

Harrow People

SPRING 2025

The London Borough of Harrow magazine



Springing into action

Investing in our parks for more Green Flags

Harrow at 60

Celebrating borough's Diamond Jubilee



LONDON BOROUGH OF
HARROW

Landlines in the UK are going digital.



Are you ready?

The UK's landlines are getting an upgrade and soon most phone calls will be made over a broadband line. Don't worry, your landline is here to stay. Your phone number won't change, and over 99% of handsets work with the new system.

For most customers, the move to Digital Voice, BT's new home phone service is as simple as plugging your phone into a router rather than the phone socket on the wall.

If you don't have broadband

Don't worry, BT will be offering a dedicated landline service, allowing customers to use their landline in the same way they do today.

Supporting customers every step of the way

If you identify as vulnerable or need additional support, please contact your phone company. BT customers can call **0330 1234 150**.

If you use a healthcare alarm or medical pendant which allows you to press for help in an emergency, or a burglar alarm, inform your phone company and check with your equipment provider about any needed upgrades before the switch.



For more information about Digital Voice, visit: bt.com/digitalvoice



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HARROW

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Grounds maintenance at Pinner Memorial Park

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



“Investing more into the services that matter to you.”

Welcome to the Spring issue of Harrow People. This year marks a major milestone – the 60th anniversary of the London Borough of Harrow.

Since 1965, our borough has grown and evolved. I know from speaking to residents that, while they have seen improvements in their neighbourhoods over the last few years, there is still much more work to be done to restore pride in Harrow.

Back in 2023, we set out bold plans to improve our borough—investing in cleaner streets, safer neighbourhoods, better roads, and easier access to services, particularly for people most in need.

As we enter the final year of our corporate plan, we reflect on what's been achieved over the past year and set out our 30 flagship projects for the months ahead. See inside for details.

At the same time as restoring pride in Harrow, we remain on a stable financial footing. As this issue went to print, we agreed a balanced budget. And we're investing heavily on services that

matter to you - £900,000 into street cleansing, £6m into our parks over three years and £42m over three years to improve our roads and pavements. See page 7 for details.

We are opening a one-stop shop on Gayton Road for residents to access council services face to face, and reopening our phone lines for general enquiries.

Finally, we are progressing on building for the future. I am pleased that a planning application is in for the old Civic Centre, called Poets Corner, for 1,000 new homes and green spaces. Plus, work will start later this year on 149 homes near Harrow Leisure Centre, many of them family houses.

All these developments will include new council homes and homes that are genuinely affordable.

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



HAF activities back for Easter

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme for children has cracked open a free timetable of boredom-busting fun for the Easter break.

Harrow organisations have come together with the help of the council and Young Harrow Foundation to bring fun activities and hot meals to 5 to 16-year-olds, including those with special educational needs and disabilities.

The programme is aimed at children in receipt of means-tested free school meals.

Visit youngharrowfoundation.org/haf-programme to find out more.

