features.

Cllr Marilyn Ashton, Harrow's Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration, said: "People have told us time and again that more needs to be done to keep development in keeping with our heritage.

"Like them, I'm passionate about preserving Harrow's special character and am very pleased to have introduced these practical measures to help us achieve that."

So what's next? Writing a new Local Plan isn't a quick job – it needs to be comprehensive and detailed. It needs to balance a whole range of issues - housing, economic growth, community facilities, infrastructure, the environment, climate change adaptation, and good design.

And it needs to offer a vision that will steer Harrow into the 2040's, so it's important that everyone has a say.

We expect to launch the first round of public consultation next year, with opportunities to attend in-person and online events throughout.

In the shorter term, we're introducing a new user-friendly planning portal. This we hope will help to demystify the planning process, give residents better access to information on proposed developments and more opportunities to have their say.

▶▶ Look out for updates in our weekly e-newsletter, MyHarrow News or search online for 'Harrow Local Plan'. Visit our consultation platform, 'MyHarrow Talk', to sign up for consultation updates.



Cllr Marilyn Ashton outside Harrow Arts Centre, one of Harrow's most treasured architectural assets



Celebrating good architecture

Harrow Heritage Trust is proud to launch its 16th Architectural and Design Awards. First started in 1986 by architect and former Harrow planner, Baj Mathur MBE, the awards celebrate the best of building design in our borough.

You can nominate any kind of building - private or public, new build, restoration or conversion. Your nominated building can be commercial, for community use, religious, sporting, or even an infrastructure project - anything completed after 2018 will be considered.

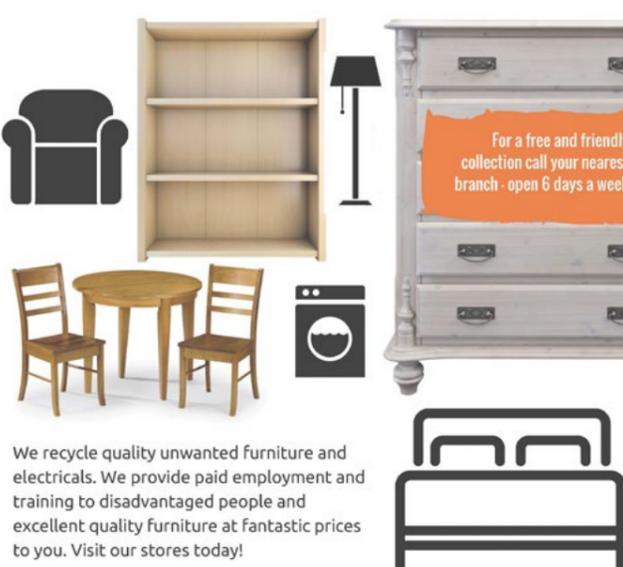
Previous notable entries include Elmgrove Primary School's modern extension, Cedars

Youth and Community Centre and at Bentley Priory, a luxury residential conversion and restoration of its Italianate gardens (2014's overall winner, pictured).

London Borough of Harrow is delighted to support these awards and to champion great local architecture. Good design not only enhances our neighbourhoods, but also deeply influences our day-to-day behaviour and quality of life.

▶▶ Get your nomination form on the Harrow Heritage Trust website or by emailing info@harrowheritagetrust.org.uk – nominations close on 1 January 2024.

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Primary School Children born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020
You need to apply for a reception place.
Online at www.eadmissions.org.uk
CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 15 JANUARY 2024

Secondary School children born between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013
You need to apply to transfer to secondary school.
Online at www.eadmissions.org.uk
CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 31 OCTOBER 2023*

Applying online is easy and you get an instant acknowledgement of your application. You will also receive the outcome of your application by email on offer day.
For details go to www.harrow.gov.uk/schooladmissions

* We strongly recommend that you submit your secondary application by Friday 20 October 2023, as this is the Friday before half term

For help and advice on how to complete your application email schooladmissions@harrow.gov.uk

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Winning idea

Harrow Wins is the lottery that gives back to the borough. There's a top prize of £25,000 and even if you don't win the jackpot, your community benefits as 60% of the ticket price goes to charities and community groups. Since launching the lottery in May 2019, we've raised over £55,000 for good causes in Harrow. Here's how it works...

You can buy your £1 ticket online – 50p goes directly to your chosen charity or community project and 10p goes to Harrow Giving, a central fund supporting good causes in the borough



Harrow St Mary's Youth Football Club are among the newest members to take part and benefit from the lottery. The club has been part of the community for more than 40 years. They hold weekday training sessions for children aged 4 to 7 and adults, as well as a Saturday Soccer School.



Sharon Ward, the Club Welfare Officer said: "Harrow Wins is a fantastic opportunity to help support grassroot clubs like ours. There are many expenses, including the maintenance costs of running our clubhouse, football pitches, kits, and equipment."

