

HARROW PEOPLE

April 2019 issue • www.harrow.gov.uk

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LIBRARIES**

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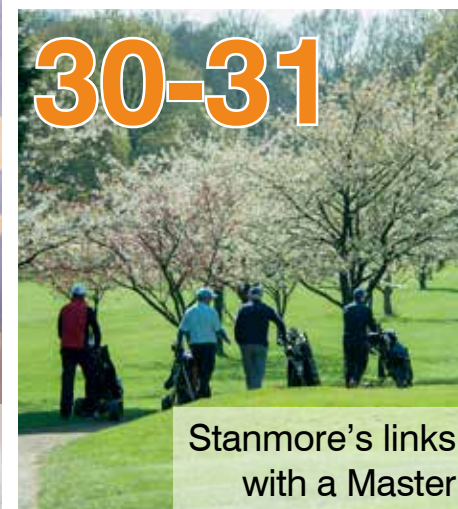
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**Cllr Graham Henson
Leader of Harrow Council**

Spring is here and as I write this, the sun is splitting the trees outside. But dark clouds are still hanging over local government finances all around the UK. It pained us terribly to have to increase council tax again this year. That's why, in this issue and coming issues of Harrow People, we wanted to show you all the good that comes of the money you pay.

Harrow has thousands of vulnerable people – young and old – and thanks to the money you pay through council tax, they get the care that any of us would want for a friend or relative in need. In this issue we look at the quality – and cost – of care for the hundreds of Harrow adults with learning difficulties.

On a lighter note: with the Masters over for another year, we look at a surprising Harrow connection to golfing greatness; show you how to help nail dirty dealers on the high street; and of course our cover star – a furry friend whose story will amaze you!



Finalists make their pitches; above, networking; below, visitors leave messages; inset, host Adekeye Oduneye

Best in the business

Bringing together the local business community, Harrow Business Den is a night for networking, sharing ideas and tips, as well as rewarding the best in Harrow start-ups.

This year's event featured special guest and Harrow entrepreneur Shalini Gupta Patel. As founder of Red Dot Jewels, a UK brand specialising in handcrafted Indian-inspired fine jewellery, she gave an insight into her success.

The runner-up was iParcelBox, which makes secure and weatherproof smart parcel delivery boxes. The other two finalists were MAD Naturally – a handmade vegan and cruelty-free cosmetic



range – and educ8all Ltd – a virtual platform with access to courses for primary, secondary and college students.

Joining Shalini on the judging panel were Nick Howe from NatWest, Lee Westwood from Sopra Steria, and Naima Omasta-Milsom from London Business Partnership Limited.

This year's competition was sponsored and supported by Equita, GFL, Sopra Steria, APH Events, Virgin StartUp, London Business Partnership and Anita Gohil Thorp.



Runner-up Paul Needler; inset left, Vishal Bhogaita of educ8all and Tanya Wright of M.A.D Naturally

It was a red letter day for businesswoman and baker Teresa Faley, as she scooped top prize at this year's Harrow Business Den. She won the Dragons' Den-style competition, organised by Harrow Council, with her business, which sends out personalised tasty treats that fit through your letterbox.

Four finalists went head-to-head in the battle to win a package of business support and a cash prize.

"It feels fantastic to be the 2019 Harrow Business Den winner," Teresa says. "It was such a great night and, although the pitch was nerve-racking, it was really enjoyable. I'm so glad I applied to the competition.

"Everyone's feedback on the idea has been so positive and I'm really looking forward to the year's worth of business support that I have won – I know it's going to make such a huge difference to my business."

Teresa set up her first cake business, Faleycakes, in 2015. Two years later she got the idea for Letterbox Brownies. With the baking skills already in the bag, her next step was to figure out the practicalities.

She says there was a lot of trial and error but the result was a perfect tasty letterbox-sized package. Opening up the reach to businesses, and allowing them to buy in bulk, has been a great success for Teresa – this currently accounts for 80% of her sales.

● Try for yourself at www.letterboxbrownies.com



'The year's worth of business support I have won is going to make a huge difference'
– Teresa Faley

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH...?



... PARKS

Our park life is about to get even better – thanks to £93,000 of pocket park funding awarded to our four 'Friends of' user groups. Harrow won nearly 10% of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's total £1million funding, which will fund projects including walking routes, exercise areas, a toddlers' playground and pond at Harrow Weald, Harrow Rec, Rayners Mead and Pinner Village Gardens.