Chance to make your mark in Art Park

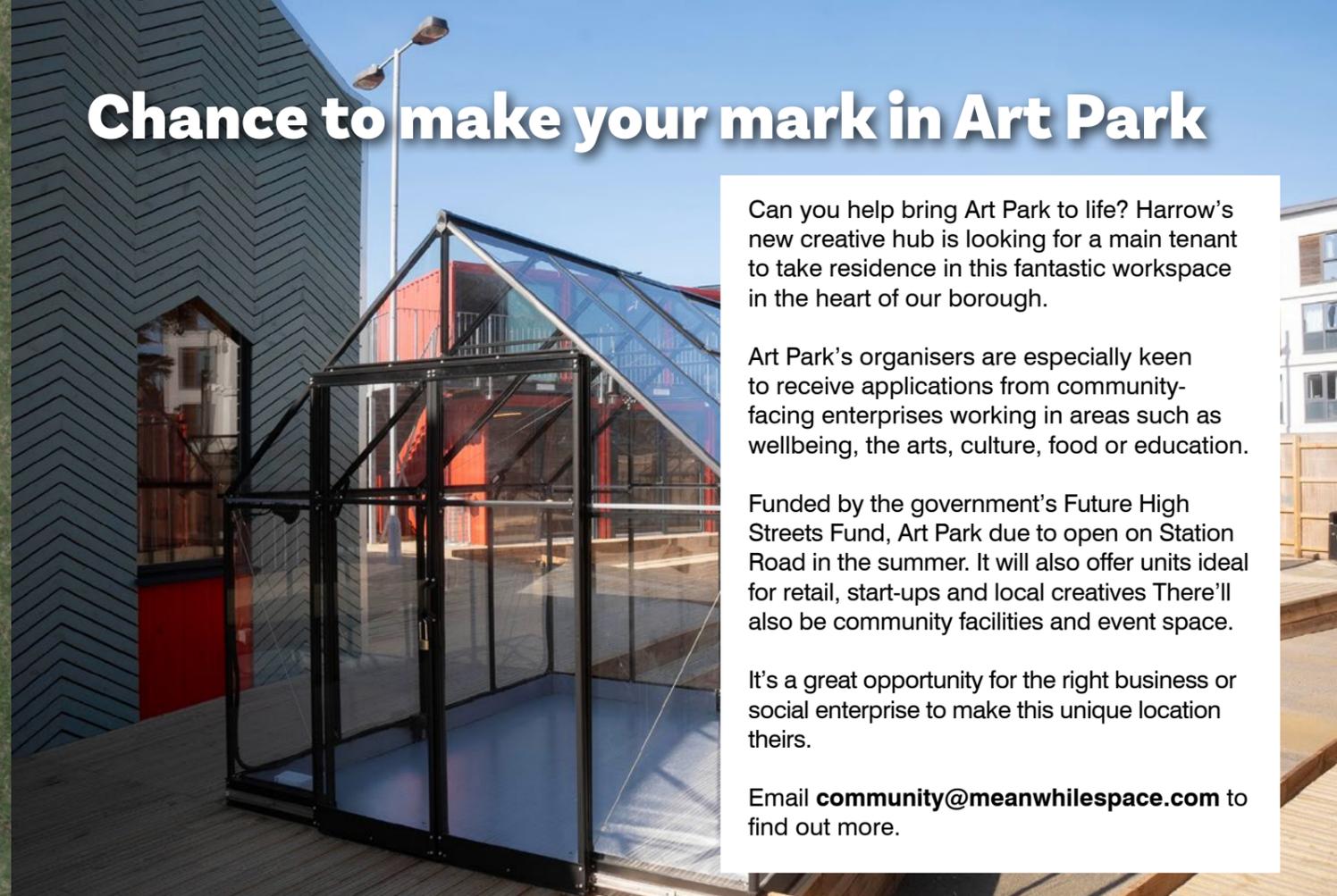
Can you help bring Art Park to life? Harrow's new creative hub is looking for a main tenant to take residence in this fantastic workspace in the heart of our borough.

Art Park's organisers are especially keen to receive applications from community-facing enterprises working in areas such as wellbeing, the arts, culture, food or education.

Funded by the government's Future High Streets Fund, Art Park due to open on Station Road in the summer. It will also offer units ideal for retail, start-ups and local creatives. There'll also be community facilities and event space.

It's a great opportunity for the right business or social enterprise to make this unique location theirs.

Email community@meanwhitespace.com to find out more.



Hubs bring family services together

We've officially launched our new Family Hubs network, transforming children's centres into more than just places to play and learn.

The Hubs bring together children's, health, and maternity services alongside voluntary organisations in key locations across Harrow, ensuring families get the right support at the right time and in the right place.

Services include talk and play, family rooms, health visiting, maternity support, parenting support, and health and wellbeing sessions.

There are also checks on 2-year-olds, weaning groups, fathers' groups, speech and language advice, cooking classes and sensory rooms for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.



Watch our video

Scan the QR code to see more




Digital Voice is coming to Kenton

You may have heard about the big digital switchover in the UK. By the end of January 2027, all old public telephone networks will have switched to digital services.

However, for everyone in Kenton, this will happen before the end of November this year. For those that haven't already made the switch, your telephone provider will contact you.

Please be careful of any scams during this time. If you are unsure about any messages from your phone company, contact them using the number on your bill.

Visit Ofcom.org.uk for more information.



Borough reflects on Covid anniversary

The Mayor of Harrow, councillors, representatives from the emergency services, interfaith groups and more came together to remember those who lost their lives to Covid on the fifth anniversary of the start of the pandemic.

