

HILLINGDON people

News from your council
September/October 2023

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New policing plan

Investing in SEND provision



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LONDON



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WARD BUDGETS



SUMMER FUN

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COVER PHOTO: Rachel Rizzo, 45, and her sons Enzo, 11, and Theo, eight, recycling at their home in West Drayton.



Advertising deadline for next edition: **Friday 6 October.**

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Welcome



During the summer, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) launched their 'New Met for London' plan across the capital with specific events in each borough, including Hillingdon. The council welcomes the plan's objectives which set out how the police will rebuild trust with communities, reduce crime and set higher standards in policing. Alongside the overarching plan, a Hillingdon-focused version will also be created demonstrating how the police changes will improve our joint approach to tackling crime and creating safer and stronger communities. We look forward to being able to work even more closely in partnership in the future for the benefit of residents. I am delighted that more resources are to be made available for neighbourhood policing and to deal with anti-social behaviour, and that local policing commanders will be able to control more resources to support the priorities of local communities.

It will be great to see more officers working in the area and there will be more opportunities for you to be involved in local policing and discuss your concerns.

We're also delighted that following our six-year council campaign, the Mayor of London has vowed to keep Uxbridge Police Station open. This will ensure officers have adequate operational facilities and reassure residents that there is a strong local police presence in Hillingdon. You can read more about the Met's plan and see how the council is working closely with the police on pages 20 and 21.

It was fantastic to see the range of events on offer for young people across the borough in July and August, with hundreds of children taking part in our Summer Activity Programme and the games and theatrical shows for the Summer Reading Challenge. You can read about this on pages 11 to 13. We will be building further opportunities year-round as part of our new Youth Offer to provide stimulating and educational courses and activities for young people of all ages and backgrounds.

It is also exciting to see that our multi-million pound restoration of Cranford Park is taking shape. As it nears completion, you'll start to be able to see some of the improvements, including a new mural for St Dunstan's subway; a fascinating audio trail; the restored stable block, garden walls and ha-ha; a brand-new playground and a larger car park. Watch this space, with more facilities set to open later in the year.

Finally, Recycling Week is on the way and we're encouraging more residents to get involved and use our free, easy-to-use, weekly recycling collections and to recycle right, ensuring that we increase our recycling rates and do our utmost to protect the environment. Take a look at some of the things around the house that you can recycle on pages 16 and 17.

Cllr Ian Edwards
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Upgrading the borough's playgrounds



Mayor of Hillingdon, Cllr Shehryar Ahmad-Wallana and Cllr Eddie Lavery

In July, works completed to transform the play area in Fassnidge Park, Uxbridge, as part of the council's four-year £1.6 million refurbishment programme.

In total, 23 playgrounds on housing estates and in parks across the borough will see their ageing play equipment replaced with modern, accessible and inclusive facilities.

On Friday 4 August, the Mayor of Hillingdon, Cllr Shehryar Ahmad-Wallana and Cllr Eddie Lavery, Cabinet Member for Residents' Services, opened the new play facilities at Fassnidge Park.

Highlights include a climbing unit for older children, a toddler swing, see-saw, spinner bowl and interactive

play panels. Colourful hopscotch and snakes and ladders playground markings have also been installed to encourage movement and imaginative play.

Also completed this summer were Albion Road playground, Hayes (pictured below), where new equipment includes a three-way see-saw, fireman's pole, an extra wide slide, double tower multi-play unit and a wheelchair-accessible roundabout, and St Peter's Road playground in Cowley, where equipment includes a new climbing agility unit, cradle seat swing, springer, inclusive see-saw, and a junior multi-unit specifically for younger children.

A new play area at Cranford Park, included as part as of the major restoration of the historic site, is also being included from the same pool of funding (see pages 22 and 23).



Christmas card competition returns

Our popular Christmas card competition is back, and we are once again asking you to get creative to be in with a chance of having your design featured on our corporate cards.

Residents of all ages can enter. All you need to do is submit a festive image related to the borough, supplied as either a jpeg or pdf attachment (not embedded in the body of an email).

It can be either portrait or landscape, but must be high-resolution (at least 300dpi and 216mm by 154mm in size). Only one entry per person is permitted.

The artwork could be a photograph, painting or drawing. Remember to consider how your design will look when scanned, as glitter and some other collage materials can lose their effect.

Email your entry to christmascardcomp@hillingdon.gov.uk by 5pm on Friday 3 November 2023, after which

winners will be selected by the Leader of the Council, Cllr Ian Edwards.

For more information, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/christmas-card.



Last year's children's winner Alethea Prescilla Fernandes

Noisy neighbour fined for refusing to turn down TV

A Hayes man has been ordered to pay almost £2,600 after ignoring a noise abatement notice issued by the council.

John Power, 58, of Findhorn Avenue, had been regularly watching television so loudly at his previous home in Juniper Way that it caused a severe disturbance to his neighbours, Uxbridge Magistrates' Court was told on 20 June.

An investigation by the council's anti-social behaviour (ASB) team had revealed one neighbour had been suffering from anxiety, sleeplessness and mental health issues as a result of the incessant noise.

In 2022, the council issued a noise abatement notice requiring Power to stop making excessive noise.

But the court was told ASB officers witnessed him breaching the notice 11 times and the noise levels were so bad one resident had reported it to the council on 30 occasions.

Power had been found guilty in his absence at an earlier hearing on 30 May 2023. The court found that he had failed to comply with requirements of the notice between 16 October 2022 and 9 February 2023.

The court heard mitigation that Power was playing the TV loudly to drown out the noise of neighbours' footsteps and talking. **Cllr Eddie Lavery, Cabinet Member for Residents' Services**, said: "The court has agreed with the council this was a deliberate and persistent noise nuisance that lowered the quality of life for Power's neighbours."

"We want residents to feel safe and happy in our borough so won't tolerate behaviours that cause harm or distress to others in our communities."

Power was fined £1,500 and ordered to pay compensation to the victim of £150 and prosecution costs of £939.

To report a noise nuisance, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/noise-nuisance.

New clock pays tribute to the musical heritage of Hayes

In August, the council installed a unique sound clock at the entrance to Station Approach in Hayes town centre.

The clock's 12 chimes use bespoke stereo sound recordings of local people passing through Hayes, as well as train sounds. Special permission was given by the Cabinet Office for it to be inscribed in honour of Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee.

In September, the Mayor of Hillingdon, Cllr Shehryar Ahmad-Wallana, and Cllr Eddie Lavery, Cabinet Member for Residents' Services (pictured right), switched on the new clock.

Designed by architects The Decorators and fabricated by The White Wall Company, the clock has an eye-catching LED display and is made of the same gold anodised aluminium as the iconic 'Gold Disc' canopy at the Coldharbour Lane/Botwell Lane/Station Road junction.

Local business Owen Coyle Anodising Ltd, based in Blyth Road,

coated its panels with a durable weather-resistant coating.

Cllr Lavery said: "The use of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's name is closely protected, and this is a great honour for Hayes and for the entire borough."

"The installation will not only pay tribute to Hayes' rich musical heritage but also further brighten the streetscape."

In the autumn, the clock will be further complemented by a light and sound installation within the underpass which connects Blyth Road to Hayes and Harlington station.

The new feature will honour the work of Alan Dower Blumlein, an extraordinary engineer who, whilst working at EMI in Hayes, pioneered audio recording methods to create stereo sound that changed the music and film industry forever.



Fake iPhone battery seller ordered to pay back £40,000



A counterfeit battery

A Hayes man has been ordered by a court to pay back £40,000 he'd made by selling counterfeit iPhone batteries on eBay.

Sanjay Giri, 54, of Clayton Road, was also ordered to pay £10,000 towards the council's court costs following Proceeds of Crime Act proceedings at Isleworth Crown Court on 3 August.

Giri had been convicted by a jury

at the same court on 3 March and sentenced the following day, for five counts of trademark infringement.

Following an investigation by the council's trading standards team in October 2019, the court heard how Giri, trading on eBay as Lithium Power Limited, had been selling batteries listed as 'Official 100% Genuine Apple' which were actually counterfeit.

As part of the team's investigations, it was uncovered that Lithium Power Limited had sold 714 batteries all marked with the Apple Community Trade Mark, priced at £13.99, yielding almost £10,000 in revenue for Giri.

A search warrant for Giri's home was executed and a further 676 of the counterfeit batteries were found and seized, along with other electrical goods.

Cllr Eddie Lavery, Cabinet Member for Residents' Services, said: "We're committed to creating safe and strong communities where legitimate businesses can thrive, but criminals are not welcome and will be rooted out."

"I thank the trading standards team whose excellent work has very much proved that crime doesn't pay, as this resident has found out the hard way. He is now facing a hefty payment of £50,000."

If you suspect a trader is operating illegally, you can report them by emailing tradingstandards@hillingdon.gov.uk or anonymously contacting the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133.

Businesses boosted after two parklets made permanent

Businesses and shoppers are set to benefit after two 'parklets' introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic were made permanent.

Between November 2021 and February 2022, four parklets were installed under an experimental traffic regulation order as part of the council's Welcome Back Fund, to encourage shoppers back to town centres as the borough opened back up.

But now, following consultation with the local businesses two of those parklets, one outside Francesca Cakes, Field End Road, Eastcote and the other outside Bar Italia, 120 High Street, Uxbridge, will be retained on a permanent basis, ensuring the benefits they bring will be ongoing.