... HARROW WINS

Imagine a lottery where everyone wins. That's what HarrowWins is all about. The community lottery's first draw takes place on 4 May. There's a jackpot of £25,000 for the lucky winners and cash for local good causes, too.

HarrowWins is led by Harrow Council in partnership with Harrow Community Action, Voluntary Action Harrow, Young Harrow Foundation

and the Voluntary Sector Forum. If your charity, sports club, community project, Scout or cadet organisation could use a boost, check out the website. Tickets cost £1, with 50% of the proceeds going to a chosen cause and 10% to Harrow Giving, supporting all good causes in Harrow.

Go to www.harrowwins.co.uk to buy your tickets.

... D-DAY ANNIVERSARY

Are you a World War II veteran? Do know someone from Harrow who took part in the Normandy landings in June 1944?

The borough will be marking the 75th anniversary of D Day with a full civic service. The Queen's Representative Deputy Lieutenant for Harrow, Simon Ovens, would love to hear from Harrow residents with

a story to share. The service – which will tell the story of D Day and its legacy – will take place at St Mary's Church, Harrow on the Hill, at 3pm on Sunday 9 June.

Guests will join the Mayor of Harrow and Simon Ovens, whose D-Day veteran grandfather Reg Dakin is pictured. Please get in touch by email at myharrownews@harrow.gov.uk

... THIS STATION

If you use Harrow & Wealdstone station you might have noticed some disruption over Easter and there's a bit more to come over the early May bank holiday. But don't worry – it's all in aid of a much-needed upgrade. Work was due to begin as we went to press, to repaint and replace windows, refurbish the bridge and lifts. Work is due to go on until December. Lifts will remain in use throughout.

The £3.7million revamp comes after years of lobbying by Harrow Council. Harrow Council's Deputy Leader, Cllr Keith Ferry, said: "I look forward to seeing a station we can be proud of once again – shiny, pristine and sparkling."



... PARKING

There's no need to fiddle about with forms, fish for loose change or leave an engagement early to top up the meter, as Harrow becomes the latest council to scrap old-fashioned paper parking permits. Now all your car park and street parking payments can be made at the touch of a button using the PayByPhone app. Virtual parking permits come into effect in June.

It takes seconds to register and the app even helps you find a parking space.

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Setting the standards

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Our Trading Standards officers are experts in spotting frauds. They enforce laws to make sure you aren't being ripped off. Here's how...



Are you looking after someone else's child?

That might make you a 'private foster carer'.

It's important that you're registered with the council.

We're here to help, and can offer you advice and support, so please get in touch by calling

020 8736 6971

*Harro***ur**COUNCIL
LONDON



Pets as therapy

It's not just doctors and nurses making patients feel better at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in Stanmore. Luna, a Labrador/retriever cross, brings a dose of affection, smiles and comfort whenever she is on call.

The four-year-old, together with owner Judith Hart, visits the hospital's spinal injuries unit for an hour every fortnight. She stays on the lead as they walk round and visit patients who can talk to and play with her.

Luna is part of Pets As Therapy, a national charity providing therapeutic visits to hospitals, hospices, care homes and special needs schools by volunteers with their own friendly, temperament-tested and vaccinated dogs and cats.

"Patients find her comforting because she is so friendly and always approaches them gently," says Judith. "At home she is playful, but once she gets her PAT jacket on she goes into work mode."

