

HILLINGDON people

News from your council
March/April 2020

www.hillingdon.gov.uk

Investing in your libraries

Budget for 2020/21 confirmed

Climate emergency declared

Commemorating VE Day



HILLINGDON
LONDON



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BE INVOLVED

Refuse and Recycling - Easter and May 2020

Don't forget that this year's early May Bank Holiday will be on Friday 8 May to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

DON'T FORGET!

Please leave your rubbish out for collection by 6am.

Please leave your rubbish near your front gate, but not on the pavement.

Separate arrangements are in place for flats and business premises.

If you have any queries, or would like to report a missed collection, visit

www.hillingdon.gov.uk/ recycling or call 01895 556000.



Easter	
Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Friday 10 April (Good Friday)	Saturday 11 April
Monday 13 April (Easter Monday)	Tuesday 14 April
Tuesday 14 April	Wednesday 15 April
Wednesday 15 April	Thursday 16 April
Thursday 16 April	Friday 17 April
Friday 17 April	Saturday 18 April

Early May Bank Holiday	
Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Friday 8 May	Saturday 9 May
Late May Bank Holiday	
Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 25 May	Tuesday 26 May
Tuesday 26 May	Wednesday 27 May
Wednesday 27 May	Thursday 28 May
Thursday 28 May	Friday 29 May
Friday 29 May	Saturday 30 May



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COVER PHOTO: YEAR 5 PUPILS FROM LADY BANKES JUNIOR SCHOOL ATTEND THE REOPENING OF RUISLIP MANOR LIBRARY.



Advertising deadline for next edition: Friday 3 April.

Editorial and advertising enquiries

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Welcome



Welcome to this March/April edition of *Hillingdon People*. Last month, Hillingdon Council set its budget for 2020/21. For the fourteenth year running, we will freeze council tax for over-65s. For all other residents, council tax will be increased by 1.8 per cent.

In the past four years, the council hasn't added the social care precept to council tax bills, but for the coming year we will be levying a precept of 2 per cent for all residents. This will mean a total rise of 3.8 per cent for those under the age of 65 (83p a week for a Band D property) and 2 per cent for those over 65 (44p a week for a Band D property).

This small increase will contribute £4.4 million a year towards maintaining and improving the many services and facilities provided by the council. The council is also continuing its policy of benchmarking fees and charges at 90 per cent of what neighbouring boroughs charge their residents.

As you will read in this edition of *Hillingdon People*, the council is continuing to maintain the services that matter to you and improve and deliver new facilities.

Ruislip Manor Library was the first to benefit from our £3 million library refurbishment programme, officially reopening in January. The library has a range of new features, offering a fresh and welcoming look and helping to meet the modern day needs of visitors. Fifteen of our libraries are set to be refurbished as part of this two-year programme, two libraries are also set to be rebuilt.

We are prioritising environmental issues, recognising the challenges ahead by investing in a range of initiatives. This includes protecting young people from nearby sources of pollution by installing screens at school playgrounds, and tackling air pollution by publicising the need for motorists to switch off their engines when stationary for more than five minutes, otherwise they risk being fined. The council is also working with schools to hold action days to educate young people and drivers about the dangers of engine idling. Additionally, in January, the council declared a climate change emergency, setting out plans to achieve 100 per cent clean energy across services by 2030.

In March and April the council is taking part in the national Great British Spring Clean initiative by holding a range of litter pick events. We are also encouraging residents, schools and community groups to make a pledge, however big or small, during this campaign to help to protect the local environment.

Next month we are once again set to launch our annual horticulture competitions - Hillingdon in Bloom and the Autumn Show. On page 20 you can read how we are continuing to support the Royal Horticultural Society campaign to 'Green Grey Britain' and encouraging residents to tackle the trend of vanishing front gardens to protect their local environment.

We are also investing in a programme of events for residents to mark VE Day 75. The council is proud to offer a free service for residents wanting to organise a street party on Friday 8 May, and a special event is also planned for Manor Farm. Libraries across Hillingdon will also hold a series of commemorative events throughout the month.

Ray Puddifoot
 Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE
 LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

FIESTA

Easter holiday activities FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Monday 6 to Thursday 9 and Tuesday 14 to Friday 17 April 2020

NEW for Easter 2020

Book courses from Wednesday 18 March at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/fiesta

FREE APPLIANCE WORTH UP TO £500

*Terms and conditions apply

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Helping residents lose weight



A weight action programme, funded by the council and delivered by NHS partners, The Confederation, Hillingdon has helped 71 residents to lose more than 158 kilograms (kg) since its launch in February 2019.

The initiative supports residents to make changes to their diet, lifestyle and activity levels so they can become fitter and feel more healthy.

Forty-one per cent of attendees lost three per cent of their original weight in 12 weeks.

The initiative is being delivered across three sites in Hillingdon - Yiewsley Health Centre, Eastcote Health Centre and the Civic Centre in Uxbridge. Participants are supported by a clinical team of nurses, pharmacists and healthcare assistants.

Residents are referred onto the programme by their GP or they can ask their GP to refer them. One of the cohorts who transformed their life,

was **Bill Davies***, who joined the programme last summer with a starting weight of 129.9kg. By week 12, he was down to 118.8kg, having lost an impressive 11.1kg. He has since gone on to lose another 9kg.

He said: "I had never considered my weight to be a problem before as I generally felt quite well. However, after weighing me, my GP pointed out I was in the obese category and suggested I join the Weight Action Programme. I now feel a lot more confident after getting my health back."

Cllr Jane Palmer, Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, said: "By working with our NHS partners, we are supporting residents to get fitter, and improve their activity levels and wellbeing."

For more information visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/health.

*Participant wished to remain anonymous



MCT PHOTOGRAPHY

Changes to the Cabinet

At Thursday 16 January's Full Council meeting, Leader of the Council, Cllr Ray Puddifoot appointed a new-look Cabinet with enhanced member portfolios, with a particular emphasis placed on the environment and climate change.

Following his election as MP for the Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner constituency, Cllr David Simmonds resigned in January from his position as Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services.

As a result, Northwood Hills councillor, Jonathan Bianco was appointed Deputy Leader and also continues to hold the Finance, Property and Business Services portfolio.

New additions to the Cabinet included, Harefield councillor, Jane Palmer, who took up the new position as Cabinet Member for

Social Care, Health and Wellbeing; and Manor councillor, Susan O'Brien who became Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Youth Services.

They join West Ruislip councillor, Philip Corthorne (Cabinet Member for Housing and the Environment); Uxbridge South councillor, Keith Burrows (Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation); Manor councillor, Douglas Mills (Cabinet Member for Community, Commerce and Regeneration); and Northwood councillor, Richard Lewis (Cabinet Member for Central Services, Culture and Heritage).

A by-election was held in Hillingdon East ward following the resignation of Patricia Jackson as this edition of *Hillingdon People* went to print. For results visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/elections.

recycled into compost and fertiliser.

Cllr Philip Corthorne, Cabinet Member for Housing and the Environment, said: "If each west London household recycled just two kilograms of food waste per week, it would save 600,000 tonnes of harmful carbon dioxide emissions a year."

Find out more about the campaign at www.westlondonfoodwaste.com.



Campaign launched to increase borough's food recycling rates

The council is working with the West London Waste Authority (WLWA) to encourage more people to recycle their food waste.

The three-month campaign is aimed at increasing the use of food caddies across west London.

Residents who do not have a food caddy are being

encouraged to request one via www.hillingdon.gov.uk/food-waste. They will receive both indoor and outdoor caddies and a roll of biodegradable liners for free.

Food waste in Hillingdon is collected alongside garden waste. It then goes to a specialist site in Harefield where it is

Pupils give drivers lessons on the dangers of engine idling

Pupils at Whiteheath Junior School in Ruislip joined the council to urge drivers to switch off their engines whilst stationary as part of an idling action day to tackle air pollution.

Motorists in the borough can be fined up to £80 if they leave their engine running unnecessarily whilst parked for more than five minutes.

Cllr Jane Palmer, Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health and Wellbeing; Idling Action Project officers and council enforcement officers, supported the Year 5 pupils as they spoke to drivers about the harmful effects caused by vehicle emissions – and asked them to turn

their engines off. The pupils also gave drivers information leaflets on how they can play their part in improving London's air quality.

The activity was part of an Idling Action Project, which sees Hillingdon and other London local authorities working together to cut dangerous vehicle emissions. As part of the project, funded by the Mayor of London's Air Quality Fund, Hillingdon will run anti-idling workshops with schools, engage with businesses and residents, and deliver training to fleet managers about air pollution.

Evan, aged 10, has a personal reason for being



passionate about the 'no idling' message. He said; "I have asthma and I hope that we can stop people who drive from idling and polluting, as it could give me an attack and I would end up in hospital."

Cllr Palmer said: "Idling is bad for our health, harms the environment and is a waste of fuel, so I was pleased to see

the pupils reinforce the message about the dangers and to get drivers to change their habits. Not idling helps reduce air pollution and will also stop drivers from receiving costly fines."

For more information about air quality and idling, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/airpollution and www.idlingaction.london.

Enhancements on the way for Hayes park



Improvement works are currently taking place at Barra Hall Park.

A range of renovations are under way to transform a variety of features for the benefit of park users.

Unfortunately, the existing flower beds of roses are too old to be revived, and are being removed. They will be replaced in the summer by vibrant and diverse floral displays which will bring even more colour to the green space.

Other improvements include renovating key features of historical interest. The octagonal bandstand, which was built in 1928, and

is used for events, will be restored. The cast ironwork frame will be sandblasted and redecorated, and the steel roof wire brushed and sanded to bring it back to its former glory.

The EMI memorial benches, commemorating the women working in EMI who died in an air raid during World War Two, will be refurbished.

The distinctive formal garden arches will also be sandblasted and repainted.

The existing children's playground and ball court will also be improved.

All works are due to be completed by summer.

Government funding to help tackle homelessness



The council is set to receive up to £2.18 million from the government's Rough Sleeping Initiative to help people who are homeless into accommodation.

Vulnerable rough sleepers are offered support throughout the year through the provision of emergency bed services, mental health support and access to affordable accommodation, and the funding will help to increase the provision of these services.

The council will invest in expanding its work to prevent homelessness by

offering more support to vulnerable individuals, families and landlords before the crisis point of eviction.

In addition to increased services, new initiatives will be introduced to tackle homelessness. The council will work closely with partner organisations to reduce the number of rough sleepers at Heathrow Airport and trial new measures to identify people at risk of homelessness at an earlier stage.

For advice on housing, homelessness and how to request assistance, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/housing.



Represent Hillingdon at the 2020 London Youth Games

The London Youth Games will return this summer, and young residents aged between 11 and 17 can now register to take part.

Training and trials for the majority of sports start this month, and the selected individuals and teams will get the opportunity to compete for Hillingdon.

Last year, 401 young people and 43 teams in Hillingdon took part, with the borough finishing in twelfth place. Hillingdon also entered more

categories than ever before (41 out of 53), competing in volleyball, handball and squash for the first time.

To see what sports are available and to register, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/youth-games.

The council coordinates and organises entrants in the Youth Games with clubs and coaches. Whereas the School Games are organised by the School Sports Network and entrants are coordinated individually by schools.



New facilities for centre

A range of improvements are set to take place at the council's Rural Activities Garden Centre (RAGC) in time for its fortieth birthday next year.

These include the installation of a new single-storey barn, which will house an exhibition space illustrating the agricultural history of the borough.

The museum will showcase a number of objects, which tell the story of how Hillingdon produced food supplies, and will focus on local nurseries, family farming history and farming during World War Two.

Proposals also include building a new café and shop, turning the existing café into an education space, enabling more horticultural courses to take place, a wider access road, additional parking spaces and electric car charging points.

The RAGC, in West Drayton Road, Yiewsley, sells a wide range of plants and seasonal produce, and provides employment, training and volunteering opportunities for adults with special educational needs.

For more information about the RAGC, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/RAGC.

Adult and Community Learning rated 'Good' by Ofsted

In January, Hillingdon Adult and Community Learning was delighted to retain its 'Good' rating from Ofsted.

The council service was commended for the quality of the education, guidance and support it provides in helping residents achieve their goals on a range of courses.

In their report, Ofsted inspectors noted that managers had a good track record in making improvements and in ensuring that the quality of education learners receive is good, and that experienced and skilled tutors made topics easy to follow.

The inspectors, who visited the service in December, were also impressed by the experiences, progress and responses of learners.



They noted that learners looked forward to attending classes, learning "much that helps them in their daily lives, their wellbeing or in their search for a job or further training."

They found that tutors are patient and "make topics easy to follow because they explain things clearly" and learners were

able to "develop their self confidence and esteem." Learners also said that they would recommend courses to their friends.

The report adds that: "Those taking qualifications are successful and achieve well. They gain pride and a sense of achievement in their work. Learners, such as older learners, gain a sense

of purpose from attending classes. Those with mental health conditions build their resilience very well. They make friends, become more active in their community and learn to cope better with everyday life."

Cllr Susan O'Brien, Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Youth Services, said: "Our Adult and Community Learning service provides invaluable training and support to residents of all backgrounds and I'm delighted that Ofsted has looked at the whole experience of our learners and once again recognised it as 'Good'."