Wreaths were laid at a ceremony at the Copse in the Grove Open Space on the National Covid Day of Reflection earlier this month.

Get the latest news and events straight to your inbox

Sign up at harrow.gov.uk/myharrownews



Give your unwanted clothes a new life

If you're having a spring clean, think before throwing out old clothes.

We partner with TR Aid, a charity that helps give clothing new life and will collect from your doorstep.

You can book a textiles collection online. Keep an eye out for our recycling and repair cafes throughout the year, which will be advertised on our website and social media, where you can learn how to mend clothing.

Textiles contaminate your recycling bin, which costs the council money.



Go to harrow.gov.uk/recycling to book a collection and find out more about what to do with unwanted clothes.



Brazen fly-tippers caught on camera

Fly-tippers who thought they could dump their waste without being seen, have instead got their faces on to our wall of shame.

More than 30 cameras fitted in hot spots around the borough are helping us find and fine fly-tippers.

In the last two months, CCTV helped us trace five fly-tippers who have paid a price for their crime with fines totalling more than £5,000 issued and paid.

Find out more www.harrow.gov.uk/wallofshame



Watch the video

Scan the QR code to see more



Working to restore pride

We are working on ambitious plans to improve Harrow, safeguard the services you rely on, and invest in the areas that matter most to you like road repairs and street cleaning.

We agreed our corporate plan for the next financial year, and our budget, setting out where your money will go, last month. The plan continues our commitment to restore pride in Harrow with three priorities being central to delivering a well-run Council that provides good value for money. These are: A council that puts residents first; a borough

that is clean and safe; and a place where those in need are supported.

On the following pages, you'll see some of the work we've already done, as well as our Flagship Actions – the 30 high-profile projects we're committing to for the year ahead.



Watch our video

Scan to see a full round-up of Flagship Actions



We're investing in the things that you told us made the biggest difference to your safety and quality of life, and to the local economy...

We're investing an additional **£1.6million** to improve street cleaning and fly-tipping enforcement over two years



We're continuing to offer 1 hour's free parking, adding to the nearly **7 million** free hours claimed so far



We've committed **£42million** to improving roads and pavements over three years, doubling our capital investment this year to £14million

We're continuing to support vulnerable adults and children with complex needs and disabilities, with an additional **£9million** next year (£20.7m over 3 years)



We're investing more than **£6million** in our parks over the next 3 years – delivering better facilities and more green flag parks

Check your Easter bin day

What day is your collection? Your collection may be a day later than usual due to the Easter Bank Holiday. Scan the QR code or check the table below to see your collection days.



Remember – right thing right bin. Make sure you recycle as much as you can this Easter

Usual bin day

Friday 18 April

Monday 21 April

Tuesday 22 April

Wednesday 23 April

Thursday 24 April

Friday 25 April

Easter bin day

Saturday 19 April

Tuesday 22 April

Wednesday 23 April

Thursday 24 April

Friday 25 April

Saturday 26 April



See how we've invested in your priorities and our Flagship Actions for the year ahead p8-13

Flagship actions



We've submitted our local plan to the Secretary of State for independent examination following two rounds of consultation



We recruited two graduates and offered work experience placements to young people in Harrow



Following consultation we designated two areas of special character

Putting residents first

We are making it easier to contact the council and access services, responding quickly and effectively.

We opened our emergency front door at Gayton Road which will soon become our one-stop shop to access council services



We are investing in our housing – this year we upgraded more than 200 kitchens and bathrooms in council homes



Flagship actions for the year ahead 2025-26

Reopening phone lines and one-stop shop, improving access to Council services



Progress our plans for Byron Quarter for 149 new homes including 71 houses



Progress our plans for Poets Corner regeneration with new council homes



Submit planning application and start Phase 2 Grange Farm development



Adopt the Local Plan to protect our suburban character



Introduce two new Local Areas of Special Character to protect our heritage



Introduce virtual parking permits in CPZs



Invest £14m this year to fix roads and footways



Upgrade a further 125 kitchens and bathrooms in council properties



Celebrate the 60th anniversary of the London Borough of Harrow.