Previous community winners also include Friends of Headstone Manor Park, pictured, who are now working on plans to install outdoor art displays. And you could be a winner too - if you'd like to support a good cause and have a go at scooping the £25,000 jackpot, buy your tickets today and spread the word.



To find out more about Harrow Wins and how it is helping your community, visit www.harrowwins.co.uk.



2023 Winners



Extraordinary Achievement
Ajay Shah and Diven Halai



Bringing People Together
Courtfield 19



Health and Wellbeing
Dr Silvia Gereia



Supporting Vulnerable People
Erica Fontaine



The red carpet was rolled out in September for our annual Harrow's Heroes awards – celebrating the achievements and hard work of volunteers and community workers.



More than 100 guests including finalists, sponsors and dignitaries attended the event at The Great Barn at Headstone Manor to celebrate ordinary people who do extraordinary things.

The inspirational evening, hosted by Harrow actor Terence Frisch, saw 12 awards handed out to our fantastic 2023 winners.

Guests included the Mayor of Harrow, councillors, the Borough Inspector and the



Team award and Volunteers of the Year winners Harrow Recreation Ground Users Association receive their award from Cllr Jean Lammiman

Our heroes

Deputy Lieutenant, who all presented awards. Harrow Recreation Ground Users Association won both the Team and Volunteers of the Year awards. Read more about their work on page 17.

The event is made possible thanks to sponsors Harrow School, Pertemps, Wates, Terry & Stephens, Version 1, Truth Real Estate and McDonald's Harrow, as well as Avari Events and Shimla Foods catering.



Lifetime Achievement
Jennifer Youle



Good Neighbour
Justin Patel



Pride in Harrow
Peter Davies



Outstanding Young Person
Tara-Bella Halai



Contribution to the Community
Jade Fardon

Cleaning up

Harrow Recreation Ground Users Association have been cleaning up the park for decades and now they've cleaned up at our Harrow's Heroes Awards.

This group of volunteers won the Team award category as well as overall Volunteers of the Year. The group is run by a committee of chair, vice chair and treasurer with the help of dedicated volunteers. They go above and beyond to serve their local community ensuring the park is a clean, safe and peaceful space to relax.

As well helping with the upkeep of the park, they hold public activities all year round including bug hunts for children, Tai Chi and storytelling. They recently held a session teaching volunteers how to use a defibrillator.

Their work has also helped to secure a Green Flag Award for the Rec – given by Keep Britain Tidy to the best-kept green spaces. This year's awards confirm that six of our parks are among the best in the country – another one of the council's 'Flagship Actions' achieved!



Alison Chester working at Harrow Rec

Alison Chester of Harrow Recreation Ground Users Association said: "Our parks are the lifeblood of our communities. They bring us together and support our health and wellbeing. We will continue to keep our park looking great and ensure families, users and residents enjoy using them for years to come."

▶▶ If you want to volunteer with this winning team email info@harrowrec.org.



“Our parks are the lifeblood of our communities”

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Yeading Brook

New investment is set to free the straight and steep-sided Yeading Brook, making it wilder and 'wigglier'

Unlimited streaming

Harrow's waterways have not always had the care they deserve. Polluted and hemmed-in, they often flow hidden beneath our feet, only emerging above ground here and there.

Yet our waterways are really important, for wildlife and to help prevent flooding – a risk to our homes that's never been greater. We think it's time to show them some love, and you can help.

A two-mile section of Yeading Brook, between Headstone Manor wetlands and Roxbourne Park, is about to benefit from more than £250,000 worth of investment.

The project, known as Yeading Brook Unbound, will make the brook wilder and 'wigglier', helping to create conditions beneficial to plant life and invertebrates. This rewilding will also help the brook to retain more excess rainwater.

Volunteers are needed across Harrow's waterways for ongoing monitoring of pollution and invertebrate numbers. The presence of insects tells us a lot about the health of our waterways - water teeming with life supports the wider ecosystem and biodiversity.



Volunteers clear the invasive Himalayan balsam from a stream at Roxbourne Park

Stephen Bolsover, Chairman of Harrow Nature Conservation Forum, ran a series of community events this summer focusing on waterway conservation, he said, "Volunteer work improves these critical natural corridors for both wildlife and people. It's also good muddy, splashy fun!"

Yeading Brook Unbound is funded by the Mayor of London's Rewild London Fund in partnership with the London Wildlife Trust, and grants from the Environment Agency and Crane Valle Partnership's Smarter Water Catchment Fund (provided by Thames Water).

▶▶ Interested in improving the health of Harrow's waterways? email biodiversity@harrow.gov.uk

Making conversation

Harrow's Adult Social Care team have been touring the borough starting up conversations since the beginning of the year. The Conversation Cafe project is all about giving unpaid carers and the people they care for somewhere to talk and find support.