The parklets are designated outdoor areas on the street that provide seating for outdoor dining, as well as planters and a 'green roof' and take up the space of a parking bay.

Local businesses are charged a fee as part of their street trading licence, which is the same rate as a business loading bay as the parklets use the same space.

Feedback from businesses on

retaining the facilities was positive and reflected in their willingness to pay the associated fee and licence charges.

Cllr Jonathan Bianco, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Property, Highways and Transport, said: "We're committed to creating a sustainable borough with a thriving economy.

"Following feedback from the

businesses, making this traffic order permanent will enhance the experience in those retail areas for shoppers and visitors, while supporting the local businesses to draw customers year-round.

"Furthermore, the greenery they provide from the planters and green roof helps offset some of the local vehicle emissions."



Parklet outside Bar Italia, Uxbridge

Shopworker fined for displaying a stolen Blue Badge

A shopworker has been ordered to pay more than £2,300 after parking using a stolen Blue Badge they had put on display "by accident".

Aman Singh, 20, of Raynton Drive, Hayes, was convicted in his absence at Uxbridge Magistrates' Court on 11 July, having been charged with Blue Badge misuse following an investigation by the council's counter fraud team.

The court was told that on 20 December 2022, Singh had parked his brother's black BMW in a pay and display bay outside AM 2 PM store in Ruislip High Street, where he worked. Officers from the council's trading standards team, working on a separate investigation in the High Street, noticed a Blue Badge on the car's dashboard, but no pay and display ticket, and notified the counter fraud team to investigate.

The investigation revealed the Blue Badge had been cancelled as stolen in 2022 and records showed the Blue Badge holder to have been an elderly lady, who was not present with Singh at the time. A separate police investigation into the theft had returned no suspects and no links to Singh, the court heard.

When questioned why he had the badge and put it on display, Singh told the council officer he had "found it in the road" and meant to put it on the car seat but had left it on the dashboard by mistake as he was in a hurry to open the shop, the court was told.

Singh told the officers he thought about calling the police about the Blue Badge but was in a hurry. He



also said he was aware he was in a pay and display bay but hadn't had time to get a ticket. He added that it was his first time using the badge and was apologetic for leaving it on the dashboard, the court heard.

Cllr Martin Goddard, Cabinet Member for Finance, said: "The guidance around using a Blue Badge is very clear – you must be the owner of the badge, or be with the owner of the badge, or you're committing an offence.

"Blue Badges enable less mobile or vulnerable people to access vital amenities and services allowing them to live independent lives. Abusing the badge will not be tolerated in Hillingdon and so I hope this case serves as a warning to anyone who happens upon a Blue Badge to report it to the authorities, or it could prove costly."

Singh was fined £440, ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £176 and the council's prosecution costs of £1,742.

If you suspect someone is misusing a Blue Badge, you can report it anonymously on 0800 389 8313 (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm) or by emailing fraud@hillingdon.gov.uk.

Bungalow converted into a new wheelchair-friendly family home



Cllr Eddie Lavery and Cllr Jonathan Bianco visit the newly converted home

A one-bedroom bungalow in West Drayton has been converted into a fully accessible four-bedroom home through the council's home extension programme.

The property in Harmondsworth Road became vacant in June 2022 and has since been developed into a larger family home with full accessibility for wheelchair users.

The works cost £176,000 and the garage has been converted to create two further bedrooms, a new kitchen has been fitted, additional storage cupboards added, along with new windows and external doors.

The homes extension project started in May 2022 to address a shortage in the number of three and four-bedroom council properties and to meet the demand from larger families or for specialist homes.

Since the project got under way seven properties have now been finished, with a further three nearing completion and 10 more in the pipeline.

Most of the homes converted have been semi-detached and terraced houses which were made bigger using rear extensions or loft conversions. This was the first home in the scheme to use a bungalow and convert the garage space.

Conversions have been taking place throughout the borough and

are made possible when an existing council home becomes vacant.

The home extension programme is part the council's commitment to creating safe and strong communities where families can grow and thrive.

In July, the council's Cabinet also approved plans to extend three homes in Ruislip. Properties on Manor Way and Long Drive will be remodelled to increase the number of bedrooms from three to four, and a home on Great Central Avenue will be expanded from one to two bedrooms.

Plans were also approved to construct a new four-bedroom home on land adjacent to Rowan Road, West Drayton.

Cllr Jonathan Bianco, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Property, Highways and Transport, said: "Continued

demand for family homes puts great pressure on the council to build more, larger homes, but our home extension programme is a far more cost-effective way of bolstering our housing stock with larger, or more specialised properties.

"All residents have the right to live in a suitable home and this programme lessens the demand for larger homes while also freeing-up the properties that become vacant when residents move into these new homes."

Appropriation approved for brownfield land

In July, the council's Cabinet approved appropriating vacant brownfield land for planning purposes at the former swimming pool and Falling Lane site in Yiewsley for planning purposes.

This land hasn't been used in more than 10 years and will now be used to build affordable homes, a new library and community facility for residents.

The decision came after the council revised its 2021 development plans following resident feedback.

The new proposals for the 5,066 square metre site will bring a range of social, economic and environmental benefits for Yiewsley residents. Highlights include providing a considerably larger new library and community facility; building energy-efficient affordable homes which meet or exceed space standards as well as wheelchair accessible properties.

Local people will also benefit from improved access to the recreation ground and more play space for children. A beautiful landscaped garden will also be created on the site of the old bowling green and new trees will be planted.

This development will complement the new leisure centre currently being built in West Drayton.

The redevelopment plans were submitted for planning consent in the summer.

Leader of the Council, Cllr Ian Edwards, said: "It is imperative that we make best use of brownfield sites adjacent to our town centres. The former pool site provides an exciting opportunity for the council to bring more investment into Yiewsley and to provide a bigger and better library, community space, affordable housing and environmental improvements to Yiewsley Recreation Ground.

"It will enhance residents' quality of life by delivering on three of our Council Strategy commitments of building strong communities with access to good quality, affordable housing; providing community and leisure spaces to create thriving, healthy households; and developing a greener and more sustainable borough."

The council has been very clear that it has no intention of developing the amenity space at Yiewsley Recreation Ground, which the council designated as Metropolitan Open Space in January 2020 to ensure its continued protection for residents.

Town centre shopping parade transformation under way

Works to transform Sutton Court Road Parade in Hillingdon into a vibrant local shopping district are under way.

The council is investing £460,000 to boost footfall and enhance the local area for residents.

Improvements include signage on the external façade of the parade; a new central boulevard with landscaping and dual lantern lighting; new paving; upgrades to street furniture including bins and cycle stands and the screening of utility cabinets.

Cllr Eddie Lavery, Cabinet Member for Residents' Services, said: "The works to Sutton Court Road Parade are part of our drive to deliver economic growth for local businesses as well as ensuring that Hillingdon remains an attractive place to live, work and visit."

Subject to consultation, the council is also exploring the introduction of a 'stop and shop' parking scheme. Works are expected to be completed in the autumn.



Artist's impression of how the new parade might look

Two off-licence holders fined after selling alcohol to minors

Licence holders at two off-licences have been fined after being caught selling alcohol to children following an operation by the council.

The shop assistants who sold the alcohol at each store were also fined, after being witnessed making the sales by plain-clothed officers from the council's trading standards team.

Vipulbhai Patel, licence holder of Shree News in Salisbury Road, Eastcote, admitted selling alcohol to a minor and sales assistant Umesh Patel was found guilty in his absence of the same charge, at a hearing at Uxbridge Magistrates' Court on 11 July.

Vipulbhai Patel was ordered to pay a fine of £293, a victim surcharge of £117 and prosecution costs of £416. Umesh Patel was ordered to pay a fine of £440, a surcharge of £176 and prosecution costs of £416.

In a separate hearing at the same court, also on 11 July, the licence holder and sales assistant of Hillingdon News & Booze, Ryefield Avenue, Hillingdon, were both sentenced for the same offence.

Licence holder Sadruddin Rupani and shop assistant Phillip Clarke had each admitted the charge in a plea by post. Rupani was ordered to pay a fine of £293, a victim surcharge of £34 and prosecution costs of £446.

Clarke was ordered to pay a fine of £293, a surcharge of £34 and prosecution costs of £446.

In both hearings the court was told the council conducted test purchases, both on 28 June, using a 16-year-old shopper. In each case, a bottle of alcoholic drink was sold without the teenager being asked for identification or challenged over their age.

Cllr Eddie Lavery, Cabinet Member for Residents' Services, said: "We're committed to creating strong and safe communities where people can expect honesty and integrity from their local businesses

and where young people can be protected from harm.

"Licence holders in our borough, and those under their charge, will always be expected to uphold the law and work to expected requirements. It's disappointing that these stores have fallen below the level we'd like, but this great work by our trading standards team highlights an ongoing issue we're determined to stamp out."

If you suspect that a business is selling age-restricted products, call 01895 250164 or email tradingstandards@hillingdon.gov.uk.



Examples of the alcoholic drinks sold to the teenage test purchaser

Major school upgrades to deliver more SEND places for Hillingdon

Work to deliver additional special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) provision at the borough's schools is gathering pace with two redevelopments nearing completion and a major project due to commence.



Cllr O'Brien and Cllr Bianco at Charville Academy

The council is committed to ensuring all young people in the borough can live healthy lives and have access to the best possible educational opportunities. It is investing in a multi-million pound project to build new spaces or expand existing buildings in mainstream and special schools, to ensure more availability of quality local school places for children with additional needs.