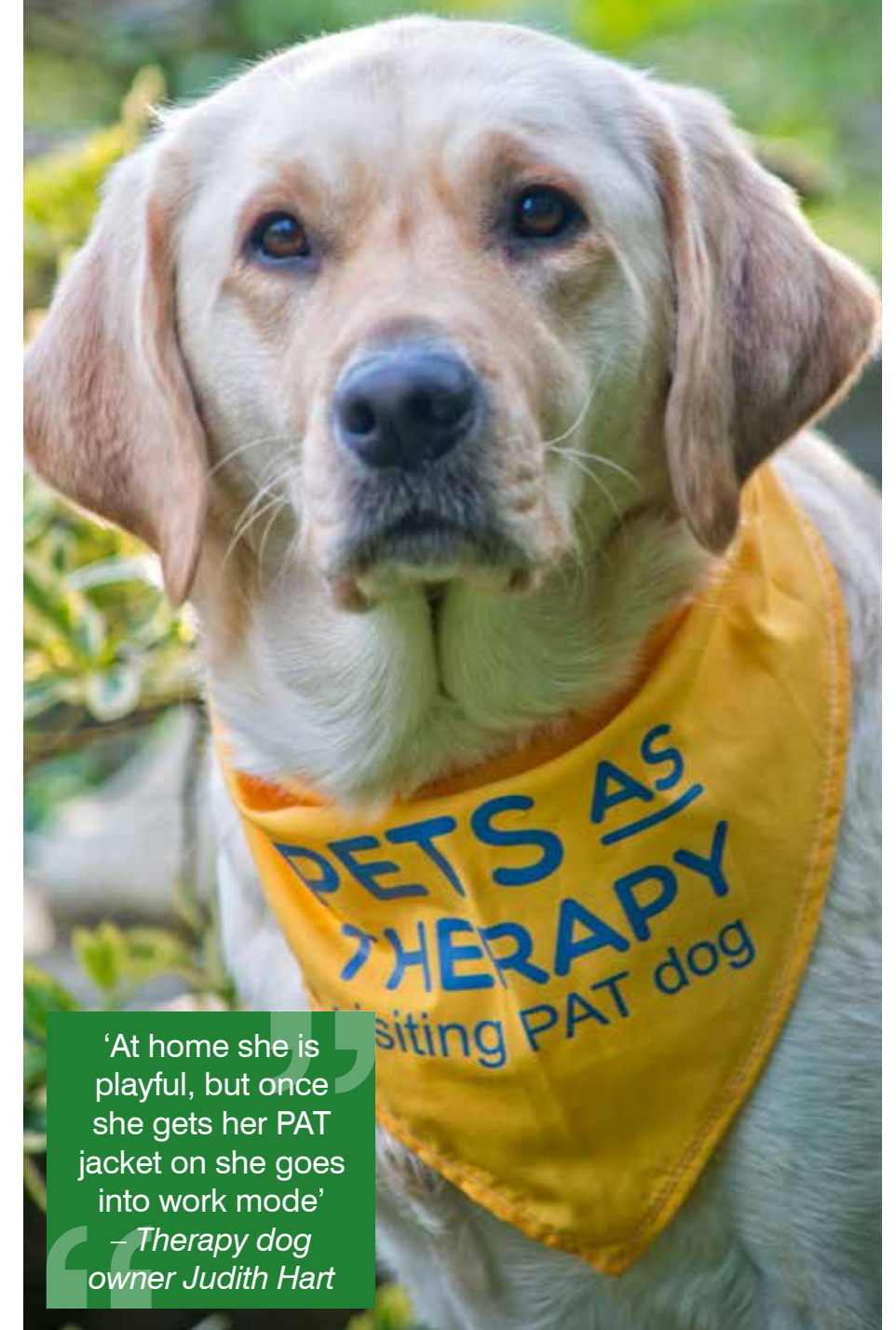
"Some patients are lonely, others might be missing a pet at home. Some have been there a long time and the staff enjoy making a fuss of her, too."

Luna was destined to be a guide dog but had to be withdrawn as she had a hip problem.

"Because of her nature and her background – and because I didn't want a pampered pooch – it's lovely to put all that good behaviour to good use," said Judith, a retired nurse who lives in Pinner.

"Even when we're walking down the street, Luna loves to be

Luna's mission



'At home she is playful, but once she gets her PAT jacket on she goes into work mode'
– Therapy dog owner Judith Hart

stroked. You never know what's going on in people's lives and if she might be helping – and Luna just laps it up."

Pets As Therapy was set up in 1983, recognising the medical benefits associated with petting

an animal – including reducing blood pressure and stress levels.

● **Dogs and cats can join PAT if they are calm and have been with their owner for more than six months. To find out more, search 'Pets as therapy' online.**

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Sharing the faith

“My job, along with good support... is to look at how we can keep everyone safe”

Dr Parmar welcomes us at the International Siddhashram Shakti Centre on Wealdstone's Palmerston Road with a broad smile. It's now been 19 years since he first opened the doors of this popular temple housed in a former Salvation Army hall.

It's time he's spent working tirelessly for his community and the wider people of Wealdstone. It's made Dr Parmar one of the area's most recognisable figures.

“When I started here I held

many events and invited people. Word went around that I was helping people from different backgrounds and as Harrow is one of the most diverse boroughs in London, it soon became clear that everyone had to work together for a common goal.”