To view the range of adult learning courses on offer and to sign up, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/adult-courses.

Resident ordered to pay costs following legal challenge

A Hayes resident has been ordered by the High Court to pay the council's legal costs after unsuccessfully challenging a planning decision.

On 17 September 2019, the council granted planning permission for a single-storey side extension to a property in Nield Road, Hayes. Planning permission was granted on the basis that the application complied with council planning policy and was a standard application proposing a small scale extension that would have a limited impact on the neighbourhood.

Nicola Brissett, of Nield Road, Hayes submitted a Judicial Review to the High Court in October 2019 challenging the council's decision.

On Monday 9 December 2019, the High Court

refused to grant Brissett permission to proceed with her claim and ordered her to pay £3,000 to cover the council's legal costs.

Subsequently, on Thursday 12 December 2019, Brissett challenged the court's decision.

However, on Wednesday 15 January 2020 the High Court upheld its previous decision to refuse permission to proceed with the claim and again ordered Brissett to pay the council's costs of £3,000.

The claim was considered by two separate High Court judges who both decided that it was unarguable.

A Judicial Review is a procedure by which the High Court can review the lawfulness of an administrative action by a public body, and an

application for Judicial Review has two stages.

The first involves the court determining if permission should be granted or refused to proceed, and the second is a substantive trial. The permission stage helps the court to filter out claims that are weak, frivolous, vexatious or with low prospects of success.

The process helps the court save its limited resources from being wasted, and if a claim is unsuccessful, the court may order reimbursement of legal costs incurred by the public body in defending the claim.

Leader of the Council, Cllr Ray Puddifoot, said: "This successful result shows that the court took a dim view of Brissett's claim which

had no legal justification and merely represented a desire to block a neighbour's proposed modest extension.

"The Judicial Review process exists to address serious failures of process not petty objections and we are glad that the court awarded costs in our favour as this was a waste of council time and resources."

If residents are upset by a council decision they may consider complaining via the council's corporate complaints process by visiting www.hillingdon.gov.uk/complaints. Once this is exhausted, residents have the option to pursue their complaint further through the Local Government Ombudsman, who impartially considers any complaints.

Company fined for advertising without planning permission

A property development and lettings company that broke planning laws by creating a large commercial painting on the side of a block of flats in Northwood has been ordered to pay more than £11,000, following prosecution by the council.

Appearing at Uxbridge Magistrates' Court on

Wednesday 11 December 2019, Sterling Rose Investments Limited admitted advertising on the side of its rental flats in Pinner Road, Northwood without planning permission and was fined £10,250. The company, based in Pinner Road, Harrow, was also told to pay £1,163.10 in costs and a £100 victim surcharge.

The court found that the sign was promoting the company's commercial business.

In August 2018, the company was ordered by the court to remove the unauthorised advertisement to comply with an enforcement notice issued by the council, but failed to do so. During the same proceedings, Sterling Rose was found guilty of breaching planning regulations and ordered to pay fines and costs totalling £1,300.

The company was also prosecuted in 2017 for placing a self-promotional billboard on the same block of flats. On that occasion, it was fined £100 and ordered to pay £473.50 legal costs plus a £30 victim surcharge. The company subsequently took the billboard down, but later replaced it with the painted advert.

In court the company said the mural had now been painted over and it had learned a valuable lesson.

Cllr Keith Burrows, Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation, said: "Despite repeated warnings and a history of prosecution, the company brazenly continued to use one of its buildings to promote itself. This was a clear breach of planning regulations and frankly they deserve the hefty fine. Let this be a warning to others that we won't allow illegal advertising in Hillingdon. No doubt local residents will be pleased to see such an eyesore finally painted over."

Residents can report planning enforcement concerns via www.hillingdon.gov.uk/doitonline.





Local hospice reopens

The much-valued Michael Sobell Hospice in Northwood has been spared from permanent closure following an intervention by the council's External Services Select Committee.

The hospice, which provides care for people with life limiting illnesses or conditions, closed in June 2018 after concerns were raised about the condition of its building.

The decision drew widespread disapproval from the community, with many calling for the council to step in and help to reverse the decision.

The council's External Services Select Committee facilitated a series of

meetings with Michael Sobell Hospice Charity and health partners, including Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group, Healthwatch Hillingdon and Hillingdon Hospital, to find a solution.

As a result, Michael Sobell Hospice and Harlington Hospice charities agreed to join forces to take over the running of the facility from East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust.

The newly refurbished hospice, which is on the site of Mount Vernon Hospital, reopened on Wednesday 15 January.

To find out more about the work of council committees, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/council.

Competition open to design this year's Starborg Cards

We are calling on residents of all ages with creative talents to once again help to design this year's Summer Reading Challenge Starborg Cards.



The annual challenge, run by The Reading Agency, aims to keep children reading throughout the school summer holidays and will return to the borough's libraries on Saturday 11 July.

The Starborg Cards, created by the council, feature a colourful array of animal characters and are a hugely popular reward for borrowing books. Each year, the council's libraries give away thousands of these unique collectible items to children as part of the challenge.

Residents are being encouraged to enter the design competition to be in with a chance of having their design featured on one of the 20 cards that make up the pack.

Your animal characters need to link to this year's challenge theme - Silly Squad - a celebration of funny books, happiness and laughter. Participants can also look at last year's Starborgs for ideas at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/starborgs.

Designs can be hand drawn or digital, and entries should be emailed as JPEG or TIF files to summerreadingchallenge@hillingdon.gov.uk by Friday 17 April. (Please keep your original artwork in case we need to scan it later).

Winning entrants will be contacted after the competition has closed. As well as having your design on one of our cards, winners will also be invited to attend the Summer Reading Challenge launch event, where all designs will be featured in a special exhibition.



New buses on the road for residents with additional needs

The council has invested £1.9 million in a fleet of new buses that will make journeys for children and adults with additional needs much more comfortable.

The fleet consists of two eight-seaters, 20 16-seaters and four 30-seaters. These will be used to transport children with special educational needs to school and vulnerable adults to daytime facilities in the borough. More than 220 residents will benefit from these new vehicles, adding to the services the council already commissions.

The vehicles are more modern and user

friendly than the previous buses, allowing for more pleasant journeys.

They come with adjustable seating that can be adapted to suit the needs of residents,



including wheelchair users, and are also fitted with air conditioning.

Lynn, whose daughter goes to a day centre, said: "The new buses are always clean and tidy.

My daughter is happy when she gets on the bus. The transport crews are helpful and work well with her to make her feel comfortable. I'm delighted with the service and couldn't be without it."

Cllr Susan O'Brien, Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Youth Services, said: "The buses support residents who are unable to get to school or attend other activities by themselves. We're proud that we've been able to update and invest in accessible transportation to meet their needs."

Delivering the services you value

The council approved its budget for 2020/21 at its meeting on Thursday 20 February, confirming that council tax will be frozen for a fourteenth year for over-65s.

For residents under the age of 65, following a 10-year freeze, council tax rose last year by 2.4 per cent - the lowest rise of all London boroughs. For the coming year, the rise will be 1.8 per cent.

Whilst the vast majority of councils across the country have, for the past four years, added a social care precept of 2 to 3 per cent to council tax bills, in Hillingdon we chose not to do so. However in the coming year, we will be levying a precept of 2 per cent for all residents.

In practice this will mean a total rise of 3.8 per cent for those under the age of 65 (83p a week for a Band D property) and 2 per cent for those over 65 (44p a week for a Band D property). There will be no reduction in service provision and numerous facility improvements.

Fees and charges will be set at 90 per cent of what neighbouring boroughs charge their residents.

Budget in numbers

The council delivers nearly 800 services. These are funded through a combination of grants from central government, a share of local business rates and your council tax.



- In 2020/21:
- council tax (52 per cent)
 - business rates (24 per cent)
 - central government grants (21 per cent)
 - use of reserves (3 per cent)

The budget included:

- £10 million funding to maintain local highways
- £2 million for the council's library refurbishment programme
- £32 million for the new leisure centre and community facilities in West Drayton
- £3.1 million for improvements to the council's existing leisure centres
- £3.9 million to provide new facilities for local youth groups
- £2.3 million to carry out town centre improvements across the borough to boost local businesses and high streets
- £35.7 million towards the council's ongoing school building and expansion programme
- £2.6 million for the Cranford Park restoration project
- £3.3 million for environmental initiatives, such as pollution screens at schools and to fight the next stages of the proposed Heathrow expansion if required

- £5 million funding to purchase Uxbridge Police Station
- £1.7 million to carry out improvement works at the Battle of Britain Bunker

Leader of the Council, Cllr Ray Puddifoot, said:

"All local authorities are facing ongoing funding challenges. However residents can be reassured that here in Hillingdon, as a result of our strong financial management and good business practice, we are keeping council tax rises to a minimum while delivering a balanced budget and continuing to provide the services our residents value, as well as investing in improvements to services and facilities."

In 2020/21 your council tax will fund...



For details on council tax and how to pay, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/counciltax

Protecting yourself from rogue traders

Every year people lose money to fraudsters that carry out a range of scams across the UK. The council is urging residents, particularly older people, to be extra vigilant and guard themselves and others.

Common types of fraud include doorstep, phone, mail and email scams. These crimes can often be difficult to investigate, and for this reason, it is extremely important to be aware of how you can protect yourself.

Door-to-door scams

Some legitimate businesses sell products door-to-door and companies may visit to read your meter. Charities might even call to collect donations. However, fraudsters can turn up unannounced using fake IDs with the intention of tricking you into buying something under pressure, gaining entry to steal from your home or even pretending to be a charity.

Fraudulent cold callers may offer to carry out a small job, such as clearing gutters, repairing roof tiles, gardening or cleaning, for a very low price before falsely claiming that more work needs to be done.

The council's trading standards service advises you not to allow cold callers to carry out any home maintenance, especially when you are not already aware that work is required.

When answering the door, you should use your door chain or look through the spyhole, particularly if you are not expecting anyone. You should never feel obliged to answer the door if you are suspicious of a caller.

Some fraudsters may try to gain your trust by pretending to work for another resident in your street, using glossy flyers, or wearing smart suits or safety helmets to deceive you. Again, you should avoid letting anyone in unless they are someone you know and trust.

If you are interested in a service a trader is offering, take down their details so you can check their credentials through an approval scheme, such as www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk or



www.trustedtraders.which.co.uk, or speak with friends or family first for advice. Depending on the circumstance, you may also want to contact the Citizens Advice Service or seek legal advice.

Hillingdon's Age UK branch also has a heavily-vetted Trusted Trader scheme which you can check businesses against or call up for a recommendation. For a trader to be added, they must provide details including references, pricing, qualifications and more. To use the service, call 020 8756 3040.

It is important not to feel pressured into signing any form of agreement or saying yes to having work done on the spot. A contractor should give you a formal written quotation, and contracts made in the home usually have at least a 14-day cancellation period.

Rogue traders may offer to drive you to the bank to withdraw money or make a transfer. Banks are aware of this type of fraudulent activity. If you find yourself in that position, mention the words 'banking protocol' to the cashier. The bank,



police and trading standards service will then take immediate steps to protect you and your savings.

If you are visited by someone who says they are from a utility company, charity, or even from the council, check their ID card thoroughly. You can also call the company's customer services department to confirm whether it is a genuine visit. Don't worry about leaving someone waiting, if they are who they say they are, they won't mind.

If you think someone is a suspicious tradesperson, note down their description and vehicle details, such as the registration number, make, model and colour and take photos if you can. This information will help the police and trading standards service to investigate them.

If you encounter a suspicious tradesperson, report it to the Citizens Advice Service on 03454 04 05 06. The council's trading standards service will investigate and take appropriate action

Scam mail or emails

Mail scams are sent by post and may be addressed to you directly by name. They contain fake claims or offers that are designed to con you out of your money. Similar scams are becoming increasingly common by email.

It is important to remember that you cannot win money or a prize if you've not entered a competition, and fake prize scams often include costs to claim your prize.

Action Fraud recommends that you do not provide personal information,

such as your name, address, bank details, email or phone number to organisations or people, before verifying their credentials. It can only take a single response to a scammer to then be inundated with further scam mail. Also destroy any letters or bills containing personal details, as identity fraudsters don't need much information to be able to clone your identity.

Remember that banks and financial institutions will not send you an email asking you to click on a link and confirm your bank details. This is likely to be a scammer trying to take you to a fake website so they can steal your account details.

To prevent this happening to you, do not click on links or attachments unless you know they are from a trusted source, as they might contain viruses that can infect your computer and steal your information. You can also set up passwords on your accounts to ensure your details remain protected. It is vital that you install security on your computer that can protect against viruses and alert you when an email or attachment is a potential threat.

Similarly, if you receive an email from a friend or relative asking you to send them cash,



Phone scams

Similar to mail, email and doorstep scams, people may try and trick you by posing as your bank over the phone and ask for personal information or a PIN number, or even ask you to give your bank card to a courier. Age UK urges people to never give out their details unless you made the call or the number came from a trusted source. The same goes for unsolicited sales or marketing calls such as accident claim lines, debt management, investment companies and pension reviews.