On Wednesday 30 August, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Property, Highways and Transport, Cllr Jonathan Bianco, and Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education, Cllr Susan O'Brien visited the three schools to see their progress.

At Ruislip Gardens Primary School, the council is providing a specialist 16-place assessment base for nursery-aged children who may need access to SEND provision, as well as a specialist

resource provision (SRP) with 12 places for primary-aged pupils with autism spectrum condition (ASC). This will include therapy and hygiene rooms, sensory and soft play. The SRP is due to open in September and the assessment base in mid-October.

At Charville Academy, Hayes, another SRP is being added, with similar facilities to those at Ruislip Gardens, and will provide places for another 16 children with ASC. These works are due for completion this winter and expected to be in use by January 2024 for eight pupils, doubling to 16 in September 2024.

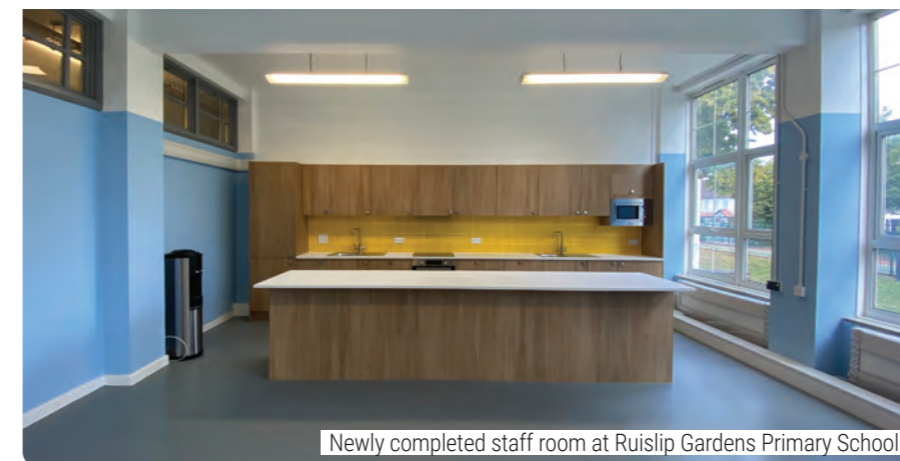
Meadow High School, Uxbridge will be expanded in two phases, with design under way on a new satellite school in Harefield, which will provide 90 additional places. A new classroom block at its current site will allow for eight additional places and 82 to be reprovided.

The new two-storey classroom block will replace temporary modular classrooms which have aged and need upgrading. There will be a range of new classrooms and specialist teaching spaces. Six temporary classrooms are currently being installed while the construction work is carried out for pupils to use from the start of the new academic year.

Cllr O'Brien said: "It's brilliant to see the progress being made to meet the demand for specialist provision in our schools.

"This project requires us to really explore how spaces at our schools are used and to examine how the buildings could be adapted, expanded or repurposed to address the increasing demand and negate any local shortage of spaces.

"We're also striving to deliver an equality of educational opportunities for every young person in the borough, so that young people with specific needs can learn alongside other pupils in an environment that enables all to thrive."



Newly completed staff room at Ruislip Gardens Primary School



A thriving economy

Helping older people live independently

Finds out how the council's new falls prevention toolkit and strength and balance classes are supporting residents.



The risk of falling often increases as we get older, and most falls occur as we carry out everyday activities around the house. The NHS says one in three over-65s and half of those aged 80 and above will have one fall a year. But according to the National Institute for Clinical Excellence early interventions can reduce the falls rate by up to 35 per cent.

There are many ways that you can reduce your risk, including making simple changes to your home and doing regular exercises to improve strength and balance.

The council is also supporting residents to do this, and in January we launched a falls prevention self-assessment toolkit, which contains a series of questions to help older people to identify risks that could affect them as well as offering practical steps to reduce them.

So far, more than 2,500 toolkits have been given out and dozens of falls prevention workshops have been held to support residents in using them, with more than 150 people attending.

Running alongside this programme, the council is also offering free strength and balance classes to help people stay strong, feel steadier on their feet, retain mobility and reduce their risk of falling.

Residents can download and print off a copy of the toolkit by visiting www.hillingdon.gov.uk/fall-prevention or pick up a paper copy at one of Hillingdon's libraries.

Strength and balance classes

The first strength and balance class was held in January alongside the first falls prevention workshop at Triscott House, one of the council's extra-care developments.

Nine weekly sessions are held at seven locations: Uxbridge, Oak Farm and Ruislip Manor libraries, The Stables (Manor Farm, Ruislip), Fairfield Church (Northwood), and Michael Shersby Complex (Hillingdon) and Roberts Close (West Drayton) sheltered housing schemes. For times and to book a place, visit *discover.hillingdon.gov.uk/strength-and-balance* or call 01895 277137.

On average, 126 people attend each week, with the number of referrals continuing to rise as GPs and physiotherapists become increasingly aware of the classes. The council also plans to launch more sessions later this year in Hayes and West Drayton.

Anne Bransfield, 76, from Uxbridge (pictured) is a regular at classes at Uxbridge Library and



says it has helped her become more conscious of the potential causes of a fall and how to react if she has one.

She said: "I go with my friend Rose and we find the classes very good. The lady who runs it is very helpful and eases you into it."

"It gives you hints about what to do and what not to do to cut the risks. And you learn what to do and how to get back up again if you do fall."

Shirley Greenwood, also 76 from Uxbridge, attends the classes after using the falls prevention toolkit.

She said: "The classes are very stimulating and rewarding, and good for socialising, so you get the best of both worlds."

"It gives you more awareness and shows you how to take care of yourself."

Day of the Older Person

On Tuesday 26 September, between 10am and 4pm, we're inviting people to join a range of organisations and the Mayor of Hillingdon at the Pavilions shopping centre to celebrate Day of the Older Person.

The event will offer information and activities from organisations including Age UK; the Alzheimer's Society; Carers Trust Hillingdon; RNIB; Hillingdon libraries; the council's heritage, adult education and adult social care teams; My Health Hillingdon; and H4All.

You can also join sessions, including walking football, a local heritage walk and song performances.

Find out more at *discover.hillingdon.gov.uk/older-person-day*.

Cllr Jane Palmer, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

said: "I am pleased that our package of support aimed at preventing falls has been so well received by residents and I hope it continues to have a growing impact on their health and independence."

"If you think you might need some support or know someone who may benefit, I'd encourage more residents to take the assessment and join one of these fantastic sessions."

For more information on the council's support for older residents, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/olderpeople



Thriving, healthy households

Fun shines at our summer events

Despite the changeable weather, the council brightened up the six-week school holiday for hundreds of children across the borough with a variety of enriching sessions.



Our Summer Activity Programme was a chance for young people to have fun, make friends, learn new skills and build their confidence, with activities running from Monday 24 July to Friday 25 August.

Week-long low-cost schemes 'Summer Fun' and 'Big Summer', held at Harlington, Ruislip and South Ruislip young people's centres, offered sports, games, arts and crafts, music, dance, performance and cooking to children and young people in school years 1 to 6 and 7 to 12.

The Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) was our most extensive yet and funded half of the places on this year's Summer Activity Programme for eligible children.

The national initiative, funded by the Department for Education, is open to school-aged children (Reception to Year 11) and those up to the age of 18 with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) who receive benefits-

related free school meals, and was set up in response to research that showed that school holidays can be pressure points for families, leading to a holiday experience gap for some children.

Working with 34 providers across 53 venues including theatres, arts facilities and green spaces, Hillingdon's HAF programme delivered its widest ever choice of activities, and more than 1,000 children took part.

Overall 19,000 sessional places, lasting a minimum of four hours, were made available over a five-week period.

Each eligible child was able to attend the summer programme for free for four days a week, for up to four weeks. Some places were also available to children experiencing economic and social disadvantage who do not meet the free school meals criteria.

Children were also provided with a free, daily healthy meal and a variety of enriching activity sessions,

informed annually by feedback from families and young people, during the Easter, summer and winter school holidays.

Craft making, film workshops, a playscheme, cookery lessons and multiple sports including Taekwondo, football and cycling, were among the activities on offer.

There were also drama and music sessions to support young asylum-seeking and refugee children as well as a number of activities within the specialist provision for young people with SEND.

Parents whose children attended HAF family fun days at Yiewsley Children's Centre were delighted with what was on offer.

Alex said: "It's great that these activities are provided for under-privileged children, giving them free activities and a healthy meal. It's also a good opportunity for parents to talk to other parents."

Bethany added: "My child is autistic she really loves the sensory activities and the lights."

Continues

Ready, set read!

This year's Summer Reading Challenge, which took place at the borough's libraries, also offered a range of events as part of its mission to encourage children to continue reading during the holidays.

The challenge's theme was sports and games, and our 'Summer Games' event took place at the Great Barn at Manor Farm, Ruislip on Thursday 17 August.

More than 600 people – children aged between four and 11, and their families – attended the free event which included craft activities, storytime sessions, a mini circuits challenge (in association with the council's leisure centre provider Better), recycled bottle bowling and a treasure hunt.

There was also a book-themed performance called Old MacDonald and the Three Pigs, at the open air theatre at Barra Hall Park, Hayes, which was attended by 80 people.

Children and their parents had a great time enjoying the interactive show in the sunshine, with many of the youngsters called up to the stage take part.