The temple remains a focal point for the community, as well as a religious centre. Recently it's become a place where people can discuss safety issues and concerns with local police officers, thanks to a regular surgery with the Wealdstone Safer Neighbourhood team.

Many people are rightfully concerned about the rise in reported hate crime. The terrible events in the New Zealand city of Christchurch last month have left many religious communities looking for support and reassurance.

In Harrow, local agencies are now meeting regularly with community and religious leaders to agree ongoing action. “My job”, says Dr Parmar, “along with good support from Harrow Council, the police and other community leaders, is to look at how we can help keep everyone safe.”

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Weald Rise Primary School is turning 4!

Weald Rise is a three form entry primary school in Harrow Weald – the school community is diverse and reflects the cosmopolitan nature of the neighbourhood.

Pupils learn in state of the art, spacious classrooms, with specialist rooms for art, computing and technology. The new sensory room is an exciting space for the children and Weald Rise's community.

Pupils follow an exciting, relevant and challenging curriculum using stimulating events including topic launch days, whole school theme weeks, trips and regular visitors to school.

And that's not all; our three-year collaboration with music professionals from Wigmore Hall offers pupils an innovative



programme of learning opportunities.

Rated Good by Ofsted in January 2018 our staff were praised for their high expectations amongst leaders and staff, clear and shared vision for the future of the school and the strong

relationships between pupils and teachers.

Help us celebrate our fourth birthday on Friday 26 April.

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For a prospectus, or to visit the school, please contact:

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Email: admissions@reddiford.org.uk

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Harrow has launched an integrated sexual health service for residents called One. It delivers online and community-based face-to-face services including:

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for STIs**

**free
contraception**

**community
outreach and
support**

Most STIs are treatable but may have no symptoms so check and be sure

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one
sexual health service

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‘Adult Social Care’ is a term that’s been in the news a lot recently. Demand for it is going up, and councils across the country, including Harrow, are raising council tax because of it. But what does it actually mean?

In this first in a series designed to explain adult social care, we look at services for people with learning disabilities – these cost Harrow Council more than £22 million last year – roughly a third of the total adult social care budget.

What are learning disabilities?

Having a learning disability means living with a lifelong reduction in intellectual ability. If you have a mild disability, you are likely to be able to live an independent life. If it’s more severe you may need help with household tasks, or socialising, or managing money. A profound learning disability means you’ll have a severely limited understanding of the world. You may also have physical disabilities and are likely to need constant care.

Approximately 4,000 people in Harrow have a learning disability – that’s roughly 1 person in 60. Last year 579 of these people received some



kind of help from the council – 90% of them were adults of working age.

We pay for round-the-clock care for 173 Harrow people

who need it – but residential and nursing care is very expensive, costing the council more than £1,000 per week.

The total cost of that care

last year was more than £12 million, funded by your Council Tax.

Demand for learning disability services is increasing, mostly

due to rising life expectancy. We helped 53 more people last year than we did in 2015.

That’s an increase of 10%, and this rate of growth is

set to continue.

Next time... we look at dementia services and hear directly from people who receive council help.

Adult social care funding



£67,863,000

Total Adult Social Care budget 2018, of which...



£22,834,000

...supports people with learning disabilities aged 18+, including...



£12,014,000

...nursing and residential care for the 173 people with most severe learning disabilities