Flagship actions



Our new pothole squad filled 2,191 potholes and resurfaced 15.4 miles of roads and footways since 2023



Created new ward-based street cleansing teams to keep Harrow clean



Improved energy efficiency in five council buildings and schools by installing solar panels

Making Harrow cleaner and safer

We are working to make Harrow a healthy, safe and attractive place to live.



Held 37 recycling and repair events in schools and in the community



Doubled the number of days and nights of action to tackle antisocial behaviour

Established anti-flood measures at Chandos Rec and prepared the park for Green Flag status

Flagship actions for the year ahead 2025-26

- Increase our recycling rate to 35% and promote food waste collections
- Trialling larger bins and weekend collections at the busiest times in 12 parks
- Secure two new Green Flag Parks
- Invest £800,000 into keeping our streets, town centres and parks clean
- Crack down on fly-tipping using AI technology and wall of shame
- Run 10 days and nights of action to tackle anti-social behaviour
- Run a knife crime education programme at five high schools
- Help women and girls feel safe with more safe havens
- Improve energy efficiency at 20 of our schools
- Make 200 council homes warmer and more energy efficient.



Flagship actions

Supporting those most in need

We are helping residents with their care needs, ensuring everyone has greater confidence in using our digital platforms and creating employment opportunities for our most vulnerable young people.

Expanded conversation café to help residents access council services



Launched a series of themed walks to get Harrow moving



Kenmore
Complex and Sensory Needs Hub Entrance



Launched new specialist hubs for adult social care

Helped 6,727 families with free school meals through the Household Support Fund in the last year



Upgraded our children's centres into family hubs

Flagship actions for the year ahead 2025-26

■ Purchase 70 homes to support homeless families



■ Help 600 learners gain digital and employment skills



■ Offer care leavers work experience and job opportunities within the Council and our partners



■ Continue supporting families with free school meals during holidays



■ Improve access to health and care services through Family Hubs



■ Introduce a new app for special needs transport



■ Launch a new community mental health programme



■ Create an online tool for carers to access information and support



■ Expand Conversation Café to offer more in-person support



■ Explore better use of our council buildings with the voluntary sector.



Celebrating 60 Years

In 1965, The Who performed at Churchill Hall, the Kodak factory in Wealdstone was a major employer, and new semi-detached and terraced homes were being built in Harrow.

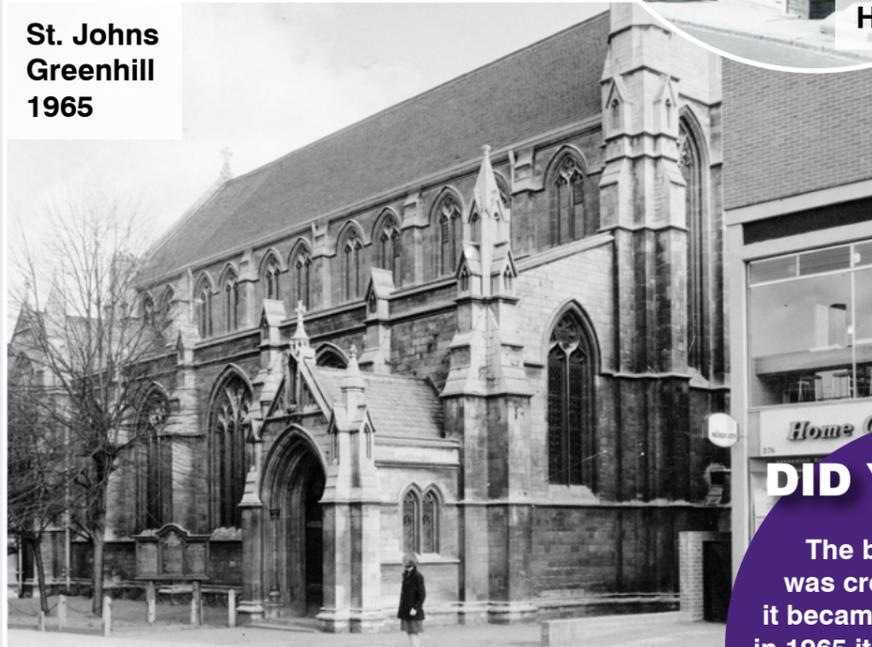
We're proud of where we've come from and who we are now. The London Borough of Harrow is 60 this year and we're celebrating. A lot has changed since it became a 'London borough'.