Open air theatre at Barra Hall Park



Summer Games at the Great Barn



Harlington Young People's Centre



Daniel at a session at Harlington School

"I like playing with friends."
Daniel



Summer Youth Project at the Beck Theatre in Hayes

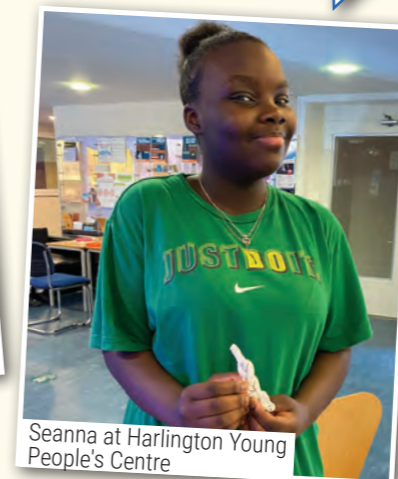


Baking at Ruislip Young People's Centre

"I like it. It's fun when you're playing the games, especially dodgeball and Jenga, and I like the clay modelling."
Seanna, aged 12



Alessio, aged six, showing his flat fish at Harlington School



Seanna at Harlington Young People's Centre

Where there's a will there's a play

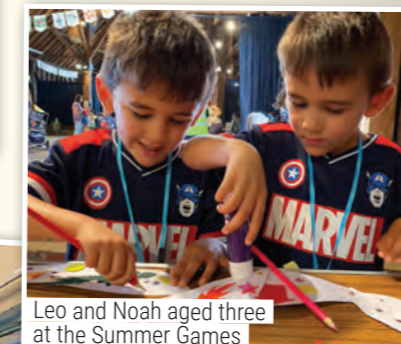
Playday, the national day for play which promotes the benefits of play to children's lives, is a highlight in our annual events calendar but this year torrential rain and strong winds meant that it had to be cancelled.

Those who turned up to the stadium were not left disappointed and were instead signposted to an impromptu Mini-Playday at Uxbridge Library.

More than 250 youngsters enjoyed storytime sessions, interactive games on our Tovertafel (magic tables), traditional board games, as well as giant Jenga, colouring and even hook-a-duck.

"I like the sweets and the game was fun." **Joseph, aged nine**
"I like the chess and getting the record time in the sport – if someone doesn't beat it we get a free swim." **Elliot, aged nine**

"I like the variety of activities, it's not just one thing... there's sport, cooking arts and crafts so you don't get bored."
Abike, aged 13



Leo and Noah aged three at the Summer Games



Faith, aged 12, and Abike, aged 13, at Harlington Young People's Centre



Joseph and Elliot at the Summer Games



Sofia at the Summer Games

Cllr Susan O'Brien, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education, said:

"While young people are often excited beyond measure when school's out for summer, for parents and carers the long holiday can present challenges in terms of providing value for money, entertainment and stimulation, particularly at a time when everyday essentials are less affordable for many families.

"We're really proud of our Summer Holiday Activity Programme and of the ongoing success of our HAF programme, which offer an impressive variety of engaging and educational courses and activities for young people of all ages and backgrounds.

"As always, our Summer Reading Challenge continues to be extremely popular, and while Playday was unfortunately cancelled due to the weather, we'll be welcoming it back once again in the winter.

"We're committed to listening to our young people and delivering a range of events to enhance their development and learning, health and wellbeing, and create thriving, healthy households whilst keeping fun at the centre of it."

For more information about activities for young people, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/children-activities



Our HAF programme in numbers

19,000
sessional places



34
providers
put on activities

53
venues





Cedars car park, Uxbridge

Making strides towards a greener future

Our vision for a more sustainable Hillingdon has taken further steps forward during the summer. The council's climate action plan had its first annual progress review, a new electric vehicle strategy has been launched and a range of carbon reducing projects are also being delivered.

The council's strategic climate action plan was reviewed by Cabinet when it met on Thursday 27 July. The report set out how 'base data' on the council's energy use had been obtained from across the organisation so that improvements over time could be measured. The council's largest emitter of carbon dioxide (CO₂) is its Civic Centre in Uxbridge, but work is already under way to modernise the

building and this alone will provide a significant reduction in the council's own CO₂ emissions. The report also outlined a 43.8 per cent reduction in overall electricity usage across the council's operations since the baseline data from 2018/19 and that this was largely due to a shift to more energy-efficient LED lighting. Investments are also being made in the council's housing stock to replace boilers and improve cavity insulation to increase the thermal efficiency of older buildings.

Our corporate commitments for the climate action plan are to:

- 1 lead and inspire our residents, businesses and schools to reduce their own carbon emissions
- 2 become carbon neutral by 2030 across the council's operations
- 3 achieve 100 per cent clean electricity across council services by 2030
- 4 raise awareness and develop the potential of young people to respond to the challenge of the climate emergency
- 5 enhance opportunities for biodiversity across the borough, particularly in urban areas
- 6 remain open to the opportunity to go further, and to be innovative and creative to exceed the stated goals wherever possible.

Plans for new electric vehicle charging points

At the same Cabinet meeting, a new electric vehicle infrastructure strategy was approved. This document lays out plans to deliver hundreds of charging points in the borough by 2030 to meet demand as more drivers switch to electric vehicles. The plans include reviewing the authority's existing charging points this year and either

repairing or removing out-of-date equipment, introducing new public charging points on off-street council property in 2026, and adding more based on demand by 2030 to develop a high-quality, accessible and convenient charging network. To view the strategy, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/electric-vehicles.



New street lights run on wind and solar power

The council will roll out new hybrid wind and solar powered street lights to more locations, following a successful trial at six sites.

The lights use energy-efficient LED bulbs that can be powered by a solar panel or the wind turbine at the top of the column. An inbuilt battery retains enough power to keep the lights going through periods of low sun and wind.

Lights have been installed at the Civic Centre and on St Andrew's Roundabout in Uxbridge, with two more at the Grainges car park and one each at housing estates in South Road, West Drayton and Melrose Close, Hayes. Ten more locations are planned for St Andrew's housing estate



New solar powered street light at the Civic Centre

in Uxbridge and a further 10 in the car park of Minet County Park, Hayes. The council is the first in west London to take up the new technology as part of its commitment to ensuring residents stay safe, while addressing the climate emergency.

Car park safety boosted by energy-efficient LEDs

Two more council car parks have been given lighting upgrades to improve safety for visitors and make them more energy efficient. Work at the Cedars car park (pictured on page 14) in Uxbridge and Blyth Road car park in Hayes completed this summer and followed improvements made to the lighting in the Grainges car park in Uxbridge in February.

The new 24-volt intelligent lighting system will cut energy costs and carbon emissions and tackle residents' concerns about safety by ensuring, bright, evenly distributed light at night. At the Cedars, the new LEDs will deliver energy savings of 85,000 Kw/h per year and a reduction of carbon emissions of 18.87 tonnes – the equivalent of around 19 transatlantic flights. Savings at Blyth Road car park will be significant but reduced due to the site being smaller with fewer lights. Similar works at the three car parks at the Civic Centre in Uxbridge are due to begin this autumn.

Cllr Eddie Lavery, Cabinet Member for Residents' Services, said:

"We're committed to creating a green and sustainable borough, and as part of that it is vital that we do our bit to help reverse the harms being caused by carbon emissions. "Our strategic climate action plan is a multi layered policy which outlines how we'll make changes throughout every service and function of the council to ensure we're leading by example and making energy savings or carbon reductions at every opportunity. "We're already seeing significant reductions in energy use as well as in CO₂ emissions and will continue to make strides in our efforts to achieve our six commitments and help safeguard our borough for future generations."

Find out more about how the council is responding to the climate emergency at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/climate-action-plan



Grainges car park, Uxbridge

Recycle correctly and play your part in creating a greener future

To celebrate Recycle Week, *Hillingdon People* is encouraging residents to recycle more of the right things, more often. To support your journey, see our guide of some of the things that can and can't be recycled as well as details of our upcoming recycling roadshows.

Recycle Week (Monday 16 to Sunday 22 October) is a national campaign which encourages people to find out more about what can be recycled and to recycle more items from around the home.

This year's theme – The Big Recycling Hunt – focuses on those items from around the home that can be recycled but are commonly missed and included with general waste.

This year's Recycle Week also provides a great opportunity to shine a spotlight on some of the items which people optimistically place into their dry mixed recycling, in the hope that they can be recycled, when they can't.

How we're helping you to recycle right

The council is committed to recycling as much of your waste as possible by providing residents with free, weekly and easy-to-use recycling collections for mixed dry recyclables, food and garden waste. We also offer free textile collections.

Recycling is important as it reduces the environmental impact of disposing of general waste. Thanks to householders, recycling rates in England have improved from approximately 11 per cent in 2000 to nearly 45 per cent, but there is still room for improvement.

West Drayton resident **Rachel Rizzo** and her sons, Enzo, aged 11, and Theo, aged eight (pictured above), are keen recyclers. Rachel said: "The boys love to get involved with sorting the recycling while I make sure that it's all clean and dry. Weekly collections help us to stay on top of everything and the council website is great for checking anything we're not quite sure about."



Recycling guide

Dry mixed recycling

Please make sure items are clean and dry.

✓ Yes please

- Plastic bottles, including cleaning product bottles and their triggers.
- Plastic tubs and trays, including yoghurt pots.
- Drinks cans and food tins.
- Kitchen foil and aluminium trays.
- Empty aerosol cans.
- Books, paper, magazines and cardboard.
- Tetra Paks and cartons.
- Lids from bottles and jars.