Rogues' gallery

BURGLAR CAUGHT IN BENIDORM



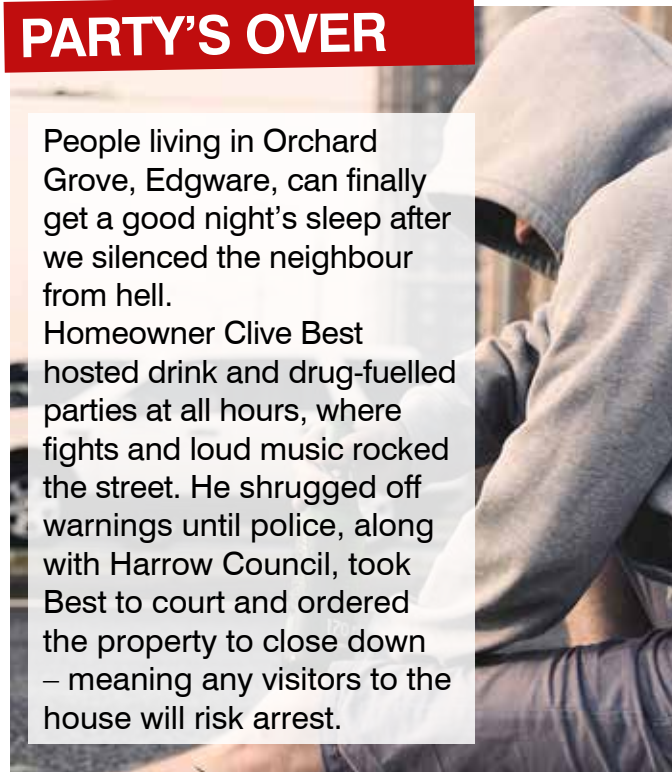
A violent burglar who fled to Benidorm after a housebreaking spree in Harrow, is now behind bars after being nabbed by DNA. James Connors, 43, was part of a gang that stole gold from homes across Harrow.

When confronted during one house raid, he assaulted the homeowner, leaving blood at the scene, which led to his arrest in Spain. He was jailed for 8 years and 3 months at Harrow Crown Court.

We're always on the lookout for bad behaviour and ways to make Harrow safer and better. Here are some of the rogues we recently brought to justice...

PARTY'S OVER

People living in Orchard Grove, Edgware, can finally get a good night's sleep after we silenced the neighbour from hell. Homeowner Clive Best hosted drink and drug-fuelled parties at all hours, where fights and loud music rocked the street. He shrugged off warnings until police, along with Harrow Council, took Best to court and ordered the property to close down – meaning any visitors to the house will risk arrest.



CRIME AGAINST FASHION

A rogue trader who flogged fake Louis Vuitton handbags for £30, now has to pay over £1,000 after police and Council Trading Standards officers swooped on his home and van. Habibullah Salary, from Harrow, was caught with knock-off designer bags with a street value of £23,000.

He was ordered to do 60 hours' unpaid work, fined £500 and made to pay costs of £562 with a victim surcharge of £85, at Willesden Magistrates Court.



TRUANCY MUM TAGGED

A mum who let her child bunk off school for a year now has a criminal record. Harrow Council took the mum to court after she repeatedly kept her child off school without good reason and even turned down offers of help. The truancy was judged to be "Category 1" – the worst of its kind. The mum was given a curfew order, an electronic tag, a 12-month community order, and a £500 fine.



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My Story

Norman, second from left, picks up his Harrow's Heroes award from Cllr Sue Anderson, and fellow volunteers Vivien and John



Silver service

Norman Shurrock is an inspiration, say his colleagues at Citizens Advice Harrow (CAH). He is the centre's longest-serving volunteer – clocking up 25 years this month – and is always welcoming, cheery and eager to help. And he's never had to call in sick.

Norman joined the award-winning charity – which offers Harrow residents general information and advice about rights and responsibilities – when he was looking for something worthwhile to do in retirement, prompted by his wife Helen.

He says residents' issues are becoming "much more complex" but believes the service has adapted well. Help is delivered in person,

by telephone and by email or webchat.

"It is a lot more structured now," he adds. "In the early days everything was paper-based and hardly computerised.

"The information system consisted of 30 volumes of paper files, which were continually updated manually and each file could only be accessed by one adviser at a time."

Citizens Advice, which started as a national emergency

'The information system consisted of 30 volumes of paper files, which were continually updated manually'

wartime service in 1939, celebrates its own anniversary in September. Eighty years ago, the charity dealt with rationing, evacuees, permits, finding missing relatives and rehousing issues.

The first Harrow CAB – known as 007 as it was the 7th in the country – was in a former bar in Pinner. By 1945 there were two in the borough, looking after 83,000 enquiries.

Today, residents' top concerns are benefits and tax credits, debt, housing and employment. In 2017-18, the branch advised 11,731 clients on 13,619 issues. They estimate the value to society of their advice to be £14.2million.

● Find out more at citizensadviceharrow.org.uk

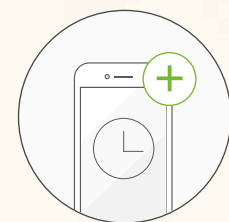
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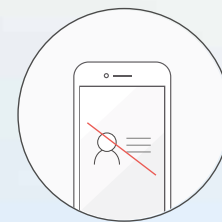
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Are you finding it harder to do things around the house?