From May until September, there will be a programme of events to commemorate our history, identity, and vibrant community.

Starting off festivities is Headstone Manor & Museum, with a digital exhibition showcasing archival photographs of Harrow alongside modern images of the same locations, captured by a Harrow-based photographer and local young people.

Other events planned include cultural exhibitions, performances, heritage projects, and community-led initiatives, offering an opportunity for all to get involved.

St. Johns Greenhill 1965

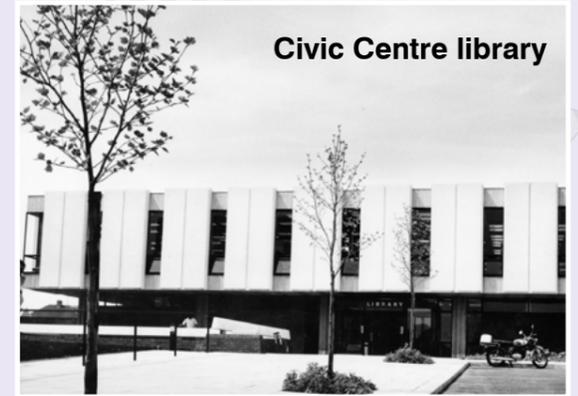


DID YOU KNOW?

London Borough of Harrow was established on 1 April 1965, under the London Government Act 1963, when it transitioned from Middlesex to Greater London.



Grange Furniture Shop, College Road, Harrow c.1965



Civic Centre library



Harrow School Chapel 1965



Harrow on the Hill 1965

Northolt Road, South Harrow c.1978



DID YOU KNOW?

The borough of Harrow was created in 1954. When it became a 'London borough' in 1965 it was the only borough whose boundary didn't change in London.

Programme highlights

Now & Then – A Digital Exhibition

When: From May
Where: Headstone Manor & Museum
■ Archival photos of Harrow paired with modern takes, captured by local photographers and young people.

Harrow 2085

When: June-September
Where: Harrow Libraries and online
■ Schools' webinar and craft activities imagining a sustainable, futuristic Harrow.

Harrow Heritage Walks

When: Throughout the school summer holidays
Where: Across the borough
■ Family-friendly treasure hunts with maps to explore Harrow's history and hidden gems.

The Boiler House Festival – Harrow at 60

When: Throughout August
Where: Harrow Arts Centre
■ Fringe theatre festival celebrating Harrow, with performances every weekend in August.

Headstone Village Show – Harrow's Diamond Anniversary Special

When: Bank Holiday Monday 25 August
Where: Headstone Manor & Museum
■ The annual show goes 1960s-themed to celebrate Harrow's Diamond Anniversary, with performances, cultural food stalls, pop-up exhibitions, and more. Tickets available soon.

Keep a look out for more events at harrow.gov.uk/weare60





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LONDON BOROUGH OF
HARROW



Spring clean

The volunteers restoring pride in Harrow

Everyone wants clean and safe streets. This year we're committed to £900,000 investment in street cleansing and £6m into our parks, alongside days and nights of action – all part of our flagship actions.

Our recent day of action in Lowlands Rec saw us working with partner agencies to engage with the community on local issues and antisocial behaviour.

We're working closely with local and volunteer groups who play a huge role in this. Groups like Harrow Litter Pickers, who joined us at a number of Days of Action. We've provided them with bags and litter pickers and share the

same vision – restoring pride back into our streets.

Their story is incredible. In 2024, the thousand-strong army of volunteers have collected 17,508 bags of rubbish.

Alongside 140 group events and 1,469 litter-picks, they've also assisted with 276 witness statements to help us find and fine fly-tippers.

The group are carrying out nine clear up events as part of the Great British Spring Clean. We're proud to support the national event led by Keep Britain Tidy which aims to help people take care of their local areas. Some of these have already taken place

but there are clean up events taking place until 6 April. Join one local to you.

Another resident restoring pride in her neighbourhood is Kanchan Chauhan, *pictured bottom left*. The Harrow's Heroes finalist led a project to transform a fly-tipped alleyway in Rayners Lane into a beautiful community garden.