They offer a welcoming and safe space for advice and information and the chance to meet social care staff and community partners.

Anyone can drop in for chat over a free tea or coffee with one of our dedicated team members. It's going from strength to strength, with more regular drop-in sessions across Harrow.

Carer Lead Allie Brice was last month named a Harrow's Heroes

Award finalist for her work supporting vulnerable people. She said: "I am exceptionally proud of how Conversation Cafe has grown. Our initiative is recognised by our residents as being a positive, especially for those who prefer to have face to face contact. It is exciting to be engaging with residents from all over the Harrow community.

"I feel honoured to have been nominated for an award and greatly appreciate the people and partnerships who work alongside me in bringing the conversations together."

▶ You can find the Conversation Cafe at St Peter's Church in Colbeck Road every Tuesday from 1pm to 3pm. Find out more by visiting www.harrow.gov.uk/conversationcafe



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Nurturing good health

We're rethinking the way we offer mental health and wellbeing support to our residents. The Stop and Grow project at the Ridgeway aims to improve mental health and wellbeing, encourage physical activity and reduce social isolation through gardening and horticulture.

It's a safe environment to enjoy the rewards of gardening and meeting others. Anyone with mental health problems or learning disabilities can be referred or self-refer to the project.

The gardeners had a chance to show friends and council staff around the site at an open day last month, where they could sell their organic produce. All the money they raise is ploughed back in to the project to provide seeds and equipment for the following year.

Final preparations are under way to make sure the site is fully accessible along with an official change of name. Look out for details of the launch this autumn.

We hope to increase our offer to residents with poor mental health or learning disabilities by adding activities such as arts and crafts, exercise sessions and cookery.

Our wider plans for also include enhancing the use of our Neighbourhood Resource Centres to give even better and quality service to our residents with learning disabilities.

Right, Stop and Grow project members and the public enjoy an open day at The Ridgeway site



Chipo Chapingidza is one of the people benefiting from the Stop and Grow project

HARROW ARTS CENTRE

harrowarts.com

Dinosaur Adventure Live

24 October, 2pm and 4.30pm, from £14

Join the rangers on a quest to recover the data crystal, restore power to the island and save the dinosaurs.

The Captain Calamity Spooky Spectacular

26 October, 11.30 and 3pm, from £10, ages 4-12

Guinness World Record breaking Captain Calamity and his anarchic crew of misfits return. Expect magical mayhem, spooky science, beastly balloons, and bursting bubbles.

Journey Through Jazz: Swing Dance Course

Tuesdays, 7 November to 12 December, 10.30am to 12.30pm, £12 for all 6 weeks, ages 19+

Dig out your dancing shoes and learn to swing dance. The course will cover the Lindy hop and a social dance from the early 20th Century. No dance experience or partner required.

COBO: Comedy Shutdown

27 October, 7.30pm, £21, ages 16+

Black History Month special. Round up your friends and family and join us for an uplifting night of laughter with Curtis Walker, Trixx, Loyiso Gola and Will E.

HEADSTONE MANOR & MUSEUM

www.headstonemanor.org

Our Journey, Our Harrow

19 October – 28 January, Free to view in The Great Hall

This exhibition showcases stories of arrival, settlement and placemaking in Harrow. It brings



together maps, photography, and artwork from workshops with Harrow's Afghan communities.

Pumpkin Trail

21 – 29 October, free, during normal opening times

Headstone Manor & Museum has been invaded by pumpkins. Find them all to spell out the mystery spooky word and win a treat. All ages.

Hocus Panto

24 October, 10.30am and 1.30pm, £8.50 Standard, £30 group of 4, ages 3+

Magical illusions, pop songs



and things that go bump in the night all form the essential ingredients of this bewitching plot sure to delight youngsters and adults alike. This wicked Halloween Pantomime is the perfect treat (or trick) to celebrate all hallows eve.

Family Workshop: Pop Art Printing

25 October, 11am and 1.30pm, from £1.50, ages 5+ and their grown-ups

Create a pop art piece using gelli printing. This is a messy workshop so come in clothes ready to paint in.

HEATH ROBINSON MUSEUM

www.heathrobinsonmuseum.org

Coffee & Craft

16 October, 10am - 12pm, £30

Children's book illustration workshop for adults led by Helena Stride. No experience needed.

Halloween workshops

Spooky Decorations Workshop: 25 October, 10am to 11.30am, 5-8 years old (junior), £10

Gargoyle Sculpture Workshop: 26 October, 1pm to 3pm, ages 8-16, £15

Fun and spooky half term

Have an event to promote? Email communications@harrow.gov.uk

workshops for young people. Children in the junior class must be accompanied by an adult.

