

AUTUMN 2024

Harrow People

The London Borough of Harrow magazine



Clean and safe
Harrow's Days of Action

Walk this way
Rambling for health



LONDON BOROUGH OF
HARROW



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May the light of Diwali bring peace and happiness to your life.



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HARROW

London Borough of
Harrow, Forward Drive,
Harrow HA3 8FL
Tel: 020 8863 5611

Cover image

Community Safety and
Street Cleansing Teams at
Rayners Lane Day of Action

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Comments, products and
services published do
not necessarily carry the
council's endorsement.



**“I’m pleased to
announce extra
help for our
least well-off
pensioners”**

Welcome to the latest
Harrow People. This
edition is bursting with
news and features about where you
live and the things we’re doing to
make it better.

I know that top of the things you
want for your neighbourhood, is
a place that’s clean and safe, and
it’s my priority too. That’s why
we’ve been bringing the police,
fire brigade and other agencies
together with volunteers on days of
action to tackle hotspot areas.

Rayners Lane was the latest
neighbourhood to see intense
coordinated action on issues
including fly-tipping and antisocial
behaviour – you can find out more
inside.

I’m very grateful to everyone
involved. The cooperation of local
business is very welcome and it’s
also great to see volunteer groups
and concerned residents getting
involved.

We’ve made progress in this area
but a lot remains to be done.
More days and nights of action will
follow, organised by the council’s
Community Safety team – of
which Mark, this edition’s cover
star alongside Alan from the street

cleansing team, is a member.
Thanks Mark!

Elsewhere in the magazine you’ll
find information on the launch of a
new network of ‘Safe Havens’, to
offer support to anyone who feels
unsafe while out in the borough.

I’m pleased to announce extra help
for our least well-off pensioners,
whose lost Winter Fuel Payments
we plan to replace. Find out more
about this and other cost-of-living
help on pages six and seven.

There’s also more support for
young families, with an update
inside on our work to turn our
children’s centres into family hubs,
offering joined-up services to
support health and wellbeing, and
give our youngest residents the
very best start in life.

Finally, I’d like to wish a very
happy Diwali to all those
celebrating.

Paul S. Osborn

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



Swimmers dive back in as pool reopens

It's great to have Harrow Leisure Centre's pools, sauna and steam facilities open to the public again. These reopened in mid-September following a six-month closure for urgent repairs to the ceiling above the main pool. A serious issue with the ceiling was found during a routine safety inspection, prompting

the pool area's immediate closure on safety grounds, though the leisure centre's other facilities remained open throughout. Thanks for your patience while the complex repairs to the pool's ceiling were completed – we appreciate it was a difficult time for swimming clubs, schools and other pool users.

Tougher penalties for antisocial behaviour



We're taking tough action on things like littering, street-drinking, spitting in public and dog fouling.

Using additional powers, we're able to fine people who commit these kind of antisocial acts, as part of what's known as Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs). We now have PSPOs in place across the borough. We've issued 865 fines from January to September this year.

And now, as part of our commitment to restore pride in Harrow, we've increased fines for a whole range of offences including:

- £1,000 for fly-tipping – up from £400
- £500 for littering – up from £150
- £600 for using an unlicensed household waste carrier – up from £400
- £500 for graffiti and flyposting – up from £100.

Time to apply for school place

If your child is due to start secondary school next year and you haven't already applied for a place, it's time to hurry.

If your child is in Year 6 you have until 31 October to submit your application for the September 2025 term.

With half-term looming, it's a good idea to get your application in as soon as possible to save yourself the heartache.

Haven't decided where to apply? Visit harrow.gov.uk/schooladmissions where you will find all the information you need about Harrow schools and how to apply, as well as open days and key dates.

If your child does not live in Harrow, but you wish to apply for a Harrow school, please contact your child's local authority to make an application.



Demolition day for dodgy extensions

Two property owners had an unwelcome visit from planning enforcement officers when their illegal developments were taken down.

Both owners had built side extensions without the right permission. They were given ample time to remedy the breach or remove the buildings entirely but despite warnings they left the Local Planning Authority no option but to take down the unauthorised constructions.

Further properties were also visited and following pressure from officers, the owners themselves took the necessary steps to comply with the enforcement notices or carry out temporary remedial works before submitting for a revised scheme.