Find out more and get involved at harrowlitterpickers.co.uk

Great British Spring Clean

Come and join an event led by Harrow Litter Pickers.

Boxtree Park, Harrow Weald

29 March | 10-11.30am | Meet at Boxtree Lane car park

Kenton Rec, Kenton West

31 March | 12-1.30pm | Meet at Carlton Ave car park

Alexandra Park, Roxeth

2 April | 1-2.30pm | Meet at gate opposite Tregenna Ave

Brockhurst Corner Open Space, Stanmore

4 April | 1-2.30pm | Meet at playpark entrance

Roxeth Rec, S Harrow

6 April | 2-3.30pm | Meet in car park



New family homes for Byron Quarter

We are making significant strides in our commitment to regenerating and transforming council-owned sites into thriving communities, ensuring that residents have access to high-quality and genuinely affordable homes.

We have approved plans to deliver 149 new family homes, including 71 three-bedroom houses, at Byron Quarter, a long-disused council site adjacent to Harrow Leisure Centre. This development will provide a mix of council homes, shared ownership properties, and private market housing—helping more local families find secure, high-quality accommodation.

At the heart of the development, residents will enjoy a new green space featuring seating areas, play spaces, and walking and cycling links to the Belmont Trail and Byron Park.



Artist's impression of Byron Quarter

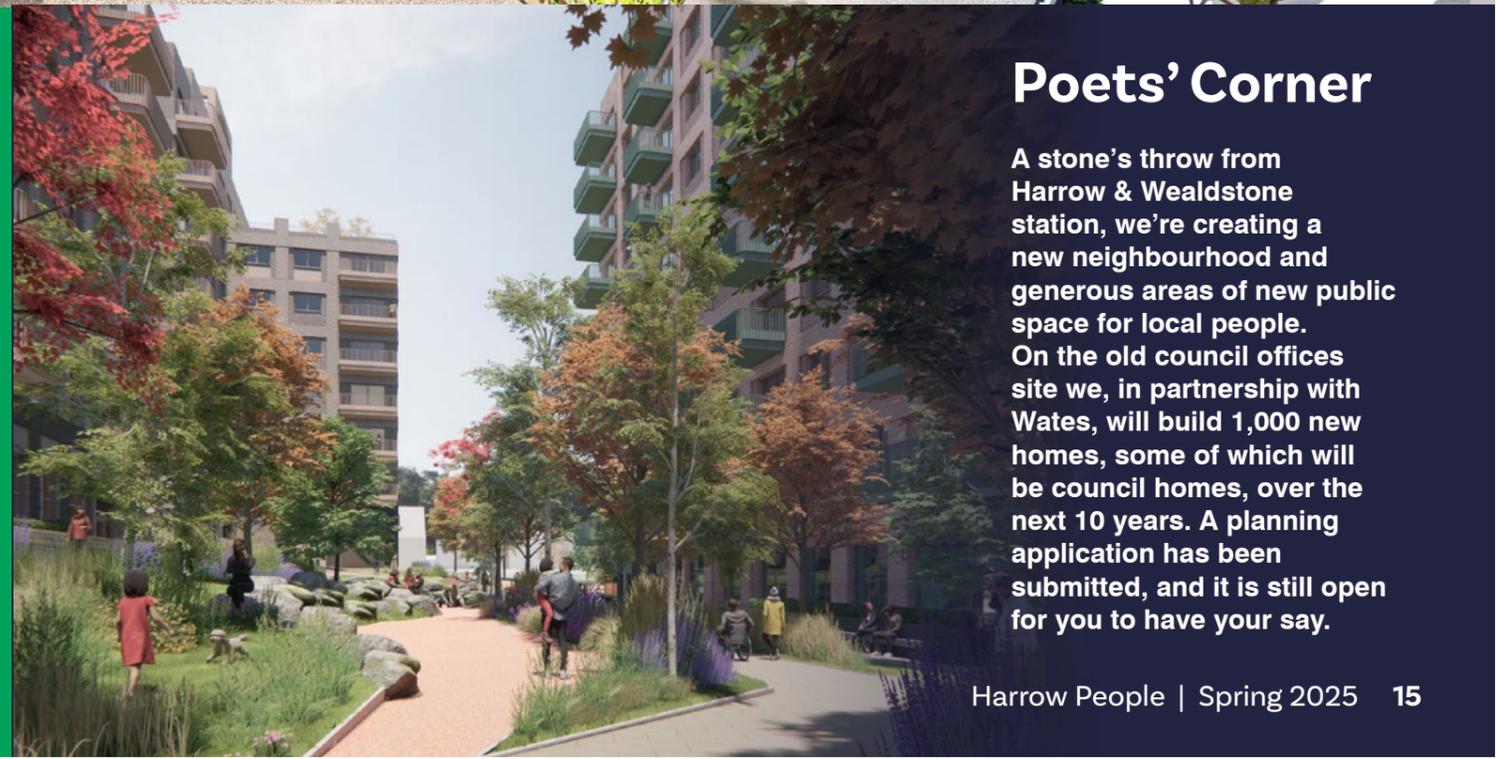


Grange Farm Estate

In South Harrow, we continue to make good progress on the regeneration of the Grange Farm estate. Following recent consultation, Phase 2a planning application is soon to be submitted.

This phase of the redevelopment will deliver 50 new homes. Of these, 36 will be council homes for existing tenants, with the remaining homes likely available under the London Living Rent scheme, ensuring affordability for local families.

The regeneration of the whole estate will ultimately create around 500 modern homes alongside a new community centre and improved public spaces.



Poets' Corner

A stone's throw from Harrow & Wealdstone station, we're creating a new neighbourhood and generous areas of new public space for local people. On the old council offices site we, in partnership with Wates, will build 1,000 new homes, some of which will be council homes, over the next 10 years. A planning application has been submitted, and it is still open for you to have your say.



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Mayor's year

Chains of events

Outgoing mayor reflects on diverse year

It's been a busy year for Cllr Salim Chowdhury, and as his mayoral year comes to an end, we look back at his time in office.