✗ No thanks

- Crisp packets.
- Bubble wrap.
- Drinking glasses and Pyrex.

- Perfume and nail varnish bottles.
- Lightbulbs.
- Polystyrene packaging and containers.
- Hard plastics, such as plant pots, children's toys or take away containers.
- Pots and pans.
- Nappies, used or otherwise.
- Ceramics.
- Batteries.
- Corks.
- Wood.
- Textiles.

When items that are not recyclable are included in a recycling bags this could lead to a whole batch of recycling being rejected and disposed of as general waste.

Textile recycling

Textiles should not be included in your clear, dry mixed recycling bags. We offer a collection service for these items with TRAIID.

In September 2021, the council launched a partnership with TRAIID for textile recycling collections. Since then, 130 tonnes of textiles have been collected from homes across the borough for reuse and recycling.

By donating textiles they will either go to a new home, or for those unable to be reused they will be recycled.

Book a collection at a time convenient to you at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/textile-recycling.

✓ Yes please

- Clothes.
- Hats, bags, scarves.
- Shoes (paired).
- Linen.

✗ No thanks

- Duvets.
- Pillows.



Food waste recycling

By recycling food waste, instead of putting it in with your general waste bags, it reduces harmful methane emissions and vermin splitting open sacks, and creates electricity and food fertiliser.

In May 2021, the council started to collect food waste separately from garden waste. Between 2021/22 and 2022/23, your recycling helped us to achieve a 17 per cent increase in food waste recycling.

Sign up to the service at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/food-waste

✓ Yes please

- Raw and cooked fish and meat, including skin and bones.
- Food leftovers and plate scrapings.
- Dairy products and eggshells.
- Teabags and coffee grounds.
- Fruit and vegetable peelings.
- Pet food.

✗ No thanks

- Packaging.
- Oil and liquids.



Garden waste recycling

Whether you have a garden or a few indoor plants, you can recycle up to six canvas bags of green waste through our garden waste collection service.



✓ Yes please

- Flowers and small plants.
- Leaves and prunings.
- Grass cuttings.
- Hedge clippings.
- Twigs.
- Weeds.

✗ No thanks

- Soil or compost.
- Plant pots or tools.
- Food waste.
- Sand or rubble.

Other waste and recycling options

You can dispose of waste and recycle at Harefield Civic Amenity Site and our West Drayton Waste Weekends.

A low-cost, bulky waste collection service is also available from the council, where you can dispose of unused or unwanted household items that are too large or heavy for normal waste collection.

Cllr Eddie Lavery, Cabinet Member for Residents' Services,

said: "I'd like to thank residents for all of their recycling efforts. We're seeing more households recycling year on year, which is helping to protect the environment now and for future generations.

"In our own homes we can all play our part in driving up Hillingdon's recycling rates even further, so please do take the time to check that you are recycling correctly and doing everything you can."

Come along to one of our recycling roadshows

Find out more about what you can recycle and have a chat with our reuse and recycling team on:

- Tuesday 17 October, 10am to 4pm, Uxbridge, High Street (outside Metro Bank).
- Wednesday 18 October, 10am to 4pm, Ickenham, Glebe Avenue (outside Ickenham Hall).
- Thursday 19 October, 10am to 4pm, Ruislip High Street (outside Iceland).

Find out more at [discover.hillingdon.gov.uk/recycling-roadshow](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/recycling-roadshow).

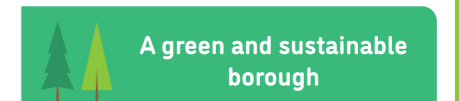
Gail Harris, (pictured right) from Ickenham, visited her local roadshow in June. She said: "I'm very passionate about recycling. I use the council food and mixed recycling schemes and other organisations to recycle everyday

household waste, so I only need to put out a carrier bag of normal rubbish every fortnight (usually just the Hoover contents!).

"Recycling takes a bit more time, but I think it is time well spent for the future of our planet."



For more information about waste and recycling, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/rubbishandrecycling



Empowering local communities

Now in its fourteenth year, the council's ward budget scheme plays a key role in supporting the efforts of community groups and organisations across the borough. Find out about a few of the recently funded projects and how you can put forward an application.

Whether they are planting trees, buying vital equipment, holding an event or helping to renovate a building, community groups can get financial support from our ward budget scheme.

Since 2009, 814 funding bids have been approved, including those from Scout groups, community centres,

allotments, schools and the Royal British Legion.

Applications can be made to local ward councillors by groups with a dedicated bank account, but not by private individuals. Ward budgets can also be used for match funding with other organisations for larger projects.

There have been 10 successful applications so far in 2023/24.

Here are four of their stories...

Sandgate Youth Football Club, Pinkwell

Based at Bourne Farm Playing Fields, Hayes, the club put forward a request for £3,630 to inspect, test and improve the electricity system in their clubhouse.

The works will make the building safer for continued community use by around 250 young footballers and the 40 volunteers who support them, as well as local primary and special educational needs schools, which are able to use it free of charge for sports days.

Club Secretary Steve Kennedy

said: "Sandgate Youth Football Club has been serving the local community with football for kids for 54 years and we constructed the clubhouse with our unpaid volunteers back in 1984.

"The grant will bring our dated electrical wiring system up to the latest safety standards.

"We currently have more than 250 players registered and provide football for children aged four up to 16, then we provide a pathway to senior football with our partner club Uxbridge Football Club."

If you are interested in joining the club, call Dwayne on 07947 558298 or visit www.sandgatefc.co.uk.



Starlight Theatre Company, Ruislip Manor

The theatre group requested £300 to buy a new speaker and microphone for rehearsals. Their previous speaker was very old and the sound had become distorted.

The equipment will benefit 35 youth members aged eight to 18, and 25 adult members, who make up the amateur dramatics company, which specialises in musical theatre.

Director Dave Roberts

said: "We do not hold any joining auditions as we feel musical theatre should be open to anyone and everyone. Even though our performances are important, our main focus is building confidence and teaching life skills.

"We are a very supportive company to each other, and not just in rehearsals but in the area."

Find out more at www.starlightyc.com.

Ruislip Woods Volunteers Saturday group, Ruislip

The group requested £331 to buy equipment, including saws, safety glasses, gardening scissors and gloves so members can continue their work maintaining and improving this important nature reserve. They also topped up the grant with around £150 from the Ruislip Woods Trust.

Chairman Mark Haley

said: "We assist the council in looking after the local nature reserve (this is the fenced off area on the south side of Poors Field).

"Some of our activities include clearing bracken and brambles from an area where English bluebells flourish; hand scything

a meadow to allow smaller native plants to grow; keeping the footpaths clear; litter clearance, especially in the stream that runs in from Haste Hill golf course; building natural fences near the bird hides and installing bird boxes to encourage nesting birds.

"The tools we have managed to buy, thanks to the ward budget scheme and the Ruislip Woods Trust, will be extremely useful in helping us to look after this wildlife area for the enhancement of native birds, plants, and animals."

The group meets on the third Saturday of every month, from 10am to 1pm. Find out more at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/ruislipwoodsvolunteers.



Hayes End Community Centre, Wood End

The centre on Kingsway, Hayes End, requested £1,000 to fund equipment, including four replacement folding tables, a jet wash machine and two A frames.

The centre was built more than 30 years ago and is home to a twice-weekly dog training class, a dance troupe for youngsters and holds bingo nights on Fridays.

It also puts on at least two events for the elderly, usually one in summer and one in the new year, as well as children's parties at Easter, Halloween and Christmas.

Treasurer Linda Carter said the centre is very well used by people of all ages.

She added: "We have two sessions of bingo per week, mainly attended by more senior citizens, one on a Tuesday at lunchtime and one on Friday evenings, between 7 and 8.30pm.

"We also have a dancing class for children up to age 16 and Taekwondo for two age groups of children. There are dog obedience and dog scenting classes during the week and our hall is available to hire for private parties on a Saturday as well."

814 projects funded to date



Scheme has been running since 2009



£1,199,164 awarded

Cllr Douglas Mills, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services

said: "Local residents and organisations know their communities best, and our ward budgets scheme means they can have their say on deciding how money is spent locally.

"Get in touch with your local ward councillor to discuss putting forward your application."

Chrysalis funding available to apply for for 2023/24

Is there a council-owned facility you'd like to see refurbished? There's still time to submit an application through our Chrysalis programme.

Each year £1 million is spent on Chrysalis projects across the borough – from buying new playground equipment to the refurbishment of community buildings.

Find out more and apply at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/chrysalis.

To apply for ward budget funding, contact your local ward councillor. For more information, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/wardbudgets



Safe and strong communities



Strengthening communities and keeping residents safe

In July, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) launched a new plan, setting out how they will rebuild trust, reduce crime and set high standards in policing. *Hillingdon People* spoke to Hillingdon's Superintendent Anthony Bennett to find out more and explore the ongoing partnership work between the council and the police to create safer communities.

A New Met for London

On Tuesday 25 July, an event was held at Brunel University to launch the 'A New Met for London' plan locally. It was led by Deputy Commissioner Dame Lynne Owens, Chief Superintendent Sean Wilson and Superintendent Anthony Bennett who shared their visions of how it will be delivered in the borough and across the MPS.

The launch was attended by about 200 residents, community group representatives and local politicians who got their opportunity to raise issues directly with officers as well as hear about the future of policing in Hillingdon.