You should also not respond to missed calls or text messages from numbers you don't recognise. If you receive a call from someone you don't know, always ask them for their name and the organisation they represent in the first instance.

To help prevent nuisance cold calls, join the free Telephone Preference Service (0345 070 0707) so you can be added to the central opt out register. You could also allow numbers you don't recognise to go to voicemail,



your answering machine or check your caller ID (if you have it) to avoid dealing with potential fraudsters.

You should contact the organisation the scammer was posing as, such as your bank, and Action Fraud to report any fraudsters you speak to on the phone



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this could be a scammer who has broken into or hacked that person's email. Get in touch with the person to see if they sent the email to make sure it is genuine.

If something seems too good to be true - it probably is! Make sure you carefully examine all the terms and conditions on any offer.

You can report and get advice about online fraud or cyber crime by calling Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040

Remember, if a crime is in progress or about to be committed, or the suspect is known or can easily be identified, or if a crime involves a vulnerable victim, you should speak to the police (999 in an emergency and 101 in a non-emergency).



Protecting the environment for generations to come

Recognising the many environmental challenges ahead, the council is responding to these growing issues by running a range of initiatives to make Hillingdon a cleaner and greener borough to live, work and visit.

Council declares climate change emergency

At January's Full Council meeting, a climate change emergency was declared and the council laid out its intentions for the borough to meet ambitious targets to become carbon neutral by 2030.

The motion was put forward by Cllr Jonathan Bianco, Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Business Services.

Cllr Bianco outlined the council's plans to achieve 100 per cent clean energy across services by 2030. The government is aiming for net-zero emissions by 2050.

He highlighted that Hillingdon is one of London's greenest boroughs and has substantially invested in its award-winning parks and open spaces while protecting and enhancing the local environment.

In recent years, the council has transformed itself, becoming greener and more efficient, while saving

taxpayers' money through a number of changes and initiatives, including:

- A 53 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions over the past five years from non-domestic electricity and gas supplies
- A planned new contract from 2020 to provide electricity for council properties and schools from 100 per cent certified renewable sources
- An LED street lighting programme, replacing 23,700 sodium lights to be more energy efficient, resulting in a 74 per cent reduction in carbon emissions
- Active measures to improve local air quality and deter people from leaving their vehicle engine idling, particularly around schools
- More ways to reduce the amount of plastic waste that ends up in landfill or as litter, such as through new drinking fountains in the borough's parks
- Urban greening initiatives and the planting of new trees across the borough, including offering 5,000 free saplings for residents to grow on their premises.

Cllr Philip Corthorne, Cabinet Member for Housing and the Environment, said:

"Climate change is one of the biggest challenges we are facing and we all have a role to play. We have to find ways to be more sustainable and energy efficient if we are to protect Hillingdon, its residents and our planet for future generations.

"To meet these ambitious targets, the council is reviewing its services to look at new ways to be more efficient. Working with partners, suppliers and our communities, we can work together to make a difference."



Protecting our young people

The council is also incorporating its urban greening approach to protecting young people from nearby sources of pollution.

This involves combining the planting of hedges and trees alongside physical barriers such as willow screens at schools and nurseries where the playgrounds or school playing fields are in close proximity to busy roads.

A study by the Mayor of London has looked at pollution levels at school premises throughout London, and although schools in Hillingdon were not identified as being above the recognised pollution limit, reducing exposure to pollution has proven health benefits for children.

Even where schools are in generally less polluted areas, there are still benefits to be gained by reducing the exposure of young children to pollution from nearby traffic during their recreational times.

Whilst the screens do not reduce the damaging pollution from the sources that actually cause it, such as road traffic, they do provide benefits in protecting children, who are particularly vulnerable to air pollution, allowing pupils to play outside in a safer, cleaner and greener environment.

A pollution barrier installation programme started last year

with St Andrew's Church of England Primary School and Young Ones Nursery, both in Uxbridge and next to busy main roads, receiving screens.

This spring, five more school playgrounds will receive screens made of wood and woven willow alongside a pollution filtering hedge of the evergreen Portuguese laurel, and trees where practicable.

The screens complement other measures introduced by the council to tackle air pollution at schools. One of these is to reduce school-run traffic by encouraging parents to make the Parent Parking Pledge to travel via more environmentally friendly ways to school, turn off engines while parked or to park away from the school gates. To find out more, contact the school travel and road safety team by emailing stars@hillingdon.gov.uk.

The council is also installing 'No Idling' signage outside schools and hotspots in Hillingdon. Drivers are warned that if they leave their engines running for more than five minutes at a time they risk being fined. The council is also taking part in a series of idling awareness action days. Read more about this on page 5.

For more information on air pollution visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/airpollution.



Pledge to make a difference

The ethos of the Great British Spring Clean is that together we can all make a difference and our individual actions can help to protect the environment.

This spring, the council would like to encourage residents, schools, community groups, businesses and uniformed groups to pledge to do something to help the environment during the campaign.

This can be taking part in one of our litter pick events or organising your own. You could pledge to recycle more, use reusable products, reduce your energy consumption, travel in a more environmentally friendly way - there are a multitude of things that you can do, however big or small, that can help to make a difference and protect the environment for generations to come.

Make your pledge by visiting www.hillingdon.gov.uk/environment-pledge - where we will show how many of you are taking part in the campaign.

If you'd also like to share your experience, we'd love to also hear your stories and see your photos. These can be emailed to corporatecommunications@hillingdon.gov.uk or shared with us by mentioning @Hillingdon on Twitter and using the hashtag #environmentpledge.



Help us to protect the environment

The council is holding three litter pick events in parks in March and April as part of the Great British Spring Clean 2020 (Friday 20 March to Monday 13 April) - the country's mass-action environmental campaign run by the Keep Britain Tidy environmental charity.

Volunteers are welcome to join the council's green spaces team and local volunteer groups at these events, which aim to raise awareness of the damaging effects of littering.



Pinn Meadows
Saturday 21 March,
10.30am to 1pm

Near the skate park at Kings College Playing Fields, Ruislip. The Mayor of Hillingdon, Cllr David Yarrow will attend.

Find out more at www.fopm.org.uk or by emailing robcoutins@sky.com.

Cranford Country Park
Saturday 4 April, 10am to 1pm

Adjacent to the old stables and St Dunstan's Church.

Find out more by emailing secretary@cranfordparkfriends.org.

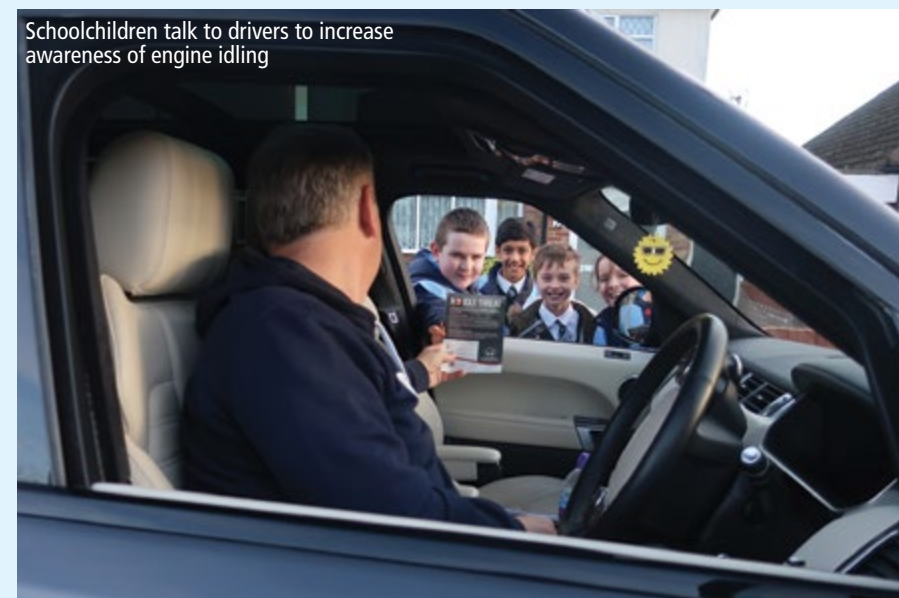
Hillingdon House Farm
Wednesday 8 April,
9.30am to 1pm

Nursery/Scout hut at Sweetcroft Lane, Uxbridge.

Find out more by emailing contact@hillingdon.gov.uk.



Water fountains in the borough's parks



Schoolchildren talk to drivers to increase awareness of engine idling

COMMEMORATING VE DAY 75

The council will host a programme of events across Hillingdon to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day.

This year's early May Bank Holiday is moving from Monday 4 May to Friday 8 May to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day and the end of the Second World War in Europe.

On the afternoon of 8 May 1945, citizens across Britain tuned into the radio as Prime Minister, Winston Churchill announced Germany's surrender, officially ending war in Europe.

Residents in Hillingdon, like those in many other parts of the country, took to the streets to celebrate, throwing big potluck luncheons, playing music outside, and dancing in the streets. After years of city bombings, blackouts, and intense rationing, Britain was finally ready to celebrate.

The Board of Trade announced that people could purchase red,

white and blue fabric without using ration coupons, allowing citizens to create decorations for their street parties. Handmade colourful bunting lined the streets of villages across Britain putting everyone in a patriotic mood.

Street parties were not the only way people celebrated. Many reflected on the more serious nature of VE Day, and remembered the thousands of men and women who lost their lives.

Hundreds of thousands attended church services, and St Paul's Cathedral in central London recorded more than 10,000 worshippers.

To mark VE Day 75, the council has planned a range of special events in May where residents can pay tribute to one of the most significant events in British history.

Events on Friday 8 May

VE 75 at Manor Farm (Bury Street, Ruislip, HA4 7SU), 10am to 4pm

Join us at Manor Farm to commemorate 75 years since Victory in Europe.

Families can learn more about what it was like to live in Hillingdon during wartime, and there will be a street party with live jazz all day, swing dancing, and more.

Take a closer look at our collection by handling wartime artefacts. Bring history to life by meeting some of our special guests from the past - a deceiving spiv, rationing housewife, and a heroic Spitfire pilot.

Visit Manor Farm House, a 16th century farmhouse with a newly planted herb garden, and temporary display illustrating how Hillingdon celebrated VE Day 75 years ago.

Special commemorative ceremony

Civic Centre forecourt, from 2.40pm

As part of the national Nation's Toast to the Heroes of World War Two, there will be a special event at the Civic Centre forecourt, featuring a reading by the Mayor of Hillingdon of *Tribute to the Millions*, a trumpeter playing the *Last Post/Reveille* and a piper playing *Battle's O'er* and specially composed tune *VE Day 75*.



Hold your own VE Day street party

Residents wanting to organise a street party to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day on Friday 8 May can now apply to the council for free road closures, public notices, traffic management services and public liability insurance.

Road closures will be considered for cul-de-sacs, crescents, quiet roads that are not 'through roads' and roads not on bus routes as these will not generally impact on traffic movement. However don't despair if you happen to live on a more major road, as the council may still be able to suggest alternative locations, such as nearby parks or

open spaces. Although this is only an option where residents live on a road that cannot be closed.

Please note that for public liability insurance, any excess will be the responsibility of the organiser should a claim be made.

Online application forms and guidelines are available on www.hillingdon.gov.uk/VEDay75. The deadline for applications is Friday 3 April. If you would like to discuss any details before applying, please contact Lyn Summers, Project and Events Manager, by emailing streetparties@hillingsdon.gov.uk or calling 01895 556640.

Leader of the Council, Cllr Ray Puddifoot, said: "Street parties are a great way to bring local communities together. We offered this service to residents who wanted to celebrate the weddings of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, the Queen's 90th birthday and the Diamond Jubilee. I hope the free service we are offering will encourage everyone who enjoyed them previously to get involved again and that it will also motivate others to join in and mark this very special occasion."

Other events throughout May

James Holland

Thursday 14 May, 7.30pm to 9pm at the Battle of Britain Bunker Exhibition and Visitor Centre, Wren Avenue, Uxbridge, UB10 0BE

World famous historian James Holland will visit Hillingdon to talk about his book *Normandy 44: D-Day and the Battle for France*.

Libraries across Hillingdon are holding a series of events, including an exhibition, film screenings and VE Day-themed coffee mornings. Highlights include:

Victory in Europe with Julian Thompson

Friday 1 May, 7.30pm to 9pm at Uxbridge Library

Experience what the storming and taking of Hitler's Fortress Europe by the Allies may have been like during the final 11 months of World War Two. Leading military historian Julian Thompson uses maps, diaries, letters and items from the Imperial War Museum and other collections in Northern Europe and America to examine this epic campaign.

VE Day Street Party: Families

Thursday 7 May, 3pm to 5pm at Ruislip Manor Library

Come and join this afternoon tea party. There's coffee and cakes on sale with proceeds going to The British Legion. There will be flags to hand out, a treasure hunt and children can make their own Union Jack hats.

VE Day party and show

Tuesday 26 May, midday to 1.30pm at Botwell Green Library

If you're over 60, you can enjoy an indoor street party with Young@Heart with a performance from the singing and dancing troupe, Bus Pass to Broadway.