Meet your match at job fair

Thinking of a career change? Come along to our job fair on 31 October, 10am – 1pm at Harrow College. Whether you are searching for a new job or looking to make a difference through volunteering, this fair will connect you with local employers and organisations.

There will be the chance to network with professionals and learn about job openings and volunteering opportunities.

It's always good to be prepared. Don't forget to update your CV, and match your skills and interests to your chosen career path. Search 'Harrow Jobs and Volunteering Fair' at Eventbrite.com to book your place, or scan the QR code.



Get the latest news and events straight to your inbox

Sign up at harrow.gov.uk/myharrownws





A place for all to find a friendly face

Our Community Hubs are a vital resource all year round.

Provided by a number of community, charity and faith organisations, they offer a welcoming space for Harrow residents to meet and make friends and join activities.

In winter additional warm hubs open up, with many providing delicious hot meals, exercise classes, health services and a place to socialise out of the cold.

▶▶ Go to harrowgiving.org.uk/warmhubs to find a warm hub near you.

Replacing lost winter fuel payments

We're offering extra support to older people on low incomes who will miss out on a Winter Fuel Payment this year. The payment, which used to go to all people of state pension age, is now restricted to those that receive one of a range of benefits, including Pension Credit. The change was announced by the government after taking office this summer.

The council will make payments to more than 1,300 local pensioners who no longer qualify for a Winter Fuel Payment, though they receive Council Tax Support, a benefit to support low-income households.

Each will receive £200, rising to £300 for the over 80s – the same amount as the Winter Fuel Payment. Qualifying households will receive further information through the post later this year.

Alongside this, the council will continue to encourage other pensioner households to make sure they are claiming everything to which they're entitled.

You can see whether your household will qualify for a Winter Fuel Payment at www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment or by calling 0800 731 0160.



Our work to support local pensioners this winter is part of a package of measures funded from nearly £1.5 million of government money committed to local cost-of-living projects.

The funding will also extend the help offered to families that receive free school meals to meet the cost of food outside of term time, and support care leavers moving into independent accommodation. Money will also go to help clear rent arrears and support advice services.



Winter vaccines rollout underway

We are well into cold and flu season and it's vital to protect our most at-risk residents.

Free flu vaccines and Covid boosters are being offered to vulnerable groups including the over-65s, pregnant women and people with certain conditions. Check if you are eligible at nhs.co.uk and find your nearest provider. This year the NHS is also offering vaccines against Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), for the first time, for at-risk groups including pregnant women and the over 75s.

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

Energy experts who can drive down bills



The next time you get a visit from the doctor it could leave you with healthier finances.

The 'Green Doctors' service, managed by Groundwork London, offers advice and practical help to make homes more energy efficient.

Residents can get advice online, over the phone or arrange a house call from a qualified advisor. Their energy experts can identify causes of heat loss and make small changes such as installing draft excluders or advise on other improvements.

▶▶ Visit harrow.gov.uk/energyadvice to find out more and book a consultation.



Creative corner taking shape in car park

Drive along Greenhill Way and you can't fail to see the new installation taking shape in a corner of the car park. Construction of a new creative hub is well underway which, when complete, will offer retail units, affordable workspace, community facilities and event space.

The work has been made possible with investment

from the government's Future High Streets Fund and will include improvements to the pedestrian access from Station Road, which will be made brighter, cleaner and safer.

The Hub is due for completion in December. Greenhill Way car park will continue to offer more than 200 spaces and one hour's free parking.

Let's get digital: find a tailor-made course

Do you want to improve your digital skills? Learn Harrow offers a range of courses, some resulting in formal qualifications, that focus on developing practical skills relevant to employment and daily life. Whatever your motivation, you'll find a course that's right for you.

To help, Learn Harrow also offers a free two-hour assessment of your digital skills to help ensure that learning is tailored to your individual needs. There's support to overcome language barriers and build learners' confidence too. Find out more at learnharrow.ac.uk.



In safe hands

14 sites open doors to help protect women

Fire Stations and libraries have stepped up to be among the borough's first Safe Havens.

The new scheme sees premises around the borough display the Safe Haven sticker in their windows to let people know they can find sanctuary there. So far 14 locations have signed up to the scheme, which is primarily aimed at women and girls but is open to all.