'Nothing is ever too much bother to them... my cleaner is always on time and extremely caring.'

Contact Help at Home

Age UK is offering a new service in Harrow. If you live in Pinner, South Harrow, Hatch End or Kenton, our team can help with:

Shopping We can take you or go for you

Cleaning Including floors, kitchens, bathrooms, help de-clutter, spring clean - whatever you need

Change bedding, do the

washing and **ironing** at home or at the launderette

Collect your prescriptions and deal with **correspondence**

Help prepare light meals

Escort you to appointments GP, clinics, hospital, hairdressers etc

Age UK HHB, 2 Chapel Court,
126 Church Road, Hayes, UB3 2LW
Tel: 020 8756 3061 or 020 8756 3065



WHAT'S ON

HARROW ARTS CENTRE

www.harrowarts.com

The Goose Who Flew

30 May, 2pm - 2.45pm, £10

■ A charming, playful, puppetry show with quirky characters – including Goose's friends Bolty, Whiskers and a feathery jazz singer called Flossy. For ages 3 to 7.



The Magic of the Beatles

15 June, 7.30pm - 10pm, £20

■ Looking for an authentic, lively dose of Beatlemania? This tribute show plays to sell-out audiences across the world.

Coppelia

22 June, 2pm - 4pm, £21

■ A lively production with old world charm, Coppelia is a captivating story about an eccentric toymaker and his beloved toy.



HEADSTONE MANOR & MUSEUM

www.harrowmuseum.org.uk

Fishy Tales

26 May

■ Celebrate London Rivers Week by making your own waterlife mobile from recycled materials.

May Day at the Manor

6 May, 12pm - 5pm, £3.50

■ A great Roman-themed fun day out for the family, with lots of entertainment including traditional Morris dancing, a puppet show, craft activities and market stalls.

BENTLEY PRIORY MUSEUM

www.bentleypriorymuseum.org.uk

Friday Morning Talks

Included in Museum Admission
3 May: 'A Cold War Navigator in Bomber Command' by Captain Arthur Creighton
31 May: 'Painting our Heroes' by Mark Postlethwaite
7 June: '75th Anniversary of D-Day, 6th June 1944' by Aldon Ferguson

Junior Artists in Residence

25 May; 27 May - 1 June | 11am - 3pm

■ Battle of Britain art activities running alongside artist-in-residence Mark Postlethwaite (except 25 May). Make your own masterpiece and contribute to his own creation.

Father's Day Lunch

15 June | 12pm - 3pm,

■ Celebrate Father's Day with

a special two-course lunch in the museum's vintage café and explore the family-friendly galleries and gardens. Book by 7 June.

HARROW LEISURE CENTRE

www.everyoneactive.com

Aqua Zumba

16 May | 8pm - 9pm, Hatch End Swimming Pool, HA5 4EA

■ Looking for a fun, low-impact exercise to add to your fitness routine? Aqua Zumba is a great cardio workout that's easy on your joints. This 9-week course costs £60. Free taster session on 9 May. To book, search 'Learn Harrow'.

Roller Disco

3 May | 6pm - 9pm, 9.30pm - 2am*

31 May | 6pm - 9pm, 9.30pm - 2am*
29 June | 1pm - 3pm, 4pm - 7pm, 9.30pm - 2am*

■ A roller disco that's great fun for the whole family. Includes a fully licensed bar and refreshments. *9.30pm session is for adults only. From £7. For more information, email Sk8citylondon@gmail.com

London Youth Games 2019

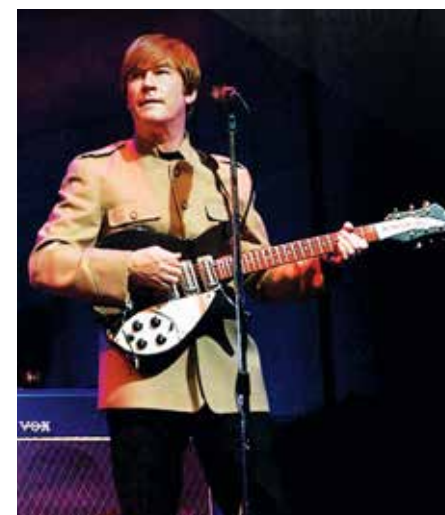
■ Fantastic free opportunity for children who live or go to school in Harrow to be a part of the London Youth Games 2019. Trials have now started for the following borough teams:

Harrow Leisure Centre:

Basketball (Girls) | 25 April, 6pm - 7.30pm, school years 7 - 12; **Netball** (Girls) | 28 April, 10am - 12pm, school years 7 - 9;

Badminton | 30 April & 7 May, 4.30pm - 6pm, school years 7 - 12. The Hive London, HA8 6AG;

Football (Girls) | 27 April, 3pm - 4pm, school years 8 - 9.