The Mayor has been to all corners of the borough championing his theme of unity and diversity attending more than 400 engagements.

He says his highlights include Remembrance Sunday, our Harrow's Heroes Awards in September, visiting schools and care homes and the New Year's Day Parade as well as supporting his chosen Charity London Community Kitchen.

Mayor Cllr Chowdhury shared, "It has been a profound honour to serve as Harrow's first Bangladeshi Mayor. I have taken immense pleasure in meeting countless remarkable individuals and



Bringing well wishes on resident Betty Reid's 100th birthday; main picture, wreath laying in Harrow Town Centre on Remembrance Sunday

organisations that unite our community.

"The greatest joy has been immersing myself in the rich tapestry of cultures and faiths celebrated at events such as Navratri, Thai Pongal, Christmas and others.

"These experiences serve as a poignant reminder of our borough's diversity and the importance of celebrating it. I extend my warmest wishes to the incoming Mayor for a successful tenure."

Thank you, Mr Mayor, Cllr Salim Chowdhury, for an incredible year of service!



Left, the Mayor celebrates Diwali at the Kadwa Patidar Centre



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LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

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HARROW ARTS CENTRE

www.harrowarts.com

Robin Hood

11 – 14 Apr | 11am and 2.30pm
| From £13

■ Immersion Theatre presents their first Easter Pantomime at the Harrow Arts Centre—Robin Hood! Follow the exciting escapades of our dashing hero and his loyal band of merry men in this madcap, medieval romp as Robin fights to restore justice for the people of Sherwood.

Ladies of Laughter

25 April | 7.30pm | £22

■ This hit tour returns for a night made for everybody (whatever your pronoun). Round up your friends and family and join us for a guaranteed night of hilarity!

There's a Monster in Your Show

3 – 4 May | 1pm and 3.30pm | From £13

■ Tom Fletcher's interactive adventures for big imaginations are leaping from page to stage, as the beloved Who's in Your Book? series makes its debut as a brand-new musical show.



HEADSTONE MANOR & MUSEUM

www.headstonemanor.org

Gnome Trail

5 – 20 April | Free

■ Can you find those pesky gnomes hidden around Headstone Manor? Find them all, solve their puzzle and win a prize in this fun trail for all ages.

Family Workshop: Gnome Front Doors

9 April | 11am | 12.15pm and 1.45pm, £5 | Ages 5+

■ There are gnomes at Headstone Manor—where do you think they live? Come and make a miniature front door and imagine who lives behind it.