Staff at each location have taken training with the Safer Borough Network. They can provide a secure and safe place for anyone feeling scared, harassed or threatened, and signpost to transport or support services. They can also offer water, electricity and WiFi, and contact emergency services or family.

Simon Horn, recently appointed Borough Commander for Harrow, said: "We are proud to be the first fire stations in London to support the Safe Haven initiative. Working in partnership with the Council enables us to contribute to the safety of our community, particularly women and girls, who have been identified as needing this support".

The scheme was introduced following our Safer Spaces Survey, which asks residents to give feedback on areas where they feel safe or unsafe in the borough, part of the Council's commitment to ending violence against women and girls.

► Visit harrow.gov.uk/safehavens to find the full list of locations, or if you are a business interested in becoming a Safe Haven.





Meet the pothole squad

You report it, they fix it. Potholes – they’re a nuisance. The good news is we have put in a further £6 million towards the borough’s road resurfacing programme.

You may have seen the new innovative machines in action like the JCB Pothole Pro, pictured. Now we are pleased to introduce our new pothole squad who are helping tackle potholes and defects more efficiently.

They attend to your pothole reports as well as fix those potholes they see on

their routes across the borough. Last year more than 1,500 potholes were repaired in Harrow. This new boost will complement the additional funding and road resurface works already planned.

Harrow’s 457km of road network and 935km of footways have been assessed for damage and defects. The most urgent defects will be prioritised for repair first.

▶▶ If you’ve seen a pothole that needs fixing, report it at harrow.gov.uk/potholes

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SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Children who are due to start in primary / secondary school in September 2025

Primary School Children born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021
You need to apply for a reception place.
Online at www.eadmissions.org.uk
CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 15 JANUARY 2025

Secondary School children born between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014
You need to apply to transfer to secondary school.
Online at www.eadmissions.org.uk
CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 31 OCTOBER 2024*

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 25 October 2024, as this is the Friday before half term

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

LONDON BOROUGH OF **HARROW**

Harrow's Heroes



Bringing People Together
Cathy Kim
Presented by Reema Mavani,
McDonald's South Harrow



Outstanding Young Person
Joshua Patel
Presented by Gurjeet Dhillon
Managing Director, Campaignmaster



Extraordinary Achievement
Casey Dalton
Presented by Cllr Paul Osborn, Leader,
London Borough of Harrow



Lifetime Achievement
Paul Turner
Presented by Anthony Kirkby,
Director Project Management, Civica



Pride in Harrow
Harrow Parks Forum
Presented by James Mayo,
Account Manager, Version 1



Supporting Vulnerable People
Grace Kelly-Graham
Presented by Alex Dewsnap, Managing
Director, London Borough of Harrow



Good Neighbour
David Woon Soong
Presented by Cllr David Perry,
Leader of Harrow Labour Group



Contribution to the Community
Chandni Palan
Presented by Dhruv Kanabar
from Truth Real Estate



Team of the Year
St Luke's Hospice Bereavement
Support Service Volunteers
Presented by Alex Buckmire and Rachel
Wright, Voluntary Action Harrow and
Harrow Giving



Bipin Dattani collects his award from
Mayor of Harrow Cllr Salim Chowdhury

Meet your heroes

The red carpet was rolled out again for volunteers, dignitaries and sponsors at this year's Harrow's Heroes Awards.

More than 100 guests were at the Great Barn at Headstone Manor for an unforgettable celebration of our local volunteers.

Bipin Dattani was named Volunteer of the Year, as well as picking up the Health and Wellbeing Award, for his work in diabetes awareness.

Bipin developed the Diabetes Community Club to educate people on managing diabetes as well as delivering classes for digitally excluded people, helping them support each other and manage their own health. One of whom, a 90-year-old resident has now become competent with technology since joining his group and is helping others to learn.

Bipin, who was presented with his award by the Mayor of Harrow Cllr Salim Chowdhury, said:



Indie Choir

"This means a lot to me. Diabetes is prevalent in Harrow, and I am passionate about making sure people have access to information and advice that helps them manage their health. I'd like to congratulate everyone – it was a great pleasure to meet many worthy finalists and to see their work recognised."