Hillingdon's **Superintendent Bennett** (pictured below) explains what this means for our communities:

The new plan will shape how my teams and I will keep Hillingdon



residents safe and improve the trust and confidence you have in the MPS.

A New Met for London sets out our three priorities for reform

– community crime-fighting, culture change and fixing our foundations.

Community crime-fighting – working with Londoners to make it a safer place

We will do this by:

- fundamentally resetting how we serve Londoners
- transforming how we protect the public from harm, combatting violence against women and girls and safeguarding children
- providing the best results for victims of crime
- preventing crime through a proactive and precise approach.

Culture change

We will do this by:

- embedding values and principles of policing by consent in everything we do
- becoming a more diverse and inclusive organisation
- rooting out discrimination and raising our standards.

Fixing our foundations

We will do this by:

- setting up the MPS to succeed in building a well-run organisation and making it easier for people to do their job
- transforming our leadership and learning, developing the leaders of the future and giving our people the skills they need.

We hear a lot from communities asking if change is really going to happen. My role as the senior officer responsible for Hillingdon is testament to that commitment to delivering local change. My son was born here, I have family here, so I am personally committed to delivering on what the New Met for London plan promises for residents.

We know, and our residents know, there is no quick fix, but the new approach focuses on making sure that local ward officers' time is utilised in the best way for the community.

In Hillingdon, we are also focusing on recruitment to address issues of underrepresentation to make sure the local team reflects the local community, and we acknowledge there is a long way to go on that.

There have been far too many stories of police officers who haven't demonstrated the right behaviours. It isn't good enough. We want people to be proud of their local policing team.

To find out more about what your local officers are doing to engage with communities, reduce crime and to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) follow them on @MPSHillingdon on X and look out for #ANewMetforLondon.

You can read the New Met for London plan at www.met.police.uk/notices/met/a-new-met-for-london.

What the new Met for London plan means for Hillingdon

The council has agreed with the MPS that we will create a Hillingdon-focused plan, reflecting how the changes being made within the MPS will improve our joint approach to tackling crime and promoting community safety.

The MPS' commitment to put more officers into neighbourhood policing and into tackling ASB, and to move more resources into the control of

local policing commanders, gives us the chance to re-energise how we work together on the priorities of local communities.

Coupled with a plan to reset how everyone can be involved in local policing, we should see more officers working in the area and more opportunities for residents to discuss their priorities with the police and council.

Police station saved

The council welcomed the Mayor of London's decision in July to reopen Uxbridge Police Station following the council's six-year campaign to reverse its closure.

Leader of the Council, Cllr Ian Edwards, said: "I'm delighted our six-year campaign was finally listened to and this vital resource will now be retained."

Some ways the council is already working with the MPS



Hillingdon's CCTV network

Based at the Civic Centre in Uxbridge, the council's CCTV service is staffed by trained, licensed operatives.

Working in partnership with the local police, community and businesses they help in the fight against crime.

Communication via a police radio enables operatives to view live incidents ranging from shoplifting to assaults, robbery and ASB.

On average, operatives monitor between 850 to 900 live incidents per month. Downloads of CCTV footage are provided to the police and insurance companies, as well as other prosecuting bodies.

When a fly-tipping/environmental crime incident is reported, CCTV staff have been able to identify offenders and vehicles, which has led to multiple prosecutions.

Addressing the borough's anti-social behaviour

In 2022, the council received complaints from residents and

business owners of ASB from street drinkers at Belmore Parade in Hayes.

The council's licensing officers liaised with shop owners to ensure they complied with the laws on alcohol sales and environmental enforcement officers issued six fixed penalty notices for littering and breaching the Public Spaces Protection Order. Local police officers also patrolled the area and dealt with any offences.

Clampdown on illegal car meets in Hayes

Another success story is the clamping down on anti-social and dangerous driving, through joint operations with the MPS.

The action follows complaints from residents and businesses about regular illegal car meets around Pasadena Close in Hayes.

On 10 June, after reports of a large disturbance, council officers turned up to find more than 100 spectators watching drivers race and do stunts. Assisted by the police, more than 150 motorists were stopped.

This resulted in one arrest for drug driving, one arrest for driving while disqualified, four vehicle seizures for no insurance, 12 traffic offences and 21 'Section 59' orders, issued for anti-social driving.

New powers introduced to keep residents safe in parks and public spaces

In July, the council's Cabinet approved proposals to update its Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) following a consultation with residents.

PSPOs are used to tackle public nuisance issues or problems that have a negative impact on residents' quality of life in council-owned parks and public spaces by imposing conditions on the use of the area.

The new PSPO for 2023-26, which came into effect on Friday 4 August, retains prohibitions, including alcohol and drug misuse in public spaces; begging; urinating; defecating; spitting and vehicle idling.

New orders have also been added to strengthen the council's powers and address emerging ASB issues. These include smoking/vaping and dogs within children's play areas; driving e-vehicles or motor vehicles over footways; car meets/street racing; carrying out financial agreements in the street in town centres; and use of amplification equipment at all council parks and green spaces.

Police, council officers and officers authorised by the council can enforce the conditions of PSPOs, and failure to comply is an offence and could result in a fine of up to £1,000 in a magistrates' court.

To report ASB and to find out more about PSPOs, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/pspo.



For more information on keeping Hillingdon safe, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/safety



Delivering a renewed park for residents

The council's multi-million pound Cranford Park restoration project enters its final phase, as work to restore the site's historic features and improve its facilities nears completion. Read how our Green Flag award-winning park is being transformed for local people.

Works to transform the park into a thriving visitor attraction have been under way since May 2022.

Supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the overall budget for the scheme is approximately £4 million.

A historically significant park, the 144-acre estate was owned by the Berkeley family for 300 years. Although Cranford House was demolished in 1945, other historic relics which once made up the estate remain. Features which have been restored as part of the works include the high garden walls and 'ha-ha' (a sunken trench

which acted as a boundary to the park without interrupting the view).

In July, the car park reopened after works increased the number of visitor spaces and introduced attractive landscaping. Pedestrian access via St Dunstan's subway has also been improved, with new paintwork, lighting, planting, signage and an attractive mural, all funded by a £132,000 grant from National Highways.

Unveiled in July, the mural features the bats, birds and butterflies known to Cranford Park, as well as other flying objects, including the planes of Heathrow.



Visitors to the park will soon be able to access the 18th century stable block (pictured above) and listen to an interactive audio exhibit of an old groom sharing stories of Berkeley's prized horses and tales from the famous hunt with a young stable lad. This has been funded with a £10,000 contribution from the Heritage of London Trust.

A new audio trail has also been installed so that visitors can walk in the footsteps of the Berkeley family and discover the historic features and the trees, flowers and wildlife of the Cranford Park Estate.

For younger visitors, a new playground will soon be opening in the Pleasure Gardens, featuring several pieces of play equipment, including wooden horses, (see left) a climbing frame and a slide.



Unearthing the secrets of the past

During August, a team of volunteers were at work at an archaeological dig at the site, uncovering relics from the park's rich history.

Led by AOC Archaeology, their finds included potential evidence of Iron Age or early Romano-British occupation, including pottery and worked flints.



Coming soon

Situated within the footprint of the former house, a new café is due to open in spring/summer 2024 and will offer a range of food and drinks, as well as indoor and outdoor seating.

Next year, visitors will also be able to venture down into the 17th century vaulted cellars, where a short film and interpretation boards will bring to life the history of the people who lived and worked at Cranford Park.

Cllr Jonathan Bianco, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Property, Highways and Transport,

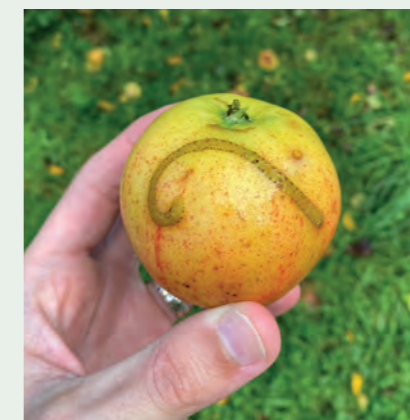
said: "Cranford Park is one of the borough's important heritage sites, and I'm delighted that we have been able to preserve and improve it for future generations to enjoy.

"The new interactive audio trail and interpretation boards will bring visitors on an exciting journey of discovery into Cranford Park's past."

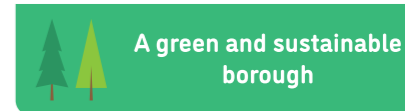
Explore the orchard

This year will mark the 20th anniversary of Cranford Park's community orchard. Situated within the historic walled gardens, it is now home to around 50 varieties of apples and pears.

On Sunday 8 October, from 10am to 4pm, the park will host its free annual Apple Day, where visitors can explore the orchard, pick apples and learn how to make juice. There is no need to book, just turn up on the day.



For latest updates on the project, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/cranfordpark



FREE childcare for two-year-olds

Early learning for children and time for parents

Find out if you qualify

www.hillingdon.gov.uk/freechildcare





www.hillingdon.gov.uk

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Adult Community Education



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Join us and improve your maths, English and digital skills, make progress in your career, learn a new skill or simply have some fun

We offer hundreds of free and low-cost courses in our centres, in the community and virtually

Visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/adultlearning to see our full programme and enrol






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In a league of their own

A shared love of the beautiful game is bringing care-experienced young people and council workers together in an informal and hugely rewarding way. *Hillingdon People* met the staff and players involved to find out more.