For the full programme of events and more information visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/VEDay75





Apprentices in the spotlight

Our much-valued cohort of apprentices were celebrated at a special event at the Civic Centre on Tuesday 4 February.

Held to mark the thirteenth annual National Apprenticeship Week, the day saw more than 60 apprentices from a range of council departments gather in the Council Chamber.

The event was a chance to celebrate the fantastic opportunities apprenticeships bring to employers, individuals, local communities and the economy, and thank the apprentices for their contribution to Hillingdon.

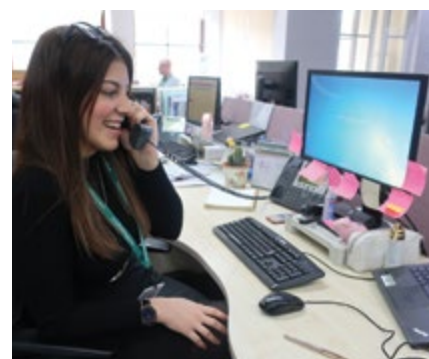
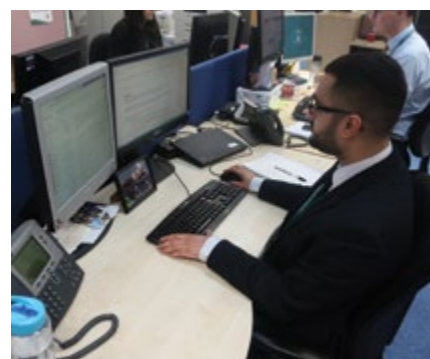
The council's Chief Executive, Fran Beasley, and Cllr Richard Lewis, Cabinet Member for Central Services, Culture and Heritage, welcomed

attendees, ahead of presentations from external companies who work with apprentices and testimonials from some of the council's apprentices themselves.

Our apprenticeship scheme gives apprentices the real-world experience and training they need to gain qualifications and forge a career, while also being paid and working towards an accreditation.

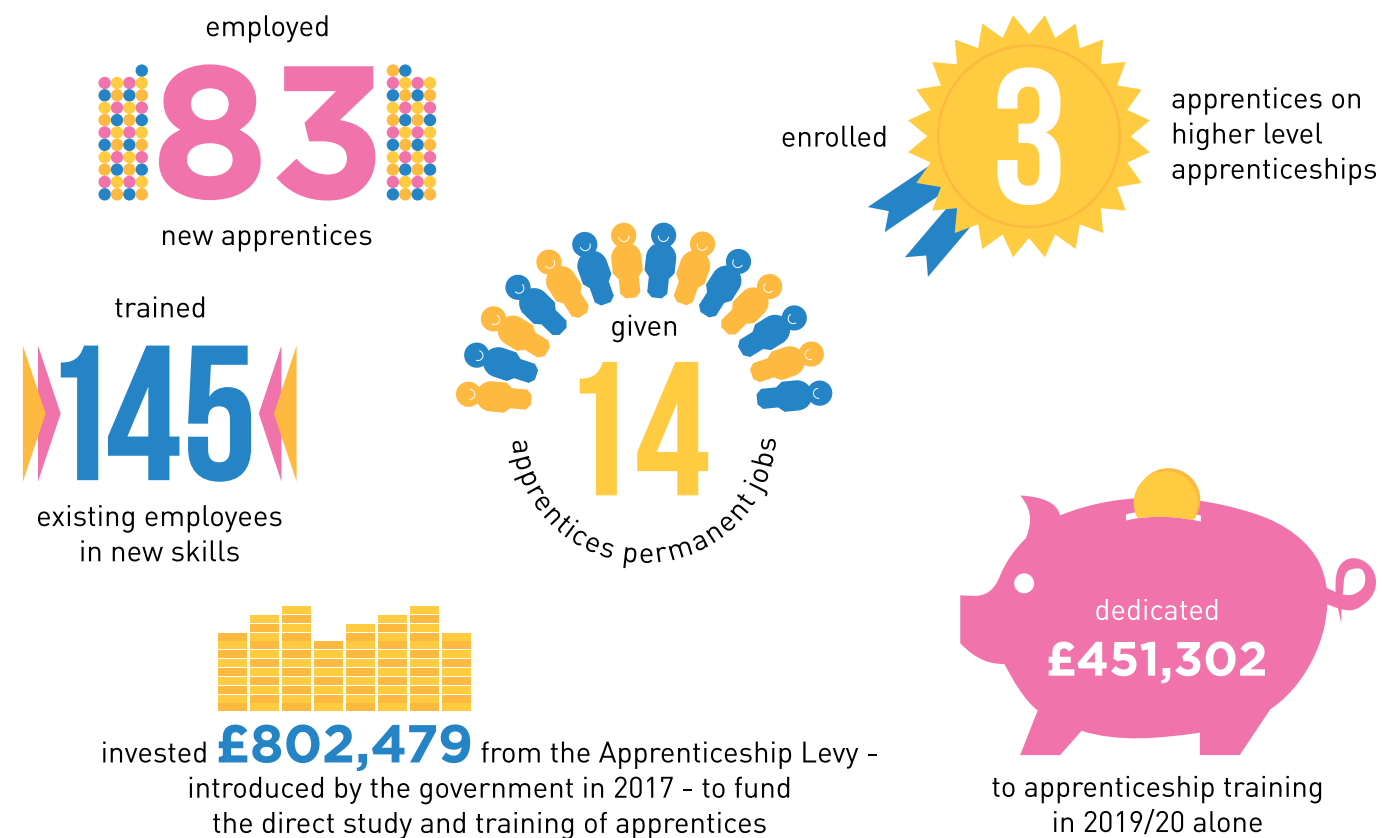
Apprentices work in a variety of areas, from horticulture, town planning, libraries and carpentry, to legal, accounts, project planning and social work.

Cllr Lewis said: "I am incredibly proud of the apprentices' individual achievements and the scheme as a whole. In a little over three years, we have become a shining example of how to do apprenticeships right, not least because of our 'apprenticeship first' approach to recruitment, where we review every role to see whether it could be another opportunity for someone to earn while they learn."

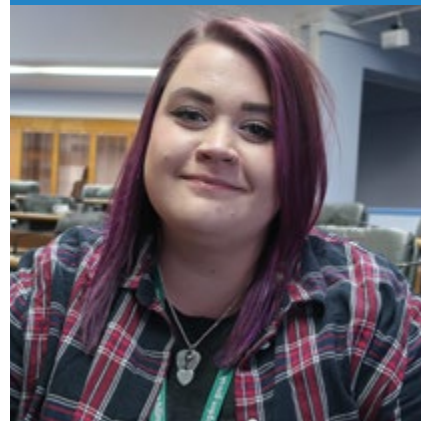


Apprenticeships in numbers

Since the current scheme launched in May 2017, the council has:



Chloe-Mai Parfitt



Chloe-Mai, 23, is enrolled on a Junior Content Production Level 3 apprenticeship with the council's Corporate Communications team, which is responsible for keeping residents updated with council news and priorities.

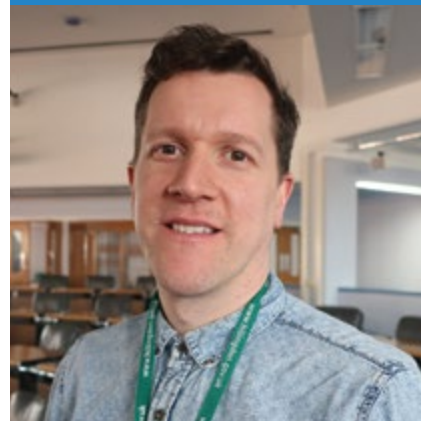
Chloe's 15-month course is giving her invaluable experience in producing text, images and videos for the council's digital channels, including its website and social media pages.

Chloe, who lives in South Ruislip, completed a degree in creative writing at Winchester University and wasn't aware that she was eligible

for an apprenticeship until a relative sent her information about the role.

"Media jobs are notoriously difficult to get into," said Chloe, "and I was working as a supervisor at Starbucks while looking for an opportunity to use the skills I had developed at university. This apprenticeship allows me to get the experience I need to make this my career. I have always been a Hillingdon resident, so it's also nice to be involved in what's happening in my area."

Matthew Bateman



Last year, the council became the first local authority in London to offer an apprenticeship programme for trainee social workers. **Matthew, 37**, is one of 11 new recruits.

The three-year programme gives Matthew and his fellow apprentices the chance to study for their social work degree while working and earning money.

Ealing-born Matthew used to be a youth worker in the creative arts field. Wanting a new challenge, he decided to embark on a change of career that allowed him to work with families and

make a difference in people's lives.

He said: "This apprenticeship gives me the opportunity to work with local agencies and charities as well. A social work degree is also well regarded and there is good career progression.

"I would definitely recommend that people give it a go. It's a great way to get more skills while receiving a wage."

Anyone considering joining the council as an apprentice is invited to visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/apprenticeships for more information

Creating a more dynamic and modern library environment for all ages

On Tuesday 14 January, Ruislip Manor Library, which is the first of our libraries to benefit from a new £3 million refurbishment programme, was officially reopened.

Leader of the Council, Cllr Ray Puddifoot cut the ribbon to mark the occasion alongside the Mayor of Hillingdon, Cllr David Yarrow. They were also joined by ward councillors, council employees, residents and Year 5 pupils from nearby Lady Bankes Junior School.

The new-look interior, which is predominantly open plan, was transformed in 12 weeks and now has distinct zones, highlighting that each area has a different use.

The zones have been created through the use of a varied colour palette of pinks, blues, greys and a warm white, and contrasting materials or features, such as carpets, vinyl flooring, different types of lighting, slatted timber and acoustic panels.

Most of the walls are light with touches of colour, however a feature wall within the IT room has a vibrant and contemporary angular painted pattern using the full colour scheme.



Various materials are used as flooring and mark out the different zones, including soft carpet for the study/quiet area, a fun vinyl road map for the children's area, functional wood for the café and reception area, and lino for office spaces and the IT room.

Slatted timber on the ceiling above the front desk and a welcome sign denotes the reception area.

Acoustic disc-shaped panels have been installed in the children's area. These are a range of colours and not only provide a contemporary and

Cllr Richard Lewis, Cabinet Member for Culture and Heritage, said: "Our libraries are well-used community hubs and we recognise their importance to local residents. This is why we are continuing to invest in these facilities to ensure they look fresh and welcoming, and meet the modern day needs of visitors."

"Ruislip Manor Library's new-look is fantastic and I hope that local residents go along to this revitalised space and find out about the services it has to offer."

fun look and feel but also condense sound, so that should any Storytime group sessions become lively, other library users will be less likely to be as disturbed by the excitement.

Light stowaway circular and square colourful seats also feature in the children's area. The seating can be stacked and offers a practical storage solution for when they are not in use but can also be used as a learning game by young children.

In the study area and IT room, bespoke tables have been installed. The study room has plug-in points for visitors bringing laptops and the IT room has bigger tables for computers, so that those using them have more space for other items such as books and guides.

In the main area, the existing sofas and chairs have been reupholstered to complement the new colour scheme. Bookshelves have been modified to create more floor space, and new metal dividers that slot into the shelving units mark the different sections.

Slotted timber shelving has also been installed to separate the main area from the IT room. This open shelving will provide views to the IT room and also improve air quality.

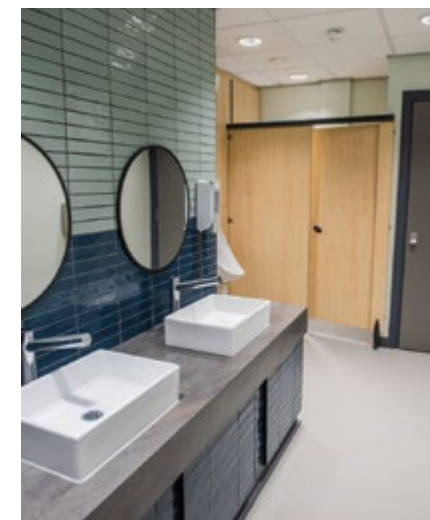
In the male, female and disabled toilets, the same colour palette continues and new flooring, tiles, basins and taps have been fitted.



The library has also benefited from the installation of air conditioning.

Fifteen of the borough's libraries are set to be refurbished during the next two years, with two set to be rebuilt, and each will aim to follow the same design principles to ensure a consistent look and feel. However, as each library interior is unique, some features may need to be adapted.

Ruislip Manor resident, Derek Kendall (pictured top right) is delighted with the new look. He said: "Keeping libraries open is great. The library has easy parking and the refurbishment is fantastic. Staff are nice and always cheerful!"



Next up...

Charville and Harefield libraries are the next to benefit from the programme. Charville closed in December and Harefield in February. Both are due to reopen in March.

While works take place, the mobile library will visit both areas on a weekly basis and all other Hillingdon libraries will be open as usual. Recycling bags can be picked up in any other Hillingdon library.