Tuesday Talk: Easter and Lenten Food Traditions

15 April | 2pm | £3 | Ages 18+

■ Explore global pagan rites and Christian traditions this Easter. Uncover the ancient roots of modern foods beyond Hot Cross Buns and Easter eggs—plus tempting recipes to try!



HEATH ROBINSON MUSEUM

www.heathrobinsonmuseum.org

Exhibition – The Art of Sidney The Gonzovation Conversation

5 April | 3pm - 5pm

■ Explore how art, storytelling, and madness reshape conversation. Join Ceri Levy as he shares his journey with Ralph Steadman and The Gonzovation Trilogy.

Easter Trail

19 April | 11am – 3pm | £4 | Ages 3 to 10

■ Chicks are hatching all over Pinner Memorial Park! Grab a map, track them down, and win a prize. The trail takes approximately 30 minutes.

Exhibition: Ralph Steadman - INKling

Until 10 May | included in entry ticket

■ Step into the wild, imaginative world of Ralph Steadman. Perfect for all ages, INKling offers a chance to experience the creativity and impact of one of the most influential illustrators of our time.

HARROW LIBRARIES

www.harrow.gov.uk/libraryevents

Rhyme time

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

Pinner Library | Tuesdays and Thursdays | 10.30am – 11am | Roxeth Library | Thursday | 11am to 11.30am

Stanmore Library | Tuesdays and Thursdays | 11am – 11.30am | Wealdstone Library | Thursday 11am to 11.30am

■ Rhyme time is a fun free 30-minute service for under-fives. It has classic nursery rhymes and it a great opportunity to meet others.

HARROW LEISURE CENTRE

www.everyoneactive.com

Back2Netball

Mondays | 7pm – 8pm,

■ Get back on the court with these fun, friendly Back2Netball sessions! Open to adults of all skill levels. For more information, email sophie.pardoe@englandnetball.co.uk

Junior Netball Sessions for Girls

Tuesdays | 6pm – 7pm | £4.20 | Ages 11 to 15 years

■ Develop your netball skills, make new friends, and have fun! This programme is designed for all skill levels, from beginners to rising stars. Limited places—sign up at reception or through the Everyone Active App.



Sunset Comedy Club is on every Tuesday at The Junction

Community events

Stanmore Choral Society's Spring Concert

5 April | 7pm | St Lawrence Whitchurch, HA8 6QS

Tickets: £20, under 16s free
■ Stanmore Choral Society performs Chandos Anthems by Handel and Pepusch, plus Handel's Foundling Hospital Anthem, featuring the Hallelujah Chorus. More details and booking at stanmore-choral.org.uk.

Harrow Choral Society's Easter Concert

5 April | 5.30pm | St Albans Church, HA2 7PF

Tickets: £20, under 18s £2
■ Following their sell-out Christmas Celebration, Harrow Choral Society returns to St. Albans Church to perform Stainer's Crucifixion and other Easter music by Romantic composers of the late nineteenth century. Book tickets at harrowchoral.org.uk.

Sunset Comedy Club

Tuesdays | 8pm – 10pm | The Junction, HA1 2DH

Free or reserve seats for £3
■ Enjoy free stand-up comedy every Tuesday with Sunset Comedy! Local acts include comics who have appeared on TV, like Imran Yusaf and Keith

Farnan. For more information, search 'Sunset Comedy Club' on Facebook and Instagram.

The Stork Project – Young People's Programme

Wednesdays | 6pm - 8pm | 22 April – 7 July (11 weeks)

| No sessions: 26 May–30 May (Half Term)
| Harrow School, 34 High St, Harrow HA1 3LH

■ The Stork Project harnesses the power of performing arts to help migrants adjust to life in a new country. This free weekly programme for young people from Ukraine covers all elements of performing arts—music, drama, dance, and design—and is supported by a Ukrainian-speaking therapist. More information at uniquecommunity.org.

Pinner Rotary 2025 St George's Day Celebrations

Sunday 27 April | 12pm – 5pm, featuring the Wheelbarrow Race at 3pm Pinner Village High Street

■ The picturesque High Street will be closed to traffic and filled with entertainment for everyone with performers, stalls and activities. Visit Pinner's page on rotary-ribi.org for more information.



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