Council staff and young people who are, or have been, in care strapped on their shinpads and laced up their football boots recently for the latest in a series of matches which take place at Brunel University Sports Park, Uxbridge. **Helen Smith**, principal social worker and corporate parenting manager, set up the first game in October 2018 with the idea of running them once a year. But they have been such a hit that they now take place every six weeks in what she calls a spirit of "respectful competitiveness and lots of fun."

Seven council employees and 22 young people over the age of 16 took part in the most recent fixture on Tuesday 18 July. The young people came out on top, but these games are about so much more than the result.

Helen said: "When we started this, we had a real sense from our young people that they loved football and wanted more teams to play against. October is also National Care Leavers' Week and we wanted to mark that too, and employees jumped at the chance to be involved."

"Our staff get a sense of camaraderie out of them and they are really good at informal mentoring, just by taking the chance during games to ask how the young people are getting on in life. It really breaks down barriers."

"The young people get a real sense of community and a safe space to spend time with others who have experienced similar things to them."

"They love it so much, we've even got a young man who was injured and can no longer play but still turns up every week to support and watch."

In between matches, the young players have weekly training sessions with coaches from Brentford FC, who along with Brunel University London are hugely supportive of the project.

Helen said: "As well as improving their football skills, it means the young people get a glimpse of the university campus and it might encourage some of them who've never thought about it before to think, 'I could go to university.'"

Cllr Susan O'Brien, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education, said:

"This project is a wonderful example of our staff going the extra mile to support young people in our care."

"It enables those involved to engage in hugely positive activities, partly led by them, which can equip them with new skills, broaden their aspirations and provide them with tools to help meet any challenges they face."

Diós Huynh has been a regular player since the matches started. The 21-year-old, who lives with his foster family in Hayes, started out playing for the young people's team – mostly in goal.

But after joining the council last autumn as a business trainee administration assistant he transferred to the staff team, and happily gives his new teammates the lowdown on the opposition's strengths and weaknesses.

He said: "I know who are the good players. The games are fun, but we take it very seriously and want to win!"

Diós is full of praise for the support the council gives to children in care.

He said: "Hillingdon has done much more than other boroughs. When I've been to conferences



and events for care leavers from all over London, people have told me their councils don't do so much."

"They took me and others on trips to the cinema, theatre, Thorpe Park and days out. We also have two summer barbecues."

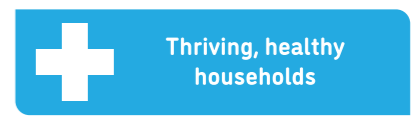
"Helen and her team, they're really supportive. They spend a lot of time with the young people."

"Helen also gave me good advice on my career and uni choices and helped me decide how to keep my options open."

The care team's work is partly shaped by monthly meetings with a group of young people to discuss events and goals for the future. Again, Diós has been involved both as a care-experienced person and as a member of staff.

Diós said: "We try to get the young people involved and get them out of their comfort zone and let them know they have support from the council and they're not on their own."

To find out more about the support available, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/care-leavers



Protect yourself and others against flu and COVID-19 this winter

During the colder months, flu and COVID-19 spread more easily as we spend more time indoors.

These viruses can have a serious impact on people's health, which can lead to time in hospital and even death.

If you're eligible, getting your vaccine will help protect you and those around you during the winter.

From this month onwards, the NHS will be contacting people who are eligible for these vaccinations to come forward for them.

Those most at risk, including adult care home residents, will be the first priority. Other groups eligible for both flu and COVID-19 vaccines include those aged 65 and

| Group | Flu vaccine | COVID-19 booster |
|---|-------------|------------------|
| All adults aged 65+ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Carers and healthcare staff | ✓ | ✓ |
| Pregnant women | ✓ | ✓ |
| Age 6 months - 64 with clinical risk | ✓ | ✓ |
| Immunosuppressed | ✓ | ✓ |
| Close contacts of immunosuppressed people | ✓ | ✓ |
| Children aged 2 - 16 | ✓ | ✗ |

over, people with lower immunity, and those in their household.

People who are pregnant are also strongly encouraged to book their flu jab. This will help protect you and your baby and can be done at any stage of pregnancy.

Children aged between two and 17 will be offered the flu nasal spray or vaccine, and those in school will

have the option to have it during their school day.

If you are contacted by the NHS to have your COVID-19 and flu vaccination, please come forward to have them.

For more details, frequently asked questions and information on vaccinations, visit www.nwlondonicb.nhs.uk/Winter.



'Their help and support was my lifeline'

A local resident volunteers to raise awareness of the little-known but debilitating conditions polymyalgia rheumatica and giant cell arteritis. Read about her inspiring story and how you can get involved with the charity.

Volunteer with PMRGCAuk

Inspired by the support she received, Janice decided to volunteer with the charity and support people in the Hillingdon area.

She said: "We are a very small charity with only a few staff who work from home.

"It's vitally important that there is more awareness of PMR and GCA and we desperately need more volunteers, including fundraisers and support group leaders, to help with that and to support those who have the conditions."

On Saturday 20 May, Janice and four of her family and friends, took part in the 5k Colour Obstacle Rush at Kempton Park racecourse (pictured above), raising nearly £3,000 for the charity.

Find out more about the volunteering opportunities available at pmrgca.org.uk/how-to-help/volunteer.

Join a local support group

Having taken early retirement due to the condition in 2015 after 20 years working in childcare and in the council's early years service, Janice now dedicates a huge amount of time and effort to the cause.

She runs two bi-monthly support groups – one at Manor Farm Library, Ruislip, the other at Pinner.

To attend one of the sessions, email janice@pmrgca.org.uk or call 0300 999 5090.

When Janice Maddock began suffering pain and stiffness in her neck, shoulders and back a decade ago, she put it down to the stress of having cared for her mum who had recently died.

But after months of basic everyday tasks becoming increasingly impossible, she went to her GP in February 2013 who immediately knew she had polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR).

Janice (pictured above left), now 65, had never heard of the condition, yet hers was one of around 40,000 new PMR cases recorded every year in the UK. A further 14,000 people are diagnosed with the associated condition giant cell arteritis (GCA), which without urgent treatment can lead to sight loss.

Three quarters of all people with PMR are women. It almost exclusively affects over-50s with most sufferers in their 70s or 80s.

Janice, from Ruislip, who is now deputy chair of support charity Polymyalgia Rheumatica & Giant Cell Arteritis UK (PMRGCAuk), said: "The first thing I remember is that I was struggling to turn over in bed, get out of chairs and pick things up. I couldn't even lift my arms above shoulder height.

"One day, after about six months of struggling, my husband was

putting my boots on for me and said 'this is enough, get to the doctors'. He had to take me because I could barely get into the car.

"My GP was very good, she recognised it straight away and blood tests confirmed it. I was relieved it wasn't anything more sinister and that I knew what it was.

"I also realised my mum had had it – 100 per cent – although it was never diagnosed so she never got any treatment."

Janice was prescribed prednisolone, a type of steroid, and the very next day felt a dramatic improvement. But it was just the start of her journey, involving many years of medication, which she still requires in very small doses, and lots of ups and downs.

"I call it the 'magical' effect of the steroids; within hours I could move," she said. "Because it was such a rapid improvement, I was a bit euphoric. I didn't realise it would go on so long. "I started reducing the dose each month and I got all the symptoms back 14 months later."

At that point, looking for support online she discovered PMRGCAuk, which helped her deal with the condition and the side effects of the medication.

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BETTER



www.hillingdon.gov.uk/leisure

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For more information and support, visit pmrgca.org.uk or call the helpline on 0300 111 5090

HILLINGDON WHAT'S ON?

Find out about more events happening locally at discover.hillingdon.gov.uk/events.



CHILDREN AND FAMILY

RUISLIP LIDO - WOODLANDS CENTRE

WALKS

Autumn Woodland Walk,
Monday 9 October,
10am and 11.30am.

Fun family walk
Saturday 28 October,
11am and 12.30pm

Cost: free.

For more information, call Diana on 07736 974497.



Gingerbread Man

COMPASS THEATRE

THE GINGERBREAD MAN AND THE POT FULL OF MAGIC

Saturday 21 October, 3pm

Can you catch that slippery biscuit? A bowl of porridge will keep your energy up, and Granny Grinpickle's Magic Porridge Pot has made enough for everyone.

These two tasty tales are served with the Theatre of Widdershins' trademark puppets, pop-up sets and original music.

Cost: Tickets £10.

Book at www.hillingdontheatres.uk or call 01895 250615.

COMPASS THEATRE

OCTOBER HALF-TERM WORKSHOPS

Wednesday 25, Thursday 26 and Friday 27 October, 10am to 4pm

Three days of fun including Spooky Wednesday, Revolting Children Thursday and Friday's deep dive into the world of the

Little Mermaid through music, movement and mermaids.

Suitable for children aged seven to 14.

Cost: £35 per day, £90 for full three days.

Book at www.hillingdontheatres.uk or call 01895 250615.

WINSTON CHURCHILL THEATRE

THE WIZARD OF OZ

Wednesday 25 to Saturday 28 October, 7.30pm and Saturday 28 October, 2.30pm

Follow the yellow brick road in this production featuring music from the iconic MGM film, including classic songs such as *Somewhere Over The Rainbow*, and *We're Off To See The Wizard*.

Cost: From £16. Group discount available.

To book, call 07391 988077.