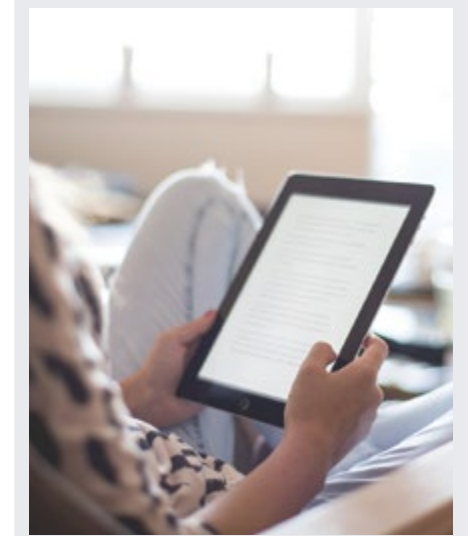
Online reading club launched

January saw the start of the council's first digital-only reading club.

The group is in addition to a range of library-based reading sessions and also provides an opportunity for those who cannot physically attend a group to virtually share their thoughts on books and socialise.

The monthly club, which is called Bookworms Online, encourages residents to borrow or download books using the free library app BorrowBox and take part in a discussion on Twitter (@Hill_libraries) between 6pm and 7pm on the third Thursday of each month.

For more information visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/library-events.



BookTrust donates more than £160,000 of books

BookTrust, the UK's largest children's reading charity, has signed a one-year partnership with the council, pledging an incredible £162,979 in books and resources to encourage children and families to read.

The charity runs a universal book gifting programme for children, and every child of up to 12 months or three and four years old should receive a Bookstart pack.

The books and resources aim to encourage more families to read together, share stories and develop a lifelong love of reading.

For more information visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/bookstart.



For more information about Hillingdon's libraries, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/libraries



Get growing this spring

Help improve your local environment through gardening. *Hillingdon People* highlights how you can take action to curb the trend of vanishing front gardens and take part in this year's Hillingdon in Bloom and Autumn Show competitions.

The vanishing front garden crisis

In recent years the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) reported that the number of front gardens with no plants growing in them is on the rise at an alarming rate.

RHS-commissioned Mori Polls in 2005 and 2015 revealed that three times as many front gardens are now paved over in comparison with 10 years previously and planting in front gardens has decreased by as much as 15 per cent.

More than five million front gardens now have no plants growing in them (one in three for the UK) and four and a half million gardens (one in four) are completely paved over.

The loss of front gardens is leading to a reduction in the amount of plants and wildlife, creating rising urban temperatures, increasing the risk of flooding and having a negative impact on wellbeing.

Gardens, verges and street trees are all home to fauna - when they are removed to create a crossover it destroys homes and food for wildlife.

Gardens can soak up rain, while paving, tarmac and concrete are less porous and increase the amount of rainwater that runs off by as much as 50 per cent. This additional water usually flows into street drains, which can't always cope with this during a storm.

The loss of vegetation from streets results in an inability to regulate temperatures and adds to air pollution. Hard surfaces absorb



heat during the day and release it at night, making temperatures warmer and creating localised weather conditions like storms.

Front gardens can benefit people's wellbeing by providing screening and privacy, or creating a talking point for neighbours.

Hard paving can also cause subsidence by reducing or stopping rainfall getting into the ground. This can cause soil to shrink and affect structures, with garden walls, paths and homes developing cracks.



Permission and design

You need to apply to the council to install a domestic crossover and our new crossover policy contains a requirement for residents to retain 25 per cent of soft landscaping in their front gardens. Visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/vehidecrossovers for more information.

If you want to pave your front garden, choose permeable materials which allow rainwater to soak into the ground, such as brick pavers, gravel, matrix pavers or grass reinforcement products (see above).

Think about the design - how much room will your car take? Even the smallest space can be made green with plants that will thrive in them. Do you have walls and fences that you could plant climbers on? Are there any dead spaces where you can create beds or install pots, planters or boxes?

Cllr Jonathan Bianco, Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Business Services, said: "The council is continuing to support the RHS campaign to 'Green Grey Britain' and would like to encourage residents to tackle the vanishing front garden trend by transforming hard, grey areas into planted areas.

"Paving your garden may be important to you if you are vulnerable or disabled, or if you find that you struggle to park on your street. However there are plenty of ways to do this and keep the front garden green and reduce the impact on the environment."

Plants

There are a range of low-growing plants that can thrive under cars, such as Creeping Jenny, Bugle and thymes.

Shrubs, trees and hedges provide wildlife with shelter, nesting and food. Birds will eat berries from plants such as Pyracantha, while insects feast on the pollen and nectar produced by flowers. Suggestions include Catmint, Honeysuckle, Ivy and Aster.

Pots and planters can be placed anywhere, allowing plants to be grown in areas of the front garden that don't have soil. For summer colour, plant bedding plants such as Petunias and Nicotianas in late May. These can be replaced with Pansies in September to keep the display going through the winter. If you want the containers to look good for more than one season, choose evergreen shrubs.

Climbing plants can easily be used to dress bare walls and fences with decorative foliage and flowers. Try Clematis Alpina, Ivy and Ceanothus such as 'Delight'.

For more advice and details on how to plant and care for a range of plants, visit www.rhs.org.uk



Hillingdon in Bloom and the Autumn Show

The council is encouraging residents of all ages and gardening abilities to sign-up to participate in this year's Hillingdon in Bloom and Autumn Show competitions when applications open on Tuesday 28 April.

Hillingdon in Bloom is an opportunity for amateur gardeners to imaginatively improve the local environment with flowers, shrubs and landscaping. You never know, your application may lead to winning one of this year's categories and gardening centre gift vouchers to help you to keep up the good work.

As part of our campaign to tackle vanishing front gardens, a new category has been created. 'Park and Bloom' will award the best front garden for residents making space for the car amongst their plants and flowers.

Judging will take place between July and August, and all entries, except for school and communal gardens, must be viewable from a public place.



Judges will leave a calling card to let you know that your entry has been viewed. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at our Autumn Show at the Great Barn, Manor Farm on Saturday 19 September.

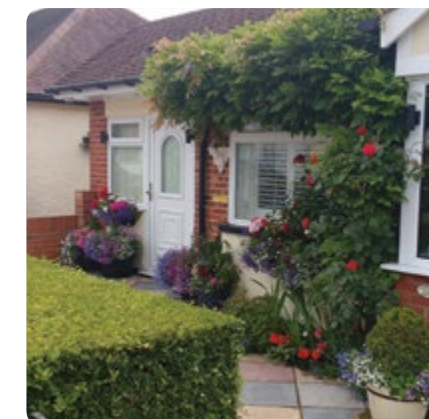
The Autumn Show celebrates horticultural excellence and all things blooming marvellous! Enter your own produce in a range of classes, including vegetables, fruit, jams, chutneys, cupcakes, chrysanthemum cut blooms, dahlias, vegetable art and children's art and craft, for a chance to win gardening vouchers.

Entry is free for both competitions and it only takes a few minutes to apply. Fill in the online form on www.hillingdon.gov.uk/bloom or pick up a paper application leaflet at your local library, the Civic Centre or Rural Activities Garden Centre (UB8 3JZ). The closing date for entries for Hillingdon in Bloom is 12 June and 11 September for the Autumn Show.



Hillingdon in Bloom categories

- **Best first time entrant**
- **Best window box**
Boxes must be on, or attached to, the house window sill and not a free standing container.
- **Best hanging basket**
- **Best balcony**
Best display on an open fronted balcony.
- **Best 'bloomin' business**
- **Best school project/display**
Planted and cared for by children.
- **Best community project - residential street**
Group entry to include a minimum of four adjacent properties working together to create an overall garden display.
- **Best display (including novelty display)**
For an exhibit within a garden that incorporates temporary planting and/or garden ornaments and structures.
- **Roome Cup**
The garden that is judged to be making the greatest contribution to wildlife conservation.
- **Best residential garden**
This can include rear gardens that can be viewed by the passing public.
- **Best tree pit garden**
Encouraging residents and local businesses to brighten up their street by planting around the base of a tree. Please don't cause any damage to the tree or encroach on the footpath.
- **Park and bloom**



“Already living up to its mixed-use billing” - Old Vinyl Factory site provides new homes and jobs

It has been seven years since the council first gave the go ahead for a major new mixed-use development on the site of the Old Vinyl Factory in Hayes. *Hillingdon People* catches up with the latest on the project, as the drive to generate new business, jobs, leisure facilities and homes for local residents continues.

The former EMI factory, once home to the world's largest producer and exporter of vinyl records by iconic bands including the Beatles and the Rolling Stones, has already undergone an impressive transformation since urban regeneration specialists U+I began redevelopment in 2013, with most of the 16,722.5 square-metre site now occupied or under development.

Scheduled for completion in 2022, the £250 million scheme comprises 15 new or refurbished buildings. It will eventually be home to more than 630 homes, approximately 70,000 square metres of commercial space and a range of leisure facilities, and will provide employment opportunities to an estimated 4,000 workers.

One of the project's greatest employment successes so far is the launch of the Central Research Laboratory (CRL). Opened four years ago in the Shipping Building, the unique hardware development facility originally hosted and supported just a handful of start-up ventures. It is now home to more than 70 businesses and

is quickly outgrowing its premises. The CRL plans to relocate to the nearby Powerhouse Building in October, where there will be room for 350 workers. Its expanded facilities will include conference rooms and a café.

The fully refurbished Record Store is also offering dynamic office accommodation, and options are being considered for the Cabinet Building.

Elsewhere on the site, work is progressing on much-needed homes for local people.

Construction will commence this year on the Assembly Building - a 181-home apartment block that will offer 35 per cent affordable homes and retail facilities on the ground floor.

Other parts of the site are already occupied by residents. Fizzy Living has 189 units to rent in the Material Store, and the Boiler House provides 54 one, two and three-bedroom flats to buy.

The Machine Store will provide another residential block, with studio, one, two and three-bedroom apartments expected to be available to buy later this year. Plans are also

being drawn up for a restaurant and health facility in the building.

Planning permission is also being sought for 1 Vinyl Square, which is earmarked for 134 apartments of varying types and sizes. If current plans are given the green light, 16 per cent of the homes will have three bedrooms, 35 per cent will be affordable and there will be a restaurant and shop.

A range of other community facilities are already in place or planned for the site. Global Media Academy - a University Technical College sponsored by media and entertainment group Global and University of Arts London - opened in the Machine Store in September 2016.

The Nest, a facility that combines a climbing wall, a communal working space, a café and a gym, also opened last year.

In addition, the Really Local Group has acquired the Pressing Plant and drawn up plans for an entertainment complex including a boutique cinema, exhibition centre and café. The facility is due to open in summer 2021, dependent on planning permission.

The council has also granted planning permission for a series of public art installations in the Vinyl Square, which is already home to a five-metre statue of Nipper the HMV dog. The work will pay homage to Alan Blumlein, whose inventions of stereo sound and airborne radar played such a crucial part of EMI's activity on the site.



Creating a community space

The Nest is the brainchild of two friends, **Sam Hunter and Rob Lawley**, borne out of their love for climbing and passion to introduce the sport to more people. They also hope that the multi-use facility will offer a space where the community can come together to socialise, exercise and work all in one place.

The pair's idea for the centre originated four years ago after they had seen a surge in popularity for climbing. After feeling unfulfilled with their office jobs in the city, Sam and Rob decided to create their own unique space.

The council's business engagement team saw the value of what the centre could bring to the local area as an alternative way to getting fit, and championed the idea to the site's developers. The borough's planning department also assisted the pair with their planning application.

Sam said: "The council has been really helpful and supportive. Normally with gyms, there are membership fees and people have to be over 18. At The Nest, everyone can get involved as we run sessions for all ages and abilities, from introductory classes and

children's parties to memberships and one-off visits. We have had visitors as young as five, right up to 70-year-olds, and also a Team GB climber come in and try out our routes."

Currently the centre employs instructors that are all local to run their fitness classes. The pair aim to employ more people from the borough and set up a charity so they can offer entry level sessions for people who may not otherwise be able to afford it.

There are also plans to cater for female-only classes and arrange trips to introduce people to climbing outside. Sam and Rob hope that these activities will help to make climbing as inclusive as possible and bring the climbing community and local residents closer together.

The Nest is offering Hillingdon residents a half price introduction to bouldering (climbing without ropes) using the code 2020NEST at www.thenestclimbing.co.uk/courses. The 45-minute session offers an introduction to bouldering with a qualified instructor. The offer applies to both the adult and family introductions.

Cllr Jonathan Bianco, Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Business Services, said:

"The Old Vinyl Factory development is already living up to its mixed-use billing and is starting to deliver employment and enterprise, homes and community facilities. It is bringing the area back to life, while keeping its rich musical heritage alive.

"We have a strong reputation for attracting major investment to the borough and we will continue to work with developers and businesses to revitalise Hillingdon and help create new homes and jobs for local people."

For more information visit www.theoldvinylfactory.com



Could you help the borough's children to cross the road safely?

The council's school crossing patrollers provide an excellent service to ensure the safety of schoolchildren crossing the road before and after school, while also taking into account the welfare of other road users, such as motorists.

Our 24 patrollers work across the borough at various locations. Last September, the council held a special reception to mark the 373 years they had cumulatively dedicated to assisting families to cross the road and provide safety tips and friendly conversation.