Local group Indie Choir rounded off the evening with a special performance including David Bowie's Heroes.

Thank you to our event sponsors:



Family hubs



Family connection



A place where families feel connected and have better access to services is now closer to home. Our children's centres have been transformed into family hubs where health and care practitioners are available to help alongside voluntary services.

It means we are going into our communities to support parents and children in need of support. It also allows early intervention which could help resolve issues without having to go through costly referral routes.

Hillview, Gange, and Elmgrove children's centres are part of the family hub model, along with The Wealdstone Centre which supports ages 9 to 19, and up to 25 for those with disabilities.

The hubs are already making a difference to parents and carers. They offer services for families, babies, children, and young people – and also those with special education needs and disabilities.

Services include talk and play sessions, family rooms, health visiting, maternity support, parenting advice and support, and informative sessions on health and well-being. You can also get two-year checks for your child, or find groups for weaning, fathers, speech and language advice, cooking classes and sensory rooms.



FLAGSHIP ACTION

“My daughter learns from the other kids. And lots of mums share information with me.”

– Shweta

Allen Titus who leads the 'Stories Come Alive' session at Hillview said: “The parents love it and it really helps the children's behaviour. It gives them some time out to get know other parents and share information with them.”

Mum Zahra said: “It has helped with my son's

confidence and I can do the activities with him. He loves coming and they always give me good advice.”

► Visit harrow.gov.uk/childrens-social-care/early-support-hubs or look for Harrow Children's Centres on Facebook to find out more.

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Flu and Covid-19 can be serious.

People most at risk of serious illness are invited to get a free **Covid-19 and/or flu vaccine** to protect against these viruses over the colder months.

Those over 75 and people more than 28 weeks pregnant can also have their **RSV vaccine** this winter.

To check your eligibility, visit:
nwlondonicb.nhs.uk/winter



Poets in motion

A new neighbourhood in the heart of Harrow

The regeneration proposals for a new neighbourhood on Council-owned land are now available for residents to share their views.

Poets Corner will deliver much-needed new homes (around 1,100) for Harrow and create generous areas of new public space for local people.

The buildings will be carefully designed to reflect the character of the surrounding streets with new green spaces and improved walking routes through the site to and from the train station as well as shops, cafés and workspace.

New green spaces will be open to everyone with play areas for new residents and surrounding families.

Commercial space will bring opportunities for new shops, a cafe or small restaurant, nursery and workspace. We are also looking to secure a new doctors' surgery on the site. A new primary school is also planned for the nearby Harrow View area.

A planning application will be submitted in late 2024 to redevelop the site of the old civic centre on Station Road. This community consultation will gather views to help shape the plans.

▶ Take part at <https://poetscorner.commonplace.is>



REJECTED



PROPOSED



Share your views - online or in person

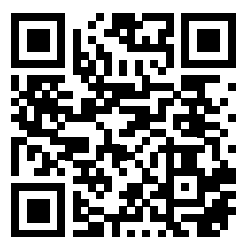
Join an information session with updates on design proposals:

Thursday 7 November, 2-7pm

■ Harrow Leisure Centre, Christchurch Avenue, Harrow HA3 5BD

Tuesday 12 November, 6.30-7.30pm

■ Virtual engagement event via Zoom. Book online on the Commonplace site, Have your say tab.



FLAGSHIP ACTION

A piece of the action



Day of Action in Rayners Lane

The London Fire Brigade joined the Day of Action



Vehicles were stopped for outstanding violations

Another successful Day of Action saw council, police, fire brigade and other local partners take part in a coordinated effort to clean up Rayners Lane.

We spoke to people on the street and knocked on doors to follow up on complaints and concerns including fly-tipping and antisocial behaviour. Trading Standards officers dropped in on businesses and the Conversation Café popped up outside the station to offer cuppas, advice and support. Police stopped vehicles with outstanding violations.

We were also very happy to be joined by council social workers, who chatted with kids on the way home from school about safety and what to do if they felt threatened.