Cedars Youth and Community Centre, HA3 6QH: **Football** (Boys) | 29 April, 7pm - 9pm, school years 8 - 9.

HARROW LIBRARIES

www.harrow.gov.uk/libraries

The Extraordinary Sherlock Holmes: a talk by Nick Dobson

13 May, 11am - 12.15pm, Stanmore Library

■ Discover the elementary and extraordinary as we learn about Holmes, detect a connection to Harrow and even uncover a personal link between the great detective and the speaker.

Poetry Open Mic - 'My London'

21 May, 6pm - 7.30pm, Kenton Library

■ Judy Karbitz invites you to consider the theme 'My London'. Read a favourite poem or listen and reflect. Booking required. For adults.

National Bookstart Week

6 June, 2.15pm - 3pm, Roxeth Library | 2.30pm - 3pm, Pinner Library

■ To celebrate National Bookstart Week, you can also join in with some family fun at the libraries. There will be singing, dancing, stories, colouring and lots of fun! For 0 - 3 years.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

HOLLIE'S BUGGY BOOTCAMP

Tuesdays, 11am - 2pm, Bannister Outdoor Sports Centre, HA3 6SW

■ Six weeks of fitness and fun for mums and babies. All abilities welcome. Free trial sessions on 30 April or 7 May. £59.

www.fabswithlaura.co.uk for information.

PINNER ST GEORGE'S CELEBRATIONS

28 April, 12pm - 5pm,

Queens Head, HA5 5PJ

■ A great fun day out including folk dancers, live music, petting farm, rides, food and more. At 1pm the Mayor of Harrow will lead the

Scouts parade and at 3pm the Wheelbarrow Race will hurtle through the streets. www.pinnerrotary.org.uk



YOGA WITH JULIANA

Wednesday at 6.30pm, Fridays at 12.30pm and Saturdays at 9.30am, £12 per class

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■ A fun and friendly, chair-based weekly exercise class for over-60s. Call 07753 835819 or visit

MINI-ENGINEER'S WORKSHOP

31 May, 10am - 3pm, Heath Robinson Museum, HA5 1AE, For 8years+

■ The West London Meccano Society returns to the museum for this gadget-building day for young wouldbe-engineers. £25, including lunch. heathrobinsonmuseum.org

National Theatre Live

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Stanmore Golf Club today; below, shots from yesteryear

The course of history

GOLF CLUB CREATED BY A MASTER

The club's 126 years old", says Allan Knott, Secretary and Manager of Stanmore Golf Club, "but it's amazing how many people don't know we're here."

It certainly has something of a hidden quality. Founded when the area was almost entirely rural, the Stanmore we know today has grown up

Stanmore Golf Club

- Founded 1896
- 6,025 yards
- Par 69

protectively around this lush oasis.

"It's a great place – we're very down-to-earth and everyone's welcome – golf clubs don't always have that reputation."

Stanmore has everything you'd expect from a modern golf club, but there's something rather special here too. It offers a picturesque game, with magnificent mature trees standing guard along narrow fairways, ready to gobble up errant balls.

"It might not be the longest, but you do have to keep it straight!" Allan advises.



The man who made this special course was arguably the greatest-ever at his craft – Dr Alister Mackenzie. You'll perhaps have



seen his handiwork on TV earlier this month – as the celebrated Augusta Master's course is also one of his designs. As this year's Tiger Woods one-shot win shows, his work continues to inspire the greatest of sporting drama.

Allan wishes he could spend more time on the course. "Everyone assumes it's a perk

of the job, but I'm just too busy. When I started here I had a handicap of 8, but it's definitely going in the wrong direction now."

● Stanmore Golf Club welcomes novice and experienced golfers alike. You can even get married there – find out more at stanmoregolfclub.co.uk



'When I started here I had a handicap of 8, but it's definitely going in the wrong direction now'
Stanmore Golf Club manager Allan Knott

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