Maureen Hyatt, 75, from Hayes (pictured), has been a patroller at Dr Triplett's School for the past 10 years. Previously she worked in a variety of roles at the school, including as a nursery assistant and an administrator, as well as volunteering at events such as their summer fêtes. She really enjoys being involved with the school and when she saw an advert for a school crossing patroller position, she knew that it was the perfect job for her.

She said: "I absolutely love my job. I think the world of the children and love chatting with them everyday. I'm really lucky as the parents are lovely too."

"If anyone is thinking about becoming a patroller, I would highly encourage them to apply too. It's a lovely way



to spend the day and a really great way to get out and meet people."

Would you like to work as a school crossing patroller?

The council's school travel and road safety team is currently recruiting more patrollers to fill various paid positions throughout the borough.

Successful candidates will be required to be on their feet for one hour in the morning and afternoon (between the hours of 8am and 9am and 2.45pm and 3.45pm - depending on the school), be able to work in all weather conditions and wear the legally required uniform while on duty. They will also need to be able to hold and control the school crossing patrol sign, while applying the council's policy for the school crossing patrol service.

Full training in health and safety will be provided but successful applicants will also need to familiarise themselves with the Highway Code and the School Crossing Patrol Handbook.

The team is particularly looking for those with experience of working with young people, people with a good understanding of when and how to intervene in difficult situations, and those with a range of interpersonal skills.

For more information and to express your interest, email the team at stars@hillingdon.gov.uk.



Tips for pedestrians using school crossings during patrol time

- Crossing the road away from a patrol point or not using the crossing can be dangerous, so if you are a parent taking your child to and from school, always set a good example and use the crossings and school crossing patroller.
- When you are not with your child, encourage them to make use of the patroller when crossing the road by following their instructions.
- It's also important not to follow the patroller into the road, but wait on the footpath until asked to cross, and also cross in front of the patroller, never behind their back.

Tips for motorists approaching a school crossing during patrol time

- The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 gives a school crossing patroller, wearing the approved uniform and displaying the prescribed sign, the power to stop traffic. Section 270 of the Transport Act 2000, which came into force on 30 January 2001, allows patrollers to stop traffic to help anyone (whether a child or adult) to across the road.
- If you see a patroller on the pavement, slow down and be prepared to stop if the sign is raised.
- If you are asked to stop, wait a short distance from the patrol. Don't creep forward or rev your engine, and don't move away until the patrol is completely off the road.
- Do not park near or on a crossing as you could obstruct a patroller's view or prevent them from safely stepping out.
- Remember that failing to stop when asked to do so is an offence and offenders are always reported to the police.

Cllr Keith Burrows, Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation, said:

"I am extremely proud of our school crossing patrollers and their outstanding service in the mornings and afternoons throughout the years in assisting more than five million safe crossings.

"Patrollers carry out invaluable work in ensuring our young people safely get to and from school. If you're looking for a way to support others, I would encourage you to find out more about this rewarding role."



Be the one... to keep them together

Find out about
fostering

During Foster Care Fortnight (11 to 24 May)
come along to one of our free drop-in events.



Roadshow drop-in events:

Uxbridge Library

**Monday 11 May, 10am to 1pm and
3pm to 5pm**

Wednesday 13 May, 1pm to 4pm

Friday 15 May, 10am to midday

South Ruislip Library

**Monday 18 May, 10am to 2pm and
6pm to 8pm**

Yiewsley Library

Tuesday 19 May, 1.30pm to 4.30pm

Botwell Green Sports and Leisure Centre

Thursday 21 May, 10am to 1pm and

2pm to 4pm

Information session:

Civic Centre (main reception)

Tuesday 12 May, 10am to midday

Unable to attend these events
but want to find out more?

www.hillingdon.gov.uk/betheone

0800 783 1298



HILLINGDON
LONDON

www.hillingdon.gov.uk

Funding for local community projects makes a difference

Our ward budget scheme continues to make an impact in communities. Last year the initiative provided funding for 85 projects, with residents using the money to invest in improvements, events and schemes.

Each of Hillingdon's 22 wards is allocated its own budget to spend on local projects. In 2019, a total of £120,000 was invested in community ventures, which ranged from events and activities, to renovations and group excursions.

Scout, Brownie and Guide groups were among the beneficiaries. The 12th Ruislip Scouts (Cavendish) bought a strimmer for their grounds and a jet wash to use at their charity car wash days. The 1st Hillingdon Brownies (Hillingdon East) replaced their old, worn furniture. While the 1st Northwood Scout Group (Northwood Hills) put their contribution towards a replacement minibus.



1st Northwood Scouts

The Endeavour Scout Group for 14 to 18-year-olds, based in Brunel, was able to carry out improvements to its Scout hut.

Explorer Scout Leader, Simeon Keenan, said: "We were able to replace the whole of the old lighting system, so the Scouts are now able to do more activities outdoors in the winter."

"There's a really great atmosphere and it's good to see the hut lit up at night, so we would like to thank the Brunel ward councillors for their help in making this happen."

Funds for Eastcote British Legion were split between Cavendish, Eastcote and East Ruislip wards, going towards the



Spotlight School of Dance

cost of their Remembrance Service and parade. While the Remembrance Service at the Polish Air Force Memorial (South Ruislip) benefited from the hiring of a PA system.

St Matthew's Church (Yiewsley) used its allocation for a teacher to provide English language lessons for church members. Funding also went towards the Forget Me Not Café for an outing to the Rural Activities Garden Centre. Brookside Primary School (Yeading) put funding towards new science equipment and books.

The ward budget scheme also supported community events throughout the year, including the Harmondsworth Village Allotments Open Day (Heathrow Villages), the Hayes Canal Festival (Townfield and Botwell), Charville Community Association's Christmas meal, the Crane Community Centre Fun Day (Pinkwell) and the Ruislip Chamber of Commerce Christmas Special (West Ruislip). Spotlight School of Dance (Cavendish) staged a showcase in February with the help of their funding.

The environment was the focus for Laurel Lane Primary School (West Drayton), which created a pond for students to study wildlife.

Sports were on the minds of Whiteheath Junior School, Northwood Town Cricket Club

and Harefield Archers. Whiteheath (West Ruislip) installed sports courts, basketball stands and playmarkings in the playground; Harefield Archers bought new equipment; and a new grass square and an astroturf strip was created at Northwood Recreation Ground for Northwood Town Cricket Club.

An award to the Domestic Abuse Survivors charity (Yiewsley) is already making a difference, helping those who have fled their homes with practical assistance in the form of survival packs which include essentials such as toiletries.

Vicki Wheaton, Executive Director of Domestic Abuse Survivors, said: "Those fleeing domestic violence have experienced a great deal, so practical help can get them back on their feet. One woman's ex-partner cleared the flat out when he left - pots, plates, towels, beds, leaving her with nothing."

"We're really grateful to have this support from the council, which is giving them a helping hand."

Helping to save lives is the mission of Wealdstone Youth FC (Manor) and All Saints Church (Hillingdon East), which now have life-saving equipment after each purchased a new defibrillator.

Addictions Recovery Community Hillingdon (which received funding from Uxbridge North and South) put its funding towards a new TV and three garden benches.

Cllr Douglas Mills, Cabinet Member for Community, Commerce and Regeneration,

said: "It is wonderful to see the way in which our ward budget scheme has enabled councillors to support groups across Hillingdon to invest in improvements that mean something to them."

For more information about the scheme and to make an application visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/ward-budgets

Update from the West Area BCU Superintendent

Greetings to you all. I always try to start with good news, and this season I have lots for you.

As I mentioned last time, the incredibly valued neighbourhood Inspector Rob Bryan has left us for retirement (and to work at Breakspear Crematorium) but I have managed to recruit an equally capable replacement, Inspector Zubin Writer.

Zubin has not only a detective background but he has also served on team, so he recognises and understands the challenges faced in Hillingdon, and I am really pleased to welcome him onboard.

Just as I am to welcome PS Steve Rabjohns as the new Uxbridge Sergeant, replacing Helen Thompson. I have worked with Steve before, and the Uxbridge ward cluster is certainly going to benefit.

In addition, I am in the final stages of recruiting a dedicated officer paid for by the Uxbridge Business Improvement District, which will allow increased police visibility in the town centre.

This newsletter is not just centred on Uxbridge however. PS Ed Ade's team have just successfully imprisoned a drug dealer in Hayes for three years after arresting her for dealing in crack cocaine and heroin; PS Gareth Blackburn's team have had a few old-style police car chases in West Drayton recently and each one has successfully detained a dealer in possession of Class A drugs, and in the process they have even recovered some catalytic converters.

Additionally, the teams in Northwood have carried out some after-school activity with our safer schools team and reduced incidents of robbery in the area.

The fight against burglary goes on, and as I write I can report that the high numbers in Hillingdon have now dropped off, and we are working, with support from the council's CCTV, to keep an eye out for

suspicious cars and vans. Two weeks ago the West Area burglary team had the highest 'sanctioned detection' rate in the Met, which basically means they were discovering exactly who was behind the crimes and putting them before a court.

All of this is a result of team effort; response officers attending 999 calls quickly, neighbourhood officers delivering crime prevention advice and smartwater and targeted patrols, and our detective colleagues working really hard to gather the evidence and put people in front of the judicial system.

We have more colleagues joining us too, with more than 130 probationers (brand new police officers) joining West Area between now and Christmas, and a plan in place to train to the highest possible standard alongside the University of West London. So if you see some officers looking particularly shiny and new please stop and say hello!

As the days start to get warmer and longer, please remember to keep doors and windows locked and closed when you are out, even if you're in the back garden. That includes vehicle windows too. Anything you can do to make life difficult for thieves makes it less and less likely you'll become a victim and it makes life for my staff much easier.

I'd also like to encourage you all to get involved in our ward panels. Have a look at the details on the Met website (www.met.police.uk) and locate your own ward. It's okay me telling you what's going on but the ward panels are a great way of you holding us to account.

Have a great spring,

Richard

Mr Richard Watkinson



Keeping residents safe

The council's investment of £2.75 million in a network of brand new, state-of-the-art CCTV cameras is proving invaluable in protecting residents, with more than 582 incidents passed to the police since the beginning of the year.

As well as being a powerful deterrent, the cameras have also demonstrated how crucial they are in apprehending criminals.

In one incident in Uxbridge in December, three men were arrested on suspicion of carrying a knife after being caught on CCTV acting suspiciously.

It followed another incident in Hayes in July where a man was observed climbing up a lamp column and smashing a camera with a metal bar. He later received a custodial sentence.

Cameras have also been used to monitor suspected robberies, fly-tipping and



anti-social behaviour. They have also proved useful in road accident investigations.

More than 1,000 cameras have been replaced since 2018.

The cameras provide 24-hour coverage, seven days a week, and are wireless and digital.

Cllr Douglas Mills, Cabinet Member for Community, Commerce and Regeneration, said:

"Thanks to our investment, the borough has better CCTV coverage than ever before, making it much more useful in gathering evidence and bringing offenders to justice. We will continue to harness the latest technology to keep our borough safe."

Return • Reuse • Recycle

Return loaned equipment that you no longer need and help someone else who does need it

To arrange a collection of equipment call Medequip on 020 8750 1580 or email customerservices@medequip-uk.com
Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 5pm

www.hillingdon.gov.uk

Family Fishing Fun Day volunteers recognised



More than 30 angling volunteers have been rewarded for their dedicated service at our annual Family Fishing Fun Days.

The popular fishing events, which have been running on two Sundays in summer for the past 11 years, have been enjoyed by thousands of residents.

The volunteers have played a big part in the days' success, giving their time and support to make them an enjoyable experience for visitors of all ages.

Each volunteer was presented with either a bronze, silver or gold lapel pin at a special thank-you event held at the Battle of Britain Bunker Exhibition and Visitor Centre on Monday 27 January.

The pins were presented to the volunteers by the Mayor of Hillingdon, Cllr David Yarrow. Leader of the Council, Cllr Ray Puddifoot and angling commentator Keith Arthur, who both attend the fishing days each year, were also in attendance.

Cllr Yarrow said: "It is both refreshing and uplifting to know that in this day and age, when so many of us have extremely busy lives and external pressures on our time, that there are still people who provide a voluntary service to benefit others, with no thought of financial and social gain to themselves."

The free events, which take place at Little Britain Lake and the River Colne, have welcomed residents of all ages and abilities since it started. Visitors have been able to have a go at fishing and attempt to win the 'Catch of the Day' competition, make bird boxes, try out river dipping and take part in a variety of other family friendly activities.

The family-oriented days out, which are the perfect opportunity for residents to try a new activity for the first time or brush up on their skills, would not be the consistent success that they are year after year if it were not for the tireless dedication of the keen volunteer anglers who offer an introduction to their favourite pastime.

Alex Brown, 33, from Eastcote, said:

"I have been volunteering for the past six years. Fishing has been a passion of mine from a young age and it is a great opportunity to give back to the community. Every year the event



sees hundreds of people attend and it allows them to experience and enjoy the great outdoors. We are very fortunate in Hillingdon to have access to such a lovely lake and the opportunity for residents to enjoy a great day out."