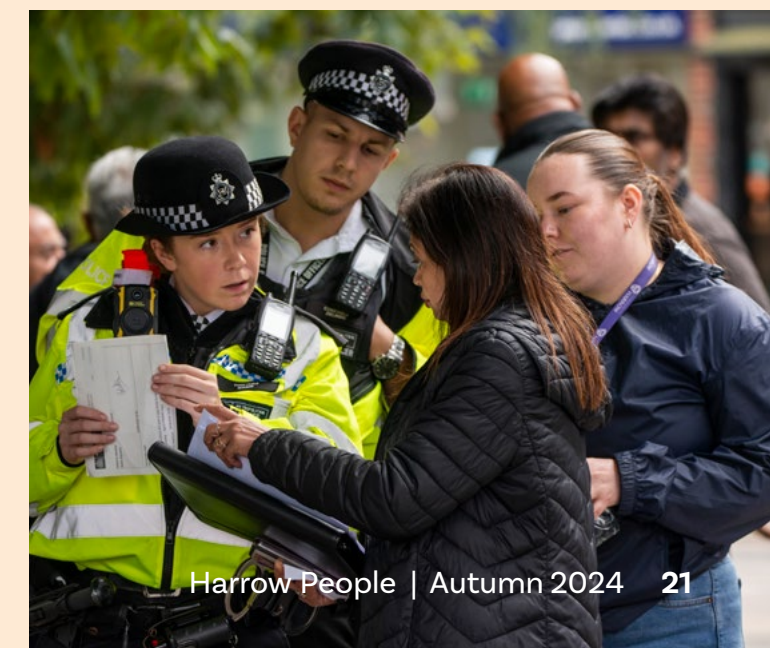
More than a dozen complaints of antisocial behaviour were investigated, 14 cars were stopped for outstanding violations, and one vehicle was seized for driving without insurance. The anti-fraud team inspected blue badges, with two suspected cases of fraud found, and one arrest was made for a visa violation.

All this was in addition to many cups of tea and constructive chats had with the Conversation Cafe team.

Our thanks go to all the teams who helped make the day a great success.



Trading Standards were out in force



HARROW ARTS CENTRE

www.harrowarts.com

Minnie Stynker

1 November | 11am and 2pm | £9 | Ages 4+

■ A magical theatre show for children. In a new city, all alone, one night Kit starts to draw. But when the scribbles on the page turn into a life of their own, all the adventure unfolds.

The Indians Are Coming

10 November | 7.30pm | £21 | Ages 18+

■ Round up your friends for an uplifting night of laughter. Acts include Tommy Sandhu, Sinthujha Kumarasamy, Raj Poojara and British Comedian of the Year Semi Finalist Preet Singh.

The Pantomime Adventures of Peter Pan

7 – 29 December
■ A limited number of £5 tickets for The Pantomime Adventures of Peter Pan are available for residents receiving benefits. Complete the short form online to book.

HEADSTONE MANOR & MUSEUM

www.headstonemanor.org

Dracula: The Undead Diva



To the manor born: Toddlers prepare to take over Headstone Manor and Museum



31 October | 10.30am and 1.30pm | £8 | Ages 3+

■ Count Dracula has a thirst... for fame, fortune and musical stardom. This laugh-out-loud Halloween pantomime combines the spooks of All Hallow's Eve with panto mayhem.

Toddler Takeover Day

18 November | 11am – 2.30pm | Free

A day for under-fives to take over the running of Headstone Manor and Museum. Toddlers will have the chance to be security guards, archaeologists, curators and more.

HEATH ROBINSON MUSEUM

www.heathrobinsonmuseum.org

Fantastic Beasts and How to Draw Them

30 October | 10.30 – 12pm | £10 | For ages 4 to 8

■ Younger children can explore the art of monster designs in this Halloween drawing session and make their own creepy creature.

Ghastly Ghouls

31 October | 2pm – 4.30pm | £15 | For ages 8+

■ A great workshop

for children to unleash their Halloween creativity. They can sculpt a full-sized ghoulish mask using mod rock and create a scary character.

Exhibition: The Art of Sidney H. Sime, Master of Fantasy

On now until 5 January 2025 | Included in museum entry fee
■ Sidney Sime was a painter, illustrator and caricaturist. His work, although influenced by Aubrey Beardsley and Japanese prints, was truly original. After the Great War Sime devoted much of his time to rendering his fantasies in large oil paintings, a number of which are shown at the museum.