Diwali Celebration Day

4 November, 11am to 1pm or 2pm to 4pm, £7 (accompanying adult free)

Variety of Diwali activities for the whole family, including arts, crafts, storytelling and more.

HARROW LEISURE CENTRE

www.everyoneactive.com

Back2Netball

Mondays, 7pm to 8pm, £4.95

Netball sessions in partnership with England Netball at Harrow Leisure Centre. Suitable for adults.

Aqua Zumba at Hatch End Swimming Pool

Tuesdays and Wednesdays 12.30 to 1.30pm

Thursdays 8 to 8.45pm (women only), £8.30 per class

A fun and invigorating instructor led all-over body workout in the water designed to burn calories with minimal impact.

HARROW LIBRARIES

www.harrow.gov.uk/libraries

Rhyme Time

Free library activity for under-5s. Stimulating half hour of classic nursery rhymes, little stories and finger rhymes. Meet other parents and learn new songs that your children will love.

Greenhill: Wednesdays and Fridays, 11am to 11.30am
Kenton Library: Tuesday, 11am to 11.30am

Pinner: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10.30am to 11am

Roxeth: Thursday, 11am to 11.30am

Stanmore: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11am to 11.30am

Wealdstone: Thursdays, 11.30am to 12pm

Community events



Diwali in Harrow Town Centre

10 November, 4pm, by Katie's Statue, St Anns Road, HA1

Celebrate the festival of light in the heart of Harrow. School children will be parading along St Anns Road with lights, there'll be dhol drummers, food giveaways and a lantern light up ceremony by the Mayor of Harrow.

Christmas in Harrow Town Centre

From mid-November

Write your letters to Santa and send them to the north pole. Find the post box in the town centre St Anns Road.

25 November, 3pm to 7pm

A packed day of entertainment for the whole family. Live acts and special guests, Santa's grotto, fun fair rides, a giant inflatable snowman, laser show, and the Christmas tree light switch on.

9 December

Meet our friendly reindeer and sit on Santa's big red sleigh for a selfie by Katie's Statue, St Anns Road.

2 and 3 December

Christmas market on St Anns Road – a selection of arts, crafts and street food.

The Hillplayers' Christmas panto

16 December, 3pm and 7pm; 17 December, 11am and 3pm

The Hillplayers perform Andrew O'Leary's adaptation of The Frog Prince. Tickets on sale from 23 October at www.ticketsource.co.uk/hillplayers – early booking advised.

Harrow Choral Society's Autumn Concert 'Songs of the Spirit'

21 October, 5.30pm - 6.30pm, Parish Church of St Alban, The Ridgeway, HA2 7PF, £12, under 18s £2

A selection of tuneful pieces on the theme of Songs of the British Isles including traditional Scottish, Welsh and Irish songs and jazz-inspired settings of Shakespeare's Songs and Sonnets by George Shearing. www.harrowchoral.org.uk

A Christmas Celebration

16 December, Harrow School Speech Room, HA1 3HP

Harrow Choral Society welcome Tim Bentinck (David Archer in the BBC's The Archers) as its guest reader. www.harrowchoral.org



We're the MS Society – a community of people living with MS, scientists, campaigners, volunteers and fundraisers.

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National Helpline: 0808 800 8000
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Only in Harrow



Grime fighters mean business

Harrow is a thriving business borough, as our 2023 Harrow Means Business event proved.

Stanmore-based firefighters and entrepreneurs Will and Andy, came along hoping to give their business, A&W Cleaning Services, a boost. Andy said: "We're so pleased we went to the event."

"It was great for networking and meeting other businesses. We spoke to people from the Council and Brunel University who told us what funding is available, training that we can do and advice to help our business continue to grow. All of which we know will make a huge difference to our business."

The event at Victoria Hall last month brought together the business community as well as

budding entrepreneurs looking to set up their own businesses and get free professional advice on marketing, finance and more.

Will and Andy set up A&W in 2020. What started out as a window cleaning side business quickly grew to offer full exterior cleaning services to commercial and residential clients across London and Hertfordshire.

Adding vans, equipment and services, it is fair to say their investment is paying off as they have recently secured a contract with Harrow College. You can find them at awcleaningsolutions.co.uk

▶ To find out more about business opportunities in the borough, visit www.harrow.gov.uk/business/businessadvice

DAMP AND MOULD

Advice for keeping your home damp-free

Dry clothes outside when possible



Ventilate rooms for 15 minutes a day



Use the extractor fan when bathing



Keep a window or ventilator open



Cover pans and use the extractor fan



Keep living areas 18°C to 21°C



Wipe moisture from surfaces



Check your heating system regularly



Keep a gap between walls and furniture



Consider insulation and thick carpet



If your issue has not gone away, speak to your landlord/housing provider. If you do not have a response, report it to the Council

www.harrow.gov.uk/dampandmould



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