Brigepal Singh, 52, from Stoke Newington, said:

"I first found out about the event on Keith Arthur's radio show, *Fisherman's Blues* and came

down with my family to enjoy the day. I have been an angler for around 35 years and I saw volunteers I knew from the rivers. They said to me: "You shouldn't come here to fish, you should volunteer," so I thought I would try it out the following year and I have been coming ever since! If you haven't been to the Fun Days, it's an absolutely amazing event. It's completely free and it's fantastic as it's an opportunity for families to get outside in the fresh air and experience nature."

Keith, who on the day offers tips and advice to residents, said: "I have been coming to the Fun Days since the first year. When I originally

found out about them, I jumped at the chance to get involved. One thing I have always done in my very long career in fishing is to try and get more people involved and these events are a great way of doing that. What's great about them is that you see everyone, from children who are around 18 months right up to 90-year-olds and also residents from many different backgrounds and cultures, all coming together to just get stuck in and have fun."



This year's events are on Sundays 26 July and 9 August. For more information visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/fishing

Carmina Burana Carl Orff



Five Mystical Songs Vaughan Williams

With Chamber Ensemble & Soloists

Uxbridge Choral Society
Directed by Tim Armstrong-Taylor

Saturday 9th May 2020 at 7.30 pm
Bishopshalt School, Royal Lane, Uxbridge UB8 3RF
Tickets £12 (children under 16 free) available on the door or via the choir website: www.uxbridgechoralsociety.org.uk

UxChor
Uxbridge Choral Society is a Registered Charity 1050177

Celebrate your special day with us

The Four Seasons Room at Hillingdon Register Office is an ideal venue for weddings, renewal of vows and baby naming ceremonies.

The room can accommodate 50 people and offers a unique setting with audio-visual facilities and marriage arch in the courtyard, which is a perfect background for photographs.



To find out more visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/fourseasonsroom or call 01895 250418

HILLINGDON LONDON
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/weddings

The Easter holidays are nearly here and there are lots of events and activities on offer across the borough.

HILLINGDON WHAT'S ON?

For more Hillingdon events or to advertise your own, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/whatson



THEATRE

Sister Act
Wednesday 25 to Saturday 28 March, 7.30pm and Saturday 2.30pm

KLOS Musical theatre presents a show that's second to none! When aspiring singer Deloris witnesses a murder, she is forced to hide out in a convent. She transforms the choir into a national sensation - but is she attracting too much attention? With great uplifting numbers including *Raise Your Voice*, *Take Me to Heaven* and *Sunday Morning Fever*, this show will get your spirits soaring and your toes tapping!
Cost: £16. Concessions £14 (all performances for under-16s, and Wednesday 25 and matinee on Saturday 28 for over-60s).
To book tickets call 020 8207 2340 or 07564 692070, or email boxoffice@klosmusicaltheatre.co.uk.
Winston Churchill Theatre

Nonsense
Wednesday 1 to Saturday 4 April, 7.30pm and Saturday 2.30pm

In this musical from the Pastiche Musical Theatre, the Little Sisters of Hoboken Convent's cook has accidentally poisoned 52 of her fellow sisters. In dire need of funds to bury the last four departed sisters, the surviving nuns take to the stage to raise money, revealing their hidden talents.
Cost: £14. Concessions and groups of 10 plus, £12.
To book tickets visit www.hillingdontheatres.uk or call 01895 250615.
Compass Theatre

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
Wednesday 15 to Sunday 19 April, 12.30pm and 4pm

DKproDuKtions, the company that brings pantomime to the Compass Theatre each year, returns for this Easter's school holidays with a week of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Join Alice and drop down the rabbit hole to a magical place in Wonderland. Keep your head firmly on your shoulders and stay on the good side of the Queen of Hearts, plus attend a tea party that would make anyone go mad. Get ready for one of the world's great adventures!
Cost: £16. Under-16s, £12. Family tickets (two adults and two under-16s or one adult and three under-16s), £48.
To book tickets visit www.hillingdontheatres.uk or call 01895 250615.
Compass Theatre

Oklahoma!
Wednesday 22 to Saturday 25 April, 7.30pm and Saturday 2.30pm

Join WOS Productions for this award-winning musical - Rodgers and Hammerstein's first collaboration. Featuring well known songs such as *Oh What a Beautiful Mornin'* and *People Will Say We're in Love*, this is a show the entire family can enjoy.
Cost: £16. Concessions and under-16s, £14 (Wednesday 7.30pm and Saturday 2.30pm only).
To book tickets visit www.wos-productions.org.uk or call 07401 116994.
Winston Churchill Theatre

Ian Waite and Vincent Simone - The Ballroom Boys... Act Two

Thursday 23 April, 7.30pm
The fabulous *Strictly Come Dancing* stars promise another wonderful evening of old-fashioned variety - dance, comedy and song! With beautiful costumes, gorgeous lighting and world class routines, including the Viennese Waltz, the Foxtrot, the Rhumba and Argentine Tango. The boys will be joined by their stunning dance partners and a world class singer.
Cost: Tickets range between £28 and £38. VIP meet and greet, £68. Concessions receive £2 off.
To book tickets visit www.becktheatre.org.uk or call the box office on 020 8561 8371.
Beck Theatre

Cherry Orchard
Thursday 30 April to Saturday 2 May, 7.45pm and Saturday 2.45pm

Proscenium presents Checkhov's final masterpiece. With debts mounting, widowed landowner Liubov Ranevskya and her brother strongly resist selling their childhood home, including its famous cherry orchard. Wryly humorous, the play perfectly captures the sense of social change in 1900s Russia.
Cost: £14. Groups of 10 plus, £12.
To book tickets visit www.hillingdontheatres.uk or call 01895 250615.
Compass Theatre

Don't Get Your Vicars in a Twist
Thursday 30 April to Saturday 2 May, 8pm

A murder mystery weekend in a vicarage goes terribly wrong in this comedy performed by Harefield Amateur Dramatic Society. Harefield Amateur Dramatic Society is made up of members of the Hillingdon Arts Association and this play is part of Hillingdon's Arts in Action 2020 season.
Cost: £9.50. Concessions (Thursday only), £7.50.
To book tickets email janscurr@hotmail.com or call 01895 253346.
St Mary's Church Hall

Girls Just Want To Have Fun

Friday 1 May, 7.30pm
From the writers of the hit comedy *Hormonal Housewives*, *Girls Just Wanna Have Fun* is the brand-new musical comedy show that does exactly what it says on the tin. Starring Linda Nolan (Nolan Sisters), Jess Wright (TV personality), Niki Evans (*X Factor* finalist) and Leanne Jones (Olivier Award winner), join the four refreshingly honest and unreserved girls on a riotous evening of laugh-out-loud sketches and classic pop anthems that define being a 21st century woman.
Cost: £29.50.
To book tickets visit www.becktheatre.org.uk or call the box office on 020 8561 8371.
Beck Theatre

Kevin Clifton and Joanne Clifton - Burn The Floor... Anything You Can Do

Thursday 30 April to Saturday 9 May, 7.30pm
Kevin Clifton is back and this time he is joined by his sister Joanne Clifton. After the sell-out success of the first-ever UK tour of *Burn The Floor* in 2019, this five star production returns with a new show.
Cost: Tickets range between £32 and £48. VIP meet and greet, £90. Concessions receive £2 off.
To book tickets visit www.becktheatre.org.uk or call the box office on 020 8561 8371.
Beck Theatre

KIDS

Easter holidays at the bunker
Saturday 4 until Sunday 19 April

Visit the Battle of Britain Bunker during the Easter holidays, where families can work together to complete our Discovery Trail, and see if they can spot all of the hidden Easter chicks.
Cost: Visitor centre and bunker tour £7. Over-65s, £5. Free for under-18s, Hillingdon First card holders and current military.
Find out more by visiting www.battleofbritainbunker.co.uk or calling 01895 238154.
Battle of Britain Bunker

DFN Project SEARCH Transition to Work

Are you 17 to 24 years old with a learning disability or autism and looking for a full time job?

If so, Hillingdon Council has partnered with DFN Project SEARCH to host a Transition to Work programme starting this September.

During this one year programme, you'll be based at the Civic Centre in Uxbridge and be supported to gain confidence and a range of transferable and marketable job skills.

The DFN Project SEARCH programme has seen 60% of graduates securing a paid job (16 hours or more per week).

The programme is in partnership with Orchard Hill College and Hillingdon Autistic Care and Support (HACS), experts in supporting people with learning disabilities and autism.

How to apply:
For more information, please contact:
Stuart Smith, Work Inclusion Partnerships Manager
[@ssmith7@hillingdon.gov.uk](mailto:ssmith7@hillingdon.gov.uk)

Programme starting September 2020

DFN Project | SEARCH

Orchard Hill College

HACS

HILLINGDON LONDON
www.hillingdon.gov.uk

Sooty & Sweep
Tuesday 7 April, 11am and 2.30pm

Direct from their hit ITV series, Sooty, Sweep and Soo and TV's Richard Cadell will amaze you with impossible tricks and side-splitting jokes! Be astounded at Sooty's flying car, Soo's singing unicorn and Sweep's levitating sausage. A spectacular treat for the whole family – including a chance to meet Richard and Sooty after the show. **Cost: £19. Concessions receive £2.50 off.** To book tickets visit www.becktheatre.org.uk or call the box office on 020 8561 8371. **Beck Theatre**

Hillingdon Outdoor Activities Centre Family Open Day

Friday 8 May, 10am to 5pm
 A great opportunity for all the family (ages 8+) to try a range of activities. With land based activities including archery, giant swing, climbing and high ropes (ages 10+) and water based activities including sailing, paddleboarding, rafting and kayaking. **Cost: Members £25. Non-members £30. Special offer four for the price of three.** Book online at www.hoac.net. **Hillingdon Outdoor Activities Centre**

Messy Church
Every third Saturday of the month, 3pm to 4.30pm

Open to everyone – it's a time for adults and children to enjoy time together with crafts, worship and refreshments. **Cost: Free.** **St Paul's Church Hall**

Animal Day at Manor Farm
Monday 25 May, 10am to 4pm

See Manor Farm come to life with farm animals of all types - from fluffy sheep to mooing cows. Learn more about how Manor Farm operated during the Tudor period, and what animals you would find there. There will also be fun for the whole family, including face painting, craft activities, and you are

invited to bring along your dog to enter our Dog Show - with prizes for the Cutest Puppy, Waggiest Tail and Best Groomed. Bring along a picnic or try out some of the tasty food stalls on-site. **Cost: Free.** **Manor Farm**

MUSIC

Brunel Arts lunchtime concerts

Fridays, 1.10pm
 A variety of performances from our many musical ensembles and soloists. Including: Friday 13 March - A Night at the Opera... No, wait! A Night at the Musicals: Ian Massa-Harris, voice and Sally Goodworth, piano. A selection of music that is designed to explore the instances when opera and musical theatre can be found together. Friday 20 March - Na-Mara: Paul McNamara, guitar and vocals and Rob Garcia, guitar, mandolin, mandola and vocals. Renowned folk duo Na-Mara make a welcome return to perform a programme based around their new album *Sisters and Brothers*. **Cost: Free.** For more information, visit www.brunel.ac.uk/brunelarts. **Beldam Restaurant**

Harrow Symphony Orchestra 80th anniversary spring concert

Saturday 14 March, 7.30pm
 Come along to this concert that includes Grieg, *Peer Gynt suites 1 and 2*; Grieg, *Piano Concerto*; Sibelius *Symphony No 5*. **Cost: Tickets cost £11 when booking online or £11 on the door.** Book online by visiting www.ticketsource.co.uk/harrow-symphony-orchestra. **St Edmund the King Church**

Sine Nomine Singers Spring Concert
Sunday 15 March, 7.30pm
 Come along to Sine Nomine Singers spring concert which

includes Pergolesi *Stabat Mater* and Michael Haydn's *Requiem*. **Cost: £12 in advance or £14 on the door.** For more information and to book visit sinenomineuk.org. **St Lawrence Church**

Boogie Wonderland
Friday 20 March, 7.30pm

Boogie Wonderland is the UK's number one disco tribute show and is guaranteed to have you dancing all night long. A live eight-piece band of West End musicians present all your favourite disco hits with slick choreography and stunning vocals to deliver the greatest disco party ever! Revel in the incredible sounds of Earth, Wind & Fire, KC and the Sunshine Band, The Jacksons, Sister Sledge, Bee Gees, Chic and many more. **Cost: £24.** To book tickets visit www.becktheatre.org.uk or call the box office on 020 8561 8371. **Beck Theatre**

The Rocket Man - A Tribute to Sir Elton John
Wednesday 25 March, 7.30pm

Starring the brilliant tribute artist Jimmy Love, very few recreate the flamboyant megastar with as much vigour and brilliance. Jimmy and an amazing live band will take you down the *Yellow Brick Road* with the glorious Elton hits, from *Crocodile Rock* to *Philadelphia Freedom* and the beautiful *Your Song to I Guess That's Why They Call It The Blues*. With dazzling costumes, stunning vocals and sensational piano solos, this show really does have it all. **Cost: £27.50. Concessions receive £2 off.** To book tickets visit www.becktheatre.org.uk or call the box office on 020 8561 8371. **Beck Theatre**

Eastcote and Ruislip Choral Society Spring Concert

Saturday 28 March, 7.30pm
 Handel's *Messiah* with Herts Chamber Orchestra. Eastcote and Ruislip Choral Society is a friendly choir and welcomes new singers. They sing an established repertoire, and also secular and show music, sometimes with an orchestra and professional soloists. Rehearsals are held between 8pm and 10pm at Ruislip Methodist Church. To join the choir call 01895 904556 or visit www.eastcote-ruislip-choral.org. **Cost: Tickets for the concert are £12 on the door. Under-12s free.** **St Edmund the King Church**

Harrow Choral Society
Saturday 28 March, 7.30pm
 Come along to this concert, which includes Bernstein, *Chichester Psalms*; Duruflé, *Requiem*; Randall Thompson, *Alleluia*; Barber, *Adagio for Strings*; and Copland, *Rodeo Hoedown*.