HARROW LIBRARIES

www.harrow.gov.uk/libraries

Diwali craft

9 November | 2.15pm - 3.15pm | Roxeth Library | For ages 4 – 10

■ In the spirit of Diwali, a celebration of new beginnings, light and good over evil, little one's can make a lantern to light up their homes. Booking required.



Community events

Sing Mozart's Requiem with Harrow Choral Society

2 November | 11 – 5pm | St Albans Church Hall, North Harrow, HA2 7PF | £25 adults

■ All singers are welcome, whether or not you have sung this before. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Landline digital switchover

26 November | 10.30am - 4pm | Pinner Library, HA5 5NQ

27 November | 10.30am - 4pm | Greenhill library, HA1 1GX

■ The UK's telephone network is changing, with a switchover to digital services planned before the end of 2027. If you'd like to find out more, speak to a BT advisor at one of their drop-in events. Find out more by searching 'Harrow's Digital Infrastructure' on our website.

Christmas in Harrow Town Centre Festive Fun Day

30 November | 11am to 8pm

■ A packed day of family entertainment. Live acts and carol singers, Santa's

Bonfire Night craft

2 November | 3 – 4pm | Wealdstone | For ages 5 – 8

■ Children can make and decorate paper rockets for Bonfire Night. Booking required.

Rhyme time

12 and 14 November | 10.30 - 11am | Pinner | For under 5s

■ Special rhyme time session to celebrate Nursery Rhyme Week



grotto, snow globe, laser show and the Christmas tree light switch-on.

Harrow Choral Society's Christmas Celebration

14 December | 5.30pm | Harrow School, 5 High St, HA1 3HP | £25 adults

■ Join Harrow Choral Society for their annual festive concert of carols, readings and brass ensemble performances. All details on www.harrowchoral.org.uk

Market on St Ann's Road

14 and 15 December | 11am to 7pm

■ Christmas market with a selection of arts, crafts and street food.

Jack and the Beanstalk

14 December, 3pm and 7pm
15 December, 11am and 3pm

| The Ryan Theatre, 5 Yew Walk, Harrow, HA1 3EJ
■ It's the pantomime you've all "bean" waiting for! The Hill Players will give two performances. Book tickets at ticketsource.co.uk/hillplayers

Remembrance Sunday Parade

10 November | Harrow town centre | 10am

■ Join us for our Remembrance Sunday Parade, which will end at Harrow War Memorial with a service and wreath-laying. We will observe a two-minute silence at 11am to remember our servicemen and women.

HARROW LEISURE CENTRE

www.everyoneactive.com

Active Community Mondays

Mondays, 10am – 12pm

■ Active social sessions for older adults including Qi-Gong, mobility exercises, short tennis, badminton and pickleball. After all that exercise, enjoy a break with

refreshments, board games and chit chat.

Good Boost

Wednesdays | 1pm – 2pm | Hatch End Swimming Pool

■ A therapeutic aquatic exercise programme for people with musculoskeletal conditions that can help improve mobility with support from an instructor.

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LONDON BOROUGH OF
HARROW

Walk this way...

Whether you enjoy a gentle stroll or a more challenging ramble, there's a free Harrow Health Walk for you.

A fifth of the borough is parkland or open space, so there is plenty to explore. There's a walk every day of the week, whatever the weather, for all ages and abilities – including those using pushchairs and wheelchairs.

Walks are graded for difficulty and range from flat to tougher terrain, while some include additional activities like yoga and tai chi.

Alan, a regular on the weekly Elliot Hall Surgery walk, said: "It's fabulous. It gets people out, it

gets people talking, it gets people exercising. It's a great idea."

Walking has proven to improve your physical and mental health, and just being outdoors in nature can make people feel better.

Each Harrow Health walk is run by a fully qualified leader, who will



soon help you feel comfortable and answer any questions. You don't need any experience or special clothing. Just dress for the weather, wear sensible shoes and bring snacks and water.

Walk regular Sandie said: "I love our walks, I love the farm, I love the view, I love the company, I love our cows!"

Walk leader Ruth Simon said: "I've got a wonderful group of friends out of it. They've become really good close friends and new people who come every week become new friends."

▶ Want to try a walk? Find one for you, including wheelchair and pushchair accessible walks, at harrow.gov.uk/walk

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