RUISLIP LIDO - WOODLANDS CENTRE

FUN HALLOWEEN CRAFT MAKING SESSION

Thursday 26 and Friday 27 October, 11am and 3pm; and Saturday 28 October, 1pm and 3pm

Cost: Free.

For more information, call Lucy on 07961 157215.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN BUNKER

HALF-TERM FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Thursday 26 to Sunday 29 October

Arts and crafts activities suitable for all ages.



The Royal Air Force Squadronaires

Cost: Included in admission fee to the bunker/visitor centre. Free for under-16s.

www.battleofbritainbunker.co.uk/whats-on.

CRANFORD PARK

SPOOKY CRANFORD PARK

Sunday 29 October, midday to 4pm

Listen to creepy stories, follow the terrifying trail, and try to catch a glimpse of the fabled ghost of the grey lady.

Cost: Free, but booking is essential.

To book, email archives@hillingdon.gov.uk or call 01895 250702.

COMPASS THEATRE

DICK WHITTINGTON

Thursday 7 December to Saturday 6 January

Classic panto telling the legendary tale of a cat-loving merchant who became Lord Mayor of London.

Cost: £19 adults / £15 under-16s. Group and family tickets also available.

Book at www.hillingdontheatres.uk or call 01895 250615.

COMPASS THEATRE

THE SANTA SHOW

Saturday 16 December to Sunday 24 December

It's Christmas Eve and the Elves are preparing Santa's sleigh when a crisis strikes. Will the children be able to help save the day?

Cost: £14 adults / £12 under-16s.

Book at www.hillingdontheatres.uk or call 01895 250615.

THEATRE AND MUSIC

BECK THEATRE

LOST IN MUSIC – ONE NIGHT AT THE DISCO

Friday 29 September, 7.30pm

Seventies disco night, packed with dance floor classics from the likes of Donna Summer, Gloria Gaynor, Earth, Wind & Fire, Sister Sledge and Chic.

Cost: £34.

Book at becktheatre.org.uk.

COMPASS THEATRE

MOOSAIC

Saturday 30 September, 6pm

The Friends of Ickenham Hall community group, and Stage Talent Academy present a colourful, live stage show packed-full of a variety of entertainment from volunteer performers of all ages. Proceeds support the Grade II listed Ickenham Hall, adjacent to the theatre, used for performing arts education and rehearsal.

Cost: Tickets £10.

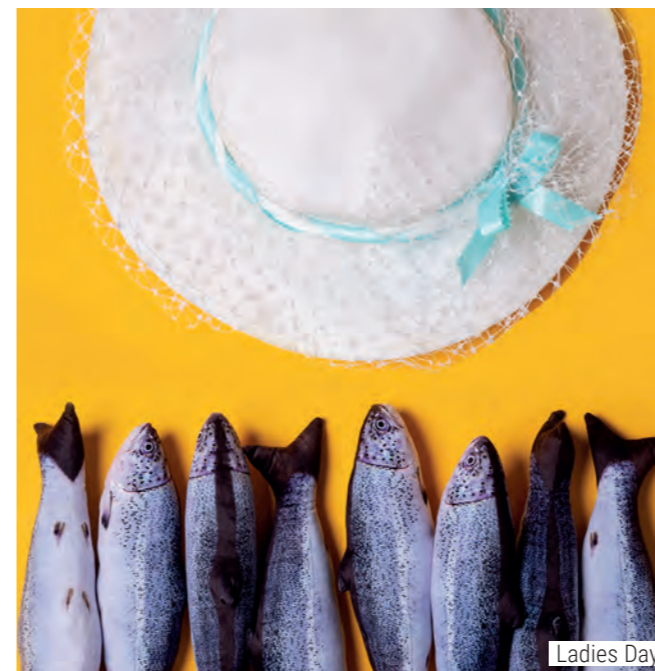
Book at www.hillingdontheatres.uk or call 01895 250615.

WINSTON CHURCHILL THEATRE

ESPRIT DE CORPS 2023 CONCERTS

Fridays 6 October, 24 November and 15 December, 7.30pm

The RAF Music Association presents three live performances



Ladies Day

by the RAF's military bands: The Royal Air Force Squadronaires; The Band Of The Royal Air Force Regiment; and The Central Band Of The Royal Air Force.

Cost: £19.50 / Package of all three concerts £48.

Book at www.hillingdontheatres.uk or call 01895 250615.

WINSTON CHURCHILL THEATRE

PASADENA ROOF ORCHESTRA: BACK ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Sunday 8 October, 3pm

Hits and humour from the 1920s and 1930s, including tunes from Duke Ellington, Irving Berlin, Cole Porter and George Gershwin.

Cost: £25.

Book at www.hillingdontheatres.uk or call 01895 250615.

PARISH CHURCH OF ST ALBAN

AUTUMN CONCERT 'SONGS OF THE SPIRIT'

Saturday 21 October 5.30pm to 6.30pm

A selection of tuneful pieces on the theme of 'Songs of the British Isles' including traditional Scottish,

Welsh and Irish songs and jazz-inspired settings of Shakespeare's songs and sonnets.

Cost: £12, under-18s, £2.

Book at www.harrowchoral.org.uk.

COMPASS THEATRE

LADIES' DAY BY AMANDA WHITTINGTON

Wednesday 8 to Saturday 11 November, 7.45pm

Proscenium presents this comedy about four women from the Hull fish docks on a day trip to Ladies' Day when Royal Ascot is relocated to York. It could just change their lives.

Cost: £16 (£15 concession for 60+ and students), £10 for groups of 10 or more.

Book at www.hillingdontheatres.uk or call 01895 250615.

ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL

1940 – THAT GLORIOUS SUMMER

Thursday 16 to Saturday 18 November, 7.30pm

Harefield Amateur Dramatic Society performs this play (with music and a chorus singing

wartime songs) to commemorate the Battle of Britain.

Cost: £10, (£8.50 concessions on Thursday only).

To book, call 07989 876024 or email janscurr@hotmail.com.

OLDER PEOPLE

YIEWSLEY AND WEST DRAYTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY BOCCIA

Mondays, 2pm to 3pm

Fun, seated sessions of this game in which players throw, kick or use a ramp to propel a ball on to the court, trying to get closest to the 'jack'.

Cost: Free.

www.hillingdon.gov.uk/dementia-activities.

COMPASS THEATRE

DAYTIME DISCO

Tuesdays 26 September and 24 October, 1pm to 3pm

For those living with dementia.

Cost: £5 (one free carer ticket included.)

Book at www.hillingdontheatres.uk or call 01895 250615.

FITNESS

VARIOUS VENUES

RUNNING WITH DASH FOR FITNESS

Mondays, 7pm to 8pm

Make your running more social and fun, and get fitter, go faster, and go further.

All levels welcome, under-18s must be accompanied.

Cost: Free.

For more information call Gary and Suzy on 07710 105086.

MANOR FARM STABLES

PILATES WITH SUZY

Tuesdays, 1.30 to 2.30pm

Improve your posture, core

strength and flexibility in classes suitable for all ages and abilities.

Cost: £12.50 per class or £10 for a block of five or more.

To book, email suzybartonpilates@btinternet.com or call 07850 687488.

OAK FARM LIBRARY

YOGA WITH LORETTA

Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10am to 11.30am

Whatever your age or fitness level join in to get a spring in your step and peace in your head.

Cost: Six weeks for £60.

For more information, email shape.tone@blueyonder.co.uk or call 020 8845 7873.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH HALL

AEROBICS CLASS; KETTLEBELL CLASS

Wednesdays 6.30pm to 7.30pm and 7.45pm to 8.30pm

Both classes are suitable for all levels.

Cost: £8, £25 for four sessions.

To book, call Chelsi on 07788 427173 or visit gymcatch.com/app/provider/5976/events.

MANOR FARM

YOGA WITH JACKIE

Wednesdays 9.15am and 11.15am, Fridays 9.30am

Friendly hatha yoga group, suitable for all age groups and experience levels.

Cost: £12 per session.

To book, email jackie@yogawithjackie.co.uk or call 07876 207408.

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH

YOGA WITH DINTA

Saturdays, 10.50am to midday

Dinta is fully qualified in Dru Yoga, which can help you build flexibility and core strength, lose weight and reduce stress.

Cost: £10 per class.

For more information, email yogawithdinta@aol.co.uk or call 07870 981885.

VENUES

ALL SAINTS CHURCH HALL

Long Lane, Hillingdon, UB10 9PE

BATTLE OF BRITAIN BUNKER

Wren Avenue, Uxbridge, UB10 0BEE

BECK THEATRE

Grange Road, Hayes, UB3 2UE

COMPASS THEATRE

Glebe Avenue, Ickenham, UB10 8PD

CRANFORD PARK

The Parkway, TW5 9RZ

MANOR FARM STABLES

Ruislip Road, HA4 8BD

OAK FARM LIBRARY

Sutton Court Road, Uxbridge, UB10 9PB

PARISH CHURCH OF ST ALBAN

The Ridgeway, North Harrow, HA2 7PF

RUISLIP LIDO - WOODLANDS CENTRE

Reservoir Road, Ruislip, HA4 7TY

ST. GILES CHURCH HALL

Ickenham Road, UB10 8BG

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH

2 Bridle Road, Eastcote, HA5 2SJ

ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL

High Street, Harefield, UB9 6BX

WINSTON CHURCHILL THEATRE

Pinn Way, Ruislip, HA4 7QL

YIEWSLEY AND WEST DRAYTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

228 Harmondsworth Road, West Drayton, UB7 9JL

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