Conducted by Simon Williams. Accompanied by HCS Sinfonia, Bernard Barker (organ) and Mercè Bruguera Abelló (mezzo). **Cost: £18 (children under 16 free, ticket required).** Tickets can be ordered at www.harrowarts.com or by calling the box office on 020 3773 7161. For further information visit www.harrowchoral.org. **Elliott Hall**

Uxbridge Choral Society
Saturday 9 May, 7.30pm

Vaughan Williams, *Five Mystical Songs* and Carl Orff *Carmina Burana* with chamber ensemble and soloists. Directed by Tim Armstrong-Taylor. **Cost: Tickets £12. Children under 16 free.** Tickets available on the door or via www.uxbridgechoralsociety.org.uk. **Bishopshalt School**

COMEDY

Milton Jones In Milton: Impossible
Thursday 26 March, 7.30pm

One man. One Mission. Is it possible? No, not really. Milton reveals the truth about being an international spy, before being given a disappointing new identity which forced him to appear on *Mock the Week* and *Live at the Apollo*. **Cost: £31.** To book tickets visit www.becktheatre.org.uk or call the box office on 020 8561 8371. **Beck Theatre**

Ladies Of Laughter with Noreen Khan
Friday 10 April, 7.30pm

Join Noreen Khan (BBC Asian Network) as she hosts a night of comedy with some of the UK's favourite female acts including Maureen Younger, Emily Lloyd Saini and Glenda Jaxson. **Cost: £22.** To book tickets visit www.becktheatre.org.uk or call the box office on 020 8561 8371. **Beck Theatre**

EXERCISE

Hillingdon Fencing Club
Fridays, 6pm to 9pm

Fancy trying something new? How about foil fencing? This club is for anyone aged 8+, from beginners to advanced. They hold beginner's courses and taster sessions regularly and all equipment can be provided to get you started. All coaches are fully qualified and hold DBS certificates. For more information and costs, visit www.hillingdonmusketeers.com. **Brunel University Indoor Athletics Centre**

Yoga with Dinta
Saturdays, 11.20am

Dinta is fully qualified in Dru Yoga which is based on flowing movements, directed breathing, and visualisation. **Cost: £9 per class.** To book, call 07870 981885 or email yogawithdinta@aol.co.uk. **St Lawrence Church**

Pilates with Suzy Barton
Tuesdays, 1.30pm to 2.30pm

Improve the way you feel, look and live your life. Pilates exercises focus on improving posture, core strength and flexibility. These classes are suitable for everyone regardless of age, ability, or fitness level. Suzy is an ex British gymnastics squad member. Pilates Foundation trained. CYQ level 3 instructor. **Cost: £10 per class or £100 for a block of 12.** For more information and to book email suzymbartonpilates@btinternet.com or call 07850 687488. **The Stables, Manor Farm**

Trudruyoga with Sabina Furyoba
Thursdays, 5.30pm to 6.45pm
Saturdays, 8.30am to 9.45am and 10am to 11.15am

Join Sabina for Dru Yoga, a graceful and potent form of yoga. Dru works on body, mind and spirit – improving strength and flexibility, creating core stability, building a heightened feeling of positivity, and deeply relaxing and rejuvenating your whole being. For costs and to book, visit www.trudruyoga.co.uk or call 07891 820805. **Blackmore Way Studio**

Running Group with Dash for Fitness
Mondays, 7.30pm to 8.30pm

Join this free group to make your running more social and fun whilst helping you get fitter, go faster and

go further. Beginners and runners of all levels accommodated (under-18s must be accompanied). 5K masterclasses (£50 for a 12-week programme) also available. UK Athletics approved coach in running fitness and CYQ Level 3 personal trainer. For more information and to register, visit groups.runtogether.co.uk/DashForFitness, email dashforfitness@btinternet.com, or call Gary on 07710 105086. Various routes starting and finishing in Ruislip

LEISURE

Hardy Plant Society present Passionate about Plants
Saturday 4 April, 8.15am to 4.45pm

Join gardening television celebrities Katie Rushworth, Nick Bailey, Toby Buckland and Andy McIndoe for a special day out featuring talks and the chance to purchase some unusual plants for sale from specialist nurseries. A real must for any green-fingered enthusiast! **Cost: £29.50.** To book tickets visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/passionate-about-plants or call 0333 666 3366. **Brunel University**

Ingrid Persaud: Love After Love
Wednesday 17 April, 7.30pm

Faber's leading fiction superstar Ingrid Persaud talks about *Love After Love* - an electrifying novel of love in its messiest forms. A complicated marriage, an unconventional family, and the shocking secrets that unite them, from this award-winning Trinidadian author. **Cost: £10 and includes a copy of *Love After Love*, a free drink and nibbles.**



A Polish Celebration

To book tickets email culturebite@hillingdon.gov.uk or call 01895 250714. **Uxbridge Library**

Dementia Friendly Screening: Genevieve (1953)
Thursday 23 April, 10.30am

A comfortable environment for those living with dementia, including low light and sound levels, clear signage, trained staff and chill-out areas. John Gregson and Dinah Sheridan star in this most inventive comedy about the proud owner of a vintage car called Genevieve. **Cost: £4 and carers free.** To book tickets visit www.hillingdontheatres.uk or call 01895 250615. **Compass Theatre**

A Polish Celebration: Dance, Crafts and Cake Tasting

Saturday 2 May, 11am
 Celebrating our Polish community and their contribution during

World War Two. Polish song and dance group Leśna Polana will be demonstrating traditional Polish dance with English commentary, followed by a chance to try out simple steps with the group. Refreshments, including Polish cake will be provided. **Cost: Free.** For more information email Uxbridge-library@hillingdon.gov.uk or call 01895 250714. **Uxbridge Library**

Film Screening: Saving Private Ryan (1998)
Saturday 6 May, 6pm

On the anniversary of D-Day, experience *Saving Private Ryan* on the big screen at the bunker. Directed by Steven Spielberg, this epic war film follows the United States Army Rangers as they attempt to save Private First Class James Francis Ryan. **Cost: £5.** To book tickets visit www.battleofbritainbunker.co.uk or call 01895 238154. **Battle of Britain Bunker**

VENUES	
Battle of Britain Bunker Wren Avenue, Uxbridge, UB10 0BE	Brunel University Kingston Lane, Uxbridge, UB8 3PH
Beck Theatre Grange Road, Hayes, UB3 2UE	Brunel University Indoor Athletics Centre Kingston Lane, Uxbridge, UB8 3PH
Beldam Restaurant Eastern Gateway Building, Brunel University London, Kingston Lane, Uxbridge, UB8 3PH	Compass Theatre Glebe Avenue, Ickenham, UB10 8RP
Bishopshalt School Royal Lane, Uxbridge, UB8 3RF	Elliott Hall Harrow Arts Centre, 171 Uxbridge Road, Hatch End, Pinner, HA5 4EA
Blackmore Way Studio 22 Blackmore Way, Uxbridge, UB8 1QB	Hillingdon Outdoor Activities Centre Dews Lane, Harvil Road, Harefield, UB9 6JN
Ickenham Village Hall Swakeleys Road, Ickenham, UB10 8DG	Manor Farm Bury Street, Ruislip, HA4 7SU
Manor Farm Bury Street, Ruislip, HA4 7SU	St Edmund the King Church Pinner Road, Northwood Hills, HA6 1QS
St Edmund the King Church Pinner Road, Northwood Hills, HA6 1QS	St Lawrence Church Bridle Road, Eastcote, HA5 2SJ
St Lawrence Church Bridle Road, Eastcote, HA5 2SJ	St Mary's Church Hall High Street, Harefield, UB9 6BX
St Mary's Church Hall High Street, Harefield, UB9 6BX	St Paul's Church Hall Tiverton Road, Ruislip Manor, HA4 0BP
The Muse Watford Grammar School for Boys, Rickmansworth Road, Watford, WD18 7SA	The Stables Manor Farm, Bury Street, Ruislip, HA4 7SU
The Stables Manor Farm, Bury Street, Ruislip, HA4 7SU	United Reformed Church Swakeleys Road, Ickenham, UB10 9BE
United Reformed Church Swakeleys Road, Ickenham, UB10 9BE	Uxbridge Library High Street, Uxbridge, UB8 1HD
Uxbridge Library High Street, Uxbridge, UB8 1HD	Winston Churchill Theatre Pinn Way, Ruislip, HA4 7QL

If you wish to publicise an event, please email details to hillingdonpeople@hillingdon.gov.uk or send to Hillingdon People, 3S/05 Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge, UB8 1UW. Events are selected at the editor's discretion.



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School Admissions www.hillingdon.gov.uk/schooladmissions 01895 556644

School Transport 01895 250008

Truancy Hotline 01895 250858

Leisure
Battle of Britain Bunker Exhibition and Visitor Centre battleofbritainbunker.co.uk 01895 238154
Botwell Green Sports and Leisure Centre 020 8561 0956
Haste Hill Public Golf Course 01895 250777
Highgrove Pool and Fitness Centre 01895 630753
Hillingdon Sports and Leisure Complex 0345 130 7324
Hillingdon Theatres www.hillingdontheatres.uk 01895 250615
Queensmead Sports Centre 020 8845 6010
Uxbridge Public Golf Course 01895 556750
William Byrd Pool 020 8897 9390

Local democracy
Council Meeting Dates and Agendas 01895 250636

USEFUL SERVICES AND AGENCIES
Advice and support
Addiction, Recovery, Community, Hillingdon (ARCH) 01895 207777
Age UK Hillingdon 020 8756 3040
Alzheimer's Society Hillingdon 01923 823999
Asphaleia Action 01895 272478
Carers Trust Hillingdon 01895 258888
Centre for ADHD and Autism Support 020 8429 1552
Communicare Counselling Service 01895 256056

Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline 03454 04 05 06
Citizens Advice Hillingdon 0344 848 7903
Disablement Association Hillingdon (DASH) 020 8848 8319
HD Carers Support Group 07752 169849
Healthwatch Hillingdon 01895 272997
Hillingdon Autistic Care and Support (HACS) 020 8606 6780
Hillingdon Brain Tumour and Injury Group 01895 713205
Hillingdon Carers 01895 811206
Hillingdon Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (HIDVA) 020 8246 1745

HILLINGDON CONTACTS

Electoral Services and Registrars 01895 558250
Conservative Group Office 01895 250316
Labour Group Office 01895 250780
Mayor's Office 01895 250763

Planning
www.hillingdon.gov.uk/planning
Building Control, Inspections and Dangerous Structures 01895 558170
Dangerous Structures (out of hours) 01895 250111
Local Land Charges 01895 556115

General
Adoption and Fostering www.hillingdon.gov.uk/fost-adopt 0800 783 1298
Brown Badges 01895 277277
Council Tax and Benefits www.hillingdon.gov.uk/counciltax 0300 123 1384

Families' Information Service www.hillingdon.gov.uk/fis 01895 556489
Fraud Hotline www.hillingdon.gov.uk/reportfraud 0800 389 8313
Hillingdon First Card www.hillingdon.gov.uk/hillingdonfirst 01895 556677
Hillingdon Social Care Direct (adults and children) ▶ Blue Badges ▶ Freedom Passes ▶ Meals Service ▶ TeleCareLine 01895 556633
Housing Services www.hillingdon.gov.uk/housing 01895 556666
Substance Use and Misuse or Sexual Health 01895 250721
Trading Standards www.hillingdon.gov.uk/tradingstandards 01895 250164

All other council enquiries (not listed above)
01895 250111

Hillingdon Mind 01895 271559
Hillingdon Parent Carers Forum www.hillingdonpcf.com
Hillingdon U3A 07532 268002
Hillingdon Women's Centre 01895 259578
Home-Start Hillingdon 01895 252804
P3 Navigator Advice Centre 01895 436114
Samaritans 116 123 (freephone)
Victim Support 08 08 16 89 111 (freephone)

Hospitals
Harefield Hospital 01895 823737
Hillingdon Hospital 01895 238282
Mount Vernon Hospital 01923 826111
Northwick Park Hospital 020 8864 3232
Watford General Hospital 01923 244366
NHS 111
Police and Fire
Metropolitan Police Non-emergency 101
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